

THE ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC.

November, 1979

MEETING NOTICE:

The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc. will meet at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 16, 1979, at Bradley Observatory. Professor Scott Shaw of the Department of Astronomy at the University of Georgia will be speaking on "Computer Models of Eclipsing Binary Stars," which is the subject of his ongoing research at the university. This category of binaries has also been studied actively by amateurs and should provide for an interesting talk.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Sky and Telescope renewal rates will go up as of January, 1980. If you have received your renewal notice or if you do receive it before December 31, please send your dues, along with the yellow card, to David Speering as soon as possible or see him at the meeting.

The club would like to extend its appreciation to the following persons for their work on the Walter F. Barber, Jr. Memorial Observatory:

Bruce and Carol Hegerberg, who helped run underground power cable to the observatory.

Jay and Carol Rhoads, for painting the building.

I would like to announce the opening of a store in the Atlanta area which will be carrying Celestron telescopes. For details, contact Alan Bridges at 231-3315 (business) or 427-7724 (home).

WANTED TO BUY:

John Valentine is looking for a Celestron C-90 or a 5-inch Celestron. Call 394-2775.

Bob Troy wants a 'scope in the \$200 - \$500 range. Call 874-8726.

Tom Mason of Macon needs a small telescope. Write to Tom at 5047 Pineridge Dr., Macon, Ga. 31210.

Dr. Bob Hayward of Fernbank Science Center would like to announce the beginning of a new class entitled "Solar System: The Planets." It will be open to adults and students, grade 7 and up, and will be taught by David Dundee. It will run from December 11 thru February 26 on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., limit of 30 persons, cost \$20.00. Included will be current research and findings from the Voyager spacecraft. For details call 378-4311, ext. 33.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12 – VILLA RICA OBSERVING PARTY

Jay and Carol Rhoads, George Reight, Bob Cowart and Jim Brown set up their telescopes. Mark Christensen and Lee Wilson mounted the Maksutov, and they and Bill Close attached their cameras. Anna Belle Close attempted her first star-trail picture. Bill Arnold pointed out the constellations to Ginger Webb with a mammoth flashlight. The flashlight had a luminous collar which shone with an eerie glow after the light was switched off, appearing in the dark for all the world like a flying saucer.

Walter Barber had generously cut the grass and added another feature to the physical aspect of the site, a walk-thru gate on the house side of the fence, and we take this opportunity to thank him in print. It's going to save Lee Wilson, chief laborer at this point, a lot of fence climbing.

Prominently featured was the Ring Nebula, interesting to observe in the different instruments at varying powers. It was an object to be long remembered as seen in the Maksutov, almost filling the eyepiece, but not quite bringing out the star in its center.

There ARE new things under the moon, so to speak — the Blinking Planetary, for instance. Indirect or averted vision is used to experience this astral phenomenon. The eye travels back and forth a bit, first to look at what it cannot see, then second to sense with "perverted vision," as one wag called it. It cannot always be detected with this exercise, but if you're lucky, suddenly there's a soft, quick flash of the planetary in view. Another new goody to a veteran observer was the Saturn Planetary, NGC 7009, in Aquarius. This difficult object was featured by Bob Cowart and Jim Brown in their 'scopes — one had never seen the planetary and the other had seen it only once. On this night several people managed a glimpse of its wispy protuberances that resemble Saturn's rings seen edge-on.

Armchair astronomy is better than none, but actual observing is the best of all possible worlds. Don't short change yourself, make plans to attend a future observing session.

—contributed by abc, edited by lee

Al Beales, Corresponding Secretary