

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
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Editor: Keith Burns

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## WOODRUFF SUMMER GUIDELINES

The Woodruff Camping season starts June 3 and runs to the first week of August. The Club cannot schedule any events up there during this time, but individual members may use the site. Contact John Lentini if you plan to be there and make sure he has your release form (we are also making a mailbox so you can sign in when you arrive at the gate, but it is not finished yet). We want to keep relations between the AAC and the AAC (Atlanta Area Council) on the best possible footing so ,PLEASE, respect the rules of the Camp when you are up there

- the speed limit on Camp property is 15 mph
- non-Scouters are permitted access to Bee Field but not the rest of the Camp
- no drinking, smoking or swearing in front of the little campers

The campers leave Sat & arrive Sun, so Sat night is a busy time for the staff as they clean up & get ready for the next group. Kendall, the Camp manager, is very concerned with the safety & security of the AAC. Do your best to cultivate his respect . The gate is up but has no lock yet so you can get onto the field.

The warm-up shed is locked and the key is locked inside the electrical panel. Contact John Lentini to get the combination - you will need it to get into the shed & to turn on the power to the piers. There is a sink with running water on the field. The 24" has been moved to Woodruff & is chained to the wall - only certified users will be given the combination to it.

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## Women in Astronomy

Our esteemed FP editor suggested that I do a little write-up about some of the women I will be talking about at the June meeting. However, I thought it would be more fun to make up a quiz about them. The June door prize will go to the person who can get the most correct answers. (Give them, in writing, to Joanne Cirincione or the ladies at the refreshment table BEFORE the meeting).

- 1) She and her husband created one of the most famous data graphs in astronomy based on their solar research.
  - 2) She theorized the existence of, and coined the term, "Brown Dwarf" in her PhD thesis. Her work for SETI was the inspiration for the character of Ellie MacPherson in the movie *Contact*.
  - 3) As a graduate student, she discovered a new "kind" of star; but many years later, her advisor, and not her, received a Nobel prize for the discovery.
  - 4) She was the first woman in recorded history to receive a salary as a court astronomer.
  - 5) Despite being a highly respected astronomer for her work with Burbidge, Fowler and Holye, she had to "sneak" into the Mt Palomar Observatory to use the telescopes because it was considered unsafe for women to be alone there at night .
  - 6) She was the first American credited with observing a "telescopic" comet (i.e. before it was visible to the naked eye).
  - 7) While not trained as an astronomer or as a shuttle pilot, she has logged more hours in orbit than any other human being (male or female; American or Russian).
  - 8) These two women created the spectral classification system (OBAFGKM) that we still use over 100 years later.
  - 9) This famous shuttle pilot has a degree in Astrophysics.
  - 10) One of the most prolific comet hunters in history, she has 32 comets that bear her name.
  - 11) This highly respected American observatory once housed "Pickering's Harem".
  - 12) She compiled a catalogue of the spectral classes of over
- Continued on next page.*

¼ million stars that is still in use today.

13) Her research in galaxy rotation led to the discovery that over 95% of all matter in the universe is “invisible”, the so-called “Dark Matter”.

### June Speaker’s Bio

Sharon Carruthers was born in Nova Scotia, Canada and lived most of her life in the province of Ontario. She and her family moved to Georgia in 1995.

She became interested in astronomy as a child (“All kids like space and dinosaurs; I never outgrew space”) and had it rekindled during a science course she took when getting her Honors BA in Economics. She was given her first telescope as a Christmas gift 15 years ago.

“My special interests are early astronomy (pre-telescopic) and celestial motion – I like to get a feel for how the sky and the objects in it move through space. I became interested in Women Astronomers when the AAC was asked to do a presentation at Tallulah Gorge for Women’s History Month. Since I knew very little about modern MALE astronomers, I was worried about finding any female astronomers to talk about. Now my worry is when to STOP talking about them – there are so many who have made very significant contributions. I am not interested in just the ‘first woman’ to do something – the real story is HOW she became the first.”

Sharon is a member of the smallest minority – she has been a homemaker for 20 years. “I hope that my background, more than anything, shows that astronomy is not just for esoteric intellectuals and techies, but for anyone who has a sense of wonder about our Universe and is willing to learn.”

Sharon, her husband, Peter Macumber and their 3 children joined the Atlanta Astronomy Club in 1996; she has served 2 years as Treasurer and was just elected to her second year as President. They recently acquired 2 cats, named of course, Herschel and Hubble.

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### From the Prez’s Desk....

It must be time for summer re-runs. It seems that I am back again for an encore performance. Thank you to everyone who supported me; I shall do my best to serve you and all the members of the AAC.

Thank you, Phil Sacco. I enjoyed our little contest and it only proves that “May the best man win” is stupid when two good people (if I may be so vain) are running against each other. I hope to see you on the podium next year.

I trust everyone has used our dismal winter to rest up for a very active summer schedule. I may be too optimistic, but the weekend weather seems to be looking better than it has in the last 9 months.

The Scouts want us to resume our programs at Woodruff & Bert Adams. If you haven’t signed up at either of these locations, then NOW is the time.

GASP is going strong – we have hooked up with Cloud Canyon State Park and may have an event planned for June 16<sup>th</sup> (check the GASP link for an update). Tallulah wants us to do a children’s program; and a yacht club on Lake Allatoona would like us to do a sidewalk (sidedock?) event in July.

Work is progressing at VR – we will be posting a date to finish up the work out there ASAP and are planning to begin our Orientation/Open House program in July.

I would like to see the AAC revive its Young Astronomers Program (YAP). I was intending to take it on after my term, but feel we should go forward with it now. If you have any ideas, or would like to join us in planning out a YAP program, contact me. I will be scheduling a planning meeting in the next month.

Bend, Stretch, Reach for the Stars

There goes Jupiter; There goes Mars

And Mars is spectacular this summer. It is in opposition at perihelion which makes it the closest it gets to the Earth and the Sun in 17 years. Observe it; sketch it; photograph it – but don’t miss out on this rare opportunity. Perhaps the next time it is this close, we will be looking at astronauts looking back at us from its surface.

**Sharon Carruthers**

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### GASP – Georgia Astronomy in State Parks

**Joanne Cirincione**

***FDR State Park – April 28*** –FDR State Park is a beautiful park with a great staff. We are always treated wonderfully when we are there. We had such a great turn out with our club members. It was great seeing all of you there. The Macumbers, Keith Burns, Bear Simmons, Philip Sacco, Rauna Long, Ken Adams, Frank and Ann Marchese, Bryant Poole and, Joe Morris. It was great camping weather but the skies did cloud up a bit during the slide presentation. Sharon, as always, gave a great presentation on general astronomy. Philip entertained the masses, approx. 75-90 campers, with his mythology stories. THANKS PHILIP!! The clouds cleared up a bit and we were able to show off the moon. There were a few breaks when we were able to view a few other objects, but the moon was really the main object. The campers were so excited to see this that we were actually a hit. Even with the clouds! We wanted to thank the staff at FDR, especially Marvin Potts for taking care of us.

We encourage experienced and new members to come out,

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relax, camp and have some fun. Our next event is July 28 at Tallulah Gorge State Park. We are working on a June event. We will post it on the web site and GASP listserv if this happens.

To join the GASP listserv go to our website at [AtlantaAstronomy.org](http://AtlantaAstronomy.org), 1) AAC On-Line – 2) Mailing Lists - 3) GASP link. All updates and information will be posted here.



Hope to see y'all soon!

Here's some pictures from the event. You know many of the faces involved in this event. Note the picture at the bottom right hand corner. Yes, it's true. Charles of Hinely Memorial Telescope fame actually enjoying the outdoors. Matter of fact he was inspired to build a fire. The only question I have is, Where do we put the plaque for this one?



## General Meeting May 18, 2001

Number in attendance: 70 - **Sharon Carruthers, President** – Sharon opened the meeting by asking for reports from the Officers and Committee Heads. **Ken “Kenpo” Poshedly – PSSG Coordinator** – E-mail version of the PSSG 2001 Registration Form has been sent out. More information to come. **Peter Macumber – Treasurer** – Sweatshirts are in. Contact him or see him at the next meeting/event. **Observing** – A May 19 Dark Sky observing session at Woodruff; a work party for Villa Rica will be scheduled in the next few weeks. Work done so far, bulk of wiring done; ½ trenching done; power is fine; **BE CAREFUL of open trenches.** **Focal Point** – May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for June’s Focal Point. **Carol Abernathy in for Alex Langoussis, Program Chairman** – Announced upcoming speakers. June’s speaker – Sharon Carruthers, AAC President, speaking on Women in Astronomy. In July, author Michael Covington, AAC member, will talk about *The Wild, Weird New World Of Computerized Telescopes*. **Phil Sacco, CEWC Coordinator** – Announced a May 19 meeting. **Mark Banks, Sidewalk Astronomy** – Announced a 5/19 Home Schooled Sidewalk Astronomy in Alpharetta. Let Mark know if you have an interest in helping him or have an event you want help with. [Bank4@mindspring.com](mailto:Bank4@mindspring.com). **John Lentini, Woodruff** - Need to pay our “rent”. We need volunteers for the annual summer Boy Scout season. Volunteers are needed Tuesday’s during the summer. This is our agreement with Woodruff for having the land and facilities to use. Contact John Lentini. Information on last page of Focal Point. Sharon was presented with a gift certificate from this year’s Officers and Board Members. This was in appreciation for her dedication and hard work. Next on the agenda was the elections. We started off with the election for new President. Sharon Carruthers and Philip Sacco were the nominees. Sharon Carruthers was voted in for a second term as President. The other positions had one nomination for each. **The following are 2001-2002 Officers and Board Members:**

**President** - Sharon Carruthers (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

**Program Chair** – Carol Abernathy

**Observing Chair** – Richard Blackburn

**Treasurer** – Peter Macumber (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

**Corresponding Secretary** – Keith Burns (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

**Recording Secretary** – Karen Stiles

**Board Member** – Bear Simmons (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

**Board Member** – Chuck Painter

**Board Member** – Gil Shillcut

Current Board Members: Jim Moore, Tom Crowley, John Lentini

**Carol Abernathy, in Alex Langoussis, Program Chairman’s absence**, introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Dr. Amy Lovell of Agnes Scott College. Amy gave an exciting and fun talk on Comets.

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## Amateur astronomers, beware!

The summer of 2001 belongs to the Angry Red Planet, Mars. Ak, Ak, AKAK AKAK!!

### MARTIAN FAST FACTS

	<i>Earth</i>	<i>Mars</i>
Diameter	12,756 km	6,794 km
Mass (as a % of Earth’s)		10.7%
Distance	1 A.U.	1.5 A.U.
Sidereal Year		1.8807
Sidereal Rotation		24h 37m
Albedo	0.3	0.2
Gravity (as a % of Earth’s)		37.9%

We have our best view of the outer planets during *opposition*, when the Sun, Earth & the planet are lined up in a row. Mars is in opposition to the Earth about every 3 years.

However, because planets have elliptical orbits, they have a closest point at which they approach the Sun (the *perihelion*). When this falls during an opposition, it is called a *perihelic opposition* and is a prime time to observe the planet when it is both fully lit and close. This unique opportunity for observing Mars happens only once in 17 years.

During opposition, Mars also enters *retrograde motion*. Planets orbit the Sun counter-clockwise, moving from west to east in front of the stars through the year. When the Earth catches up and passes a planet, it appears that the planet stops and moves east to west, then resumes its regular motion. (Any “backward” motion of heavenly objects is called *retrograde*.)

Mars entered retrograde on May 11 and will be moving “backward” for 69 days.

Mars is currently in Sagittarius and heading for Scorpio during its retrograde period. Scorpio, of course, is the home to Antares, the “not Ares” (Mars) star. This summer we have the delight of seeing Mars and not Mars in the same evening sky!

So, this June is prime time for viewing the “Angry Red Planet”. Even in a small scope, you should be able to see dark, green markings; watch *retrograde motion* with your own eyes; and compare the brother “stars” of Mars & Antares.

## Alex's British Tour

### There's always room for a little astronomy

By Alex Langoussis

While my trip was not intended as an astronomy tour, I did manage to fit a few sites into the schedule. Though others have given their reports in the past, I thought I'd share my impressions with you too. The sites I visited included The Royal Observatory at Greenwich, the Herschel Museum in Bath, and the stone circles Stonehenge and Avebury.

The Herschel Museum was my favorite of the bunch. The museum is actually the townhouse where William and his sister Lina (Caroline) lived and observed at the time he discovered Uranus. It was neat to stand in the garden where the discovery was made, as well as to see the kitchen/porch area where they ground mirrors. Inside on display are some of his and others' works, as well as instruments and mirrors. But the display that really caught my eye were some of the original letters they had written. Combined with their observing from the back yard and grinding mirrors in the house, the letters enable today's amateur astronomer to easily identify with the Herschels.

EXAMPLES: When looking for a comet, Caroline reported seeing a "faint something" (her words), and by the time she increased the magnification and had the micrometer ready, "a haze came on, and soon after too much daylight".

On an occasion (one of many) that William was visited by royalty to look through his telescope, the weather was turning worse. So he made an artificial Saturn and hung it on the garden wall, such that "the effect was fine, and so natural that the best astronomer might have been deceived. Their royal heinesses seemed to be much pleased with the artifice."

Ever had equipment troubles? Caroline again, in a letter reporting one of her comet discoveries: "I found last night at 16h24m sidereal time, a comet, and do not know what to do with it, for my new sweeper is not half finished; and besides, I broke the handle of the perpendicular motion in my brother's absence." The incredible work of the Herschels speaks for itself. The museum brings the Herschels to life, and lets us see their human side.

The Royal Observatory at Greenwich, overlooking the Thames, is also a treat. History just oozes out of the brickwork. Many instruments, having done so much important work, are there. You can see Flamsteed's original catalog, as well as the Octagonal Room from which he tried to work. One can stand on the prime meridian. Actually, you can stand on FOUR of them. Each astronomer royal seemed to insist on his own instrument, which would then be adopted as the new meridian. Airy's meridian was the one finally adopted by the international community, but another is still the basis for surveys in England. Politics and astronomy are entwined there as much as anywhere.

BTW, a couple of guides at the Tower of London claimed that the Round Tower there was the Royal Observatory before Greenwich. Hmmm. If any stars were observed from there, they sure weren't lucky stars.

As to the stone circles, Stonehenge was a bit of a disappointment, but still evokes wonder. More impressive is the huge stone circle at Avebury, which is a half mile across. A lot of speculation has been thrown around about these things having astronomical significance, but personally, after seeing them, I have my doubts.

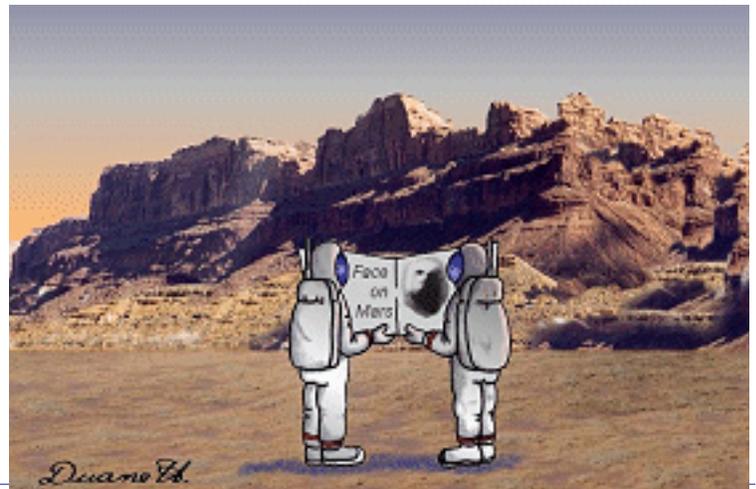
Finally, much has been said about how bad the weather is in England for the purpose of doing astronomy. But, judging by the weather reports here while I was gone, it was better there. And, if the weather there is as bad as everyone says, then it is that much more incredible what has been done from the Isles.

Note that the above came from a posting on the listserv. Hopefully Alex won't mind that I put it in this publication.

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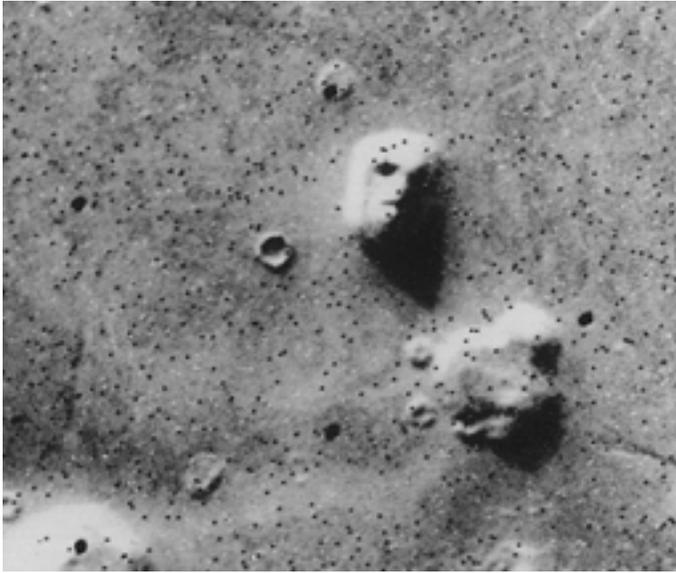
### Newsletter Chaos

Now you are wondering why there is not much in this month's issue about upcoming observing events among other things. Well, with the election of a new speaking chair, observing chair, and others, things are a little messy right now. There is a plan of action being implemented. Now as for my lame excuse for being a little slow in publishing this month. I have done something rather novel for an officer of the AAC. I have done more observing than anyone else in the club these past two months. It started with the final stages of completing the Herschel 400 list and moved on to other things. Included was a trip to Chiefland, Florida and many week night observing runs. Gone are the days of words being used to describe what I see in the eyepiece. They have been replaced with sketching what I see in the eyepiece. I will include some of these sketches in future issues. Note that all the AAC info is now on page 7 in the printed version and page whatever in the web version. The events Calendar is now on the last page by it's self. So with a short space of time between my many projects, I hereby publish this months newsletter.



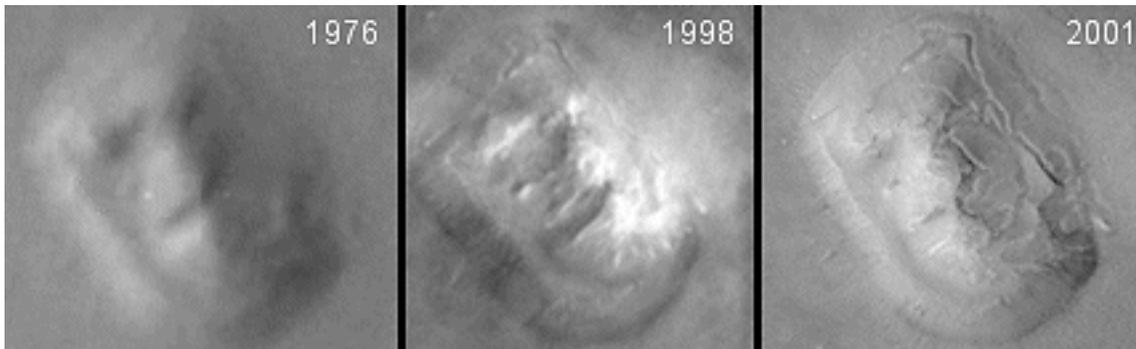
## Defacing Mars

With pictures borrowed from many websites, I go forth having a little fun with the planet Mars. I hope you enjoy this. The face that is.



If you don't know what the face on Mars is, then I will have to show you. It all started with this picture to the left. Read below what the caption that came with it said at the time.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION VIKING NEWS CENTER PASADENA, CALIFORNIA (213) 354-6000 Viking 1-61 P-17384 (35A72) PHOTO CAPTION July 31, 1976 This picture is one of many taken in the northern latitudes of Mars by the Viking 1 Orbiter in search of a landing site for Viking 2. The picture shows eroded mesa-like landforms. The huge rock formation in the center, which resembles a human head, is formed by shadows giving the illusion of eyes, nose and mouth. The feature is 1.5 kilometers (one mile) across, with the sun angle at approximately 20 degrees. The speckled appearance of the image is due to bit errors, emphasized by enlargement of the photo. The picture was taken on July 25 from a range of 1873 kilometers (1162 miles). Viking 2 will arrive in Mars orbit next Saturday (August 7) with a landing scheduled for early September.



Of course, there's nothing better to solve a riddle than to take some better pictures. So this was done and the picture to the left is the result.

### Observations of the "Face on Mars"

Michael C. Malin, Principal Investigator, Mars Global Surveyor Orbiter Camera

There is some interest concerning whether or not the Mars Global Surveyor Orbiter Camera (MOC) will observe the "Face on Mars" and other features in the Cydonia region on Mars. This page will describe why there is interest and what the MOC plans are for photographing the features described below.

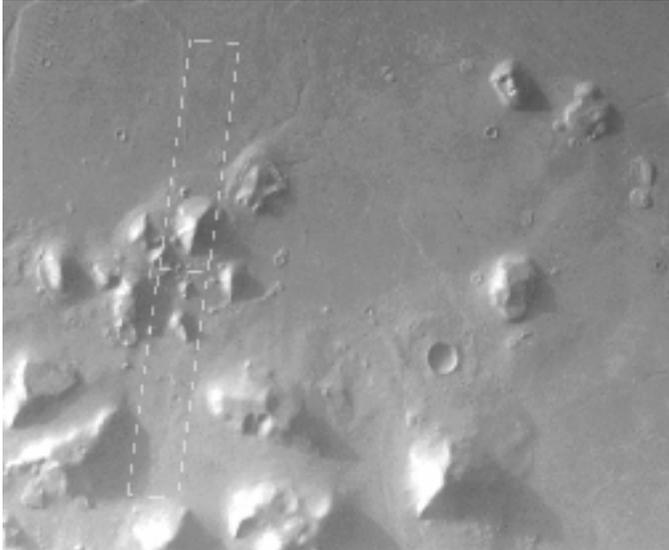
#### Background

For those not familiar with the topic, several Viking images show features on the surface of Mars that, in the eyes of some people, resemble "faces," "pyramids," and other such "artifacts." The most famous of these is the "Face on Mars" and associated features "The City," "The Fortress," "The Cliff," "The Tholus," and "The D&M Pyramid." A fairly substantial "cottage" industry has sprung up around these features, with several books having been written about them, newsletters published, public presentations, press conferences, and, of course, "supermarket tabloid" published reports. The basic premise of

these people is that the features are artificial, and are messages to us from alien beings. Their tack is to say, "These should be rephotographed by Mars Global Surveyor, since with high resolution we should be able to prove that they are artificial. If they are in fact artificial, this would rank as one of the greatest discoveries in history and thus every effort should be made to acquire images." Evidence cited as presently "proving" these are unnatural landforms include measurements of angles and distances that define "precise" mathematical relationships. One of the most popular is that "The D&M Pyramid" is located at 40.868 degrees North Latitude, relative to the control network established by Merton Davies (the RAND scientist who has been more or less singularly responsible for establishing the longitude/latitude grids on the planets) to an accuracy (actually, a precision) of order 0.017 degrees. They point out that 40.868 equals  $\arctan(e/\pi)$ ; alternatively, one of the advocates notes that the ratio of the surface area of a tetrahedron to its circumscribing sphere is 2.72069 ( $e = 2.71828$ ), which, if substituted

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for  $e$  in the above arctan equation gives 40.893 degrees, which is both within the physical perimeter of the “Pyramid” and within the above stated precision. Other mathematical relationships abound. The advocates of this view argue that “no scientific study of these features has been conducted under NASA auspices” and that NASA and the conservative science community are conspiring to keep the “real” story from the American public.



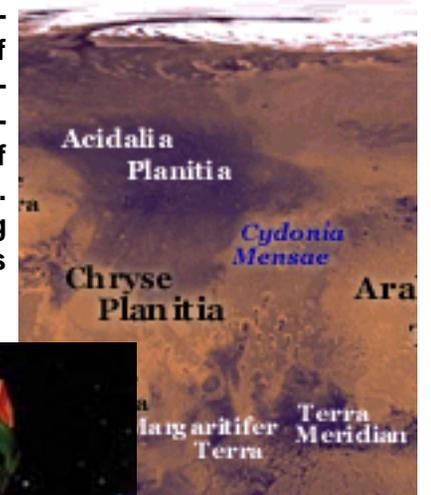
The conventional view is that this is all nonsense. The Cydonia region lies on the boundary between ancient upland topography and low-lying plains, with the isolated hills representing remnants of the uplands that once covered the low-lying area. The features seen in these mesas and buttes (to bring terrestrial terminology from the desert southwest to bear on the problem) result from differential weathering and erosion of layers within the rock materials. The area is of considerable importance to geologists because it does provide insight into the sub-surface of Mars, and to its surface processes. The measurement of angles and distances seems so much numerology, especially when one understands the actual limitations in the control network (of order 5-10 km, or 0.1-0.2 degrees) and the imprecision of our corrections of the images (neglecting, for example, topography when reprojecting data for maps) on which people are trying to measure precise angles and distances. For example, using the latest Mars Digital Image Mosaic and the U. S. Geological Survey control network, the aforementioned “Pyramid” is located at 40.67 N, 9.62W. Using the Viking spacecraft tracking and engineering telemetry, the position is 40.71 N, 9.99 W. The difference, 0.04 deg latitude and 0.37 deg longitude, represents nearly 17 km on the ground, or 7X the size of the Pyramid. These positions differ from the  $e/\pi$  position by a similar number. Even given accurate data, however, most science does not depend solely on planimetric measurements, even when using photographs. There are many other attributes used to examine features, especially those suspected of being artifi-

cial, and the martian features do not display such attributes. No one in the planetary science community (at least to my knowledge) would waste their time doing “a scientific study” of the nature advocated by those who believe that the “Face on Mars” artificial.

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The picture to the upper left is the Cydonia Region. In the picture is the face of Mars, the city, and the pyramid. This entire area is being intensely photographed and studied by NASA Geologists. Below is a map showing the surrounding regions adjacent to Cydonia. Of course, no Mars discussion is complete without a few pictures of Marvin the Martian. Marvin is also studying his home planet. Let's compare notes.



## Kaler Talk Rescheduled

Author James Kaler, whose talk was postponed from last February, has now been rescheduled. It has been confirmed that he will be our speaker at the October 19th meeting. Thanks once again to the Emory Physics department for working with us on this.

He is the author of the latest book titled, "The Little Book of Stars".

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## Fernbank Science Center Mars Program

The Atlanta Astronomy Club and Fernbank Science Center are hosting Mars Mania public observing event (weather permitting).

When: Friday, June 22, 2001 from 9 to 10:30 p.m. From 9:00 to 9:20 p.m. - short Mars Update in planetarium theater. Observing follows until 10:30.

Where: Fernbank Science Center parking lots and observatory.

How: AAC members set up telescopes in the "north" parking lot and along the driveway between the flagpole and FSC entrance. Members of the public view Mars through a variety of telescopes. AAC members and FSC astronomers answer questions.

Fernbank Science Center will put up cones to block out observing area. AAC members can bring and set up scopes any time after, 7:30 p.m. (and they're welcome in the Mars Update if they want to attend).

Please contact Mark Banks (AAC Sidewalk Astronomy Coordinator) or me (Art Russell - 404-373-4119) if you are interested in helping out with your telescope. I'll be there with my 18" and hope to see you all there!



## Mars Imaging and Sketching Contest

Mars is now making its best approach since 1988 (Troiani, 2001), and will be at its largest on 21 June at about 20.8 arc-seconds in size.

I'd like to propose that the Atlanta Astronomy Club host a "Mars Imaging Contest." The purpose of the contest is to encourage detailed observation of Mars by both Visual observers as well as imagers, both CCD and photo.

The contest would run from today, 7 June 2001, through 1 September, 2001, with winners to be announced at the AAC's monthly meeting on 21 September, 2001.

I've spoken with Rich Jakiel and he has agreed in principle to judge submissions.

General rules would be simple: Submit any image, whether drawing, CCD or photographic image to (To Be Determined), by 5 September, 2001 for consideration.

Prizes / award / recognition has yet to be determined. Anybody up for a "globular cluster" (Philip Sacco, are you listening? <Grin>)? Thoughts / Comments / Recommendations.



**So, what are these two pictures about? Find out next month.**

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## Atlanta Area Astronomers Listserv

While the Focal Point is a good source for information among other things, it cannot be undated after it is printed. If you have email access with a computer, then you can subscribe to the Atlanta Astronomers Listserv. This is a great source for up to the minute info on observing events. You can also post questions about astronomy. You can talk to fellow astronomers about the hobby or other things related to it.

**Subscribe to the Atlanta Area Astronomers Mailing List:** The name of the new list is: **AstroAtlanta**. The address for messages is: **AstroAtlanta@yahoogroups.com**. To add a subscription, send a message to: **AstroAtlanta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**. To cancel your membership, send a message to **AstroAtlanta-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com**. Messages for the list-owner (me) go to: **AstroAtlanta-owner@yahoogroups.com** or to (**LAbbey@mindspring.com**). The "home page" for the list, from which you can change your account defaults is: <http://www.yahoogroups.com/group/AstroAtlanta>. This list is owned by Lenny Abbey.

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## Hotline and Website

Atlanta Astronomy Club Hot Line: Timely information on the night sky and astronomy in the Atlanta area. Call **770-621-2661**.

The website has proven itself in attracting new members and keeping members informed of club events. This can only happen if we are given the information to post on the website. If you have any suggestions, comments or ideas please send them along to the [webmaster@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:webmaster@AtlantaAstronomy.org).

Internet Home Page: <http://www.AtlantaAstronomy.Org>

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## Member Astronomical League.

For more info on the Astronomical League, visit their website at <http://www.astroleague.org>. The AAC astronomical league contact is Keith Burns. He is the ALcorrespondent for the Atlanta Astronomy Club..



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## Amatuer Telescope Makers Group

Interested in building your own telescope? Want to enhance your current scope with some features or fix problems with it? Do you want to grind your own mirror or learn how it is done? This is the group for you. The ATM group meets every couple of weeks at Skip Cook's house. He has generously offer this location for this purpose. Contact him via phone (404-325-4987) or email ([scz9@cdc.gov](mailto:scz9@cdc.gov)) for more information and directions. Tracy Wilson runs the group and has much expertise to offer. You can contact him via email ([tracy@c2optical.com](mailto:tracy@c2optical.com)). Announcements of meetings will be posted on the AAC listserv. You can also find out about upcoming meetings from Skip. There are other folks that attend these meetings that may have some expertise to offer to help you with construction project you are working on. They are looking for a new place to hold meetings. They need a room that is fairly large and you don't mind it getting dirty. If you know of a place or have one available, please contact either Skip Cook or Tracy Wilson. Thanks.

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. Membership is open to all. Membership fee's are **\$25** for a **family or single person** membership. **College students** membership is **\$10**. These fees are for one years membership.

Magazine subscriptions to Sky & Tel or Astronomy can be purchased through the club for a reduced rate. The fees include **\$30** for **Sky & Tel** and **\$29** for **Astronomy Magazine**. For renewals of subscriptions, you will receive a renewal notice from the Sky & Tel or Astronomy. Send the renewal notice along with you check for the renewal price to the Atlanta Astronomy Club treasurer.

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## Focal Point Submission Deadline

I'm looking for articles, pictures, and drawings on anything astronomy related. All formats are acceptable. Pictures can be sent as either JPEGs, GIFs, or other formats. I can also scan in hard copy pictures. Articles can either be sent via snail mail addressed to Keith Burns 3740 Burnt Hickory Road Marietta, Georgia 30064 or email at [Keith\\_B@bellsouth.net](mailto:Keith_B@bellsouth.net). You can submit articles anytime up and including the deadline date. The **deadline** for the **July issue** is **June 30, 2001**. The actual **July issue** will be published and mailed several days after.



## *The Focal Point*

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

**FROM:**

Keith Burns Email: [Keith\\_b@bellsouth.net](mailto:Keith_b@bellsouth.net)

3740 Burnt Hickory Road

Marietta, Georgia 30064

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

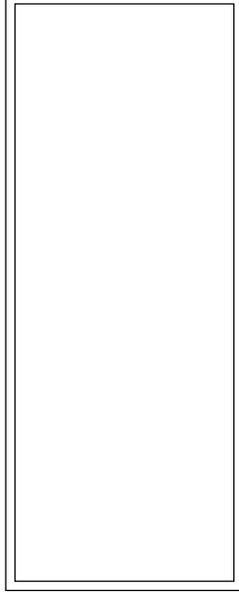
Atlanta Astronomy Club

PMB 305

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**FIRST CLASS**



## Calendar

**June 15th-General Membership Meeting** at White Hall at Emory. Starts at 8PM. Sharon Carruthers AAC President 2000-2001. Talk on Women in Astronomy.

**June 16th-GASP Sidewalk Astronomy** at Cloudland Canyon State Park. Short talk by Sharon with public gazing to follow. Location is the pool/ tennis courts area in the park. If you plan to camp, you must pay for and arrange for your own campsite.

**June 22nd Fernbank Science Center.** Program on Mars viewing. Scopes needed. Planetarium show. Talk. Viewing to follow weather permitting. From 9PM to 10:30PM.

**June 23rd-Deep Sky Observing** Brasstown Bald Mtn.

**July 20th-General Membership Meeting** at White Hall at Emory. 8PM. Michael Covington Talk on the World of Computerized Telescopes. .

**July 21st-Deep Sky Observing** Mentone, AL Joint AAC/VBAS stargaze. Note that details not worked out yet as of this printing. Location and other details could change. See listserv or come to the June meeting to hear updated info.

**July 28th-GASP** Storytelling and sidewalk astronomy to follow at Tallulah Gorge State Park. Philip Sacco will do Myths and Legends of the Night Sky. Rain or Shine event.