

---

# The FOCAL POINT

Newsletter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.  
Volume V, Number XII August 1993

---

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

The August 1993 Meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club, will be a picnic at the Club's observatory in Villa Rica beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 21st (rain date is August 28th.)

Bring your picnic dinner or, if you want to cook out, bring meat and/or vegetables and a barbecue grill, hibachi, wok, etc. The Club will provide soft drinks. The moon sets at 10:39 p.m. so bring your telescope along too!

## TELEPHONE HOTLINE MELTS DOWN; RECORD CROWDS AT VILLA RICA FOR PERSEID METEOR SHOWER!

Maybe it wasn't the spectacular meteor storm many had hoped for, but this year's Perseid meteor shower will still be one of the most memorable. Due largely to media coverage, an estimated 400-600 people, both Club members and the general public, visited the Club observatory on the night of August 11th to await the appearance of the meteor storm.

Cars were parked for hundreds of yards along Tapley Road. Club President Bud Rosser spent a great deal of time simply directing people to parking places! The Club's telephone hotline was overwhelmed by incoming calls and several members' answering machine tapes were filled up completely during the days before the shower. Still, some Club members were completely surprised by the number of visitors!

On Wednesday night the sky was somewhat hazy but visibility was good enough for some very bright meteors to be seen. Based on several accounts, it seems that meteors appeared at a rate of perhaps 30 per hour during the hours before midnight. The collective "oohs and aahs" uttered by the many hundreds of visitors whenever a particularly bright meteor appeared was very impressive, according to one Club member.

As this is being written there seem to be no reports of the anticipated meteor storm, at least in North America. Even though the storm failed to materialize in our area, the record number of visitors to our observatory was an impressive event in itself. The great thing about amateur astronomy in general and meteor showers in particular is that you never know what to expect!

## SPECIAL THANKS TO MEMBERS

Several Club members deserve special recognition for their efforts this year.

Thanks to Clay and Terry McHann for providing refreshments for Club meetings. Their homemade pound cake is especially good. Thanks to Tom Buchanan for his ongoing observing programs for Fulton County's Crabapple Middle School and his valuable work as light pollution chairman. Thanks to Jim Brant for his Sidewalk Astronomy activities earlier this year. Jim is very enthusiastic about bringing amateur astronomy to the general public, so please lend him your support in his future projects.

Finally, thanks to Doug Chesser who is running the Club's new Computer Bulletin Board System. If you haven't tried it out yet you don't know what you are missing!

## FOR SALE

Polaris mount (German equatorial), extendable wooden legs, 6-inch rings, quartz RA drive (uses 6 AA batteries); fine for visual use, not for photo (\$190).

Eyepieces, Meade Series 4000, 2" 56mm Super Ploessl, new (\$105) and Parks, 1.25" 6mm Ploessl (\$45); also diagonal, single reflection, 1.25" (\$25).

Call Tom Buchanan at (404) 587-0774.

Coulter ODYSSEY COMPACT 10-inch Dobsonian Reflector with TELRAD viewfinder and standard eyepiece. Pick up only (\$300 FIRM).

Call Doug Chesser at (404) 457-5743.

## TRIVIA

The answer to July's trivia: (What part of the sky appears in the Leonid meteor photograph at the top of page 97 of the August 1993 issue of *Sky and Telescope*?): The center of the photograph is located near RA 14h 50m, DEC +70 in Ursa Minor. The two bright stars below center are Kochab and Pherkad in Ursa Minor and the bright star to left of top center is Thuban in Draco.

The *Focal Point* is published monthly by the Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc., 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 of Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia.

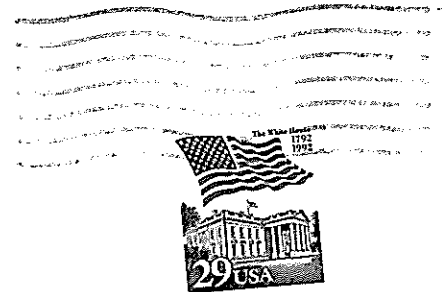
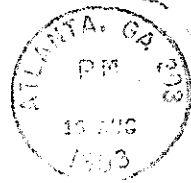
For up-to-date information on Club programs and activities please call the AAC's telephone hot-line at (404) 621-2661 or log in to the Club's Computer BBS at (404) 455-3089.

Membership: \$20 annually for families and \$10 for students. Membership includes a subscription to the Astronomical League's *Reflector* newsletter and use of the Club's observatory in Villa Rica, Georgia. Optional subscriptions to *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy Magazine* are available for \$20 and \$16 per year, respectively.

Article submissions are strongly encouraged; please deliver to the editor for consideration. Permission is granted to duplicate and redistribute in a non-profit manner, in part or whole, provided credit is given to the authors, the Club and this publication.

**Officers of the Atlanta Astronomy Club for 1992-1993**

President . . . . .	Bud Rosser . . . . .	879-0304
Program Chairman . . . . .	Steve Gilbreath . . . . .	409-1915
Observing Chairman . . . . .	David Riddle . . . . .	438-7818
Corresponding Secretary . . . . .	Bill Snell . . . . .	294-6055
Recording Secretary . . . . .	Hal Crawford . . . . .	242-9995
Treasurer . . . . .	Eugenia Abbey . . . . .	634-1222



# The Focal Point

Newsletter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

First Class

Please submit articles and address corrections to:  
Leonard Abbey  
1002 Citadel Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30324

Please send membership renewals to:  
Eugenia Abbey, Treasurer  
1002 Citadel Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30324

C-1

W. Tom Buchanan  
105 Carriage Station Cir.  
Roswell, GA 30075