

ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB NEWSLETTER

MEETING: Club President, John Parker 977-2387

The November meeting will be held at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, November 15, 1985 at the Bradley Observatory of Agnes Scott College.

PROGRAM: Program Director, Dr. Joe Gibson 252-3482

"Stellafane, The Meca of Amateur Telescope Makers", a slide presentation by that Sellafane pilgrim, Bill Black, about his 20 years of pilgrimage to Stellafane.

TREASURY REPORT: Treasurer, Liz Peterson 767-4647

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| Beginning Balance, Sept. 1, 1985 | 738.93 |
| Additional Revenues (Dues + Donations)..... | 1129.00 |
| Total Revenues..... | 1867.93 |
| Less Expenses: | |
| S&T Subscriptions..... | 585.00 |
| Carroll EMC (Electricity at Obasvatory.. | 15.38 |
| Newsletters (September + October)..... | 109.56 |
| Refreshments..... | 12.62 |
| Astronomical League Directory Listing... | 25.00 |
| M-Club Placques..... | 210.08 |
| Total Expenses..... | 957.64 |
| Balance Nov. 1, 1985..... | 910.29 |

PRESIDENT'S REPORT President, John Parker

Our club has experienced a dramatic increase in membership during 1985. As of Nov. 1, the membership was 149, 42 of those members joined the AAC in 1985! There can be little doubt that the return of comet Halley has sparked increased interest in astronomy. One of our most important goals should be to encourage new members who were attracted by Halley's return to remain with us after the comet leaves.

***** RED DOTTED LABEL *****
***** Means Its DUES TIME *****

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

With the passing of summer haze and at long last the appearance of good observing skies perhaps we should review a few courtesies that apply to our visits to the Barber Observatory.

First of all, if you arrive after dark, be sure to TURN OFF your CAR LIGHTS before entering the gate. Astrophotography is probably in progress and your car lights will cause unwanted special effects on film, which will explain why the photographer cut 6" from one of your tripod legs.

If you are the last one to leave the observatory area, be sure to lock both the observatory and warmup shed, pickup your litter and PULL THE MASTER SWITCH to OFF on the pole and be sure to lock the gate. Failure to do this will result in being forced to take the entire AAC to Nikoli's Roof for lunch. (No excuses or substitutions)
Observing Session .. Sat, Nov 16 (4 days after new moon)

.. Fri, Sat, Dec 6 and 7 (4 days before new moon)

This Months UPPER HALF is written by Dr. Eugene Powell, an active member of the AAC since 1969.

Gene has served as a member of the Board of Directors, Steering Committee, program director, treasurer and president. He has also been the featured speaker at several of meetings. His most recent lecture was on specialized photography. He is also a recent winner of the M-Club plaque award.

Gene currently has a teaching career along with the responsibilities of a research engineer in the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Tech. He writes:

Do not be discouraged from observing Halley's comet from bright city skies if it is inconvenient to reach a dark observing site. During September and October when the comet was in the morning sky, I observed it three times from my home just five miles east of downtown Atlanta. Using a 10-inch f4.5 Dobsonian telescope at 190X I first saw Halley's comet on the morning of September 16 as a small faint 12.5 magnitude smudge of light. A Lumicon Deep Sky Filter enhanced it only slightly. Three and a half weeks later on the morning of October 11, Comet Halley was much brighter, appearing like a medium size planetary nebula with a faint starlike nucleus. At this time the comet was about 1.7 A.U. from the earth and 2.2 A.U. from the sun. I saw it last on the morning of October 20 as an 11th magnitude fuzzy round coma without tail. During November, Halley's comet is expected to reach 7th magnitude and will pass close to the Pleiades at midmonth. If you can't get out to Villa Rica, don't hesitate to set up your telescope in you own backyard. You might be surprized at how much you will see.

Comet Halley presents an unparalled opportunity to get more people interested in astronomy and to enlist new members in the Atlanta Astronomy Club. Also there will be numerous public observing outings sponsered by schools and other organizations in which AAC members may volunteer their services. One such opportunity will occur on Friday, December 6 at Morningside Elementary School in Atlanta. Several telescopes are needed to show the comet to roughly 200 first through fifth graders, and their parents. If you are interested in bringing your telescope and helping in this event, please contact me or my wife, Judy at 872-0891.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The AAC welcomes 18 NEW MEMBERS! Charles Dickens, David Lynch, James Haley, Steve Binkley, Richard Whewning, Keith Kennedy, Ronnie Farris, C. P. Moore, David Leckie, William Noyd, Frank Osborne, Glenn Meng, Kaye Bedell, Jack Spence, Gina Manfra, Salvatore Amico, and Lee Bradford & Richard Fletcher, your local Celestron & Meade Reps. at Wolf Camera. Happy observing and good viewing to all!

WANTED:

Starting telescope around \$50 for child 11yrs. Please call Al Beales, Home 936-4796 or Work 662-7100 X4453

Declination Motor for Celestron C-8 call Liz Peterson, 767-4674

SELLING:

10" f14 Star Instruments Achromat in cell, \$2500 or trade; also other

optics and telescopes. Contact Mike Talermiti 305-724-9260.
Celestron Comet Catcher, Orange body, with 13mm ortho \$295. Also
selling Celestron eyepiece case, skymap, 1 1/4 color filter, 2X
Barlow, 15mm Plossol and 26mm Plossol. Call Michael Talley, Home
881-0760 or Work 688-1820

MEADE 2080 with special coatings, wedge, tripod, drive corrector,
Plossol eyepieces (40,21,13mm), Televue 2.5x barlow, due shield and
other accessories. Asking \$1050. Call: Ron Shotts (404) 922-5458.

LAST MINUTES: Recording Secretary, Sharone Franklin 934-8796
Highlights from the October Meeting... The 20-inch scope will be
operational soon. John Parker addressed the necessity for specific
rules for using the scope and inquired about insurance.

Four Club members presented programs: Mike Marcus, Herbe Teeple,
John Parker, and Lee Wilson about astrophotography, amateur astronomy
and sky gazing.

A FALLEN STAR:

It is with deep sympathy and sadness that we note the passing of
Chandler H. Holton on September 25, 1985. Mr. Holton was a charter
member of the AAC. Anyone wishing to offer condolences may do so by
contacting Geneva Holton, Box 22, South China, Maine, 04358 or call
Anna Belle Close at 373-3945.

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