

The Night Sky

The Official Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

Volume 22 Number 1

January 2000

ACA's Holiday Party this Saturday!

What: *The ACA Holiday Party*

When: *This coming Saturday, the 15th of January at 7:00pm*

Where: *The Portage Lakes Kiwanis Club – site of our monthly meetings*

Bring? *Covered dish to share, table service for yourself*

Special? *The AI Beam poster to be raffled!*

The President's Corner

Here it is - the start of a new century (**not** the millennium). The observer's list has been resurrected. Observatory schedules should be available at the Holiday Dinner. I'm looking forward to being able to attend the scheduled events at the observatory. My schedule, at least until the next signup, ends at about 8:30 PM. Let's make an effort to bring another member into the Club this year. We can do this by being friendly, open to answer questions offering help when needed to all those we come in contact with. The Holiday Dinner is Saturday January 15th at the Kiwanis Center starting at 7:00 PM. Bring a covered dish to share, your own table service. Again unfortunately I am not able to attend (it is the last day of this signup). Remember it is a New Year with dark sides and bright sides. What our year will be like depends on how we face each situation and overcome it. I wish all of you a very happy and prosperous New Year!
Again, for those interested... the ACA has its own HAM call sign! **W8ACA**.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped at the Channels 45/49 Campaign

Thanks to Ray Paul, Ted Faix, Tom Mino, Phil Hegedrefer, Marty Breyer, Lou Poda, Frank and Frannie Koby who helped at the Channels 45/49 fund drive on Sunday December 5th. It's was fun, as always!

Total Lunar Eclipse on Thursday, Jan 20th!

The full moon of January will make contact with the Earth's Penumbra shadow on January 20th at 9:03PM and 1st contact with the dark Umbra shadow at 10:08PM. It will remain in the darkest shadow until 1:23AM with maximum darkness at 11:43PM. All times given are Eastern Standard Time and as viewed from Akron Ohio.

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OTAA REPRESENTATIVE

Lou Poda.....	330-773-8160
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ACA MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

LocationPortage Lakes Kiwanis Hall
Next Meeting.....January 28th at 8:00pm
Speaker.....Don Palac from NASA
Subject.....Air Breathing Propulsion

ACA Merchandise Mart

Astronomy related items at low club prices!

ITEM	Non Member Cost	Club Member Cost
T-Shirts	\$15.00	\$10.00
SkyClobe 5.25"	\$4.00	free on
SkyGlobe 3.5"	\$4.00	your disk
Star Wheels	\$2.00	\$3.00
Kalmbach Publishing	25% to 44% off for members	
Sky Publishing	- - - 10% off for members	
Sky & Tel Mag	\$36.00	\$29.95
Astronomy Mag	\$33.20	\$29.00
Edmund Scientific	- 15% to 45% off for members	

**Contact Dale Knotts at 330-644-1661
for additional information**

Send your articles, items for sale, and comments to:

The Night Sky - Dave Jessie
 5020 Fishcreek Rd
 Stow, OH 44224-1934

If you have email capability, send to:

DAJessieStow1@worldnet.att.net

Or call: 330-688-9043

The deadline for article submission is the 18th of each month. If you have info that needs to be in the next *Night Sky*, I must have it by the 18th of the previous month! All files should be straight ASCII text files, or any version of Microsoft Word to minimize import or conversion problems.

Please send in your articles!

**The newsletter (and the club) will be much richer
with your contribution!**

**Thanks to all who have used their valuable time
to author or collect material for the Night Sky.**

(Ed.)

For Sale - The ACA's Classifieds

21" NEC MultiSync 6FG computer monitor.....	\$ 700
MS Office 97 Professional on CD-ROM.....	\$75
Call Dave at 330-688-9043	
Televue 4.8mm Nagler eyepiece.....	\$ 120
Orion 'Skyglow' 1¼" filter	\$ 40
12½" Truss tube Dob parts kit - no optics.....	\$ 100
Call Bill at 330-633-9283 or email: bprewitt@neo.rr.com	

***See article by Rich Ruggles on page 3 of this issue for
other items for sale!***

ACA Monthly Meeting Information

The ACA meetings are the 4th Friday of the month except in November when we meet the 3rd Friday and in December when there is no meeting. We meet at the Kiwanis Civic Center on Portage Lakes Drive at 8 PM. Please note that the ACA Dark Sky Committee meeting occurs ½ hour before normally scheduled monthly meetings.

Jan 28 th	Speaker: Don Palac from NASA Topic: Air Breathing propulsion
Feb 25 th	To Be Announced
Mar 24 th	To Be Announced

Merchandise

(for the After-the-Holidays Blues)

By Rich Ruggles

Well, I hope you all had a good holiday. Speaking of Holidays, our Holiday Dinner is coming up on Jan 15th and a good time to start off the year with some good stuff you didn't get from Santa. For your selection I will have available:

***The Observers Handbook*..... \$13.50**

This annual book has everything that will take place in the year 2000. *A MUST FOR THE MILENIUM.*

***The Star Book* \$8.00**

This is a great start for the beginner or novice or the stargazer that doesn't get out much. Instead of a star chart that you must know where in the sky you are looking, this book shows you the entire sky with "M" objects for each season (2 per season) plus many other interesting items with data and location maps on the facing page.

***The Astronomy Wall Calendar* \$8.00**

From Kalmbach Publishing (Astronomy Magazine), this 15 x 12 calendar has 12 outstanding astrophotos from Earth, the Moon and Space. It would look great on any wall of your house or office or even your observatory.

***The Sky & Space Weekly Planner* from *The Starry Messenger Press*..... \$11.00**

The first order of these went fast, so I will make another one by taking your order at the dinner. With 52 outstanding photos and drawings by professionals and amateurs, plenty of space to note your appointments and occasions plus it shows moon phase and other astro facts. A full year one week at a time.

So If you have any money left after playing Santa, bring it to the dinner and get in on the savings on these items. You can't find them anywhere at this low club dis-count price. Go ahead, treat yourself.

If you have an astronomy item for sale just tag it with your name and price and bring it along for our swap table at the dinner and all our meetings. It's a good way for people and stuff to get together.

See you at the dinner!

(if you want a T shirt call Rich Ruggles at 644-5912)

Darkest New Moon Ever!

By AP Wireservice (Nerd Humor Division)

When the [as some believe] new millennium begins, in January 2000, observers of the New Moon will be in for a big surprise. It may be the darkest New Moon of the new millennium or maybe even your entire lifetime.

Two astronomers, Lars Peabrane and Jimbob Alfalfa, working part-time at the Old Farmers Almanac Observatory have discovered that the New Moon of January 6, 2000 will be so dark that you probably won't even be able to see it. Peabrane reports that the New Moon will occur precisely at 12:13 PM on Thursday January 6 "but you won't be able to see it even if you start looking right after dinner on Thursday night."

That's because this New Moon falls exactly halfway in between a lunar eclipse on January 20, 2000 and something that the two astronomers are calling a "Perigee Solstitial Full Moon" on December 22, 1999. "That moon will be really bright" said Alfalfa "and the eclipse moon will be just the opposite. That will cause the two full moons to cancel each other out making the New Moon the darkest in a really long time." The two astronomers are researching exactly when the last time was that this phenomenon occurred. They have not yet arrived at an exact date because there's "a lot of math involved." They have found evidence of something that in 1852 the Lakota Sioux referred to as "The Night of Many Sprained Ankles" but it is not clear yet if this refers to a particularly dark New Moon.

Rear Admiral Buck Overunz, a Y2K consultant to the federal government, was asked to comment on what this special event might mean for public safety. "We are concerned that this night will be so dark" stated Overunz "because we were counting on moonlight as a backup if flashlights fail due to Y2K." Overunz added "In any case we are begging people to drive with their headlights on that night. Turning them off to see if they are superfluous or not just doesn't make sense, even if there is snow on the ground."

"The New Moon itself is not that uncommon" Alfalfa explained "they average about one a month." Peabrane added that "It's not really a "new moon", it's the same moon over and over. Scientists call it a New Moon because it looks new when you see it through a telescope"

When asked if they could sum up the event in layman's terms the two astronomers described the upcoming special evening as "Really dark." And "Too cold for fishing."

The ACA Astrophoto Page

Please submit your photos for publication...
The Night Sky welcomes work from members or new
Astrophotography enthusiasts!

Nova Aquilae 1999 No 2

By Jason Shinn

Hey all! I thought you might like to see the photo I took of an exploding star. Known as Nova Aquilae 1999 No. 2 or V1494 Aquilae, this star was first observed by a Portuguese amateur astronomer with binoculars, on December 1st, when he discovered a new star where none had been before. It is very well placed in the early evening to observe in binoculars, although some experience with a star chart is necessary. For those of you who don't care to figure out how to look at it, I have scanned a photo of it for you. In the photo, you will see an arrow that will point to the star trail made by the nova. In the lower left hand corner is the light trail of a passing airplane with dots strung on it. The dots are produced by the strobe light of the plane. For those of you who can read a star chart I have labeled the nearby stars by their number for reference and the constellation of course is Aquila. I will be attempting to photograph the star as it begins to fade from view over the next month, weather permitting. Enjoy!

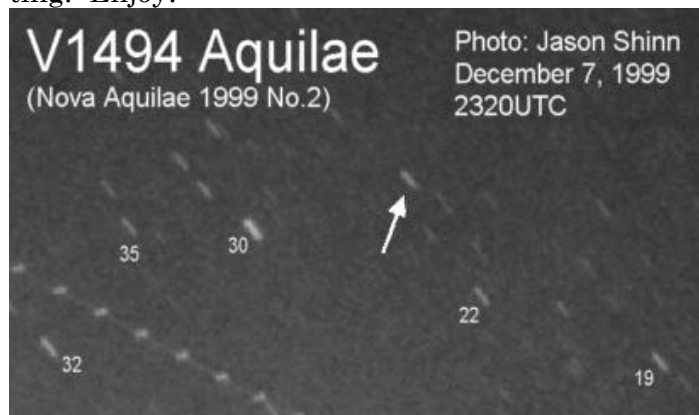


Photo by member Jason Shinn

First Attempt at Astrophotography

By John Zito

Here's my first photo of the Moon taken through my new Meade ETX-125. I used a Nikon N90 with an electronic cable release. Anyone new to as-

trophotography is welcome to contact me at my email address: jzito@neo.lrun.com



Photo by new enthusiast John Zito

Atmospheric phenomena

By Dave Miller

I thought I'd share a picture I took of the sun setting... the roll of film that I took of some Sundogs hasn't come in yet – but I'll share them when I receive them. Here's a picture of a Sun Pillar I took while photographing atmospheric phenomena.



Photo by member Dave Miller

January 2000

Sun

Mon
































Tues

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1  Moon 03:04 14:03 Sun 07:51 17:08
2  Moon 04:02 14:34 Sun 07:52 17:09	3  Moon 04:59 15:09 Sun 07:52 17:10	4  Moon 05:55 15:49 Sun 07:52 17:11	5  Moon 06:49 16:32 Sun 07:52 17:12	6  Moon 07:39 17:21 Sun 07:52 17:12 New Moon, 13:15	7  Moon 08:25 18:14 Sun 07:52 17:13	8  Moon 09:06 19:11 Sun 07:51 17:14
9  Moon 09:44 20:10 Sun 07:51 17:15	10  Moon 10:17 21:11 Sun 07:51 17:17	11  Moon 10:49 22:12 Sun 07:51 17:18	12  Moon 11:19 23:16 Sun 07:51 17:19	13  Moon 11:48 ----- Sun 07:50 17:20	14  Moon 12:18 00:20 Sun 07:50 17:21 First Qtr., 08:35	15  Moon 12:51 01:28 Sun 07:50 17:22 Holiday Party Kiwanis Hall 7:00PM
16  Moon 13:28 02:37 Sun 07:49 17:23	17  Moon 14:11 03:49 Sun 07:49 17:24	18  Moon 15:01 05:00 Sun 07:48 17:25	19  Moon 16:00 06:09 Sun 07:48 17:27	20  Moon 17:07 07:12 Sun 07:47 17:28 Total Lunar Eclipse ! Full Moon, 23:43	21  Moon 18:17 08:07 Sun 07:46 17:29	22  Moon 19:29 08:53 Sun 07:46 17:30
23  Moon 20:39 09:33 Sun 07:45 17:31	24  Moon 21:47 10:07 Sun 07:44 17:33	25  Moon 22:52 10:38 Sun 07:44 17:34	26  Moon 23:54 11:08 Sun 07:43 17:35	27  Moon ----- 11:36 Sun 07:42 17:36	28  Moon 00:55 12:05 Sun 07:41 17:38 ACA Meeting Don Palac Last Qtr., 02:58	29  Moon 01:54 12:35 Sun 07:40 17:39
30  Moon 02:52 13:09 Sun 07:40 17:40	31  Moon 03:48 13:47 Sun 07:39 17:41					

The Astronomy Club of Akron
5020 Fishcreek Road
Stow, OH 44224-1934

For more information call: 330-688-9043

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

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

(For Optional Email Delivery of *The Night Sky*)

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

Adult (ages 18 and older)\$20.00

Junior (ages 12 to 17).\$15.00

Added Adult member \$ 5.00

Family Membership\$30.00



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5020 Fishcreek Rd
Stow, OH 44224-1934

The Astronomy Club of Akron

Upcoming Events

Jan 15th *ACA Holiday Party at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Hall*

Jan 20th Total Lunar Eclipse! Maximum at 11:43PM

Jan 28th ACA meeting, Portage Lakes Kiwanis: Don Palac / NASA on *Air Breathing Propulsion*

Feb 25th ACA meeting, Portage Lakes Kiwanis: *TBA*

Mar 24th ACA meeting, Portage Lakes Kiwanis: *TBA*