

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club

Established 1947

September 1999

Vol XII No. 4

Editor: Peter Macumber

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## From the Prez

**By Ken Poshedly**

First things first. Regular attendees of our meetings will be pleased to know that come September 17, we'll be back at our old location, White Hall. While we certainly appreciate Emory University accommodating us with a temporary meeting place through the summer, it will be good to NOT have to explore new and different ways each month of finding the Geosciences Building because of the ongoing construction.

Second, if you do send or receive e-mail, PLEASE contact Sharon Carruthers at scarruthers@nightsky.org to begin receiving this newsletter electronically. Not only will you be helping the club save a few pennies, but the electronic version of *Focal Point* features color and, believe it or not, sometimes sound effects as you page through it onscreen.

Perhaps an even more important benefit is the ability to send emergency e-mail in case of last-minute meeting or other snafus. With over 350 club memberships (perhaps 500 or more people), we have only record of 63 member e-mail addresses.

Third, we're glad to say that the new subdivision being built on Tapley Road across from our observatory near Villa Rica will have covenants restricting light trespass onto our sight and upward. The Carroll County board of commissioners unanimously approved the request for a zoning change submitted by builder Sammy Herrell on August 31. The covenants detail what exterior lighting is not allowed but without preventing residents from illuminating their own property.

Fourth, if you haven't been to our Walter F. Barber, Jr. Observatory site in awhile, please make plans to do so. You'll find an observing site buzzing with activity, new equipment and plans to keep it the premier location for amateur astronomy in this area.

Finally, I'm happy to report that the future of the Atlanta Astronomy Club seems even more solid since a recent review of our incorporation paperwork showed that we have the ability to form chapters of the club. If and when this occurs, members of the AAC not able to attend meetings here in town due to the long driving distance will be able to form their own "mini-AAC" and operate under our bylaws, but schedule their own activities and have them covered in this newsletter, *Focal Point*. A new and even better future awaits.

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## Minutes of the Atlanta Astronomy Club Board of Directors

**Tuesday, September 7, 1999**

Meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM

Present were Bob Smith\*, Ken Poshedly\*, Eugenia Abbey\*, Leonard Abbey,

Gil Shillcutt\*, Peter Macumber\*, Sharon Carruthers\*, Richard Blackburn, Tom Crowley, Bear Simmons\*, Phil Bracken\*, Tom Faber\*, Tracy Wilson\*, Keith Burns, Philip Sacco and Art Zorka\*. Absent was Art Russell\*.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

President Ken Poshedly reported that all plans for the clubs growth and direction were moving ahead smoothly.

Treasurer Sharon Carruthers reported that the revised budget shows an income to the club of \$9,738.00 with expenses predicted of \$11,397.50 leaving a proposed negative budget of \$1,659.50. As of July 31, 1999, the club had \$23,917.52

Observing Vice President, Gill Shillcutt asked Keith Burns to report on progress being made at the observatory in Villa Rica. Keith Commended the work being done by Ralph Bowman and the 20", that the Mak was on it's new mount and the A/C to D/C power converter pack would be arriving soon. Peter Macumber reported that the new "rest room" facility was in place and fully functioning.

Philip Sacco reported that discussion was in progress with the Director of the Charles Elliott Wildlife Management Area concerning the formation of an AAC chapter in the Mansfield, Rutledge, Social Circle area, including the possibility of a Winter Star Party. Philip stated that CEWMA has been very receptive to the growth for AAC's use of the facilities. More on this in the near future.

Program Vice President reported that the speaker fund was adequate for all programs during the current administration.

ATM Committee requested \$400, which was needed for the completion of the 16" telescope. The Gil Shillcutt suggested that the Observing Committee supply the funds as a line item. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Sharon Carruthers made a motion to move the dark-sight funds to a higher interest vehicle. Motion was tabled, awaiting a proposal at the next board meeting.

Ken Poshedly proposed an expansion of the warm-up building at VR. After some discussion, the proposal was tabled pending further study. However, all agreed that any increase in VR's budget to meet expenses for this expansion would be brought to the membership for approval.

Gil Shillcutt suggested that the board discuss the possibilities of increasing membership dues in order to fund all the clubs projects and activities. This was tabled until the next meeting, to be held on Monday, October 25, 1999 at 7:30pm, Fernbank Science Center.

Meeting adjourned 9:12pm

Respectfully submitted,

Art Zorka

Recording Secretary

## From the Observing Chair

By Gil Shillcutt

Summer is drawing to a close, and I'm reminded of this fact on a daily basis. Gone are the sweltering days that stretch on for, well, days. Evening falls a bit earlier each day and the autumnal weather pattern starts to take hold in Georgia. To me, this means that such summer objects like Sagittarius (ahem) are no longer difficult objects. Over the first few days of September, the skies cleared due to the passing of Hurricane Dennis. You can count on it like clockwork. These storms that pose such a threat to the shore are a real boon for astronomy here in Atlanta.

Rich Jakiel and I each took trips to Germany to see the total eclipse of the sun on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August. I find it absolutely amazing that two people, planning independent trips, with few plans can end up at the same place at the same time. But, I'm learning that I should never doubt the determination of an enthusiastic amateur astronomer. When I arrived at the place where we were to observe the eclipse, I gave out a hearty, "Welcome to Georgia!" Unfortunately, that prognostication was all too accurate, as we got shut out by clouds. Interestingly, with the eclipse obscured, we were able to observe some facets of the eclipse, which would normally (under clear skies) escape notice. There were a couple of small sucker holes floating about, and through these breaks in the clouds, we noticed that the sky took on an eerie, electric, gun-metal blue shade. The horizon, in a stretch from the northeast to west was bathed in the rosy light of sunset. Finally, the house had a small stable where a horse is kept. Sun goes out, horse goes in. Sun comes back, horse comes back. Fascinating. This was my second total eclipse of the sun, and my second shut out. I'm now busy planning my third. Maybe Turkey in 2006.

Also during August, Dr. Richard Schmude introduced us to photoelectric photometers in the first of our Astro Techniques session. The topic was made all the more interesting by Dr. Schmude's delivery. Wildly gesticulating (yes, that is legal in Georgia), and encouraging his ersatz students to participate in data reduction exercises captured the rapt attention of all attendees. I've seen Dr. Schmude talk before, and perhaps he was as passionate about those other subjects. But here, he was in his element, and delivered a solid lecture that was entertaining, informative, and useful. Thank you, Dr. Schmude.

In further news, the work on equipment at Villa Rica is nearly complete. The 20" has been more than restored. With the work that Ralph Bowman performed on the focuser plates and the secondary holder, and collimation assistance by Stef Whetstone, the beast is providing superb views through both the east and west side focusers. At no time since I've been a member of the club have I seen the 20" perform as well. We have discovered a fault with the declination drive motor on the 20", and we'll get that corrected soon. The 8" Maksutov is in similarly good condition. The new mount is set up, and the Mak is resting comfortably in the new home. All that remains is to get the interior painting of the dome completed, and to get the power converted from AC. And all this happens not a moment too soon, as Jupiter and Saturn are coming around for their evening apparitions.

The coming month of September offers another round of events. By the time this issue of the Focal Point goes to press, Geoff Powers will have held the first of his AstroImaging sessions at the Bradley Observatory on the campus of Agnes Scott College (Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00pm). Geoff has dedicated himself to producing fine works of photography featuring the night sky. He'll be sharing what he's learned in these sessions, held the first Friday of each month.

For those of you who want or NEED big aperture, we'll have another of our training sessions at Villa Rica on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. We'll go over some astronomy basics, and the care and feeding of club equipment at the Walter F. Barber Jr. Memorial Observatory. We'll get started at 6:00 sharp.

Our Deep Sky Session was held at the Turkey Farm on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Well due to technical difficulties, it was really held at Brasstown Bald. Over 45 people showed up for the event and enjoyed a most unusual Aurora display!

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## Astro Images



By Geoff Powers

Greetings Astro Imagers! Due to lead-time required for editing and printing, I'm writing my second column before the first meeting has even occurred! No real problem, except I won't be able to report on attendance and participation. It also leaves a slight uncertainty about subject material for second gathering.

Sooo ... the basic plan for meeting number two is to comprehensively cover any info leftover from the previous month. My guess is that, if anything, the telescope-on-tripod techniques for lunar photography would be covered, then on to a new agenda. It may take me a month or three to get a handle on what can be realistically be covered in depth at each meeting.

The "prime focus" for the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be equatorial mountings necessary for extended time exposures and higher magnifications. I will concentrate on piggyback camera setups. Telescope mountings, both fork and German equatorial, will be reviewed as well as the ubiquitous, you-build-it barn door tracker. I plan to include some magazine snippets to include commercial, camera only equatorial mounts. *If any member has one of these camera only mounts and would like to participate, please call and I will skip the magazine cutouts.*

Club member Tom Faber has a really trick barn door unit, and I hope to coerce him into bringing it out along with some of the way cool photos he's taken with it. **Any** member with a barn door tracker, please bring it along for a little "show and tell".

The necessity and basic theory of Polar Alignment will be discussed. This is so critical, a bit difficult and confusing that an entire evening should be devoted. Coming Soon "P.A. Night", so we can do a star drift alignment in real-time.

Also, as a recurring theme, I will lend tips on finding a film processing and printing business that is also astro-friendly. This may be the most overlooked and misunderstood aspect of using film to record astronomical subjects. Few one-hour places can pass muster. If you attend many of these meetings, you're going to hear this over and over! **It is that important!**

I am excited about my involvement and the start-up of this Astro Imaging special interest group. I hope for active participation from many of our members. Hope to see you there! For directions, see the August Focal Point or call me personally.

We meet at Agnes Scott Bradley Observatory, the first Friday of each month at 8:00 p.m.

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## CEWMA Coordinator

By Philip Sacco

As coordinator for CEWMA and the Super for the new 24", I will attempt to answer the questions many of you may have concerning the use and existing protocols for the 24" scope. I want to thank Lenny for posting his query as I have heard many such similar comments and questions raised by other members.

We have had a number of meetings concerning the new scope both BEFORE

and AFTER its procurement. All members have been notified with ample notice of these meetings and few have taken the time to come and get involved.

I hope to see many of our members using the new scope as about 10 of us have had the opportunity so far.

For any comments or concerns you would like to voice, I am here as well as Gil to make sure the scope is handled in a safe and enjoyable fashion by any member so desiring....

You can expect to see notes similar to the following posted regularly in the FP, so that all members are kept apprised of any modifications to the existing protocol. Initial concerns of only a small cadre of members having access and use of the scope, have already been dealt with by the existing protocols. Please read the following in answer to Lenny's questions, and my personal notes following....

1. How is the scope to be used? Well ... it is a big Dobsonian style Newtonian scope, and it will be used in a fashion consistent with its design and purpose. I really don't know how else to answer this question, so maybe Lenny can clarify what he's asking. Everyone is encouraged to come to the Training sessions on the USE of the 24" scope, and maybe this question will take care of itself.

2. Who is eligible to use it? Any member or guest may "use" the scope while it is on the field and supervised by a member who has been certified as a "User". Any member who has been officially cleared and signed off as a "User" may call and make arrangements to pick up the scope and use it at CEWMA, Marben Farm Road site. At this time, the scope is not cleared for anyone to take to other locations unless the scope is to travel to a recognized activity for the AAC. This is to assure that when the scope is in use, it will be at a known location, and any "User" member calling to arrange for its use will be informed of its whereabouts, if it has been previously signed out.

3. How long can he have it? This will be dictated by the schedule as arranged by the Observing VP and the CEWMA Coordinator. It may be the scope will be transported to a club function at VR and it may be required for the "User" to take custody of the scope to transport it. Typically, the scope will be used at CEWMA, and will be on a nightly arrangement unless the "Users are planning to make a long weekend at CE, and need not lock it up during the intervening day so long as the scope remains under secured conditions. Currently, there are no provisions of the 24" taking a road trip on the desire of the "User". Its proscribed use is for CEWMA at this time, and in the future, this location may be altered in favor of a preferred 'Dark Site'. Remember that the 24" was procured to be the principal instrument of a newly established Dark Site. This is not to say it can't be transported to scheduled AAC events or any other activity the club desires provided it can be scheduled. It is NOT to be construed as a 'traveling scope', in the general sense.

4. Where is he to get it? The current plan is for the scope to be temporarily stored in a secured storage location under lock and key. The location is known to anyone classified as a "User", and the security measures are revealed to him or her. The Location currently is off site of the CEWMA, conveniently located to any "User" wanting to transport it to CE for use. We hope to receive the OK from the Elliott Group within the next six months to locate the scope on site. This is being negotiated by Gil Shillcutt and me with our liaison at Elliott. I know how anxious we all are to have a new Dark Site, but we are dealing with a DNR location and the State has us on a 1-YEAR PROBATION period before anything will go forward with them. They want to get to know us and hope to work with us. We just have to be patient. This is not to say that if another location were to fall into our hands, that the scope could not be installed there instead. It is the clubs scope, and we can do anything we decide with it through proper channels.

If the scope has been scheduled to go to a different location for club use, say the Walter Barber Observatory, and it is custody of a prior "User", the scope may be picked up from the transfer location. This is to facilitate the transport

of the scope. Remember, it is being stored typically 45 min. East of Atlanta, and it is not feasible to have to send someone all the way out there to take it to WALTER BARBER and back in one night. Logistics ... That's why we have a coordinator for the scope... 8 ). The scope should not be "home" at its typical storage location more than a week at a time in such instances, between use. Again, remember that the scope was purchased to be the Principle Instrument at a Dark Site. It is to be found there typically.

5. What are his responsibilities? It is the clubs scope, and we all want to make sure that the scope is protected. Insurance has been secured to the best of my knowledge. KenPo has this information and maybe he'd like to comment. As a personal note, I know that my insurance would cover the contents of my car in case of an accident, and I can't speak for everyone's coverage. Hence, club coverage.

6. Where and when is it to be returned? I believe this was answered in #3 above. Typically, the scope is to be returned to its storage locker after use. It may be secured elsewhere as determined by the Observing VP and Coordinator so as to facilitate its use by the club in the unusual interim should it be scheduled to be used at a club function other than at CE in a soon and coming date.

7. Who makes the judgement calls? I can tell you this.... As coordinator, I will maintain a list of the "Users" and my only judgement call will be.... If your name is on the list, you can take it from storage. There are other details "Users" are aware of as they have been trained and have a check off ... this includes a second set of hands. The scope will not be checked out to sole individuals. It is to be checked out by a tandem team. Two people are required to unsecure and secure it from storage.

8. Whom do you complain to if you feel you have not been dealt with fairly? It's really simple ... if you are trained in it's use, and checked off with two signatures according to the check out procedure, and I have a record I can verify of this.... Any member may then log out the scope for use. The only discrimination will be if you have been verifiably trained or not. The Observing VP or the CE Coordinator are the two individuals to contact initially, but anyone may place a call to the President if they would rather talk to the top of the pole. I know that some members would rather vent to someone else, but this only causes trouble within the club, and it is better if complaints are kept between the individual and an officer of the club. This may include a Board of Director member if the individual feels they may be of some help. This is our Club, and the officers merely make happen what the membership directs for the most part.

9. Who is authorized to make modifications to it? No modifications should be required other than simple maintenance. Nobody should make any modifications to the scope unless the Observing VP and the Coordinator are first contacted. Protocols governing their actions would dictate that the President be the next informed. The scope needs no modifications at this time. If technology should present an alteration to enhance its use, then at that time the club should look at the situation. It is not foreseeable that any substantial modifications ever be called for at this time. If you consider installing a viewfinder as a modification, for example, then the Coordinator and the Observing VP should be apprised of the idea before any change in the scope's configuration is made.

If any member would like to help fashion the current protocols for the scope, I suggest they contact either the Observing VP or the Coordinator.

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Remember to send renewals to the club and payable to the club.

Remember S&T is now \$30

Astronomy is \$29

Club membership is \$25 or \$10 for student.

## MY NEW BEST FRIEND

By Scott Shy

401 Park Bridge

Acworth, GA 30101

(770) 966-8311

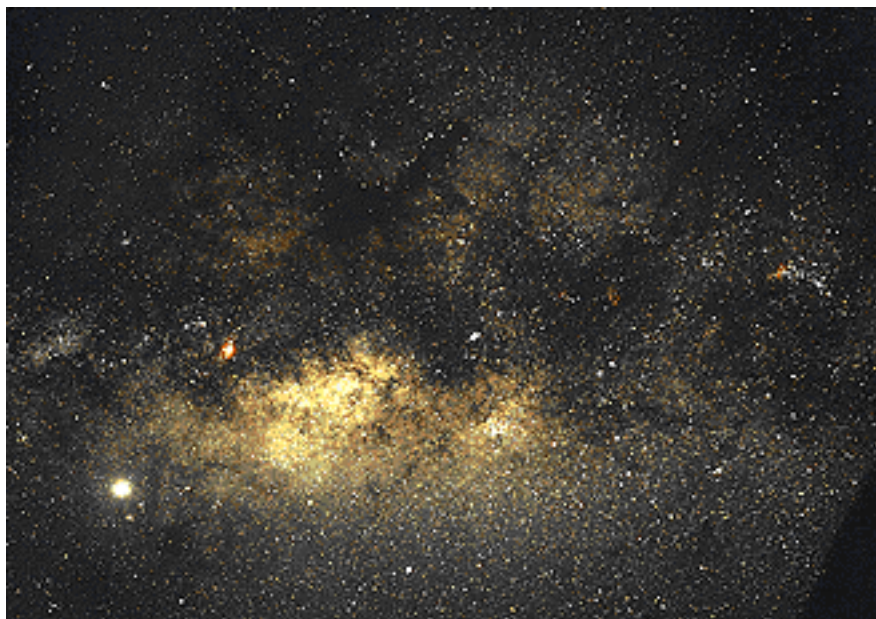
My truck was loaded to the roof of all of my worldly possessions. My 1981 Volvo 240 in-tow, whining hard behind me as my son and I began our own manifest destiny to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada's from the Georgian Piedmont. The first night passed without incident or excitement. A terrible storm bringing 60 mile per hour winds and torrential rains rocked our caravan like a Magellan circumnavigating The Horn. With lightning clapping all around us and other travelers marooned to the side of the road, I clinched my fingers around the steering wheel until they hurt and strained my eyes, hoping to find the end of the battle with this terrestrial squall just around the next bend. It never came. Knowing my efforts to gain more ground and get to clear skies were fruitless, I pulled into the first motel I could find.

Sometime around 11:30pm (Arizona time) the fury subsided and cloudless skies soon followed. The next day was clear as we pressed on throughout the day on the long, monotonous empty roads of Arizona and into Nevada. Las Vegas was a pleasant oasis; however, time dictated we press on. Nearly running out of gas, we pulled into a one-pump town near a tiny roadside Air Force Base. Gathering postcards and preparing to head into uncharted territory, at least for us) we climbed back into our own little wagon-train and proceeded into the desert of Western Nevada.

We crested the hill that dropped us into the beautifully isolated town of Tonopah sometime around dusk, stopped for some gas and food and proceeded into the encroaching darkness that was dropping over the mountains to the west. Into the night I drove, thinking, "...how far to the next gas station?" Suddenly, in the middle of all this darkness and apocalyptic landscape, I realized that I could see no signs of civilization — not one light pole, not one house light...not even the headlights of a fellow traveler! As I searched frantically for some sign of life, I looked up to the sky and gasped at what I saw. I woke my son up from his sleep and pulled to the side of the road at the first available spot. I turned off the lights on the truck and we both jumped out. There, in the middle of nowhere, was the most inspiring vision I have ever been witness to...

Looking up in the sky was the Milky Way. Spanning the length of the sky, it stretched like the foam of a wave crashing on the beach. With too many stars to even consider counting, my son could not believe how many there were in the sky...he was awestruck. For the first time in my son's life he was impressed, nay, overwhelmed by something other than Bugs Bunny or the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers. I put my arm around my sweet, innocent son and told him that I would love him forever, just as long as these bright shining stars had been in the sky...forever.

Dense clouds of dark matter and stellar dust that blinded the center our galaxy created an image I had only seen in Astronomy magazine. At a loss for words,



I stared into the cloud ... and with no earthly elements in my peripheral vision to give a sense of good ole terra firma, I felt myself floating amongst the stars. Emotionally orgasmic, the image locked in my brain, etching a portrait that could be painted in my dreams over and over again. What seemed like an eternity had been merely a tick of our clock. Feeling empowered by this singular moment in my life, our galaxy, The Milky Way, breathed deeply into my heart and will remain there for as long as my eyes will allow.

Realizing that I could look back upon this moment every night in my restful slumber, I looked back at the sky one last time and said

goodbye to a new friend...with whom I have visited many times since then, but never quite like the first.

I know some people might think I am some sort of fruitloop for feeling this way about a vision of the night sky on a moonless night, but for someone who has know nighttime as streetlights and skyscrapers, it was very moving. On a good night in the city, you could count the stars in the sky with all of your bodily digits. Now, there were billions upon billions, as clear as the text on this page. I had revisited the desolate areas of the Nevada desert quite a few times since then, hoping to feel once again the sense of solitude and spirituality that I felt that night. And of course, my new best friend was there, each and every time.

I have since moved back to the humid, starless skies of the Southeast. Trying to find my friend has been impossible. With a few starry skies intertwined between the light-polluted cities of the South, I keep hoping one night I might see him again. However, he only whispers of his majesty in my dreams...each and every night.

We are small and insignificant beings traveling through the Universe on this Spaceship Earth and if everyone could experience the emotional grandeur that I did on the road through the stars, then perhaps this world would be a kinder place to coexist in. However, until then, I shall keep returning to the cold desert nights to visit my new friend ... our galaxy, the Milky Way.

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### Eric Shelton

Well, I'm not much for words, but I'd like to say "thank you" to everybody in the Atlanta area for making the hobby of amateur astronomy more pleasurable. The meetings, observing sessions, star parties and other activities were always fun, but most of all I learned something each time.

I move on to rejoin a few old friendships in Richmond and surely start many more. I hope to see you all at future star parties -Texas, Florida and the Mid-Atlantic (but not this year) for sure, and maybe Stellafane or Nebraska, or perhaps even a Peach State Haze Gaze. You might find me at the Star Hill Inn in New Mexico or maybe in some dark field far from city lights searching for that P.O.S. faint fuzzy or a "gas plume" on a giant planet.

Speaking of star parties, I'd like to encourage the club to consider moving the PSSG to the fall since there is no longer any need to avoid a conflict with another Georgia Star Party. Remember that there was a reason the old GSP was in October - it's the driest month in Georgia. Move it to a dark site and it will easily become a major national star party for the serious deep sky observer.

I also hope the club continues to aggressively search for a dark site for a permanent observatory. Don't be like the Richmond Astronomical Society whose early 1960's dark site observatory is now an outparcel of Winn-Dixie on a road not unlike Buford Highway. (At least their 7" refractor still gets good use in such a location, unlike a 20" f/4.5 reflector.)

The listserv started as an idea I had to continue the conversation begun on Eric Greene's Deep Sky BBS, which, like most BBS's, had begun to be ignored in the face of growing popularity of the Internet. I had no idea it would be as successful as it became. The credit for this goes to the subscribers, not me, who was only the facilitator.

The plug will be pulled in a few minutes as the packers will be here early tomorrow morning and I need to have everything ready.

See you at the eyepiece!

shelton2@bellsouth.net (for now)

ICQ# 291996

## Focal Point

The October issue will be printed on the weekend of October 2/3. If articles are not received by noon on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, they will NOT appear.

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## Atlanta Astronomy Club

### The September Meeting

Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

Our September meeting will be held on September 17, at 8:00 p.m. at Emory University's White Hall.

**Note: the refurbishing of White Hall is now complete, and our meetings will once again be held there on a permanent basis.**

Our speaker will be our own Dr. Richard Schmude.. His subject will be: **How and Why we Observe Variable Stars**. Richard is one of the AAVSO's most prolific observers. Last year he logged more than 15,000 observations of variable stars and was singled out for special mention in the AAVSO's annual report.

The observation of variable stars is one of the most important ways in which amateurs can be of assistance to professional astronomers. For over a century the professionals have depended on us for raw data. We also provide a valuable service as "watch dogs" for unusual events in the world of variable star observing. There is something here for anyone who has even a pair of binoculars.

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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>

Subscribe to the Atlanta Area Astronomers Mailing List!

Send a message to [AACList-subscribe@listbot.com](mailto:AACList-subscribe@listbot.com)

For further information send an e-mail to Lenny Abbey  
[LAbbey@Mindspring.com](mailto:LAbbey@Mindspring.com)

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### Club Officers

Ken Poshedly	President	770-979-9842 <i>ken.poshedly@mindspring.com</i>
Eugenia Abbey	VP Program Chairman	404-634-1222 <i>eabbey@bellsouth.net</i>
Gil Shillcutt	VP Observing Chairman	404-467-1437 <i>Gil.Shillcutt@choicepointinc.com</i>
Sharon Carruthers	Treasurer	770-941-4640 <i>SCarruthers@NightSky.Org</i>
Peter Macumber	Corresponding Secretary	770-941-4640 <i>PMacumber@nightsky.org</i>
Art Zorka	Recording Secretary	404-3251595 <i>magicart@mindspring.com</i>

### Board of Directors

Bob Smith, Chairman	770-886-8191	<i>rsmith@mci.net</i>
Phil Bracken	770-941-6517	<i>philb@mindspring.com</i>
Tom Faber	770-923-6832	<i>tfaber@america.net</i>
Art Russell	404-373-4119	<i>artrussell@mindspring.com</i>
Bear Simmons	404-299-7511	<i>info2000@mindspring.com</i>
Tracy Wilson	770-270-9402	<i>tracy2@mindspring.com</i>

### Standing Committees

Richard Blackburn	Dark Sky Site Search	770-801-9759 <i>rblackburn@mindspring.com</i>
Mark Banks	Sidewalk Astronomy	404-257-2766
Stephen Blalock	AAC Webmaster	770-948-9820. <i>stephen.blalock@gtri.gatech.edu</i>
Tom Buchanan	Light Pollution	770-521-2136
Lynn Crowley	Beginner's Contact & Socials	404-233-6886
Julie Moore	Hospitality and Refreshments	770-242-6735
Ken Poshedly	Publicity	770-979-9842 <i>ken.poshedly@mindspring.com</i>
Chrissy Mondell	Ladies of the Night ... Sky	404-296-6332 <i>chrissy@NightSky.Org</i>
Geoff Powers	Astrto Imaging	770-454-6107

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## 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.

Visit **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 a case sensitive! Type AAC in capitals, type polaris in lower case.

Peter

## September 17 – General Meeting

Emory University White Hall

## September 18 — Training, 6:00pm, VR

## September 25 — ATM Workshop

9:00am, ASC Bradley Observatory

## October 1 — Astro-Imaging

8:00pm, ASC Bradley Observatory

## October 9 — Dark Sky @ Brasstown Bald

## October 9 — ATM Workshop

9:00am, ASC Bradley Observatory

## October 15 –General Meeting

Emory University White Hall

## October 16 — POHO

6:00pm, VR

## October 23 — Quarterly Work Party at VR. 9:00am

## October 23 — Club Picnic at VR, 22nd Anniversary

## November 5 — Astro-Imaging

8:00pm, ASC Bradley Observatory

## November 5-7 — Dark Sky, Zombie Party

CEWMA

## November 13 — ATM Workshop

9:00am, ASC Bradley Observatory

## November 13 — Astro Techniques

5:00pm, VR

## November 15 — Mercury Transits Sun

## November 20 — Training

5:00pm, VR



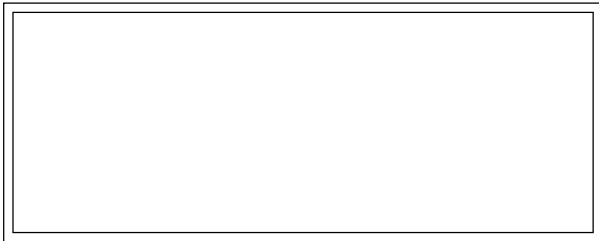
Newletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

FROM:

Peter Macumber - *PMacumber@Nightsky.Org*  
1057 Trestle Drive  
Austell, GA 30106

[We're here to help! Here's how how to reach us:](#)

Atlanta Astronomy Club  
PMB 305  
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**FIRST CLASS**