



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

September 2000
Volume 22 Number 8

Monthly Meetings Resume September 22nd

This Month's Meeting

Friday, September 22, 8 PM
Kiwanis Civic Center
Portage Lakes Drive
Dr. Geoffrey Landis



FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's time to start our fall/winter business meetings again. I'm looking forward to implementing some new things that I will explain. First, I am proposing a members only star party the weekend closest to the first quarter Moon. This will give us a way of planning our being at the observatory. Second, I would like to re-establish a telephone tree for those times when members would be going to the observatory at times other than program or members only nights. Years ago we had a phone tree that worked well as long as the calling

chain was not broken. (Anyone want to be "TOP DOG" on the list to start the ball rolling?) Thirdly, I will donate a year 2002 Royal Canadian Handbook to the person with the most observations from the 2001 Observer's List. Lastly, I'm working on a business sized membership card that would show a person is a member in the club, and would have their name and expiration date penned on the card.

We are still trying to get a membership list together. There have been as many as four (4) lists of members floating about. We will condense these into one good list and get everyone a copy. NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER INCLUDED PLEASE LET ME KNOW

The Kiwanis Rose Remembrance Day is coming up. I have a dozen order books, a couple of posters and a display. Please take some of the order books and help support the Kiwanis who provide our meeting place at no cost to us. I have some good news; I talked to our contact person and asked if we could have a key to the VCR lock. Scott plans to be at our meeting to give is the key. On a related note my mother-in-law has donated a 27-inch stereo TV to the club. The power supply "went south" in it. She bought a new set and Fran and I had it repaired. We will put it on the VCR cart with the understanding that we are sharing the use with the Kiwanis.

I'll see you on the 22nd at the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Center.

FROM THE VP

Don't forget the first monthly membership meeting of the fall on Friday, September 22 at 8:00 P.M. Dr. Geoffrey Landis will be the speaker. He has been a meeting speaker once before. Here is some information about Dr. Landis from the Internet.

Dr. Landis is a scientist with the Ohio Aerospace Institute assigned to the Power Technology Division at NASA Glenn Research Center. His current areas of research include advanced concepts for space power and propulsion, developing new solar cells, characterizing the environment of Mars, and development of space vehicle systems. Dr. Landis is also a science fiction author and has written fifty published short stories and novelettes, and twenty some poems. His first novel MARS CROSSING will be available in December.

CLUB ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- ◆ **MONTHLY MEETING** –
September 22 – Dr. Geoffrey Landis
October 27 – To be announced
November 17 – To be announced
- ◆ **OBSERVATORY PUBLIC PROGRAM**
– September 23, 7:00 PM, Fall
Constellations

HELP WANTED (by Rich Ruggles)

I am in desperate need of a merchandise sales person to help out at meetings and some observatory programs. This person should love to talk astronomy, promote shirts and books, and enjoy helping people. If you are a friendly and helpful type of person, please call me at 330-644-5912.

THE ACA 2000 CAMP OUT STAR PARTY

By Rich Ruggles

This camp out star party is set for October 28th. It is advised to arrive before dark. The road (path) that leads up the hill to the site is a bit tricky, improvements to this road will be made prior to the campout. The directions are: Rt. 77 south to Rt. 250 south at Newcomerstown to Rt. 800 south to Rt. 22 west. At this point, turn right on Rt. 22. (Rt. 800 will cut off to the left but you will stay on Rt.22.)

After approximately ½ mile you will see a sign that will be placed at the access road. You will turn left into the property of 22. I will place an ACA sign at Rt. 22 and at the access road to the site. I will be leaving at approximately 5:00 PM. If anyone needs a ride or wants to caravan down, please let me know. Also, anyone going should call (330-644-5912) so I'll have some idea of the number of people to expect.

ACA JACKETS

Last call for jacket orders. I still need a few more to complete our order. Please order now, don't wait. Light lined jackets are \$28.00. Heavy quilted jackets are \$48.00. Call Rich to order at 330-644-5912.

TELRAD ORDER

I am going to order 3 Telrads for members. If you want one, please call me soon. Cost is around \$40.00. Call Rich at 330-644-5912.

STAR PARTIES GALORE

Sept. 23, the Black River Astronomical Society will host its annual OTAA Star Party at Strawberry Mountain Convention Center in Birmingham, OH. This star party always has great food, a terrific observing site, good door prizes and, of course, the "Midnight Hot Dog Roast". This is one I always attend so if you need more info or need a ride, call me (Rich) at 330-644-5912.

Sept. 29-30 will be The Richland Astronomical Society Hidden Hollow Star Party. This one always brings in the top speakers, like David Levy, Stephen O'Meara and more. Also, it boasts the largest aperture with the 32" scope in the Warren Rupp Observatory and the 36" "Yard Scope" on the hill. The wide variety of scopes and accessories to see and the many national vendors with good deals on all their stuff makes this a good star party to go to, especially since it happens only once every 2 years. **Oct. 6-8** is the Autumn Astro-Tour 2000 sponsored by the Sandusky Valley Amateur Astronomy Club and Tech 2000. It will take place at Ballreich Observatory near Tiffin, OH. If you have an interest in attending this star party, call Rich (330-644-5912) for a car caravan.