Membership News

By Michelle Lierl Gainey

Hello Friends!
ScopeOut on September 10 was a big success! I noticed a lot of happy people who were engaged in learning activities and enjoying the interactions with our many volunteers. Thanks again to Dale Zoller and his team for organizing this event, and to all the volunteers.

The Observatory will be participating in the Mini Makers Faire, sponsored by the Cincinnati Museum Center, on Saturday and Sunday October 8 and 9, 11 – 6 each day, at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds. The purpose of this fair is to showcase creativity. Aaron Eiben will be bringing some of his wonderful hands-on learning activities. Have you made something pertaining to astronomy or physics that you would like to demonstrate at the Faire? If so, please contact me at mlierl@fuse.net and we can arrange for you to participate. People can choose to attend on Saturday, Sunday, or both. For more information about the Maker Faire, see this link: http://www.cincymuseum.org/events/cincinnati-mini-maker-faire

The October FOTO meeting will be held on October 10, starting at 7:30 PM. Please note: we will be meeting in the MITCHEL building as there is another event scheduled for the Herget building that evening. We will use the back lawn for parking.

Thanks for all you do to support the Observatory!
ScopeOut 2016

By Dale Zoller

ScopeOut 2016, the Observatory’s annual open house and STEM-fest was a great success. We had one of the largest crowds of the past several years due in large part to grants from Duke Energy and P&G which allowed for free admission. The weather cooperated for the majority of the event with bright sunny skies and warm temperatures, which helped boost attendance.

We had several new exhibitors this year. The “Fantastic 5” Lego Robotics Team hosted a Lego creativity demonstration table in the Science Tent which provided activities where participants (kids and adults) could invent a product, learn robotics, and complete engineering challenges.

The UC CubeCats (a student-run organization at the University of Cincinnati) had an exhibit highlighting their work on developing “CubeSats,” which are small satellites developed by universities that will provide low-cost access to space exploration. Both groups also gave well attended classroom talks during the afternoon. As part of our environmental activities, the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance had a table where they provided educational activities and information on their “solar assessment” programs.

The rockets were a bit hit; Aaron and Zac also helped kids make bottle rockets to launch!

A new addition to the Science Tent was a table where kids (and I’m sure a few adults) built “bottle rockets” (based on a 2-liter pop bottle) and launched them from a “pad” constructed by Aaron Eiben (the Observatory’s Outreach Scientist). They were joined by the group from Cincinnati’s new model rocket club QUARK in a friendly competition launching rockets over the Observatory’s “eastern test range.”

A special thank you goes out to Jim Groen and the “Marine Corps League” organization for providing volunteers for the parking detail. They did a great job handling the large crowd.

We also had many returning exhibitors. For the fifth consecutive year, FOTO members Bob and Jerry Stenton set up their “Meteorite Hunt” which let kids find (and take home) a real “space rock” using sticks tipped with a magnet.

For the third year, Stratus Helicopters had one of their helicopters on static display. Kids and adults had the opportunity to sit in a helicopter and learn about how they work.

Thanks also go out to Stratus for again providing one of our major raffle prizes! In the main tent, iSpace returned with a variety of hands-on, STEM-related activities. AIAA again had their table where kids could build and launch miniature rockets. In the Science Tent, the students from the UC Physics Department once again provided a variety of hands-on science activities.

And thanks go out to “Mustard’s Last Stand” (Terry Willis and family) for
providing food service during the afternoon.

Did I mention the weather? Disproving the old adage “lightning never strikes twice in the same place,” for the second year in a row we were hit by a thunderstorm about 4:30 pm. This year’s storm was much more intense, but most vendors/exhibitors were able to dismantle their displays before the storm hit. We again had to hold the raffle drawing inside due to the storm.

Copernicus manages to convince Rheticus of the validity of the heliocentric theory, and it was Rheticus that helped Copernicus publish his famous book that changed our view of our place in the universe. As a special treat, Ms. Sobel and Dean Regas performed several scenes from the play.

Finally, thank you to the dozens of volunteers who helped make ScopeOut 2016 a success. And special thanks to Observatory Director Craig Niemi for all the behind-the-scenes work he does contacting the vendors and exhibitors, arranging publicity, and countless other details.

More ScopeOut Photos
From Michelle Gainey

Despite the soggy conditions, we were able to have dinner outdoors in the big tent, once again superbly catered by "Venice on Vine."

Following dinner, we were treated to a presentation by keynote speaker Dava Sobel (author of Longitude and Galileo’s Daughter). Her talk introduced her new play “And the Sun Stood Still” in which Ms. Sobel imagines the encounter between Georg Rheticus, a young German (and Lutheran) mathematician who had travelled hundreds of miles to Poland to meet the famous Catholic cleric and astronomer, Nicolaus Copernicus.
History Notes

By John Ventre, COC Historian

“Committees for the Laying of the Corner Stone.”

In 1843, the Members of the Board of Control of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society appointed six committees to make arrangements and conduct the ceremonies for former President John Quincy Adams laying the Observatory’s corner stone.

The Committees consisted of Reception; Ceremonies; Reception of Strangers; Tickets, Medals & Badges; Preparation of the Grounds for the Celebration; and Preparation of Suitable Deposits for the Time Capsule in the Corner Stone.

Professor Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel was appointed a member of each of these committees.

Principal Source: Minutes of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society, Board of Control, Nov. 28, 1843.

Did You Know...

Some asteroids have their own “moons”.

Sit, Stay, Stargaze!

Sunday, October 2nd 1-4 pm

The Cincinnati Observatory is partnering with local animal adoption organizations and pet-based businesses for the first annual Sit, Stay, Stargaze event. Meet pets available for adoption from The League for Animal Welfare and Our Gang Rescue. The event is presented by Red Dog Resort and Spa.

SuperMoon!

Saturday, Oct. 15th 6-9 pm

Not all Full Moons are created equally? These SuperMoons make the Moon appear 14% bigger in the sky.

Join us at the Observatory to watch the SuperMoon rise above the eastern horizon at 7:03pm and see for yourself.

SuperMoon includes tours of the two Observatory buildings and viewing through the telescopes of planets and stars (weather permitting).

$5 per person
No reservations needed. Great for all ages. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, and picnics.

Topics with Dean Regas

The Stars of the Fall Sky
Tuesday Oct. 18th 7pm

Constellations of the Season
Wednesday Oct. 26th 7pm

Ancient Astronomy
Tuesday Nov 15th 7pm

History of the Telescope
Wednesday Dec. 14th 7pm

These fun and laid-back classes for beginners focus on a variety of topics and will surely keep you looking up!

$15 per person $12 for members.

Sign Up Online or call 513-321-5186.
A Total Solar Eclipse Crosses the U.S.  

The Cincinnati Observatory Center, Friends of the Observatory, and the Cincinnati Astronomical Society are making plans to travel to the centerline to observe the Total Solar Eclipse. If you are interested in making this trip, now is the time to contact the Cincinnati Observatory to add your name to the list.

At this stage, we are searching out observing sites and lodging near the centerline path in the Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee area. This is the closest the path will pass to the Cincinnati area.

From these states, the eclipse will happen during the mid-day hours. Lodging is being considered for Sunday night.

A questionnaire* is available from the Cincinnati Observatory Center to gather information on what you would like to do. Please complete this survey promptly and return it to the Observatory.
Total Solar Eclipse
(continued)
This is your chance to travel along with your friends to see Nature’s Greatest Event!

- Here is the link to the online survey mentioned in this article.

https://cincinnatiobservatory.formstack.com/forms/2017eclipse_survey

For more information contact Tom East, Eclipse Chairperson at animaastr@gmail.com.

Lifelong Learning

Understanding the Tides
Wed. Oct. 5. 26th 7 pm

Behind the Scenes at the Cincinnati Observatory
Tues. Oct. 11. 15th 7 pm

Stargazing 101
Wed. Oct. 26th 7 pm

Binocular Astronomy
Mon. Nov. 21st 7 pm

$29 per person. Sign up online.

Tour the Observatory

Sundays, Oct. 9th & Oct. 23rd
Drop in between 1-4 pm

The Fall Skies

Need help with your telescope? Get expert tips setting it up and exploring the night sky. Stargazing begins at dusk. Open to all ages. Stargazes are weather permitting.

“Like” Stonelick Stargazers for weather and schedule updates.

The Mt. Adams Observatory cornerstone was saved and relaid in Mt. Lookout.

Stop by for the whole story or just the highlights. It’s all fascinating and connects our past with your future. Free for members. Group tours by appointment.

The Ultimate Educator’s Expo

Staff and volunteers recently brought hands-on activities and solar telescopes to the Cincinnati Zoo for 2016 Ultimate Educator Expo. The event, hosted by the Zoo in partnership with Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE), brought hundreds of teachers to the Cincinnati Zoo’s Schott Education Center.

Future Astronomer!

Katie, Collin and dad Jarrid are all doing well. We are looking forward to Katie’s returning soon to our education staff.
Soon to Be a Best Seller!

From Super-Secret Spacecraft to Volcanoes in Outer Space, Extraterrestrial Facts to Blow Your Mind!

Dean Regas’ first book will take you from the Earth to the edge of the universe and back. You may not boldly go where no one has gone before, but your imaginations will soar among the stars, see constellations from different perspectives, and fall into a black hole.

It’s available in the Observatory Gift Shop, on Amazon.com or be part of the book signing at Joseph – Beth (Rookwood) Thursday October 27th 7pm.

Observatory Support

By Anna Hehman
Development Director

Observatory Hosts Donors for Thank You event

On Thursday, September 22, Board of Trustees hosted the Observatory’s Mitchel Society donors for an evening to thank them for their investment in our programs and mission. Food was donated by Pompilio’s in Newport, Kentucky. The guests learned about the Observatory’s 2016 successes, and about future plans moving forward.

Additionally, the Observatory will be playing an important role in the Mount Lookout Community Council’s Luminaria event, which will be held on Sunday, December 11. Check the newsletter in the coming months for more information! anna@cincinнатiobservatory.org

Membership, Member Programs & Volunteers

For New Members

With your membership, you become a Friend of the Observatory (FOTO) and join our family of amateur astronomers, history buffs, donors and volunteers.

FOTO meets on the Second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Observatory. All members and their guests are welcome to attend.

Your benefits include:
- Discounts in the Gift Shop
- Free admission to the historic landmark buildings and permanent collections.
- One-year subscription to the monthly FOTO e-newsletter
- Members-Only Facebook Page

For more information, call the Observatory at 513-321-5186.

FOTOKids Youth Astronomy Club

Saturday, October 7th 7pm

By Aaron Eiben

The Observatory’s youth astronomy club is meeting on the first Friday of the month at 7 PM in the main building. Be prepared for awesome astronomical activities and telescope viewing as soon as the stars appear! Though FOTO Kids is a benefit of the Observatory’s family membership or higher, guests and visitors are welcome. Questions? Contact Aaron at aaron@cincinнатiobservatory.org or call 513-321-5186.

Did You Know….

The bigger the black hole the faster the speed of the stars at the edge of the galaxy.
Welcome New & Renewing Members!

David & Marjorie Aaron
Beth Barton
David A. Blevens
Terra Clarke
Chris and Jeanette Duncan
Anne and Eric Eifrig
Christina Farwick
Cristian and Cerasela Ganicenco
Jim and Carol Gardner
Douglas Gibson
James Glenn
Steven and Shelley Goldstein
Jim and Sue Groen
Margaret Hanson and Brian Kinkle
Buck Hausman
Bill and Mary Hopple
Linda Huffenberger
Robert and Mary Kurimo
Leslie MacDonald
Margaret and Robert Mallow
William and Kathleen Moorman
Grant and Susan Musman
James Myers and Linda Badovick
Linda Nouri
Priscilla O'Donnell and Peter Strasser
Leslie Papa
Donald Peck
Jen Quarford
Tim and Virginia Rassi
Steve Rumberg
John J. Schiff III
Christine and Charlie Schiff

Harold A. Schuck
Scott and Kimberly Sears
Carrie Sheil
Gerald A. Shubs
Michael Sitko
Tom Stoltz
Dennis Swaney
Dwight Werren
Dale & Kathleen Zoller

Thanks for your generous support! You make what we do possible.

FOTO's October Meeting

By Dave McBride

Our program on Monday, October 10, 2016, will be a new program developed and presented by Michelle Lierl Gainey, who has been a member of FOTO since 2002.

She loves observing the night sky, learning about astronomy, and sharing this knowledge with others. She is a past Secretary and currently the Chair of FOTO, a presenter for the Astro Friday programs, and participates in sidewalk astronomy and public star gaze events.

The many globular clusters visible in our sky are favorite observing targets, and Michelle wanted to learn more about them. Globular clusters are among the most beautiful, strange and interesting objects in the universe.

Please join Michelle at 7:30 pm to explore some of the questions about these "jewel boxes" of the night sky.

A2Z+ Astronomy with Dave Bosse

“Shoot the Moon”

Sunday, October 16th 7-9pm

By Dave Bosse

Progressing towards the August 21st, 2017 Great American Eclipse, we have studied the Sun this past month and now we move on to the Moon. Aspects of the Moon are a fairly important component of eclipses and at this month’s A2Z+ Astronomy class we’ll take a closer look at the geology and formation of the Moon. Sort of a “what? and why?” the Moon.

Come join us on Sunday October 16th at 7:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time in the West Wing of the Herget Building for the October edition of the A2Z+ Astronomy class. The A2Z+ Astronomy class meets the third Sunday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the West Wing of the Herget Building. No pre-requisite knowledge of Math or Astronomy is necessary. The group meets for about an hour or so and is FREE to any member of the Observatory.

Did You Know…

The Sun produces at least 120 watts per square meter at Earths’ surface.
Craig's Corner

By Craig Niemi, Executive Director

Our thanks to everyone who worked so long and hard to make ScopeOut 2016 a great success!

The rough count is over 375 amateur astronomers, science buffs and families who came out during the day to experience the best in STEM-based science programming. Our thanks to the P&G and the Duke Energy Foundation for making the day’s events free for all. A special thanks to Venice on Vine for catering a great dinner as a prelude to Dava Sobel’s talk. And of course thanks to Mitchel Society contributors for all their generous support. Mitchel Society contributors are those with cumulative giving of $500 or more for the year. As you consider your year-end contributions, please remember to check with your company to see if they offer a gift matching program. GE for example continues to match their employees’ gifts dollar for dollar!

All our donors - though their time, talent and financial support - makes possible all our amazing programs-like ScopeOut.

Volunteers!

Telescope Pointing and Assistant Training
Monday, October 3rd 7pm

Our talented volunteers host the majority of the Observatory’s public programs. Two very important roles are operating a telescope and Volunteer Assistants (Telescope Pointing) who provide a number of guest relations, gift shop and supporting roles. For more information on volunteering contact Dean at 513-321-5186 or dean@cincinnatiosbservatory.org

Borrow a Telescope!

By Dean Regas

As a member of the Observatory you can borrow a scope though the FOTO Telescope Loan program. For more info please call Dean at 513-321-5186.

The Observatory by Day

The Observatory is open Noon to 4 pm Monday through Friday! Stop by for a tour!

September Member’s Meeting Highlights

By Anne Schmid

Craig and Dale kicked off the September meeting with a review of ScopeOut 2016. It was also announced that the FOTO Forum will no longer be used, and that there is a new clock drive for the Mitchel scope. Dave Bosse then gave a very interesting presentation on longitude and the standardization of time.

Astronomy Evenings at the Observatory

Thursday Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27th
Friday Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28th
7:30-9:00 pm

Awesome presentations, Q&A, tours and stargazing. Go online for additional dates.
It Was a Great Outdoor Weekend!

Over 400 visitors came out on September 24th to experience some of the best that the Observatory offers. All were treated to great views of Mars & Saturn too.

Great Outdoor Weekend is an annual event however the Meet Me Outdoors program finder is available year-round as a get outdoors resource.

Astronomy Wisdom...

By Dave McBride

“In my studies of astronomy and philosophy I hold this opinion about the universe, that the Sun remains fixed in the center of the circle of heavenly bodies, without changing its place; and the Earth, turning upon itself, moves round the Sun.” – Galileo Galilei, in a letter to Cristina di Lorena, Grand duchess of Tuscany, 1615

Water On Europa

Europa’s ocean is thought to be buried under about 62 miles of solid ice. Which is why it was so exciting, in 2013, when Hubble spied water vapor above Europa. This water vapor may be erupting in plumes from Europa’s surface, and if those plumes are shooting up from the inner ocean, a spacecraft could potentially sample the ocean simply by swooping through the plumes--no drilling rig required.

Amazon “Smiles” On the Observatory

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to Cincinnati Observatory Center whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Next time you shop at Amazon simply start at http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1665954

Meet a Meteorite At Observatory

Saturday, November 5th 7-10 pm

Like rocks? These are Out-of-this-World.

The Observatory will be gathering the best meteorite collections in the Tri-state for the public to explore.

- See and hold rocks from outer space, including rocks from the Moon and Mars
- Learn how meteorites are formed and collected

- Discover how to distinguish meteorites from meteor-wrongs
- Adopt a meteorite! Meteorites will be on sale in the Observatory gift shop

We will also view the stars through our historic telescopes (weather permitting).

No reservations required.
Admission: $10/adult, $5/kid.

For more info call 513-321-5186 or visit: http://www.cincinnatiobservatory.org/publicevents/

Community Rewards Number for the Observatory

After a quick and easy sign up online, every time you swipe your Kroger Plus Card a donation goes to support the Observatory’s mission. No cost to you; no loss of fuel points. (The Observatory is #55142.) https://www.kroger.com/account/create
Connect with Your Observatory

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Our Partners in Science, Sustainability & Local History

Meet Me Outdoors
Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators
Museums of Historic Sites of Greater Cincinnati
National Historic Landmarks Program

The Cincinnati Preservation Association
International Dark-Sky Association