

# THE FOCAL POINT

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The Newsletter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club

August 1992

## PROGRAM NOTES

by Bud Rosser

The August meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club will be held on Friday, the 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 p.m. in the classroom at Fernbank Science Center.

This final program for the "club year" 1992 will focus on the talents and accomplishments of our members in a Show and Tell, adult style. Featured and expected items include a Schmidt-Newtonian telescope, a Questar, and several homemade items. I encourage each member to bring what they want to show; your best or worst pictures, your collections of pins and patches, your homemade tripods, your stories and tall tales, all of it!

I'd like to also encourage members to expand their support of the excitement of amateur astronomy by making plans to attend the Georgia Star party sponsored by the ASA and SERAL. It should be a good time.

Oh, just one more thing...would you like to have lunch with me? I'm sorry, that's a Paul Harvey line. As the President-elect for the next year, get ready now for some serious activity for Astronomy Day in 1993. One of the big surprises next year will center around this event that has too long failed to draw the attention of the media and the astronomical community.

## THANKS MEANS GOODBYE

by Mike Kazmierczak

What do you do about a two-year relationship when it is about to end? I am, of course, referring to the ending of my two-year stint as the editor of this newsletter. I knew that it would be a lot of fun when I started. It was. I asked for articles and notes and scraps from members to publish. I received a smattering here and there. I would really like to thank David Riddle for his thoughts on astronomy that he wrote and sent to me. I enjoyed reading (and editing!) them, and I hope you did. I understand that Bill Snell will



be following in my illustrious footsteps as editor, as I followed Steve Gilbreath's. I hope that he gets lots of support from the members. Support means articles! Your recent observations, ramblings, and thoughts are welcome. I'm sure I didn't publish everything I received. No editor does. I didn't expect to do a lot of writing for the newsletter, but I did. Thanks for the

memories and now maybe I'll write an article or two for Bill!

## OBSERVING SESSIONS AT VILLA RICA

The next observing session is scheduled for August 28 & 29, 1992. Just call Bill Snell (633-4050) and he will try to help with arrangements to make your observing session at the club observatory more enjoyable.

## Recent Observations

David Riddle and I traveled to the aptly named town of Cassville late one Saturday evening to observe an astronomical event. That is right, another grazing occultation! It was David's first, so I wanted to show him a good time. The weather was good, the star was bright, and the predicted lunar profile was rocky. We met (barely in time) before the graze and drove directly to the graze site. David chose to set up near me and he was about 100 feet further out towards the limb than I was. This small difference proved observable as I saw two events (a disappearance and a reappearance) within 0.5 seconds. These quick events were the top of a mountain which David never saw. He got several more events, as I did, before we lost the 3<sup>rd</sup> magnitude star on the bright limb of the 94% sunlit moon. He's ready to hit another graze, and there is another scheduled for the night after I write this. I hope it stays clear. — Mike Kazmierczak

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*Submissions:* Article submissions are welcome and encouraged. Please deliver to the editor for consideration. The submission deadline for the next issue is *September 1*.

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*Editor:* ..... Dr. Mike Kazmierczak

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