



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 31 Number 2

February, 2009

RAMBLINGS OF THE PRESIDENT

by Glenn R. Cameron

Hello fellow ACA members. I would like to announce a free raffle to club members in good standing. We have two Orion 90mm refractors that will be raffled to the membership. Each member that attends a monthly business meeting will receive one free ticket. Each member that attends a star party will also receive one free ticket. Additional tickets may be purchased by club members for \$5.00 each. The drawings for these two fine portable telescopes will be held on June 27th at our annual Solar & Lunar program and hot dog roast. So come on out and support your club!

If you have an iPhone or an iPod Touch, you can get a great planetarium program for it from the iTunes App Store for \$4.99. The program is called Star Walk. This is beautiful portable star atlas. It is easy to operate and fun to use. It has a red night vision mode that lets your eyes maintain their dark adaptation. It is most suitable for naked eye and binocular viewing. It has a lot of value for a mere half-sawbuck.

Outreach requests:

Minerva Public Library would like a speaker some time in 2009 as part of an astronomy exhibit they are planning for the International Year of Astronomy.

The Akron Audubon Society would like a speaker on the subject of light pollution at one of their monthly meetings.

A 5th grade science class in Coventry would like a presentation about solar system astronomy basics.

Don't forget, 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy. Let us go out and spread the astronomical word!

Meeting info, from Dave Jessie

ACA Membership Meeting!!!!

Friday Feb 27, 2009, ,Kiwanis Hall.8:00 PM

Clyde Simpson, Observatory Coordinator, Cleveland Museum of Natural History will speak on "Astronomical Hands-On Activities at the CMNH"

Clyde Simpson, Observatory Coordinator

Clyde has developed a few activities for the classroom and general astronomy instruction. Among them are a scale Earth/Moon model that costs only one cent, and a way of showing how stars form from nebulae using common household materials.

Clyde Simpson (B.A., Geology, Cleveland State University) is Observatory Coordinator of the Ralph Mueller Observatory at the CMNH and has been a member of the Astronomy Department since 1984. Clyde teaches astronomy and geology classes in the planetarium and Museum galleries and maintains the observatory with its 10 1/2 inch Warner & Swasey refracting telescope built in Cleveland in 1899. He leads field trips of astronomical interest, including several to view total eclipses of the Sun, and monitors sunspots on a daily basis for the American Association of Variable Star Observers.

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Activities Calendar

Club	,Celestial:
<p>ACA Membership Meeting!!!! Friday February 27, 2009, ,Kiwanis Hall.8:00 PM Clyde Simpson will speak on “Astronomical hands-on activities at the CMNH” See speaker info on p. 1 of this Newsletter</p> <p>February 28- Star Party, Observatory, Orion Nebula See stars born in a stellar nursery. 7.00 PM</p>	<p>Feb 16- Comet Lulin 3 degrees from Spica</p> <p>Feb 17- Near conjunction between Mars and Jupiter (0.56 degree separation) in the morning sky</p> <p>Feb 23, Venus at its brightest (mag -4.6) n the southwest at Sunset</p> <p>Feb 24- Mercury, Mars and Jupiter within a 3.7 degree diameter circle</p> <p>Feb. 25- New Moon</p> <p>March 10- new Moon</p>

Observatory Report

Ron Kalinoski

Description for Budget items listed in the Jan Newsletter:

Door for Privy : The privy door is corroding from the inside out. The door is difficult to open due to warping of the door and frame. \$200

Perimeter Boarding for the Roof Roll-Off Structure : The perimeter boarding has become rotted and detached from the main structure and needs to be replaced and painted. \$150

Hand Controller for the 14" Telescope : The hand controller for the 14" telescope has displayed stubborn behavior when entering commands. Cleaning the controller should help the performance of this device. However, since the device has high mechanical demand, the observatory staff recommends we obtain a spare. In addition, the future of Meade Instruments is uncertain. Without the hand controller, there is no way to control the telescope, even manually. \$150

Miscellaneous Maintenance : The Observatory Staff recommends a miscellaneous maintenance fund of \$25/month to handle small invoice items such as light bulbs, fasteners, logbooks, keys, electrical supplies, etc. \$300

Tool Kit for Observatory : The tool kit we currently have at the observatory is lacking the required tools necessary to perform routine and non-routine maintenance tasks. The Observatory Staff is recommending we purchase a tool kit so we can perform these maintenance tasks. Often during a star party, a club member requests a tool to repair a telescope or astronomical accessory. In most cases, the observatory tool kit is inadequate to assist with the member's problem. \$100

From Dave Jessie:

CLUB OUTREACH- SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, June 5 - Camp CHOPS at Camp Christopher

Friday, June 12 - Camp WUNDERLUNG at Camp Christopher

Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

The deadline for article submission is **6th of the month**. 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, we will 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

Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance, 1/1/2009=	\$ 8910.58
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Income

50/50 Drawing	\$16.00
Dues	\$100.00
Total income	\$116.00

Expenses

Brochure Printing	\$50.00
Dues prorating	\$59.17
Petty Cash Charter	\$15.00
Charter Reimbursement, Glenn Cameron	\$13.59
Total Expense	\$137.76
Closing Balance, 1/31/2009	\$8888.82



Astronomy Club of Akron

2009 Observatory Schedule

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

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 17 – 6:30pm

See Venus almost 40 degrees above the horizon shining at magnitude -4.4

February 28 – 7:00pm

See stars being born in a stellar nursery: Orion Nebula

March 21 – 8:00pm

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

March 28 – 8:00pm

View globular cluster NGC 2419, an intergalactic wanderer at a distance of 304,000 light years

April 18 – 8:30pm

See Saturn's closing ring system at just 4 degrees inclination

April 25 – 8:30pm

View Mercury at it's 2009 best; Mercury will be 20 degrees above the horizon at sunset. Also, an ACA member will take you on a sky tour of the Spring Constellations.

May 16 – 8:30pm

*Program: Astrophotography**

Learn how astronomers photograph the heavens

May 30 – 8:00pm

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

June 13 – 9:00pm

Program: Saturn

Last chance to view Saturn's rings before they disappear

June 20 – 9:00pm

*Program: Asteroids**

View asteroid Ceres at magnitude 8.6

June 27 – 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

* listed program or make-up program

July 11 – 9:00pm

*Program: From Starlight to the Big Bang**

Find out how astronomers arrived at the Big Bang Theory

July 18 – 9:00pm

*Program: Open Clusters**

View beautiful configurations of stars

July 25 – 9:00pm

*Program: Naked Eye and Binocular Objects**

Many celestial objects can be observed without a telescope. Find out which ones.

August 8 – 8:30pm

*Program: Sky Atlases**

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

August 15 – 8:30pm

*Program: Historic Astronomers**

Learn about the astronomers who set the foundation for our understanding of the Universe today

September 12 – 7:30pm

Program: Jupiter

Listen to the sounds of Jupiter during this presentation

September 19 – 8:00pm

Observe the Blinking Nebula. Also: Sky Tour of the Summer Constellations

October 10 – 7:30pm

View our sister galaxy Andromeda

October 17 – 7:30pm

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

November 7 – 6:30pm

It's a great time to view Herschel's Double Cluster

November 14 – 6:30pm

Jupiter is now well placed for evening sky viewing

December 12 – 6:30pm

Come see the beautiful open cluster NGC7789

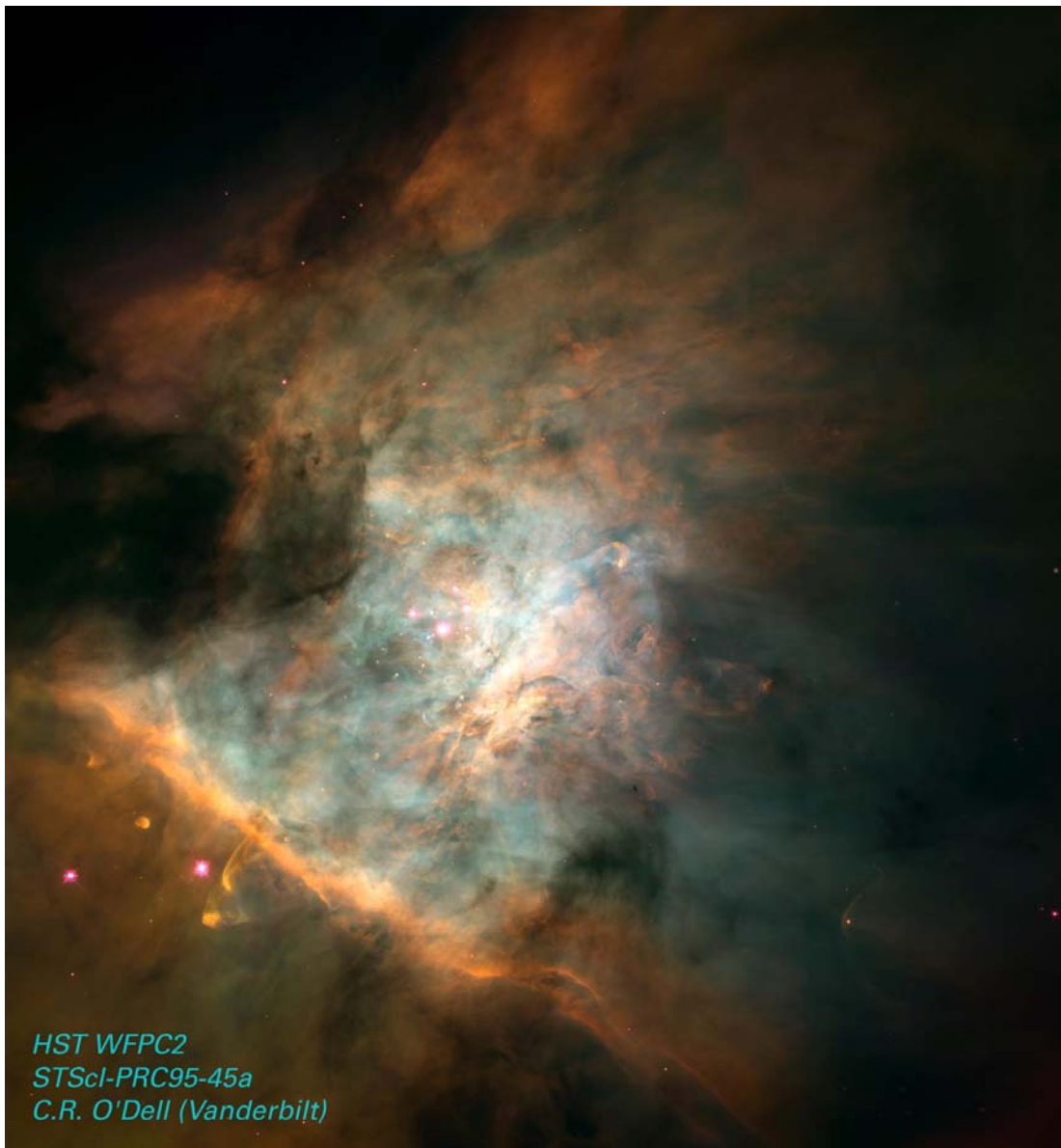
The ACA would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members...

Tim Tanner
Terri, George and Gil Hooper
Robert Shultz

We are thrilled to have you with us and look forward to seeing you at ALL club functions!

Editor's Corner

The Orion Nebula is currently situated for excellent viewing and is the centerpiece of the Star Party on Feb 28th. Here is a Hubble Telescope picture of M42, downloaded from the Hubble Telescope web site.



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Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Tom/Leigh Alexander, Editors

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Akron, OH 44321-1111

For Club information, please visit our website: www.acao.org. Astronomy Club of Akron annual memberships renew in the month of May.

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

.
Lew Snodgrass, Treasurer, Astronomy Club of Akron
1865 Stabler Rd
Akron, OH 44313-6124

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

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

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 sent by email to , but I would rather have a B&W version mailed to my address via USPS.