



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 32 Number 5

May 2010

Next Meeting: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:00PM

REMINDER

MAY IS MEMBERSHIP
DUES RENEWAL MONTH!



Ramblings of the President

By Dave Jessie

Summer is upon us, but you wouldn't know it by walking outside at the moment. As I write this, the temperature is barely 40 degrees, the wind is blowing and a light rain is falling - looking and feeling more like mid-March than early May. I'm not worried though. Before you know it, we'll be out under the stars with fellow Club members, friends and interested public. I've mentioned many times how much I truly enjoy the fellowship we share. Need help with equipment? One of our members is right there to assist. Can't find one of the faint fuzzies? Again, one of our highly knowledgeable observers will be there to show you the way. Want to get into astro-imaging? It shouldn't come as a surprise that our Club is blessed with a veritable wealth of information from any one of our highly accomplished imagers. Need proof? I'll direct you to our Webpage to see the posted images as well as



The Whale Galaxy (NGC 4631) By ACA Member Lenny Marek. This was taken at f/10. The exposures are 10x5 minutes in RGB. Aligned and combined in Images Plus. Autodarks and flats were applied. Further processing done in Adobe Photoshop CS2, Neat Image and Star Spikes Pro applied to increase saturation of the star colors.

links to members' Webpages. Speaking of the Club Webpage, all manner of new information is readily available there, including detail of all observing events, including outreach events & locations.

One of our favorite off-site observing events is conducted by the MVAS (Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society) and will occur next Saturday, 5/15/2010 at Scenic Vista Park in Lisbon, OH. . Take a look here for a map and directions:

http://www.acaoh.org/_events/2010-05-15_Scenic%20Vista.htm
It's a beautiful dark-sky location and we're invited to attend. Of course, bring a scope with you! If you don't, you'll wish that you had.

This next off-site event is a month away, but I'm going to mention it now regardless. Once again, we've been asked to set up telescopes for Camp CHOPS (Children's Hospital Oncology Patients and Staff).

(con't page 3)

OFFICERS 2010 – 2012

President

Dave Jessie DJessie@neo.rr.com

Vice President

Tom Mino tjmino@neo.rr.com

Treasurer

Lew Snodgrass 330-819-4886 CHRPLY@aol.com

Secretary

Mary Pickelsimer marypickelsimer@sbcglobal.net

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Rosaelena Villaseñor revillasenor@hotmail.com

Observatory Director

Ron Kalinoski 330-837-5848

ACA Webmaster

Glenn Cameron 330-737-1472 Glenn.cameron@acaoh.org

Editor, Night Sky

Jason Shinn 330-685-5382 truemartian@aol.com

Trustee

Freddy Huffman 330-535-8009 trusstube2@gmail.com

Trustee

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

May 9 - Open House at Portage Lakes Observatory: 09:00 pm EDT (01:00UT) May 22 - Annual Telescope Seminar at Portage Lakes Observatory: 08:00 pm EDT (00:00UT)
May 15 - OTAA Scenic Vista Stargaze. August 14 - MVAS-OTAA meeting at the MVCO.

Celestial*

May 6 - Eta Aquarid meteor shower peaks at 00h UT. May 20 - Moon at perigee (closest) at 9h UT.
May 6 - Last Quarter Moon at 04:15 UT. May 26 - Mercury at greatest elongation at 2h UT in the morning sky.
May 6 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 22h UT. May 27 - Full Moon at 23:07 UT.
May 14 - New Moon at 01:04 UT.
May 20 - First Quarter moon at 23:43 UT.

**Source: www.skymaps.com*

The deadline for article submission is the 6th of each 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 relevant to our forum. If you do not have access to a computer a handwritten article will suffice as long as it is legible. Any images submitted should be saved in .jpg format.

— PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES —
Send your articles, items for sale, and comments to:
Jason Shinn
873A North Point Dr, Akron OH 44313
truemartian@aol.com



Pluto by ACA member Jason Shinn. This composite of two images shows the location of Pluto on two separate occasions.

Ramblings of the President (con't)

Yes, these campers are children battling cancer, and they are always overjoyed to see us and what we can show them through our telescopes. Patients or not, they're just children having a great time at camp. You owe it to yourself to experience of showing the beauty of the heavens to these brave children. We've been lucky enough to have conducted this event for many years. It will take place on the first Friday in June at Camp Christopher located at the intersection of Ira Rd and N. Hametown Rd in Akron. A map and directions are available here:

http://www.acaoh.org/_events/2010-06-04_event.htm

Your Club was well represented at the Astronomy Day activities at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Peter Clausen had his magnificent display of astro-images and was joined by Leslie, his wife. Leslie is fantastic with the public and especially with children. Jason Shinn was there with his fantastic displays of members' astro-images. Several of us overheard attendees comment that they thought the images were from Hubble! We assured them that all were taken by our members using their own equipment from NE Ohio. Expressions exhibited shock and near disbelief! How could we get such images under the conditions we have in NE Ohio? Recall that comment I made early in the article about expertise? It is so very true.

As a final word, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Glenn Cameron for his past two years as President of the Club and also to Gary Smith for his service as Vice President. The Club is indebted to you for jobs well done. The new administration will do its best to continue moving the Club forward.

*Article by Dave Jessie,
ACA President*

April Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

4/1/2010 Through 4/30/2010

Checking Beginning Balance	\$1,860.04
-----------------------------------	-------------------

Income

Dues	160.00
Donation	40.00
Merchandise Sales	10.00
50/50 Drawing	15.00

Total Income	\$225.00
---------------------	-----------------

Expenses

Website	45.00
Observatory Improvements	18.59
Total Expenses	\$63.59

Income Less Expenses	\$161.41
-----------------------------	-----------------

Checking Ending Balance	\$2,021.45
--------------------------------	-------------------

Charter One Ending Balance	\$2,021.55
-----------------------------------	-------------------

Reconciled Difference	\$0.10
------------------------------	---------------

Savings Opening Balance	\$5,925.74
--------------------------------	-------------------

Earned Interest	0.49
-----------------	------

Savings Closing Balance	\$5,926.23
--------------------------------	-------------------

ACA Checking Balance	2,021.55
----------------------	----------

ACA Savings Balance	5,926.23
---------------------	----------

Petty Cash	50.00
------------	-------

Total	\$7,997.78
--------------	-------------------

*Article by Lew Snodgrass
ACA Treasurer*

Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski

Our April 10th star party had perfect weather with clear skies and comfortable temperatures. This star party featured two events: our annual Messier Marathon and a celestial Planet Parade. Star party turnout was high with about 75 attendees, including many children. The Planet Parade provided a rare opportunity to see four planets back to back at the eyepiece. Leading the parade was Mercury appearing as a small thin crescent in the eyepiece and was a big hit with the observing public. The disk of Venus appeared brilliant and nearly full. High elevation in the sky helped Mars make a good appearance. Trailing the other planets was Saturn in the eastern sky displaying its edge-on rings and three visible moons.

Members competing in the marathon arrived early to setup their equipment. Telescope sizes ranged from 80mm to 11" with observers also using binoculars. John Shulan setup a self-serve chili station in the observatory. Members and the public were able to get a bowl of John's good chili and a hot cup of Columbian coffee during the observing session. Our past Treasurer, Steve Rohweder competed in the marathon from Luxemburg, Belgium, but was forced to shutdown his operation early due to high winds. Our weather in Ohio was more favorable with clear skies, warm temperatures, and no wind from sunset to sunrise. Lew Snodgrass defined a new meaning for the term multi-tasking. His setup location on the observatory sidewalk drew a large amount of public attendees to his telescope. Lew was simultaneously logging Messier objects while showing the eager public the wonders of the night sky. Nevertheless, Lew was able to place second for the computer-aided telescope category, while John "Pushbutton" Shulan took first place. For the manual telescope category, Rosaelena Villasenor and Dave Jessie placed second with Leigh



Messier Marathon Winners: Lew Snodgrass, John Shulan, Rosaelena Villasenor, Dave Jessie, Leigh Alexander, and Tom Alexander take a break from looking at stars. (photo by Ron Kalinoski)

and Tom Alexander finishing first. First place winners receive a one-year ACA membership and second place winners receive a Messier Marathon Observing Certificate.

On May 4th, Fred Huffman and I went out to the observatory to set software parameters in the 14" telescope processor to allow us to reach the zenith. As we discussed at our club meetings, we fitted the observatory telescope with a new focuser and made several modifications to allow mechanical clearance between the diagonal and telescope fork base. Our last step was to remove the software stop

previously set to prevent accidental collision. We successfully tested the telescope on NGC 4145, an 11th magnitude galaxy less than 1/2 degree from zenith. Our public star parties this month are scheduled for May 8th and May 22nd. The May 22nd star party begins with our annual telescope seminar. The seminar is especially helpful for people planning to purchase a telescope or binoculars. Also this month is an OTAA event at Scenic Vista Park in Lisbon, Ohio. This event is scheduled for May 15th. Scenic Vista Park offers some of the best skies in northeast Ohio.

Article by Ron Kalinoski, ACA Observatory Director

★★

★ SCENIC VISTA STARGAZE ★

★ Dear Fellow Members of the ACA, ★

★ Saturday, 5/15/2010, is the Scenic Vista Stargaze at Scenic Vista Park in ★
 ★ Lisbon, Ohio. This event is conducted by the MVAS (Mahoning Valley ★
 ★ Astronomical Society), a fellow founding-member of the OTAA (Ohio Turnpike ★
 ★ Amateur Astronomers). This is a wonderful event and you're invited to attend! ★

★ Everything you could want to know, including map and directions, is available by ★
 ★ clicking HERE: http://www.acaoh.org/_events/2010-05-15_Scenic%20Vista.htm ★

★ Hope to see you there! ★

★ Sincerely, Dave Jessie ★
 ★ President, Astronomy Club of Akron ★

★★

In my opinion

By Freddy Huffman

Of late as I read magazine and articles about astronomy all I hear is that visual astronomy is a dying thing and that astro imaging is taking over. While most new equipment is slanted toward imaging and not much or very little is for visual astronomy. Let me say that imaging is a very fine art and many armature astronomers are going into the field and doing very nice work. Most or all of the equipment that is used for imaging is very expensive and out of the reach of most amateurs, not to mention the time and learning curve that is required to achieve a good finished product. My hat is off to those that go into imaging and if that is what you like then more power to you.

Now the case for visual viewing, all of my life I have viewed the heavens with binos, telescopes and my naked eye. I have taught myself to

locate many objects without the aid of a telescope that along with a mount will do it for me. To me there is no benefit to star gazing if I don't know what I am looking at or where in the sky I am looking and to do this you first need to learn the sky. Time and time again I have seen new people in astronomy will buy a goto scope on the word of the manufacture that anyone can operate it without little or any experience, this is just not true and it does more to turn people off to the wonderful hobby of star gazing.

For me there is far more to amateur astronomy than to isolate one's self in a private observatory and take images all night. I like to look through other scopes and talk about what they are doing and what new equipment they have or are planning to buy, I guess I like the social aspect to the hobby. For me looking at an M object or NGC in an eyepiece and seeing something different each time I look is worth a million pictures and when you can

show a newbie one of those objects or a planet they have never seen it is a pleasure you can't describe.

Let me say that this is by no means a put down to those who do imaging, for I have many good and close friends that are very good at it. But I have to ask myself are they missing something by not dragging a telescope out to a dark muddy field and setting it up next to a fellow visual amateur and waiting for it to get dark so you can see the first star or planet that shows up in the night sky and scream I got it! This is how the whole hobby got started and I think this is what keeps the hobby going.

To say that visual observing is dying out and is not in the future of the hobby in my opinion is not a true statement, so I say keep your eye to the eye piece and don't let a good thing drift from the field.

*Article by ACA Member/Trustee
Freddy Huffman*

- **INSERT YOUR SUBMISSION HERE** -

THE NIGHT SKY NEWSLETTER IS LOOKING TO PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES!
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, EXPERIENCES, STORIES, OPINIONS, LATEST ASTRO-
IMAGES, AND ADVICE WITH YOUR FELLOW AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS.

ARTICLES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE SIXTH OF EACH MONTH.
ALL IMAGES MUST BE SAVED IN .JPG FORMAT.
SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL TO:

JASON SHINN
truemartian@aol.com

OR VIA SNAIL-MAIL:

JASON SHINN
873A North Point Dr.
Akron, OH 44313

April ACA Meeting

Photos by Ray Hyer



(left) As Dave lectures, Jeff Kreidler follows along with his planisphere.

(below) Dave Jessie presents a lecture on how to use a star atlas to locate objects in the sky.



(above) Winners of the Messier Marathon. In the digital telescope class we have Lew Snodgrass and John Shulan. In the manual category the winners are Rosalena, Dave Jessie, Leah and Tom Alexander. (That's right, Tom Alexander actually came to a meeting and I had no idea who he was!).

ASTRONOMY DAY

**THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY**



Photos by Leslie Clausen

2010

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Jason Shinn, Editor

1579C Treetop Trail

Akron, OH 44313

The Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Lew Snodgrass, Treasurer

1865 Stabler Rd

Akron, OH 44313-6124

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

Visit us on the Web at www.acaoh.org.