

ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB NEWSLETTER

MEETING: Club President, John Parker 977-2387

The September meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, September 20, 1985 at the Bradley Observatory of Agnes Scott College.

PROGRAM: Program Chairperson, Dr. Joe Gibson 255-1621

"Close Encounters of the Comet-kind", a report on Giacabini-Zinner and Halley close encounter. Presented by Emory Physics Professor, Dr. Richard Williamon.

TREASURY NOTES Treasurer, Liz Peterson 768-7684
There will be a financial report each quarter beginning with next months newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT President, John Parker

Welcome one and all to the first meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club for the new year. This year promises to be an exciting one for astronomy. So sit back, enjoy and keep your eyes on the sky!

THE UPPER HALF: Upper Halver, George Reight 633-1202

This month's UPPER HALF was written by Dr. William A. Calder, a distinguished astronomer, teacher, and founder of the Atlanta Astronomy Club.

Dr. Calder has had a long and illustrious career. After studying under the famous Harlow Shapley, Dr. Calder gained national attention with his work in photo-electric measurement of stars using the 61 inch telescope at the Harvard Observatory. (See the July 1985 issue of SKY & TELESCOPE article, "50 & 25 Years Ago")

His move to Agnes Scott College resulted in the establishment of not only the Bradley Observatory but the Fernbank Observatory as well.

Bill also found time to become an accomplished musician -having played with the Atlanta Symphony.

He writes:

In response to request to fill space in our NEWSLETTER, I venture peculiar thoughts on the nature of the universe. I am about 5 billionths as old as creation! My considerable life span has seen more progress than has ever been, or will be possible in a comparable period. Rudimentary knowledge of the spectrum has been overtaken by nuclear astrophysics

and direct observation of outer space. Radio astronomy, rocketry, and sophisticated optics and electronics have greatly enlarged (and complicated) the cosmos. I won't rehash, but rather contrast the view presented to a kid whose idea of heaven was to read astronomy while aloft in a clump of oak trees, with the violent and restless system as imperfectly grasped in dotage. In brief, the stars used to burn serenely over a world of confusion. Now they and galaxies shoot jets of plasma at speeds approaching that of light. Our home galaxy has perhaps 200,00 pulsars -- wreckages of supernovas, burned out stars such as our sun. And the whole shebang (make it hebang -- to heck with feminism!) is blowing up. I'm sorry, but this is the way things are. But can you think of a better place in which to exist?
By Dr. William A. Calder

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Congratulation to seven AAC members who will receive M-Club Membership plaques & certificates at the September meeting. They are:

Dennis Holmes
Liz Peterson
Dr. Gene Powell
Tim Rockwell
Bud Rosser
Bill Snell
Mark Wilkinson

WANTED:

Counterweights for C-8. Call Liz Peterson, 321-0272 or 767-4647

IN THE STARLIGHT: (Contributions from Our Members)

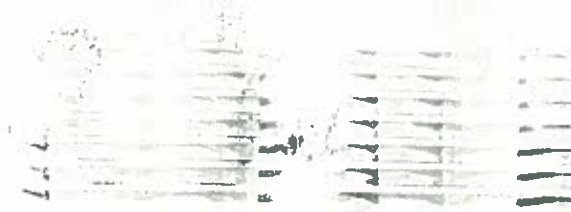
Check out the article in September's ASTRONOMY, "Texas Star Party, 1985", by Robert Burnham and a BRITE STAR award goes to Tom Buchanan for getting his name in print! (see page 32)

Fireworks at Lanier? Shirley Thomas (a new member by now we hope) saw a fireball while she was at Lake Lanier on August 10, 9:33 P.M. covering about 10 degrees arch at about 60 degrees above the horizon traveling from the southeast. It was white to gold and exploded into 4 or 5 pieces blue, gold and white in color. A BRITE STAR award to anyone naming the constellation it traveled through!!

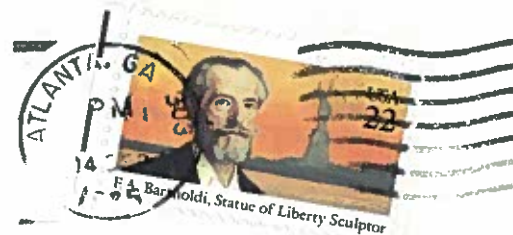
VILLA RICA OBSERVATORY:

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Don Hall received the resurfaced 20 and 10 inch mirrors mid-August. The 10 inch is operational and ready for use for members. The 20 inch mount is in place with the tube assembly to be installed soon along with the remaining components. The EVD (Expected Viewing Date) at the end of September.



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