

ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB NEWSLETTER

MEETING - 8:00 pm, Bradley Observatory, Agnes Scott, Friday, Sept 18

PROGRAM - Our club emphasis this year is toward the practicing observer. The first program focuses on the basic equipment, the telescope. Several members will demonstrate and discuss their preferences. Bob Cowart will tell us why he likes his Celestron C-8. Rick Clark is bringing his home-made Dobsonian. David Speering will renew his commitment to his 3-inch refractor while Tut Campbell will discuss the Newtonian. Tom Morley has a Coulter CT-100, the professionally built, compact version of their long focus 4 1/4 inch Newtonian. In addition, Tut Campbell is bringing along a 6-inch Clark refractor which he and George Roberts restored this summer.

OBSERVATORY - A maintenance crew consisting of George Reight, Tom Morley, Lee Wilson and Mark Christensen spent Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Villa Rica site straightening up and installing a window in the warm-up shed. The following weekend, Mark, Lee, Terry Morris, David Roberts and Jim Brown replaced the beams which hold the rails for the roll-off roof. Rick Clark also put in a cameo appearance.

OBSERVING SESSION - We have invited the Birmingham Astronomical Society to join us for a star party on Saturday, September 26th, at Villa Rica. I have received a very favorable response from Bill Munnelee. To quote, "With the exception of Voyager's encounter with Saturn, the possibility of getting together with the Atlanta Astronomy Club has generated more excitement around here than anything else." Their caravan is scheduled to arrive about 5:00 pm. Lee Wilson, who conceived the idea, will have details at the meeting Friday night.

ANNOUNCEMENT - The Club ordered an Odyssey from Coulter in July. The order is confirmed, but no delivery date set.

ANNOUNCEMENT - While the Newsletter doesn't normally provide space to commercial announcements, this one will benefit the Club. Tut Campbell and George Roberts have started Dixie Telescopes. So far, they offer Meade and Lumicon products. Tut is offering a 5% rebate to the Club observatory fund for purchases by Club members. I'm sure he will have details at the meeting.

NEXT MEETING - Friday, October 16, 8:00 pm, Bradley Observatory, Topic - Techniques in Astrophotography. Note that this theme is building toward the February meeting when we will display the slides and prints taken this fall.

Jim Brown