



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 33 Number 11

November 2011

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2011 8:00PM.

***** IMPORTANT NOTICE OF CHANGE OF VENUE *****
The November general membership meeting will be held at the
Tudor House Franklin Center in Portage Lakes State Park.

This and That

By Tom Mino

We had another great presentation at the October meeting when Clyde Simpson from the Cleveland Natural History Museum presented "Cleveland Rocks.... Mars Rocks Too". On the plus side, having an absence of an official quorum to conduct club business (10 members that are not on the Executive Board) we had more time for the presentation. Clyde did not disappoint us. He gave a very informative and entertaining talk in his usual manner. Clyde's presentations are in the "do not miss" category. We had a quick observatory report from Ron Kalinoski and a call for observations from the members present. Many members reported seeing the fantastic aurora that occurred on the 25th of October. Member Rick Burke had his laptop computer and he showed some of the images that he took that night out at the observatory. M13 bathed in red light from the aurora was especially impressive. Thanks Rick!

Over the years I have thought about the benefits of having a separate business meeting apart from the general membership meeting. (The



M45 - The Pleiades Star Cluster. Captured with a QSI583WS camera on an Astrotech AT65EDQ refractor. Thirty-five minutes each through red, green, and blue filters. By ACA Member John Crilly.

Wilderness Astronomy Club in Wilmot, Ohio has a separate business meeting apart from their general meeting). This has the benefit of allowing for more astronomy content of the general meeting, while holding the minutia of running a club in a separate meeting. Folks that are interested in astronomy and could

care less about whatever business the club has to take care could come out and enjoy the monthly meeting to its fullest. Anyway this is food for thought. It was pointed out that we would then need to have two astronomy club meetings a month, one for the business meeting and one (con't page 4)

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2011 - November Activities Calendar - 2011

Club

November 1 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event.
07:00 pm EDT (2011 11 02 00:00 UT)

November 19 - OBSERVATORY: Public Event.
06:30 pm EST (2011 11 19 23:00 UT)

November 6 - STANDARD TIME BEGINS : UT-5
02:00 am EDT (06:00 UT)

November 18 - TUDOR HOUSE: General Membership
Meeting 08:00 pm EST (01:00 UT)

Celestial*

November 2 - First Quarter Moon at 16:38 UT.

November 12 - METEOR SHOWER: Leonid at 4h UT.
Fragments from comet Tempel-Tuttle.

November 8 - Moon at apogee (farthest) at 13h UT.

November 18 - Last Quarter Moon at 15:09 UT.

November 10 - Full Moon at 20:16 UT.

November 12 - METEOR SHOWER: Taurid (north)
Fragments assoc. with comet 2P/Encke.

November 23 - Moon at perigee (closest) at 23h UT.

November 14 - Mercury at greatest elongation at 8h UT.
(evening sky)

November 25 - New Moon at 06:10 UT.

**Source: www.skymaps.com*

The ACA wishes to welcome our newest members:

**Austin & Debbie Young
Juan Contreras
Josh Dunlap
Steve Lavender
Ronald Money**

We look forward to seeing you at all Club functions!

Chasing Asteroids

By Jason Shinn

The beginning of November brought astronomers an unparalleled opportunity to study an asteroid up close. Well, as up close as you can get at a mere 201,700 miles. Asteroid 2005 YU₅₅ was discovered in December of 2005 by astronomer Robert McMillan at Stewart Observatory, Kitt Peak. Only 400 meters in diameter, just a quarter mile, its small compared to most things we think of as big in the solar system. But in human terms its huge, as big as an aircraft carrier actually, and zipping through the solar system at a maddening 30,000 mph! This is asteroid 2005 YU₅₅ and it became my quest, my target, my adventure.

The one thing that actually prepared me for this event was, perhaps not surprisingly, my encounter with Pluto. For the longest time I had waited patiently while acquiring the tools and knowledge to capture my first ever image of that distant, cold world so far out at the edge of our solar system. It was one of my proudest accomplishments as a budding astrophotographer and now that experience of capturing faint Pluto was going to help me with YU₅₅.

I knew YU₅₅ would be very faint and unlike Pluto it would also be moving fairly fast. There was no time to be lost in setting up early and plotting a course of action. In fact I nearly missed my opportunity when I fell asleep on the couch for almost an hour while waiting for nightfall!

- 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 .txt or .rtf FORMAT TO MINIMIZE IMPORT PROBLEMS. ALL IMAGES MUST BE SAVED IN .jpg FORMAT. SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL TO:

truemartian@aol.com

October Treasurer's Report

By Lew Snodgrass

10/1/2011 Through 10/31/2011

Checking Beginning Balance	\$3,651.57
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Income

Dues	75.09
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Total Income	\$75.09
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Expenses

ACA Website	45.00
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Reimbursement	35.00
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Donation: Tudor House	50.00
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Total Expenses	\$130.00
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Income Less Expenses	\$120.25
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Outstanding Checks	\$25.00
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Checking Ending Balance	\$3,571.66
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Charter One Ending Balance	\$3,571.66
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Difference	\$0.00
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Savings Opening Balance	\$6,432.82
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Earned Interest	0.27
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Savings Closing Balance	\$6,433.09
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Petty Cash	50.00
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ACA Savings	6,433.09
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ACA Checking	3,571.66
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Total	\$10,054.75
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Article by Lew Snodgrass
ACA Treasurer.



Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski



Two of our October public star parties were canceled because of poor weather.

Our October 22nd star party had good public turnout with fair skies. Without doubt,

the star party of the year occurred on the evening of Monday October 24th. With excellent sky conditions, about twenty stargazers showed up for our impromptu star party. Before the star party started, Rick Burke and I mounted the Celestron C14 on its tripod. We added the Williams Optics focuser to the visual back and aligned the finder scope to the main tube using a distance tree, and then waited for twilight. The first star to become visible was Vega. I manually slewed the telescope to the star, located it in the finder and then looked in the

eyepiece. There it was. The bright star was the first celestial light focused by the C14 in over ten years. The star image looked pretty good. A quick out of focus test confirmed the secondary to have good alignment with the primary. Tracking initially seemed okay, but later would prove to be problematic. We set the C14 on M13 most of the night while the Meade 14" worked through the observing list. The only problem with operating both telescopes in the observatory is the tripping hazard created by the C14 power cord and a lesser issue created by the telescope tripod. Both of these should be resolved by replacing the tripod with a pier. Around 10:00pm we were observing Jupiter rising in the east. Tom Laskowski glanced to the west and noticed a brilliant display of the northern lights. Tom immediately alerted the group. All of us were stunned to see the sky glowing bright red 120 degrees from west to northeast and from horizon to about

45 degrees above the horizon. Two columns of yellow light near Polaris beamed down to the ground. The display lasted about 15 minutes with a faint sky glow lasting about 30 minutes. Scientists reported a coronal mass ejection from the sun on Saturday arrived at Earth early Monday afternoon compressing the Earth's magnetic field generating the fantastic light show Monday evening. Reports of the northern lights were coming in Monday night from all over the mid-west and eastern United States and as far south as Alabama. Considering the rarity and short duration of these events and the unlikelihood of clear weather in Ohio and being in the right place at the right time, stargazers at the October 24th star party witnessed a once in a lifetime event.

*Article by Ron Kalinoski,
ACA Observatory Director.*

Asteroids Con't

Fortunately I awoke in time to hurriedly align the refractor and begin the process of studying my star charts.

My first attempt was visual using my 10 inch dob. The moon was not helping at all but with persistence I began to notice what I thought was an extremely faint object just at the edge of my vision, popping in and out of perception. Could this be YU₅₅? I still am not sure. My next attempt, as I followed the predicted path on charts provided by Dave Jessie and Sky& Telescope, was with my camera on the 6 inch refractor. I figured the best way to capture it, since I had no GOTO computer set up for it, was to point the camera at a location it was due to pass through and at the appointed time begin snapping pictures. This worked but the object in the first set of images didn't at all remind me of what an asteroid should look and act like. This object varied in brightness, almost as if it were a slowly rotating satellite. I am still not



Asteroid 2005 YU55 (thin line) - Meade LXD55 6" Refractor, Canon Digital Rebel XT, prime focus, 30 sec @ ISO1600. By ACA Member Jason Shinn.

sure what to make of this first series of images.

Final confirmation that I had indeed seen the asteroid came in my second set of images, taken as YU₅₅ passed between two relatively bright stars in Pegasus. An awesome ending to a evening of hard work and persistence out under the stars!

*Article by Jason Shinn,,
ACA Publications Secretary.*

This and That Con't

for the general meeting. I would not be in favor of this plan. Perhaps a quarterly business meeting and the two other monthly meetings would be reserved for astronomy discussion. What do you think?

Our next monthly meeting will be a week early this month, Friday, November, 18, 2011 at the Portage Lakes Tudor House. We will have a general astronomy discussion among members and non-members alike. This can be a show and tell. Bring some items, star charts, on-line resources, apps for the Android or IPAD that you have found interesting.

Until next time,
Tom

*Article by Tom Mino,
ACA President.*

NEW IMAGES



By John Crilly

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

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c/o Lew Snodgrass, Treasurer
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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.