


The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc
February 1981

Mr Barber said the thermometer on the side of his house showed 17 degrees when he came out to visit with us on Saturday, Jan. 7. Dr. Ray Johnson and son Rick already had their 8 inch Celestron in operation. Rick Clark & David Roberts had a 10 inch Newtonian going, and also one of those $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch RFT Coulters. Eugene Powell was fussing with his Homemade 6 inch, and I had the observatory open and was trying to shoot a super nova, in a distant galaxy, that Rick Clark had told me about. Richard DeRoberts carried on a running conversation outside, and inside, the warm-up building. We also had music; furnished by the Johnsons, DeRoberts, and Rick Clark; good classical music. The sky was excellent and so was the camaraderie. After about 10 PM it got considerably colder but a few minutes in the warm-up building with the electric heaters worked its charm. In fact it wasn't wise to stay inside more than 5 to 10 minutes or you would get too warm. My newspaper weather-proofing around the eaves worked very well. Mr Barber said he saw a couple of cars out there Friday night but they didn't stay long: the high winds and cold soon discouraged them. We had a light wind that soon died down; with the aid of the warm-up building we were in a position to stay as long as we wanted to. Eugene, Richard, and I closed down the operation around midnight.

-The next observing alert will be Saturday March 7-

--Announcement from Jim Brown-- Those wanting to participate in the Coultter $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch RFT workshop, order your kit now. The kit is \$39.50 and if you want one they also have a focussing binocular eyepiece for \$13.95. Jim has talked to them on the phone and they will not give a discount group or otherwise. Recent adds on the RFT are in Sky & Tel, page 34, and Astronomy Mag, page 62. The eyepiece isn't in the add. If you order one mention Jim's call. Place your order direct to Coultter and when you receive your kit please notify Jim for instructions on things to do prior to the workshop.

This month's program is about astronomy by club members. We will have talkers and showers, some will be both. Jerry Armstrong will talk and show some of the things he has been doing with the 14 inch. Jim Brown will talk about ? ! Bob Cowart, possibly with Bob's help. Also we will have Terry Morris and Bill Calder. Terry, a young man recent to astronomy; acquiring a telescope for the first time last fall, will talk about seeing deep sky objects that he had formerly seen in books and magazines. Bill Calder: acquiring an interest in astronomy during the time of the first Chicago Worlds Fair; learning and doing astronomy ever since, will talk about one of our nearby stars: one that is bright enough to be seen in the daytime. Those bring slides: put your name and some identifying information on them, also get them to Bradley a little early so that Mark and Ray can have time to arrange the program.

 Lee Wilson