



The Observer

A Publication of The Cuyahoga Astronomical Association
 PO Box 868, North Olmsted, OH 44070
 CAA Homepage: <http://www.cuyastro.org>

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Night Sky Network

Astronomy Clubs bringing the wonders of the universe to the public



CAA CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2015

| Date | Time | Where | What |
|--------------------|--------|------------------|--|
| Monday, February 9 | 7:30pm | RR Nature Center | <i>The Cassini Mission, Saturn and more!</i> by speaker Jay Reynolds |
| Monday, March 9 | 7:30pm | RR Nature Center | <i>Star Clusters, What they are and how to find them!</i> by speaker Jim Guilford |
| Monday, April 13 | 7:30pm | RR Nature Center | <i>(Tentative), Orion EFT-1, Test Launch of the Orion Space Capsule</i> by speaker Matt Franduto |
| Monday, May 11 | 7:30pm | RR Nature Center | <i>Astrophotography for the Beginner and Intermediate</i> by speaker Dave Watkins |

Our observatory is located in the Medina County Park District's Letha House Park, 5800 Richman Rd., Chatham Twp. OH 44256.

CAA Astrophoto Display

Our club has been invited by the Cleveland Metroparks to present a 2-month display of astrophotography by our members on the Gallery Wall at the Rocky River Nature Center.

The display is scheduled for September and October 2015. A sign-up sheet is available at our meetings for members who are interested.

Photos can be any size, but must be mounted in a frame or on foam board for display. Photos must

be ready for display by the end of August. The Rocky River Nature Center is the flagship of the Cleveland Metroparks system. Thousands of visitors come to the center each year

We have many members who are skilled astrophotographers. The display offers an opportunity to show your work. Participants can also sell their photos or copies if they wish.

February Monthly Meeting

Our CAA meeting this month will be held on Monday, February 9, at the Cleveland Metroparks' Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmsted.

Our speaker at 7:30 p.m. will be Jay Reynolds, who will give a presentation about Saturn and the Cassini Mission.

Jay is a research astronomer who teaches at Cleveland State University. He is featured frequently on local TV news discussing astronomical topics.

Jay is also our club's observatory director and is president of the Cleveland Astronomical Society (CAS). Our monthly business meeting will follow his presentation.

Avon Schools Science Night

We have been invited to participate again in the annual Avon Schools Science Night from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, at the Avon Heritage North Elementary School.

A large number of science-related organizations participate in this annual program. Each participant has a display area in a classroom or other part of the school.

The program starts with set-up at 4:30 p.m. Pizza, cookies, and soft drinks are served to participants at 5:30 p.m.

Our club has helped with this program for a number of years. Once again, volunteer help will be greatly appreciated!

We will need display materials, such as telescopes, astrophotos, and other astronomy related material. I'll have a sign-up sheet and further information available at our February and March meetings.

—Bill Murmann

Solar Storm Watchers Wanted

Scientists at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England need help in examining about 25 terabytes of data that have been recorded by space probes studying the Sun. They need volunteers to examine and help categorize about 100,000 images taken so far of solar storms and other solar activity.

If you would like to help with real science, become a solar storm watcher. For further information, check the website at www.solarstormwatch.com.

Welcome!

Welcome to new members Dr. Chandra Mohan Thippanna and Scott Schneider, who joined CAA last month at our January 12 meeting.

If you have an interest in astronomy, please consider joining CAA. Everyone is welcome. You don't need to own a telescope or be experienced.

Special Programs

Baldwin-Wallace University—BW observatory director and CAA member Gary Kader will host a lecture at the CIG hall at 7:30 p.m., followed by an open house at the university's Burrell Observatory on Friday, February 13.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Karen Lewis, assistant professor of physics at the College of Wooster, who will present a free lecture on "Active Galactic Nuclei."

The university's CIG hall is located at 340 Front Street in Berea, about 300 hundred feet north of the Bagley Road intersection. Free parking is available behind the hall.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History—At 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, Dr. Volker Bromm associate professor of astronomy at the University of Texas Austin, will present a lecture on "Stars and Galaxies at the Dawn of Time."

The free lecture will be held at the museum's Murch Auditorium in University Circle at 1 Wade Oval, in Cleveland. On clear evenings, the Museum's Ralph Mueller Observatory will be open after the lecture.

Limited parking is available for \$6 in the museum lot. For further information, please call (216) 231-4600.

Robot Telescope for Cloudy Nights

If you are tired of looking at our cloudy skies, you can do some remote observing at a reasonable price with the Bradford Robotic Telescope on Mount Tiede in the Canary Islands.

The remote observing program, operated by the University of Bradford in Great Britain, features an Internet controlled 14-inch cassegrain robotic scope on an equatorial mount with three cameras and a set of 12 filters.

You can take limitless pictures with this fully-automated rig for only three British pounds per month, which converts to about \$4.50 per month in U.S. currency.

The website offers online image-editing tools, a forum, and other features. For further information, or to join the program, go to www.telescope.org.

Highlights of Our February Skies

Our thanks to Sky & Telescope magazine and to Orion Telescopes & Binoculars for this brief list of what-to-see in February.—Bill Murmann

Triple Conjunction—On February 20, there will be a triple conjunction of Venus, Mars, and the waxing crescent Moon low in the western sky about an hour after sunset. Good opportunities for photos and viewing through a wide field scope.

Half-Degree Conjunction—Between 7 and 8 p.m. on February 22, Venus and Mars will be a half-degree apart while setting in the western sky. Another opportunity for photos and viewing through binoculars or a wide field scope.

Bright Pair—Throughout February, Jupiter and the Great Orion Nebula (M42) will be shining bright in the night sky. Jupiter will reach opposition on February 6, the point in its orbit when it will be opposite the Sun as seen from Earth.

Star Clusters—Look to the east of Sirius for M46 and M47, two star clusters in the constellation Puppis. M46 is an open cluster featuring about 500 stars that are 5,000 light years from us. Nearby M47 features 50 stars at a distance of 1,600 light years. M47 is known as the “Lost Messier Object” because its coordinates were wrong. In 1959, however, astronomers “found” M47 after realizing that it was one and the same with NGC2422.

Big Dipper Galaxies—From a dark-sky site like Letha House, look off the leading edge of the Big Dipper for bright galaxies M81 and M82. They are above and to right of mag 2 star Dubhe, the top star on the right side of the Dipper’s bowl. M82, known as the “Cigar Galaxy,” is an active starburst galaxy that is 12 million light years from us. M82 is creating new stars in a relatively small area 10 times faster than star creation in our entire Milky Way galaxy.

Hubble’s Variable Nebula—See if you can observe this small 9th magnitude cometary nebula in the constellation Monoceros. This is the first-light object seen through the Hale Telescope at Mt. Palomar by astronomer Edwin Hubble on January 26, 1949. Also known as NGC 2261, it can be found at RA 6h 39m and Dec +8 49’.

Kemble’s Cascade—This cascade of 15-25 stars is an asterism that can be found in the constellation Camelopardalis. The cascade of 5th to 9th magnitude stars seems to flow from northeast down to the southwest, ending in open cluster NGC 1502, a group of 45 stars that can be found at RA 04h 07m and DEC +62 20’. Kemble’s Cascade is best viewed with 7x50 binoculars.

Double Cluster—The famous Double Cluster (NGC 884 and 869) are a binocular highlight located between the constellations Perseus and Andromeda. The two open clusters are “young” at only 12.5 million years old. They appear side by side, are 7,600 light years from us, and contain 300 blue-white supergiant stars.

Secretary's Report—CAA Meetings January 12, 2015

Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

President Bill Murmann welcomed David Nuti and Robert Wiersma to the Board.

Decisions will have to be made regarding this year's Christmas dinner. Out of a membership of 100, only 17 members and a few spouses attended December's dinner at Ferris Steak House.

We have not yet received an invitation to Avon Schools' Science Night to be held in March.

Public Programs at Letha House will be held between May 23 and October 17.

On September 27 there will be a lunar eclipse. Jay Reynolds proposed doing a public program at Edgewater Park.

Astronomy Day will be Saturday, April 25 this year. We have to decide what to do for it.

New Horizons will arrive at Pluto July 14. Jay is planning a program in observance of it.

Presentation & Business Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Tim Campbell presented Matt Franduto's program "My 2015 Calendar Story" because Matt had to be out of town that night.

President Bill Murmann called the business meeting to order after the break.

Treasurer's Report: The club has a total of \$7398.

Secretary's Report: No report because there was no meeting in December.

President's Report: Avon Schools' Science Night will be March 12 at the Heritage elementary school.

Six star parties have been scheduled at Letha House for 2015. The first will be May 23, the last October 17. Other star gazing events will be planned.

Our annual convention will be held Saturday, July 18, at Letha House.

Dave Nuti and Bob Wiersma were welcomed as new board members.

Our 2014 Observing Permits can still be used until the new permits for 2015 are issued. We have to pay the bill in February for our 2015 liability insurance and offer proof of insurance before the metro park districts will issue the new permits.

Bill thanked John & Isabel Tobey for volunteering to bring the donuts and coffee to our meetings for the past four years.

Vice President's Report: 24 people attended our annual Christmas dinner. We will be discussing plans for this year's dinner.

Jay Reynolds will speak about Saturn and the Cassini Mission at our February meeting.

Jim Guilford will speak on star clusters at our March meeting.

Library Committee: No report.

Observatory Director: No report.

—Steve Gallant, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

CAA Financial Report January 2015

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|----------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Bank Bal. | 6,804.68 | Expenses - Bank | |
| Beginning Petty Cash | 593.61 | Annual P.O.Box Rental | 128.00 |
| Total Beginning Cash | 7,398.29 | Misc. | 19.07 |
| Income - Bank | | International Dark Sky Association | 50.00 |
| Memberships | 155.00 | Observer Handbook | 107.80 |
| Interest | 0.07 | | |
| Income - Petty Cash | | Expenses - Petty Cash | |
| Donations | 18.08 | Refreshments | 21.00 |
| Membership | 50.00 | Net Bank | 6,654.88 |
| | | Net Petty Cash | 640.69 |
| | | Net Cash | 7,295.57 |

—Suzie Dills, Treasurer

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