



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 31 Number 8

August, 2009

Ramblings of the President

By Glenn R. Cameron

Hello fellow stargazers. Even though the weather forecasts have been gloomy, I'm surprised by the number of clear nights we have had already this summer. Hopefully they keep on coming.

I wanted to share another picture from my Philadelphia vacation last month. This is the Kopernic Monument erected in honor of Mikolaj Kopernic, by the proud Polish community in Philadelphia. You remember him as Nicholas Copernicus. We appreciate him as the first astronomer to contend that the Earth and all of the planets revolve around the Sun instead of the other way around. This heliocentric view of cosmology was a dangerous opinion in his day as the church claimed that such views were heresy. In the noteworthy category of ironic coincidence, this monument is immediately adjacent to the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. I am happy to report that scientific truth has won out in the long run. These structures could not have been co-located a few hundred years ago.

The annual Astronomy Club of Akron picnic will be held on September 13th. More details will follow soon as to the location and time. All families attending should bring a covered dish or dessert. The club will provide the main course such as hot dogs and hamburgers. Please contact me with your RSVP and what kind of dish you will be bringing. This way we won't have fifteen

crock pots of baked beans. Call me at 330-737-1472 or email me at glenn.cameron@acaoh.org.

Note, this picnic is for club members only. If you have forgotten to renew your club dues, and I know it is easy to do, please bring a check with you to the picnic and you will make Lew's day.

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

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Calendar

Club

September 12- Open House and Star Party- 7:30 PM, Jupiter– listen to the sounds of Jupiter!! Observatory

September 13- Picnic!! - Adell Durbin Park, Stow, OH 2:00 PM. See p1 and 3 of this newsletter

September 19- Open House and Star Party- 8:00 PM, Observe the blinking nebula. Also sky tour of summer constellations! Observatory

September 25- ACA Meeting, details to follow. 8:00 PM, Kiwanis Hall, Portage Lakes

Remaining OTAA Conventions this year:

Sep 18-20 - RAA Hidden Hollow 2009, in Mansfield, OH

Sep 19 - Black River OTAA, Birmingham, OH

Celestial

August 20- New Moon

August 27- First Quarter Moon

September 4- Full Moon

September 11- Last quarter moon-

All month - Jupiter rising in Capricornus

Treasurer's Report From Lew Snodgrass

Checking account submitted

Opening Balance, 7/1/2009= \$ 3104.48

Income

Dues \$80.00

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Total income \$80.00

Expenses

Observatory expenses 162.30

Petty Cash 22.50

Total Expense \$184.80

Income less expenses \$104.80

Closing Balance, 7/31/2009 \$2999.68

Observatory Report

Ron Kalinoski

Our good luck with weather ran out this month. Only our July 11th star party had clear skies and we took advantage to view deep sky objects in Cygnus, Aquila, and Scutum. Within these constellations situated in the Milky Way, celestial objects are set in rich star fields. At low magnification and wide field, the combination provides stunning views. Members and public gathered on cloudy star party nights to hear presentations on the following topics: The Big Bang, Open Clusters, Naked Eye and Binocular Objects, and Star Atlases. Thanks to Lew Snodgrass and Mark Kochheiser for helping with these presentations.

Last month Rob Watkins stained the roof roll-off structure using his paint spraying equipment. In addition, we stained the molding on the observatory building. Our brick pad project is entering its final stage. Fred Huffman and Jeff Kreidler have been laying brick to complete the project. Currently we are about one-third complete with the brick pad. Thanks gentlemen, the club appreciates your help.

Renewals

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so ASAP! A renewal form is on the back page.

[ACA Annual PICNIC Reminder](#)

Who:

Astronomy Club of Akron members and families.

When:

Sunday September 13, 2009 From 2:00pm to 6:00pm (or later).

Where:

Adell Durbin park, Campbell Lodge, Stow, Ohio.
Entrance to the park is from Darrow Rd (RT-91), just south of the Kent Rd (RT-59) / Darrow Rd (RT-91) intersection.

What to bring:

A dish to share, disposable plates and plastic ware for yourself and members of your party.

What's the Club going to provide?

The Club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments and soft drinks.

What's the Lodge like?

Campbell Lodge is a completely enclosed shelter, so rain won't bother us at all.

It has a refrigerator, microwave, LOTS of tables and chairs. If the weather is good (which it will be, of course), there are many picnic table in the shade of huge trees. All in all, a very nice place, indeed! There are trails through the woods so there will be lots to do - we'll have lots of fun!

Do you have anything astronomical to sell or trade?

Bring it! We'll set up a "Swap-n-Shop" table in the lodge.

Rosaelena Villasenor.
ACA Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Editor's Note. I have received a wonderful article on astronomy outreach from Paul Sell, an Akron native, who is pursuing an astronomy PhD at the University of Wisconsin. I can claim some small part in Paul's education as I sold him my Coulter 10.1" Dobsonian almost 9 years ago! I had planned to print that article in this edition, however the formatting has been extremely difficult to work out and this issue is already 2 weeks late. Look forward to that article appearing next month in this space. In the meantime, enjoy these Hubble shots of some fall targets!

Andromeda Galaxy Halo Details





Globular Cluster M2
Hubble Space Telescope • WFPC2

NASA, ESA, and K. Sahu (STScI) • STScI-PRC01-20

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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.