

ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB NEWSLETTER

MEETING

Don Hall

938-8139

The October 1984 meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, October 19 at the Bradley Observatory of Agnes Scott College.

PROGRAM

Dennis Holmes 926-1142

"PROJECTS IN ASTRONOMY" moderated by Don Hall. This interesting program explores several areas in amateur astronomy which go beyond casual observing and interest. Each of the scheduled speakers will talk about a particular specialty. Please plan to come and find out what the "other guy's doing".

TREASURY NOTES

Herb Teeple 394-5784

We have more good news and more bad news. The good news is that we have three new members. They are:

Ms. Sharone Franklin, 3662 Doroco Dr., Doraville, GA 30340, Phone 934-8796; Eugene (Gene) S. Hall, 3000 Union Church Rd., Stockbridge, GA 30281, Phone 483-6850; George Sambataro, 22 Old Farm Rd., Marietta, GA 30067, Phone 977-7035. We welcome these new members and wish them "good seeing".

Now for the bad news! Not all the delinquent members paid their due 'dues' and therefore if you did not receive this October Newsletter, it means you have been dropped from the membership roll. Craig Sikes will be unable to continue in the club. Craig thoughtfully sent me a note advising us of his situation. We hope he will return as soon as possible. Enough of the bad news.

More good news! Our Treasury has successfully withstood the necessary impact of expenditures for our telescope rehabilitation program. Don Hall and his stalwart crew have done a great job of getting the most for the money. The current report is as follows:

Bal. Sept. 5, 1984	\$688.19	
Add Rev. (dues)	475.00	_____ \$1163.19
Less Exp.		
S&T Subs.	247.00	
Carroll EMC	7.41	
Telescope	19.38	
Sept. newsletter	43.80	_____ 317.59
Bal., Oct. 4, 1984		_____ 845.60
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Don Hall

938-8139

It has been a long time since we have seen many people use our facility at Villa Rica, however on Sept. 22 we had ten telescopes and about fifteen people observing or taking pictures. Several people have called since then saying they were out there a night or two later. We hope the improvements and additional telescopes at the observatory will "get you out there". How about going Oct. 20 ?

We want to thank Randy and Carolyn Collins for taking charge of our refreshment committee for this year. When they call on you for help, please support them. The club will reimburse you for expenses incurred.

Also, we want to report that Wes Bergman (Vice President/Program Chairman) will be unable to complete his term for business reasons. Dennis Holmes has agreed to assume the duties for the remainder of the current year. Please give Dennis your support in this important job.

The next observing session at the Walter Barber Observatory will be on Sat. the 20th depending on the whims of the weatherman. The New Moon falls on Oct. 24th.

For those of you who are scheduling your observing program for membership in the prestigious M-Club, there is a total of 23 objects from RA 24:00 to 04:00 hrs. Here are 7 globular clusters, 8 open clusters, 2 planetary nebulae, and 6 galaxies including the infamous, mostly invisible M-74 - the toughest object among the entire 107.

I've gone right by this faint exasperation without seeing it even with the help of sharp-eyed youngsters (notably Jim Brown). However, with care and perseverance you'll finally find the nucleus, a star-like concentration with a very low surface brightness on the outer parts. Now stop, take a deep breath and compliment yourself on your prize. M74 is an SC type spiral lying open-faced about 20 million (+ 10%) light years away. The coordinates (1950) are RA 01h 34m, DEC +15° 32'; starhoppers: M-74 lies 1.5 degrees east and a very little north of Eta Piscum.

One other object found in October skies that deserves mention is the famous "Dumbell Nebula" or M-27. This is a bright planetary nebulae shining at about 8th magnitude. It lies about 1250 light years away and with an apparent size of 8 x 4 minutes of arc, the major axis would extend from our solar system to about 2/3 of the distance to the nearest star, Alpha Centauri or nearly 3 light years. When you catch this beauty, picture its size. Although small by astronomical standards, it still takes light traveling 186,000 mps nearly three years to cross it lengthwise! It indeed boggles the mind. This one is easy to find. RA 19h 57m.4, DEC +22° 35' or starhoppers will find it near the 4th corner of the quadrilateral marked out by Epsilon, Gamma, and Beta Cygni.

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