



The Night Sky

The Newsletter of
The Astronomy Club of Akron
www.acaoh.org

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March 2016

Next Meeting: Friday - March 25, 2016 - 8:00 PM - Kiwanis Center

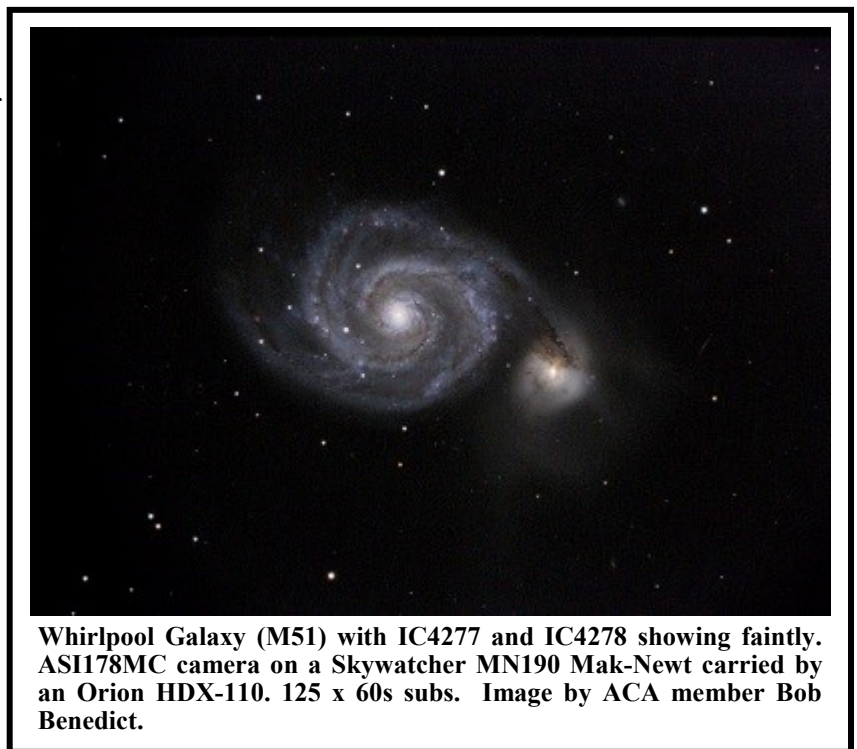
The Presidents Column

By Cathy Loboda

Most of us can bring to mind a moment of clarity that drives us to take action. During a recent stay with my son and his family, I experienced such a moment; consequently, I am moved to challenge all ACA members to take action with me. Let me explain.

On the final evening of a family visit, my three grandsons, bathed and ready for bed, asked to forego the bedtime story routine. Instead, they asked their dad if I could share images of what was in the night sky from my SkySafari app. You should know that I am relentless in sharing my passion for astronomy with my grandchildren; so, it warmed my heart when I heard their request. After my son's approval, the boys and I "cozied up" on one of the beds with my iPad. We enthusiastically chatted about the planets, how they were positioned, and how I should bring one of my telescopes along on my next visit. I also invited them to attend an ACA star party the next time they visited me (weather permitting, of course!) and how awesome it will be to actually see a planet through our club telescope. Then it happened. After tapping the tonight-at-a-glance link and the ISS icon followed by the Neptune icon, one of the boys remarked how he couldn't wait to see these "up close" in the telescope and how he loved blue. I immediately took the opportunity to explain to this five year old how far away the planets are and they wouldn't be as big and bright as the images seen on the computer. He replied, "That's OK, we can bring your iPad to look at it." Sadness overcame me. Am I a dying breed? Are hobbyists in astronomy a fading entity? Is technology robbing youth of the real experience...realizing you are a grain of sand in something so much greater as your eyes set sight on distant planets and star clusters? The exchange with my grandson, although initially disturbing, brought instant recall of a recent magazine article: "Where Is Amateur Astronomy Heading?" by Kevin Ritschel and Maria Grusauskas published in this April's *Astronomy*.

In the article, Ritschel and Grusauskas assert technology revolutionizes the hobby of astronomy with computer controlled telescopes and CCD cameras; but, its "primitive pull" will keep folks coming back for more. The authors cite seven trends that will shape the future of astronomy. The first trend contends the compelling subject matter surrounding astronomy never goes out of style. Yes, there is an ebb and flow in amateur astronomy, but celestial events and astronomical discoveries provide "free publicity" that regenerates interest.



Whirlpool Galaxy (M51) with IC4277 and IC4278 showing faintly. ASI178MC camera on a Skywatcher MN190 Mak-Newt carried by an Orion HDX-110. 125 x 60s subs. Image by ACA member Bob Benedict.

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February Treasurer's Report

By Glenn Cameron

2/1/2016 Through 2/29/2016

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Checking Beginning Balance | \$2,290.52 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|

Income

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Transfer from savings | 475.00 |
| 50/50 Raffle | 28.00 |
| Dues | 80.00 |
| Donations | 238.00 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Total Income | \$821.00 |
|---------------------|-----------------|

Expenses

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| State Farm Annual Insurance | -475.00 |
| Speakers Dinner | -34.00 |

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Observatory Expenses | -274.71 |
|----------------------|---------|

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Total Expenses | -783.71 |
|-----------------------|----------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Income Less Expenses | -\$37.29 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Checking Ending Balance | \$2,327.81 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Savings Beginning Balance | \$2,580.69 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Earned Interest | 0.04 |
| Transfer to Checking | -475.00 |
| Monthly Maintenance Fee | -9.99 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Savings Ending Balance | \$2,095.74 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Petty Cash Beginning Balance | \$50.00 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|

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|--|------|
| | 0.00 |
|--|------|

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Petty Cash Ending Balance | \$50.00 |
|----------------------------------|----------------|

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

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Savings | 2,095.74 |
|---------|----------|

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Checking | 2,327.81 |
|----------|----------|

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Grand Total | \$4,473.55 |
|--------------------|-------------------|

*Article by Glenn Cameron
ACA Treasurer.*

SWAP & SHOP



FOR SALE:

Orion Sirius 40mm Plossl

Asking: \$25

Contact: Glenn Cameron

Phone: 330-737-1472

Email: glenn@cameronclan.org

FOR SALE:



Televue Radian 12 mm Eyepiece

- Excellent condition.

Asking: \$180 (cash)

Contact: Fred Fry

Email:

riverfry@gmail.com

FOR SALE:



Televue Radian 18 mm Eyepiece

- Excellent condition.

Asking: \$180 (cash)

Contact: Fred Fry

Email:

riverfry@gmail.com

FOR SALE:

Celestron CPC Deluxe 800 HD Telescope with tripod.

Accessories:

- Celestron 1.25" eyepiece and filter kit.
- Tele Vue nebula filter.
- Celestron UHC/LPR filter.
- Celestron 15mm 1.25" 82 degree wide field eyepiece.
- Stellarvue 1.25" Dielectric Diagonal.
- Stellarvue 1.25" erecting prism.
- Celestron power tank and dew shield.
- Astrozap sun filter.
- Celestron AC adaptor.
- JMI custom hard shell case for telescope.

All 8 months old, brand new condition.

Asking: \$2200

Contact: Jim Hall

Phone: 330-268-8695

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:

Celestron NexStar 8i computerized to go 8" F/10 Schmidt-Cassegrain

Focal length 2032 mm with 406x highest useful power.

Includes:

- GPS module.
- Five multicoated Plössl eyepieces.
- 2X Barlow lense.
- Seven filters.
- A/C adaptor.
- Night vision flash.
- Celestron star pointer.

All rarely used and in new condition.

Cost \$1,689 new.

Asking: Best Offer

Contact: Nick Bade

Email: nb@tribco.com

Phone: 216-486-2000 weekdays and

440-585-8687 evenings and weekends.

Advertise in the Swap n Shop!

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

jgshinn2014@gmail.com

Presidents Column Con't

Other trends cited were: larger, portable telescopes for deep-sky observations and compact, light-weight telescopes that appeal to owners of smaller cars and those residing in apartments; better software and cameras designed to make astroimaging more of a “point and shoot” experience; and, lighter, shock-proof binoculars and “smart” optics that may include information about an image in an eyepiece.

The remaining three trends can directly affect astronomy clubs. Ritschel and Grusauskas described amateur astronomy as “social.” The U.S. Department of Commerce reported over two million telescopes were imported into the United States in 2014. In the past five years this number has not deviated more than six percent. That is over 10 million telescopes imported since the beginning of the decade! Thus, the question: where are these telescopes? The assumption is the majority of them is of the low-cost variety and are relegated to household décor or placed in storage after the users became frustrated over their inability to use the instruments successfully. As a result, Ritschel and Grusauskas conclude the future of amateur astronomy depends on social media. This makes sense when you consider anyone on planet earth can look to the night sky to see an aspect of the universe and share in a global experience, making this common bond perfect for “sharing” through social media. The authors contend that everything from astrophotography and observation reports, to live virtual star parties is perfect for the free channels of social media. It is believed that social media will propel the numbers of people seeking information or experience in the field to greater heights.

Another trend predicts as increased computational power and connectivity become affordable and integrated with more devices, telescopes and how we use them will be impacted. Whether this trend is good or bad is debatable. Imagine apps on smart phones operating telescopes, aligning, locating and informing on objects in the sky. My grandson was not far off this trend when he commented on taking the ipad to the star party.

The final trend noted in the article presents the challenge mentioned earlier. Ritschel and Grusauskas believe the current trend of conveniently purchasing goods through the Internet will eventually produce a reduction in establishments where new astronomers receive demonstrations on the basics needed to enjoy astronomy as a hobby. The authors question whether social astronomy clubs and outreach are able to satisfy such needs.

So our challenge is this. Despite current trends, ACA membership will strengthen connections with each other and the communities we serve. People to people we will reach out to fill any void developing in the information pipeline as we share our knowledge of and passion for astronomy. We will become active members in the ACA, each taking on an added role so the task of serving our communities and strengthening our club does not rest on the shoulders of a few. As John Heywood (1497-1580) said, “Many hands make light work.” There are positions on the ACA Board to be filled and volunteers needed to serve on standing committees. I ask all members to step up, take part, and join in a common goal: connect with each other so that we may connect with others.

Looking to the future,
Cathy

*Article By Cathy Loboda,
ACA President.*

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROPOSAL TO CHANGE BYLAWS

The ACA board is proposing a change in the club bylaws. This published announcement fulfills the requirement to present the proposal in the form of a motion to be voted upon at the ACA March 25, 2016 monthly meeting.

Article III, Section 2 states “All dues shall accompany application for membership and are payable annually, and only annually thereafter. The term of membership shall start at 12:00 midnight on June 1st and run for one calendar year until May 31st. Initial dues may be paid at any time, with the amount prorated until June 1st.”

The motion proposes a change of start date from June 1st to September 1st and end date from May 31st to August 31st. The rationale is to align the term of membership with the calendared start of ACA’s cycle of monthly meetings. A change in bylaws requires a 2/3 affirmative vote for passage.

ACA Elections Run For Office

By Gregg Crenshaw

Every two year's the ACA elects officers. The elective offices are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publications Secretary, and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. Our Astronomy club is only as good as the ideas and energies of its members. If you have an idea as to the direction our club should follow, run for office by contacting the members of the Nominating Committee: Ann Ferrell, Gregg Crenshaw, and Ron Kalinoski or come to the March 25 ACA Business meeting and Nominate your self. Run for office and make a difference in the future of the ACA.

*Article By Gregg Crenshaw
ACA Trustee*

Astronomy Picture of The Month

This month's featured astronomical object is comet Lovejoy! Discovered in August of 1014 comet Lovejoy had a beautiful green coma from diatomic C₂ gas fluorescing in the sunlight. The comet made its closest approach to earth on January, 7 2015 and reached perihelion on January 30, 2015. Lovejoy is a long period comet and should return in about 8,000 years. Of course Lovejoy could not have been a more perfect name for this visitor from the Kuiper Belt. Scientists later discovered that this object was releasing large amounts of alcohol and a type of sugar into space! The same stuff that's in our alcoholic beverages and it was shooting out of a comet! During it's peak activity comet Lovejoy was releasing as much alcohol as in at least 500 bottles of wine every second. Maybe next time she flies by we'll be able to land on this baby, party on Lovejoy anyone?!?

*Information Credit
<http://www.nasa.gov>*

March Astronomical Events

Day Hour(UT)

1 23 LAST QUARTER
2 07 Saturn 4° S. of Moon
3 22 Ceres in conjunction with Sun
6 16 Juno stationary
7 11 Venus 4° S. of Moon
8 11 Jupiter at opposition
9 02 NEW MOON Eclipse
10 07 Moon at perigee
11 01 Uranus 1°9 N. of Moon
14 14 Aldebaran 0°3 S. of Moon Occn.
15 17 FIRST QUARTER
20 05 Equinox 20 14 Venus 0°5 S. of Neptune
22 04 Jupiter 2° N. of Moon
23 12 FULL MOON Penumbral Eclipse
23 20 Mercury in superior conjunction
25 13 Saturn stationary
25 14 Moon at apogee
28 19 Mars 4° S. of Moon
29 15 Saturn 3° S. of Moon
31 15 LAST QUARTER



Picture of the comet C/2014 Q2 (Lovejoy) on 12 February 2015 from 50km south of Paris. Image Credit Fabrice Noel.

Credits: Fabrice Noel

Day Hour(UT)

5 01 Neptune 1°9 S. of Moon
6 08 Venus 0°7 S. of Moon Occn.
7 11 NEW MOON
7 18 Moon at perigee
8 11 Mercury 5° N. of Moon
9 04 Vesta 0°02 S. of Moon Occn.
9 21 Uranus in conjunction with Sun
10 22 Aldebaran 0°3 S. of Moon Occn.
14 04 FIRST QUARTER
17 02 Mars stationary
18 05 Jupiter 2° N. of Moon
18 13 Pluto stationary
18 14 Mercury greatest elong. E. (20°)
21 16 Moon at apogee
22 05 FULL MOON
25 04 Mars 5° S. of Moon
25 19 Saturn 3° S. of Moon
27 03 Juno at opposition
29 04 Mercury stationary

*Information Credited,
Her Majesty's Nautical Almanac Office,
United Kingdom Hydrographic Office,
US Naval Observatory.*

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show 2016

By Marissa Fanady



The beautiful city of Tucson, Arizona from interstate route 10 with the mountains in the background. The weather was sunny every day. Image by my staff Autumn Hahn.

Well it wasn't easy but nine months of planning, saving funds, making calls, setting up the essentials, doing research, conversing with friends, and \$3,500 later the dates that I had chosen to attend the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show was at hand. This all began back on May twenty-fifth while waiting to board my plane to return home from my previous trip for my very first meteorite hunt. While waiting to board the plane a friend of mine happened to get on his Twitter and started spreading the word of my successful meteorite hunt while giving his congrats as well. After talking a bit the gem show came up from me expressing my desire to attend and my plan of trying to make that a reality. Apparently that was a big mistake on my part because he then decided to bait me to go, saying that he would give me a private tour of his meteorite dealing company. How could I possibly pass up on that opportunity?? With that incentive to get my butt to Tucson I decide to do whatever it took to be there to see my friend again as well as other friends and make new connections. February third

through the eighth were my travel days; I wanted a good four whole days to shop, wander around, meet up with friends, and attend a few important events. Another huge adventure was in my grasp and this time, by some miracle, I made this happen with hard work, determination, and yes some assistance from family and friends.

Tuesday was one crazy non-stop day for me before embarking on my next adventure. Waking up early I had tons on my agenda that included finishing up with packing, going over lists, buying last minute essentials, walking to the bank to withdraw some funds, various hygiene rituals required of a young lady (ladies seriously what we won't go through just to look decent am I right!), and spending time with my dear little sister as well as other family visits. During my sisters visit she was a tremendous help getting me neat and organized with my packing as well as getting myself ready to leave. After all of that we could finally relax and watch Minions! Spending time with my little sis is one of my joys in life, she is just the best most amazing young woman in the world. After she left a nap was calling my name! The plan was to leave at 4am, at the latest 4:30am, to catch our 7:05 flight to Phoenix, Arizona since the drive to Cleveland Hopkins Airport would take about forty-five minutes. My plan was to at least take a nap in my chair, which can recline for comfort, since getting into bed is rather late for me due to the fact that I'm a night owl. Any other night I usually jump into bed anywhere from 1am to 4am. There was really no point for me to climb into bed with such a crazy schedule and I was way too excited as well as anxious to leave anyway! Luckily I was able to get about an hour of sleep; doesn't sound like much but it was better than nothing. All I could do at this point was wait for Autumn and Debbie to arrive so that we could load up and hit the road.

Day one started at about 4:30am when we finished packing up everything in the van and we were finally on the long route to Tucson. Months of waiting were finally over and I was making the journey to the largest gem and mineral show on the planet with who knows what in store! A third staff member had to go with us to drive the van back home which they weren't too happy about but I could've cared less about them, nobody was going to bring my mood down. We stopped at a gas station before hitting the highway for coffee, I didn't get any because it's just too difficult to drink in a car so I planned to grab a drink at the airport. After about forty-five minutes we finally arrived at Cleveland Hopkins Airport with plenty of time to check our bags, get through security, and grab some refreshments. A little advice for any who is a motorized wheelchair user about to travel by plane, make sure you arrive at least an hour before and call the airport at least a week ahead for seating arrangements as well as to give them the proper information about your devices. They need to know what type of batteries that your chair contains to ensure a safe flight. Getting through security is without a doubt the worst part about flying, but luckily being disabled does have some perks as my staff and myself get to go through the fast lane and moved up to the front of the line. Still a pain in the butt to be searched but the joy of flying, feeling the power of that machine, is completely worth all of that plus I'm getting the opportunity to visit a new land. I highly recommend flying at least once in your life, the ride is amazing and the views are breath taking! Finally through security we make our way to a Starbucks for coffee and a snack, then it was off to our gate.

Our plane was completely full, apparently everyone was looking to get the heck out of Ohio which I don't blame them there's nothing to do here! That and the weather is just terrible. Everyone who was disabled got to board first and unfortunately only one of my staff could sit next to me, the other one had to sit directly behind us. Of course I snagged the window seat like always, I need that view it's just too beautiful. That's as close to space as I'll ever get and I crave that experience as much as possible. Looking around the plane I noticed that someone next to us had a service dog with them and I wondered how the dog would handle the flight. Surprisingly the service dog handled the plane ride very well, he never made a sound. We finally take off and I swear that pilot shot the plane straight up into the sky! The force from taking off was so great that I couldn't move and my staff were scared to death again. Truthfully they hate flying but we are so close and our love for each other is so much that they get on planes anyway so that I

can travel with people who truly care about me and will ensure that I'm well cared for and have an amazing time on my trips. I hope that they continue to travel with me because we have the best times and I couldn't pick more amazing people to share all of this with. My high finally wore off and I kept dozing off on the plane, I was already exhausted and I still had an extremely busy day lying ahead.

The four hours of travel time to get to Phoenix just flew by, pardon the pun, with drifting in and out of sleep which made me feel a little better but mostly touching down in a new land gave me the most energy. Though we didn't get the warm welcome that we were expecting....we left Ohio with temperatures in the fifties and expected warmer weather in Arizona. Weren't we shocked and disappointed to learn that Phoenix had temperatures in the thirties!!! OK that was just completely wrong we were out west where you'd expect warmer weather and Ohio, in the winter, was more warm that day?!? Certainly the strangest thing I've experienced so far and a lesson learned. West doesn't always mean warm but luckily I've been monitoring the weather so we made sure to bring our jackets. Always, always, always watch the weather in the location you're traveling to in order to be properly prepared! So we are waiting to get off the plane and for some odd reason I had to be transferred into a manual chair. Up the tunnel I was expecting my wheelchair to be in the terminal waiting but instead the staff asked us if we were getting on another plane. Well I got extremely nervous and said "no we are here no transfers." Apparently they didn't know the location of my wheelchair!!! I was freaking out inside but on the outside I was in shock and didn't know what to do at this point. That chair is my legs, my everything...as much as I don't like it my chair is a part of me plus it's not cheap! I cannot afford to replace this thing before my five years are up and my insurance will pay for a new one, it's like buying a freaking car. For a moment I thought that I was going to be contacting everyone in Tucson telling them that I'm stuck in Phoenix because the airport lost my chair. Thankfully they finally showed up with my baby still working and in tact, I've never been so relieved to see that chair. Whenever I'm separated from my wheelchair and it's left in the hands of strangers I get extremely nervous, I'm screwed without this equipment. American Airlines is not a very good way to travel for disabled people, Southwest Airlines was much better they brought my chair up very quickly and always had it waiting for us. Phoenix's airport was huge just like Las Vegas, they put Cleveland to shame! We finally made our way to the baggage claim and luckily our van rental representative was right there waiting for us. Fortunately he was early, he wasn't supposed to arrive until about 10:30am and it was about 9:45am. Our plane landed early so I wasn't expecting our van to be there yet. We gathered our belongings and made our way to the van, which was very nice, and he showed us all the ins and outs of the vehicle. Finally we left the airport for the last leg of the journey, a two hour drive to the town of Tucson!

The car ride to Tucson was very pleasant with beautiful sights all around and it felt like the drive took so long. We merged off of interstate 10 onto West Ina road to check into our motel room...yes I booked a motel room to save on money because all other hotel rooms are pricy due to the show. A luxurious hotel was not needed, we wouldn't be spending much time in the room anyway with so much to do and see. Unfortunately when we arrived our room wasn't ready yet so we decided to find a Walmart to grab some items that were forgotten at home. Now matter how early you pack and prepare for traveling there's always something that you forget to bring along. After that it was about 2:30pm and our room was finally ready and we could settle in as well as freshen up, travelling for eight hours straight is not easy! At this point there was only one thing on my mind...getting to the Hotel Tucson City Center to hunt down Geoff Notkin for a chat and to get a time for the tour he promised. The sights at the hotel were incredible!!! Giant gems, minerals, and fossils were scattered everywhere throughout the city! Just a first glance at just a small portion of the show and I was amazed and I already felt like I was home exactly where I belong. Seeing pictures from friends of the show and the hotel during previous shows was one thing and a bit sad to see but being there in person was completely different, pictures really don't do this event any justice. I made my way over to where the Aerolite Meteorites showroom was located which was on the second floor and unfortunately the hotel has no elevators for the disabled to reach the upper floor. So my aid, Autumn, went upstairs for me to let them know that I was downstairs hoping to talk to Geoff. Yea it was a bit embarrassing that people had to walk down to see me but any such feelings disappeared when Molly Phoenix peaked over the balcony to say hello and tell me that Geoff would be down in a minute. Tucson was actually quite cold that day so I had to put on my jacket while waiting for him, I very well knew that it could be quite a while before he came down with so many people wanting and waiting to have a conversation. About ten minutes went by and suddenly I heard that all too familiar voice say "is that my favorite meteorite hunter?" The last time I saw Geoff was in 2012 and I really thought that was a one time deal so it was great to meet up and talk. Course he did most of the talking, I was exhausted from lack of sleep and yes that man still intimidates me a little. Most everyone on this trip intimidated me a little because well they know more about meteorites than I do plus they've done so much more, things I'll never accomplish. Geoff was accompanied by a friend of his, Al Mitterling, who kindly took a photo of us and later sent it to me via email. We settled on a time to visit Aerolite Meteorites on Friday at 2:00pm and parted ways for now but before leaving Geoff made a few suggestions on what showrooms to visit. That was enough for one day so we headed back to our room and grabbed some dinner on the way back, once I hit that bed I was gone. Not even a tornado could've woken me up after such an amazing first day...and this was only the beginning.

Today on my agenda I had plans to meet up for lunch with Larissa Vallier at about noon, check out some more of the show if there was time, attend the International Meteorite Collectors Association dinner and meeting, and Michael Mulgrew was arriving a little bit before the IMCA dinner. Mike was my hunting guide for my meteorite hunt back in May and I could not wait to see him and hang out again! At 10:00am we woke up to prepare for a very long day with surprises hiding around every corner. Larissa sent me a message saying that the original place that we planned to meet up at could be packed with a long wait time. She suggested a place called the Hub in downtown Tucson so I looked the restaurant up on my phone and made us a reservation. Finding parking in downtown Tucson was really fun and that made us a little late but I didn't care, nothing will ever go completely smooth when you're in a new city so why stress over the little stuff. Just focus on where you are and most importantly focus on having fun! Larissa met up with us outside, it was just so amazing to finally meet my friend and talk face to face instead of talking on social media. Social media is great but most of what we say is in our tone and body language, all of that is lost and sometimes you misinterpret what someone is trying to say. Nothing beats face to face conversations in my book plus deeper bonds are formed and you really get to know someone. The restaurant seated us immediately with having a reservation even though the place was pretty packed, seemed

like a very popular eatery. The smell and look of the Hub was incredible, such a charming little venue with an impressive looking bar. The timing on finding the meteorite community and my love for these rocks from space couldn't have been any more perfect, any sooner and I might have been too young to share a drink with everyone. The chocolate cocktail that the Hub was serving was shouting my name! Chocolate and sugar in general is my vice, I'm completely addicted to both and that drink was incredible! Going all out we decided to get a sampler plate of appetizers, hey it's a vacation so diets are completely out the window. The appetizer was a nice plate of meats, bread, cheeses, and dips which were all delicious although most meats I stayed away from due to my jaw being too weak to break down meats. For lunch I ordered a nice pasta entrée, I fully understood why that place was so popular after trying the food it was just amazing! We sat in the restaurant for a good hour talking and enjoying our meals. Everyone's food looked really good so we kept sampling each other's plates, guess we're really good friends now! After lunch we made our way across the street to the Hub's ice cream shop. What person in their right mind would skip desert?? I fell in love with their ice cream shop because they had crazy flavors, some with booze mixed in, and you could actually sample all of the flavors before you buy!!! Back in Ohio we have nothing like this parlor. Talk about being a kid in a candy store I was in heaven! Seriously if you ever visit Tucson you have to go to this restaurant and ice cream parlor, if I get to return I'm certainly going back. We sat at a table enjoying our desert and each other's company telling our stories, triumphs, struggles, talking about families, life, and forming deep bonds. Two more hours went by and we finally decided to head off to other activities. Larissa said that a friend dropped her off and that she'd have to take the bus back to where she was staying. Even though it was out of our way we weren't having that so we took her to her place so she wouldn't be waiting for a bus and we knew she'd be safe. That was a very fun entertaining ride with lots of jokes and laughter! Her place was very nice, she was staying for the whole three weeks of the show and we hoped to meet up one more time before I had to leave. Unfortunately that didn't happen but I'm so happy that we got to meet and I'm very grateful for a new friendship out of this experience. She is an amazing person and I hope for nothing but the best for her and her life.



A group photo of our table during the IMCA dinner. L-R unknown person, Richard Garcia, Michael Mulgrew, Dennis Miller, Robert Hoover, Mark Bittman, Mark Bowling and seated is Molly Phoenix and myself. Image by Monika Garcia.

On our way back to the motel my phone goes off, normally I would've ignored it but I heard my text tone so I had to check because I didn't know who could be sending me a message wanting to meet up somewhere. Looking down I see that it was Mike letting me know that him and his friends, Mark and Robby, had finally arrived! I told him we were on our way to the motel to freshen up for the IMCA dinner. After changing we planned to meet the guys in the lobby and then head out for some pizza. I knew we were going to a dinner but honestly this was better for me because I'm very self conscious about my struggle with eating so eating in a room with a lot of people that I admire was just not gonna happen. Sharing a meal with staff and Mike who has already seen me eat and completely understands was much better. Sure I didn't know Mark or Robby but I hoped that any friends of Mike's would also be just as understanding and they were much to my relief. I just wasn't ready to eat in front of a large crowd, you never know what people might say or do even though they assure you that it's okay. Finally ready to go we made our way to the lobby to meet up with the boys, it was just amazing to see Mike again. I really thought I'd never see him again but I'm very happy when I'm wrong about that kind of stuff. The plan was to follow them to Brooklyn Pizza Company but Mark tends to drive a bit crazy and being Ohioans we just couldn't keep up so Mike texted me the address on the way there. Back home the fastest we can travel on the highway is sixty-five miles per hour plus our roads are just terrible! Tucson's roads were like heaven to us being so perfectly smooth, we hated leaving that behind. When we got there Mike showed me where the Birthday Bash used to be held, yea I was bummed to hear that the event was cancelled but Tucson still had plenty of activities to offer with such a huge show! Robby and Mark were very nice gentlemen, it was very enjoyable to sit and start to get to know them as well as catch up with Mike with good food and drinks. Call me whatever you want but I usually always got a hard cider. I've honestly tried beer but I just cannot see the appeal of that drink it is just too nasty. Before I left to come here I thought way ahead and put straws and plastic silverware in my purse because not every restaurant will have those available. Bars especially will not have those items available, without those I'm pretty much screwed and can't eat. Once we were finished we headed straight over to the IMCA meeting at the Gerard P. Kuiper Space Sciences building where I'd finally meet a fair amount of folks that I've talked to and countless others that I have heard of but have yet to speak with until now.

The University of Arizona looked pretty impressive and beautiful even at night, I just absolutely love being in any sort of educational environment whether it's a school, museum, or convention. There's always something new to learn and explore hiding around every corner! The first person I see when I walked inside was Mendy Ouzillou who was checking people in, it was so great to finally meet but also weird. I felt like it wasn't real and that I wasn't there or shouldn't be there because of my limitations, but it sure as heck was real and it was amazing. Lost in thought I didn't even notice who walked in behind us....Robert Haag. I've never had the pleasure to chat with him but I have certainly heard of him everywhere in the meteorite community. From my understanding he has one of the largest meteorite collections all locked up in a safe! Somehow he heard of me and introduced himself which was quite a



Geoffrey Notkin and myself at his meteorite dealing company Aerolite Meteorites with a large Mouniunilousta iron meteorite. Also pictured in the background is one of the display cases. Image by my staff Debbie Hardman.

surprise. Usually I'm the one who approaches folks if I'm not too intimidated and muscle up the courage to do so which these days it's not too difficult for me anymore. I would have definitely approached him eventually, he was just much quicker on the draw! Unfortunately we didn't talk much, after checking in we all headed upstairs and that was the end of that encounter. Maybe someday we'll meet again and we can share a conversation. There were so many people to name that I had the pleasure to meet that I can't possibly name everyone but I'll do my best! Let's see there was Maria Haas, Bob Falls, Dennis Miller, Richard Garcia and his wife Monika, Mark Bowling, Molly Phoenix, and Lisa Marie Morrison. Looking around the room there were plenty of others who I could recognize from photos like Twink Monrad and John Humphries. Molly sat next to me during the dinner and we had a very lovely chat. She talked a bit about how she got pulled into Aerolite Meteorites as well as a bit about her life. I love hearing other people's stories because each of us has vastly different circumstances that eventually led us here to science and meteorites. The whole gang; which included Robby, Mark, Mike, Richard, Monika, Dennis and Molly all sat together and welcomed me but my staff disappeared. My staff are so amazing that they sat back at another table to give me space because hey I'm not a child and don't constantly need someone. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed Geoff sitting at the next table enjoying dinner and conversations. The dinner was nice seeing everyone having a good time and enjoying this time together since we are all mostly so far apart from each other. Finally the time had come to move into the lecture hall for the guest speaker presentation and a video to follow. The guest speaker was Tim Swindle who is the head of Geosciences and Planetary Sciences and is Director of Planetary Sciences and LPL. His presentation was about hunting for meteorites in Antarctica which my astronomy club also got a presentation from Ralph Harvey last year who also hunts for meteorites on the same team in Antarctica. I quite enjoyed hearing two different perspectives about the same meteorite hunt, but my astronomy club got a bit more fortunate because Ralph brought some meteorites from the hunt to show off! My favorite part was hearing about their restroom tent and how they couldn't just dump the waste they actually had to bring it back with them to dispose the waste! After Tim's talk they moved on to some business regarding the club and a raffle. Next up was a video presentation of "Meteorites - Visitors from the Beyond" by Petra Haffter who was in attendance and gave an introduction to the video. This was the first showing in the USA and was the 5th and final installment of a mini-series produced by Petra called "Rocks of Ages". The film was fantastic, that whole night in general was fantastic and a ton of fun. When the film was over we continued with conversations outside the lecture hall before leaving for our rooms.

I did quite a bit of talking with folks as well as Mike, we weren't ready to leave yet but his friends were so they left and Mike rode back with us. They actually had to kick us out because we were talking too much! Back at the motel we said good night and retired for another big day with a tour of Aerolite Meteorites and God only knows what else in store!

Today was the big day, a tour of Aerolite Meteorites HQ with Mike and Mark coming along too. Not going to lie, a big reason of why I went to Tucson was for this...seeing amazing meteorites, especially if some were found on the show Meteorite Men, was just too tempting to pass up! Plus getting a chance to hear some of Geoff's amazing and sometimes hilarious stories and having the opportunity to hang out was too good to miss. My staff Debbie was working on getting me up and ready to embark on another full day. Unfortunately Autumn somehow fell very ill and had to miss the tour so we headed to Denny's for some breakfast before heading off. We got breakfast kinda late so I had to quickly eat as much as possible because I was not about to be late. Mike and Mark beat us there by like five minutes but we were still right on time, Geoff met us outside to tell us how to go around back to where the ramp is to get inside. The place seemed small on the outside which made me worry a little but thankfully there was plenty of room and I could navigate just fine without hitting anything. My only concern was being very careful, the last thing I wanted to do was hit something but luckily I have twenty years of driving under my belt. The displays were incredible!!! Of course I went right over to those beautifully displayed meteorites scattered everywhere. Apparently I was so busy looking around that I didn't even notice Geoff looking at my chair trying to judge whether or not I could fit through the hallway. The next thing I know he asks me to try to come through the hallway to get back to his office which was really no problem. By now I've learned what I can and can't do with this thing as well as where I can and cannot fit through. If I wasn't sure that I could fit through I would have not even tried, getting stuck was just not happening that would've been the worst. He had the most awesome epic poster for his show, Meteorite Men, hanging up in his office with an impact crater superimposed behind him and his co star Steve Arnold. Sadly very few of those were made and Geoff's lucky that he even has one. We made our way back out to the sitting room and I was asked if I wanted to see any of the meteorites being displayed and I declined only because I didn't want to drop anything. Sure the iron meteorites would've been fine but not the stones and I didn't want to push my luck with the stony irons. Geoff disappears to the back room and a few minutes later he emerges carrying a huge beautiful Mouniunilousta meteorite that Steve and himself found on the show!!! I definitely recognized the meteorite, it was so cool to see one of the big guys in person because most of the time I have no idea what happened to the larger meteorites that they've found. Poor thing was rusting away though...Geoff peeled off bits of shale to show its unfortunate slow death and decay. All of the other Mouniunilousta meteorites were sliced up and etched for sale. Personally it pains me to hear or see a meteorite being cut up but at the same time they hold an otherworldly beauty inside of them that you want to see and explore. Plus the information locked inside of them is priceless to us and they helps us understand nature so much more. But nevertheless it still hurts to hear about them being cut when they've already gone through hell. Steve doesn't care he will cut open

any meteorite unless it's drop dead gorgeous on the outside, but Geoff shares my sentiments about meteorites. We both care about preservation, I suppose that's why I like meteorites with a broken face or chip. The break happened during the fall to earth and I can see what's trapped inside without having anyone slice it open. He showed me where the photos of this meteorite were in his book "Meteorite Hunting: How to Find Treasures From Space" which is a fantastic read. After that Geoff put that big beauty away and while he was gone Mike proceeded to grab some of the shale that was left laying on the floor and throws some in my purse! I looked at him like he was crazy but what the hell, when am I going to have another chance to get pieces of a meteorite found on their show?!? There were other books laying around that included "Rock Star Adventures of A Meteorite Man", his most recent book about his adventures in the world of comic books, and the "Oscar E. Monnig Meteorite Collection Catalog". Geoff asked if I had the "Oscar E. Monnig Meteorite Collection Catalog" and I said no so he very kindly gave me one. Having the opportunity to just sit and talk was the best, the poor guy is always busy and is constantly being pulled in a million different directions. I have no idea how he does everything. I would go nuts without some quiet alone time with just myself and my thoughts to unwind from the stress of life. Well I certainly thought that the book was more than enough of a gift and really just being there was a gift that I'm extremely grateful to have gotten. But boy was I dead wrong, Geoff suddenly hands me a beautiful Seymchan pallesite meteorite encased in acrylic shaped like a triangle.....that left me a bit speechless to say the least. He really didn't have to do that I just wanted to be there and spend time with friends. Knowledge, experiences, and people are what truly matter the most to me and I'm just thankful that I'm friends with such amazing people. While checking out meteorites Mike and myself pull out our meteorites to show off because that's just what us hunters do. Mike had my precious finds with him after the night before when I showed them to Molly during our chat at the IMCA dinner. I told him to hold on to them for me, I knew they'd be safe and sound. Felt pretty good to show such an experienced hunter like Geoff my meteorite finds. By the time we were finished it was going on 3:45 and Geoff had to be back at the showroom by 4:00 so he ushered us to a room in the back where they prep the meteorites for shipping and photos. Inside there was a huge shelf with lots of mineral specimens on it from the Doris Nininger collection and the shelf itself once belonged to Harvey Nininger. I took this opportunity to give Geoff a meteorite from my collection that I had brought with me...my very first meteorite that started all of this and led me here. Yes it was a tiny meteorite, the little thing pales in comparison to other meteorites that he owns but the sentimental value is priceless. After getting that tiny Campo iron meteorite I remembered seeing Meteorite Men on the science channel and after looking it up on YouTube I was hooked forevermore. Watching these two guys looking for meteorites was just amazing to me plus they were hilarious! From there I found the Aerolite Meteorites website and things took off from there with buying a vial of olivine crystals extracted from a meteorite and finding club space rock. Really without Geoff and his success as well as his kindness I would not be into this nor would I have come this far, went meteorite hunting, be in Tucson, and have such an incredible community right by my side. I truly hope that his success continues and that he gets everything out of life that he hopes to have or accomplish. With emotions said and done it got to be 4 o'clock and he really had to go, all of us can tend to talk to much, especially Geoff with so many great stories. We made him late but he didn't seem to mind, it was fun to steal him away from everyone and not have anyone interrupt us. Even outside we kept talking trying to soak up every minute while Debbie was getting the van ready. Hanging out with Geoff was just the best and I hope that someday we will have more opportunities, but this time was over so we said goodbye and I gave my gratitude. Off to the motel we were to change for a get together with Mike, Mark, Robby, Richard and his wife, and Dennis. My first somewhat large gathering at a bar, of course I was a little nervous but by now I was sure that nobody would care about how I must eat because of my disease. They cared about me, my soul, so I was very much looking forward to dinner tonight.

To be continued...

*Article By ACA Member,
Marissa Fanady*

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting: February 21, 2016

The board meeting was brought to order shortly after 2:00 p.m. at the Waterloo Restaurant in Akron. President Catherine Loboda presented the agenda which focused on long range plans for the club and other proposals to be addressed as soon as possible. Discussion followed on agenda points presented.

Club operations: Standing and ad hoc committees will be formed to ease work load on board members and encourage others to take an active role in ACA.

To encourage membership, a membership standing committee will be formed for the purpose of planning an annual membership drive and creating/updating new member packets for those joining the club for the first time.

To enhance membership, a social standing committee will be formed with the purpose of planning quarterly social events and trips for club members only. The committee will organize volunteers to chair/help with scheduled events. The committee also organizes and maintains a list of members volunteering to provide refreshments for club meetings.

To enhance communication, a public relations standing committee will be formed with the purpose of informing the community of club related events through the media and club publications.

The board concurred to develop an annual service award for members who log the most hours of service to the club and its outreach events. The board also concurred that the newsletter should be expanded. Members will be encouraged to contribute to the publication.

Change in Bylaws: Article III, Section 2 states “All dues shall accompany application for membership and are payable annually, and only annually thereafter. The term of membership shall start at 12:00 midnight on June 1st and run for one calendar year until May 31st. Initial dues may be paid at any time, with the amount prorated until June 1st.” The board proposes a change of start date from June 1st to September 1st and end date from May 31st to August 31st. The rationale is to align the term of membership with the calendared start of ACA’s cycle of monthly meetings. The proposed change will be published in the March newsletter and voted upon during the club’s March meeting. Since it is a change in the bylaws, the proposal will require a 2/3 affirmative vote for passage.

New Business: The board agreed to permit John Harkey to approach ACA members for the purpose of inviting them to volunteer for trials on imaging software he has developed. This trial can involve volunteers from the club, but ACA will in no way endorse the product and the club name will not be used in the marketing of the product.

The board agreed to permit Gregg Crenshaw to present information on membership in The Astronomical Society.

The board established an ad hoc nominating committee to prepare a slate of nominees for this year’s election. Ann Ferrell and Gregg Crenshaw volunteered to serve on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

ACA NEWS AND NOTES

THANK YOU!

A special thank you goes out to webmaster Dave Jessie. Dave recently spent many hours updating the ACA website. Check it out when you are able and pass on any feedback to Dave.

LET’S PARTY!

Observatory Director Ron Kalinoski released the ACA star party dates at the February meeting. The schedule is on the ACA website and in this month’s newsletter. If you would like a hard copy of the schedule, please see Ron. Members are encouraged to pass out schedules to friends, relatives, teachers, students, librarians, and others as you see fit! When it’s a party: the more, the merrier!!

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

Members are being called upon to serve on the ACA Board for the upcoming year. If you are interested in filling a position, please contact Nominating Committee member Anne Russell, Gregg Crenshaw, or Ron Kalinoski.

FIELD TRIP!

The Burrell Observatory at Baldwin Wallace University is proud to host an open house program on Friday March 18, 2016 at 7:30 PM. Dr. Sam Stansfield will present a lecture entitled “LET’S TAKE THE A-TRAIN: How Satellite Data Help the Climate Debate” in the “Center for Innovation and Growth” (CIG). The Afternoon Train, or 'A-Train', for short, is a constellation of satellites that travel one behind the other, along the same track, as they orbit Earth. Each monitors specific aspects of Earth’s climate. Satellites that fly in close proximity to each other in a carefully planned formation allows for synergy between the missions.

After the lecture the Burrell Observatory will be open for viewing, weather permitting. This is a free lecture and no reservations are required. The CIG is located the East side of Front Street, North of Bagley Road at 340 Front Street. Parking is available next to and behind CIG and adjacent to the Observatory off of Fifth Avenue West. For questions, contact the Observatory Director at gkader@bw.edu or the Department of Physics and Astronomy at 440-826-2312.

General Membership Meeting, March 25, 2016

By Ann Ferrell



Hello fellow ACA Members and Guests, The Astronomy Club of Akron is proud to host Dr. Jay Reynolds Cleveland State University Researcher and Instructor.

Presentation: "A Visit of Two Dwarf Planets That Changed Everything!"

This year, spacecraft missions to Dwarf Planets Pluto & Ceres, have greatly changed our understanding of our rocky system. Ion propelled DAWN, visited Vesta, then Dwarf Planet Ceres and surprised astronomers and geologists alike. DAWN sent up photos of surface features and behaviors which were not expected. The DAWN mission will go silent this year and Dr. Reynolds will view some of the highlights and possible explanations. Also, this past July history was made by the first 'flyby' of Pluto, and its moon Charon. As the NEW HORIZONS spacecraft approached Pluto, most scientists expected old, dull, pockmarked worlds. They instead found surfaces with a rich history of old AND new features generated by internal heat sources. Join us to see Ceres and the newest images from Pluto! 3D Glasses provided.

Dr. Jay Reynolds Research Astronomer at Cleveland State University, a member of the NASA Speakers Bureau, and is acclaimed as the area's most Visible Scientist.

Dr. Reynolds is a Research Astronomer at Cleveland State University, is a member of the NASA Speakers Bureau, and is acclaimed as the area's most Visible Scientist. He was and is a contributor to NASA, presently on the DAWN Project. He gives over 30 talks a year, and is frequently on radio and television.

Meeting location: Portage Lakes Kiwanis Civic Center, 725 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron 44319, 8 p.m. The ACA will host a dinner for our speaker at 93 Prime Anthe's, 4315 Manchester Rd. --6 p.m. Contact Ann Ferrell for reservations: annhagemaster@gmail.com.

Whenever we go to other planetary bodies, we learn more about earth, how unique it is, how it formed and how it compares to other bodies.

Clear skies!

*Article By Ann Ferrell,
ACA Vice President*

General Meeting Minutes February 28, 2016

8:09 pm, Call to order

Meeting agendas and 2016 Observatory Schedules and the minutes from our Feb. 21, 2016 Executive Board Meeting were distributed.

Official Reports

New Business: Ann made a recommendation that we create several development committees, I.E. Public Relations, Fund Raising, Planning, just to mention a few.

Lew Snodgrass the reimplementation of ACA membership cards.

Old Business: Ron gave us an update on fence work at our observatory site: Our fence should be ready for staining by mid-April (weather permitting.)

Discussion of an agreement reached at our last board meeting pertaining a change in our by-laws regarding membership term dates. See the minutes from the Executive Board Meeting of 2/21/2016 for details on the change in our by- laws. Dave Jessie mentioned updates to the ACA website.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25

Guest speaker: Phil Creed, Presentation on "Ocularology"



Astronomy Club of Akron 2016 Observatory Schedule

5031 Manchester Road, Akron, OH

www.acao.org

- The following events are open to the public. Please join us for stargazing and educational activities.
- Events will be cancelled if skies are cloudy. If skies are questionable, please call for the latest information: 330-837-5848
- This is an outdoor activity in an unheated environment. Nighttime temperatures drop rapidly, even during summer. A general rule of thumb is dress for 15 degrees colder than predicted nighttime low temperature.
- Please be considerate of those who bring their own telescopes. Children should be supervised at all times. Pets should be left at home.
- Please, no smoking in or near the observatory or on the surrounding grounds where club members have set up their telescopes.

March 5 – 7:00pm

See Orion Nebula with 16" observatory telescope, one of the most spectacular celestial objects. We'll also view Pleiades through wide field telescope. An ACA member will take you on a Sky Tour of Winter Constellations.

March 12 – 7:00pm

Come out this evening to view intergalactic wanderer NGC 2419. This globular cluster is 304,000 light-years distant and near zenith tonight.

April 2 – 8:00pm

Special Event: *Messier Marathon* – stay all night to observe all 110 Messier objects with ACA members. Best Free Coffee in Akron will be brewing all night.

April 9 – 8:15pm

Galaxy Night: Come out tonight to observe Bode's Galaxy, Cigar Galaxy, & Whirlpool Galaxy. We'll try to observe elusive Mercury at sunset.

April 30 – 8:30pm

Jupiter is well placed for evening observing; view equatorial bands and Galilean Moons. Ghost of Jupiter also well placed.

May 7 – 7:45pm

Telescope Seminar: Our members will describe advantages & disadvantages of each type of telescope. Observing session to follow.

May 28 – 9:00pm

Observe most distant object within reach of the observatory telescope: Quasar 3C273 is 2.4 billion light-years away & receding from us at 16% the speed of light.

June 4 – 9:00pm

Mars reached opposition on May 22nd. Mars is closest to Earth at this point in its orbit and best for observing Martian surface features; however, well-placed in sky later in evening.

June 25 – 9:00pm

View Saturn, its moons Titan, Rhea, & Dione, and famous Cassini Division within ring system. Ring tilt is near maximum as seen from Earth: currently 26 degrees.

July 9 – 9:00pm

Come out to see a 5-day old Moon. This is one of the few star parties where we do lunar observing. See craters, mountains, rills, & seas on lunar landscape.

July 30 – 9:00pm

Tonight we'll be observing double stars: optical doubles, visual doubles, and multiple star systems. ACA member will take you on a Sky Tour of Summer Constellations.

August 27 – 7:45pm

WOW! Spectacular conjunction of Venus & Jupiter with a separation of 0.06 degrees! Very Sweet! However, very low on horizon; we'll try to observe early.

September 3 – 7:45pm

Presentation: *Dark Energy & the Cosmological Constant: A Truly Repulsive Topic* – globular cluster viewing to follow.

September 24 – 7:45pm

Planetary Nebulae Night: Ring Nebula, Cat's Eye Nebula, Blue Snowball, Blue Flash Nebula, & Blinking Nebula.

October 1 – 7:30pm

Classical Musical Night: Listen to the best musical selections of Mozart, Bach, & Vivaldi by which to gaze at the stars.

October 22 – 7:00pm

Orionids Meteor Shower: We should see about 15 meteors per hour while stargazing at ET Cluster & Saturn Nebula.

October 29 – 7:00pm

View Andromeda Galaxy & Herschel's Double Cluster. An ACA member will take you on an Autumn Sky Tour.

*** We hold unscheduled star parties when skies are clear. For an e-mail notification of impromptu star parties send a message to ACAstarparty@att.net to be added to the list. For private star parties (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church Groups, School Groups, etc.) send a request to the same e-mail address.

The Night Sky

Newsletter of the Astronomy Club of Akron

c/o Jason Shinn, Editor
1026C Rocky Brook Dr.
Akron, OH 44313

The Astronomy Club of Akron
c/o Glenn Cameron
169 Hillside Dr.
Wadsworth, OH 44281

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,