

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947

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Editor: Peter Macumber

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## LADIES OF THE NIGHT...SKY

by Chrissy Mondell

Hi Ladies; I would like to have another meeting for the Ladies of the Night ... Sky on **Tuesday November 17th**, this is the Tuesday BEFORE the general meeting. We will be concentrating on getting our gift baskets together to be able to sell at the general meeting. If any of you can make it, we'd appreciate it. Sharon has made some beautiful hand-milled soaps for us to use. Joanne and I have been concentrating on getting the supplies for the baskets to be put together. We have everything. Joanne and I put together our initial orders, eight already, so come on to enjoy the night with us. (*See directions page 7.*)

We are the Ladies of the night...Sky  
We come in all different; ages, shapes and size.

Some are quiet, some have a flair,  
Some very meek, some waiting for a dare

We help dig ditches, and pick up limbs  
Then turn around and photo Saturn's rings

To the moon, to the stars, to the galaxies  
With photons dancing in our eyes.

We can be binary buff, and Lunatics  
Messier master and get zombified

With all the differences that we bare  
There is one truth that we all share

With no further need of compromise  
We are the True, Ladies of the night...Skys'

—Lady Chrissy :o)

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## Club Projects

by Philip Sacco

Hello all. There is a hubbub of activity going on in the club, and I thought a quick little blurb here to list some of the various projects would be helpful.

Currently we have several fundraisers in effect to help continue the improvement of the Observatory. I have a certain vision for the future of the club and maybe you will find you have a place in some of these activities to help bring the future about.

As the Barber Observatory continues to see a tremendous amount of public visitation and member use, plans are in the works to create an enclosure to the south of the observatory to provide a 'class room' for slide shows, working on equipment, and presenting instructional classes. I have had several sug-

gestions to begin a series of more formal instruction for our members beyond the orientation. The "ANNEX", as I like to call it, would be instrumental in providing a readily available area to present these programs as well as to allow our more experienced members a place to hold mini classes in any area of their specific expertise. Ultimately, I hope to see the Barber Observatory set up with a computer system, and the ability of CCD work as well as possibly photometric or spectragraphic equipment if any members are interested in other than optical astronomy.

My \$100 challenge to get the money up for the creation of the convertible bench/tables has been well received and if you would like a chance at a small piece of immortality, I entreat you to take the challenge. Contact Peter Macumber.

We still have a couple of the piers with wedges available for mounting at the observatory or at the new site. Your \$250 donation will secure a pier for your personal use if you have a scope requiring a wedge, and the club will mount and rough align the pier for your use. (If you would rather, you can sponsor a pier for the club...) Contact Keith Burns.

I am looking for three individuals interested in working on the coffee mug project. We have the opportunity to get printed mugs at a steal...Contact Philip Sacco.

Tracy Wilson is the man to speak with if you are interested in getting an official hooded sweatshirt. They are very warm and look great. The logo is stitched rather than printed.

I have started a raffle for a Meade 4500. Tickets are \$2 and the scope will be raffled at the Peach State Star Gaze. You need not be present to win. Contact Mark Banks, Ken Poshedly, or Philip Sacco.

These projects can use some more help to be as successful as we'd like, so think about it and give a call... You will appreciate it a lot more if you help.

Thanks for the time.

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## Atlanta Astronomy Club Booth at the Scout Show

The AAC will have a booth at the Scout Show next Saturday, 14 November 1998, at the World Congress Center. (10AM-4PM).

Several members will be on hand to introduce Scouters and their families to the Atlanta Astronomy Club. On site, we will have located an 18-inch Dobsonian and 4-½ inch equatorial mounted Newtonian, as well as displays of astronomical computing software.

Don't have your afternoon Planned? We are told to expect as many as 40,000 visitors. Bring your scope on down to help out. Alternatively, just drop by. Needless to say, any help you can provide will be appreciated.

**If you are interested in helping out, please give me a call at 404-373-4119.**

Clear Skies! Art Russell.

## From the Oval Office

by Philip Sacco, President

### A VOTE TO BE CALLED FOR

There has been some misunderstanding about a recommendation that has been made by the Board concerning the acquisition of a large aperture telescope for use at a dark site.

### Background

This past summer I created several committees to look into the various aspects and concerns involved with the purchase of a new telescope for the clubs use at a dark site. Several viable locations were materializing for the club, and in the event we had access to land without having to purchase it, I wanted the club to be positioned to move quickly on such likelihood.

For three months, the question of a scope acquisition was raised and a questionnaire was effected to poll the general interests of our clubs membership. Ample time was allowed and announced that a general discussion of all member concerns affecting the purchase of a new scope would be heard at a general membership meeting, and this was done. Those concerns were noted and brought back to the committees in place to address the concerns of the membership, and a full report was made to the Board at our last board meeting. That board meeting was announced well ahead of time and I repeatedly encouraged any and all members to attend to hear the full reports made to the Board and speak up.

### The Recommendation

...that the club should purchase a large aperture telescope of the Alt-Az configuration, and the "Telescope Package" would include a selection of eyepieces, digital setting circle, a ladder for the full use of the scope, and an ample structure to house the scope. The estimate was \$9000.

It was decided that fundraisers would raise \$4500, or at least 1/2 of the expense, first for the "Telescope Package" with the balance to be absorbed by the Dark Site Account. This would not deplete the "Dark Site Account" unnecessarily. (In last months Focal Point, it was incorrectly quoted that \$4500 would come from the Dark Site Account and the balance was to be raised.) Any saving on the actual expense would then result in a larger balance being retained in the clubs "Dark Site Account". It's current balance is approx. \$10,000.

The "Dark Site Account" is a special account of the AAC currently being funded exclusively by the Peach State Star Gaze and specific donations targeted by members. It is a separate bank account from the General Savings Account of the AAC. The "Dark Site Account" origination and purpose is to support the acquisition and development of a dark site for a new observatory. With the likelihood of our being given land for our use and development, it is appropriate that the moneys from the Dark Site Account be used to augment this project.

Promptly at 8pm on the evening of our next general membership meeting of the 20th of November, I will moderate individuals speaking Pro and Con the recommendation of the Board as outlined above. This vote will simply be to approve or disapprove of the Boards Recommendation. This will not be a time for general discussion, rather members will be asked to keep their comments to an individual nature concerning the Boards Recommendation. The first 15 minutes of the meeting will be for this vote. Vote will be contingent on at least 25 members being present, and will be taken by a show of hands.

## Nominating Committee Forming

Philip Sacco, President AAC

It may seem a bit early to bring up this subject, but time will fly now that the Holiday Season is upon us, and I feel that it is timely to begin thinking about next years leadership now.

Good leadership in the Atlanta Astronomy Club is a crucially important factor in where and what the club finds itself doing in the coming year.

Rather than wait until after the Holiday Season to form the Nominating Committee, I am asking any persons interested in serving on the Committee to make themselves known to me as soon as possible. I would like to make an announcement as to who is sitting on the committee at the November meeting.

The Nominating Committee is a selection of individual members of the club, charged with the responsibility of providing the club with viable candidates for the upcoming slate of officers. They will be responsible with making sure that at least one candidate is presented for each position to be filled.

The criteria they will look at for each candidate are:

1. Is the candidate a member in good standing of the Atlanta Astronomy Club?
2. Ensure that the candidate is aware of the duties and responsibilities of the position
3. Does the candidate have the best interests of the club at heart?
4. Will the candidate serve if elected?

These criterion being met, all candidates for each position will be announced to the club membership before election night (next May). Floor nominations for any position may be made on election night. I would STRONGLY encourage any persons interested in serving to make themselves known to the Nominating Committee as soon as possible so as to allow the full slate of candidates to be published in the Focal Point prior to election night if at all possible. This will simplify the Committees job, and make elections unencumbered.

Knowing that our base of new members is rather large, I would like to encourage each and every one of you to consider what the AAC means to you, and what you could do for the club in return in a position of leadership.

Remember, this is a club of your friends, and helping friends create the kind of club everyone wants the AAC to be can only be accomplished if you take an active part.

Besides, leadership of this club is an exciting and rewarding experience. You will be assured of making many new friends and being part of developing and participating in many of the exciting activities the club presents.

Now is the time to consider your future role in the AAC. I hope you will consider a leadership position for your own as well as the clubs development.

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## Your Involvement

### Anonymous

Having belonged to many organizations in the past, I find that typically it is the lack of involvement of the general membership, which results in a club becoming something less than enjoyable overall.

I have also noted that with all the various projects being promoted for membership activity and club growth, there appears to be a very small number

of members showing any interest in supporting the activities. I took a personal interest in how I could help and found out a rather startling fact...many of the clubs activities are subject to elimination for want of support.

I asked the President what could I do, and I was simply asked to think of what the club is all about, and write a letter to the editor of the Focal Point and ...well here it is.

I found that a great opportunity lay in the balance. A great deal of concern has been focused on how to accommodate and ensure the participation of the women of the club. Their comfort at the Observatory was of paramount concern, and, in particular, the replacement of the old outhouses with a new facility was deemed the most needed improvement. Chrissy Mondell and Sharon Carruthers have been striving toward the womens involvement and promoting the "Ladies of the Night ... Sky." The Ladies are now promoting a fundraiser in the form of HAND MILLED HERBAL SOAPS to raise the money and make the decision on what to replace the old outhouses with. Apparently, the efforts of the few for the benefit of the many may die a crib death for lack of participation.

I for one have made my decision to help the Ladies out in producing the soap baskets. I ask that you look at your involvement in this club and make a decision too. Are you content to let inertia have its way and watch the efforts of a few come to nothing? Alternatively, are you going to help apply a little effort of your own to help make this club something YOU WANT IT TO BE...and help keep the ball rolling?

There are some powerfully motivated people in this club, and I have found that I can contribute as well. I have not only found it to be FUN, but have made some good friends as well.

This club is simply to large for each of us to be hunted down and personally invited to help on a project. I have heard the Presidents repeated appeals for support and made a simple telephone call to him, and I challenge you to do the same. (He happens to be rather entertaining of all concerns I have found...)

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## The Dark-Site Committee

### Phil Bracken, Chairman of the Dark-Site Committee for the AAC

I want to thank everyone who came to the last Dark-Site committee meeting that was held on Oct. 25. My special thanks go to Lynn and Tom Crowley for hosting the meeting. I really appreciate everyone volunteering to help with the many parts of the big job of building the new William A. Calder Observatory.

We need to have a Board of Directors meeting, and there are not many times left before next year to have it. We also want as many members to come as possible. We hope it will be all right for everyone to have two meetings on Sunday, December 6. We would like for the Dark-Site committee to meet at 5:00 PM, and the general board to meet at 7:00. We would take about a 20 to 30 minute break between the two meetings, and I will bring some light refreshments. It will most likely be held at the Agnes Scott Observatory. I hope that many of you will like having these two important meeting on the same night, although it will be a long evening. Please let Art and I know if this will be a problem for you.

Please get with the other members in the group or groups you are working with, and start working on your project. We only have a month before our next meeting. You may consider a conference call as a way to get started without spending driving time. Let me know how it is going and what you may need help with.

If you know of any other club members who you want to get involved with your group's activities, please ask them to help. **If you or any other club member wants to work with any other groups, please speak up.**

## November Meteor Showers

NAME	DATES	PEAK DATE	ZHR
Southern Taurids	Nov 1-25	Nov 5	5
Delta Eridanids	Nov 6-29	Nov 10	2
Northern Taurids	Nov 1-25	Nov 12	5
Zeta Puppids	Nov. 2- Dec. 12	Nov 13	3
Leonids	November 14-21	Nov 17	Storm ?
Alpha Monocerotids	November 15-25	Nov 21	Var
Chi Orionids	Nov. 25- Dec. 31	Dec 2	3
Phoenicinids	Nov. 28- Dec. 9	Dec 6	Var
Monocerotids	Nov. 27- Dec. 17	Dec 9	3

If you want more meteor shower information, check into these online sources.

Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers

<http://www.lpl.arizona.edu/~rhill/alpo/meteorstuff.html>

North American Meteor Network

<http://medicine.wustl.edu/~kronkg/namn.html>

International Meteor Organization

<http://www.imo.net/>

Gary Kronk's Meteor Shower Page

<http://medicine.wustl.edu/~kronkg/>

There is an astronomical league observing program for meteor shower observing. Contact me (Keith Burns) for more information. I will do an article on this program soon.

# ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE OBSERVING CLUB SPOTLIGHT

by Keith

It is only appropriate that I spend sometime talking about The Lunar Club. I must admit that the moon is the deep sky observer's worst enemy. The moon is bright when it is up. This fact makes it impossible to observe those faint fuzz objects. Our moon has a strange power about it. There are several good reasons to observe the moon. First, light pollution does not affect our ability to see it. Secondly, the moon is up 50% of the time so we have many more chances to observe. Third, the moon is a big and bright object thus making it easy to locate for anyone. Finally, a full moon brings clear skies (as everyone knows or soon learns).

The Lunar list was developed to give astronomers something to do when the moon is up. That is what Steve Nathan of the Astronomical League told me.

He is the designer and maker of the Lunar Club observing program. His email address is [snathan@k12.oit.umass.edu](mailto:snathan@k12.oit.umass.edu). Email Steve if you have any questions about the list.

The Lunar list consists of 100 visual objects and 10 optional activities. All the visual objects are broken down into three sections. Each section contains objects you observe with a certain observing instrument. First, you have the 18 naked eye objects. No explanation needed here, I hope. Some of them should be observed during a certain phase of the moon. Second, you have the 46 binocular objects. You can use a pair of 7X35 binoculars to view these objects. Third are the 36 telescopic objects. Here you can use a small or large telescope to view these objects. Size does not matter this time.

The object of the Lunar Club is to observe 100 objects. If you can't do all 100 visual objects, then do several of the optional activities. Each optional activity is worth two visual objects. All you have to do when you log a visual object is to record the date and time of each observation of each object. At the top of your log sheet write down what binoculars and telescope you used to do this list. If you can't see a certain object using the naked eye method, then use binoculars to complete the observation. The same is true for binoculars to telescopes.

After completing the Lunar list, you can submit your observations via email to [Keith\\_Burns@Mailexcite.Com](mailto:Keith_Burns@Mailexcite.Com). Snail mail copies of them to me at (Keith Burns 3740 Burnt Hickory Road Marietta, GA 30064). You can also hand me a copy of your observation sheet. If you prefer, send them to Steve Nathan 45 Brewster Road West Springfield, Ma. 01089. You can get copies of the list from me or pull them off the internet at <http://www.mcs.net/~bstevens/al/obsclubs/lunar.html> This is the information page for the lunar club and you can find the link to the actual list here.

I would recommend getting a good moon map. Sky and Telescope publication sells a \$3 map. Order the map at 1-800-253-0245. Peterson's field guide and Audubon field guide both have good lunar maps in them but they are missing objects. Your best bet is to get the "Atlas of The Moon" by Antonin Rukl's. This book is an excellent source for moon observation. This book can be purchased from Kalmbach Publishing Company at 1-800-533-6644 for a cost of \$30 plus shipping. You can save some money by ordering the book through the AAC. Contact Alex Langoussis and he can order it. The cost is about \$25 total. For those of you who can't spend the money or won't, Rukl's Atlas of The Moon book is now available on-line at <http://www.evansville.net/~slk/sections.htm>

The moon is not only full of craters. You can also see mountain ranges; mountain peaks, valleys, seas (Maria), and faces on the moon. The man on the moon really looks like John Lennon wearing his sunglasses. Trust me on this one. The moon also has a cow on it. Perhaps this is where the astro cows come from. Join the ranks of our lunatic section of the AAC. So far

we have Philip Sacco #82, Chrissy Mondell #92, Joanne Cirincione #99, Keith Burns #100, Charles Cottingham #106, Tracy Wilson #114, Matthew Macumber #116, and Sharon Carruthers #123. If you have a question about the list, ask one of these people. What does it mean when we say, "The old moon in the new moon's arms?" How about, "The new moon in the old moon's arms?"

## LUNAR CHALLENGE

For those of you who want an even bigger challenge, try doing the 144 items Lunar Challenge List. This new program is designed to last a year. Each month you are given 12 new objects to do. The objects are broken down into the categories of naked eye, binocular, telescopic, and questions (about the moon). Observe (and log) the objects and answer the questions. Now the list starts easy and gets harder as the year progresses. Each month's installment is being printed in the focal point. If you have any questions about this list, feel free to ask either Philip Sacco or myself. Note that all 100 items included on the Lunar Club list are included in the Lunar Challenge List. This is not an astronomical league program yet but it is an AAC observing program.

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## Lunatic Observing Challenge #5

by Lunatic #82, Philip Sacco

Thanksgiving is always a good clear time of year, and if the recent weather is any indication, this November should prove to be a good observing month. I hope you take the time to enjoy the Leonids on the 16/17th, and get out to enjoy our closest satellite!

### Naked Eye Targets:

1. Oceanus Procellarum - Ocean of ...
2. Mare Cognitum - the '...' Sea
3. Challenge: Sinus Medii - Central Bay Not TOO tough! What does it's name mean?
4. What is significant about crater Hedervary?

### Pickerings Naked Eye Challenge:

- 1) Mare Humororum, the Sea of ... This is a rated 3 challenge....
- 2) Sinus Medii-.... Not TOO tough!...hehehehe What does it's name mean? This is a rated 9 challenge...

### Binocular Targets:

1. Crater Cleomedes - What Sea is just below it?
2. Crater Endymion
3. Mare Undarum- What Sea is just above it?
4. Crater Macrobius
5. Challenge: Crater Cyrillus Hint: Theo's buddy!

### Telescope Targets:

1. Crater Burg
2. Crater Triesnecker
3. Promontorium LaPlace Hint: Another good place to see a rainbow!
4. Challenge: Triesnicker Rilles

# Polaris

Courtesy of Steven "Saratoga Smitty" Smith

member of: Flint River Astronomy Club, Atlanta Astronomy Club and Sidewalk Astronomers

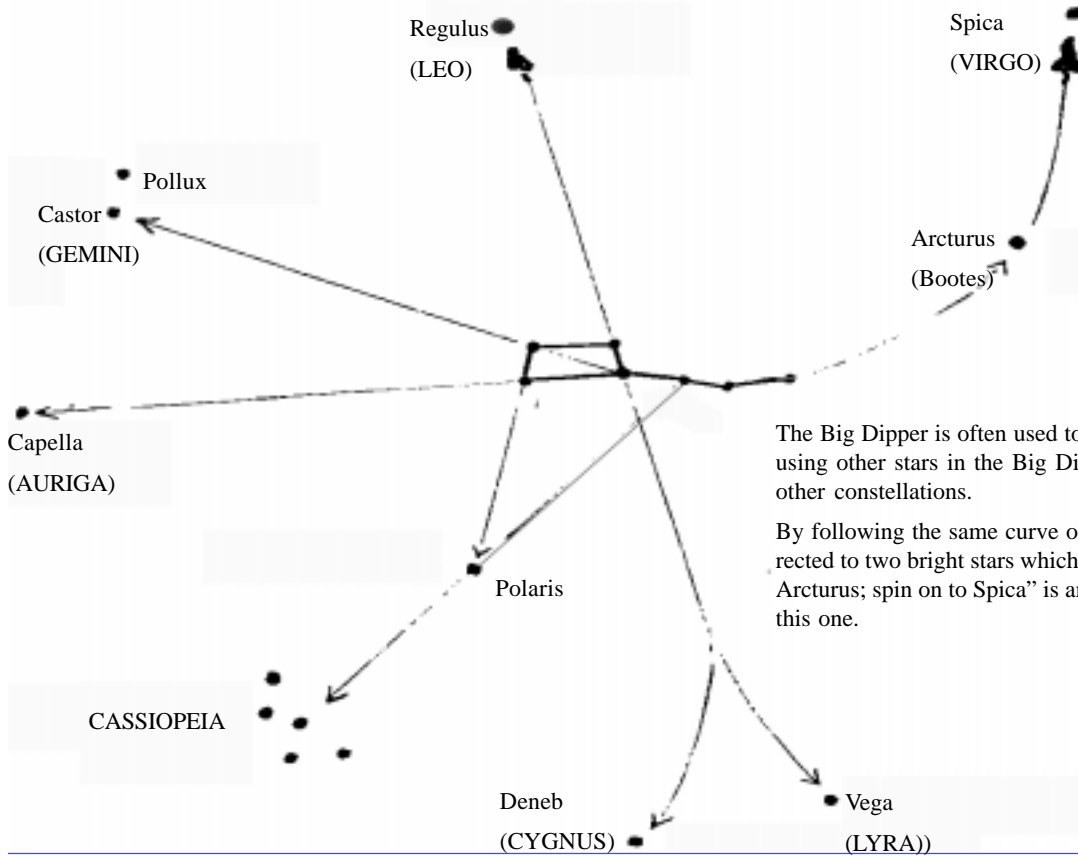
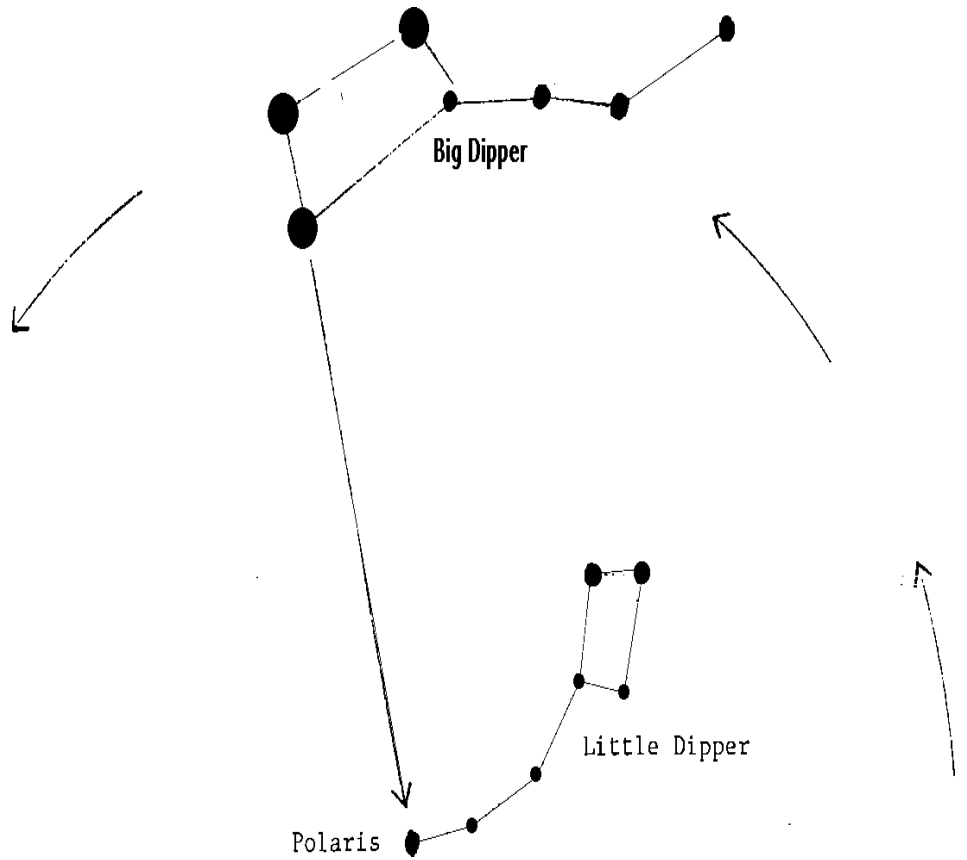
The Big Dipper and the Little Dipper are two well-known arrangements of stars or what we call "asterisms." They are not constellations as the Big Dipper is part of a much larger constellation called URSA MAJOR or Great Bear, and the Little Dipper comprises most of the constellation URSA MINOR or Lesser Bear.

The star Polaris is located almost exactly, where the Earth's North Pole is, and if you were to stand at the North Pole Polaris would always be directly overhead.

To find Polaris, use the two end stars of the Big Dipper's "bucket"; they point the way to our "North Star"

Polaris- will always be at the same spot in the northern sky even in the daytime when you cannot see it. As our Earth spins on its axis, creating the days and nights, the other stars appear to move in a great circle around Polaris all through the night. The Big and Little Dipper circle Polaris too. As an aid in finding the Dippers remember: the Big Dipper and the Little Dipper always "pour" into each other.

Depending on your location when viewing the stars, you may have some trouble seeing the Little Dipper. While Polaris and the two end "bucket" stars are fairly bright, the rest of the Little Dipper's stars are not.



The Big Dipper is often used to find Polaris, the Earth's "North Star". By using other stars in the Big Dipper, you will be guided to bright stars in other constellations.

By following the same curve or arc of the dipper's handle you will be directed to two bright stars which are in two different constellations. "Arc to Arcturus; spin on to Spica" is an old saying that will help you to remember this one.



## EXCELLENT OBSERVING NOTES

### Keith Burns, Lunatic # 100

I wanted to start out this month with a flashback to last month. The picnic/orientation was held on the 24th of October and a complete success. The weather was perfect. No monsoon occurred this year. We had the second largest crowd of the year with about 80 people. Many of the people who came for the orientation stayed to observe until midnight (which is late for any newcomer). The night ended with a nice display of the Orionid meteor shower and a trip to Waffle House (at 5 AM).

The month of November is one of those months when meteor showers are common. This is the second most active month for meteor activity. The Leonid meteor shower is the largest shower this month and predictions of a meteor storm this year or next are everywhere. If the storm does not materialize, we will have a very active meteor shower at least. The constellation of Leo (where the shower originates from) rises after midnight. The best time to view the shower is after midnight up to twilight. Leo (the lion) can be found about half way between the southern and northern horizons. Look for a group of stars that looks like a large question mark. Leo is located underneath the Ursa Major (the Big Dipper). The shower peaks on the mornings of November 17th and 18th.

The November orientation will take place on November 14th at our Walter Barber Observatory (Villa Rica). The start time for the orientation is 5 PM sharp. There will be several locations to view the Leonids meteor shower. Jim Wyrosdick has generously offered his place up in Dahlonega as a site to view the meteor shower. We are also planning an official viewing session of the Leonid meteor shower at Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center, which is southeast of Covington. The date will be the evening of Nov 16th and the morning of Nov 17th. This is a Monday night/ Tuesday morning. The location is the Dove field. Directions to Charlie Elliot are printed in this focal point.

Saturday November 21st is the scheduled date for the DSS. It will be held at the Dove field at Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center. This is the first chance many of you will have to check out this site. This is near the location of a possible future observatory. Charlie Elliot has camping, fishing, and hiking. There is also a museum on the property along with an educational center. The wildlife center includes 6400 acres of land, which is located on the Newton and Jasper counties border.

The December Deep Sky Session will take place at Little River Canyon National preserve which is located about 90 miles northwest of Atlanta. The canyon is located east of Ft. Payne, Alabama.

The actual observing site is Lyn Overlook and the backup site is Canyon View Overlook. You can camp at the overlooks or stay at Desoto State Park. Desoto State Park is located about 10 miles northwest of Little River Canyon. Desoto has hotel rooms, cabins, chalets, and wilderness camping, and improved camping. Winter rates are in affect. The telephone numbers for information and/or reservations is 1- 800-568-8840 or 1-256-845-5075. This site has 6.5 mag skies according to the IDA. The canyon sites on top of Lookout Mtn so fog should not be a problem. The area is surrounded by waterfalls and hiking trails. We are cosponsoring this event with the Von Braun Astronomy Club of Huntsville. BTW: Huntsville and The Space Center is only 75 miles from Desoto. Before I forget, the DSS takes place on December 19th. This is the weekend before Christmas.

The December orientation is scheduled for the 12th. It will be held at the Walter Barber Observatory. The start time is 5 PM. If you have any questions about astronomical league observing programs, DSS information, or orientation info, please contact me by email at [Keith\\_Burns@Mailexcite.Com](mailto:Keith_Burns@Mailexcite.Com) or by telephone at 770-426-1797.

## DIRECTIONS TO CHARLES ELLIOTT WILDLIFE CENTER

Take I-20 east from Atlanta. Exit the interstate at exit number 47 which is Georgia 11.

Turn right at end of exit ramp and proceed in a southerly direction to Mansfield, Georgia.

After passing through the town of Mansfield, continue south on Georgia 11 for another 4 miles. The road will cross into Jasper County. Turn left onto the first paved road on the right after crossing into Jasper County. The name of the road is Shepherd Road. There should be a church on the corner also. Proceed on Shepherd Road past the point where the paved road ends. Look for an intersection after the pavement ends. Turn left onto Shepherd Pond Road. Proceed on Shepherd Pond Road for 1/4 mile. The road will pass by Shepherd Lake that is on the left side of the road. The road curves twice. Just after the second curve in the road, pull onto the grassy field on the right side of the road. This is the parking area for Dove pond and Muskrat pond.

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### Directions to the Home of Sacco:

1. Take I-285 to the East side of town and exit at Covington Hwy.
2. Go East (outside the perimeter) to the first stop light beyond the overpass. (About 1/2 mile), and Go Left (north) on 'South Indian Creek'.
3. Go about 2 miles to a stop light at 'Redan Road' and go right (east) for 1.1 mile.
4. The road will widen just short of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, into which you will be entering on your right. There are blue and yellow flags flying at the entrance to the neighborhood and a grey picket fence.
5. Enter the Crystal Lakes Subdivision on 'To-Lani Farm Drive' and in about 100yards take the first right onto 'Cherokee Heights'.
6. Pass a culdesac on you left, and 1097 Cherokee Heights is on your left, third house after the culdesac. The name Sacco and 1097 are on the mailbox.

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### News

They are here — the *Astronomy* 1999 Calendar. Well not really, they are now available for ordering. The club, will again this year, be offering you a great calendar at a great price. The reprinted cover will be available for viewing at the general meeting or at any club function for the next four weeks. Sign the sheet, (or send me an e-mail) and reserve your copy. Only a few extras will be available, so please order one today.

The 1999 Explore the Universe Annual is now available for ordering. This year's newly expanded skyguide is filled with maps, photos, diagrams, and star gazing facts to help amateur astronomers follow sky events. You will receive a 20% discount off the \$5.95 cover price. This also must be ordered through the club. So if you want the 1999 Explore the Universe Annual, sign up at the next meeting (or send me an e-mail).

Kalmbach Publishing, publishers of *Astronomy*, have sent us the details of the group subscription plan. The **new rate** for *Astronomy* magazine through the club will be **\$29.00**

## Club Officers

Phil Sacco	President	404-296-6332
	<b><i>ppsacco@mindspring.com</i></b>	
Rich Jakiel	VP Program Chairman	
	<b><i>deepsky@mindspring.com</i></b>	
Keith Burns	VP Observing Chairman	770-427-1475
	<b><i>keith_burns@mailexcite.com</i></b>	
Sharon Carruthers	Treasurer	770-319-8970
	<b><i>macumber@bellsouth.net</i></b>	
Peter Macumber	Corresponding Secretary	770-319-8970
	<b><i>macumber@bellsouth.net</i></b>	
Wm Bower	Recording Secretary	770-723-9891
	<b><i>wbower@emory.edu</i></b>	

## Board of Directors

Phil Bracken	Dark-Site	770-941-6517
	<b><i>philb@mindspring.com</i></b>	
Tom Crowley		914-425-0645
	<b><i>tcrowley@mfn.com</i></b>	
Don Hall		770-938-8139
	<b><i>donhall@mindspring.com</i></b>	
Art Russell	Chairman of the Bored	404-373-4119
	<b><i>artrussell@mindspring.com</i></b>	
Gil Shillcutt	Amature Telescope Makers	404-467-1437
	<b><i>Gil.Shillcutt@choicepointinc.com</i></b>	
Tracy Wilson	A.T.M.	770-270-9402
	<b><i>tracy2@mindspring.com</i></b>	

## Standing Committees

Lenny Abbey	Membership	404-634-1222
	<b><i>labbey@mindspring.com</i></b>	
Mark Banks	Sidewalk Astronomy	404-257-2766
Stephen Blalock	AAC Webmaster	770-948-9820
	<b><i>stephen.blalock@gr1.gatech.edu</i></b>	
Tom Buchanan	Light Polution	770-521-2136
Doug Chesser	Club Graphics	770-457-5743
	<b><i>chesser@mindspring.com</i></b>	
Lynn Crowley	Beginner's Contact and Socials	404-233-6886
Alex Langoussis	Publicity	770-429-8384
	<b><i>aleko@mindspring.com</i></b>	
Julie Moore	Hospitality and Refreshments	770-242-6735
Ken Poshedly	Peach State Star Gaze	770-979-9842
	<b><i>ken.poshedly@mindspring.com</i></b>	

## AAC CALENDAR of EVENTS

November 14, Saturday	Scout Show	World Congress Center
	Orientation - ALQ 21%	Villa Rica
November 17, Tuesday	LEONIDS	
November 20, Friday	General Meeting	Emory White Hall
November 21, Saturday	Deep Sky	Charles Eliot Wildlife Center
November 26, Thursday	Thanksgiving	
November 27, Friday	Holiday	
December 12, Saturday	Orientation - ALQ 36%	Villa Rica
December 18, Friday	General Meeting	
December 19, Saturday	Deep Sky	
December 31, Thursday	New Years Eve	

## Focal Point

The November Focal Point is here.

**December's Focal Point will be published on December 6<sup>th</sup>, please submit your articles before December 3<sup>th</sup>.**

The Focal Point is available in color online via e-mail in PDF format. The free Adobe(R) Acrobat(R) Reader allows you to view, navigate, and print PDF files across all major computing platforms. PDF stands for Portable Document Format. The reader, Adobe Acrobat, can be downloaded from <http://www.adobe.com>. This is a *free* product. More information is available at the ADOBE web site.

Send me and e-mail, I will send you a Focal Point. If you like it, we will stopsending you a copy snail-mail. It will also save the club a dollar.

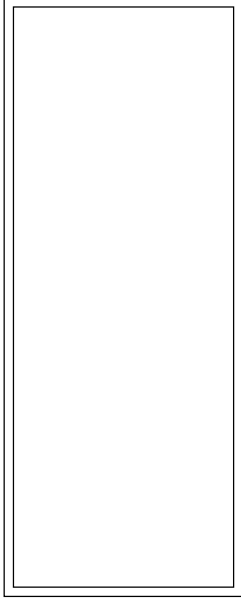
The club membership is 321. Twenty-seven people receive their Focal Point via e-mail.

For all those people who submit or want to submit articles to the Focal Point, send them via e-mail in a file that is MS compatible. SUBMIT prior to the deadline, next month there will be NO exceptions.



Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

**FIRST CLASS**



FROM:

Peter Macumber

3401 Velvet Creek Drive

Marietta, GA 30008-7619

macumber@BellSouth.Net

*We're here to help! Here's how how to reach us:*

Atlanta Astronomy Club

3595 Canton Road, Suite A9-305

Marietta, GA 30066

## Atlanta Astronomy Club

### November

#### General Meeting - Emory White Hall - Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 PM

Refreshments will be served from 7:30 - 8:00. Come early and socialize before the meeting

For the November meeting, **Tom Polakis** will be speaking about 'Amateur Astronomy in Arizona'. Tom will talk about the observing conditions in the state, from the light pollution situation to climate. He will discuss some of the favorite star parties, clubs and their histories, and both famous and infamous amateur astronomers of Arizona.

Tom Polakis has been an amateur astronomer for over 20 years, the last 13 of which have been spent in Arizona. His main interests are visual observation of deep-sky objects and photography of sky phenomena. His articles may be found in the pages of "Sky & Telescope" and "Astronomy" magazines, and he is currently working through a series of observing articles for "Astronomy" slated to cover the entire sky.

The Ladies of the Night ... Sky will be displaying their wonderful Gift Baskets of hand milled soaps. Stop by the display and order yours for that hard to buy Birthday Gift or challenging Christmas Gift.

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The Atlanta Astronomy Club Inc., the South's largest and oldest astronomical society, meets at 8:00 p.m. on the third Friday of each month at Emory University's White Hall or occasionally at other locations (check the hot line for details). Membership is open to all. Annual dues are \$25 (\$10 for students). Discounted subscriptions to Astronomy, and Sky & Telescope magazines are available.

Hot Line: Timely information on the night sky and astronomy in the Atlanta area is available on a twenty-four hour basis on the Atlanta Astronomy Club hot line: **770-621-2661**.

Internet Home Page: <http://stlspb.gtri.gatech.edu/astrotxt/atlastro.html>