Membership News

By Michelle Lierl Gainey

Hello Friends!
Our December meeting will be the Members Appreciation Dinner, on Monday December 12. The dinner will be catered by Venice on Vine; members are invited to bring a dessert or appetizer to share. Arrive at 6:00, dinner will be served at 6:30. We can accommodate a maximum of 50 people, so please sign up for the dinner in advance. If you did not already sign up at the November FOTO meeting, please e-mail me at mlierl@fuse.net. Let me know if you will be bringing a guest.

Do you have a flair for decorating? Please come to help decorate the Observatory for the holidays! We will meet in the Herget Building on Sunday, December 4 at 2 PM.

Sidewalk Astronomers: The Independence, and the Kentucky Christmas Celebration has invited the Observatory to hold a stargaze again this year. Hundreds of people attend this parade/festival and we are provided a good area to set up our telescopes. If you would like to participate, please contact Scott Gainey on (513) 289-7022 or scottgainey@msn.com.

We will not have a FOTO Planning meeting in December.

Elections for the FOTO Committee Board will be held in January. Thanks to Dave Bosse and JoAnne Pederson for serving on the Nominating Committee. If you would like to run for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer or FOTO/COC Rep, or would like to nominate someone else for one of these positions, please contact Dave or JoAnne.

Thanks for all you do to support the Observatory!
FOTO January
Election Candidates

By Dave Bosse

As per the amended FOTO By-Laws, at the January FOTO meeting (January 9th), elections will be held for the four FOTO Executive Committee officer positions and one of the three trustee positions. The offices of Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, and Treasurer hold for terms of one year while the Trustee position is for a term of three years and serves as one of the FOTO representatives on the Cincinnati Observatory Center Board of Trustees. Please consider running for election to one of these positions as FOTO and the Observatory can only benefit from your participation. The only requirement for office is that the person being nominated has been a FOTO member for at least a year. Nominations will remain open until just before voting occurs in January.

Currently nominated candidates for the various positions are:
Chair – Valerie Niemi
Vice-chair – John Blasing
Secretary- Michelle Gainey
Treasurer – Al Scheide
Trustee – Terry Endres, and Frank Huss

If you are interested in nominating someone or running for office yourself, please send an e-mail to a member of the nominating committee or contact them at the December meeting:
Dave Bosse
dave.bosse@uc.edu
JoAnne Pedersen
dyhr_pedersen@fuse.net

Volunteers!

New Volunteer Orientation
Monday, Dec 5th 7pm

Telescope Pointing Practice
Tuesday, Dec 6th 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 services, gift shop and supporting roles. For more information on volunteering contact Dean at 513-321-5186 or dean@cincinnatiosbervatory.org

Luminaria Night!

Sunday, December 11th
6:30-8:30pm

Join us for the 41st year of this Mount Lookout tradition. As the neighborhood lights up the streets, the Cincinnati Observatory will open its buildings and telescopes for the general public. Cruise from Mount Lookout Square to the Observatory for carolers, stargazing, our spacey gift shop, and hot drinks.

Viewing through the historic telescopes is included (weather permitting). Great for all ages.

Cost: Free, and there are no reservations required. For more information please call 513-321-5186.

Astronomy Evenings

Thursdays Dec. 1, 22, 29th
Fridays Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30th
Saturdays Dec. 10, 17th
All are 7:00-8:30pm

Awesome presentations, Q&A, tours and stargazing. Go online for additional dates and times, and to sign up.
**Development Update**

By Anna Hehman

This month we reflect back on the wonderfully successful year we’ve had at the Observatory! Over 10,000 students served through our Youth Outreach program and hundreds of programs made possible by our staff and wonderful volunteers.

If you have not made a donation to the Observatory in 2016, please do so by December 31st! We have sent reminders to those whose membership has lapsed or who are due to renew their membership. Your support makes possible our programming and keeping the Observatory able to serve more than 27,000 people this year!

Also, we are teaming up again with Mount Lookout Community Council on their annual Luminaria event. This event will take place on Sunday, December 11, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. We hope you’ll join us!

**Topics with Dean Regas**

**Reasons for the Seasons**

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.

**Venus Friday!**

Friday Dec. 2nd 5-7pm

Is it a plane? Is it a UFO? No, that bright thing in the west is Venus!

Come over after work or school and learn about our closest planetary neighbor and tour the historic Observatory. Then, see the clouded, shrouded goddess of beauty for yourself through our historic telescopes along with the Moon and Mars (weather permitting). Admission: $7 per person.

Great for all ages. Reservations recommended by calling 513-321-5186.

**Stargazing at Stonelick**

Saturdays – Dec. 3rd & 24th

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 holiday schedule updates.

**Did You Know...**

Mars has dust devils that can reach 6 miles high.
History Notes

By John Ventre, COC Historian

CAS’ Committee of Reception Meets John Quincy Adams.

By John Ventre, COC Historian

J.Q. Adams’ last stop on the way to dedicate the Observatory

In 1843, as the members of the newly formed Cincinnati Astronomical Society (CAS) were preparing for John Quincy Adams’ visit to lay the Observatory’s Corner Stone. Their “Committee of Reception” determined that it would be proper for some of their members to meet their invited guest—the Honorable John Quincy Adams, on his arrival in Cleveland. They had planned on escorting him to Cincinnati. Adams had traveled by steamship across Lake Erie and disembarked in Cleveland. The Committee included: Messrs. W. Greene, J.D. Jones & Wm. Stephenson.

These gentlemen proceeded to Cleveland, but Mr. Adams arrived and departure from Cleveland earlier than was expected. He departed Cleveland via a canal packet-boat Rob Roy. They met him at Kirkersville (about 25 miles east of Columbus), where they accompanied him via stagecoach to Columbus, and then to Springfield, Dayton & Lebanon, where they were met by the CAS President, Judge Jacob Burnet, several additional members of the Committee of Reception and other Society members. They all arrived in Cincinnati on November 8.

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

Tour the Observatory

December 14th

Drop in between 1-4pm

One of the heros in our story.

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.

November FOTO Meeting Highlights

By Anne Schmd

At the business meeting, holiday plans and volunteer opportunities were discussed. Tom O’Grady then gave a very interesting talk on the life and interests of John Quincy Adams. His talk included images of Adams’ own journal documenting his travels and celestial observations.

Binocular Astronomy
Mon. January 30th  7pm

Behind the Scenes
Mon. February 6th  7pm

Constellations of the Season
Tues. February 21st  7pm

Astrophysics for the Layperson
Wed. February 22nd  7pm

$29 per person. Sign up online.
Welcome New & Renewing Members

William Abner
Patti Adams
Suzette and Fred Albrecht
Mark & Wendy Armstrong
Larry & Mary Back
Bud and Joan Baily
Malcolm and Glenda Bernstein
Fred N. Bowman
Tim and Patricia Burke
Peggy Bustamante
Marcia Clifton
Jeff and Kassy Corken
Sam and Donna Dalessandro
Linda and John Deatrick
Joan Effertz
Bob and Mary Fitzpatrick
Julie Glassmeyer
Truitt Graue
Rick and Mary Hahn
Nancy and Tom Hamant
Katie Hefele
Scott and Andrea Heile
Noelle and David Houben
Charles Kamine
Mike & Susan Karbowski
Jo Ann and Kirk Kavanaugh
Scott and Theresa Kroeger
Frank Litkenhaus
Rob and Katie Magenheim
Keith Bookbinder and Maria Mason
Melisse May
Gregory Murray
Jim and Marty Neumeister
Teresa Newton
Gary Obst
Tom and Adelaide Ottenjohn
Laurence and Lana Reed
Clayton and Ann Rork
Bruce Safriet
Kim Salit
Jack and Lynn Schiff
Susan and Michael Schock
Steven R. Schultz
Andrea Slone

Carol and Mark Stephenson
Bob Stiens
Donald and Sheila Storck
Barbara and Michael Stough
Mary Sullivan and Dr.
Raymond Schultz
Jim Traynor and Molly Talbot
Jeffrey Tenney & Nicole Merrill
Matt and Homana Titus
Douglas Troy
Ann & Mike Ullman
Horst Guenther & Devorah Waesch
Stephen R. Wavra
Mollie Wentworth
Mike and Ruth Wilson

FOTO Committee Officer Nominations

By Dave Bosse

With the election of new officers of the Friends of The Observatory Committee coming up in January, the Nominations Committee (Dave Bosse and JoAnne Pedersen) is welcoming nominations for all of the FOTO Board positions. One of the three FOTO Representative COC Trustee positions is also open for election. The Chairperson, (president), Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary are one-year terms, while the COC Trustee position is for a three-year term. Consider serving in one of these positions yourself or nominate a FOTO/COC member who you think could do a good job. Nominations will continue to be accepted up until the January FOTO meeting when the elections will be held.

2017 Observatory Calendars

The 2017 Observatory calendars are here! This year we did a community-wide call for photographers and the calendar is filled with pictures of not only gorgeous astrophotography, but our beautiful building and grounds as well.

The calendars are available in the Observatory gift and make a great Christmas gift and a beautiful addition to any home or office!

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.
STEM Education
Update
Astronomy Camp
December 19-23, 9am-4pm
Looking for something astronomical for your kids to do during the first week of winter break?
Send them to Observatory Camp. Through a partnership with the Cincinnati Museum Center, the Observatory is hosting five days of astronomical activities for kids grades 2-8. You can sign up for 1-5 days by calling (513) 287-7001. More info on the Observatory Website / Public Events.

Cosmic Kids!
Youth Astronomy
By Katie Vaughn
An out of this world family experience!
Explore the cosmos during our new multi-disciplinary family class which helps grades 1st-6th learn and discover new topics in astronomy and investigate the wonders beyond our world!
This family class will be held every third Saturday of the month,

On Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017

Grades 1-3rd
9:30am - 10:30am

Grades 4-6th
11:00am - 12pm
The cost is $5/person, free admission for Observatory members. For more information please call 513-321-5186 or email katie@cincinnatiobservatory.org

Already a Best Seller!
From Super-Secret Spacecraft to Volcanoes in Outer Space, Extraterrestrial Facts to Blow Your Mind!
Dean Regas’s first book will take you from the Earth to the edge of the universe and back. You may not bodily 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.

New Members Benefits
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:
- Discounted or free admission to Friends of the Observatory (FOTO).
- Member’s only classes and programs.
- Loaner telescopes.
- Free admission to Astronomy classes on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.
- Discounts in the Gift Shop.
- Free admission to the historic landmark buildings and permanent collections.
- One-year subscription to the monthly FOTO e-newsletter.
- Access to the FOTO lending library.
- Members-Only Facebook Page.
For more information, call the Observatory at 513-321-5186.

Did You Know…
Jupiter has strange white clouds just north of the Great Red Spot which include water.
Craig’s Corner

As 2016 draws to a close I just wanted to take a moment to thank again all our members, volunteers, contributors and staff for all you do to make the Observatory Center the preeminent STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning center in Cincinnati. It has been another year of great progress in all areas of our mission.

Katie, Aaron and Dean have had a tremendously busy year with school, scout and public programs and classes. Anna has had a great year raising the funds that allow the Observatory to serve the community as well as taking on updating our business best practices. Having Kelsey onboard as our administrative assistant/docent has made a huge impact.

John Ventre, Richard Davis and the members of the history-museum committee researching the history of the Observatory and cataloguing our remarkable collection. The Trustees have been working both behind the scenes as well as out front with strategic planning and hosting visits to cultivate new supporters.

The Friends of the Observatory volunteers have again served a record number of visitors to the Astro Thursday/Friday programs, Planet Days, SuperMoons, the annual ScopeOut Fair, community stargazes, Stonelick State Park viewings and other sidewalk astronomy events. The list goes on and on. The Observatory simply could not offer the vast number of programs it does without our special volunteers and all the hours they so generously give!

Thanks to your time, talent and treasury the Observatory continues to meet the ever-growing demand for programs and exceed our visitor’s expectations.

We hope you’ll take a moment to visit the website and make a year-end contribution to the remarkable community asset that is your Observatory. Online giving is fast, easy and secure.

Happy Holidays to all and we hope to see you at Luminaria Night on the Sunday December 11th!

A2Z+ Astronomy December Class… NOT

By Dave Bosse

We will be taking our usual annual Holiday Hiatus in December so there will not be a meeting of the A2Z+ Astronomy class this month.

This gives us a chance to clear our minds for 2017 and prepare for the Great American Eclipse this upcoming August. We will be back at it in January and months following, focusing on aspects of Our Eclipse (or eclipses in general). Why August 21st? Why 2:38 PM EDT? Why North America, specifically the U.S.? Why Hopkinsville Kentucky? Why not Mt. Lookout?

The A2Z+ Astronomy class (usually) meets the third Sunday of each month at 7:00 PM in the West Wing of the Herget Building. Meetings usually last an hour or two and cover a wide range of topics Celestial, Terrestrial, Lunar, Solar or …. No pre-requisite knowledge of Math or Astronomy is necessary.

The class is FREE to any member of the Observatory.

Did You Know…

The Boomerang Nebula is a reflecting cloud of dust and gas with two nearly symmetric lobes of matter that are being ejected from a central star.
I have discovered a “goodie” that should be in every 2017 eclipse chaser’s Christmas stocking. The *Road Atlas for the Total Solar Eclipse of 2017* is a great set of maps spanning the eclipse path from west coast to east coast. The large scale maps (1 inch = 11 miles) shows major and minor roads, towns, cities, rivers, lakes, parks, national forests, wilderness areas and mountain ranges. The 8.5 x 11 inch bound atlas has the path of totality lightly shaded and the duration of the eclipse is indicated from the edge of the path to the centerline. This atlas will help anyone who is driving to an observing site get to the “right spot”. Best of all, this atlas is produced by Mr. Fred Espenak, also known as Mr. Eclipse. Espenak, a very successful eclipse chaser, has been producing Eclipse bulletins for many years and is the authority on eclipse predictions. He also maintains the official NASA website (eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov).

To order your copy just go to astropixels.com. The Deluxe Color Edition sells for $19.95 and I find it very easy to read.

Merry Christmas. For more fun information about the 2017 Solar eclipse check this out:

GreatAmericanEclipse.com

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**FOTOKids Youth**

*By Aaron Eiben*

**Saturday, Dec. 2nd 7pm**

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.

Observatory’s youth astronomy club is holding its last meeting on Friday December 2nd.

FOTOKids was the brainchild of member Chuck Strubbe and has served hundreds of inquisitive kids over more than a decade. It even launched several astronomy careers!

Watch for “Cosmic Kids” to begin January 21st.

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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](https://www.kroger.com/account/create)

The Observatory by Day

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

Did You Know...

Neptune has the fastest winds in the solar system at 1300 mph.
Drive to Alaska to See the Great Solar Eclipse of 2017

I’m Graham Davis, a FOTO member. I’m looking for one or more fellow astronomers to travel by road from Cincinnati to Alaska. Along the way we’ll enjoy astronomy, wild life and photography. When we reach the mid-latitudes of Alaska we’ll watch the “Real” Northern Lights and then see The Eclipse.

I will consider any time frame from 6 to 16 weeks. I would also like to visit some of the great National Parks on the way.

Any scenarios will be considered. We may have to rent an RV. All expenses to be shared equally.

This will be an adventure to remember! Please share your thoughts with Graham either by email at gradavis4@gmail.com or write Graham Davis, 4 Historic Way, Milford, OH 45103. phone 513-667-8637, or write Graham Davis, 4 Historic Way, Milford, OH 45103.

Connect with Your Observatory

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

Observatory Staff:

Craig Niemi,
Executive Director
craig@cincinnatiobservatory.org

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

Aaron Eiben,
Outreach Scientist
aaron@cincinnatiobservatory.org

Katie Vaughn,
Outreach Educator
Katie@cincinnatiobservatory.org

Anna Hehman,
Development Director
anna@cincinnatiobservatory.org

John Ventre,
Historian
john@cincinnatiobservatory.org

Kelsey Sturgill,
Admin. Assistant & Docent

Our Partners in Science, Sustainability & Local History

This is The End!