

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947  
July 2001

Vol XIV No. 2

Editor: Keith Burns

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## July General Membership Meeting

Join club member Michael Covington as he reviews all the latest computerized telescopes available on the market. This is for those of you who are gripped with fear when you are faced with using something electronic. Telescopes are intimidating enough without all the computer stuff. The talk is titled "The Wild Wacky World of Computerized Telescopes." The meeting is July 20th at White Hall on the Emory Campus. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 8 p.m.

Michael is a professor at the University of Georgia. He has authored several books on astro-photography. A frequent observer at CEWMA and regular on the AAC listserv. He has many years of astro photography experience. You can find out more about him at <http://www.covingtoninnovations.com>.

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## PSSG 2001

PEACH STATE STAR GAZE LOOMS CLOSER: FEAR IT OR WELCOME IT, THERE IS NO ESCAPE. Richard Strauss's Introduction to "Also Sprach Zarathustra", playing in the background.

Okay folks, we're only two months away from the next Peach State Star Gaze and with a maximum of 250 people allowed but about 100 already registered, now is definitely NOT too early to register. Just look what you get:

- Three nights of mid-September skies away from the city glare of Atlanta (while it's not central Texas, it

sure beats even looking for the Mars in the skies over Midtown Atlanta)

- A chance to meet some of the world's most knowledgeable and well-known experts on your favorite hobby
- Many chances to meet others who can help you become an even better skywatcher
- An opportunity to add to astro-gadget collection with purchases from other attendees or any of the vendors who set up their wares
- Your choice of lodging — camping, heated men's or women's bunkhouses, or semi-private rooms (bunkhouses and semi-private rooms include flush toilets and hot water showers)
- And all in a family-oriented atmosphere at Indian Springs State Park's Camp McIntosh, near Jackson, Georgia — not too far away from home

For those who haven't heard, we're bringing in Wil Tirion, noted author and graphic artist; his most famous work is "Sky Atlas 2000" and it is used almost universally (!) by serious deep sky observers everywhere.

For two years, your Atlanta Astronomy Club has been the first and only club — as far as we know — to bring world-known speakers from overseas to our events. They're not here for any other purpose. Last year, we were honored to host Antonin Rukl, author of the most popular Moon-map book, "Atlas of the Moon"; Mr. Rukl resides in Prague, Czech Republic. This year, Mr. Tirion will be coming in from the Netherlands. In previous years, we've featured other top names of the hobby from across the United States.

Time is running out, so remember that only 150 slots are still open and NO WALK-INS will be admitted (the facilities are limited and too many people make for a less-than-enjoyable weekend).

The registration form, an interest survey (for the program booklet and directory to be distributed at the event) and a

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hold-harmless form are being mailed to you now. You can also access the info and forms at the AAC website at <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org>. For more information about the event, contact Ken Poshedly at [ken.poshedly@mindspring.com](mailto:ken.poshedly@mindspring.com) or 770-979-9842 (after 8 p.m. evenings).

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### James Henry Carlisle, III

Word of the death of James Henry Carlisle, III on July 21, 2000 has just reached the Club. He was 81 years of age.

A lifelong resident of Spartanburg, South Carolina, James was born with multiple physical problems which persisted for his whole life. He became interested in astronomy at an early age, but unfortunately there were no other amateur astronomers in Spartanburg for him to communicate with.

I met him when he first discovered that there was an astronomy club in Atlanta! He and his mother traveled here on the bus sometime in the mid-50's. For many years he attended about half of our meetings, via bus (a 250-mile roundtrip!). His mother accompanied him until her death about ten years later. After that, he made the trip on his own.

James was active in the Southeast Region of the Astronomical League, and served as its treasurer for a number of years. He last came to Atlanta for the regional convention we sponsored in 1988.

About ten years ago we learned that James' age and physical problems would require him to enter a nursing home. He was very concerned that the consequent loss of control of his personal affairs would cost him his subscription to Sky & Telescope. So, in consideration of his many years of loyal membership, the Club voted him an honorary life membership, with Sky & Telescope. So James was able to enjoy his hobby via the magazine for the rest of his days.

When he entered the nursing home, the administration was taken aback when he refused to part with his seven telescopes! His room must have been interesting.

In spite of his physical shortcomings, James worked a full career as a statistician with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He retired about twenty years ago. His mind was keen, and he was an ardent conversationalist.

James taught me one lesson which I hope to never forget. He felt that a handicap was something in the mind, not the body. And he was living proof of his philosophy.

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### From the Prez's Desk....

In the Q&A section of the AJC, someone wanted to know if the bright streak they saw on Sat June 23 was a comet. Their guest astronomer said it was not a comet but probably a jet trail (since jet trails DO look like comet tails). I wrote a correction,

informing them that members of the Flint River, North Georgia and Atlanta Clubs all saw it and it was most definitely a bolide-type meteor.

While I was happy to get a mention of ALL three Clubs in the paper at once, it made me realize how ignorance of even the simplest astronomical facts abound. How many times have you seen a comet portrayed as a fireball on TV and in movies?

A wonderful resource that rebuts media errors in astronomy is Phil Plaitt "Bad Astronomy" website [www.badastronomy.com](http://www.badastronomy.com). He reviews many astronomy oriented movies, explains their error and gives correct information. His latest review is about "Lara Croft, Tomb Raider"; plus he has a lot more fun stuff, including a page on the Apollo Moon Landing Hoax.

I also realized that June has been a great month for meteors – I have seen more and more spectacular ones this June than during the more famous showers last year, such as the Leonids & the Perseids. So, take a little break from your eyepiece and those faint distant fuzzies every now and then; and look for fireworks closer to home. You may be rewarded with some "OOH's & AAAH's", especially if you have some kids at your side.

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### Open House at Barber Observatory

There will be an open house at our Walter Barber Observatory near Villa Rica, Georgia on Saturday July 14th. For those of you folks who are new to astronomy and/or the club, come on out by 7 PM. This provides you a chance to see whats out there. If you take part in the orientation of the site, you will be given to combos to the gate. This will allow you to use the site on any night you feel like coming out. Basically the orientation is where we show you whats on site and how to use it. This is also the time to get help with that new scope of yours. Now if you want to get trained on the 20 inch scope and the 10 scope permanently stationed out there, you will have to setup a training session with our trainer Stef Whetstone. For more information, contact one of the following individuals. Rich Jakiel at 7-577-2330 or email [phacops@bellsouth.net](mailto:phacops@bellsouth.net). Sharon Carruthers at 7-941-4640 or email at [SCarruthers@nightsky.org](mailto:SCarruthers@nightsky.org) . .

After 8 PM, we will give the public a brief talk and show some slides. When darkness falls, we will show them the wonders up in the sky. Whether you are new to astronomy or an old hand at it, you can help out with this. The ooooo's and aaaaa's you hear from folks looking in you scope for the first time are with the trip out.

In the late afternoon we will need some volunteers to help with cleaning up of the place from all the construction that has been going on out there and cut the grass. Note that many improvements have been made at the observatory in the last 6 months. So if it's been a while since you last came out, you are going to be surprised.

## July DSS at Mentone, AL

This month we will be holding a deep sky session out at a field located just over the border in Alabama. The date is July 21st. Tent camping is permitted or sleeping in your vehicle. AAC member Roger Dowiat has offered the use of his land for this event. We have also invited folks from the Von Braun Astronomical Society to come on out and join us. This place is located along the Alabama/ Georgia border west of Summerville, Georgia. The site is also located on Lookout Mountain.

### Directions to Mentone Site From Atlanta

1) Take I-75 north from Atlanta. 2) Take I-75 to Adairsville exit 306. This is GA 140. Exit interstate here. 3) At end of ramp turn left onto GA 140. 4) Take GA 140 west to US 27. 5) Turn right onto US 27 and head north to Summerville. 6) In Summerville look for GA 48 on left hand side of road. Turn left onto GA 48. 7) Take 48 west. You will pass through the towns of Menlo and Cloudland. After Cloudland, the road crosses the AL/GA border into AL. 8) GA 48 becomes AL 117. Travel west on 117 for several miles. 9) Look for a church called Mentone Church of God. The church is located on the right side of the road. Past the church look for DeKalb county road 644. The road is on the left side of the road. It's a gravel road located next to a pasture. 10) Turn left onto 644 and travel for ½ a mile. Look for two driveways on the left hand side of the road that are close together. There should be several large rocks next to the driveways. Turn left into the second driveway and go past the new house. Take the gravel drive around the right side of the new house. There is a field with pond and old farm behind the new house. The main setup area is between the old farm house and pond.

For additional information, contact Richard Blackburn at [rblackburn@mindspring.com](mailto:rblackburn@mindspring.com) or 7-801-9759. Keith Burns at [Keith\\_B@bellsouth.net](mailto:Keith_B@bellsouth.net) or 7-427-1475 .

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## GASP (Georgia Astronomy in State Parks)

By Joanne Cirincione

### Cloudland Canyon State Park – 6/16/01

Cloudland Canyon State Park was one of the best viewing weekends we had in a long, long time. Saturday night we had between 20-30 campers come up on the mountain top and hang out with us. After Sharon Carruthers presentation on “Basic Astronomy” we had a quiz for the kids with prizes.

When the presentation was over we introduced the campers to our scopes and the night sky. There were so many stars out it was a little difficult pointing out a constellation to a young child. We had satellites, meteors and MARS. But the best for me was seeing the Milky Way. It was the best viewing of it I have ever seen! (It was also the perfect camping weather we had in a while.)

We went back up to the pool area Sunday night and had the field to ourselves. It was just as beautiful as the night before.

I want to thank Peter Macumber, Sharon Carruthers, Keith Burns, Ken Adams, and Charles Hinley for their part. It couldn't be done without them! We would love to have more members join us on our adventures. We can always use the knowledge, scopes, binoculars and companionship! You don't need to have equipment to help out. If you are new to astronomy this would be great time to learn.

### Tallulah Gorge State Park – 7/28/01

Please join us at Tallulah Gorge State Park on July 28. This is our “Myths and Legends” weekend with Philip Sacco. The slide presentation starts at 8:30p at the main fire ring with Philip doing his mythology talk directly afterward at the helicopter field. If it should rain the presentation will be held in the visitor center.

All are welcome! Scopes are needed but not necessary to participate. Look for more information on our website. Go to the GASP link. Also more detailed information will be put on the GASP listserve.

HOPE TO SEE Y'ALL THERE!

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## Cloudland Canyon Sidewalk Astronomy Pictures



Pictured above is several of the folks from the weekend event. To the right of the big dob is Sharon, who is the featured speaker at this event. Sitting next to the small dob scope is Joanne. She is the leader of all things GASP and owner of the scope aka the LID scope. To her right is Peter, Scope man and generator of all things nebulous. To the left is Ken Adams. Ken is a new member and frequent comer to these events.

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Picture in the upper left is Keith standing next his scope. Scope man and the guy who take took almost all of these pictures for the weekend event. This is the Aurora scope and it drew much curiosity from the public. Large scopes often do. Note that the skies above where clear.

Picture to the upper right is Sharon reviewing a few last minute details for the talk she will give shortly. Joanne to the left is setting out handouts that are given out to the people who come to hear the talk and see the night sky.

Picture in the middle left is some of us enjoying solar viewing back at the campground. Occasionally some of the nearby campers would take a peak in the scope. Myself, Peter, and Sharon did sketches of the many sunspots visible on the surface of the sun.

Picture to the lower right was taken through the solar scope. I used a 200 Kodak Digital Camera. Held the camera up to the eyepiece. Sunspots are visible in the picture. Scope was a 5 1/4 inch Newtonian with a Baader filter. 40X magnification.

Picture to the lower left. The final night of the event. It was just the four of us. After a successful night of observing, it was a perfect time to enjoy a campfire. Of

course, it was 2:30 A.M. Life is good. Sleep? Not yet.



## Women in Astronomy Quiz and Answers

1) She and her husband created one of the most famous data graphs in astronomy based on their solar research. Annie & Edward Maunder - The Butterfly Graph

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*. Jill Tartar

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. Jocelyn Bell-Burnell

4) She was the first woman in recorded history to receive a salary as a court astronomer. Caroline Herschel

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. Margaret Burbidge

6) She was the first American credited with observing a "telescopic" comet (i.e. before it was visible to the naked eye). Maria Mitchell

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). Shannon Lucid

8) These two women created the spectral classification system (OBAFGKM) that we still use over 100 years later. Fleming & Cannon

9) This famous shuttle pilot has a degree in Astrophysics. Sally Ride

10) One of the most prolific comet hunters in history, she has 32 comets that bear her name. Carolyn Shoemaker

11) This highly respected American observatory once housed "Pickering's Harem". Harvard College Observatory

12) She compiled a catalogue of the spectral classes of over ¼ million stars that is still in use today. Annie Jump Cannon

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". Vera Rubin

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## The Treasurer

### Peter Macumber

We have been working on putting the membership list on the web-site. It will be secured by a user-id and password, to keep the web-bots from acquiring it for spam lists. Please check your Focal Point label NOW. If the information is not correct, please send me an e-mail or note to make corrections.

[me@myisp.com](mailto:me@myisp.com) 19970302 F Mar 2002

**John Doe**

**1234 Any Street**

**Atlanta GA 30000**

The label, for this Focal Point, also contains your e-mail address at the top left. To the right is your club identification number. The next field is your membership type followed by your membership expiry date.

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## Elliott Corner

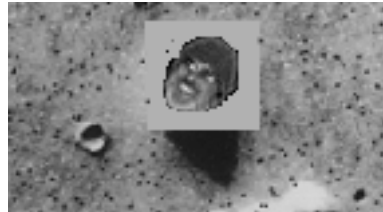
The next meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club Charlie Elliott Chapter meeting will be Saturday, July 21st at 8pm. There will be no dinner before the meeting scheduled. The meeting will be held on the observing field.

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## What's This?

Former NASA and JPL scientists conducted their own investigation into the famous 1976 picture of the Face on Mars. The results are shocking. Using new technology, they have been able to pull out the real image from behind the fake one. Looks like Philip Sacco is the face on Mars. All the stuff you hear him talk about makes a lot more sense now. Doesn't it?

The picture to the right is of his home planet. Or atleast they think it is his home planet. Picture taken by Amateur Astronomer Keith Burns with a Digital Camera through his 13 inch Dobsonian telescope. Magnification 117X.



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## Trophy hunting on the Moon...

By Tracy Wilson

After some time viewing most of us lean towards challenges when we observe. The Alpine Rille is just such a target! It is not tough to see when it is viewable. It is in the timing that makes it hard. When deep sky hunting we have 8 or 9 months to view a object and a couple of months of optimum viewing. Not so when hunting certain objects on the Moon.

The rille is going to be viewable in the waning phase (preferred) for only a few scant hours and only on 2 days this year! The first chance comes on September 9 at 5am to daylight. The second chance comes in November on the 7th at the same

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times. Both days have the Moon at 77 degrees. And a colongitude of 170. The Rille is only 200 yds wide but it can be viewed at 200X and above with 6" or more aperture. It might be viewed in even less. Give it a shot, it is worth the wait.



Sketch above done by Tracy. It is the Alpine Rille and surrounding area. Pictures below sketch taken from the "Consolidated Lunar Atlas." Both photos show the Alpine Valley and surrounding regions. Plato is the large crater visible in left picture.

## Minutes of General Meeting: June 15, 2001

By Karen Stiles

**I. Sharon Carruthers** opened the meeting with thanks to Julie Moore for providing refreshments. Six new members were in attendance and introduced themselves.

**II. Committee Reports:** Observing Chair (Richard Blackburn): \*Dark Sky Event for the weekend of June 23rd at Brasstown Bald announced as well as other future events being planned. Villa Rica (Rich Jakiel): \*Public Orientation and Open House projected for July. Work on the new building in final stages of completion. Electrical work should be finished with week with inspection tentatively planned for next week. Charles Hinley was commended for major efforts he has put forth in getting this project accomplished.

\*Astro-imaging and drawing contest of Mars announced. Photos may be submitted in CCD video or photograph. Be sure to note specifications of photos as well as date and time. Winners will be announced at the Peach State Star Gaze party in September. Results will also be submitted to ALPO for possible publication.

Peach State Star Gaze (Ken Poshedly): \*Scheduled for 9/13-16, 60 already registered, 250 maximum. Ken encourages everyone to register early. The location is the same as last year-Indian Springs State Park in Jackson, GA. Volunteers are needed now to help with mailing flyers. Will Tirion featured speaker from the Netherlands.

Focal Point (Keith Burns): Deadline for submissions to the next edition is June 30th. Speaker Chair (Carol Abernathy): Upcoming speakers announced including our own Lenny Abbey. GASP (Joanne Cirincione): Future events scheduled Cloudland Canyon 6/16, Talullah Gorge 7/28, Amicalola Falls Labor Day. Check AAC web site and GASP link for details. Charlie Elliot (Phil Sacco): Chapter Meeting 6/16 starting at 6pm (new time for summer months). Woodruff (John Lentini): 24" scope is now locked on site with combination lock available to those who have completed training. Platform has also been assembled on site.

**III. Astronomical League Awards** announced by Phil Sacco. Congratulations to Stef Whetstone (Honorary Messier Club certificate), Art Zorka (Regular Messier Club Certificate), Keith Burns (Herschel 400), and Art Zorka (Deep Sky Binocular Certificate).

**IV. General Announcements:** · Art Russell announced a sidewalk astronomy event "Mars Mania" in cooperation with the Fernbank Museum on 6/22. Location is north parking lot at Fernbank. Club members encouraged to come out and participate. · Ralph Bowman: Piers available-call him if you are interested with measurements needed. · Sharon Caruthers announced

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that Carol Abernathy is the winner of the Women in Astronomy quiz in the June Focal Point.

The meeting ended with an outstanding presentation by our president Sharon entitled Women in Astronomy.

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## Public Night Observing at Arthur H. Dyer Observatory Brentwood, TN.

By Dallas Rogers

Recently I had the good fortune of visiting the Arthur H. Dyer observatory in Nashville for a public viewing night. I mentioned on entering that I brought my scope, so they asked me to set up on the roof, next to the two observatory scopes and to provide some additional viewing opportunities for the more than 100 folks that were visiting that night. Nearly everyone had a looksee, and I talked about the following, and showed some representative examples:

Pointed out the major constellations (some mythology) and planets, and demonstrated planesphere, and described how the night sky moves, revolving around the Polaris. For some interested in my scope, I described light was gathered and magnified, as well as how the scope tracked objects in the sky.

Compared and described (e.g. visual, telescopic, and extemporaneous discussion) some of the variety of stars out that night including Arcturus, Antares, Spica, and Vega.

Demonstrated (bino & telescope) some of the double stars including Lyra double/double, Mira, and others. Told the little folks that people on a planet by a double star would see two or more suns in the sky - like on Star Wars. Kids found that kind of insight - "way cool"! Viewed and discussed some globular clusters - notably M13 (showed bino for this also), M92.

Most folks were mesmerized by how far away objects were, and how long it took for light to reach us. Also, I tried to describe what the night sky would look like if you were on a



planet in the middle of a globular cluster. The night sky would be lit with countless bright stars like Vega, Arcturus, etc.

Viewed the ring nebula M57 and described how stars are

formed, mature, and die. Also viewed a couple of galaxies including M81 and M82. These galaxies were washed out badly due to Nashville's proximity. Again folks were amazed at the distance. Fortunately the light pollution around Nashville is nowhere near as severe as Atlanta.

Viewed Mars and noted any distinguishing markings that were visible. At Woodruff I'd like to be sure and have a clean shot at Mars above the tree line. I didn't plan that one out well enough and had to move my gear to a better location later in the night. Sharing a few "fun facts" for objects was a big hit - how many stars are in a given cluster (.3-.5 billion for M13) or galaxy (often 10 billion or so), how far away, how old, how much bigger hotter/colder some stars are than our sun, etc. Fortunately I had crammed for some of these fun facts to share with the Scouts at Woodruff just after the Dyer experience. In fact, I used much of the impromptu program from the night at Dyer to entertain and inform the Scouts.

It proved to be an exciting evening, and I even got a chance to look through some of the observatory scopes when the crowds left. All in all a great experience, totally unplanned, but you never know when you might be representing your local astronomy club, even when traveling.



Picture to left taken through the 10 inch scope at VR. Clouds present in the sky at the time give the moon a ghostly presence.

## Walter F. Barber Jr Observatory

In the past year much work has been done at our club's first and oldest observatory. On this page are pictures of the site.



Above is three pictures combined showing all the property. Picture taken from the deck of Chrissy's Corner Building.

Below are two pictures of the inside of Chrissy's Corner.



Picture below to left is the observatory building for the 10 inch scope and the 20 inch scope. The building in the picture to the lower right is Chrissy's Corner. This picture is dated. All ground work has been finished.







I have been taking pictures of the moon and planets. I've used various scopes including both the 20 inch and 10 inch at VR. This picture to the left is a cropped down of the original and is darkened a bit to enhance features. Not sure what feature of the moon this is. Do you know?

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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. You can submit articles anytime up and including the deadline date. The **deadline** for the **July issue** is **July 31, 2001**.

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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](mailto: AstroAtlanta@yahoogroups.com). To add a subscription, send a message to: [AstroAtlanta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: AstroAtlanta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). To cancel your membership, send a message to [AstroAtlanta-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: AstroAtlanta-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com). Messages for the list-owner (me) go to: [AstroAtlanta-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto: AstroAtlanta-owner@yahoogroups.com) or to [LAbbey@mindspring.com](mailto: LAbbey@mindspring.com). The "home page" for the list, from which you can change your account defaults is: <http://www.yahoo.com/group/AstroAtlanta>. This list is owned by Lenny Abbey.

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### AAC Member of 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. You can reach him via email at Keith\_B@Bellsouth.net or 7-427-1475.




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### Amateur 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.

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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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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 fee is **\$10**. These fees are for a one year membership.

Magazine subscriptions to Sky & Tel or Astronomy can be purchased through the club for a reduced rate. The fees are **\$30** for Sky & Tel and **\$29** for Astronomy. Renewal forms will be sent to you by the magazines. Send the renewal form along with you check to the Atlanta Astronomy Club treasurer.

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| Clubs address is:   | Treasurer's address is:  |
| Atlanta Astronomy Club  | Peter Macumber AAC   |
| PMB 305   | 1057 Trestle Drive   |
| 3595 Canton Road A9   | Austell, Georgia 30106   |
| Marietta, Georgia 3006  |  |
| <b>President:</b> Sharon Carruthers 7-941-4640                        | <a href="mailto:SCarruthers@NightSky.Org">SCarruthers@NightSky.Org</a>                   |
| <b>Program Chair:</b> Carol Abernathy 7-736-7623                      | <a href="mailto:CarolAbba@aol.com">CarolAbba@aol.com</a>                                 |
| <b>Observing Chair:</b> Richard Blackburn 7-801-9759                  | <a href="mailto:rblackburn@mindspring.com">rblackburn@mindspring.com</a>                 |
| <b>Corresponding Secretary/ ALCOR:</b> Keith Burns 7-427-1475         | <a href="mailto:Keith_B@Bellsouth.net">Keith_B@Bellsouth.net</a>                         |
| <b>Treasurer:</b> Peter Macumber 7-941-4640                           | <a href="mailto:PMacumber@NightSky.Org">PMacumber@NightSky.Org</a>                       |
| <b>Recording Secretary:</b> Karen Stiles 4-873-1566                   | <a href="mailto:kmstiles@yahoo.com">kmstiles@yahoo.com</a>                               |
| <b>Board:</b> Tom Crowley 4-233-6886                                  | <a href="mailto:crowleytj@hotmail.com">crowleytj@hotmail.com</a>                         |
| <b>Board/ Boy Scout Liasion:</b> John Lentini 7-984-0175              | <a href="mailto:johnlentini@yahoo.com">johnlentini@yahoo.com</a>                         |
| <b>Board:</b> Jim Moore 7-242-6735                                    | <a href="mailto:hollin@dwcs.com">hollin@dwcs.com</a>                                     |
| <b>Board:</b> Chuck Painter 7-664-0837                                | <a href="mailto:crpainter@mediaone.net">crpainter@mediaone.net</a>                       |
| <b>Board:</b> Gil Shillcutt 4-873-1566                                | <a href="mailto:Gil.Shillcutt@choicepoint.net">Gil.Shillcutt@choicepoint.net</a>         |
| <b>Board Chair:</b> Bear Simmons 4-299-7511                           | <a href="mailto:bearsimmons@earthlink.net">bearsimmons@earthlink.net</a>                 |
| <b>Amateur Telescope Making:</b> Skip Cook 4-325-4987                 | <a href="mailto:scz9@cdc.gov">scz9@cdc.gov</a>   |
| <b>CEWC Coordinator:</b> Philip Sacco 4-296-6332                      | <a href="mailto:ppsacco@mindspring.com">ppsacco@mindspring.com</a>                       |
| <b>Georgia Astronomy in State Parks:</b> Joanne Cirincione 7-898-4271 | <a href="mailto:starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org">starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org</a> |
| <b>Light Trespass:</b> Tom Buchanan 7-521-2136                        |  |
| <b>Obser. &amp; Telescope Training:</b> Stef Whetstone 7-460-7678     | <a href="mailto:swhetstone@mindspring.com">swhetstone@mindspring.com</a>                 |
| <b>Peach State Star Gaze:</b> Ken Poshedly 7-979-9842                 | <a href="mailto:ken.poshedly@mindspring.com">ken.poshedly@mindspring.com</a>             |
| <b>Sidewalk Astronomy:</b> Mark Banks 4-257-2766                      | <a href="mailto:bank4@mindspring.com">bank4@mindspring.com</a>                           |
| <b>Villa Rica Observ. Coordinator:</b> Rich Jakiel 7-577-2330         | <a href="mailto:phacops@bellsouth.net">phacops@bellsouth.net</a>                         |
| <b>Woodruff Observ. Coordinator:</b> John Lentini 7-984-0175          | <a href="mailto:johnlentini@yahoo.com">johnlentini@yahoo.com</a>                         |



## *The Focal Point*

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

FROM:

Keith Burns

3740 Burnt Hickory Road

Marietta, Georgia 30064

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

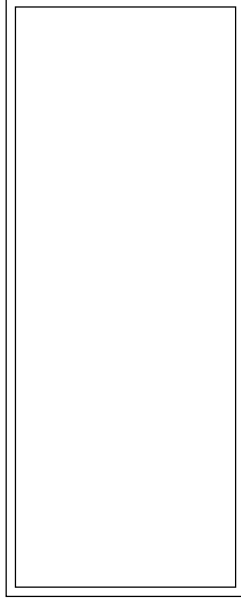
Atlanta Astronomy Club

PMB 305

3595 Canton Road A9

Marietta, GA 30066

**FIRST CLASS**



## Calendar

**July 14th Public Open House** at Villa Rica Observatory. Special club members orientation starts at 7 p.m. Officially open to public at 8 p.m. Rain or shine.

**July 16th AAC Board Meeting.** Location and time TBA on the AAC Board Listserv.

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

**July 21st-Elliott Chapter Meeting.** Meeting and observing to follow at observing. Starts at 8 P.M.

**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.

**August 11th-GASP** Short talk and sidewalk astronomy at West Point Lake Campgrounds. For more info, contact Joanne.

**August 17th- General Membership Meeting** at Emory University's White Hall. Meeting Starts at 8 p.m. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Speaker TBA.

**August 18th-Deep Sky Observing.** Location TBA. ]

**August 18th- Elliott Chapter Meeting.** Topic and location TBA. Starts at 8 p.m.

**September 1st-GASP** Short talk and sidewalk astronomy at Amicalola Falls State Park.

**September 13th-16th-Peach State Star Gaze.** Indian Springs State Park. Must pre-register in order to attend.