

ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

PROGRAM - This month's program, "Observing Variable Stars" is presented by Howard Landis. Howard's contributions to the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) are internationally recognized. Featured as a main speaker at last year's AL Convention, Howard plans to cover visual as well as photometric observation.

TREASURY NOTES - The Atlanta Astronomy Club welcomes the following new members: Travis R. Dugger, Neil and Pam Collins, 264 Land O'Lakes Ct 30342 (875-1295) and Freddie Pharo, 2288 Dodson Dr 30344 (344-2244).

RENEWALS - If your dues have expired and your subscription to Sky & Telescope has run out, contact Herb Teeple, 5015 Spaulding Dr NE Atlanta, GA 30360 (394-5784). Herb is our Treasurer. He asks that you do not send cash. Dues are \$25.00 (\$20.00 student).

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\* I M P O R T A N T - Read this, if nothing else \*  
\* The Treasurer is now tabulating dues as beginning the same month that \*  
\* your Sky & Telescope subscription begins. So when you get one of the \*  
\* renewal notices from S&T, give the card and check to the Treasurer. \*  
\* You are put on our membership role at time of payment, even though the \*  
\* "dues year" begins with the magazine subscription. Questions? See Herb \*  
\* \* \* \* \* (this is the last time that I will run this note) \* \* \* \* \*

OBSERVING SESSION - The New Moon occurs a little past midnight on Sunday, February 13, the weekend of our meeting. Next full moon, March 14, is prior to that month's meeting.

NOTE FROM ANNA BELLE CLOSE - Dr. Bob Hyde has been in our midst for five years! Each time that he has addressed the Club, it has been a "Super-  
Noval" experience. To quote another educator, "All teachers are frustrated actresses"- a frustrated actor, in this case. With verbal pleasantries, body English and rapidly changing facial expressions, Bob led us through "line-of-sight" shifts, red shifts and orbital shifts, all of which are proportional to the ratio of the Schwarzschild radius and the actual body radius. He compared the ratio for a normal star with the ratio for a neutron star, and suddenly we found ourselves in a black hole, with a glimmer of understanding of what a black hole is all about--for the least knowledgeable of us, that is, and with solid understanding for those of us already "in the know". After struggling at length to reply, to his personal satisfaction, to one of his questioners, he summed it up with: "I really don't know, but I don't feel too bad about it either". His listeners didn't feel too bad about it either. In fact, it was an entertaining and educational evening.

FOR SALE - 3-inch Unitron Refractor, Model 45C, with equatorial mount, clock drive (and manual), 10x finder, Uni-hex with 6 eyepieces, sun projection screen, wooden tripod. \$700. Call David Speering, 957-9653 or see at next meeting.

NEXT MEETING - Friday, March 18, 8:00 pm Bradley Observatory.  
Topic - The Annual Members Slide Show displaying the best slides in amateur astronomy photography. If you have slides to show, call Randy Falkenberg, 448-5087.

• Jim Brown