

# THE FOCAL POINT

Vol. IV, No. IX

The Newsletter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club

May 1992

## PROGRAM NOTES

by Bud Rosser



Thanks again to Don Harmer for his witty treatment of neutrino hunting in America, as related to the Club last meeting.

The May 1992 meeting of the AAC will be held at the Bradley Observatory on the Agnes Scott campus on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.

By the time you read this, Astronomy Day at Fernbank Science Center will have become history, so one segment of the May meeting will be devoted to reporting to the membership about that activity. Another segment will be devoted to AAC business that involves the membership: The Nominating Committee report. In addition, there are several subjects that need to be presented to the Club, including the one below.

The AAC is receiving an increasing number of requests for public viewing appearances and educational assistance. Volunteer efforts at local observatories are also solicited. This leads to the suggestion that we establish a position of 'public observing coordinator.' We can call it what we want, but the need is apparently there. We need to decide how we can respond to the public and what the proper distribution of Club resources are with respect to these public requests.

Finally, Georgia State University has allocated funding to upgrade the

14-inch telescope at Bradley Observatory. Scheduled soon are new setting circles and guiding equipment.

## AAC GETS TELEPHONE HOTLINE

Through the benefits of modern technology ( and, we might add, at a very reasonable price!), the Club now has its own telephone 'hotline.' A recorded message will announce club activities, meeting programs, and general information about the club. Prospective members may leave their names and addresses for further contact about membership. Please make a note of the number,

**621-2661**

and take advantage of this new club service.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST TO BE UPDATED

The Club treasurer is in the process of updating our list of members, their addresses and telephone numbers. We expect to include the updated list in the July *Focal Point*. If we do not have your correct address and telephone number,

please contact Jackie Cochran before the end of May. Of course, if your address is incorrect, you may not be reading this!

## OBSERVING SESSIONS AT VILLA RICA

Future observing sessions have been scheduled for the following dates:

May 29 and 30, 1992

June 26 and 27, 1992

It is strongly recommended that you call Bill Snell at least one week prior to any observing session to let him know you are going to attend. You can still come to the observatory if you do not call but he will not be able to inform you of changes due to weather. Also, he will have some idea how many people to expect and hopes 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 him know and he will try to work around your schedule, if possible.

Volunteers are need for the Star Party at West Point Lake. The most likely dates for this event are Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> or August 29<sup>th</sup>. If you can bring a telescope, slides or can help show the sky to enthusiastic park visitors, please call Bill Snell at 633-4050. Campsites are available for volunteers who want to stay overnight and observe.

**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 club observatory in Villa Rica. The club hot-line telephone number is 621-2661.

**Submissions:** Article submissions are welcome and encouraged. Please deliver to the editor for consideration. Electronic submissions are preferred and accepted at [mike@beow.uucp](mailto:mike@beow.uucp). The submission deadline for the next issue is *June 2*.

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