



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

February 2023

ACA MEETING - Sunday, February 19th, 2023 at 2:00 PM

President's Column

By Cathy Loboda

Next ACA Monthly Meeting Scheduled for February 19, 2023

ACA's next membership meeting is Sunday, February 19th at 2:00 pm. The meeting location is the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron. Speaker Gary Kader, Director of Burrell Observatory at Baldwin Wallace, will present "Seeing Double: Observing Double Stars for Fun and Science." Looking forward to seeing you on the 19th!

Mark Your Calendars!

Members mark your calendars and attend the listed upcoming meetings. Scheduled speakers are dynamic, engaging, and well-known in their fields.

March 19, 2023 • Jay Reynolds, Cleveland State University, will

present "The Science of Climate Change."

April 30, 2023 • Jodi and Roy McCullough of Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society: will present "Spectra: A Valuable Tool for Astronomy."

Camp Ed Bear is Back!

ACA has received notice that Camp Ed Bear is returning this year after a hiatus due to the pandemic. The camp is sponsored by Akron Children's Hospital for its cancer patients and will be in session June 2-4. Director Doug Palmer inquired if ACA members will participate in the camp program again this year by setting up our telescopes on Friday, June 2nd. Camp Ed Bear has been a service tradition for ACA and a fulfilling experience for young cancer patients who attend. If you are interested in organizing ACA members to continue this tradition, please contact President Cathy Loboda.

OFFICERS 2022 — 2024

President: Cathy Loboda

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Trustee: position vacant

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Trustee: position vacant

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Statutory Agent: Mark Kochheiser

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OTAA Representative: Lou Poda

• E-mail:



Texas Star Party

Shared by Cathy Loboda

Registration for Texas Star Party Now Open

One of the biggest star parties in the US is the Texas Star Party. If you are traveling and wish to experience this astronomical event, you must register ASAP. Below is the information and important dates as presented in the invitational email.

Texas Star Party 2023

10 am Sunday, May 14th to 10 am Sunday, May 21, 2023

To register, go online at <https://texasstarparty.org/register/>. Login, confirm your profile information and register.

The great tradition of Dark Sky Observing continues with the 43rd Annual TEXAS STAR PARTY, May 14 to 21, 2023 near Fort Davis, Texas!

IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW

- Friday, Feb 17th – close regular registrations.
- Friday, Feb 17th through Monday, Feb 20th – run the random lottery and start housing assignments
- Monday, Feb 20th through Sunday, March 5th – do housing assignments (this gives planners two weeks)
- Monday, March 6th – confirmation emails go out to regular registrants
- Wednesday, March 8th – late registration open and late housing assignments made (whatever is left)

Late Registration will close April 28, 2023.

Last day to cancel and receive a refund is April 28, 2023 at 11:59 pm CDT. Your email must be time and date stamped at or prior to 11:59 pm (23:59 hours) Central Daylight Saving Time to receive a refund. Special Conditions apply to refunds

The Texas Star Party is accepting registrations for TSP 2023. Please go to <https://texasstarparty.org/register/> and log in to your TSP account to begin the process.

New for this year:

A. Application and Registration are now combined into one registration form, and TSP Payment for registrations is due at the time of registration.

B. Please consider making a donation to one of “Fund Programs”. Donations made to these programs are restricted to be used only for these programs. The registration form includes the ability to make donations to:

1. Friends of TSP Fund Program
2. John Wagoner Memorial Student Astronomer Award Fund Program
3. TSP Youth Outreach Fund Program
4. TSP Operations Fund Program

Items that you can purchase when you register:

C. You can purchase these items while registering for TSP 2023:

1. TSP 2023 Group Photo
2. TSP 2023 Hat
3. TSP 2023 Official T-Shirt

You can purchase these items when completing your registration form. You can pick your items up during TSP 2023 at the Sales and Information Desk in the meeting hall.

D. Cancellation and Refund Deadline is April 25, 2023

Please read

Go to our website to review our “Registration webpage” <https://texasstarparty.org/registration/> for additional information regarding “Timelines, important dates, cancelling and refunds. Your Ranch Housing accommodations request can only be submitted, processed and assigned by TSP Housing Staff. Please do not contact Prude Ranch for information regarding your accommodations. This also pertains to requesting a change to your assigned Ranch accommodation(s). Once you have received your Confirmation of Ranch Housing Assignment from TSP Housing, you can either wait to pay your Ranch deposit via the information in the email the Ranch will send out. Or you can mail your deposit payment to the Ranch address provided in your Confirmation of TSP Housing Assignment email that TSP Housing will send to you. That email will be sent out in approximately 8 to 10 weeks from the date of this email.

If you have any questions, please email us at tsprooms@texasstarparty.org. TSP knows that you have choices of where to spend your vacations and we all want to thank you for choosing TSP 2023 as your hosted astronomical event destination and vacation.

We are looking forward to assisting you wherever we can help and thank you for this opportunity to be of service.

We will see you there!

Sincerely,

The volunteers for Texas Star Party and Texas Star Party, Inc Management

ACA Minutes For Membership Meeting, 2 PM, January 16th, 2023

By Marnie Sanders

Minutes for January 16th Members Meeting

Speakers Presentation

Phil Creed presented a fantastic program on 2023 and 2024 Solar Eclipses and what to expect, how to watch safely, and where to go, as well as photo's and reports from the 2017 event. The audience was totally "wowed" and Phil graciously spoke and showed slides and answered questions until 3:35 pm! THANK YOU PHIL!!!!

Business Meeting called to order 3:40 pm

President Cathy called to order

- Minutes of November were published in November newsletter: approved as published.
- Treasurer's November report was published in November newsletter: approved as published
- Glenn reported on the server problems discussed at Saturday's Officer meeting and will further investigate resolutions and improvements.
- Social events: March 5 will be scheduled at Galaxy for 12 noon for all members/guests
- Newsletter: Glenn would like more participation with writers and subjects.
- Trustee appointment: Katie Adams accepted position of Trustee. One more is needed.

- Observatory report: Ron discussed the Comet currently approaching with an unaided visual likely by February 1 or so. He also noted the Observatory has been inspected and is in good shape and reported on the approved purchase of the 2" diagonal at yesterday's Board meeting, the maintenance schedule cost, and the repair to the crack in the controller. Last year's approved herschel wedge did not yet get purchased, with replacement still ongoing (but \$750 approval from last year may need revised).
- No reports for Call for observations
- Call for Inquiries: A member asked what is "flex", "bias" and "other frame". Glenn referred him to "Backyard Astronomy" website. Another member inquired if any UFO's had been verified sited, with affirmatives by some, but not clear evidence produced as of yet.
- Cathy reminded members of our FaceBook and Instagram sites with pertinent reminders.
- Cathy promoted our Feb 19th meeting with Speaker Gary Kader on Seeing double: Observing Double Stars for Fun and Science"
- Gregg offered information on a post-April Eclipse workshop by the American Astronomical Society which is planned to include video of the eclipse(s) and there is some coordination of the observations also expected.
- Meeting Adjourned 4:15 pm

Marnie Sanders, Secretary



January 2023 ACA Treasurer's Report
By Dave Hartsook
2/2/2023

Checking Beginning Balance	\$1,936.25
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Income

Membership Dues Received (1 Junior renewal)	\$15.00
Membership Dues Received (1 NEW Family Membership pro-rated)	\$30.00
Charitable Contributions Received	\$10.00
PayPal Net Fee/Charge	\$0.00

Total Income	\$55.00
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Expenses

Speaker Honorarium paid at January stated meeting	-\$50.00
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Total Expenses	-\$50.00
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Income Less Expenses	\$5.00
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Checking Ending Balance	\$1,941.25
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Savings Beginning Balance	\$3,768.66
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Interest Income	\$0.03
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Savings Ending Balance	\$3,768.69
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Petty Cash Beginning Balance	\$50.00
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No Activity

Petty Cash Ending Balance	\$50.00
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Grand Total	\$5,759.94
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February's ACA Meeting Promo!

By Marnie Sanders

**NEXT MEETING UPCOMING February 19, 2 pm,
Kiwanis Hall, 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, Ohio
MEMBERS!!!!**

Our next speaker is Dr. Gary Kader, Director of Burrell Memorial Observatory at Baldwin Wallace University. His topic is "Seeing Double: Double Stars for Fun and Science". He has visited our Club before and brought some terrific photos!

SO.... Come for a really fun presentation and photos on our new large screen, plenty of comfortable chairs, and always some good refreshments! We had guests in our audience from some other clubs last month! Thanks to our fellow clubs for sharing our program information to your members too!

Hope to see you there!!!

If you have any questions, please email me to msanders@kent.edu for quick response (while upgrades for our "acaoh.org" email is continuing and has had some interruptions)! Marnie for ACA

PS: We kept our last speaker so busy with our questions for an extra 45 minutes! So come and enjoy a great presentation and be prepared with your questions!

If you have any questions, please email me to msanders@kent.edu for quick response (while upgrades for our "acaoh.org" email is continuing and has had some interruptions)!

Marnie's Astro News Bits

Shared by Marnie Sanders

Well, simple is always best in my estimation as well as in nature! So this recent article in my "NASA Explore" newsletter sparked interest! If you too are interested....here is the link:

Could NASA's Studies on Hibernating Squirrels Help Astronauts? | NASA <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/could-nasa-s-studies-on-hibernating-squirrels-help-astronauts>

This is a free newsletter and you may find enrollment information in the link as well! Enjoy!

New asteroid photobombs Webb Telescope

Shared by Jennifer Poda

Check it out...

<https://www.live5news.com/2023/02/08/new-asteroid-photobombs-webb-telescope/>

Everybody--and thing--is a celebrity photo hog!!!

Great Meteor Procession

Shared by Marnie Sanders

Mikey and I used to live in Big Sandy, Tennesseeneither big nor sandy..... but the sky views from that log cabin where we lived were just fantastic!

We would take our chairs out to the cow pasture, and they would join us to view the night sky....it was soooo magical! Ohio just doesn't have the magical sky that we had there, but we keep hoping!

Enjoy this article and subscribe if you would enjoy their weekly newsletter!

EarthSky | Great Meteor Procession 110 years ago



From Feb 14th "EarthSky" News - The Pale Blue Dot

Shared by Marnie Sanders

Thirty three years ago, on Valentine's Day, Voyager 1 took the image that Carl Sagan described in his book.

"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every 'superstar,' every 'supreme leader,' every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there - on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam."

If you would enjoy the photo that inspired him and more of his poetic appreciation of space, the link is below:

[EarthSky | Pale Blue Dot 33 years later: Earth in a sunbeam](#)

Blast From Februarys Past

By Glenn R. Cameron

Twenty years ago this month the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated upon reentry.

The Columbia Accident Investigation Board determined that the leading edge of the left carbon composite wing was punctured by a piece of insulating foam that separated from the external fuel tank during the launch 16 days earlier.

Like Challenger, this disaster might have been avoidable. In this case NASA knew that pieces of foam had separated from the external fuel tanks of some previous launches but it wasn't imagined that they could do any damage. Or they wouldn't hit the orbiter but would fall straight along the trajectory of travel.

A safety procedure developed afterward provided for high resolution camera inspection of the whole exterior of the shuttle once in orbit. If the damage

wasn't entirely avoidable, disintegration during reentry could be avoided. Emergency return vehicles could be maintained on the International Space Station.

As I've said before, being an astronaut is a dangerous profession. Safety should never be an afterthought. If someone can imagine it, someone else should always be working to reduce the danger.

Last month I shared a picture I took of the Challenger crew grave stone at Arlington National Cemetery when I visited in June of 2009. This month I'm sharing a picture of the Columbia crew grave stone that I took during the same visit.



Swap-n-Shop

Freddy Huffman

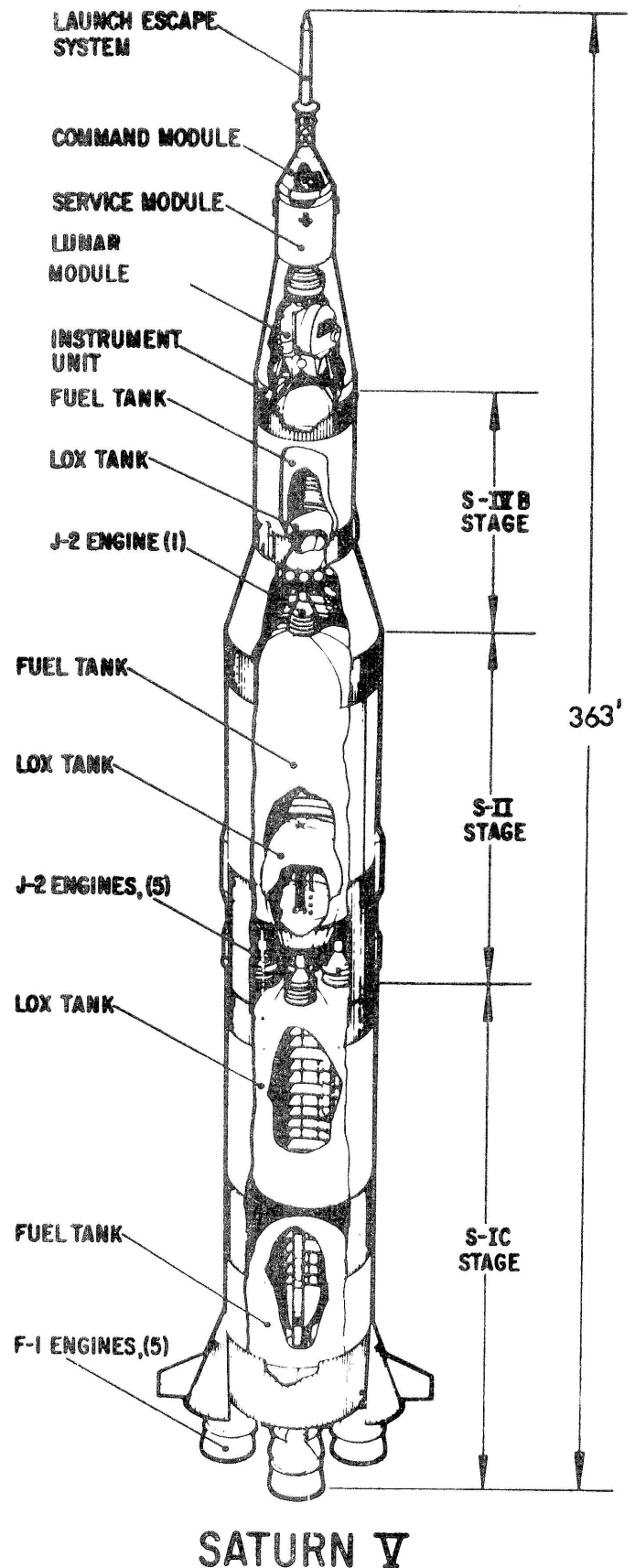
Phone: 330-535-8009

Email: trusstube2@gmail.com

- 8" Dobsonian
- 8" SCT
- 6" SCT
- 6" Refractor
- 5" Refractor
- 100 mm Binoculars
- EQ Mount w/ dual axis tracking
- iOptron SkyTracker and tripod

Call to set up appointment to see if you are interested.

Thank you,



February Astronomical Events

Date	EST (h:m)	Event
03	19:47	Pollux 1.9°N of Moon
04	08:55	Moon at Apogee: 406476 km
05	18:29	FULL MOON
06	17:44	Regulus 4.5°S of Moon
11	04:23	Spica 3.6°S of Moon
12	07:31	Moon at Descending Node
13	16:01	LAST QUARTER MOON
14	18:09	Antares 1.9°S of Moon
15	20:00	Mercury at Aphelion
16	16:00	Saturn in Conjunction with Sun
18	20:53	Mercury 3.6°N of Moon
19	09:06	Moon at Perigee: 358267 km
20	07:06	NEW MOON
22	07:57	Venus 2.1°N of Moon
22	21:58	Jupiter 1.2°N of Moon: Occn.
24	18:56	Moon at Ascending Node
26	14:42	Pleiades 2.1°N of Moon
27	08:06	FIRST QUARTER MOON
28	04:32	Mars 1.1°S of Moon: Occn.



March Astronomical Events

Date	EST (h:m)	Event
02	04:00	Venus 0.5°N of Jupiter
03	02:10	Pollux 1.7°N of Moon
03	18:01	Moon at Apogee: 405890 km
06	00:08	Regulus 4.5°S of Moon
07	12:40	FULL MOON
10	10:06	Spica 3.4°S of Moon
11	08:53	Moon at Descending Node
14	00:21	Antares 1.6°S of Moon
15	02:08	LAST QUARTER MOON
15	23:00	Neptune in Conj. with Sun
17	11:00	Mercury at Superior Conj.
19	15:16	Moon at Perigee: 362698 km
19	15:20	Saturn 3.6°N of Moon
20	21:25	Vernal Equinox
21	17:23	NEW MOON
22	19:54	Jupiter 0.5°N of Moon: Occn.
24	02:08	Moon at Ascending Node
24	10:28	Venus 0.1°N of Moon: Occn.
25	23:42	Pleiades 1.9°N of Moon
28	13:16	Mars 2.3°S of Moon
29	02:32	FIRST QUARTER MOON
30	09:23	Pollux 1.6°N of Moon
31	11:18	Moon at Apogee: 404921 km
31	20:00	Mercury at Perihelion



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Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Glenn R. Cameron, Editor