



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 32 Number 8

August 2010

SUMMER BREAK! NO MEETING AT KIWANIS FOR AUGUST.

Ramblings of the President: Three Important Upcoming Events

By Dave Jessie



We have three events coming up that you need to know about - here they are, in chronological order:

Friday, August 13, 2010 at 8:00 PM - Camp Wunderlung.

This year this event is being held at Camp Y-Noah, not far from the ACA Observatory. Here's the address: Camp Y-Noah, 815 Mount Pleasant Rd, Clinton, OH 44216. It's just 7 miles south-east of the Observatory.

Of course, it might be easier for you just to come straight down Arlington Rd and turn right on Mt. Pleasant Rd. The campers are all patients at Children's Hospital and suffer from severe breathing disorders. It should go without saying that smoking is absolutely prohibited. All our outreach programs are remarkably rewarding and I highly encourage you to come and show the children the beautiful sights we are accustomed to seeing. Even if you don't have a telescope, come on out and help us keep the children occupied while they're waiting in line

ANNUAL ASTRONOMY CLUB OF AKRON MEMBER PICNIC AUGUST 29, 2010 2:00PM

for a glimpse through the eyepiece.

Next event is the next day! Saturday, August 14, 2010 at 5:00 PM. - MVAS OTAA Convention. Historically, this is one of the "Don't miss" yearly events. It's hosted by the Mahoning Valley Astronomical Society at their Cortese Observatory. Here's the address: 1052 State Route 534 NW, Southington, OH 44470. There is a small fee (\$5.00?) per person to register. If you'd like to dine, bringing a dish to share is always a nice gesture. They have a beautiful facility with several observatories and spacious grounds to set up telescopes - and there are always many fine instruments to look through. If you can only go to one OTAA convention, this is the one to attend. Did I mention that the food is great? Well, it is!

Next, and finally, Sunday August 29, 2010 at 2:00 PM - ACA Annual Picnic!. This year, as last, we have reserved the Campbell Lodge at Adell Durbin Park in 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. 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 tables in the shade of huge trees. All in all, a very nice place, indeed! There are trails through the woods and a play-ground so there will be lots to do - we'll have lots of fun! If you have something astronomical to sell or trade? Bring it! We'll set up a "Swap-n-Shop" table in the lodge. ACA members and their families are invited. Bring a dish to share with your fellow members, bring disposable plates and plastic ware for yourself and members of your party. The Club will provide charcoal-grilled hamburgers & hot dogs, buns, condiments and soft drinks. I ask you, what could be more fun than this?

Additional information on these three events is available at our Website at: http://www.acaoh.org/Yearly_Calendar.htm just click on the dates on the calendar for information on event in question. Google Maps are provided to all three locations. Even if you don't have a computer with online capability, get thee to a library and make use of your tax dollars!

*Article by Dave Jessie.
ACA President*

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Lou Poda

2010 - Activities Calendar - 2010

Club

August 7 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event
08:30 pm EDT (12:30 UT)

August 13 - OUTREACH: Camp WUNDERLUNG at
Camp Y-Noah 08:00 pm (12:00 UT)

August 14 - MVAS OTAA Convention at Cortese
Observatory, Newton Falls, OH
5:00 pm (09:00 UT)

August 28 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event
08:00 pm (12:00 UT)

August 29 - ACA MEMBER PICNIC at Adell Durbin
Park, Campbell Lodge, Stow, OH
02:00 pm (06:00 UT)

Celestial*

August 3 - Last Quarter moon at 04:59 UT.

August 7 - Mercury at greatest elongation in the evening
sky at 1h UT.

August 10 - New Moon at 03:08 UT.

August 10 - Moon at perigee (closest) at 18h UT.

August 12-13 - Perseid Meteor Shower peaks.

August 16 - First Quarter moon at 18:14 UT.

August 20 - Venus at greatest elongation in the evening
sky at 4h UT.

August 25 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 6h UT.

**Source: www.skymaps.com*

The ACA wishes to welcome our newest member:

Rick Burke

We look forward to seeing you at all Club functions!

July Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

7/1/2010 Through 7/31/2010

Letter From The Editor

By Jason Shinn

As I sit here writing this article the sun has kicked out another C class solar flare and there are no less than three numbered sunspot groups recorded on the SOHO MDI continuum image. A fourth group has already rotated out of sight on the limb of the sun. All week long the members of the Radio Jove project have reported multiple radio bursts at shortwave frequencies from these magnetic storms on the surface of the sun. There has even been some continuum storming, a constant source of radio emission varying in intensity that can last for hours or even days. This takes me back to the time when I participated in the Radio Jove project and had my own radio telescope set up to monitor solar radio emission.

In my opinion the excitement of an active sun producing solar flares and radio bursts is second to none in the world of astronomy. Added to and compounding that excitement is the ability of today's amateurs to access live, up-to-minute data from the x-ray instruments on the GOES weather satellites as well as daily images from astronomy satellites like SOHO and STERO. All of this, coupled together with modern amateur equipment that allows us to observe the sun live in radio, H-alpha, and white light, gives an unprecedented view to the layperson of our most cherished star. Astronomy is no longer the static quiet of a dark sky with the occasional excitement that a passing meteor or satellite brings nor is it the quiet but predictable beauty of galaxies and nebula. With the sun astronomy becomes alive, dynamic, and full of chance, the jackpot exploding into a rainbow of aurora over your head at night!

*Article by Jason Shinn
ACA Newsletter Editor*

- PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES AND IMAGES -

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. ARTICLES MUST BE RELEVANT TO OUR FORUM. ALL TEXT FILES SHOULD BE SAVED IN PLAIN ASCII FORMAT OR ANY VERSION OF WORD TO MINIMIZE IMPORT PROBLEMS. ALL IMAGES MUST BE SAVED IN .JPG FORMAT. SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL TO:

truemartian@aol.com

OR VIA SNAIL-MAIL:

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

Checking Beginning Balance	\$2,987.93
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Income

Dues	60.17
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Total Income	\$60.17
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Expenses

Website Expense	45.00
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Food	61.15
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Total Expenses	\$106.15
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Income Less Expenses	-\$45.98
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Checking Ending Balance	\$2,941.95
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Charter One Ending Balance	\$2,942.93
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Difference	\$0.98
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Savings Opening Balance	\$5,927.22
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Earned Interest	0.50
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Savings Closing Balance	\$5,927.72
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Petty Cash	50.00
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Charter One Savings Balance	5,927.72
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Charter One Checking Balance	2942.93
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Total	\$8,920.15
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*Article by Lew Snodgrass
ACA Treasurer*



Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski

Seeing conditions for our July 10th star party were very good with clear skies and low humidity. Mark Kochheiser gave a talk on Naked Eye & Binocular Objects to a group of about forty. Afterward, we started the observing session by viewing Saturn and open cluster NGC 6633. Using a laser pointer, Mark gave the public a sky tour, pointing out the constellations and explaining the associated mythology. Next, we slewed the observatory telescope toward zenith to view M13. Wow! With the new focuser and diagonal enabling the telescope to reach zenith, we observed the best view yet of this globular cluster. With such good seeing conditions, we decided to do a comparison of globular cluster concentration. There are about 150 globular clusters in the Milky Way Galaxy and they are categorized into

twelve classes with class 1 having the most concentrated core and class 12 having the least. The three clusters we picked were M92 (class 3), M13 (class 5), and M56 (class 10). All star clusters were located high in the sky so distinguishing differences in core concentration was quite easy. Summertime offers a great opportunity to view planetary nebulae. William Herschel coined the term "planetary nebula" because most of these objects appear as a small disk similar to a planet (although they have nothing to do with planets). At the star party we observed many planetary nebulae including The Cat's Eye Nebula and The Blinking Nebula. The Blinking Nebula gets its name because it continually disappears for a moment before coming back into sight in the eyepiece. Actually, many planetary nebulae display this behavior. The appearance and disappearance of the object is an illusion caused by a slight change in

eye position of the observer. When the observer looks directly at the central star, the nebula vanishes and then it reappears as the observer's eye naturally roams around the field of view. This is a good example of the benefit of averted vision.

We began our July 31st star party with a talk about extrasolar planets. Skies were partly cloudy, however we were still able to observe many celestial objects after the presentation. For August we have public star parties at the observatory on August 7th and August 28th. There is an OTAA event at Mahoning Valley Cortese Observatory on August 14th. If weather permits, we'll open the observatory for the Perseid Meteor Shower on August 12th.

*Article by Ron Kalinoski,
ACA Observatory Director.*

FOR SALE

Celestron SKY-WATCHER

Includes:

- 8" f/10 SCT.
- Equatorial Mount w/slow motion controls.
- Visual and Crayford backs - 2".
- 10X50 Optical Finder.
- Case for scope.
- Custom Alt/Az mount head fits tripod.
- Dew shield.

Contact: Fred Huffman at (330)535-8009



Meade LX200 10" SCT

Contact:

Chris Stricklett at (330)808-4134



The Shulan Report: Astronomy In Nantucket

By John Shulan



I've been on a wonderful vacation to Nantucket Island, MA. This is the home of Maria Mitchell, the first woman professional astronomer. While there I attended a birthday party held in Maria's honor. She's a sprightly 192 years old. Several years ago I wrote a story about her but this time I would like to focus on astronomy and the telescopes in Nantucket.

The observatory complex here on Nantucket Island is run by Dr. Vladimir Strelinsky. In 1995, he discovered a pulsar that emits an infrared laser light. The M. Mitchell intern program, which is in its 50th year, won a Presidential Science Award for the next two years. Four years ago, he received a grant from the National Science Foundation for \$310,000 to purchase two new scopes to enhance the research programs. So far most of his students have gone on to receive the Ph.D. in some area related to astronomy. Five percent of all women with Ph. D.'s in astronomy have been thru this program.

The telescope at the 1908 Vestal street observatory is the first telescope built by a company called PlaneWave. It is a 17" corrected Dall-Kirkham on a massive German equatorial mounted to a cast iron pier. This scope is used to measure variable galaxies between 2 and 9 billion light years away. As the supposed black hole in these galaxies feed, the luminosity varies; some as great as one half a magnitude in three days! This scope replaced one built in 1913 that was a 6" triplet. The triplet scope, built by Clark, was in use thru the 1980's. It had taken over 8,000 plates. These plates all have been digitized and are available

online. This was the first observatory to completely digitize its entire library.

The Leones observatory, which is a short walk from Vestal St., is home to a 24" Ritchey-Chretien fork mount scope. This scope and the 17" scope both sport massive CCD cameras that cost \$20,000 each! This scope is used to measure variable stars. The next dome houses an antique 8" Clark refractor. It has been fully refurbished and is a real beauty to look at and look through. Its days are numbered however because of its fragile condition. Eventually it will be retired and replaced with a modern Go-To cat scope for public viewing.

Finally, in the gravel outside the

domes was my scope, assisting with the public programs held three times a week. The location is great and the versatility of my 11" CPC Go-To scope really helps when there are thirty or more people coming out to look at the stars. I was still able to get a good view of Saturn which is below the horizon for the Clark refractor. The sky here is exceptionally dark and makes the Milky Way look like a painting.

Just like the ACA, people who come out for star parties on the island are the nicest people and fascinated by our universe! But in Akron, we do not charge \$10.00 per head.

*Article by ACA member
John Shulan.*

Starlight, Star Bright

By Leigh Alexander



Have you ever seen a shooting star? If you have, you probably wished on it, right? Did you ever wonder why you were wishing, or where the superstition originated? Look to history and legends to find out.

The superstition is believed to originate from the Greek astronomer Ptolemy. Ptolemy wrote that the Gods, whether out of boredom or simply because they care about us, would occasionally look down upon earth. He figured that when the Gods moved the fabrics of the universe, stars were freed and then fell. Ptolemy claimed the best time to make wishes was the time one was sure the gods were watching, so they wished when they saw the stars fall. However, there is no evidence to point out that this is the first superstition; people have been wishing on these stars for millennia, thinking them souls, angels, or even just ethereal things of beauty.

Cultures all over the world have different superstitions when it comes to shooting stars. In the Philippines, one must tie a knot in a scarf or handkerchief while he or she wishes. In Chile, if one spots the elusive shooting star, he or she must pick up a rock while making their wish. In Japan, the Tanabata holiday is celebrated July 7th, which celebrates the crossing of two lovers stranded at opposite ends of the universe (Vega and Altair). The shooting stars are supposedly the two lovers trying to send messages to each other.

Even though shooting stars are not stars at all, but meteoroids falling into Earth's atmosphere and burning up, their rarity and mystic beauty still enthrall millions. So, the next time you see a shooting star, whether you pick up a stone, tie a knot in your handkerchief, or just celebrate its beauty, remember to make a wish!

*Article by ACA member
Leigh Alexander*

★★★
 ★ DON'T FORGET ★
 ★ PERSEID METEOR SHOWER ★
 ★ AUGUST 12-13 ★
 ★★★

NEW IMAGES



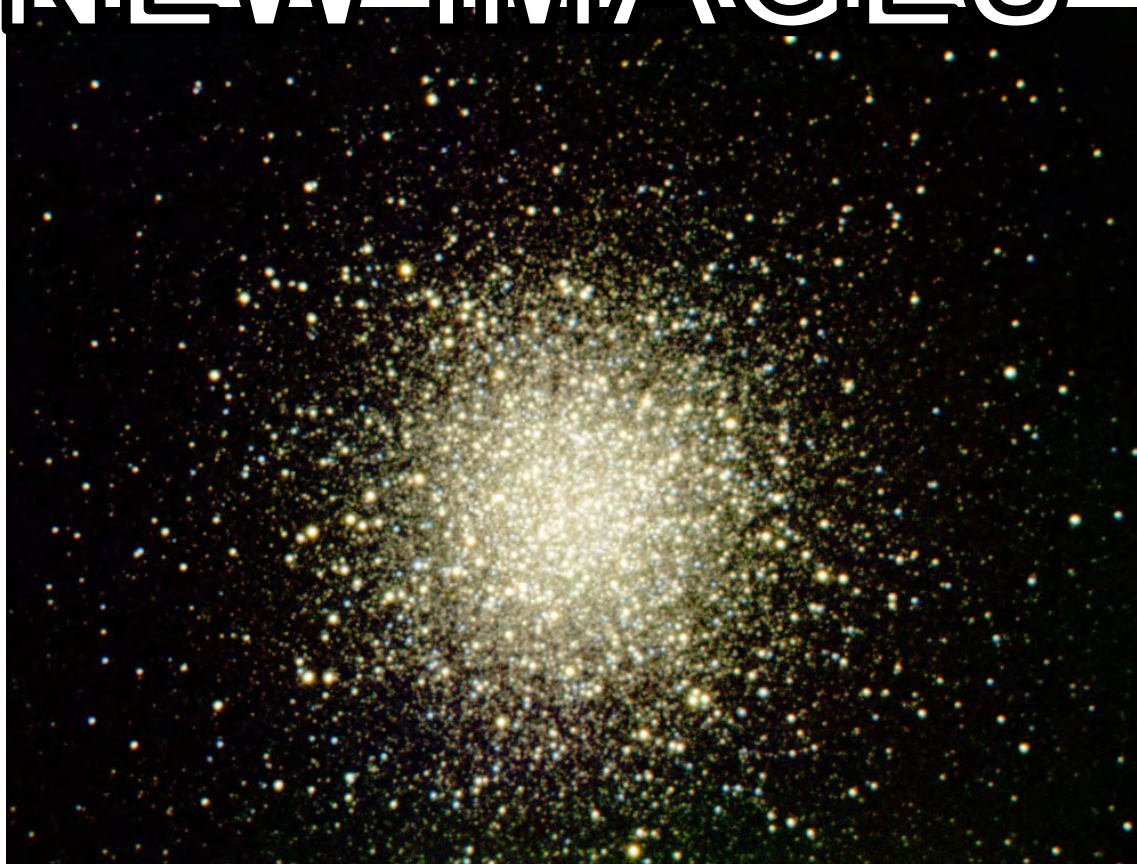
(left) The Trifid Nebula
by John Crilly.



(right) The Pelican
Nebula by John Crilly.

by John Crilly

NEW IMAGES



(left) The Great Hercules Globular Cluster (M13) July 27, 2010 by Len Marek. Meade 16" LX200GPS-SMT, SBIG ST8300M, Astrodon RGB filters, 10X3 minute exposures, processed in CCDSoft, Images Plus, and Adobe Photoshop CS2.

(right) The Ring Nebula (M57) July 29, 2010 by Len Marek. Meade 16" LX200GPS-SMT, SBIG ST8300M, Astrodon RGB filters, 10X3 minute exposures, processed in CCDSoft, Images Plus, and Adobe Photoshop CS2.



by LEN MAREK

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

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

www.acaoh.org

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

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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

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