# Coming Up At The Observatory....

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optics &amp; Telescopes*</td>
<td>Oct 30</td>
<td>7p</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOTO Monthly Meeting</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
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<td>FOTO Kids &amp; Teens</td>
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<td>Dean’s Astro Class</td>
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<td>Astro Thursday</td>
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<td>Stargazing 101*</td>
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<td>Astro Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Make It-Take It”</td>
<td>Nov 17</td>
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<td>Meteor Night</td>
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<td>Stonelick Stargaze</td>
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<td>Beginner’s Stargaze</td>
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<td>Jupiter Night</td>
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<td>FOTO Kids &amp; Teens</td>
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<td>Luninaria Night</td>
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<td>*UC Communiversity</td>
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## The Word

*By Basil Rowe*

First I would like to sincerely thank all of the outgoing Trustees and Officers. President Dale Zoller, Vice President Rebecca Schundich, FOTO/COC Representative Scott Gainey, and Trustee Frank Huss: I cannot emphasize how much your time and efforts are truly appreciated!

I would also like to thank the membership for entrusting me with the office of President. I will do my best to serve you and this special place we care about.

Some of you know me, but for those who don’t I’d like to introduce myself. I was Director of IT when I retired from a local advertising company, Empower Media-Marketing, where I worked for 10 years. I started volunteering at the Observatory about 1983 when things were very different. I took a hiatus from volunteering from about 2000 to 2005, then resumed my involvement. During my hiatus major changes happened to the Observatory, so when I came back it seemed like a totally different place. My interest in astronomy and space goes way back; my father told me the first word I said after “mama” and “dada” was “star”, no kidding! I am currently serving a dual role as Secretary of the COC and President of FOTO; something unique for both organizations. Outside of astronomy my interests include geology, computers, and the Grateful Dead (yes I’m a Deadhead).

These are some of my goals as President:

- Get to know the FOTO members better. There is an incredible wealth of experience and knowledge in our membership and I want to be sure everyone has the opportunity to contribute as much as they want.
- Create a basic strategic plan that will help guide us into the future and better align us with the COC’s new strategic plan, when possible.
• Look for opportunities to streamline the operation of FOTO: meetings, communication to/from members, volunteer activities, etc.
• Ensure each of us is having fun! (partly by spending time looking through the telescopes).

Since the election I have been going through the old newsletters on the Observatory’s website, partly to get an idea what I should say in these monthly articles, partly to refresh my memory on where we came from and plan where we may go.

To use a phrase I heard somewhere, what a long strange trip it’s been. From “the creepy place at the end of the street” facing the wrecking ball to a model historic observatory, envied by other observatories throughout the nation. I don’t know if any of us can fully appreciate how fortunate we are to have this place. I am always humbled when I come here.

FOTO’s governance will be experiencing a transition with a new President, Vice President, and FOTO/COC Representative. I want everyone to know I am very interested in your thoughts so please don’t hesitate to contact me or another trustee about anything.

Leonid Meteor Shower
At Stonelick State Park

November 17, from dusk til dawn

Also amateur astronomers will be conducting a public star gaze and meteor watch at Stonelick State Park from dusk-till-dawn November 17. Programs at Stonelick are free and open to the public. Show up any time.

For further information or directions to the Observatory or Stonelick, visit www.cincinnatiobservatory.org or call 513-321-5186.

FOTO Kids and FOTO Teens

By Dean Regas

FOTO Kids and Teens will be taking a field trip in November. We will be meeting on the normal day, Friday, November 2, at 7pm (note the earlier time) at the planetarium at Northern Kentucky University. NKU astronomy professor Ray McNeil will be sharing the wonders of the sky with us. He’ll give a live show about the night sky and then share one of the featured programs. Feel free to bring extra parents and siblings because the planetarium seats 60. Plan on arriving before 7pm. For a map of the campus see: http://www.nku.edu/campusmaps.html Please park in the Kenton Drive parking garage. There may be a parking fee, but hopefully not! From there go to the Dorothy Westerman Hermann Natural Science Center (labeled SC on the map). Dean Regas and Leo Sack will be there to meet you. If you have any questions please email Dean at dean@cincinnatiobservatory.org

Hope to see you there!

Members’ Astronomy Class

By Dean Regas

Looking for more astronomy? I’ll be leading another intermediate class for members on November 7 at 7 pm at the Observatory. There are a lot of new planets in the news, and I’ll get you up to speed and maybe demonstrate how we know the distances to stars. If you haven’t signed up for this class yet, please email me to join at dean@cincinnatiobservatory.org

UC Communiversity
Continuing Education Classes

By Craig Niemi

October 30th: Optics: Inside a Telescope

November 14th: Stargazing 101

All classes $18 per person (+ any materials fees.) To register contact UC Communiversity at 513-556-6932 or online www.uc.edu/ce/commu.html
New Mt. Adams Mural Includes Reference To the Observatory

John Ventre

A new Mt. Adams mural that depicts the history of Mt. Adams was dedicated on October 16. The building-size mural includes an image of Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel, the Observatory's founder, the Cincinnati Observatory building, and a reference to John Quincy Adams' dedication speech. Dr. James Steiner, a former COC Board of Trustee member, provided the mural's designer with a history of Mt. Adams. Bonnie Speeg, a COC member, provided a copy of her 1840s Jane Irwin Diary that recorded a young girl's memory of attempting to attend John Quincy Adams' 1843 Observatory dedication speech. A portion of this diary is incorporated into the mural.

Other components of the mural include: Ida, the lady for whom Mt. Adams previously was named; Bishop Purcell, who built the first church on the hill; Nicholas Longworth, who owned most of the land on Mt. Adams for his grape orchard; and Longworth's daughter who started the Rookwood Pottery. The mural is a mixed media work, including: paintings, found objects, reclaimed architectural elements and mosaic.

The mural was completed by multiple artists all working through “ArtWorks” with financial support from the Mt. Adams Civic Association and the community. The next time you are on Mt. Adams stop by 1136 St. Gregory Street (just north of UDF) to view this new mural and admire the images of the old observatory that are incorporated into it.

November FOTO Planning Meeting

By Basil Rowe

The next FOTO Planning Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 6pm at the Observatory. The meeting generally lasts a couple hours. The planning meetings are open to all FOTO members. We encourage your participation in the discussion of future FOTO activities.

Meet a Meteorite At the Observatory

Saturday, November 17 7-9 pm

By Dean Regas

Like rocks? Well, these are Out-of-this-World.

The Cincinnati 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 available in the Observatory gift shop for sale. We will also view the Moon and Jupiter through our historic telescopes (weather permitting). No reservations required. Cost $7 per adult; $5 per child.

October FOTO Meeting Highlights

By Michelle Lierr Gainey

Announcements:
- The FOTO Planning Meeting will be held on Thursday, 10/18/12, 6 PM at COC. Planning meeting for November will be on 11/15/12. All are welcome.
- Dark Sky Star Parties at Stonelick Lake Park: 10/13 and 10/20, 11/10 and 11/17.
- Aashi Mital is working on a FOTO Facebook page; she asked for photos of activities at COC from members that she could place on the website.
- Dr. Mike Sitko will be giving a colloquium at UC, Bronstein Hall, on Nov. 1, 3:30-5, on a technique being used to study exosolar planets: “Adventures in High Angular Resolution Astrophysics”. Members are invited to attend this lecture.
- The A to Z Astronomy Class will be resuming next Sunday, 10/14/12 at 7 PM. Classes will be held the second Sunday of each month at COC and are free to members.
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Will be held the first Thursday in December, in lieu of the monthly FOTO meeting. The dinner is free for each volunteer and one guest; additional guests may attend for $8. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
- Great Backyard Star Count: Tom East announced that this is starting tomorrow; instructions can be found and results can be submitted at Starcount.org.

Volunteer Opportunities:
- Volunteers are needed to assume responsibility for the Dark Sky star parties. A committee will be formed to announce dates of star parties,
make sure someone is at each event to meet and greet, help to orient newcomers, and generally facilitate the star party; also someone to keep the website up to date with announcements of regular and special events, weather forecasts, etc.

- Telescopes and volunteers are needed for a stargaze in Independence, KY on 12/1/12 as part of their holiday celebration. Last year they had 10,000 attendees at this holiday event; this will be the first year they have a star gaze. If you would like to participate, contact Scott Gainey: scottgainey@msn.com

Committees: Rebecca Schundich reviewed the various committees for the membership. Sign-up sheets were placed on the tables in the rotunda, so members could sign up for committee membership during the break. Here is a list of the committees:

- FOTO Kids: volunteers needed to assist Dean and Leo with the FOTO Kids meetings, one evening per month.
- Library: Volunteers needed to help organize and catalogue the books and journals.
- Hospitality: Meet and greet members and guests at meetings and events; organize the provision of refreshments for meetings and events.
- Newsletter: solicit or write articles for the newsletter; be available to assist Bill Cartwright with the newsletter when needed.
- Dark Sky: see above
- Finance: Audit the Treasurer’s records once yearly report.
- Program Committee: arrange for speakers for FOTO meetings, special speaker events, field trips and other activities for members.
- Telescope loaner committee: Assist with maintenance of the loaner telescopes, training program for borrowers.

Dale Zoller briefly reported on ScopeOut 2012: the event was well attended and went very well.

Speaker: Dr. Al Scheide gave a short presentation on the history of Sputnik and other early satellite launches. Sputnik was launched 55 years ago, on 10/4/1957.

Speaker: Greg Huber: “10 Super Cool Events to Witness in the Solar System”. Greg demonstrated how to use the Starry Night program to show several interesting alignments/eclipses, at various dates spanning many centuries.

Elections were conducted by John Blasing, Election Chairperson.

The Candidates
Trustee: Frank Huss, Dave McBride, Aashi Mital, Al Scheide, Tom East
Secretary: Michelle Lierl Gainey
Treasurer: JoAnne Pedersen
Vice President: Tiffany Groen
President: Basil Rowe

The Elected
Trustee: Frank Huss and Dave McBride
Secretary: Michelle Lierl Gainey
Treasurer: JoAnne Pedersen
Vice President: Tiffany Groen
President: Basil Rowe

Thank you to all the candidates who were willing to serve FOTO!

Did You Know….

Saturn’s small moon Enceladus, just 300 miles across, has a glistening white surface carved with ridges and crevices. At the south pole there are cracks which are 100 degrees warmer than the rest of the moon, and spew jets of water far above its surface.

Strangely, these jets of water contain organic material!

History of the Observatory

Nov. 25
(2nd & 4th Sundays)
1-4 pm

By Craig Niemi

From the Greater Cincinnati Memory Project.
www.cincinnatimemory.org

Our talented volunteer docents from the Museum & History Committee weave the fascinating story of the Cincinnati Observatory’s rich history and the unique cast of characters that made Cincinnati the Birthplace of American Astronomy.

An ideal opportunity for our astronomy program volunteers to learn more about the Observatory and incorporate its history into your programming.

No reservations needed, except groups. See the web calendar for updates.

Music for Halloween

A NASA spacecraft has recorded eerie-sounding radio emissions coming from our own planet. These beautiful "songs of Earth" could, ironically, be responsible for the proliferation of deadly electrons in the Van Allen Belts.
http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2012/28sep_eart lhsong/
FOTO's November Meeting

By Dave McBride

FOTO’s next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, November 1st, at 7:30pm in the west wing of the Herget Building at the Observatory. Basil Rowe will present the program "Death Defying Comets: The Sungrazers." (For some biographical information about Basil, please see his column, The Word, on page one.)

Throughout history there have been many Sungrazer comets. Sungrazers come perilously close to the Sun, most are small and do not survive the intense heat. However, some of the larger ones have been the most spectacular things ever seen in the sky. Some have even been visible in daylight! Most Sungrazers give little advance warning before they put on their show, and you’ll want to be ready the next time one comes around (we MAY have a good one in Fall 2013.)

In December we will have our annual FOTO Appreciation Party in lieu of the regular business meeting. Watch for more information about this, as well as sign-ups at the meeting.

A2Z+ Astronomy Class

Meets Sunday, November 11th, 7-9 pm. Dave Bosse will discuss variable star types.

Did You Know That….

Saturn’s largest moon Titan, is home to hundreds of lakes of liquid methane, and ethane. Methane on Titan forms river valleys, and even falls as rain. Is it possible the chemicals needed for life, could be found in liquids other than water?

FOTO Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

By Tiffany Groen

As a way to say thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, we will be having our annual FOTO volunteer appreciation dinner on Thursday, December 6th, taking the place of our regular meeting. We will begin at 6:00pm with appetizers and the meal will be served at 6:30pm.

FOTO members may register during the November meeting. Members may invite up to one guest free of charge. Additional guests may be invited for $8.00 per guest. As always, appetizers and desserts are welcome, though not required. Please note if you plan to bring anything on the sign-up sheet.

If you are unable to sign up at the meeting, you can still register until Wednesday, November 28th by contacting Tiffany Groen by phone at 513-262-3811 (call or text) or by email at Astrochacha@gmail.com. We will be using the list of registered names to prepare name tags, so don't forget to check in when you arrive.

LaRosa's

513 347-1111

Curiosity Rover Digs Up Unidentified Mar's Material

This image from the Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) camera on NASA's Mars rover Curiosity shows a small bright object on the ground beside the rover at the "Rocknest" site. The object is just below the center of this image.

Late Night at the Observatory

November 9th & December 7
10:30 pm-12:00 am

And December 29th
10:00 pm-12:00 am

Looking for a unique night out? Come see what the Observatory is like after hours. You'll get to use the oldest big telescope in the U.S. to view astronomical objects that are not visible until late at night (weather permitting). These programs are recommended for adults only.

If the weather does not permit viewing, we'll have fun with some of the crazy science experiments and “adult” constellation mythology stories that we can’t share with family audiences.

Admission is $10 per person. The late nights sell out early. To make reservations please call 513-321-5186.

Curiosity Rover Digs Up Unidentified Mar's Material

This image from the Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI) camera on NASA's Mars rover Curiosity shows a small bright object on the ground beside the rover at the "Rocknest" site. The object is just below the center of this image.
Congratulations to our friends and colleagues at the Cincinnati Astronomical Society on the installation and dedication of their Ohio Historical Society marker! It was a great event with St. Antonius Troop 614 acting as color guard and leading all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Todd Portune, Senator Bill Coley, Dr. Marco Fatuzzo from Xavier’s physics department and Becki Trivison of the Ohio Historical Society spoke of Ohio’s unique role in space science and astronomy, as well as the importance of inspiring our youth to high-tech STEM careers in the sciences.

Our colleagues at iSPACE are launching their 1st annual 5K Run/Walk Into Space Fundraiser on Nov. 3rd at Scarlet Oaks! In addition to the Run/Walk, they will be providing free Family educational programs, activities and more! While parents race, kids can have FUN exploring Space Stations with cool hands-on science adventures! [http://ispacescience.org/]

The Observatory is the November Featured Perk of the Month for members of Cincinnati Public Radio. As a CPR member you receive Two For One Admission to any Thurs, Fri or Sat Astronomy Evening Program. (Excludes special events or classes) [www.publicmediaperks.com]

We are proud to join other great area attractions and businesses in support of public broadcasting. You have been watching Dean Regas on the New Stargazers, haven’t you?

And on a related note, your own Observatory Newsletter editor Bill Cartwright, has joined the board of CPR as Community Board Chair. You’ve probably heard Bill on 91.7 WVXU hosting Swing, Saturday nights from 10-11pm. Hope you’ve had a chance to visit the Observatory recently. The grounds are gorgeous in their full fall color.

Water Could Flow On Mars

These flow features, which appear and disappear with the seasons and show a strong preference for equator facing slopes, indicate the possible presence of liquid on Mars. [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121022112849.htm]
Call For Nominations:
FOTO - COC Representative

By John Blasing
Chairman, Nominating Committee
FOTO Board of Trustees

The term of our current FOTO-COC Representative will expire at the COC board meeting in May 2013. FOTO will need to elect a candidate for the position at the regular January 2013 meeting, so that the candidate can be proposed to the COC Board at its Nomination Meeting to be held in February. If approved by the COC Board, the candidate would take office in May.

The FOTO Nominating Committee therefore issues this CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for the position. The FOTO - COC Rep serves a three-year term, with service limited to two consecutive full terms. Any candidate must be a member of FOTO for at least two years prior to the election. Please note that this is a responsible position which will require a considerable commitment of time: The FOTO - COC Rep acts as a liaison between FOTO and the COC Board; and is required to attend all monthly FOTO regular and Board of Trustee meetings, as well as all quarterly COC Board meetings (12:00 noon on the first Wednesday of February, May, August, and November); and possibly other monthly committee meetings.

Our current FOTO-COC Rep is Scott Gainey. This will be the end of Scott's second consecutive full term, so he is ineligible to serve the coming term. And since Scott will not be running, the need for new nominees is urgent. Please consider making a nomination. Self-nominations are entirely proper, and are very much encouraged.

And of course, thanks to Scott for his years of tireless service!

The Variation Population

By Dave Bosse

With the season of Solstitial Druidic celebrations almost upon us, November will mark the last meeting of the A2Z+ Astronomy Class this year and we want to take it out with a bang. And perhaps maybe a burp, bump, flutter and fizzle as well. Variable stars will be the topic of the class this month, and we’ll see how some stars burp, bump, flutter and fizzle.

Every star will vary its brightness to some degree over its lifetime. However, some stars vary their energy output by tremendous amounts on time scales ranging from years down to hours and some just a few seconds!

Mark your calendars now and join us on the evening of Sunday, November 11th at 7:00 P.M. for a closer look at the zoo of different variable star types and what makes them tick.

The A2Z+ Astronomy class meets the second Sunday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the West Wing of the Herget Building, lasts about an hour or so and is free to any member of the Observatory.

Did You Know….

Astronomers have discovered that entire galaxy clusters....the largest known structures in the universe, consisting of thousands of galaxies...are moving toward the same area. And we have NO IDEA of what mysterious phenomenon is drawing them along. Whatever it is, it’s HUGE!

Did You Know….

100 tons of space dust falls to Earth every day.
Jupiter Night

Saturday, November 24th
8-10 pm

By Craig Niemi

You may have heard... You may have seen... The king of the solar system is back! Jupiter has been wowing morning star gazers months and is now heading toward primetime.

You can see the cloud tops of Jupiter and the four largest moons through our historic 1845 and 1904 telescopes (weather permitting). We will also take a closer look at the craters of the Moon.

No reservations are required for the viewing, self-guided tour, kids Jupiter craft, and much more. You get to use one of the oldest telescopes in the U.S. plus several portable telescopes outside. Drop in anytime between 8-10 pm - report to the smaller of the two buildings.

You can make reservations for the 30-minute classes at either 8 pm or 9 pm by calling 513-321-5186. After your reservations are confirmed, please report to the larger building on November 24 and you will also get access to the larger telescope. Just $7 admission.

“Make It-Take It” Teacher Workshops

Make Your Own Astronomy Education Materials & Kits!

Bring the universe to life in your classroom with hands-on, practical astronomy materials, designed by the experts and built by... you! In each workshop, you have the opportunity to make your own teaching tools, learn how to use them with lessons and activities, and then take your creations home with you! The workshop fee covers the cost of all materials. Reservations are required - call Leo at 513-321-5186 to sign up!

Upcoming Workshops:

Planetarium Projectors and Star Wheels
Saturday, November 17, 2012
Time: 12:00-2:00 PM Cost: $35

Sky Measurement Tools
Saturday, January 19, 2013
Time: 12:00-2:00 PM Cost: $35

Moon Phases & Eclipses Kit
Saturday, February 16, 2013
Time: 12:00-2:00 PM Cost: $35

Seasons, Sundials, & Solargraph Cameras
Saturday, March 16, 2013
Time: 12:00-2:00 PM Cost: $35

Did You Know That....

Every atom in your body was once inside a star that exploded. The atoms in your left hand may have come from a different star than atoms in your right hand. You are literally stardust.

Ohio Historical Marker Dedicated at the Cincinnati Astronomical Society

(L-R) Dr. Marco Fatuzzo, Brian Van Flandern, Commissioner Todd Portune, CAS President Terry Endres, Barbara Van Flandern, Michael Van Flandern, Connie Van Flandern, Sen. Bill Coley.

By Craig Niemi

On October 4th, the 55th anniversary of the launching of Sputnik, the Cincinnati Astronomical Society (CAS) dedicated their Ohio Historical Marker which commemorates the work done by CAS members during the dawn of the space-age.

During the early years of this new Space Age amateur astronomers of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society utilized their three large permanently mounted telescopes to optically track the highly reflective satellites which were often too small to carry radio transmitters. They contributed thousands of hours to the tracking of Earth orbiting satellites and confirmation of their orbits.

Dignitaries included Barbara Van Flandern, wife of the late Tom Van Flandern who headed the Moonwatch Project; Tom’s family; Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune; Ohio State Senator Bill Coley; Dr. Marco Fatuzzo of Xavier University’s Physics
Department; Becki Trivison representing the Ohio Historical Society, and Dennis Smith, Project Moonwatch participant and sponsor of the Marker.

The importance of organizations such as CAS in instilling a passion in our youth for STEM education and careers (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) was stressed by all. Ms. Trivison spoke of Ohio’s role in space science and exploration and how CAS has joined others in celebrating our state’s unique history.

www.remarkableohio.org/

Skies by Africa

By Eric and Josephine Africa

http://www.skiesbyafrica.com/Galaxies/M31.html

M31, the Great Galaxy in Andromeda, reshot for 2012 from the dark skies of Rancho Hidalgo, New Mexico. It's almost like watching a speeding freight train rushing towards us, with us unable to step out of the way or do anything about the pending collision. But we are having a grand view, aren't we?

http://www.skiesbyafrica.com/SolarSystem/Sun/2012/Transits2012/ATableOfTwoTransits.html


http://www.skiesbyafrica.com/SolarSystem/Sun/2012/Transits2012/ATableOfTwoTransitsVenus.html


Observatory to Auction
A Night at the “End of the World”

Friday, December 21st  
9 pm-1 am

By Dean Regas

The world will not end on December 21, 2012.

The Ancient Mayans knew great things about astronomy and could predict eclipses and cycles of Venus. Their calendars predicted neither gloom nor doom to come - but they gave us a great excuse for a party!

The Observatory will auction a most unique venue for you and up to 40 of your friends to survive December 21. Your 2012 rental package includes:

- Complete access to the Observatory, a National Historic Landmark
- Use of the oldest professional telescope in the U.S. to see the Moon (weather permitting)
- Presentation about the 2012 hoax by Astronomer Dean Regas, co-host of PBS’ Star Gazers
- History tours by historian, John Ventre
- Mayan punch and light fare
- “End of the World” gift bags

This would make a great, light-hearted holiday party, solstice celebration, or corporate thank you to employees at the end of the year. The bidding begins at $1500 for the evening but the experience will be priceless. All proceeds directly help the Observatory’s education programs. To bid, please visit www.cincinnatiobservatory.org

The highest bid will be updated daily. ALL BIDS must be received by October 31, at 11:59pm. You can follow the bids on our Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/CincinnatiObservatoryCenter

Beginner’s Stargaze

Friday, November 23rd, 8-10 pm  
Friday, January 18th, 7-9 pm

By Leo Sack

Calling all beginning stargazers! Want some hands-on practice using a portable telescope? Join us for an outdoor stargaze on the Observatory’s grounds. You can bring your own telescope if you have one... or, “rent” one of ours for the evening! A brief presentation will introduce you to the basics of how to use a telescope, and the best targets to look for in the sky that night. Simple star charts will be provided.

The rest of the evening will be spent outside viewing (weather permitting). You’re in charge of your own telescope – or bring a friend and share – but staff and volunteers will be available to help as needed!

Reservations are required. Please call 513-321-5186 to sign up. Admission - $7 / person. Telescope Rental - $10 / (Free for Members)

Did You Know....

A year on HD209458b is only 3.5 Earth-days long. The planet orbits so close to its star that its atmosphere is being blown away by gales of stellar wind. Scientists estimate the planet is losing at least 10,000 tons of material every second! Eventually, only a dead core of this shrinking planet will remain.
Reserve your copy of the popular 2013 Guy Ottewell Astronomical Calendars, the Ottewell Astronomical Companion and the 2013 RASC Handbooks.

The 2013 Observatory History Calendar

By Craig Niemi

Just in time for the holidays!

The “History Calendar” features all the important dates you need to remember - Observatory programs, celestial events, and the significant events in the Observatory’s unique history. Plus lots of room to add your own significant events. Dozens of images from the Observatory’s archives grace every page.

Orders will need to be prepaid on or before the November FOTO meeting.

2013 Ottewell Calendar
Retail $29.95
FOTO $22.00 total

2013 Ottewell Companion
Retail $29.95
FOTO $22.00 total

2013 RASC Handbook
Retail $27.95 + shipping
FOTO $26.00 total

Call or email me at the Observatory to preorder your copies.
craig@cincinnatiobservatory.org

Split-Personality Elliptical Galaxy Holds a Hidden Spiral

The giant elliptical galaxy M87 shows a split personality because it hides a gaseous spiral at its core. When M87 collided with a spiral galaxy 300 million years ago, it slurped up the spiral’s gases, which formed a new spiral inside the larger galaxy. (Credit: ESO)

Most big galaxies fit into one of two camps: pinwheel-shaped spiral galaxies and blobby elliptical galaxies. Spirals like the Milky Way are hip and happening places, with plenty of gas and dust to birth new stars. Ellipticals are like cosmic retirement villages, full of aging residents in the form of red giant stars. Now, astronomers have discovered that one well-known elliptical has a split personality. Centaurus A is hiding a gassy spiral in its center.

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121022122237.htm

Did You Know….

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The galaxy, M87 might hold a key to understanding our universe. Scientists found the black hole there to be two to three times more massive than previously thought. Adjusting how other black holes are measured could help scientists better understand how galaxies form.

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Did You Know….

Only 30 million years after it had formed, Earth had become a giant round ball of liquid rock approximately the size it is today.