



# The Night Sky

The Newsletter of  
The Astronomy Club of Akron

www.acaoh.org

Volume 36 Number 3

March 2014

Next Meeting: Friday - March 28, 2014 - 8:00 PM - Kiwanis

## The President's Column

By Gary Smith

The month of March 2014 is a veritable hotbed of astronomical excitement. At this time the position of the bright planet Jupiter in conjunction with three bright stars has formed a temporary "winter diamond" along the viewer's meridian. Looking to the south, Jupiter is the top of the diamond and Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, is the bottom. The east corner is formed by Procyon (alpha Canis Minoris) and the right corner is everyone's favorite red super-giant star, Betelgeuse.

Now that we have survived the worst of the winter, we can look forward to some pre-spring stargazing when the sky is clear and the temperature is somewhere above 30 degrees F. The Hyades Cluster is the dominant feature in the constellation Taurus. The brighter stars form a large V-shape formation that is a visual delight. The Hyades is about 153 light years away and is our nearest open cluster.

The Orion Nebula (M42) is equally spectacular. It is a bright



**Io Transiting Jupiter By Bob Benedict - Io on the lower right, shadow in center, GRS on the upper left. Taken on February 28, 2014 with an ASI120MC, C8, 2.5x Powermate, IEQ45 from driveway in Solon.**

diffuse nebula located south of Orion's belt. It offers remarkable views for unaided eye, binocular, and telescope. At a distance of 1344 light years it is the closest region of massive star formation to the Earth.

Good viewing conditions will allow a nice view of M37 in Auriga. It

is a rich open cluster and the brightest of the three open clusters in Auriga. Its distance is approx. 4500 light years and contains over 500 identified stars. It also contains at least a dozen red giant stars.

(Con't Page 5)

**SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR**  
SUNDAY MORNING MARCH 9 @ 2:00AM

## OFFICERS 2012 – 2014

### President

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### OTAA Representative

Lou Poda

## February Treasurer's Report

By Glenn Cameron

2/1/2014 Through 2/28/2014

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Checking Beginning Balance	\$2,291.79
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### Income

0.00

Total Income	\$0.00
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### Expenses

0.00

Total Expenses	\$0.00
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Income Less Expenses	\$0.00
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Checking Ending Balance	\$2,291.79
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Savings Beginning Balance	\$2,500.99
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Earned Interest	0.10
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Savings Ending Balance	\$2,501.09
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Petty Cash Beginning Balance	\$59.55
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0.00

Petty Cash Ending Balance	\$59.55
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Petty Cash	59.55
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Savings	2,501.09
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Checking	2,291.79
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<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$4,852.43</b>
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Article by Glenn Cameron  
ACA Treasurer.

# SWAP & SHOP



## FOR SALE:

**Grab and Go Mount by Orion/Explorer Scientific 2**

- Slow motion controls on both axes.

Asking: \$175

Contact: Freddy

Phone: 330 535 8009

Email: [trusstube2@gmail.com](mailto:trusstube2@gmail.com)



## FOR SALE:

**Celestron 6" f5 Comet Catcher**

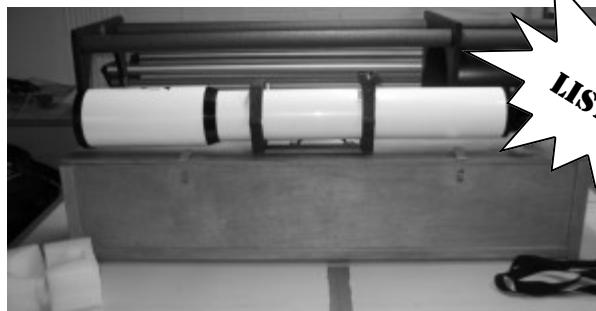
- Made for Celestron by Vixen of Japan.
- Great optics!
- Famous Vixen sledge focuser.
- Mounting rings.
- Dovetail and finder.

Asking: \$250

Contact: Freddy

Phone: 330 535 8009

Email: [trusstube2@gmail.com](mailto:trusstube2@gmail.com)



## FOR SALE:

**Refractor 102mm f11 Planet Killer**

- Crayford focuser.
- Tube rings with Vixen style dovetail.
- Custom case, call for more.

Asking: \$450

Contact: Freddy

Phone: 330 535 8009

Email: [trusstube@gmail.com](mailto:trusstube@gmail.com)

## Advertize in the Swap n Shop!

ACA members! Advertize your astronomy related item in the ACA's Night Sky Newsletter!

Ohio Turnpike Astronomers Association (OTAA) member clubs may also post their astronomy related items for sale in the ACA newsletter!

Send a picture of your item and relevant information to the newsletter editor:

[truemartian@aol.com](mailto:truemartian@aol.com)

# SWAP & SHOP



## FOR SALE:

Meade LX80 mount, tripod, and one counterweight. Includes Autostar and battery box power supply. Also includes cigarette lighter power cable. Works fine. I'm selling because I upgraded to an LX80 mount. I don't want to ship this thing so local pickup is necessary.

Asking: \$400

Contact: Glenn R. Cameron

Phone: 330-737-1472

Email: glenn@cameronclan.org



## FOR SALE:

15mm Ultra-Wide Angle Eyepiece

Asking: \$40

Contact: Lew Snodgrass

Phone: 330-819-4886

Phone: 330-867-4800 Ask for Lew.

Email: chrply@aol.com



## FOR SALE:

Pentax XW 20mm Eyepiece

- Excellent condition.
- Small mark on 1.25" barrel.
- Always used in a compression clamp.

Asking: \$220 (cash)

Contact: Fred Fry

Email: riverfry@gmail.com



## FOR SALE:

Televue Radian 12 mm Eyepiece

- Excellent condition.

Asking: \$180 (cash)

Contact: Fred Fry

Email: riverfry@gmail.com



## FOR SALE:

22mm Orion Epic ED-2 ED Eyepiece

25mm Orion Epic ED-2 ED Eyepiece

Asking: \$35 each or \$65 for both

Contact: Glenn Cameron

Phone: 330-737-1472

Email: glenn@cameronclan.org



## FOR SALE:

Televue Radian 18 mm Eyepiece

- Excellent condition.

Asking: \$180 (cash)

Contact: Fred Fry

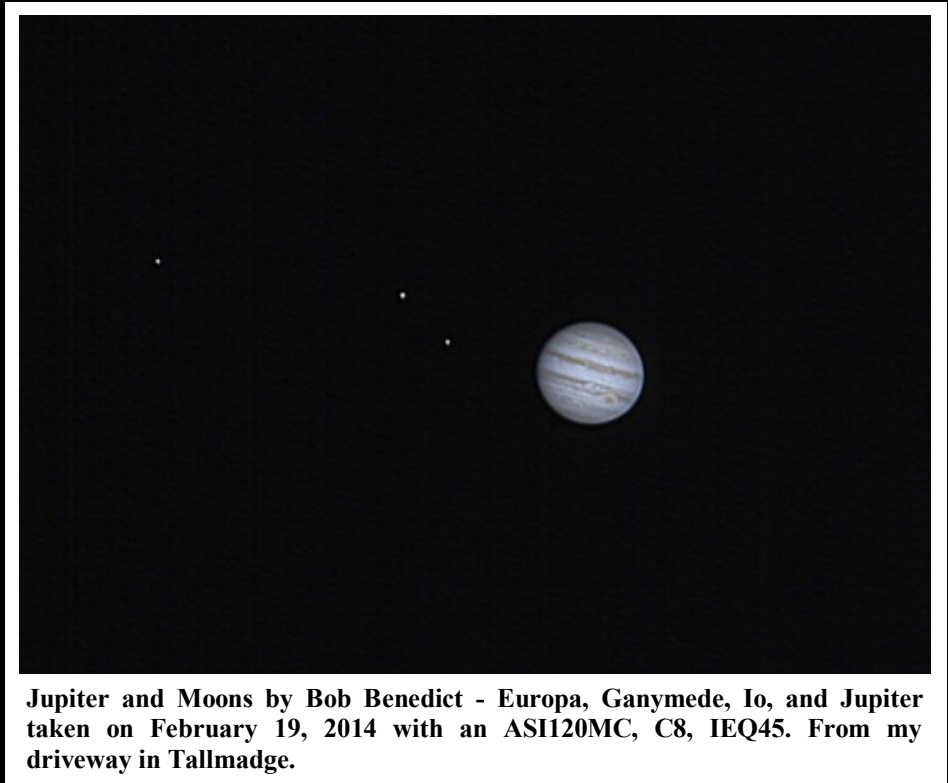
Email: riverfry@gmail.com

The spring constellation of Cancer, the Crab, is a remarkable contradiction. The constellation is small (506 sq. degrees) and has no bright stars. But it does contain Messier 44 (Praesepe or The Beehive Cluster). Praesepe is a sprawling nearby open cluster and is the most spectacular object in this part of the sky. On a clear moonless night Praesepe appears like a large misty cloud covering over 1.5 degree of sky. It is only 577 light years distant and because of this close distance it appears quite large and bright.

There is also much space exploration mission activity in 2014. The Chinese have made a soft moon landing with the Chang'e 3 Lander. It contains China's first lunar rover named Yutu (Jade Rabbit). Yutu is a six wheeled solar powered rover weighing 310 pounds. Yutu is capable of transmitting video in real time and can perform simple analysis of soil samples. At this time Yutu is experiencing difficulty. The all-important solar panels are not tracking with the apparent movement of the sun.

There are two new probes en route to Mars at this time. The country of India has launched the Mars Orbiter Mission (also called Mangalyaan) on November 5th of last year. It is designed to beam back images of Mars's surface and hunt for methane in the Martian atmosphere. It will enter Martian orbit on September 24, 2014. The first of four planned trajectory corrections occurred on December 11, 2013. The thruster fired for 40.5 seconds and the maneuver was declared a success.

NASA's MAVEN Mission is also en route to Mars. MAVEN stands for Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution. It launched aboard an Atlas V rocket on November 18, 2013. Its mission goal includes determining how Martian atmosphere and water were lost over time. The instruments aboard MAVEN are



**Jupiter and Moons by Bob Benedict - Europa, Ganymede, Io, and Jupiter taken on February 19, 2014 with an ASI120MC, C8, IEQ45. From my driveway in Tallmadge.**

substantial. It contains:

1. A Particles and Field Package built by Berkeley space Science Laboratory, University of California.
2. A Remote Sensing Package built by University of Colorado Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics
3. A Neutral Gas and Ion Mass Spectrometer Package built by Goddard Space Flight Center.

The European Space Agency (ESA) has not been idle. The ESA launched the Global Astrometric Interferometer for Astrophysics (GAIA) on December 19, 2013 from Guiana Space Center near Kourou in French Guiana. GAIA is essentially a successor to the Hipparcos Mission. GAIA will create a precise 3-D Map of approx. 1 billion stars throughout the Milky Way and map their motions. The primary objectives of GAIA are:

1. Determine an accurate distance of a star. This will allow a precise determination of that stars intrinsic luminosity.
2. GAIA will undertake the daunting task of observing faint Milky

- Way objects. The result of this effort will provide a more complete view of the stellar luminosity function.
3. GAIA will determine the position, distance, and proper motion of approx 1 billion stars with unprecedented accuracy. This will allow for a better understanding of the rapid stages of stellar evolution.
4. Measuring the astrometric and kinematic properties of a star will yield a better understanding of various stellar populations.

This is going to be an exciting year for the amateur astronomer and space enthusiast. The venerable Sky & Telescope and Astronomy Magazines are valuable resources for keeping up with today's events. Their on-line counterparts along with the Website Space.com will provide the latest information and late-breaking news on current Astronomical Events. Take some time to visit these valuable astronomical resource web sites!

*Article by Gary Smith, ACA President.*

## Observatory Report

By Ron Kalinoski



The 2014 ACA Observatory Schedule is now available. There are seventeen scheduled events. The events are pure observing sessions in the sense that I have included no

presentations this year. Two events feature lunar observing, one features a close approach of two large asteroids as viewed from Earth, and four events feature planet viewing, although Saturn is sure to be observed throughout most of the summer events with rings tilted an amazing 22 degrees. Our Messier Marathon is scheduled for March 29th, nine days after Vernal Equinox when observers have the best chance to observe all 110 celestial objects and break for the best free coffee in Akron. Classical musical usually accompanies our observing sessions; but this year at our June 21st star party, the finest acoustical treasure available will play all evening to enhance your star gazing experience. Solar Parties will be scheduled as impromptu events based on member and equipment availability; each held in conjunction



with a hotdog and hamburger cookout. Binocular Night is our first scheduled event on March 22nd. Members and public are encouraged to bring their binoculars to observe such beautiful objects as Pleiades, Beehive Cluster, and Hyades. The new 16" observatory telescope will point at well-placed Orion Nebula during the observing session. Our members make our events successful, so please plan to attend as many star parties as possible.

At our April membership meeting, we plan to hold elections. All elected offices are up for renewal. Our president has called for volunteers to

form a nominating committee to find members willing to run for office, so please expect a call asking if you would like to run for office. This is a great way to experience a different part of the club and learn the mechanics of how the club functions. A minimum of one year membership is required to run for office. Please consider running for office; I promise the experience is one you will not soon forget.

*Article by Ron Kalinoski,  
ACA Observatory Director.*

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## The Computer Club

By Gary Smith

Good news for ACA members with computer problems! The Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center (PLKCC) has a secret that I would like to share with you. The PLKCC hosts the Computer Club that meets on the first and third Fridays of each month. This is at the very same location that we meet! The Computer Club can provide help, advise, and repair for your laptop, desktop, tablet, or MP3 player. They are also knowledgeable on cell phones. There is no charge for their consultation, but if your computer requires a hardware component to be replaced, they can

advise what needs to be purchased and where to get it, either online or locally.

I can provide an example of how the Computer Club has helped me. My venerable Dell desktop computer circa 2001 has a CD player/recorder that stopped working after a period of time. This always seems to happen at a time when I need the CD Player to work. The desktop computer had an extra bay. The CD Player/Recorder was replaced and an inexpensive but quality DVD player/recorder was installed in the empty bay. I purchased the hardware of course, but a member of the Computer Club did the installation.





The Computer Club meets at PLKCC on the first and third Fridays of each month starting at 6pm and finishing around 10:30 or 11pm. Meetings are free and open to anyone. Bring your computer and the installation discs that came at time of purchase (if you have them) if you would like help. The Operating System Installation Disc is the most important.

If you would like more information, please contact me, Gary Smith, your ACA President.

*Article by Gary Smith,  
ACA President.  
E-Mail: r1phsmth8@gmail.com*

THE ASTRONOMY CLUB OF AKRON

# APRIL 2014 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 First Quarter 08:31UT 	8 Moon at apogee (farthest) 15h UT. Mars at opposition at 21UT.	9	10	11	12
13 Vesta at opposition.	14	15 Full Moon 07:42UT Ceres at opposition. <b>TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE.</b> 	16	17	18	19
20	21 <b>LYRID METEOR SHOWER PEAKS.</b>	22 Last Quarter 07:52UT 	23 Moon at perigee (closest) at 00h UT.	24	25	26
27	28 New Moon 06:14UT <b>ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE.</b> (Antarctica, Australia) 	29	30	<b>AKRON, OH</b> <b>SUNRISE</b> APR 1 6:09AM EDT APR 30 5:25AM EDT <b>SUNSET</b> APR 1 6:51PM EDT APR 30 7:22PM EDT		

EST = UT - 5 hrs, EDT = UT - 4 hrs

# *The Night Sky*

*Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron*

c/o Jason Shinn, Editor  
1025C Hemlock Hills Dr.  
Akron, OH 44313

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**The Astronomy Club of Akron**  
c/o Glenn Cameron  
8019 Glendevan St. NW  
Massillon, OH 44646-9018

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

[www.acaoh.org](http://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](http://www.acaoh.org),