



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 32 Number 9

September 2010

Next Meeting: Friday, September 24, 2010 8:00PM.

***** IMPORTANT NOTICE OF CHANGE OF VENUE *****

The September general membership meeting will be held at the Tudor House Franklin Center in Portage Lakes State Park. See page 4 for directions.

Ramblings of the President: Greetings, Greetings, Fellow Star Gazers!

By Dave Jessie



If you have ever watched PBS late in the evening, you have no doubt seen Jack Horkheimer, the Star Gazer. Jack had a weekly 5-minute show that local PBS stations ran every night for the week being discussed. This tradition had been going on for at least the past 25 years where Jack very enthusiastically shared what the future week's sky had in store. All one had to do was simply go out and look. No equipment was ever necessary, just naked eye observation - something we should all do more. Jack visited the ACA in late 1992, well actually, visited one of our members, Lauri Kunkle, whom he had met at the Winter Star Party in the Florida Keys. While here, we were fortunate enough to have him agree to speak to us at the PBS station in Kent, OH. I vividly remember hearing Jack's lecture on Saturday night, November 7, 1992.



The Astronomy Club of Akron's 2010 annual club picnic. by Dave Jessie.

He left the rather eccentric persona adapted for TV audiences at home in Florida. His demeanor was that of an enthusiastic educator that wanted, no, demanded our attention. During his talk, he introduced us to the names of the three stars in Orion's belt - Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka - the names are with me still. Jack's entertaining and educational spot on PBS had gone on for years and, I'll admit, I took it for granted since most all of his shows are available on YouTube via his webpage at www.jackstargazer.com. Many other

shows going back more than twenty years are also available via a YouTube search. I learned of Jack's passing within three hours of his untimely death when a post to the Cloudy Nights webpage alerted us to the news. Apparently, Jack had a history of respiratory difficulties which resulted in his death at the very young age of 72 on Friday afternoon August 20 - just two weeks ago. I feel that Jack's contributions are many and rank right up there with those of Carl Sagan as a true spokesperson for
(con't page 4)

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Lou Poda

2010 - September Activities Calendar - 2010

Club

- September 4 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event
08:30 pm EDT (12:30 UT)
- September 4 - BRAS OTAA Convention Birmingham
United Methodist Church, Wakeman, OH
05:00 pm (09:00 UT)
- September 11 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event
08:00 om EDT (12:00 UT)
- September 24 - TUDOR HOUSE: General Membership
Meeting 08:00 pm EDT (12:00 UT)
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE
FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.

Celestial*

- September 3 - Last Quarter moon at 17:22 UT.
- September 8 - Moon at perigee (closest) at 4h UT.
- September 8 - New Moon at 10:30 UT.
- September 15 - First Quarter moon at 5:50 UT.
- September 19 - Mercury at greatest elongation in the
morning sky at 17h UT.
- September 21 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 8h UT.
- September 21 - Jupiter at opposition at 11h UT.
- September 21 - Uranus at opposition at 17h UT.
- September 23 - SEPTEMBER EQUINOX AT 3:13UT.
- September 23 - Full Moon at 9:17 UT.

*Source: www.skymaps.com

The ACA wishes to welcome our newest member:

Dan Dickinson

We look forward to seeing you at all Club functions!

Celestron SKY-WATCHER

Price: Please Call

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 8" LX90 GPS SCT

Price: \$999.00

Includes:

- 8" f/10 SCT (focal length = 2000mm).
- Meade field tripod
- 497 EP (44Eg) Autostar hand controller.
- Includes standard Meade accessories.
- Purchased new directly from Meade in June 2010.



Contact: Ken Blaine at (330)928-7238

VISIT THE ACA WEB SITE FOR MORE DETAILS, INFORMATION, AND ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR SALE FROM THIS ADVERTISER!

<http://www.acaoh.org/Swap-n-Shop.htm>

- 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

August Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

8/1/2010 Through 8/31/2010

Checking Beginning Balance	\$2,973.10
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Income

Dues	120.00
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Total Income	\$120.00
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Expenses

Food	176.25
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Total Expenses	\$176.25
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Income Less Expenses	-\$56.25
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Checking Ending Balance	\$2,916.85
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Charter One Ending Balance	\$2,856.68
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Difference	\$60.17
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Uncleared Items

Uncleared Pay Pal Income	30.17
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Uncleared Check Income	30.00
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Total Uncleared	\$60.17
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Savings Opening Balance	\$5,927.72
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Earned Interest	0.50
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Savings Closing Balance	\$5,928.22
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Petty Cash	50.00
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Savings	5,928.22
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Checking	2,916.85
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Total	\$8,895.07
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Article by Lew Snodgrass
ACA Treasurer



Ramblings of the President (con't)

astronomy. He will be missed enormously. The music he selected for his show, Isao Tomita's synthesized version of Debussy's Arabesque No. 1 was unmistakable and will forever be linked to the words Jack would say at the end of every single show: "...and remember to Keep Looking UP!"

Given the news of Jack Horkheimer's passing, it seems rather ironic that the ACA set up telescopes for Camp Wunderlung at Camp Y-Noah exactly one week to the day before Jack's untimely death. This camp is for children from Children's Hospital with severe breathing disorders. The event was well-attended by ACA members that came to set up telescopes. We had sufficient breaks in the clouds to show the children many objects that interested them greatly. This was one of the two most important outreach events the Club conducts each year. Thanks to all that attended and helped make the event a success.

The MVAS Mahoning Valley OTAA convention was conducted in the rain. There were many ACA members in attendance, as is always

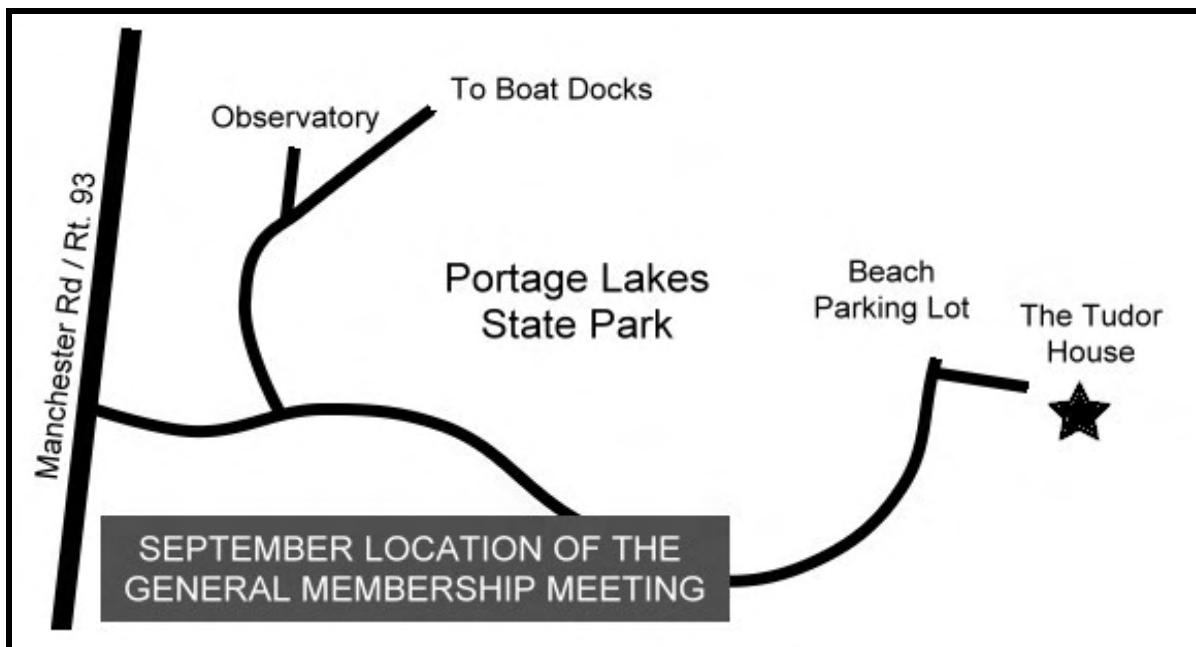
the case. Despite the rain, we had a ball. Freddy (Huffman) kept us in stitches during the dinner and raffle. We were under a large canopy trying to avoid the rain water flowing down the roof and over the sides. Let's just say that Freddy put a visual in our minds that I have not been able to forget. That's all I'm going to say about that! Normally, they have wonderfully dark clear skies and telescopic views are fantastic. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case this year. Hey, there's always next year!

The ACA Annual Picnic was a huge success! The weather was perfect, the food was great and the large number of attendees made it like the ACA picnics of old. What a lot of fun. If you thought about coming and didn't, I really regret you missing it. Again, there's always next year. The "Swap-n-Shop" table in the lodge was a success and several members sold, and purchased, just what they've been looking for.

Finally, and this is important, the ACA General Membership Meeting on Friday 9/24/2010 will NOT be in our normal location. Instead, it will be at the Franklin Park Civic Center: The Tudor House located at 655 Latham Lane in New Franklin, Ohio

in the Portage Lakes region just south of Akron, Ohio. This is very close to our Observatory. As a matter of fact, enter Portage Lakes State Park from Manchester Rd exactly as you would if you were coming to the Observatory. Follow the curvy main park road 1.2 miles to the beach area parking lot without making any hard turns. At the near right corner of the beach area parking lot is an access drive into the Tudor House parking lot. Our meeting will begin at 8:00pm, as normal. Why the change from our normal location at the Kiwanis Civic Center? It turns out that our hosts, the Kiwanis, need the Civic Center for their own use. Many thanks to long time member, passed President and current Statutory Agent, Mark Kochheiser for being able to acquire the Tudor House for us in our hour of need. If you have Web access, please visit the Club's page at www.acaoh.org and click on the link about the changed location for the September meeting. There are several links there that show the Tudor House and map and directions from wherever you are. We hope to see you there for our first meeting following our long summer break.

*Article by Dave Jessie.
ACA President*



Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski

Lew Snodgrass started our August 7th star party with a slideshow on his recent trip to Edinburgh, Scotland featuring his visit to the Royal Observatory. It was interesting to see photos of the older instruments used to observe the night sky in the early 19th century. Lew followed his talk with a presentation on double stars. Afterwards, we observed some of the double stars Lew discussed and many other celestial objects.

During the last week of August we experienced a fortunate coincidence of weather patterns. A hurricane located in the Atlantic Ocean blocked the flow of weather systems across the country. A strong high-pressure system was forced to park over Ohio for a few days. This provided incredible seeing conditions for two weekend star parties held by ACA. The first star party was an outreach program for the Boy Scouts of Troop 122 of Doylestown, Ohio. The troop leaders requested we help the boys achieve their Astronomy Merit Badge. The



Lew Snodgrass talks about the telescopes located at the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh, Scotland at a public star party.

requirements are pretty extensive so we started before sunset with an astronomy lecture followed by a telescope seminar. We began our observing session with a sky tour of the constellations and bright stars and then showed the scouts the wonders of the night sky under extraordinary seeing conditions. Thanks to Mark Kochheiser, Fred Huffman, Glenn Cameron, and Lew Snodgrass for

helping with this program. The following evening ACA held a public star party entertaining about 30 attendees. Before our presentation on globular clusters, we observed Venus. The seeing conditions remained excellent and provided us with a pristine image of Venus with no noticeable "boiling" effect. Many observers commented this was the best image of Venus they have seen. Several members set up telescopes and were treated to sky transparency reaching 5th magnitude; we were able to see all seven stars of the Little Dipper. Later that evening, the Moon and Jupiter rose with an interestingly wide north-south spread across the ecliptic. Even with the Moon just a few days past full, Jupiter showed impressive detail. Lew cranked up the magnification enabling us to see festoons within the northern equatorial band. The last week of June and the last week of August have provided us with some unusually good seeing conditions for astronomy, negating the poor weather conditions of late Winter and Spring.

*Article by Ron Kalinoski,
ACA Observatory Director.*



Glenn Cameron explains to the Boy Scouts of Troop 122 how a refractor telescope functions.

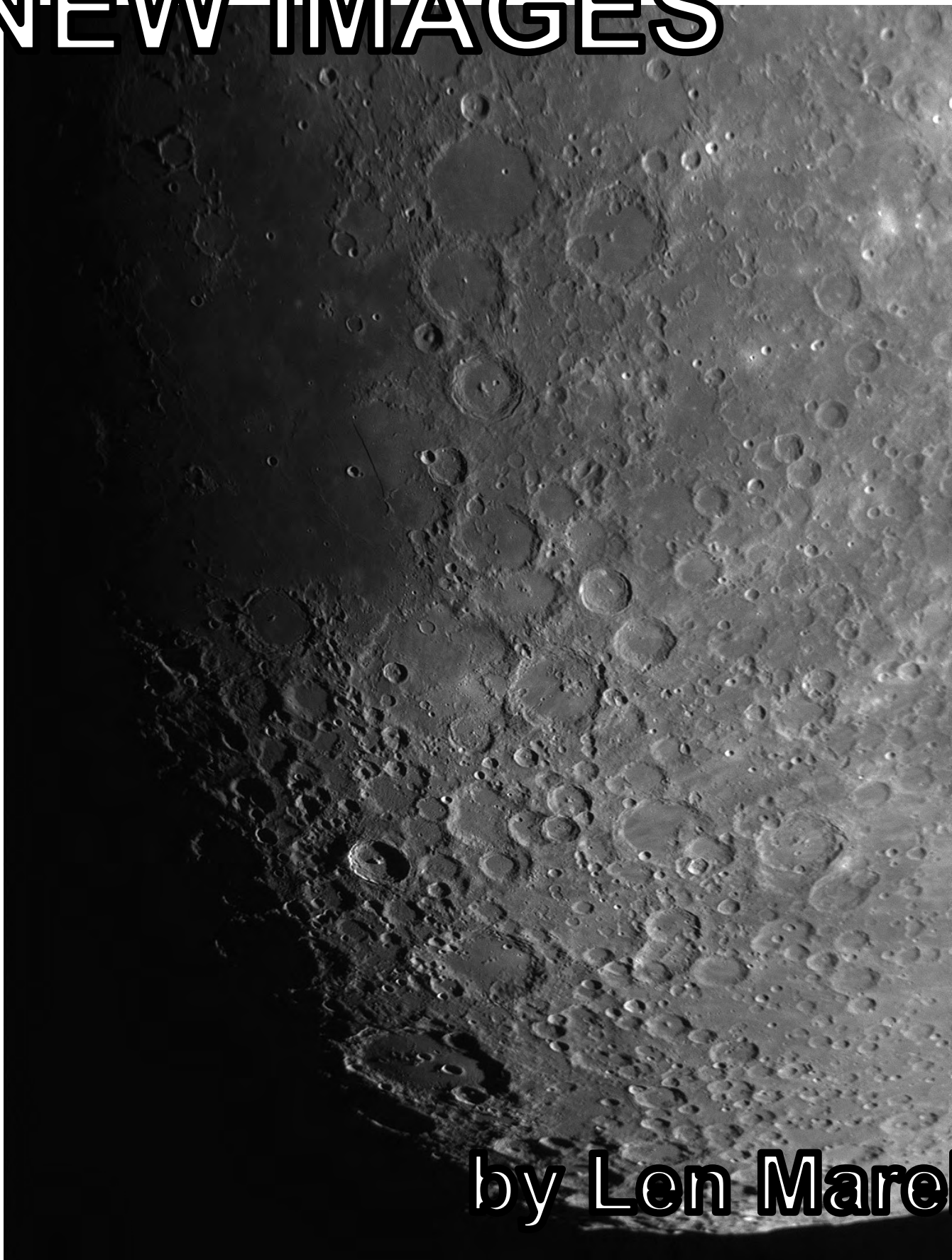
NEW IMAGES



by Jason Shinn

Iridium 5 and Polaris by Jason Shinn. Taken with a Cannon Digital Rebel XT on a standard camera tripod. A single two minute exposure at ISO 100. The orange/pink color is light pollution from Lebanon, TN 20:00 CDT.

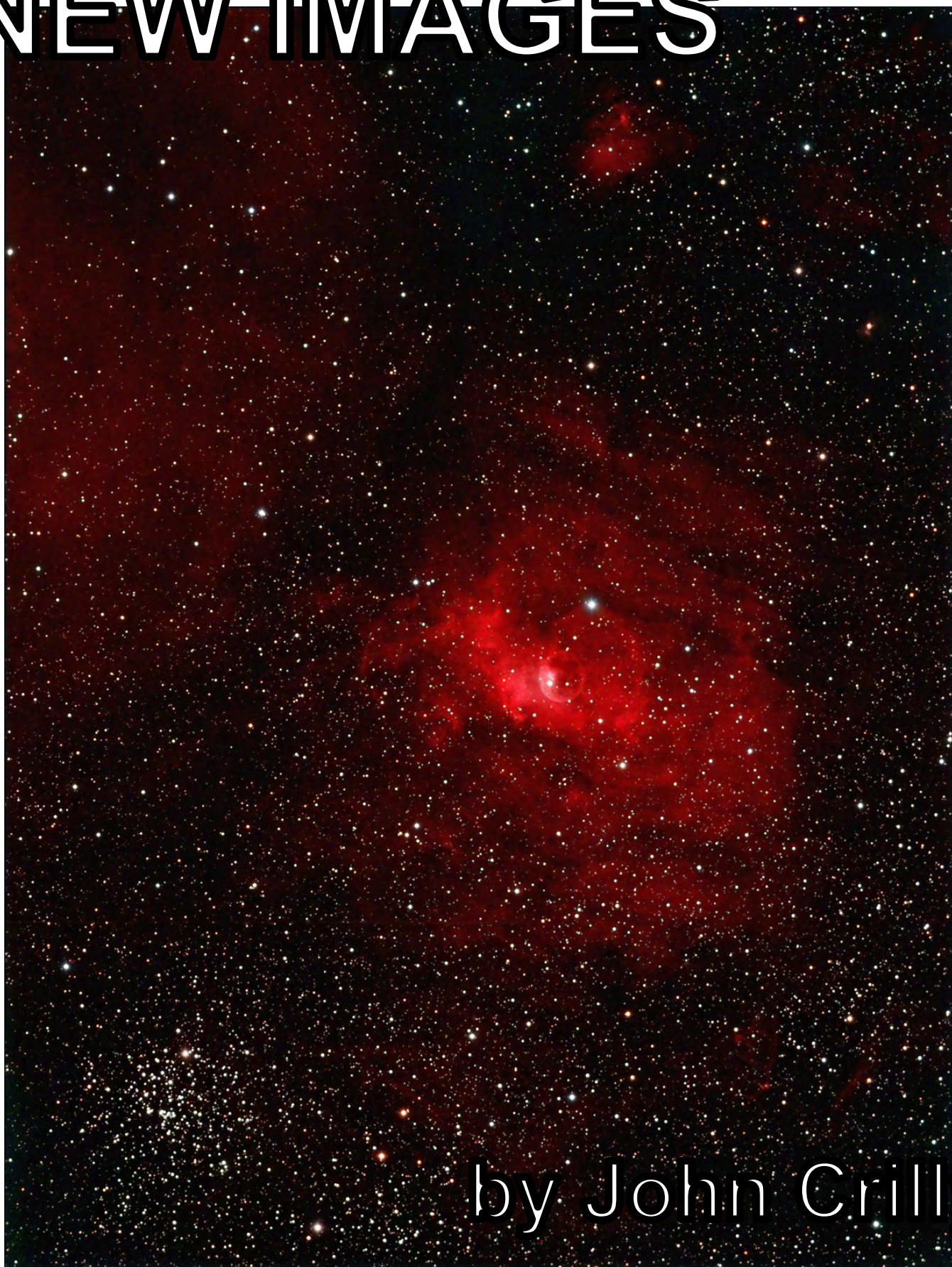
NEW IMAGES



by Len Marek

The Moon by Len Marek. Mare Nubium (Sea of Clouds), Rupes Recta, Tycho, and Clavius are among the features visible here.

NEW IMAGES



by John Crilly

The Bubble Nebula (NGC7635) and M52 by John Crilly. Captured 8-28-2010 at Urban Observatory.

NEW IMAGES



by Peter Clausen

The Elephant Trunk Nebula (Vdb142) by Peter Clausen. Taken with special narrow band filter - Sulfur (SII-3nm), Hydrogen (Ha-5nm), and Oxygen (OIII-3nm) combined with SII to Red, Ha to Green, and OIII to Blue. Exp. time 11hrs 40min.

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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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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.