

THE FOCAL POINT

Vol. IV, No. 1

The Newsletter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club

September 1991

CLUB CALENDAR

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is at 8:00 p.m., Friday, September 20, 1991 at the Bradley Observatory at Agnes Scott College.

Program: Our program this month is entitled "Object Lessons". The objects, in this case, are Messier objects. See details below.

PROGRAM NOTES

by Bud Rosser

Did you know that Charles Messier was a frustrated comet hunter? He searched for the periodic comet which would give him fame eternal, by its being named after him. Did he find one? Not really. Then why is he famous?

We will briefly try to place ourselves in his footsteps to learn a bit about him and how his name became associated with these 'objects' which, to many observers, are the most beautiful and famous in the skies.

All who will attend will be given a complete listing of the Messier Objects (107-110?), their locations, apparent magnitudes and other details. Included with this material will be starhopping instructions to find at least 15 of these treasures. In addition, we will kick off the year with plans for a Messier Marathon, during which the quick and determined observer may become eligible for the Messier Club, sponsored by the Astronomical League. The *AL Reflector* noted that a listing of all previous Messier Certificate holders from our club could be obtained. We

will have that list and be hoping to double it this year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the club recently:

Joe & Eileen Sheppard
Robert & Linda Delano
Roggie Boone
Durham & Catherine Schane
John & Laura Loveless
Jeffery M. Willis
Jonathan Tooher
Mark Collins
John Avrett

Please take a moment to welcome these new members when you see them at our meetings or at our observing sessions.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

We have just been notified by Kalmbach Publishing that there are new discount subscription rates for their magazines. The magazines available and the new rates are:

<i>Astronomy</i>	\$16
<i>Deep Sky</i>	\$10
<i>Telescope Making</i>	\$10

Please note that *Astronomy* is a monthly publication and the other two magazines are quarterly. These prices reflect a 33% reduction from their regular subscription cost.

To subscribe, send a check for the proper amount to the Treasurer (see

address on back page of the newsletter). The check should be made payable to the Atlanta Astronomy Club.

Also, when your subscription expires, you may receive a renewal notice directly from the publisher showing the regular subscription rate. Ignore this notice and send the renewal amount directly to the Treasurer.

OBSERVING SESSIONS AT VILLA RICA OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1991

Future observing sessions have been scheduled for the following dates:

Saturday, October 5th
Friday, November 1st
Saturday, December 7th

I strongly recommend that you call me at least one week prior to any observing session to let me know you are going to attend. You can still come to the observatory if you do not call but I will not be able to inform you of changes due to weather. Also, I will have some idea how many people to expect and I hope to plan better sessions as a result.

If none of the sessions listed above are convenient because of work, school or baby-sitting problems, please let me know and I will try to work around your schedule, if possible. — *Bill Snell*

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The lack of submissions has prompted this abbreviated issue. Remember, it's your newsletter too!

The Focal Point is published monthly by the Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc. The AAC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of amateur astronomy. Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month (the second Friday in December) at the Bradley Observatory on the Agnes Scott College campus. Dues are \$35 annually and include a subscription to *Sky & Telescope* magazine and use of the observatory in Villa Rica.

Submissions: Article submissions are welcome and encouraged. Please deliver to the editor for consideration. Electronic submissions are accepted at mike%beow.uucp@gatech.edu. The submission deadline for the next issue is *October 3*.

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