



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 30 Number 5

May 2008

RAMBLINGS OF THE PRESIDENT

by Glenn R. Cameron

Hi all.

Thank you for making me your new club president. I have some big shoes to fill and I hope to grow into them eventually. I will pace myself. It has been very enjoyable, these past four years, under Dave Jessie's watch. He has been an effective and thoughtful president and I have enjoyed the direction that the club has taken under his leadership. I am glad that he will continue to sit on the Board of Directors during my term as president and I welcome his continued dedication to the club's mission.

It is my hope that I will be able to continue the club's growth over the next two years. I notice that club members enjoy both the social camaraderie of meeting with like minded friends and the scientific touchstones attained through interesting speakers at club meetings. Some members favor the social aspects and others the scientific. I would like to try to enhance both aspects to the benefit of all members. I welcome suggestions and support.

In short, I hope to attract new sources of income for the club so that we can make improvements to the observatory. More publicity can attract new members. More members may attract more speakers. More speakers may attract more members, and so on. I would also like to see more members only events including social gatherings, in order to enhance membership benefits. If anyone has any suggestions on how to accomplish these aims, please do not be shy.

The above will be gradual and only implemented if the board and/or membership approves. The continued success and growth of the club are my main goals and I hope we can achieve those goals together. I still feel awed by the big wide universe and love learning every little new tidbit that I can about the science and the grandeur of astronomy. Watching someone's mouth gape at the realization of a new personal astronomical epiphany is very satisfying. I know those epiphanies are exciting for them because they are still exciting for me. Let us continue to build the club together!

Don't forget, it's **time to renew your membership!** See the back page.

ACA Business Meeting: Friday 5/23/08 - Last meeting before the summer break. Time to renew your membership! Speaker not as yet decided. New ACA officers will be conducting the meeting. Come and give them your support.

Camp CHOPS - Friday 6/6/08 at Camp Christopher

Camp WUNDERLUNG - Friday 6/13/08 at Camp Christopher

OFFICERS 2007 – 2008

President		
Glenn Cameron	330-833-6343	djessie@neo.rr.com
Vice President		
Gary Smith	330-633-9873	garysmith23@juno.com
Treasurer		
Steve Rohweder	330-896-2849	srohwer@neo.rr.com
Secretary		
John Phillips	330-784-7922	jphillips1@neo.rr.com
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer		
Rosaelena Villaseñor		revillasenor@hotmail.com
Observatory Director		
Ron Kalinoski	330-837-5848	jones_ronbo@.att.net
ACA Webmaster		
Glenn Cameron	330-833-6343	glenn@cameronclan.org
Editor, Night Sky		
Tom/Leigh Alexander	330-666-6550	Hana_aloha@hotmail.com
Trustee (term through 2008)		
Freddy Huffman	330-535-8009	atmos@netzero.com
Trustee (term through 2009)		
Tom Mino	330-923-7704	tjmino@neo.rr.com
Trustee (term through 2010)		
Ray Hyer	330-784-3970	rhyer@neo.rr.com
Statutory Agent		
Mark Kochheiser	330-882-3713	mkochheiser@neo.rr.com
OTAA Representative		
Lou Poda		

Activities Calendar

Club	Celestial
May 23, ACA General Membership Meeting 8:00 pm, Kiwanis Club	May 5, New Moon
May 24, Annual Telescope Seminar, 8:00 PM, ACA Observatory	May 5-6, Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower
June 6, Camp Chops, Camp Christopher, Bath TWP	May 19, Full Moon
June 7, Solar, Lunar Observing and Hot Dog Roast, 6:00 PM, ACA Observatory	June 3, New Moon
June 13, Camp Wonderlung, Camp Christopher, Bath Twp	

Observatory Report

Ron Kalinoski

On April 26th, ACA held their rescheduled Messier Marathon. Dave Jessie opened the star party for about 45 attendees with a presentation on Saturn. Dave's presentation contained impressive images of Saturn and its ring system from the Cassini mission. Dave explained the role of shepherd moons within the ring system and how one patient astronomer with pristine seeing conditions was able to detect "spokes" within the ring system long before any spacecraft visited the planet. Dave's slides showing the overall dimensions of Saturn with respect to the Earth-Moon system were stunning. After the presentation, members pointed their telescopes to the skies to observe as many Messier objects as possible. John Shulan had his 60 cup coffee maker fired up and ready to serve customers. The skies were cloudless, notwithstanding heavy cloud cover during the day. Members set up telescopes on the north, west, and south parts of the observatory grounds. Telescopes ranged in size from Isabella's 80mm refractor fabricated by Fred Huffman to Dave Steele's massive 13" Dobsonian. As night continued, the seeing conditions starting to deteriorate and by midnight most members decided to break down their telescopes and pack up. Phil Creed suspected large forest fires in Russia were influencing the atmospheric conditions. We did have two winners for our Messier Marathon contest. Tom and Leigh Alexander won the manual telescope category with 30 observations. John Shulan won the computer-aided telescope category with 50 observations. Congratulations to Tom, Leigh, and John. Awards will be presented at our May ACA club meeting.

Speaking of observing programs, I have been contemplating starting an effort to develop some observing programs for our club members. Many of you may be aware of the observing programs offered by the Astronomical League. To participate in these observing programs, one must have a membership through an affiliated club or be a member at large. Last year I looked into membership for our club members, but found the price of membership prohibiting. Of course, there's nothing from stopping us from developing our own observing programs. Some examples of programs offered by the Astronomical League are Messier Club, Herschel 400 Club, Herschel II Club, Sunspotter Club, Meteor Club, and Lunar Club. I have participated in the Messier and Herschel 400 observing programs and found them to be exciting and educational. We could develop programs that would fit our observing interests and sky conditions. Programs could be designed for beginner, intermediate, or advanced observers. An observing certificate would be awarded to any member

completing an observing program. At this point, I thought I would present this idea to the group to see if there is any interest in pursuing the development of observing programs for our club. This undertaking would involve a team of people to establish a set of quality programs. If you think this is a task worth exploring, please e-mail or call.

Treasurer's Report: 4/1/08 - 4/30/08	
Steve Rohweder, Treasurer	
Total Beginning Assets	\$7989.66
Income	
Interest on balances	\$1.37
Dues	\$30.00
Expenses	
None Reported	
Total Ending Assets	\$8021.03

The deadline for article submission is **the second Tuesday after each meeting**. All word processing files should be saved in straight ASCII text files or any version of Word to minimize import problems. We will not turn away **any** submission, as long as the article's subject is astronomy or a related topic. If you don't have access to a computer, don't hesitate to write something out long hand. As long as it is legible, I will slave over the keyboard and get it published.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES!!!!

Send your articles, items for sale, and comments to: Tom Alexander, 270 Harmony Hills Dr. Akron Ohio 44321 email: hana_aloha@hotmail.com

The OTAA SCENIC VISTA Stargaze

From Dave Jessie

The Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society Presents

The first organizational meeting of the *Ohio Turnpike Amateur Astronomers* was on January 25, 1956, in Akron OH. Representatives from the Akron, Mahoning, Black River, Elyria and Youngstown clubs were present. A series of annual OTAA summer meetings was established. Over the decades, clubs in the OTAA have continued with these annual "OTAA Meetings" with great success. Let's celebrate the OTAA's longevity and begin this year's convention season with the 3rd OTAA Scenic Vista Stargaze. In the spirit of the OTAA, we'll have an old fashioned star party! Visit with old friends, make new ones. Exchange ideas and observing notes. Sharing telescope views. With that, we hope for clear skies and your company at the **OTAA Scenic Vista Stargaze**.

Since the early 1990's, the Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society (MVAS) has conducted public star parties at Scenic Vista Park- near Lisbon, Ohio. Indeed, a public event is also scheduled for this night. Rest assured, nearly all public visitors are gone by midnight, so we'll have the place to ourselves after that. Located in rural Columbiana County, Scenic Vista Park has proven to be an ideal, convenient location for deep sky observing and imaging. Scenic Vista offers a wide open view of the night sky with ten acres of grass field in which to set up telescopes. When it's time for a break, there is a pavilion with picnic tables, and a nearby portable rest room provide essential comforts. With fuel prices as they are today, this is a great site which is closer to home than more "famous" observing sites such as Spruce Knob, etc. Your scopes, binoculars and imaging equipment are welcome at the Stargaze. Bring what ever you usually need for an "all nighter". If you arrive after dark please use parking lights only (if possible).

NOTE: If the weather is totally cloudy in the Lisbon area, no event will take place. With partial clouds or clearing skies, the public event will still be on.

OTAA members are of course welcome to still give it a try under these conditions. Check the Internet or other weather forecasting resources covering Columbiana County, OH to help you to decide.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Saturday, May 31.....

12:00 PM Rocket and model plane flying are planned for the afternoon. Solar observing as well. Arrive early to pick a spot to set-up. Camping overnight is permitted but no camp fires please. (There are no RV electric or sanitary connections available). A port-a-John and outhouse are on site. There will be no registration fees, no door prizes, no potluck dinners, and no lectures. No camping fees. Just observing.

6:00 PM An informal welcome for OTAA members will convene at the pavilion. This presents an opportunity for OTAA club representatives to pass along information that may be of interest to the OTAA; such as upcoming OTAA conventions, club news or literature. If you have any questions about observing in the Park, please ask.

8:30 PM A "lunch stand" will be set-up in the pavilion for the event. Conducted by the Park for all of their events, they usually sell hot dogs, sloppy joes, and sodas. Proceeds from these sales go towards funding of park operations.

9:00 PM Sunset is around 8:50 PM and a public star party will begin. Public observers are usually gone by midnight. Feel free to use the pavilion for breaks. The MVAS coffee pot on too.

Sunday, June 1

12:00 PM The OTAA Scenic Vista Stargaze is officially over at this time. Please be rested for a safe drive home.

Scenic Vista Park.....

Getting there: The Park is 3 mi. south, on Wayne-Bridge Rd. Note that the entrance to Wayne-Bridge Rd. is west of Lisbon and only goes south off Rt. 30. There is an "orange" house next to the entrance. Use the Internet to get driving directions to Lisbon/Rt. 30. Try Google Maps: <http://maps.google.com/> (use the Lisbon zip code 44432). Or you may ask someone in your club that has been there. A detailed map of the park can be found on their website. Note that we observe near the pavilion. Scenic Vista website:

<http://www.bicycletrail.com/2008/svp-map.htm>

The Park entrance is on the right side, marked with a sign. The entrance is at the top of a hill. There is only one road into the Park and you can't miss the pavilion- its to the left. Hope to see you there.

Directions to Scenic Vista Park...

Getting there: Most OTAA clubs are north or west of

Scenic Vista Park. Several routes are available.

From

the north one could take SR 45 south into Salem, OH.

Or pick-up SR 14 that also takes you into Salem. In Salem, pick-up SR 45 which goes south from Salem into Lisbon. A longer but mostly "freeway" trip is to take Interstate 76 eastbound to the SR 11 exit in Austintown, OH. Take Rt. 11 south to the

Remember: ACA meeting is May 23!

Make sure you come, Jim Watson will speak on Radio Images from Radio Telescopes

Rogers/Lisbon exit (Rt.154). Turn west (onto Rt.154).

This takes you into Lisbon, where 154 changes into Rt.30. Many folks from points west of the park prefer to get on Rt. 30 and head east. Note that the entrance

to Wayne-Bridge Rd. is near the crest of a hill.

There

is a house just before the entrance, to the right. If you

use the Internet to get driving directions, note that Scenic Vista doesn't actually have a street address, but using this address: 11500 Wayne Bridge Rd, Lisbon,

OH 44432 worked with www.maps.google.com

If you have access to the Internet, use this TinyURL for a map and directions: <http://tinyurl.com/5oh22m>

To get to the Park using Lisbon as a reference

Point: Go through downtown Lisbon - westbound on Rt. 30. Leaving town, you'll go over a concrete Bridge, then up a rather steep hill. As you go over the crest of the hill look to your left for a big yellow sign with an arrow indicating that the road curves right. Wayne-Bridge Rd. is right behind this arrow sign. Turn left onto Wayne-Bridge. It is a narrow,

paved road with many curves and some elevation changes. It is three miles to the park (but some times seems longer!) The Park entrance is on the right side, marked with a sign. The entrance is at the top of a hill. There is only one road into the Park and you can't miss the pavilion - it's to the left.

Please note that Mattix Rd. is unpaved and sometimes closed so don't rely on taking this road.

Greetings from your new Newsletter Editors!

We are honored to continue in the fine tradition set by Justin and our other predecessors. Please remember that we are editors and not reporters! The newsletter belongs to all of us in the club. We welcome and encourage any submission relating to our hobby, so get those creative juices flowing!

We do have some ideas for themed newsletters that we will develop and present in a future newsletter. Clear skies to all and we look forward to your submissions and to seeing you at the Club events!

Leigh and Tom

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Tom/Leigh Alexander, Editors

270 Harmony Hills Dr

Akron, OH 44321-1111

To join the ACA, **or to renew your membership**, please fill out the form below, place in an envelope and mail to

the address shown in the return address area of the form.

Please be sure to enclose payment for the membership level desired.

The Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Steve Rohweder, Treasurer

3981 Meadow Wood Ln

Uniontown, OH 44685-7785

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

I realize the full color version of *The Night Sky* newsletter is available for download by members from our web page at www.acaoh.org, but I would rather have the B&W version mailed to my address via USPS.