

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947

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Editor: Peter Macumber

## OBSERVING IS THE HEART OF AMATEUR ASTRONOMY

For many years, the Astronomical League has offered an extensive series of observing programs for the amateur astronomer. Upon completion of these programs, observers are awarded certification through the Astronomical League, and presented a beautiful lapel pin in recognition of their efforts. The names of successful observers have also been published in the REFLECTOR, the newsletter of the Astronomical League, for many years.

Most of the AL's observing programs have been distributed free for the asking.

But to obtain these programs, the AL required that interested observers make a request through the mail.

Now, the American Association of Amateur Astronomers, as a member society of the Astronomical League, is pleased to announce a new service from its Internet Web Page, <http://www.corvus.com>. We are providing the AL's FREE Observe Programs in Adobe Acrobat Portable Document File format at no charge as a service to members of the AAAA, the Astronomical League, and the astronomical community at large. The Observing Programs which require a published manual must still be obtained from Astronomical League Sales, PO Box 572, West Burlington, IA 52655. Naturally, you can also access reformatted HTML versions of these programs from the Astronomical League's Home Page at <http://www.astroleague.org>.

Our PDF files are the exact same documents you would receive upon request from the Astronomical League, and were created from copies of the original documents using Adobe Acrobat Exchange Version 3.02.. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader Version 3.02 or higher to read these files in your web browser or after download for later use. This Reader software can be obtained FREE from the Adobe web page. <http://www.adobe.com>.

AAAA encourages you to download these files for your own use, and to distribute them, in either electronic or printed form, to members of your society or organization, and other interested observers, as an encouragement to further their participation in amateur astronomy.

You MUST be a member of the Astronomical League, either through membership in an affiliated astronomical society or as a Member-at-Large, to receive certification for these programs.

As a member of the AAAA, not only are you eligible to earn any of these observing awards, but you will also get your own subscription

to the Astronomical League's newsletter, the REFLECTOR, as well as our own quarterly newsletter, The American Astronomer.

Clear Skies and Good Observing.

Sincerely,

Ed Flaspoepler, Vice President

American Association of Amateur Astronomers

<http://www.corvus.com>

## AL OBSERVING PROGRAMS IN PDF FORMAT FROM AAAA

Binocular Messier Club - 50 of the best Messier objects for binoculars. al-binom.pdf

Deep Sky Binocular Club - 60 additional deep sky objects for binoculars. al-binod.pdf

Southern Skies Binocular Club - 50 of the finest objects in the Southern Hemisphere. al-binos.pdf

Double Star Club - 100 of the finest double & multiple stars in the heavens. al-dstar.pdf

Lunar Club - 100 features on the moon for naked eye, binoculars, and telescope. al-lunar.pdf

Arp Peculiar Galaxy Club - CCD image or observe 100 Arp galaxies. al-arp.pdf

Urban Club - observe 100 objects in heavily light-polluted areas. al-urban.pdf

## OBSERVING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FROM THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

Messier Club - 70 object and 110 object levels for the telescope. AL Sales \$6.00 ppd

Herschel Club - 400 deep sky objects for the telescope. AL Sales \$6.00 ppd

Herschel II Club - 400 more challenge deep-sky objects for the telescope. AL Sales \$11.00 ppd

Meteor Club - observe a series of meteor showers, and record your observations for ALPO. AL sales \$4.00 ppd

Sunspotters Club - observe and study sunspots and their cycles. AL Sales \$9.00 ppd

Astronomical League Sales,

PO Box 572,

West Burlington, IA 52655

## From the Oral Office

### by Philip Sacco

It is March! I can't believe it, and another major astronomical event missed due to .....SNOW!?

I just don't get it...but what I do get.....is a kick out of welcoming our new members of the Month: Edward Boze, Tony Castro, Tony, Frani & Family Conway/Green, Joyce & Sid Hall, Donald & Patty Keeslar/Talaurra, Regan Kelly, Gary & Roxann Killgo, Christopher B. Krubel, Tulio Larrinaga, Courtney McFarlane, Kathy Price, Jarad Schiffer, William R. Walker, John & Leslie Wasmund.

I hope you will all take advantage of what the AAC has to offer, and take an active part, for it is through the efforts of our membership that our club will continue to thrive and buzz with activity.

Please take a moment to read the great article in this issue of the Focal Point. You never know what you may find....

Elections: Elections of new officers will be held at the General Membership Meeting in May. The meeting will be held in room #207 from now until then. If you are interested in running for one of the positions, please contact Chrissy Mondell, Rich Jakiel or Phil Bracken. Their numbers are listed in the back of the Focal Point.

AAC Mugs: The mugs are in and can be ordered or picked up at any meeting of the AAC for \$8, or at any viewing event or special function for \$10 and it includes a bottomless mug of coffee or hot chocolate.

Blue Moon: We had a Blue Moon viewing session in January and 262 participants showed up....it would have been a great night if the MOON had appeared! Weeellll....this year is very special for we will be having a Second Blue Moon in March, and we will be hosting Blue Moon Gaze 2 at the Charles Elliott Wildlife Management Area on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. Stay tuned for more details.

For those that don't notice minor things like the MOON, although we will have two Blue Moons this year(or Four, count them Four Full Moons in Two Months)...February has the singular distinction of not having a Full Moon this year!

Telescope Fund Donations: Donations are being accepted for the Big DOB. If you would like to have your name commemorated on a plaque on the new scope....Talk to Sharon Carruthers. Her number is listed in the back of the Focal Point.

See you all at the Peach State Star Gaze!

### Astronomy Today:

Once I was white but now I am black, I had a nice singing voice but now I just squawk.

On an errand for water I got distracted, the figs I ate cost Apollo to parch. Now this is my fate to thirst for a drink all the while I chase that chalice I hate.

What is my name? I will entertain your answers for a prize at the March meeting!

## Bradley Notes

When astronomy makes the evening news, the story is always accompanied by a stunning image. A high resolution color picture of a galaxy, a cloud of gas, or the surface of another planet hovers behind a newscaster's well-groomed head. But many of the advances in astronomy have resulted not from new images, but from what are called spectra. Spectra are in many ways the workhorse of astronomical discovery. But what are they, and what can they tell us?

As you know, the material world that we inhabit is made of atoms. Atoms consist of a nucleus (positively charged) surrounded by a negatively charged cloud of electrons. The simplest and most abundant atom in the universe (hydrogen) consists of a single proton and a single electron hovering around it. When an atom gets bumped (by collisions with other atoms or photons of light) the electrons surrounding the nucleus hop around, and the atom absorbs or emits light at a particular frequency. Different elements have different numbers of electrons that hop around in different and unique ways. If we pass the light emitted by an element through a narrow slit and then through a prism, we see a unique set of *spectral lines*—a fingerprint of that element. Hydrogen, for example, has four lines visible, and their colors are red, blue-green, violet and deep violet. No other element has that exact set of spectral lines.

Almost all of the information that astronomers receive from space comes in the form of light. Breaking that light into a spectrum reveals a wealth of knowledge. Spectra tell us not only what elements and molecules are present in a distant source, but how that source is moving relative to us. The familiar shift in tone of a moving train whistle happens to light as well. A moving light source causes the light to shift its "tone", allowing astronomers to see that a source is moving toward us or away from us. This type of study (using the Doppler shift of spectral lines) has allowed astronomers to detect the presence of planets around other stars, the rotation of gas and stars at the centers of other galaxies, and the mutual recession of all galaxies—the original evidence that the universe is expanding.

You may never see a spectrum on the evening news, but spectra have taught us at least as much about the universe as those pretty pictures.

I hope to see all of you at the Open House on March 12, 1999 when I will talk about the advent and use of radio telescopes. Also, Anneila Sargent of CalTech will be presenting our Open House lecture on April 9, 1999.

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Department of Physics & Astronomy (404) 471-5389 Fax

141 East College Avenue

Agnes Scott College

Decatur, GA 30030

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*MUGS MUGS*

*The MUGS are here!*

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## Lunatic Challenge #9

### by Lunatic #82

For those of you new to the AAC, 'The Lunatic Challenge' is an expansion of the Astronomical League's Lunar Club. Completing the Challenge will entitle you to the AL Lunar Club admission, with the wall certificate and lapel pin, as well as an autographed Reformed Calendar by Ralph Bridges. If you are already a member of the Lunar Club, you can count those objects as viewed on the Challenge, but make it more worth your while and take your time this go round and really learn the objects.

The Challenge is designed to be done in one year, and full instructions and a list of the primary sites to study, the DOMES, are included in Challenge #1. Either Keith Burns or Philip Sacco can supply you with the details and any challenges you may have missed.

I hope you will take the time to look some of these sites up as you will come to love our nearest neighbor....Go 'Dirt Viewing' for a change....!

Now for your Challenge:

#### Naked Eye Targets:

1. What is the longest valley on the near side of the moon?
2. What is the term used for lunar soil?
3. This Month's Challenge: If you stood in the center of crater Clavius, assuming a diameter of 140 miles....how high would the walls have to be to see them?

Here's a Whopper for you naked eye hunters!

#### Pickerings Ultimate Naked Eye Challenge:

Can you see the Rhipaeus Mountains without optical aid? This is a rated 12 challenge.....

#### Binocular Targets:

1. Mountains Pico and Piton - solitary peaks
2. Rheita Valley - 3 to 4 day or 17 to 18 day old moon
3. Palus Epidemiarum - Marsh of .....?
4. Crater Aristillus

#### Telescope Targets:

1. Domes between Kepler and Copernicus?
2. Petavius Wall
3. Reiner Gamma
4. Montes Alpes

## Ladies of the Night ... Sky

Hi Ladies,

Our next get together for the Ladies of the Night ... Sky will be Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, at my house. (Directions to follow.) We will start at 7:00 PM, or traffic permitting, whenever everyone gets here. ... :o) This meeting we will be to preview our slide show (Thank you Walter Breyer for loaning us your slides of "Women in Astronomy"; We greatly appreciate it) and presentation for the next weekend's event at Tallulah Gorge on March the 20<sup>th</sup>. This should be a great event as, from my understanding, the site is very dark and the ladies that participate will be getting a campsite, which will be nice.

We will also be discussing our participation in our annual Peach State Star gaze, a great opportunity to get some ideas on how we can do some presentations or anything as the Ladies of the Night...Sky; that we are...:o). It will be a good meeting and I hope to see you Ladies... there. It is always very casual and very fun... We have a lot of activity that surrounds us already and the more participation, the more fun it becomes for all of us involved. On that Idea, I would like to stress that this group was not founded as any kind of auxiliary (I even have a hard time writing it; Hee Hee ).

The group was founded to provide an open forum for the discussion of and understanding of Astronomy related issues involving women. This group is for the ladies to become familiar with the aspects of Astronomy that THEY find intriguing and to provide us with someone to discuss these issues with and further our understanding.

We are a young group and do have goals... but we do need help in achieving those goals... We already have become a strong segment of our club and we should be proud .... There have been many women involved and I would like to compile a roster of names of the Ladies attending the Peach State.

We were not even a group at the last PSSG, so we are still 'babes in the woods', but having a great time doing it... (I personally don't mind going back to babe hood, How bout You?)

Hope to see you at my house on the 15<sup>th</sup>... and give a call or e-mail me if you have any questions or need any info...

See ya's,

Chrissy :o)

<[Chrissy@nightsky.org](mailto:Chrissy@nightsky.org)> or call (404-296-6332)

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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 ½ 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 miles.
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 100yds 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.

See ya's all then..... Chrissy :o)

## TALLULAH GORGE STATE PARK DIRECTIONS

### From Atlanta:

Take I-85 north to I-985. Note that the exit ramp for I-985 is located on the left side of the northbound lanes. Take I-985 north for 24 miles. I-985 ends after exit 7. Continue on as the road becomes US 23/Ga 365 but remains a four lane road. Continue on US 23/Ga 365 for another 27 miles. At this point, there will be fork in the road. Take US 23/ 441 north. Note that the road sign should say either Clayton or Tallulah Falls. Proceed north on US 441/23. You will enter into the city limits of Tallulah Falls. The road will go from four lanes and two lanes at the bridge. After crossing the bridge, look for the entrance to the Tallulah Falls State Park. It will be a 1/4 mile down the road on the right hand side. Turn right onto Jane Hunt Yarn Drive. Travel for 1/2 a mile. For those of you who are going to the Ladies Of The Night...Sky talk, the Jane Hunt Yarn interpretive center is located at the end of the road. For those of you going to the DSS see the below directions.

### To the Stone place Observing Site:

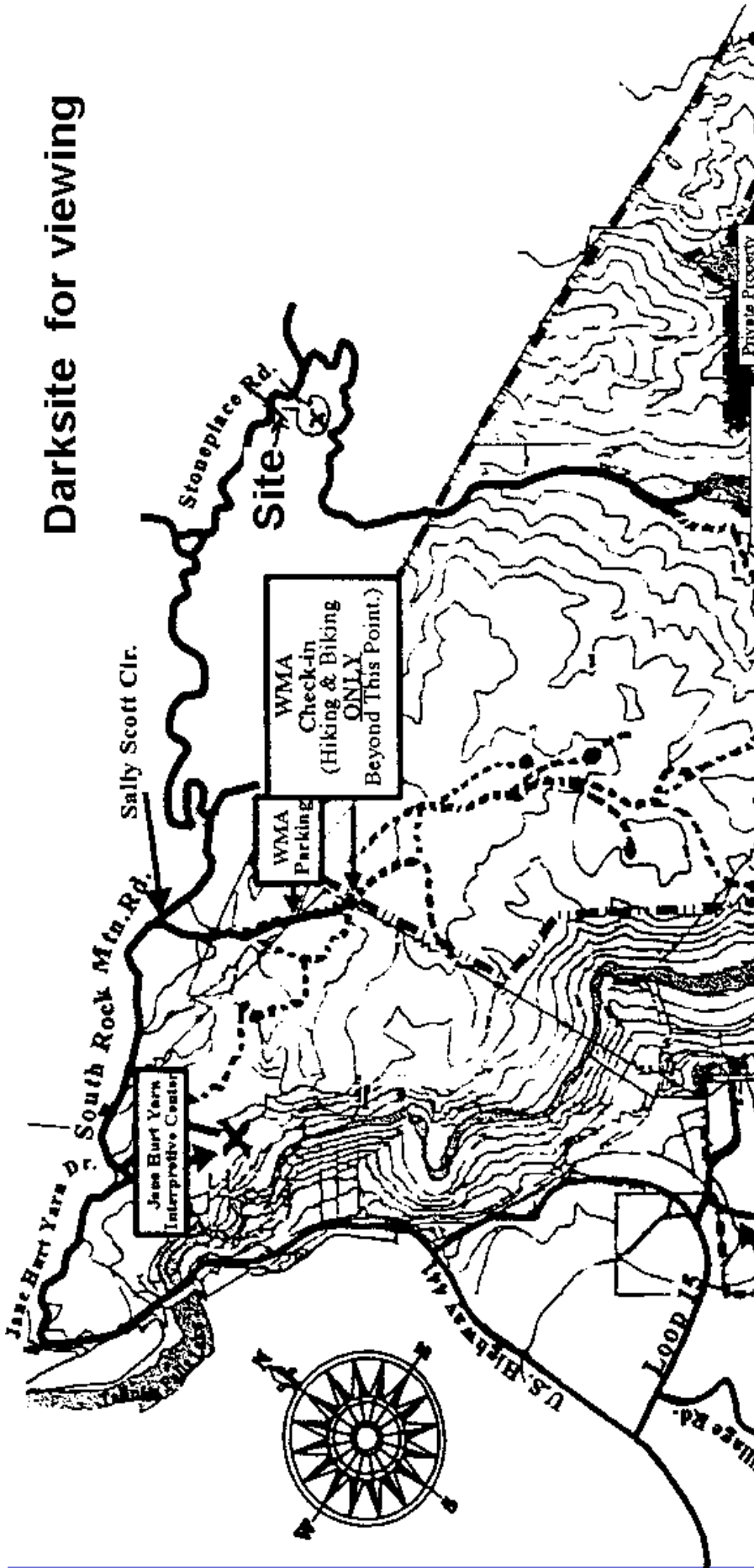
For those of you going to the observing field, from Jane Hunt Yarn Drive turn left onto South Rock Mountain Road. Look for a reddish brown wooden sign that says Stone Place. Follow these signs as they will take you to the observing site. The paved road will end and continues on as gravel. Look for and turn left onto North Rock Mountain Road. Take it to fork in the road. Take the right fork. You are now on Stone Place Road. The road travels down hill and levels out and then you travel up hill. Near the crest in the hill look for a small clearing to the left side of the road. This is the site. There should be cones setup in this location also. Note that if you come to a gate in the road you have gone too far.

### Basic information on the Stone Place site:

The skies at Stone place are 7.0 magnitude at the zenith. There are no facilities here. You can tent camp here. The final two miles of the road are gravel. The road has recently been regraded and new gravel added. No trailer campers are allowed here due to limitations in space available and road accessibility. The area of the site is 75 feet deep and 200 feet long. We can also setup on the road as no one else will be using this road. We have exclusive use of the location for this weekend.

### Alternative Campground Observing Site:

This site is a grassy field located on Jane Hunt Yarn Drive next to the campground. The campgrounds and field are both on the right side of the road as you drive into the park. The field is a flat dirt and grass area which is below the road. You can access the field by driving through the metal gate.



## **Basic information on the campground observing site:**

I am trying to get permission to have several of the street lights at the campground turned off for this one night. I've not heard back from Karla Taylor (the Tallulah Gorge contact) about the street lights yet. This site is large in size and conveniently located near facilities (bathrooms and showers). There is some light glare from the town of Tallulah Falls to the south and the lights of the substation located along the gorge to the southeast. There is a pine tree buffer that blocks the lights of Tallulah Falls and the substation. This site does have pretty good skies anyway.

If you traveling from Cherokee and North Fulton counties try these shortcuts:

**NOTE these are just some ideas to save some time and distance. Check you Georgia map and see which way is better for you.**

1) If you live east of Ga 400, then take Ga 20 to I-985. Turn left and enter onto I-985 and follow above directions from I-985 to end.

2) If you live west of Ga 400 and east of Ga 369, then take Ga 400 north to Ga 369. Turn right onto Ga 369 and take it to Ga 53. Turn right onto Ga 53 and take it to I-985. Take I-985 north and follow above directions from I-985 to end.

3) If you live west of Ga 369, then take Ga 20 to Ga 369. Take Ga 369 to Ga 53. Turn right onto Ga 53 and take it to I-985. Take I-985 north and follow above directions from I-985 to end.

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## **Astronomical League Launches New Observing Programs**

The following new Astronomical League observing manuals are now available:

“Observe Variable Stars”, “The Universe Sampler”, “The Planetary Observing Guide” and the “Asteroid Observing Club”.

Publication of these guides, along with the existing Messier and Herschel guides, the Meteor and Sunspotter clubs, and the binocular observing programs, means that the Astronomical League now offers a wider variety of observing programs for amateur astronomers, from the beginner all the way to advanced observers.

To learn about the details of these programs, set your web browser to the web page of the American Association of Amateur Astronomers:

<http://www.corvus.com>

All Astronomical League observing manuals can be obtained from the Astronomical League Sales at the following address:

Astronomical League Sales

P.O. Box 572

West Burlington, IA 52655

Web site: <http://www.astroleague.org/al/alsales/alsales.html>

## **1999 Astronomy Calendars**

A few calendars are left! At \$10, this is a real bargain. A couple copies of the Explore the Universe Annual have not been picked. If you cannot make it to the meeting Friday, send me an e-mail or give me a call. First come, first served.

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## **Raffle Scope: Meade 4500**

A drawing for a Meade 4500 telescope will be held at the PSSG. This is a great starter scope for someone interested in getting into Astronomy. It is a 4 1/2" Newtonian on a German Equatorial Mount. It has an all metal mount and Aluminum tripod with extending legs, accessory tray, finder scope, and a 25mm eyepiece. Tickets are available at any General Membership Meeting or viewing session of the AAC. They are \$2 each. Ticket sales have been very slow, so your chances of winning this \$600 are very good if you get your tickets now. Check with Philip Sacco or Mark Banks for tickets.

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## **ATM 16" Mirror notes**

Hi All,

Several of us gathered yesterday to continue grinding on the 16"(F6) blank as well as the ancient, rusting, 8.9" porthole.(F9)! The porthole is complete thru 30 micron and the 16" has another 45 minutes of 30 micron grit to go.

This was planned. As the tile/plywood tool we are using *WILL* warp slightly in the next 2 weeks, all fine grinding from 30 micron on down *must* be done on the same day.

So our next session will conclude grinding and mark the beginning of polishing. Many of our club members have taken time from their schedules to get this mirror to where it is, Thanks to all! 2 weeks ago the basement was packed with mirror makers. Every stand had a mirror and 2 more were brought in with the owners mirrors in tow! It was very exciting and busy. This whole project has been.

I suspect next session will be too...

Thanks very much for Chris Dupree and Agnes Scott for letting us use this space. Without it this simply wouldn't happen. Several of his students will be grinding their own 8" as soon as the kit arrives from Newport Glass Works. Very fitting!

There is a satisfaction in making your own spaceship(time machine) that just can't be bought. Hope to see yours there!

Tracy

Next workshop ... Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

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## **Moon Raffle**

Win your very own moon! A drawing for a custom print by our very own Geoff Powers will be held at the PSSG. This is a beautiful picture! Tickets are available at any General Membership Meeting or viewing session of the AAC. They are \$2 each. Hurry and get your tickets before time runs out. The proceeds from the raffling of the Moon will go to the **Ladies of the Night ... Sky** for Villa Rica. See Geoff Powers at the next meeting!

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## **Focal Point**

April's *Focal Point* will be published on **April 1<sup>st</sup>**, please submit your articles by then.

## From the new guy

By Richard Blackburn

The February Dark Sky night was cold and windy. There were clouds along the horizon for part of the night, but not bad. I worked on the Messier List, and located an additional 11 of the "famous" objects. Phil Sacco loaned me a 32mm eyepiece, and it is remarkable what the views are at lower magnification. I had a great time walking around and talking to everyone and seeing what they were looking at! Phil as always seemed to be talking to himself... I think everyone that went owes thanks to Jim for allowing us to invade his property!

I have also been working on the AL Urban List, and the AL Lunar List (which is a sub-set of the Lunatic Challenge by our very own Phil Sacco). I have almost finished the AL Lunar List, but the Lunatic Challenge is taking more work! I encourage everyone that hasn't started working on the Lunatic Challenge to take a look at it. You might be surprised with what you learn about the moon!

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## AAC Telescope Fund Raising Drive

The Atlanta Astronomy Club has placed an order for a 24 inch Tectron Dobsonian telescope. We need to raise money to help pay the cost for this new large aperture instrument. Please send whatever you can to help in this cause. All donations in the amounts listed below will be listed on a plaque that will be engraved and placed on the new telescope or at the new observatory when it is built.

\$25 or more: Lunar Donation

\$100 or more: Solar Donation

\$250 or more: Galactic Donation

\$500 or more: Super Nova Donation

Any donation, regardless of the amount will, be most appreciated.

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## Observing Events and Observing Chair's Remarks:

With the coming of March, warmer nights will be returning soon. This month the Ladies of the Night...Sky will be giving a presentation on "Women in Astronomy." The talk starts at seven p.m. on March 20 in the Jane Hunt Yarn Interpretive Center. A short star gaze session will take place following the talk in the parking lot of the center. This happens to be the night of the DSS. Both the talk and DSS will take place at Tallulah Gorge State Park up in Rabin County in Northeast Georgia. The DSS will take place at a separate site. The location is several miles inside the management area at a site called Stone Place. Directions to the site along with additional information are in this focal point. You can either attend the talk or opt not to and go to the DSS site instead.

For those of you who want to camp at the campground, you can make reservations by calling (1-706-754-7979). The other reservation number is (1-800-864-PARK). You can also call (1-706-754-7970) for park information. This park has many hiking trails in and around the Gorge. Make a weekend out of this by coming up early and staying till late Sunday.

The monthly public astronomy sessions with the Charles Elliot people will

continue to take place on the last Friday of each month. Here the March session will take place on March 26. The start time is seven p.m. and the location is back at the visitor's center. The program will include the Blue Moon slide show inside the center and public viewing in the parking lot.

The next Villa Rica observatory orientation is scheduled for (Saturday) March 27 and the program starts at 6 p.m. Public viewing will take place following the talk weather permitting. This is a clear or cloudy event. If it's raining, the event is cancelled. The April orientation is scheduled for Saturday April 10 Th.

With the new BOWMAN DOME installed, the Mak has a home now. There are three eyepieces and a case dedicated to this scope. While the scope and dome need some more work, you can use the scope if you are checked out on the observatory. Ask me for the combination to the door as this is the only way to reach the telescope. You will only get the combination if you have been properly trained on the use of the scope. Thanks again to Ralph Bowman for constructing it and giving us some eyepieces and an eyepiece case. Note that the building should be named the Bowman dome.

Besides the Mak telescope and dome construction, there are many projects out at Villa Rica that need to be finished. I'm compiling a list of the projects. We are planning to have a spring work party and picnic. While the new scope and other projects are coming along, we need to keep our only observatory in good shape. I'm still looking for people to help me with the Villa Rica projects. The head of the Observatory Annex committee is Smitty Smith. You can contact him (at 770-583-2200) if you want to help with this project.

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## The Big Dob is Coming ! The Big Dob is Coming !

We now have \$1,663 towards our goal of \$2,500 for the big Dob. A Club member, who does not wish us to make a public display of his generosity, collected \$500 from friends & colleagues, to donate to the Fund. This forced Phil Bracken to ante up another \$400 as a matching grant! While most people have contributed \$100, donations of ANY amount are welcomed. And I will automatically issue tax receipts for any donation over \$25 (please REQUEST a receipt for amounts under \$ 25).

We are also looking into an offer to donate a ladder for the new scope. (If you have a lead on any one who might be willing to donate items the Club needs (such as ladders, lenses, books or building supplies), please contact one of the exec.) We can issue receipts for donations of goods as well as money.

Where Does the Money GOOOOOO ????

Ever wonder where that \$25 you send to the Club is spent?

Here is a quick run-down of the budgeted expenses for 98-99:

Newsletter	\$ 9	(printing & postage)
Villa Rica Expenses	\$ 9	(mait. of buildings & scopes, Mak dome, electricity)
Speakers Fund	\$ 5	(travel fees, etc)
Misc. Expenses	\$ 2	(prop. tax, mailbox & ans. service rentals, refresh and picnic, etc.)
TOTAL	\$25	

The AAC has tried to keep our dues as low as possible - we are in line with or cheaper than any other astronomy club in the south. Instead, we have depended in the past on "user pay" donations to the Speakers and refreshments. These have fallen almost to nothing in the past few months. E-mailing the *Focal Point* saves us \$9 per person/per year (Printing is VERY expensive - anyone know of a printer who could do it cheaper than Business Depot?).

## Club Officers

Phil Sacco	President	404-296-6332
	<a href="mailto:ppsacco@mindspring.com">ppsacco@mindspring.com</a>	
Rich Jakiel	VP Program Chairman	
	<a href="mailto:deepsky@mindspring.com">deepsky@mindspring.com</a>	
Keith Burns	VP Observing Chairman	770-427-1475
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Sharon Carruthers	Treasurer	770-319-8970
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Wm Bower	Recording Secretary	770-723-9891
	<a href="mailto:wbower@emory.edu">wbower@emory.edu</a>	

## Board of Directors

Phil Bracken		770-941-6517
	<a href="mailto:pphilb@mindspring.com">pphilb@mindspring.com</a>	
Tom Crowley		914-425-0645
	<a href="mailto:tcrowley@mfm.com">tcrowley@mfm.com</a>	
Don Hall		770-938-8139
	<a href="mailto:donball@mindspring.com">donball@mindspring.com</a>	
Art Russell	Chairman of the Board	404-373-4119
	<a href="mailto:artrussell@mindspring.com">artrussell@mindspring.com</a>	
Gil Shillcutt	Amature Telescope Makers	404-467-1437
	<a href="mailto:Gil.Shillcutt@choicepointinc.com">Gil.Shillcutt@choicepointinc.com</a>	
Tracy Wilson	A.T.M.	770-270-9402
	<a href="mailto:tracy2@mindspring.com">tracy2@mindspring.com</a>	

## Standing Committees

Richard Blackburn	Dark-Site	770-801-9759
	<a href="mailto:rblackburn@mindspring.com">rblackburn@mindspring.com</a>	
Mark Banks	Sidewalk Astronomy	404-257-2766
Stephen Blalock	AAC Webmaster	770-948-9820
	<a href="mailto:stephen.blalock@gtri.gatech.edu">stephen.blalock@gtri.gatech.edu</a>	
Tom Buchanan	Light Polution	770-521-2136
*****	Club Graphics	***_***_****
Lynn Crowley	Beginner's Contact and Socials	404-233-6886
Alex Langoussis	Publicity	770-429-8384
	<a href="mailto:aleko@mindspring.com">aleko@mindspring.com</a>	
Julie Moore	Hospitality and Refreshments	770-242-6735
Ken Poshedly	Peach State Star Gaze	770-979-9842
	<a href="mailto:ken.poshedly@mindspring.com">ken.poshedly@mindspring.com</a>	
Chrissy Mondel	Ladies of the Night ... Sky	404-296-6332
	<a href="mailto:cbrissy@NightSky.Org">cbrissy@NightSky.Org</a>	

## AAC CALENDAR of EVENTS

March 12, Friday	Bradley Open House	Bradley
March 13, Saturday	ATM Workshop	Bradley
March 19, Friday	General Meeting	Emory White Hall
March 20, Saturday	Deep Sky	Talluah Gorge
March 26, Friday	Public Stargaze	CEWC
March 27, Saturday	ATM Workshop	Bradley
March 27, Saturday	Orientation	Villa Rica
April 10, Saturday	ATM Workshop	Bradley
April 10, Saturday	Orientation	Villa Rica
April 15, Thursday	Peach State	Indian Springs
April 16, Friday	Peach State	Indian Springs
April 17, Saturday	Peach State	Indian Springs
April 18, Sunday	Peach State	Indian Springs
April 24, Saturday	ATM Workshop	Bradley

## NightSky.Org

The *Focal Point* is available in color online in PDF format. The free Adobe(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.

Visit [NightSky.Org/AAC](http://NightSky.Org/AAC) on the web. In a private sub-web, the past year of *Focal Points* can be found. Check it out. If it works for you, send me an e-mail and I will stop sending you a copy snail-mail. It will also save the club a dollar. The Focal-Point web can be entered by using the Username of **AAC** and a password of **polaris**. These names are case sensitive! Type AAC in capitals, type polaris in lower case.

People who have had problems in the past with the PDF files have found that Acrobat Reader 3.02 works more better. It is best to de-install the older version of Acrobat Reader before installing version 3.02. If you have trouble printing, remember to select the "shrink to fit" box from the print menu.

If you have any other questions or problems, let me know. Peter

**Atlanta Astronomy Club**  
**Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**White Hall, Emory University**

**Refreshments from 7:30 PM - 8:00 PM**

Join other club members before the meeting for some light refreshments.

**General Meeting - 8:00 PM**

In less than two months, the Peach State Star Gaze will be over. The nice thing about that is that hordes of astronomical buddies will be home with stars (or planets, or comets, or whatever) in their eyes. They'll have made some new friends and taken home a boatload of knowhow about their favorite hobby. And it'll also mean YOU won't have to sit through yet another AAC meeting listening to PSSG promises for at least another nine months. But until then, we've got just one more chance to hook a few of you fencesitters who just can't make up your minds about going to the absolutely, positively best star party this state has to offer. This time, thanks to a few who remembered to use their cameras in the daytime last year, we'll have slides of just what last year's event was like. Please join us for yet one more (really, only one more) pitch on Friday, March 19, at 8 p.m. at Emory University's White Hall.

Take a look at the label on the other half of this page! Is your address correct?

We are going to publish a new membership book for all members shortly. Please check that your name and address are correct.

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**.

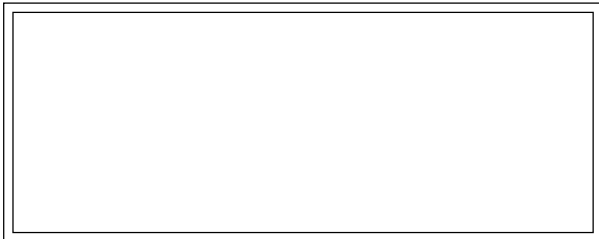
Internet Home Page: **<http://stlispb.gtri.gatech.edu/astroxt/atlaastro.html>**

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For further information send an e-mail to Eric Shelton shelton2@bellsouth.net

**FIRST CLASS**



Peter Macumber - macumber@Bellsouth.Net  
We're here to help! Here's how to reach us:

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3595 Canton Road, Suite A9-305  
Marietta, GA 30066

FROM: