

# ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB NEWSLETTER

## MEETING

Don Hall

938-8139

The November 1984 meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, November 16 at the Bradley Observatory of Agnes Scott College.

## PROGRAM

Dennis Holmes 926-1142

"INSTRUMENTS OF CHOICE" moderated by Dennis Holmes. This program will explore the range of instrument choices the amateur faces and provide a selection rationale for several different instrument types. Each of the presenters will discuss his chosen instrument and the reasons for that choice. Plan to come and find out which type of telescope is "best".

## TREASURY NOTES

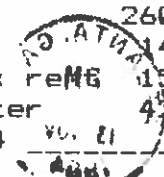
Herb Teeple

394-5784

We welcome seven new members this month. They are: Mark Banks, 2925 Rio Montana Dr., Marietta, GA 30066, Phone 971-6680; Ruth Brodhead, 762 Longwood Dr. NW, Atlanta, GA 30305, Phone 351-4780; Wendall Brown, 128 Misty Hollow Way, Woodstock, GA 30188, Phone 926-1425; Helen Lenkerd, 918 Schoel Dr., Decatur, GA 30033, Phone 325-8957; Tom Morton, 896 Glenbrook Dr., Atlanta, GA 30318, Phone 355-5603; Mary J. Thompson, Rt. 11, Hidden Harbor Landing, Gainesville, GA 30501, Phone 532-9815; Mark Wilkinson, 579 Chapman Dr., Marietta, GA 30066, Phone 422-2652.

The current Treasury report is as follows:

Bal. OCT. 5, 1984	\$845.60	
Add Rev. (dues)	500.00	----- \$1345.60
Less Exp.		
S&T Subs.	260.00	
Carroll EMC	14.69	
Safe Dep. Box	15.00	
Oct. newsletter	42.79	----- 332.48
Bal., Nov. 8, 1984		----- 1013.12
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Don Hall

938-8139

For this month we want to use the president's report column to make a few comments about our club and some individuals. First, it has been great to see a renewed and active interest in amateur astronomy by a large number of our members. We are seeing more people participating in a variety of ways including club programs, observatory renovation, and observing. One way for each member to participate would be to attend our meetings. Also, we invite you to join us for some observing and fun at Villa Rica.

Secondly, we believe the club is fortunate to have members who volunteer their time and skills to meet with school children, Boy Scouts, and other clubs to give them some insight into our hobby. Jim Brown and John Parker are among several of our members who are doing this and thoroughly enjoying it.

Finally, we would like to thank our visitors who have received this complementary copy of our newsletter for visiting our club. We look forward to issuing a membership card in your name.

## THE UPPER HALF

George Reight

633-1202

A reminder about the qualifications for membership in the "M-Club". There are two levels of membership. The first is obtained when an observer finds,

identifies and logs any 70 M-objects. The second level is obtained by capturing the entire Messier list of 107. There is no time limit for finding the objects - if it takes several years to reach either or both of the two levels, the effort and accomplishment entitles the observer to the appropriate certificate issued by the Astronomical League.

An engraved plaque will be presented to an observer by our club along with the League's certificate if either level is started after Sept. 1984 and completed by Sept. 1985. PAST OBSERVATIONS (prior to Sept. 1984) DO NOT COUNT TOWARDS A PLAQUE. The observer MUST start from the beginning.

In either case you must keep a log identifying the object, date, time, type of optical aid and a short visual description. I'm sure we all do this anyway. When the qualifications are met, give me your log for verification and I'll make the necessary arrangements for the awards. Plaques will be presented at the Sept. 1985 meeting to the persevering.

Since the M-objects in Sagittarius and Scorpius will be gone by the time you read this, do not despair as there will be two more opportunities to go after them. The first will be from about March 15 through the 30th when all of the M-objects are visible within an all-night sky, with the exception of M-30. Some procrastinators or brave souls go after the whole lot in one or two nights - a Messier Marathon if you please, but if you get sleepy around 11 P.M. don't try it. Incidentally, I'll publish a sequence list for the Feb. meeting. The second opportunity is, of course, next summer. However, with Atlanta's haze, bugs and heat you may prefer your catch-up observing in March.

Anyway, let's go after those objects that show up in the eyepiece as faint, grey smudges regarded by Mr. Messier as "space junk". Little did he realize his list would make him famous. Now, over two centuries later, this list provides a vehicle that will elevate some of our AAC members to the recognized level of accomplished observers - membership in the M-Club.

Atlanta Astronomy Club  
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Marietta, GA 30062



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8501