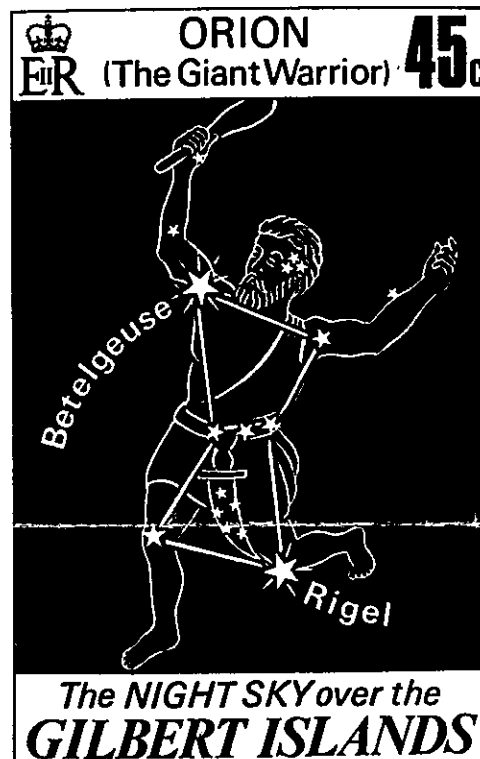
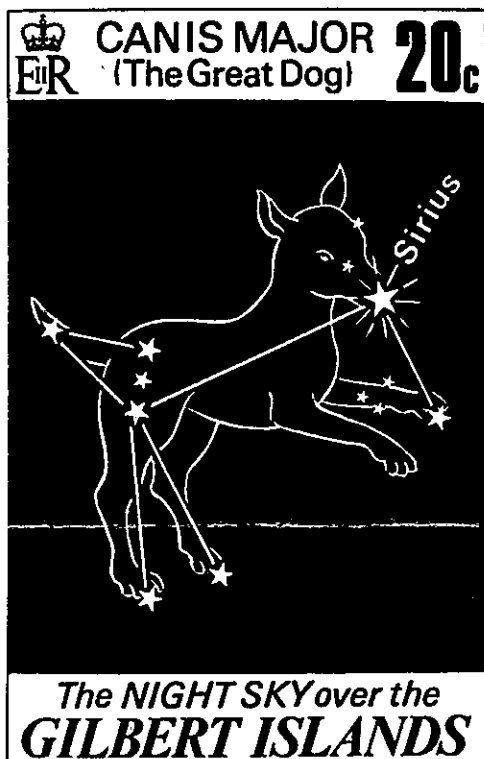


November, 1978



Slightly below the equator and smack in the middle of the Pacific Ocean lie the Gilbert Islands, literally thousands of miles from nowhere. One of the few remaining British Crown Colonies, this tiny nation thrives on the production of postage stamps for collectors. Far from any source of industrial pollution, the skies over the Gilbert Islands reveal the stars in all of their natural splendor. They have commemorated this rare gift with a set of stamps. Two of them are shown above. Orion must be particularly spectacular, as the Great Nebula passes through the zenith at this latitude.

This is the second Atlanta Astronomy Club notice produced on the 3M Copier which was recent leased by your editor's employer, Diebold, Inc. This amazing machine, unlike other copiers, is capable of rendering photographs in some semblance of their original appearance. The illustrations shown here could not have been produced on most office copiers.

Dr. Robert Roper, of Georgia Tech's Aero-Space and Geophysical Sciences Departments will present our November program. His subject will be: METEOR ORBITS FROM RADIO OBSERVATIONS. Dr. Roper is a native of Australia, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Adelaide. His fields of specialization are upper atmosphere dynamics and infra-red spectroscopy. Sometimes we forget that before meteors enter our atmosphere for their moment of glory they are astronomical bodies, revolving in orbits around the sun, and subject to the perturbations of other solar system members. It is now possible to determine the size and shape of these orbits, and Dr. Roper will describe this technique to us. The meeting will be held on Friday, November 17, at Agnes Scott's Bradley Observatory. The meeting will begin at 8:00 pm.

Our next Observing Party will be held on the weekend of December 1. If the first is cloudy, come out on the second. The location is the Walter F. Barber Observatory in Villa Rica. If you have any questions or comments, contact our Second Vice President-Observing Chairman, Bill Arnold (656-2484).

#### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

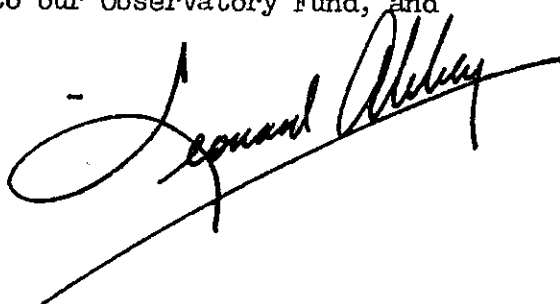
Club members interested in working as a team toward the 1979 SERAL Convention in Atlanta please contact me at home (957-9653) by November 16. We will discuss our club's hosting the convention at this month's meeting. Our decision should be given to the Region Chairman, Chuck Cole, by November 19.

This will be a great opportunity for us to meet and talk with members of other clubs which are part of the seven state SERAL (South East Region Astronomical League).

-David Speering

Members of the By-Laws Committee are to be congratulated on the fine job which they have done. Their year-long effort was completed last month. Without doubt these By-Laws truly reflect the needs and capabilities of our Club for years to come.

If you have a photograph which might be suitable for use on our 1979 calendar, please submit a copy to the Corresponding Secretary, Leonard Abbey. Proceeds from the sales of these calendars go directly into our Observatory Fund, and represent a 100% profit for the Club.



#### EQUATORIAL TELESCOPE POLAR ALIGNMENT

Orient Cross Hairs N-S, E-W

##### Elevation Adjustment

Choose a star at approximately 6 hrs.  
E or W and about  $+45^\circ$  declination.  
Track star and note declination drift.

If	E Star Drifts N	Then
	or	
	W Star Drifts S	

Elevation of Polar Axle is Too Great

If	E Star Drifts S	Then
	or	
	W Star Drifts N	

Elevation of Polar Axle is Too Small

##### Azimuth Adjustment

Track a star near the meridian and  
about  $0^\circ$  declination.

If the Star Drifts:

S - Then Polar Axle Lies - NE-SW  
N - Then Polar Axle Lies - NW-SE

Submitted by Bob Fried.