



# Astronomy Club of Akron

## 2008 Observatory Schedule

Portage Lakes State Park, 5031 Manchester Road, Akron, OH 44319

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

- Our star parties are free and open to the public. Please join us for stargazing and educational activities. Star parties will begin promptly.
- Events may be cancelled if the skies are cloudy. If the skies are questionable, please call for the latest information: 330-837-5848
- If you have a telescope or binoculars, please feel free to bring them with you.
- This is an outdoor activity in an unheated environment. Nighttime temperatures drop rapidly, even in the summer. Dress appropriately.
- A restroom is available for your convenience.
- Please be considerate of those who bring their own telescopes. Children should be supervised at all times. Pets should be left at home.
- Smoke and expensive optics don't mix. Please, **no smoking** in or near the observatory or on the surrounding grounds where club members have set up their telescopes. If you must smoke, walk to the down-wind side of the observing site. Be considerate of your fellow observers.

### January 5 – 6:30pm

It's Spring on Mars, come see the north polar ice cap.

### February 9 – 7:00pm

See stars being born in a stellar nursery: Orion Nebula

### March 1 – 7:00pm

See a dying star in its final stage of life: Eskimo Nebula

### March 8 – 7:00pm

How many of Saturn's moons can you count? Find out tonight.

### March 29 – 8:00pm

*Program:* Winter & Spring Constellations

**Special Event:** Messier Marathon, stay all night to observe all 110 Messier objects with ACA club members.

### April 5 – 8:00pm

*Program:* Crab Nebula

Messier, Anasazi Indians, & Modern astronomers

### April 26 – 8:00pm

*Program:* Saturn

See Saturn cast its shadow on its magnificent rings

### May 3 – 8:30pm

*Program:* Galaxies\*

View Mercury at sunset and then galaxies in the Virgo Cluster

### May 24 – 8:00pm

**Annual ACA Telescope Seminar!** Our members will describe the advantages and disadvantages of each type of telescope.

### June 7 – 6:00pm

**Solar & Lunar Event / Hotdog Roast!** View sunspots, solar flares, and prominences on the sun and craters, mountains, and maria on the Moon. Enjoy a hotdog for a small fee.

*Program 1:* The Sun    *Program 2:* The Moon

### June 28 – 9:00pm

*Program:* Spectroscopy\*

What can you learn from starlight?

### July 5 – 9:00pm

*Program:* Star Atlases\*

We'll show you how to follow a map to the stars!

### July 26 – 9:00pm

*Program:* Nebulae\*

Learn about emission, reflection, and dark nebulae and then view them up close.

### August 23 – 8:00pm

*Program:* Jupiter

View Jupiter's moons and the planet's intricate band structure.

### August 30 – 8:00pm

*Program:* Comets\*

What makes these dirty snowballs act the way they do?

### September 20 – 7:30pm

*Program:* Radio Astronomy\*

What can we learn about the Universe at radio frequencies?

### September 27 – 7:00pm

*Programs:* Globular Clusters\*

View a few hundred thousand stars in the eyepiece!

### October 4 – 7:00pm

*Program:* Double Stars\*

View the finest double stars in the night sky!

### October 18 – 7:00pm

*Program:* Stars\*

Learn the life cycle of the stars

### October 25 – 7:00pm

*Program:* Summer & Fall Constellations

### November 1 – 7:00pm

View the Giant Gas Planets Uranus & Neptune

### November 22 – 6:30pm

A blue snowball in space? Yes, come view the Blue Snowball Planetary tonight.

### December 6 – 6:30pm

Observe the Straight Wall on the Moon!

### December 20 – 6:30pm

View Venus, the brilliant beacon in the southwestern sky.

This will be the best viewing of Venus in 2008. Venus will be 30 degrees above the horizon at sunset.

\* listed program or make-up program