



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 34 Number 6

June 2012

SUMMER BREAK! NO MEETING AT KIWANIS THIS MONTH.

The President's Column

By Gary Smith

The month of June has exploded with excitement for the Astronomical Community. The uncontested news maker on June 5, 2012 was the much anticipated Venus transit of the Sun. Not only that, our former ACA President, Mr. David Jessie was featured on the front page of the Akron Beacon Journal along with photos and a lengthy interview. Now that is something that doesn't happen everyday!

So what else is new in the June 2012 sky? We have two of everyone's favorite planets, Mars and Saturn. Both planets appear in the southern sky with nearly equal brightness with the closer planet Mars "leading the way" while Saturn follows. Mars is found in the Constellation "Leo the Lion" (the constellation with the famous backwards question mark shaped asterism). Saturn is also easily found in the Constellation Virgo and lies not very far away from the 15th brightest star in the Sky, the very hot blue-white star of Spica. These planets both seem to influence a properly conditioned amateur astronomer. Once visually located in the southern sky, the stargazer then automatically reaches for his favorite pair of binoculars. Once satisfied the binoculars have delivered their best



The Pelican Nebula. ACA Member John Crilly.

image, he will set up a telescope. The telescope is the most marvelous of inventions. It will provide a different view with each change of the eyepiece.

The planet Mars (named for the Roman god of war) is the very definition of the word "excitement" for the amateur astronomer. It is (on occasion) Earth's closest neighbor. It is a terrestrial planet with a very thin atmosphere (mostly Carbon Dioxide); has "ice caps" at both poles and exhibits a reddish color. While only

11% Earth's mass its diameter is about 1/2 of Earth's. Since Mars has no oceans its surface area is nearly equal to that of the Earth's dry land. And has 38% of Earth's gravity at its surface. Long gone are the days of Percival Lowell and his speculation of water bearing canals on the Martian Surface (and the people that built them). We now live in an era where 1000's of images of Mars are at our fingertips via the Internet. The very capable MRO is in Orbit around Mars and is in good health.

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May Treasurer's Report

By Glenn Cameron

5/1/2012 Through 5/31/2012

Checking Beginning Balance	\$2,852.32
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Income

Dues	948.78
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50/50 Raffle	54.00
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Donations	80.00
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Astronomy Mag. Sub.	34.00
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Bank Credit Memo	0.20
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Total Income	\$1,116.98
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Expenses

Internet Domain Renewal	-28.02
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Sky & Telescope Sub.	-32.95
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Total Expenses	-\$60.97
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Income Less Expenses	\$1,056.01
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Checking Ending Balance	\$3,908.33
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Savings Opening Balance	\$6,434.67
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Earned Interest	0.27
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Savings Closing Balance	\$6,434.94
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Petty Cash	50.00
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Savings	6,434.94
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Checking	3,908.33
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Grand Total	\$10,393.27
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Article by Glenn Cameron
ACA Treasurer.

SWAP & SHOP



For sale:

Orion SkyView Deluxe EQ Mount

- Orion AccuTrack SVD RA Drive
- Polar Finder Scope
- Losmandy Adapter Plate
- OPT Vixen Style Dovetail Mount Adapter

Asking: \$150

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



For sale:

15mm Ultra-Wide Angle Eyepiece

- 2 inch barrel
- FOV: 80°
- Eye Relief: 20mm

Asking: \$40

Contact: Lew Snodgrass
Phone: 330-819-4886
Phone: 330-867-4800
Ask for Lew.
Email: chrply@aol.com



For sale:

Two Televue Radian 12mm Eyepieces

- Excellent condition.

Asking: \$300 for both or \$170 each, cash.

Contact: Fred Fry
Email: riverfry@gmail.com



For Sale:

22mm Orion Epic ED-2 ED Eyepiece

25mm Orion Epic ED-2 ED Eyepiece

Asking: \$45 each or \$85 both

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



For Sale:

Two Televue Radian 18mm Eyepieces

- Excellent condition.

Asking: \$300 for both or \$170 each, cash.

Contact: Fred Fry
Email: riverfry@gmail.com



For Sale:

Pentax XW 20mm Eyepiece

- Excellent condition.
- Small mark on 1.25" barrel.
- Always used in a compression clamp.

Asking: \$250 cash.

Contact: Fred Fry
Email: riverfry@gmail.com

The President's Column

The Martian Rover Spirit no longer communicates with "home" but its twin (opportunity) is still alive. More importantly the Martian "Super Rover" Curiosity is en route. The 1984lb. rover will hopefully land intact on Aug. 5th, 2012 starting a new era of Martian rover exploration.

The Planet Saturn is a truly remarkable Planet. If one were to "set Jupiter aside" for a moment, then every characteristic of Saturn will stagger the imagination. But that will have to wait for another time.

Are Mars and Saturn the only Planets on display for the month of June 2012? Why not at all. Rumor has

there are two more Planets to be seen in the hours before Sunrise. This is only part of the reason why June 2012 is a great month for stargazers. I will see you at the ACA Observatory!

Gary Smith – President, the ACA

*Article by Gary Smith,
ACA President.*

SPECIAL NOTICE

Attention fellow ACA Members. An unfortunate circumstance arrived and our ACA Secretary was forced to resign. The position of ACA Secretary is now open to any member of the ACA. If you would like to be the next ACA Secretary, please contact the ACA President, Gary Smith, via e-mail or phone. You are not required to have held any previous office with the Club to qualify.

Thank you.

Gary Smith - President, the ACA

E-mail: rlpshsmth8@gmail.com

Phone: 330 633 9873

Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski



The ACA held five star parties during the month of May. I think the most exciting of them was the May 10th event. Our objective for this star party was to observe the most distant object within reach of the 14" observatory telescope. Quasar 3C273 is 2.4 billion lightyears distant and receding from us at 16% the speed of light. The object is faint at magnitude 12.9. We had to wait until about 9:45pm before attempting to see the quasar. We used a photograph recording stars down to 15th magnitude to accurately identify the quasar. Members and non-members studied the photograph before heading to the eyepiece to see the quasar. We had good turnout for the star party and a large number of attendees held out to see the quasar. Fortunately, 3C273 lies in a star field that helps to easily identify it. Seeing the quasar really stirred up a lot of excitement that night!



Glenn Cameron explains how a refractor works during our annual telescope seminar.

Venus was the early evening showcase of every star party since March. That month Venus looked like a miniature 3rd quarter Moon. The phases continued to wane and on the evening of May 26th, we observed the thinnest sliver of light outlining the edge of one half of the Venusian disk; the night-side of Venus clearly distinct from our surrounding sunlit atmosphere. Unfortunately, not many people got to see the sight as clouds from the north soon covered the skies. The Venusian climax came on June 5th when Venus passed in front of the

Sun as seen from Earth. Many club members and public gathered at Fishcreek School in Stow to witness the event. Clouds covered the entire event except the last 10 minutes when every telescope on the grounds was pointed at the Sun to see the transit. I think we set a record for processing the most amount of people looking through telescopes in that short timeframe. The transit was a spectacular sight to see on our Sun speckled with sunspots.

*Article by Ron Kalinoski,
ACA Observatory Director.*

Minutes of the May 25, 2012 General Membership Meeting

By Ann Ferrell

8:00 p.m. President Gary Smith began the meeting with good news. Space X, a private company made history on Friday, May 25 with the docking of its Dragon capsule to the International Space Station. A successful splashdown in the Pacific Ocean occurred May 31.

Gary's second bit of news was not so good. Our faithful Secretary, Mary Pickelsimer had to resign from her position as ACA secretary due to time/work constraints. We will miss you Mary and hope you can still attend star parties. Be well. A new secretary will be voted on at September's meeting.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- Telescope seminar of May 19. Ron, Gary, Glenn and Rick gave very thorough and interesting presentations. Several people had lots of questions and our

presenters could have elaborated for another hour. Time was allowed for viewing.

- A Jaunt through NEAF (North East Astronomy Forum), by Dave Jessie. Dave had a terrific presentation giving members a well rounded view of the forum and its offerings. He discussed vendors, manufacturers, lecture series and introduced us to charismatic people and people with lots of character. He has photos to prove it. Thank you Dave.
- Rick Burke talked about the astro imaging classes that he attended. One speaker, Tony Hallis, spoke with beginners to advanced astro imagers about 150 things that can go wrong.
- CAMP CHOPS was cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Venus transit, June 5 sites were announced around northeast Ohio. Most members will attend Fishcreek.

- Certificate program. Jason Shinn presented several well earned certificates. Ann Ferrell's almost came with a felony charge: "Do Not Use a Laser Pointer when Aircraft is near by."

- Seeing in the Dark DVD was recommended by Dave Jessie. The Akron Public Library system does not have a copy. A purchase of this DVD was recommended to the library but the response was not overwhelming.

- 50/50 raffle John Shulan generously donated Michio Kaku's "Physics of the Future" DVD for our raffle. Our President, Gary Smith won some \$\$ and the DVD. Half of the money collected was donated to our ACA Treasury.

9:45 p.m. Meeting adjourned. Our next general meeting will be Friday, September 21.

*Article by Ann Ferrell,
ACA Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.*

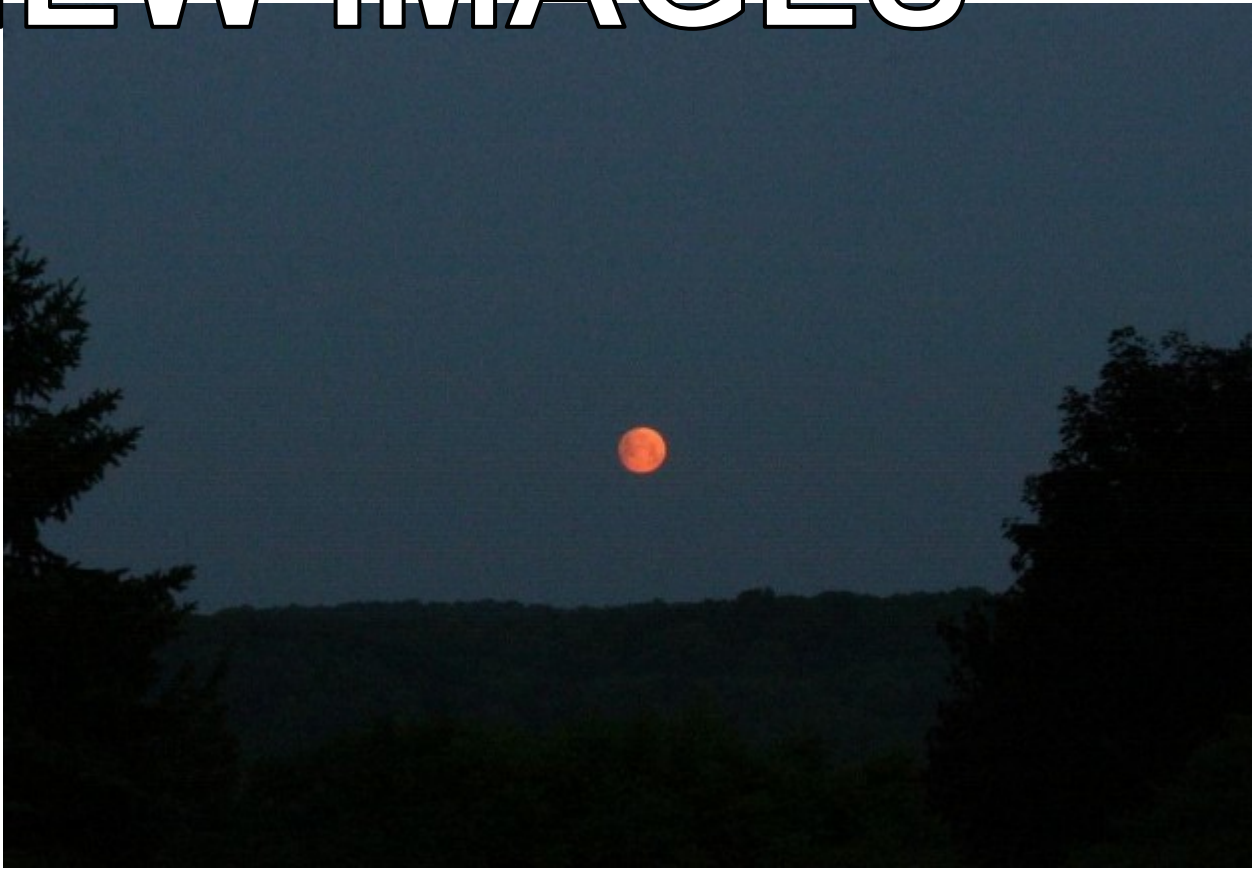
- PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES AND IMAGES -

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

NEW IMAGES



by Jason Shinn

NEW IMAGES



by Len Marek





NEW IMAGES



by John Crilly

THE ASTRONOMY CLUB OF AKRON

June 2012 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Moon at perigee (closest) at 13h UT.	4 PARTIAL LUNAR ECLIPSE at moonset. Full Moon 11:11 UT 	5 TRANSIT OF VENUS begins 22:05 UT.	6	7	8 Camp CHOPS at Camp Carl 08:00p	9 ACA OBSERVATORY PUBLIC EVENT 09:00p
10 Last Quarter 10:42 UT 	11	12	13	14	15	16 ACA OBSERVATORY PUBLIC EVENT 09:00p Moon at apogee (farthest) at 1h UT.
17	18 New Moon 15:02 UT 	19	20 JUNE SOLSTICE at 23:07 UT.	21	22	23
24 OTAA Scenic Vista Stargaze	25	26	27 First Quarter 03:29 UT 	28	29	30 ACA OBSERVATORY PUBLIC EVENT 01:00p SOLAR PARTY AND HOT DOG ROAST

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Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

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Massillon, OH 44646-9018

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

www.acaoh.org

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

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,