By Valerie Niemi, FOTO Chair

Hello Fellow Stargazers,

Craig and I are back from Virginia with lots of stories and pictures from the McCormick Observatory in Charlottesville.

Plan on attending the December FOTO dinner, Saturday night December 7, where we’ll treat you to a short presentation. Seating will be limited and we’ll be taking (dinner) reservations next month beginning at the FOTO meeting on November 11.

We’re also getting closer to a date for the private tour of the Cincinnati Museum’s Smithsonian Apollo 11 tour. It’ll be late November or early December and as soon as they confirm the date back to us, we’ll get the details out to you. Wait! It’s another good reason to attend the November FOTO meeting.

The first FOTO seminar, Beyond the Eyepiece, was deemed a grand success. Thanks to all who attended, as well as all those who helped make it a success. We plan to hold two seminars next year, so if you have any ideas for a subject you’d like to covered in depth, please let me or any of your FOTO officers know. Thanks for all you do for the Cincinnati Observatory.

Nov. Observatory Member’s Meeting

Monday, November 11th
7:30-10:00pm

Dark Sky Parks, Dark Sky Reserves, Dark Sky Communities - do you know what each of these mean?

As our dark skies decrease at an alarming rate, efforts are being made locally, nationally and internationally to preserve them from encroaching night lighting. The International Dark Sky Association (IDA) has created a variety of designations, each with their own guidelines for creation, requirements and certification.

Please join us at the Observatory on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 7:30 PM to hear Tom East make a presentation on these designations and to discuss what can be done to preserve dark skies in our area.
Tom East is chair of the FOTO Program Committee and has been involved as a volunteer at the Observatory for ten years.

He is particularly concerned about the growing problem of light pollution and makes presentations to groups about what can be done to limit and eventually reverse its progression.

Meet a Meteorite

Saturday November 9th 7-9pm

Like rocks? 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 on sale in the Observatory gift shop

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

No reservations required. Great for all ages.

Admission: $10/adult, $5/kid, Free for Military Veterans and Observatory Members.

For more info call 513-321-5186.

Transit of Mercury

Monday November 11th
7:35am-1:04pm

Thirteen times every century the tiny planet Mercury crosses between us and the Sun.

This Transit of Mercury is like a miniature eclipse, and the next one will happen on November 11, 2019. But looking at the Sun is dangerous so don’t try this at home. See it all at the Observatory!

We will have safe solar viewing telescopes set up to see Mercury cross in front of the Sun from beginning (7:35am) to ending (1:04pm). Viewing only occurs if it is sunny, so watch the weather. If it is sunny, come on over to see this rare and subtly beautiful astronomical event.

Cost: $5 per person

No reservations required.

If you miss this Transit of Mercury, it won’t happen again in the U.S. until 2049!
Cosmic Kids
Monthly Astronomy Kids Club

Explore the cosmos during our new multi-disciplinary classes which help grades K-7th learn and discover topics in astronomy and investigate the wonders beyond our world.

These classes meet on the third Saturday of the month and are open to members and non-members. You may decide to take one class or the entire class series. You may also decide to stay with your child for the class or drop them off and pick them up after, parents will not be charged as participants.

Date and Topics:
November 16: Space Rocks
December 21: Planets

Times:
K-3rd Graders meet from 9-10am
4th-7th Graders meet from 11am-Noon

Members Price:
$3.00/participant per class.
Non-Members:
$10.00/participant per class

More information is online.

Reservations required. Sign Up Online or call 513-321-5186.

Astro Topics with Dean Regas

Venus & Jupiter
Tues. Nov 19th 6-8p

All About Orion
Tues. Dec 10th 7p

These fun and laid-back single topic 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.

History of the Observatory

By John Ventre, COC Historian

A Plan to Reduce the Debt

At the December 3, 1845, Board of Control Meeting the Directors of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society recorded the following report.

The President stated that the object of the meeting was to determine ways for the Society to reduce its debt.

After a short discussion of the subject it was Resolved That each member of the Society be requested to contribute a sum not less than five dollars and that the Society be directed to prepare a brochure to be printed, a circular stating the object and the necessity of this demand and that a copy be sent to each member of the Society.

A discussion then took place respecting the nature of the claims against Professor Mitchel’s expenses incurred in the erection of the Observatory, and it was Resolved That this Society recognizes and approves the debts Contracted by Professor Mitchel for the erection of the Observatory building.

It was also further Resolved That a committee of three be appointed by the Chair to enlist additional subscriptions of stock to the extent necessary for the discharge of the amounts against
the Society. Three individuals were appointed. Then 17 additional individuals were appointed.

Principal Source: Minutes of the Cincinnati Astronomical Society, Board of Control, December 3, 1845.

October FOTO Meeting Highlights

By Michelle Lierl Gainey, FOTO secretary.

Aaron Eiben, FOTO Vice Chair, presided over the meeting as Valerie Niemi was out of town. Valerie Niemi is working on arranging a field trip for FOTO members to Cincinnati Museum Center to see Smithsonian’s “Destination Moon”, which is on display at the Cincinnati Museum Center: 9/28 – Feb. 17. The Apollo 11 capsule will be on display, as well as some other artifacts from the Moon landing mission. Look for an announcement in the newsletter with a date for this event.

Our speaker was Dr. Al Scheide, “Riefler Clocks”. Dr. Scheide presented the history of the famous Observatory clocks, starting with the Time Ball (which was used to standardize time keeping throughout the Cincinnati area) and progressing through the Riefler Clocks, which were acquired by Director Porter to improve the Observatory’s time keeping capability.

Teachers- the Transit of Mercury in your Classroom.

By Samantha Pepper, Nicole Capella and Natalia Tooley

Visit our website for more information on how to bring the transit of Mercury into your classroom with projects and expert advice on how to view and photograph the Sun (and the transit of Mercury) safely.

If you miss this Transit of Mercury, it won’t happen again in the U.S. until 2049!"ly.

For more information, please call 513-321-5186.

Lifelong Learning

Enrich your life with UC Continuing Education's exciting array of noncredit short, yet in-depth, courses and educational opportunities designed for diverse audiences of all ages.

Night of 100 Astronomers
Tues. Nov. 5th 7-9pm
$39 per person.

Tour of the Universe
Tues. Nov. 12th 7-9pm
$39 per person.

Binocular Astronomy
Mon. Nov. 18th 7-9pm
$39 per person.

To register call 513-556-6932 or select your course(s) online and click Register.

FOTO Committee Planning Meeting

Thursday, November 21st 7pm
Help plan programs and events for your fellow members. Open to all.

Join our Email List!

To sign up to receive a brief monthly email about late-breaking events and programs, click here. A great compliment to this more comprehensive newsletter.
Stargazing @ Stonelick

Saturdays
November 2nd, 23rd & 30th
December 21st & 28th

Come Out and Enjoy the Dark Skies

Look for a great observing site? Interested in astrophotography? Need help with your telescope? Get expert tips setting it up and exploring the night sky. Free. Stargazing begins at dusk. Open to all ages. Stargazes are weather permitting.

“Like” Stonelick Stargazers on Facebook for weather and holiday schedule updates.

For the latest schedule visit the web calendar and sign up online.

Astronomy Nights

Thursday, Nov. 14, 21
Friday, Nov. 8, 15, 22
Saturday, Nov. 2
All are 7:00pm-8:30pm

Free for Members!

Are you in awe with the beauty of the night sky? Have questions about the Universe? This is where you can get the answers.

Astronomy Evenings include ever-changing short presentations on a wide variety of topics and plenty of time for your astro-questions. Tour this National Historic Landmark. And if clear, view the Moon, planets and deep space treasures through the historic 1845 telescope. (Program is held rain or shine)

The topics and the night sky change week-to-week/month-to-month so you can visit often to hear and see something new. Free for Members!

Sunday History Tours

November 10th & 24th
Drop in between 1-4pm

2019 marks our 176th Year!

Stop by for the whole story or just the highlights. It’s all fascinating and connects our past with your today.

$5 per person.
Free for members.

Borrow a Telescope!

By Dean Regas

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

FOTO Committee Officers

Chair-Valerie Niemi
Vice Chair-Aaron Eiben
Secretary-Michelle Gainey
Treasurer-Al Scheide
Member Representatives to the COC Board:
JoAnne Pedersen
Chuck Fairbanks
Terry Endres

To contact an Officer or Representative email craig@cincinnatiobservatory.org and I’ll forward your contact information on to them.
New & Renewing Members!

Eric and Josephine Africa
Amy and Scott Avera
Bud and Joan Baily
John Barnes
William Y. Cartwright
Andrew and Sunjoo Chun
Terra Clarke
Josh and Alison Cumby
Meredith and Chris DeBrunner
Jeannette Dehmer
Don Duke
Jocelyn and Mark Ellington
The Lewis Family
Rob and Ann Flanagan
Gregg Leeser and Michael Franklin
Louis and Mary Freese
Robert and Lori Fregolle
Jonathan Garrison
Shubhra Gupta
Rick and Mary Hahn
Erik and Emily Jaap
Jeff Pieper and Jenny Jacob
Gregg and Jeannette Jones
Samantha Kelley
Omar Khoury
Dan Kuntz
Mia and Joaquin Lastra
Lloyd Library and Museum
Nick and Donna Mancini
Linn Mangano
David J. Mason
Donna and Robert Massie
Melisse May
Connie Leber and Dave Meyer
Susan Minda
David Mitchell
Rachel and Coriandre Moore
James Morrow
Vicki and John Moseley
Amy Murdoch
Grant and Susan Mussman
Lisa Hodge and Dennis Nagel
George Nickles
Cathleen and Scott Peters
Shawna Potter
Deanna Prietu
William and Abby Redwine
Laurence and Lana Reed
Tony Rein
Joshua and Lauren Rhodes
David Robison
Mary and Robert Schall
Sandy Schluter
Steven R. Schultz
John Shepherd
Bryan and Kate Simpson
Joseph Sims
Michael Stoehr
Howard and Marcia Storm
Chris and Amy Sumner
James L. Thompson
Drew and Andrea Torbeck
Horst Guenther & Devorah Waesch
Rich Webster
Grace and Steve Wu
Isra Zuberi

Thanks to all our terrific members, donors and volunteers! We hope you will visit often in 2019!

Member Benefits

As a benefit of your Observatory membership, you are encouraged to take part in programs and events brought to you by the Friends of the Observatory (FOTO) committee. Our family of amateur astronomers, educators and history buffs. A great opportunity for COC volunteers to increase their astronomical knowledge.

We meet on the Second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Observatory. All members, volunteers and their guests are welcome to attend.

Your benefits include:

- Discounted or free admission to Friends of the Observatory (FOTO) programs
- Member’s only classes and programs
- Volunteer Training and Professional Development
- Loaner telescopes
- Free admission to Astro Thu/Fri/Saturdays
- Discounts in the Gift Shop
- Free admission to the historic landmark buildings and permanent collections.
- Use of the FOTO lending Library.
- One-year subscription to the monthly e-newsletter

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

Follow Your Observatory on Facebook

We’ve surpassed 11,000 “likes” and followers on Facebook! Visit them to stay up-to-date with our fast changing programs and stargazing news! Share our events and invite your friends to follow us.

The Observatory is on Twitter and Instagram too!
A2Z+ Astronomy with Dave Bosse

Sunday, November 17th 7pm

Dark Matter; plus, an Interstellar Comet

By Dave Bosse

November’s A2Z+ class topic is primarily set to be on the subject of Dark Matter, that elusive “we don’t know what it is because we can’t see it,” stuff that dominates the gravitational fields of the Universe. That is, of course, if our 2nd interstellar interloper (2I/Borisov), a comet of extrasolar origin, doesn’t steal that thunder. We’ll probably have to discuss both.

What we know about Dark Matter is limited to a list of things that it isn’t. We have ruled out a lot of theoretical ideas of its makeup, leaving us with a seemingly infinite number of ideas of what could be. What we know about this comet is increasing every day. Its orbit, its chemistry, its origin and destiny are all most interesting and different than every other interstellar object (one!).

The third Sunday in November, the 17th, will find the A2Z+ Astronomy class in the west wing of the Herget Building at 7:00 P.M. 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.

FOTO Committee Elections

By John Ventre, Nominating Committee Chair

The Friends of the Observatory (FOTO) is a standing committee of the Cincinnati Observatory Center (COC) Board. Its purpose is to enhance the experience of the COC membership and to support the purposes of the COC.

FOTO will be conducting its annual elections at its January meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020, 7:30 pm., at the Observatory. Four officers and one COC Representative to the COC Board will be elected. The officers will be elected for a one-year term and the COC Representative to the COC Board will be elected for a three-year term.

Nominations for these positions are currently being solicited, and nominations may also be made from the floor at the election meeting. The current office holders are as follows: Chairman – Valerie Niemi Vice-Chairman – Aaron Eiben Secretary – Dr. Michele Lierl Gainey Treasurer – Dr. Al Scheide COC Representative – Terry Endres

Qualifications: All members in good standing of the Cincinnati Observatory Center are automatically members of FOTO and hence can run for any of these offices. A candidate for any officer position shall be a member of FOTO for a minimum of one (1) year. A candidate for the COC Representative to the COC Board shall be a member of FOTO for a minimum of two (2) years.

Nominations for any of these positions may be made to the Nominating Chair, John Ventre, jeventre@ix.netcom.com. Individuals may nominate themselves.

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. https://www.kroger.com/account/create
The Observatory is once again ablaze in fall color! With the hot dry weather we had this year the predictions were not great for fall color.

Our green-space plays an important role in our “power of place.” As soon as visitors turn on to the tree-lined street, with all the gorgeous homes, they know they have arrived somewhere special.

Add in the two remarkable observatories and the historic telescopes and you have a setting where something powerful, inspiring, and authentic happens. When you add in our talented staff and volunteers, the place comes alive!

If you are part of, or know of, a STEM education, museum, civic organization or business we have several ways to introduce them to our amazing place. Invite them to an Astronomy Evening or special event like the upcoming Meet a Meteorite Night or Luminaria in December.

Individuals and small groups (up to 12) can visit on the 2nd & 4th Sunday tours or during our Monday-Friday afternoon tours. Larger groups can schedule day or evening programs.

We also can offer the Observatory as a venue for daytime business meetings, retreats or evening events. All great ways to share the Observatory with our community.

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The Observatory by Day

The Cincinnati Observatory is hosting weekday tours of our National Historic Landmark.

The tours are held at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm Monday through Friday.

Tours include both observatories and telescopes, including the Mitchel telescope- the oldest public telescope still in use in this hemisphere.

$5 per person.

Want to schedule a group up to 12? **Sign Up Online.**

Call 513-321-5186 for more information.

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Save-the-Dates

November 9
Meteorite Night

November 11
Transit of Mercury

December 15
Luminaria Night
The Observatory Staff

Craig Niemi, Executive Director
craig@cincinnatobservatory.org

Dean Regas, Outreach Astronomer & Volunteer Coordinator
dean@cincinnatobservatory.org

Anna Hehman, Development Director
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Kelsey Stryffe, Admin. Assistant & Docent
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Samantha Pepper, Education Curriculum Coordinator
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Natalia Tooley, PT Outreach Educator
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Nicole Capella, PT Outreach Educator
nicole@cincinnatobservatory.org

John Ventre, Historian
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Dr. Richard Davis, Curator
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Connect to Your Observatory

The Cincinnati Observatory Center
3489 Observatory Place
Cincinnati, OH 45208
513-321-5186
cincinnatobservatory.org

Social Media

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

Enjoy our photos & videos on Instagram.

Monthly Email List
(one-page)