

The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc
January 1981

At the December meeting some club functionaries, otherwise known as Officers and Directors, held a brief meeting to set new guide lines for the financial operation of the A.A.C. We raised the ante to \$20.00 and \$16.00. If your club dues are due now and you get the money in to Dave Speering before the end of the month (Jan.31) you can still have the old rate. The rules are the same as before if you are young enough and in school you qualify for the \$16.00 otherwise you pay the same as the rest of us. As you know Sky & Telescope comes with your subscription so it's still a bargain.

Have you been looking at the sky this past year, thinking astronomical and doing something astronomical? Let somebody know about it by this January meeting and then get your act together for the February meeting. Program Chairman Ray DuVarney says that the members can do the February program if we convince him that we have something to show and talk about, So lets do it!!

Eugene Powell got up at 5:00 AM on the 3rd of Jan. and looked for the elusive Quadrantids. They eluded him. He had an idea that leap year may have changed the timing. Eugene's effort wasn't wasted though, in a different part of the sky he saw a bright meteor with a magnitude in the range of Jupiter. He also seen Jupiter and Saturn with a seperation of only about 1 degree. It's the first part of a triple conjunction of these two planets, the next close encounter will be sometime in March or April. If you are interested in witnessing this sky phenomenon and you miss this oppertunity it will be about 250 years before you will have a second chance.

New members are the bread and butter that keeps any club going and over the years the Atlanta Astronomy Club has received a share of new members on a regular basis. One of our newest members is a high school student from Hiram Ga., Terry Morris. Since last Dec. he has been working with a RV-6 Dynascope that he and Jim Colehour acquired from another club member, one Lee Wilson. I called Terry to find out if he had seen any of the Quadrantids and he had seen a few late Saturday night, they looked bluish in color. Then he started overwhelming me with other sky wonders he had been looking at, objects down to 12th and 13th magnitude. So I invited him to join me and my slides, gleaned from the camera mount on the snout of the Maksutov, for the February program. Ray DuVarney are you listening, we want part of the action.

The observing alert for February will be the 6th and 7th. Call Jay Rhoads 996-0482, or Jim Brown 458-9749.

Friday, January 16, Bradley Observatory, the usual time 8:00 PM. Dr. Dick Miller from Georgia State University will talk about Quasars and other bright galaxies. Come on out and bring a friend.

President Mark Christensen is back from his trip to Europe and will preside at this meeting. He extends his best wishes to everyone for the new year.

lee wilson