

The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
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Editor: Keith Burns

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August General Membership Meeting

The meeting will be held at White Hall on the Emory University Campus. Refreshments are served at 7:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 8 p.m. The featured speaker is Dr. Richard Schumde. He will talk about Mars. You have seen the planet in the scope. You have also read about it on the websites, newspapers, and magazines. Come and hear some interesting stuff with a talk titled, "NASA's Last 5 Years With Mars." He will also talk at the PSSG 2001 about the recent Mars dust storms.

Dr. Schumde is the Remote Planets Section coordinator, and a board member, of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, and is also an active member of the American Association of Variable Star Observers and the Atlanta Astronomy Club. Since receiving his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Texas A&M University in 1994, Dr. Schumde has been teaching Astronomy, Physics and Chemistry at Gordon College in Barnesville, GA. His primary areas of study include the solar system, variable stars and planetary nebulae.

The September Meeting will be held at the PSSG this year. Time and date to be announced later. See next month's Focal Point and website for more info in the future. There will also be a dinner on Monday September 17th with Wil Tirion. See announcement elsewhere in this newsletter. Coming in October is Dr James Kaler. Speaking in November will be several Cosmonauts. Note that this meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon November 18th.

Directions: From I-285 east, exit the interstate at Stone Mountain Freeway(exit 39A). Road merges into Scott Blvd.



Take Scott to North Decatur Road. Turn right onto North Decatur Road and take it to Oxford Road. Oxford is a five way intersection. Turn right onto Oxford Road. White Hall Second Building on right side. **From I-85 north**, take I-85 to Clairmont Road. Exit interstate at Clairmont(exit 91). Take Clairmont south to North Decatur Road. Turn right onto North Decatur Road and take it to Oxford Road. Oxford Road is a five way intersection. Turn right onto Oxford Road. **From I-20 east-west**, take I-20 to GA 155(Candler Road). Exit interstate at exit 65. Take Candler Road north to and through town of Decatur. Road changes names to Clairmont Road but remains GA 155. Take Clairmont Road to North Decatur Road. Turn left onto North Decatur. Take North Decatur Road to Oxford. Oxford is a five way intersection. Turn right onto Oxford Road. White Hall is the second building on the right side.

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Atlanta Astronomy Club Dinner to Host Wil Tirion

Internationally-acclaimed star atlas author Wil Tirion will be the honored guest at a post-Peach State Star Gaze dinner Monday evening, September 17. The event will be held at the Steak & Ale Restaurant, Northlake and Lavista roads, Tucker, at 6:30 p.m., and be limited to no more than 50 persons.

Mr. Tirion, in Atlanta as guest of the Atlanta Astronomy Club and featured speaker at the Y2K+1 Peach State Star Gaze the previous week, will be accompanied by his wife, Cokkie. The two will travel around the southeastern part of the U.S. by car before returning to their home in The Netherlands in October.

The dinner will give those who were not able to attend the Peach State Star Gaze a chance to meet with perhaps the most notable star atlas author today and hear Mr. Tirion talk more informally about himself, his work and other matters.

Mr. Tirion started making his first star atlas in 1977 just for his own enjoyment in his free hours, with stars down to magnitude 6.5 (the whole sky on five large maps). It was published in the "Encyclopedia of Astronomy," edited by Colin Ronan, (Hamlyn, London, 1979) and in 1981 as a separate set of maps by the British Astronomical Association ("B.A.A. Star Charts 1950.0").

After that, still as a hobby, he started working on a larger atlas: "Sky Atlas 2000.0," showing stars down to magnitude 8.0. Its publication in 1981 (by Sky Publishing Corporation, USA, and co-published by Cambridge University Press) resulted in requests from several publishers for star maps for different purposes. In 1983, Mr. Tirion decided to quit his regular job and started working as a full-time Uranographer. Since then he has contributed to many books and magazines on astronomy.

Besides co-authoring other books and publications, Mr. Tirion is the author of: "B.A.A. Star Charts 1950.0", "Sky Atlas 2000.0" (desk, field & color editions). "B.A.A. Chart of the Heavens", "Bright Star Atlas 2000.0", and the "Cambridge Star Atlas 2000.0" (published in English and French (Canadian).

Three menu choices are available: * 12 oz. top sirloin steak * Hawaiian Chicken (two marinated and grilled chicken breasts) * 7 oz. salmon

All three dinner choices include: * Caesar salad or bleu cheese iceberg lettuce wedge * Baked potato or rice pilaf * Hot honey wheat bread * French Silk Pie for desert * Coffee, tea or non-alcoholic soft drink beverage.

This event is RSVP. Cost of the dinner is \$19 (including gratuity) payable in advance. Make checks payable to the Atlanta Astronomy Club and send them, along with your dinner choices by Friday, Sept. 7, to AAC treasurer Peter Macumber, 1057 Trestle Drive, Austell, GA 30106. For more information about either the PSSG event or this dinner, contact Ken Poshedly at 770-979-9842; or ken.poshedly@mindspring.com

Directions to Observing Field at Woodruff

From Atlanta: Take I-575 to GA 515. Follow 515 through Ellijay and Blue Ridge. Go 2.2 miles past the intersection of 515 and GA 60. Take a left on Loving Road, and follow for approximately 10 miles. It dead ends at GA 325. Turn right on GA 325 and go about 50 yards to Boy Scout Road. Turn right again. The entrance to the Scout Camp is about 2.5 miles on the right.

From Blairsville: Take 515 East toward Blue Ridge. Turn right on GA 325. Boy Scout Road comes up on your left after about 2 miles. Go about 3 miles and the camp entrance is on your left.

(From the east side of Atlanta, it may **look** more direct to take 400/129 to Blairsville, but the last 40 miles of 129 are quite crooked. The route up 575 is faster and 4 lane for all but the last 10 miles.)

Take the main entrance road (Turner Gap Rd.) and follow it past the lake (on your left). The main road turns rough at the second ranger's house, but Chestnut Gap Road goes left, and is OK. Take the left. Go about a half mile, and again the road ahead gets rough, but you should turn right at a sign that says "private property, do not enter". Ignore the sign and go down the road, past an old cabin. There will be a gate on the road near the cabin and a box with the visitors' log. Sign in. The gate will be open for planned Club events. Other times, you will need the combination. Follow the road until it ends at the Observing Field.

Dark Sky Observing

For those not familiar with the term DSS(Deep Sky Session), it is a term that refers to an observing event where club members go to observe together under dark skies. These places are usually several hours drive from Atlanta. The locations have some of the best dark skies available in Georgia. The way these sites remain dark is if all members who attend these events must follow these basic rules below.

The first rule is to arrive before dark. This allows you a chance to setup your scope safely without fumbling around in the dark. Also you won't blind others with you car headlights and other car dome lights. The second rule is no white lights including flashlights and carlights allowed on the field. Red flashlights to be used only on the field. Rule three is if you plan on leaving early, be sure to park your vehicle away from the main observing area with the front of your car facing away from the observing area.

Rule four is that before you leave, let the folks around you know that you are leaving. This will allow those who are doing astrophotography a chance to finish up and the other folks a

Continued on next page.

chance to cover up their eyes so they can maintain their dark eye adaption. It's best to announce this 10 to 15 minutes before you leave. Perhaps others around you will help guide you out. Use only your parking lights when leaving the area. Once you are off the field, then you can put on your headlights.

While these rules might sound a bit on the strick side, they are designed to preserve the remaining dark skies we have left. Many of you who have been blinded by someone's headlights know exact why we do this.

Fellow Amateur Astronomers, Astrophotographers and Imagers!

My name is Elizabeth Warner and I work for the NASA Discovery Mission Deep Impact (<http://deepimpact.jpl.nasa.gov> or <http://deepimpact.umd.edu>).

I am writing to you because I need your help. The nature of the mission is such that there is a tremendous opportunity for amateur astronomers to contribute scientifically useful data. And in fact, we have already formed a program called the Small Telescope Science Program (STSP) (<http://deepimpact.umd.edu/stsp>). However, we know that not all amateurs have the resources that meet the requirements for that program. So we would like to form a more informal observing program (tentatively called the Amateur Observers' Program) and I need to make a web site for it. And wouldn't you know it, I have writer's block!

I am an amateur astronomer in the VA area so I have some ideas about what should be included in the site, but I have also been very involved in the development of the primary Deep Impact site so I am likely to forget obvious needs.

I am looking for any ideas on what should be included content-wise. I'll also be interested in ideas for the look of the site. I am asking You because You are the primary user (we hope)! In other words, what would/do you expect to see when you visit this proposed site??

Site: Amateur Observers' Program. Description: please look at <http://deepimpact.umd.edu/science/observations.html> . Location: (off of <http://deepimpact.umd.edu>) . Purpose: provide information (starcharts, ephemeris, ??) for observing Tempel 1 (target of the mission), other bright comets, collection of images/sketches from observers. Target audience: amateur observers, astrophotographers (film and ccd) —You! Look: similar to primary site and STSP

Please send all responses and/or questions directly to me at warnerem@astro.umd.edu . Thank you for your time and help. May your skies be clear and steady! Happy Star... umm.. Cometgazing!

Elizabeth Warner warnerem@astro.umd.edu

Mosquito Control

By Steven "Saratoga Smitty" Smith AAC/FRAC

I recently tried a new method of repelling insects, it's an idea I received from an astronomer friend in Canada. I observed until 2:30 AM at the Flint River Astronomy Club's monthly observing for July and did not use one drop of "normal" insect repellent, didn't get one mosquito bite! The secret? You know those fabric sheets you throw in the dryer with your clothes? Yep! Grab yourself a box of BOUNCE, rub your exposed skin with a sheet and then pin the sheet to the front of your shoulder (your nametag can server double-duty!). I also put a sheet hanging out of both back pockets. I honestly did not believe my



Canadian friend when he told me about this but, I put it to the test and it works! Okay folks, next time you're out observing and you happen to smell a chinese laundry every time I get within 8 feet of you - you'll know it's me! I still recommend you spray your lower legs and shoes with insect re-

pellant to keep the ticks off of you! Paul Greenhalgh who is a member of the Fraser Valley Astronomers Society (FVAS) of British Columbia provided this idea.

For Sale - Top Quality 20" f5 Obsession

All extras. Photos Available on Request. Scope includes the following. 20" f5 Obsession - 20 months old - superb condition - used maybe 30 times. Premium Optic Coatings, Secondary Dew Heater, Primary Fan and Telrad heater, all wired and work great. Movement smooth as silk. Ready for serious deep sky work. "Pick of Litter" Galaxy Optics with [Primary RMS 0.018 / Strehl 0.987] Can email test results.

Also includes NGC Encoders - both axis. Nylon Shroud. 2" Laser Collimator. JMI DX-1 Focuser w/1.25" adapter. Telrad (w/dew heater). Loading Ramps (cast aluminum ramp ends bolted to 2x6 boards). Original Shipping Boxes and Documentation. NO eyepieces included but will discuss seperately.

\$5,500 firm - less than 75% of new cost. Will meet half way to deliver if my drive is within 400 miles of Atlanta, GA. Randy Floyd 770-674-1490 (leave message with number) rdffloyd1@mediaone.net .

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.



GASP Report

Tallulah Gorge State Park – 7/28/01

Joanne Cirincione

Though the skies were overcast it was perfect camping weather at Tallulah Gorge State Park. We had around 50 campers attend Sharon Carruthers slide presentation on Basic Astronomy. I challenged the kids with a quiz and gave out prizes. Philip Sacco doing his “Myths and Legends” stories closed out the night. He had a captive crowd and had quite a few people commenting on how wonderful he was. It was a great (non-observing) event. I wanted to thank the following members for chancing the weather and joining us: Tom & Lynn Crowley, Tom Faber, Kat Sarbell, Philip Sacco, Keith Burn, Peter Macumber, Sharon Carruthers, Matthew and David Macumber.

Upcoming GASP Events

Please join us at any of the GASP events. It is a great place to relax and get to know your fellow members. Campgrounds in the summer and on holidays fill up quick. Please make your reservations far enough in advance to get a spot.

8/11 West Point Lake Campgrounds – 8:30p (Perseid Meteor Shower watch)

9/1-2 Amicalola Falls State Park – 8:00p

10/20 FDR State Park – 7:00p

11/10 Unicoi State Park – 5:30p

11/24 Tallulah Gorge State Park – 5:30p

Please contact me at starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org for more information on any GASP event.



Picture to the upper left is one of seven waterfalls in the Gorge. The middle picture is Phil doing his mythology talk. That was about the only astronomy that took place that night. The skies above never cleared. Picture bottom left is Matthew demonstrating his abilities to control fire. Please don't try this at home. He is an unpaid professional. Picture above right needs no explanation. If you don't know what that is, you need to get out more often.

Observing Report From Mentone

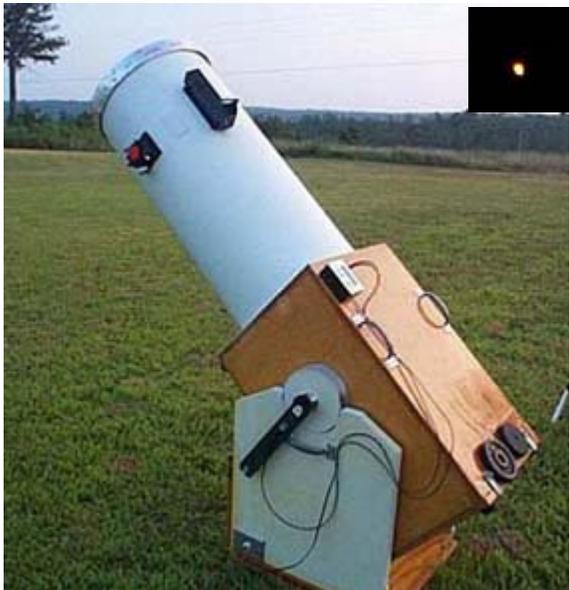
By Keith Burns

Let me take this opportunity to tell everyone just exact how great the viewing was at Mentone last night (July 21st). And yes, it was truly great. I looked at the forecasts and more importantly the satellite loops. I'm not one to believe the forecasts much these days. The Saturday forecast changed some many times this past week that I starting to believe the NWS was using the throw the dart at the forecast board method.

I figured early evening was going to be cloudy and not very good. Later the skies would vastly improve. Mentone has one thing the other sites don't have. Sitting on top of Lookout Mtn would provide protection against the dreaded eastly wedge we get here in the Atlanta area. So with this little bit of information and a strong determination, "I said, heck, why not?"

I packed up the truck, scope, and camping gear and headed northwest. The skies were looking bleak as I headed up I-75. Soon breaks in the cloud deck started to appear. As I exited the interstate and headed for Adairsville and then Summerville, the skies turned partly cloudy. Upon reaching Mentone and the observing site, I found Harold and Claudia with their gear all setup and ready to observe. Roger was also ready to go. Soon Frank Marchase arrived. Philip followed not long after. Not the quiet Phil, noisy Phil, or even the Calendar Phil.

This was a special occasion. After three weeks of working on the Sky Commander, I was ready to give the new system on



Picture to left is the Aurora 13 with newly installed Sky Commander. Upper small picture is Venus taken with a Kodak 210 digital camera doing eyepiece projection. Little picture below is Saturn using the same process.

the Aurora 13 a real test run. The skies finally darken around 10 P.M. Skies went from clear to PC back to clear and back to PC. About 11P.M. the mysteriously the skies cleared for real this time and stayed that way the rest of the night.

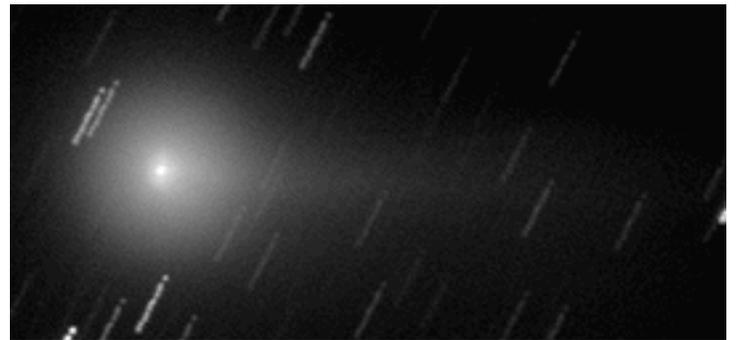
About 10 P.M. I viewed Mars and took some pictures of it. The clouds provide some interesting photo opportunities. Nothing like a natural sky filter to help you. The sky steadiness was

okay at best. It took me about 30 minutes to do a decent sketch of Mars. The steadiness was so bad that I had to sit there and stare at it for a while to see any detail. The skies would occasionally settle down enough for some of the detail to be revealed. Reminds me of the problems Lowell went through when viewing Mars. The seeing was so bad that I never went above 147X.

Up to this point I was doing the star hopping method. The skies finally cleared enough for me to do a two star alignment of the telescope. After that the scope performed beautifully the rest of the night. I didn't have to do any realignment for the rest of the night. It was clear but there was haze present in the air. I viewed globular clusters like M-3 and M-5. M-5 had such an interesting shape that I pulled out the sketch pad and did a sketch of it. The cluster is not round but more of an oval shape. In the FOV the lower right side of the cluster is sparsely populated.

The skies were not clear enough to view many of the Arp galaxies on my list. Instead I looked at Planetary nebulas. Using Steve Gottlieb's planetary nebula notes and the sky commander I viewed and sketch various summertime pn. Nice shapes and sizes. Many bright objects but not all were visible. I used magnification between 86x and 147x. Unlike the planet Mars, the seeing conditions with these objects was much better. Higher magnification was possible. Sometimes I used an O-3 filter on these objects but most looked better without it.

I took a break and viewed both Uranus and Neptune. Took a picture or two of Uranus. Nice bluish white color to it. It looked like a planet while Neptune did not. Neptune was more like a blue green star then a planet.



Above image taken by Tomas Hynek.

Around midnight we got the idea of looking for Comet Linear c/2001 A2. Frank found it in his binoculars but I was convinced it was M15 and not the comet. The binoculars appeared to be pointed near M15 at the time. So to prove once and for all what we were looking at, we looked for it in my telescope. With some help from Harold, I discovered a feature on the sky commander that I did not know about. You can find an object by moving the scope to a certain coordinates. Frank provided the

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coordinates. It proved difficult to do but after about 5 minutes, I looked in the eyepiece to see the Comet in the fov. The views were best captured at about 37x magnification. I sketched it and saw a tail. It extended about $\frac{3}{4}$ the distance across the fov of lower right to upper left. The coma was very bright and spread out. It was also passing by two field stars. At first I mistook the two field stars for fragments of the comet. After a few minutes, I realized that the fragments were actually field stars. The two field stars were just to the right of the coma of the comet.



According to reports, the comet is suppose to be naked eye visible. But the haze made us doubt that report. It was plainly visible in the telescopes and binoculars. For the next few hours afterward, I occasionally went back the comet to catch another view. I did another sketch later on and noticed that the tail was even brighter then before. By now the comet coma had moved away from both field stars. While doing the first drawing, I had drawn in all the surrounding field stars in the fov. That proved useful later on because I was able to determine which direction the comet was moving.

After the comet viewing was over, I moved on to viewing local group galaxies. First tried NGC 147 and 185. 147 was invisible



while 185 was easy to see. Banard's Galaxy (NGC 6822) was somewhat visible. You could see some of the star forming regions in it but not much else. Andromeda galaxy was beautiful in the eyepiece. Nice bright image with dark lanes running through it. I wasn't just a bright blob but had definite structure to it. I sketched it and M32 it's companion.

By 3AM it was down to just Frank and myself. Everyone else had gone to bed. The nice breeze of earlier had disappeared and been replaced with damp dewy still air. Frank quit at 3:30AM and went to bed. Now it was just me and the Aurora 13 still moving forward in the dark, damp skies. I had my eyes set on viewing and photographing the planets. First Saturn popped up.



After taking some pictures, I looked for Venus. Took some pictures of it and viewed it. Now it's in it's fat crescent phase. I wanted to wait for Jupiter and then Mercury but the clouds started to move back in at this point. It was 4:30AM at this point.

The final battle of the evening was not to be fought that night. I decided to surrender and beat a retreat .to my tent. I reached

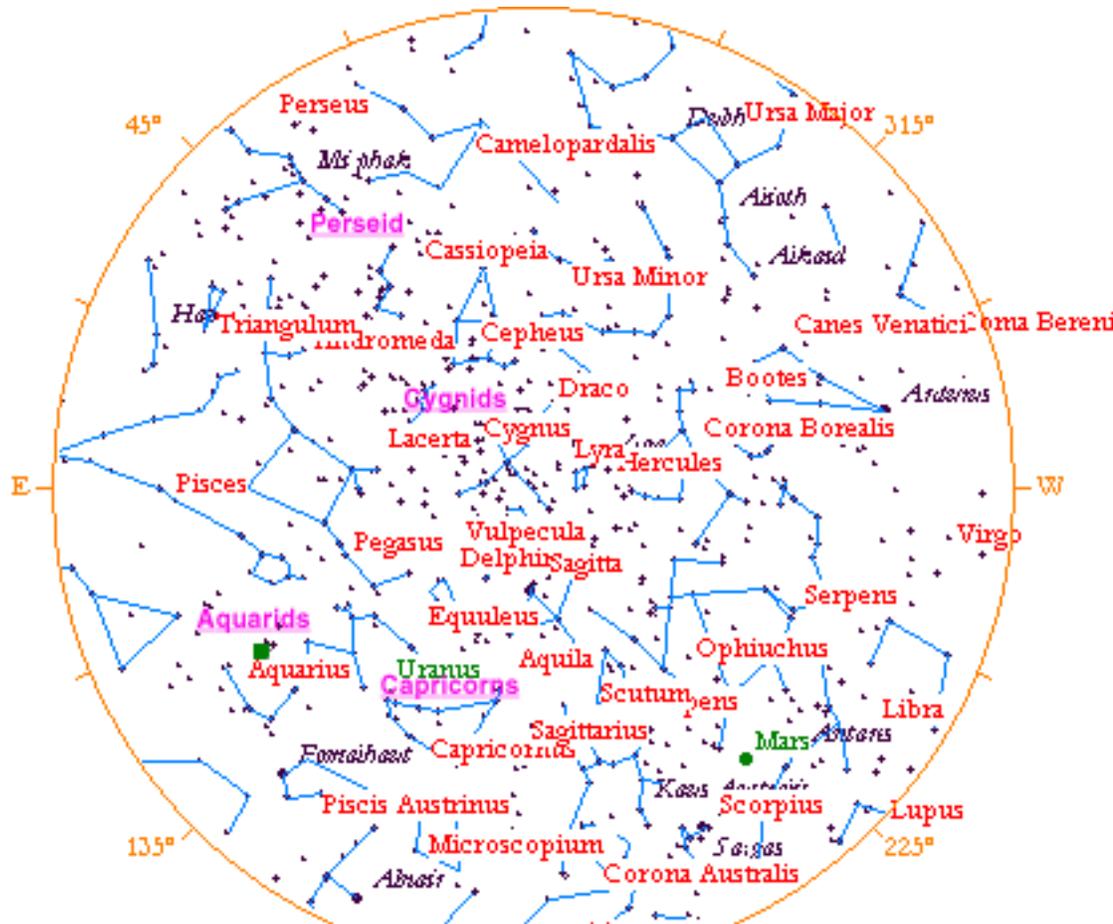
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down and turned off vthe sky commander. After putting away the equipment, I retired to bed and a few hours of sleep before heading home.

Pictures on the previous page. From upper left to lower right. Frank aka Galacticman. Phil aka the Other Phil. Harold and Claudia. Finally Roger Dowiat who hosted this joint star party. We may have been few in numbers but there was plenty of equipment between the six of us.

sembles a big smile in the sky. A fall constellation located east of Sagittarius. The Capricornids are active from July 15th to September 11th. Activity peaks around August 2nd. It's not the large number of meteors but the few bright fireballs that makes this an interesting shower to watch. These meteors also move at a slower pace then their fast moving northern counterparts.

Second, third, and fourth on the meteor shower hit parade list is



Lat:33.45° 7 Aug 2001 AD 0h 22m 2s (U.T.-4.0h)

Season for meteor showers

By Keith Burns

Although the skies have not been very clear this summer, there were times when the night skies were clear. You may have noticed a lot more meteor activity up in the skies above. July and August are very active months for meteor showers. This is also the time when meteor activity picks up through the end of the year.

August is known for the Perseid meteor shower but that is not all there is. Besides this well known shower, there are several other meteor showers that occur in the southern skies at the same time. First of the southern meteor showers is the Capricornids. This shower originates in the constellation of Capricorn. It is known as "The Sea Goat" but it better re-

sembles a big smile in the sky. A fall constellation located east of Sagittarius. The Capricornids are active from July 15th to September 11th. Activity peaks around August 2nd. It's not the large number of meteors but the few bright fireballs that makes this an interesting shower to watch. These meteors also move at a slower pace then their fast moving northern counterparts.

Second, third, and fourth on the meteor shower hit parade list is the three different Aquarids meteor showers. First we have the Northern Iota and second is the southern counter part known as the Southern Iota Aquarids. Both showers occur in a faint fall constellation known as Aquarius. It is known as "The Water Carrier" constellation. Many folks have problems identifying this constellation because of it's lack of bright stars and weird shape. The best way to find Aquarius is to look east and northeast of Capricorn as this is it's location in the sky. The northern shower takes place from August 11th to September 10th. It's southern counter part runs from July 1st to September 18th. Northern Iota peaks on August 25th and the Southern Iota peaks on

August 6th. Both showers take place near the star Iota Aquarius hence their name.

The third Aquarid meteor shower taking place in Aquarius is the Northern Delta Aquarids. It's active from July 16th to September 10th. Northern Delta Aquarids activity peaks around the date of August 13th. We move north from the southern horizon to the constellation of Cygnus. Around midnight Cygnus is located straight overhead. An easy constellation to find in the sky. It's known as "The Swan" but others refer to it as the "Northern Cross." This is also the home to another lesser known meteor shower called the Kappa Cygnids. Kappa Cygnids are active from July 26th to September 1st with a peak in activity occurring on August 18th.

Continued on the next page.

Now we move northeast to the constellation of Perseus. Perseus is the constellation named for the Greek hero. Perseus resembles a triangle with two long legs. The western leg first runs south from the triangle but soon curves and points west for a short distance before stopping. The eastern leg runs east from the bottom of the triangle and then southeast. It stops above "The Pleiades" star cluster. Next to Perseus lies another easy to find constellation known as Cassiopeia. The constellation of Cassiopeia is supposed to be a queen sitting on her throne. Many folks see it as a deformed "W" in the sky. Both constellations are located in the northeast corner of the sky around midnight.

The Perseid meteor shower originates in the area between the head of Perseus (top of the triangle) and northeast tip of Cassiopeia. This area is home to the well known double open star clusters 884 and 869. Perseids are active from July 23rd to August 22nd with a peak on August 12th. This shower produces many fast moving faint meteors. It's not uncommon to see two or three meteors streaking along side by side at the same time. While the moon will brighten the skies the night of the peak after midnight, you can still look for activity from this shower through most of August.

The map on the previous page is provided to help you locate the constellations in the sky and gives you an idea of where to look to find meteor activity. This map is set for Atlanta, Georgia and for the approximate time of 12:22 A.M. on August 12. The location of the meteor showers is marked with the shower name in light purple. The name is also underlined for those of you who print this newsletter in black and white. North is at the top and south at the bottom. East is to the left and west to the right.

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 **September issue** is **August 31, 2001**.

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

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 fees 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.

Clubs address is:	Treasurer's address is:
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Board: Jim Moore 7-242-6735 hollin@dwcs.com	
Board: Chuck Painter 7-664-0837 crpainter@mediaone.net	
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Board Chair: Bear Simmons 4-299-7511 bearsimmons@earthlink.net	
Amatuer Telescope Making: Skip Cook 4-325-4987 scz9@cdc.gov	
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Georgia Astronomy in State Parks: Joanne Cirincione 7-898-4271 starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org	
Light Trespass: Tom Buchanan 7-521-2136	
Obser. & Telescope Training: Stef Whetstone 7-460-7678 swhetstone@mindspring.com	
Peach State Star Gaze: Ken Poshedly 7-979-9842 ken.poshedly@mindspring.com	
Sidewalk Astronomy: Mark Banks 4-257-2766 bank4@mindspring.com	
Villa Rica Observ. Coordinator: Rich Jakiel 7-577-2330 phacops@bellsouth.net	
Woodruff Observ. Coordinator: John Lentini 7-984-0175 johnlentini@yahoo.com	



The Focal Point

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

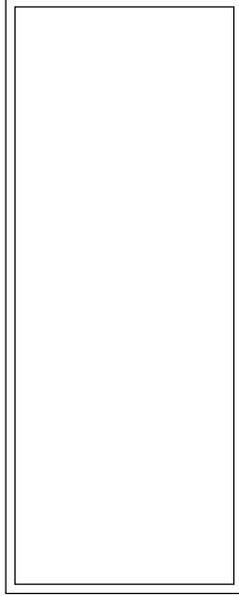
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We're here to help! Here's how how to reach us:

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FIRST CLASS



Calendar

August 11th-GASP Short talk and sidewalk astronomy at R. Shaefer Heard Campgrounds at West Point Lake. 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 is Dr. Richard Schmude who will talk on Mars.

August 18th-Deep Sky Observing. Woodruff BSC at Blue Ridge, GA. Starts at Dusk. Training on 24 inch earlier in day. Must be on list to be trained. Contact Stef Whetstone for more info.

August 25th- Sidewalk Astronomy Lake Allatoona Yacht Club. Evening.

August 27th- Board Meeting. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Location is Freebytes which is located off of Sidney Marcus Blvd Behind Kmart. Directions: www.freebytes.org

September 1st-2nd- 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.

September 17th- Dinner with Wil Tirion. Steak and AI near Northlake mall. Fee. Must register by Sept 7th.

October 6th- AAC members orientation. Location: Walter Barber Observatory near Villa Rica. Time: 5:00 p.m.

October 13th- Dedication of William Caulder Observatory at Woodruff. Time to be announced. The Deep Sky Session is also scheduled for that night. It starts at dusk.

October 19th- General Membership Meeting. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 8 p.m. Location is White Hall at Emory University. Speaker is Dr James Kaler of the University of Illinois.

October 20th- GASP sidewalk astronomy at FDR state park. Talk and viewing through scopes. Starts at 7 p.m. Rain or shine event.