

# ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB NEWSLETTER

## MEETING

Don Hall 938-8139

The April 1985 meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, April 19 at the Bradley Observatory of Agnes Scott College.

## PROGRAM

Dennis Holmes 926-1142

"ANNUAL ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY SHOW" This is our annual meeting devoted to displaying the astrophotographic efforts of our members. Please plan to come and share your photos or slides with the rest of the members. This year we plan to provide a forum for displaying prints as well as slides. Let Dennis know if you need something special in the way of time or equipment. We ask that you try and limit your presentation to 10-15 minutes.

## TREASURY NOTES

Herb Teeple 394-5784

We welcome the return of William M. Davis to AAC Membership. Bill was a member back in 1980. Bill's address is 2090 Dunwoody Club Drive, Suite 108, Dunwoody, GA 30338. Home phone: 256-2334. Also cordial welcomes are extended to Bernard Birnbaum and his son, George, at 4973 Hidden Branches Dr., Dunwoody GA 30338, Phone: 394-5794; and to Curt Churchill, 3583-A Clubhouse Circle East, Decatur, GA 30032, Phone: 296-7923.

For the Treasurer's Report this time, let's consider the accounting period from October 21, 1984 to March 18, 1985:

### REVENUE

Beginning Balance.....	939.40
Add Dues.....	1205.00
" Xfer From Coffee Fund.....	12.60
" Contrib. to Tele.Fund.....	25.00.....2185.00.

### DISBURSEMENTS

S & T Subscriptions.....	689.00
Newsletters.....	231.24
Carroll EMC.....	45.53
Safe Dep. Box.....	15.00
Ga. Sec'y State.....	10.00
Telescope Expense.....	133.39
Dec. Mtg. Refreshments.....	12.60.....1139.76

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BALANCE, March 18, 1985.....1045.24

This shows that during the accounting period we added only \$105.84 to our Treasury. At least, it's a BLACK figure!

The Club's procrastinating printer finally got busy and printed a new batch of Membership Cards. They are being distributed to the "uncarded" members with this Newsletter. If you believe you have been overlooked, please let me know. You could look at your present card and if the "Month" is earlier than April, your dues are due!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Don Hall 938-8139

We want to thank Frank Winecoff for the donation of a new door for our observatory. Frank has not been able to attend many meetings but, wanted to participate in the renovation of the observatory by means of this donation. Also, there is another member of the club that deserves special mention in our newsletter. Terry Morris recently participated in the district competition of the Georgia Science & Engineering Fair and won 1st place. His project titled PHOTOMETRIC SURVEY OF NEBULA VARIABLE STARS was entered in the Earth and Space competition. The state winners will be announced on April 12 and Terry is hoping for another 1st place. Congratulations Terry!!

The nominating committee has met and presents the following as nominees

for the 1985-1986 AAC officers and board members:

Officers

President - John Parker  
VP-Programs - Dr. Joseph Gibson  
VP-Observing Chm. - George Reight  
Recording Sec. - Sharone Franklin  
Corresponding Sec. - To Be Announced  
Treasurer - Liz Peterson

Board of Directors (2 year terms)

Wes Bergman  
Leonard Abbey  
Lee Wilson  
Bill Black  
John Marsh

Election of officers and board members will take place at the May meeting. Names may be added to the slate from the floor if those nominees agree to serve if elected.

Finally, our first work day this year is set for Saturday, May 4 at 9:30 A.M. I've already had a few people volunteer their time and energy. Why don't you plan to join us for a lot of fun and perspiration. Soft drinks will be provided by the club for all workers/"supervisors".

THE UPPER HALF

George Reight 633-1202

Last quarter moon: Thursday, April 11

New Moon, Saturday: April 20

Observing evenings: Friday & Saturday April 12 & 13; Saturday, April 20

Lyrid meteor shower: After midnight, April 21 & 22

**WE HAVE A WINNER!**

On Friday, March 29, a very sleepy Mark Wilkinson called to tell me that he had found and logged the last of the 107 M-objects. He's the first of the 20 candidates to get them all during this fiscal year (7 months actually) and we offer our sincere congratulations. As one of our club members said: "This observing challenge is no piece of cake!"

At this writing, we have several others who I'm sure will soon be eligible for awards. Among them are Dr. Gene Powell who has logged 40 objects; Tim Rockwell with 63; Bud Rosser at 44; Dennis Holmes, our program VP with 88; and Bill Snell with over 60. By the time you read this, I'm sure the above numbers will dramatically change upward. These candidates, among others, are determined to beat the deadline for this distinguished accomplishment. The September meeting will indeed be a red letter time for our club.

High overhead this month sits the backward question mark of Leo. Lec claims a surprising number of beautiful, challenging and always awesome objects. According to Burnham, this one constellation contains 33 variable stars, 71 galaxies and 99 double stars - all within the range of amateur telescopes. This is indeed enough to keep us all out of mischief if we continue the hunt after logging the 10 objects that Messier recorded.

In listing the beauties and the beasts, I'm afraid that the beasts I mentioned in last month's Upper Half could be mean enough to cause even our bravest observers to change hobbies. So, this month, we'll note two beauties that are easy to find.

First, the double Gamma Leonis at RA 10h 17m, DEC +20° 06'. A rare gem of 2nd mag. at the bend of the question mark. This pair has a separation of 4.4 seconds (use about 100X) and consists of a primary K0 star with a G4 secondary orbiting about 130 AU or 17 light-hours away. Since our sun is a slightly hotter G2 star - a close relative in classification - you may wonder if the G4 has a planetary system and if there is a rocky planet orbiting about 70 million miles away. Could it be possible that it not only harbors life, but also intelligent life and perhaps at this moment a creature is

looking thru his telescope at us? He notes a faint yellowish G2 star located in Aquarius at RA 22hr 17m, DEC 20° 06' lying about 160 light years away. He might also consider the miraculous series of circumstances that would allow the phenomenon of intelligent life to occur. He would, in all likelihood, conclude that the odds are overwhelmingly against it. Too many factors are involved that permit no tolerance. Well, so much for our imaginative creature...so, back to the earth and our eyepiece.

The second beauty this month is an eyepiece spectacle. Two galaxies in the same field of view. At the mean position of 11h 17m, +13° 20' lies M-65 & 66, a duo of spirals glowing at 9.7 magnitude. For star hoppers, they are about halfway between Theta & Iota. It is of interest to note that Mr. Messier missed them both in spite of the fact that his comet passed right thru the field of view on Nov. 2, 1773. I can't help but wonder what kind of cough medicine he was taking that night. Anyway, both galaxies are roughly 29 million light years away and separated by about 180,000 light years. Can you imagine the night sky if you lived on a planet in either galaxy? It would indeed be breathtaking! As you catch this duo, realize the actuality of your prize - you are looking at the real object, not a model or drawing or photograph but, a real "universe" of stars. Of course, not everyone thinks as we do about the cosmos. Mr. Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (1755-1826), a French gastronomist, said "The discovery of wine is of greater importance than the discovery of a constellation. The universe is full of stars."

**FOR SALE:** C8 with special coatings, wedge, and tripod. Includes a 25mm Ortho eyepiece and a Barlow plus a set of eyepiece filters; \$900. Contact Gene Hall - Phone: 483-6850.

**WANTED:** 8" Schmidt-cassegrain or a 6-8" Newtonian (prefer Meade or Celestron). Contact Leonard Ciani, phone: 483-0757.

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