



# The Night Sky

The Newsletter of  
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 33 Number 10

October 2011

**NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2011 8:00PM.**

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE OF CHANGE OF VENUE \*\*\***

**The 8 pm October 28, 2010 general membership meeting will return to the  
Kiwanis Civic Center at 725 Portage Lakes Drive.**

## This and That

By Tom Mino

Well, with what had to be one of the coldest and most miserable rainy days in recent memory, Astronomy Club of Akron Trustee, Fred Huffman, and myself set out with Fred's trailer in tow to Canton, OH to pick up Honorary member Lou Poda's Celestron 14. Ah what memories that scope has for me and many other old time ACA members, but none of the memories came to mind as we were loading the behemoth in Freddy's trailer. Many thanks to Lou for donating the telescope and to Fred for providing transport. Thanks also to Peggy for permitting Lou to have a safe place to store the scope while Lou was in transition.

Last month's meeting took place on September 23, 2011 at the lovely Tudor House in the city of New Franklin (very close to our observatory site). Special thanks to Club Statutory Agent, Mark Kochheiser for procuring the Tudor House. It was a nice change of pace even though all of the smoking chairs and sofas were out of our sight (Of course the facility is non-smoking but the rooms do have that old world



**NGC6888 - The Crescent Nebula in Cygnus. Captured with a QSI583WS camera on an Astrotech AT65EDQ refractor, 20 minutes each through red, green, and blue filters. An additional 40 minutes through a narrowband Hydrogen-A filter. By ACA Member John Crilly.**

ambience). Even though we didn't have the 10 non-board members to make an official quorum we met nevertheless. It was good to see former club officers Steve Rowender and Mark North in attendance. John Shulan (Shulan's Jewelry www.shulans.com) graciously provided a lovely engraved globe that we presented to former President Dave Jessie for his years of tireless work in promoting the Astronomy

Club of Akron and amateur astronomy in general. Our great website www.acaoh.org and Dave's Stow Parks & Recreation Department's effort www.stowastronomy.org are both illustrative of Dave's special genius.

Clyde Simpson will be presenting a talk at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Hall on Friday October 28, 2011.

(con't page 7)

## OFFICERS 2010 – 2012

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### Vice President

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Mark Kochheiser 330-882-3713 mkochheiser@neo.rr.com

### OTAA Representative

Lou Poda

## 2011 - October Activities Calendar - 2011

### Club

October 15 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event.  
07:00 pm EDT (2011 09 15 23:00 UT)

October 29 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event.  
07:00 pm EDT (2011 09 29 23:00 UT)

October 22 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event.  
07:00 pm EDT (2011 09 22 23:00 UT)

October 28 - KIWANIS: General Membership  
Meeting 08:00 pm EDT (00:00 UT)

### Celestial\*

October 4 - First Quarter Moon at 03:15 UT.

October 26 - New Moon at 19:56 UT.

October 12 - Full Moon at 02:06 UT.

October 29 - Jupiter at opposition at 2h UT.

October 12 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 12h UT.

October 20 - Last Quarter Moon at 03:30 UT.

October 21 - METEOR SHOWER: Orionid  
Observe during pre-dawn hours.

October 26 - Moon at perigee (closest) at 12h UT.

*\*Source: [www.skymaps.com](http://www.skymaps.com)*

The ACA wishes to welcome our newest members:

**Steve Lavender,  
Ronald Money & Family**

We look forward to seeing you at all Club functions!

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**DO YOU HAVE  
SOMETHING FOR  
SALE OR TRADE?**

**POST YOUR ITEM**

**HERE!**

Contact the newsletter editor with the  
details of your item for sale or trade at:  
[truemartian@aol.com](mailto:truemartian@aol.com)

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**- PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES AND IMAGES -**

THE NIGHT SKY NEWSLETTER IS LOOKING TO PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES! SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, EXPERIENCES, STORIES, OPINIONS, LATEST ASTRO-IMAGES, AND ADVICE WITH YOUR FELLOW AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS.

ARTICLES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE SIXTH OF EACH MONTH. ARTICLES MUST BE RELEVANT TO OUR FORUM. ALL TEXT FILES SHOULD BE SAVED IN PLAIN .txt or .rtf FORMAT TO MINIMIZE IMPORT PROBLEMS. ALL IMAGES MUST BE SAVED IN .jpg FORMAT. SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL TO:

[truemartian@aol.com](mailto:truemartian@aol.com)

## September Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

9/1/2011 Through 9/30/2011

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Checking Beginning Balance	\$3,531.32
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### Income

Dues	211.11
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$211.11</b>
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### Expenses

Observatory Improvements	90.86
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<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$90.86</b>
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Income Less Expenses	\$120.25
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Outstanding Checks	\$0.00
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Checking Ending Balance	\$3,651.57
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Charter One Ending Balance	\$3,651.57
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Difference	\$0.00
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Savings Opening Balance	\$6,432.56
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Earned Interest	0.26
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<b>Savings Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$6,432.82</b>
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Petty Cash	50.00
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ACA Savings	6,432.82
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ACA Checking	3,651.57
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,134.39</b>
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*Article by Lew Snodgrass  
ACA Treasurer.*



# SWAP & SHOP



## For sale:

- Meade LX90 SCT telescope w/ tripod and Meade 26mm Plossl eyepiece. This is a 2001 model 8 inch Schmidt-Cassegrain purchased @ \$1600.
- Meade 2 inch mirror diagonal purchased @ \$110.
- University Optics 8x50 Right Angle Correct Image finder scope purchased @ \$50.
- Meade piggy back camera adapter purchased @ \$30.
- Losmandy weight system purchased @ \$77.
- Bob's knobs purchased @ \$17.
- Orion Dew Zapper purchased @ \$60.
- Orion FlexiShield dew shield purchased @ \$29.
- Homemade Finder Scope dew shield purchased @ \$2.
- SCT Rear Cell Light Pollution filter purchased @ \$160.
- Peterson Engineering EZ Focus kit purchased @ \$30.
- Peterson Engineering EZ Clutch kit purchased @ \$30.
- Telrad Finder purchased @ \$37.
- Telrad Dew Shield purchased @ \$20.
- Tripod Dolly-Medium Size Universal Wheeley Bars purchased @ \$200.
- Magellan GPS 315 purchased @ \$92.
- Suitcase and foam for telescope storage purchased @ \$30.
- Tripod case purchased @ \$21.
- Grill cover for telescope purchased @ \$26.

**Purchase Price Total \$2621. It's all yours for \$1200**

**Contact: Glenn R. Cameron**  
**Phone: 330-737-1472**  
**Email: glenn@cameronclan.org**

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**DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR SALE OR TRADE?  
 POST YOUR ITEM HERE!**

**Contact the newsletter editor with the  
 details of your item for sale or trade at:  
 truemartian@aol.com**

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## For sale:

- Orion Short Tube 80mm telescope. This is an 80 millimeter refractor model.
- Orion short tube 80mm OTA purchased @ \$163.00.
- Orion SkyView Deluxe EQ Mount purchased @ \$190.00.
- Tube Rings for 80mm scope purchased @ \$23.00.
- Orion AccuTrack SVD RA Drive purchased @ \$50.00.

**Total \$426.00. It's all yours for \$200.**

**Contact: Glenn R. Cameron**  
**Phone: 330-737-1472**  
**Email: glenn@cameronclan.org**



## For sale:

- Meade Autostar 495/497 purchased @ \$150.00. Selling for \$75.
- Meade f3.3 focal reducer, Variable T-Adapter, and 1-1/4" eyepiece adapter purchased @ \$160.00. Selling for \$100.

**Total \$426.00. It's all yours for \$200.**

**Contact: Glenn R. Cameron**  
**Phone: 330-737-1472**  
**Email: glenn@cameronclan.org**

## Summary of the September 23, 2011 General Meeting

By Rosaelena Villasenor

No official business was conducted due to low attendance and lack of a quorum. However the following items on the agenda were addressed.

- Tom Mino, vice president, will be taking the president's vacant position.
- A moment of silence was held in memory of the passing of honorary member Phil Hedenderfer.
- The treasurers report was read.
- The observatory director reported

a successful star party for the Boy Scouts on September 17. Several members attended with their telescopes. Another will be held some time in November.

- A special thanks to Lou Poda for donating his 14" Celestron to the ACA.
- At the board meeting on September 15. A Membership and fundraiser committee was formed by John Shulan, Jason Shinn and Glenn Cameron.
- John Shulan discussed the Crown Point ecology center project.
- A trustee position is available.
- Mark Kochheiser presented the executed lease.
- Roses through the Kiwanis program go on sale now to

support Kiwanis hall, where the ACA meets at no cost. Instructions on how to purchase roses will be emailed. They will be delivered next Saturday October 1st.

- An award of recognition was presented by President Tom Mino to former President David Jessie for all his love, effort, hard work, excellent education, and web design, emphasizing astronomy for the ACA and Stow Parks and Recreation.

The next general meeting will be held on October 28, 2011.

*Article by Rosaelena Villasenor, ACA Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.*

## Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski



September was a good month for astronomy. Both of our public star parties had excellent sky conditions. The Boy Scouts of Pack 308 attended our September 17th star party. This was their second visit to our observatory. Last year they asked us for help to achieve their astronomy merit badge. Our members provided a lecture and telescope seminar to complete the classroom work; however, the skies were cloudy that night so no observing was done. Skies conditions were much different on their second visit and we were able to complete the field work with a sky tour and observing session. One object we observed was the supernova in the Pinwheel Galaxy. Although the supernova was at 10th magnitude, it didn't have the impact of the supernova in the Whirlpool Galaxy. The Pinwheel Galaxy has a magnitude of 7.7, but is very faint because its light is spread out over a large area. Unlike the May 2011 supernova seen within the spiral



**Fred and Norm help new members Ron and Sarah align their Newtonian telescope during our September 17th star party.**

arms of the Whirlpool Galaxy, the supernova in the Pinwheel Galaxy appeared as one dim star with no hint of its host galaxy, indistinguishable from other dim stars within our Milky Way Galaxy. An 11th magnitude star atlas was needed to accurately locate the supernova.

The September 24th star party turned out to be quite a pleasant

surprise. Weather forecasts all week called for Saturday evening clouds and showers. Saturday afternoon the forecast changed to clear skies. A few of our members were skeptical about the new forecast, but showed up anyway and were treated to premium observing conditions at star party time. Public attendees also took advantage of the opportunity and  
(con't page 7)

## **Making Every Pixel Count - Volume 5**

### **Powerful Processing in Photoshop - Adam Block**

By John Crilly

Adobe's Photoshop is probably the nearest thing to a de facto standard software package used by amateur astronomers for final processing of deep sky images. It's used, with varying degrees of skill and varying results, by folks ranging from beginners to the names we all recognize from magazines and popular websites. Plenty of instructional books have been written about this application (I have several of them here!). At imaging conferences around the world expert astronomical imagers give presentations and workshops on the methods and techniques they have found to most effective. One such popular presenter is Adam Block, whose images are familiar to imaging conference attendees, magazine readers and those who visit the APOD (Astronomy Photo of the Day) website.

#### **So – why a set of video tutorials on the same topic?**

I have found the available books to vary throughout the range from too vague to a yawn-inducing “click here, then click here, then click here...”. I have learned from them, but it never seemed that I was learning as much as I should have been. I've used the program for several years (my last upgrade was to Photoshop CS) without ever feeling that I was using it as well as I should have been. It's not that I can't learn from books, or understand what I read. Reading with good comprehension is a skill on which I rely every day. It's just that learning image processing software isn't an activity for which reading books has been effective for me.

When I first purchased Mike Unsold's Images Plus, I found his video tutorials to be very useful. Unlike a

formal seminar or workshop, the tutorials permitted me to go through the material at my own pace, as time and energy were available. I could repeat anything that appeared especially interesting, either immediately or at a later time. I felt that my ability to use the program was substantially improved. When I became aware of Adam Block's tutorial series I wondered whether it could give me the same jump start with Photoshop. For \$100, it seemed to be worth a try so I ordered it.

#### **In the beginning...**

When I opened the box I found a DVD containing about 9 ½ hours of video in 25 chapters plus a printable file containing the “review” text which is appended to the end of each chapter within the presentations. According to the introduction, the series is intended to be useful for any Photoshop user, from the rank beginner to the power user.

To prove this, the first two chapters (totaling 112 minutes!) after the introduction consist of explaining in detail the screen layout and menu structure within Photoshop. Given the complexity of the software and the sometimes non-intuitive menu structure, this could be a big time saver for someone just starting out.

This was followed by several chapters explaining the features within Photoshop that make it such a capable processing tool. There are 35 minutes on layers, 39 minutes on masks, another 10 minutes on making selections within masks, and 13 minutes on the available keyboard shortcuts. His explanation of how these features behave and interact, and how to control them, is very detailed.

#### **So how do we use all these features?**

The next 16 chapters go into the methods used to apply these features to astronomical images. Mr. Block

demonstrates the methods he uses himself, as well as some that he rarely employs but which he considers to be worth knowing about. He uses his own partially-processed images, comparing the intermediate stage results with his final result – and points out what he has done to achieve the final result. I won't try to break down this much material; suffice it to say that no commonly encountered problem or challenge is neglected. One thing to be aware of is that Mr. Block much prefers global processing rather than working on a particular detail or a small region. That fits my own style well. He demonstrates more detail-oriented procedures for those who prefer that but most of the material presented leans toward global processing techniques.

Some of his methods were familiar to me but many were not. In particular he very effectively uses several blending modes I had never tried. He uses masks in ways I hadn't considered. His explanations made even the unfamiliar methods clear to me and I've been able to use them myself to improve my own images. I have spent a lot of time digging through old images to see if what I have learned from these tutorials can be used to improve them. The answer is consistently, “Yes!”. I have a number of new tools in my Photoshop arsenal and my processing is both more efficient and more effective than it has ever been.

#### **Is it worth the price?**

If it helps someone to even slightly improve their images then it maximizes the value of their investment in imaging gear and software. As such, it's a very inexpensive upgrade (how much does Photoshop cost these days? A camera? A mount?). I would recommend this package to any deep sky imager who uses Photoshop.

(con't page 7)

## Pixel Con't

### What else?

Mr. Block mentions in the introduction that the tutorial is appropriate for Photoshop CS3. I have only CS but found it to be compatible with every operation I tried in a 16 bit space. I suspect that those who prefer to work with 32 bits would find a later version of Photoshop to be appropriate for some of these methods. Everything in the tutorial is done in 16 bits and the results look just fine to me!

There's a lot of material here. The printed "review" text is very helpful in remembering which filters to apply to which blending modes so I still keep that handy.

It's not magic. My images still don't look like Mr. Block's (I didn't and don't expect them to). I can live with that. I do feel that they now look better to me and as I'm my primary audience for these things I consider that a good outcome.

The other tutorial in this series is The Complete Tutorial of CCDStack, version 2. I obtained that one first and found it to be extremely helpful (I really, really like CCDStack2). I doubt that CCDStack2 is nearly as popular as Photoshop, though, so I decided to write this one up first. If interest is expressed in a similar writeup for the CCDStack2 tutorial I'd be glad to do one.

*Article by ACA member  
John Crilly.*

## This and That Con't

His talk is titled "Cleveland Rocks...Mars Rocks too". We will be going to Prime on Manchester Road before the meeting. RVSP to me if you would like to go.

Look for exciting news regarding the possibility of a future astronomy

## Observatory Report Con't

stayed longer than their regular departing time. Rick Burke set up his 127mm Televue refractor just south of the observatory. With the south observatory door open, observers walked back and forth between Rick's telescope and the observatory telescope to view the heavens. I went through all objects on my late summer star party observing list and autumn observing list during the event. The star party theme was planetary nebulae and we covered just about all that could be easily seen with our equipment including: Blue Snowball Nebula, Blinking Nebula, Saturn Nebula, Blue Flash Nebula, Dumbbell Nebula, Ring Nebula, Cat's Eye Nebula, and Little Gem Nebula. Observed galaxies included NGC 7331, M31, and M32. NGC 7331 is an interesting object because unlike most spiral galaxies, its central bulge rotates in the opposite direction of the galactic disk. The galaxy is approximately half way between edge-on and face-on. It was discovered by William Herschel in 1784 and is about the same size as our galaxy. It appears as an elongated nebulous streak with a bright central core through the observatory telescope. We had several requests to see Comet Garrard, but nobody remembered to bring the coordinates. Fortunately, Glenn Cameron brought his smart phone. He connected to our website and downloaded the comet RA and DEC. Glenn read off the coordinates and bang, there it was! Late-nighters were treated to a stunning view of Jupiter. The

related theme at the Crown Point ecology center in Bath, Ohio. Many thanks to John Shulan for getting involved.

The November meeting will be one week early than normal due to the Turkey Day holiday. The meeting will be held at the Tudor House in New Franklin, on Friday November 18,

southern equatorial band that has faded over the past couple of years is back and prominent. There is a noticeable difference in width between the northern and southern equatorial bands. An additional thin third band was observed approximately halfway between the northern equatorial band and north pole. Thanks to Rick Burke, Glenn Cameron, Ed Howe, and Fred Fry for helping out with this event.

Tom Mino delivered Lou Poda's telescope to the observatory and Rick Burke and I started to assemble it. The telescope is massive and it took both of us to mount the optical tube to the fork arms and drive base. A visual inspection of the optics shows primary and secondary mirrors to be in good shape. The corrector plate needs to be cleaned. We will try to complete the assembly next week. This telescope will be mounted equatorially so we will be able to use it for photography.

On October 4th, we held an impromptu star party. Six members and five non-members showed up to look at stars. An eight day old Moon was the showcase of the evening until Jupiter rose. As stated, the southern equatorial belt is back, but on this night, the Great Red Spot rotated into view and has become very distinct as compared to previous years. To finish off the night, Io eclipsed Jupiter at 11:10pm, casting its shadow on the northern equatorial belt.

*Article by Ron Kalinoski,  
ACA Observatory Director.*

2011 at 8PM. Many thanks to Mark Kochheiser for saving the day in procuring the Tudor House.

Until next time,  
Tom

*Article by Tom Mino,  
ACA President.*

# Hidden Hollow Star Party



(above) The Great Lakes Amateur Radio Observatory came to the Hidden Hollow Star Party this year courtesy of ACA member Jason Shinn.



(left) It was a drizzly, windy day for the whole weekend with what seemed no hope for optical astronomy. Here we see the Warren Rupp Observatory and the Richland Astronomical Society's brand new club house and activity building which they were able to obtain a grant to build.

(right) Miracles do happen! The clouds parted just in time for attendees to get some star gazing in!



2011



# Hidden Hollow Star Party



Activities during the day included lectures,... (left)

... meteorite "hunting",... (below)



... and an  
astrophotography  
contest. (left)



There were vendors to shop... (right)

... and even a raffle with tons and  
tons of prizes! (below)



2011

# The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Jason Shinn, Editor  
1025C Hemlock Hills Dr.  
Akron, OH 44313

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The Astronomy Club of Akron  
c/o Lew Snodgrass, Treasurer  
1865 Stabler Rd  
Akron, OH 44313-6124

Yes! I want to become a member of the Astronomy Club of Akron

[www.acaoh.org](http://www.acaoh.org)

(PLEASE PRINT)

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ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Astronomy Club of Akron** annual memberships renew in the month of May.

ADULT (ages 18 and older)  \$30.00

JUNIOR (ages 12 to 17)  \$15.00

ADDITIONAL ADULT member  \$15.00

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP  \$40.00

Visit us on the Web at [www.acaoh.org](http://www.acaoh.org).