



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 34 Number 8

August 2012

SUMMER BREAK! NO MEETING AT KIWANIS THIS MONTH.

The President's Column

By Gary Smith

Hello again to all fellow members of the ACA. The month of August has arrived and has brought along a plethora of night sky wonders for the unaided eye, star gazing with binoculars, and observing through the higher magnification of a telescope. I believe the most spectacular sight is in the southwest sky shortly after sunset. We have a conjunction of the planets Mars, Saturn, and the bright star Spica. They form a triangle that is unmistakable to see. This rare conjunction is best observed during late twilight, early evening as it slowly creeps toward the southwest horizon. This triangle of three bright objects is easy to see with the unaided eye, will look even better thru binoculars, and will culminate in a glorious image thru the eyepiece of a telescope.

The people at JPL and NASA are to be congratulated for a successful landing of the Mars Science Laboratory (aka Curiosity) in the early morning of August 6th. The 8 month journey through Space of the 2.5 billion dollar Mars Rover culminated



Gamma-Cygnus Nebula by ACA member Len Marek. Eight frames seven minute each in H-Alpha.

in the "Seven Minutes of Terror" as the rover hurred through the Martian atmosphere, generating intense temperatures as it slowed due to atmospheric resistance. The landing was described as "near perfect". The Mars Science Laboratory is equipped with 17 cameras and is a fully equipped geochemistry laboratory on

wheels. The following are some of the high tech instruments on board the Curiosity Rover. APXS = Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer; CheMin = Chemistry & Mineralogy Instrument; SAM = Sample Analysis at Mars; RAD; Radiation Assessment Detector; AND much more!

(con't page 4)



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July Treasurer's Report

By Glenn Cameron

7/1/2012 Through 7/31/2012

Checking Beginning Balance	\$4,492.33
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Income

Hot Dog Roast	61.00
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Total Income	\$61.00
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Expenses

Checks	-104.06
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Magazine Subscriptions	-68.00
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Total Expenses	-\$172.06
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Income Less Expenses	-\$111.06
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Checking Ending Balance	\$4,381.27
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Savings Opening Balance	\$6,435.20
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Earned Interest	0.27
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Savings Closing Balance	\$6,435.47
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Petty Cash Opening Balance	\$50.00
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Hot Dog Roast	2.06
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Postage	-2.25
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Petty Cash Closing Balance	\$49.81
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Petty Cash	49.81
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Savings	6,435.47
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Checking	4,381.27
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Grand Total	\$10,866.55
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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 ACA wishes to welcome our newest member:

James Gue

We look forward to seeing you at all Club functions!



President's Column (con't)

Turning our attention back to the August Sky we can search for the spectacular Globular Cluster M13 in the constellation of Hercules. At 10pm M13 will be near the observers zenith. This is a good position for those with Schmidt-Cass telescopes and with equatorial mounts. But not so good for the Dobsonian and binocular people. A good way to locate M13 is to "draw a line" between Arcturus and Vega. This line will pass thru the "keystone" of Hercules. This lopsided square will have two "north-south" edges. Find the western side (the side toward Arcturus) and M13 lies approx 1/3 the distance from the star at the the NW corner toward the star at the SW corner. M13 is a spectacular globular cluster of some 3/10 million stars at a distance of 22,200 light years. The apparent brightness of M13 is +5.8 so a moonless night will make it easier to find. The three bright stars of the summer triangle (Vega, Deneb & Altair) are the guide posts of the summer and fall skies and are well known to all amateur astronomers. The brightest star of Lyra (the lyre or small harp) is Vega. Lyra is sometime described as a triangle attached to a parallelogram. Epsilon Lyrae is the famous "Double-Double". It is a multiple star system at approx 162 light years and is a spectacular double binary system when viewed thru either binoculars or a telescope (with

a wide-angle eyepiece). The most famous celestial object in Lyra is M57 (the Ring Nebula). M57 is called a "planetary nebula" which is a misnomer because it has nothing to do with a planet. It is best viewed thru a telescope of 8inch diameter or more. It is described as a "smoke ring floating in space". It is a shell of ionized gas expelled into the surrounding interstellar medium by a red giant star, which was passing thru the last stage in its evolution before becoming a white dwarf. The color time-lapse images taken with more capable telescopes are stunning. There are green, red, and blue-green colors caused by the excitement of the ionized gases in the "shell" by the faint central star in the core. It is well worth your time to look up the better color images of M57 that are available on the Internet. The "Coathanger" or Brocchi's Cluster is an asterism located in the constellation Vulpecula. Brocchi's Cluster is composed of ten stars. Six of the stars seem to form a "straight line" while 4 of the stars form the "hook" which attaches on the south side. It gives the appearance of a celestial coathanger "Floating in Space". The Coathanger may be a bit of a challenge to find on the first attempt. But once found, this asterism will draw you back again and again. On a good dark sky draw an imaginary line between Altair and Vega. About a third of the way from Altair toward Vega, the Coathanger is spotted against a darker region of the Milky Way. This is best done with binoculars. A dark sky, wide-angle, and low magnification is the key to finding the Coathanger asterism. Alberio (beta Cygni) is the 5th brightest star in the constellation Cygnus. Alberio is the southernmost star in the four star chain that forms the body of the swan. Alberio is the

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Astronomy Club of Akron would like to announce its newest ACA officer. Club member Juan Contreras has accepted the position of ACA Secretary. Juan's duties will begin effective immediately. Juan is yet another example of what lies at the heart of the ACA. Our club depends on its members to volunteer their time and talents. A round of applause for Mr. Juan Contreras, our new secretary of the Astronomy Club of Akron.

Gary Smith, ACA President

head of the swan. Alberio appears as a single star with the unaided eye or binoculars. However, the telescope shows Alberio to be a binary of two beautiful colored stars (azure & gold), or maybe just blue & yellow. The colors are seen in real time thru the eyepiece of even a small telescope. The brighter yellow star makes a striking color contrast with the fainter blue companion. This colored double star is 380 light years distant and are separated by 35 seconds of arc (a healthy separation).

The August night sky is full of celestial wonders. Sky & Telescope magazine offers its "Sky at a Glance" monthly feature in each issue. For those of us that are online, going to Google and using "highlights of the august sky" as a Search Term will yield many rewarding links. Shirtsleeve weather and having warm hands will entice any star gazer out of his easy chair. I will see you out under the stars at the ACA Observatory!

*Article by Gary Smith,
ACA President.*

- 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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLUB MEMBER

MARISSA FANADAY

ONE OF SIX WINNERS OF ASTRONOMY MAGAZINE'S
GEOFF NOTKIN ROCK STAR CONTEST!

Marissa entered Astronomy magazine's essay contest to win an autographed copy of TV's Meteorite Man Geoff Notkin's new book "Rock Star: Adventures of a Meteorite Man"! Marissa wrote a short essay about where she would go to hunt meteorites and why. Her name and a short description of her essay topic can be found on Astronomy magazine's web site: www.astronomy.com Simply type "Rock Star Contest" in the site's search option. Marissa was also able to meet both Meteorite Men at NEAF this year!



Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski



ACA hosted two public star parties in July. Our July 21st event featured a presentation on Historic Astronomers. Our next event is August 11th and we'll try to answer the question, "Are We Alone?" with our presentation on SETI (Search for

Extraterrestrial Intelligence). On August 12th, we'll be under the stars with the Boy Scouts of Troop 155 and Troop 160. Our program will start early as we help the scouts earn their Astronomy Merit Badge. After the classroom work, we'll show the scouts the stars as the Perseid Meteor Shower peaks. Let me know if you would like to help out at this outreach event. August star parties also include an OTAA event on August 18th. The event is at Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society's Cortese

Observatory. The star party features door prizes, good food, and lots of telescopes to view the Heavens. And finally, with earlier sunset times occurring as we move towards the end of summer, we'll be starting up our impromptu star parties once again. This time of year offers a great variety of celestial objects so please come out to one of our scheduled or impromptu events.

*Article by Ron Kalinoski,
ACA Observatory Director.*

Clear Skies in Nantucket

By John Shulan



For the past ten years I have been vacationing in Nantucket and volunteering with the Maria Mitchell Association. Their program can be found online at mmo.org. I give much appreciated help by setting up my own scope at the observatory when they have programs. They carry out very exciting research with a large 24" Cassegrain and a 17" plainwave. They also operate an old and delicate 8" Clark refractor. With my goto scope I am able to assist giving the public a space tour. The real fun

comes when the tourist leave and I am with the interns. We have fun looking for objects that are difficult for the Clark scope to find (push them buttons).

While there, I also attended two of their astronomy lectures. The first, by Professor James Moran of Harvard was about the cloud of interstellar gas that is heading directly for the black hole at the center of our galaxy. This gas is on a direct line to the black hole and hence will actually enter the hole instead of orbiting it or being flung off. It will be a much watched snack!

The second lecture was by Dr. Michael Simon about exoplanets and the various techniques used to detect them. There are about five different

ways currently used with a number more in development. Each level of progress represents a new level of detecting smaller exoplanets. So far, the research shows that planets are the norm for all classes of stars.

The best part of the lectures is that you get to chat casually with, and get great advice from these astronomers. They all had interests like we do with a strong curiosity and desire to share knowledge. They all feel amateur astronomy is a great way to develop interest in the sciences. I questioned the interns there and they all say they got their start in astronomy by looking into an eyepiece.

*Article by ACA member
John Shulan.*








NEW IMAGES



by Bob Benedict

THE ASTRONOMY CLUB OF AKRON

August 2012 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Full Moon 3:27 UT 	2 Full Moon 3:27 UT 	3 STOW ASTRONOMY PUBLIC EVENT 9:00p (www.stowastronomy.org)	4
5	6	7	8 Last Quarter 18:55 UT 	9 Last Quarter 18:55 UT 	10 Moon at apogee (farthest) at 11h UT. STOW ASTRONOMY PUBLIC EVENT 9:00p (www.stowastronomy.org)	11 ACA OBSERVATORY PUBLIC EVENT 8:30p
12 Perseid Meteor Shower. Maximum at 12h UT-15h UT, possibly at 6h.	13	14	15 11 Venus at greatest elongation at 9h UT. (morning sky)	16 Mercury at greatest elongation at 12h UT. (morning sky)	17 New Moon 15:54 UT STOW ASTRONOMY PUBLIC EVENT 9:00p 	18 MVAS OTAA Convention 5:00p Hidden Hollow Star Party (www.wto.org)
19 Hidden Hollow Star Party (www.wto.org)	20	21	22	23 Moon at perigee (closest) at 19h UT.	24 First Quarter 13:54 UT STOW ASTRONOMY PUBLIC EVENT 9:00p 	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Full Moon 13:58 UT (blue moon) STOW ASTRONOMY PUBLIC EVENT 9:00p (www.stowastronomy.org) 	

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

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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,