

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947  
October 2001

Vol XIV No. 5

Editor: Keith Burns

In Memory of September 11, 2001



First came the attacks in New York, Washington, and over the skies of Pennsylvania. Brave individuals gave and lost their lives. Then came the shock and disbelief. Everyone watched and listened. It was like someone had flipped a switch. Quickly petty disputes were forgotten as everyone joined in together. The family was back together again. Worry, fear, and concern were everywhere. Sadness filled the air. Religion was suddenly important again. We honored the real heroes. Anger arose against those responsible for the attacks. Full support given to our leaders and a loud show of support.

American flags began to appear everywhere. The colors waving in the breeze. It gave us the comfort and reassurance that we are united as one people. We are hurt and angry. We are stronger then ever and more determined then ever. We will punish those responsible for the attacks. We will prosper and grow. We are the people of these United States.

Keith Burns, Corresponding Secretary AAC

## In This Issue:

**Page 2...**October Meeting on Planetary Nebulae & The Death of Stars. AL Contact. From the Prez's Desk.

**Page 3...**GASP Events. October Observing. November Events.

**Page 4-7...** ATM. Peach State Star Gaze 2001 Report. Pictures.

**Page 8-9...**American Red Cross. September General Meeting Minutes.

**Page 9-10...**Moonlighting. Saturday Observing.

**Page 10...**Club Info. Contact names.

**Page 11...**Events Calendar.

---

---

## PLANETARY NEBULAE AND THE DEATH OF STARS

Our featured speaker for the October general meeting is Dr. James Kaler. Kaler is the first of a series of speakers that the AAC along with Emory University will be bringing to town. He will be speaking on "Planetary Nebulae and the Death of Stars." His talk will focus on how ordinary stars like the Sun meet their often spectacular ends, as they blow much of their matter back into space to produce the beautiful glowing clouds called planetary nebulae, and then finally die as dim bulbs no larger than our Earth. In the process, stars recycle great portions of themselves back into interstellar space. The fleeing matter from this process commonly is loaded with freshly made chemical elements, thus the old dying stars feed new generations yet to be born. The presentation will be heavily illustrated with images from the Hubble Space Telescope and from a variety of ground-based observatories.

James (Jim) Kaler, Professor of Astronomy, earned his A.B. at the University of Michigan, his PhD at UCLA, and has been at the University of Illinois since 1964. Professor Kaler has held Fulbright and Guggenheim Fellowships, has been awarded medals for his work from the University of Liege in Belgium and the University of Mexico, and most recently was selected to give the Armand Spitz lecture by the Great Lakes Planetary Association. His research area, in which he has published over 100 papers, involves dying stars. He has written for a variety of popular magazines (including *Astronomy*, *Sky and Telescope*, and *Scientific American*), he was a consultant for Time-Life Books on their *Voyage Through the Universe* series, and appears frequently on Illinois television and radio. He has written and produced many books, including *Stars and their Spectra*, *Stars and Cosmic Clouds*, *The ever-Changing Sky*, *Astronomy! A Brief Edition*, and the recently published *The Little Book of Stars* and also *Stars at the Edge*.

Please join us October 19<sup>th</sup> for this informational and entertaining talk. His last two publications, *Extreme Stars: At the Edge of Creation* and *The Little Book of Stars* will be available for

purchase and personalized signing at the meeting. Don't miss this event!

---

---

## AAC Member of Astronomical League

As part of the benefits of being a member of the AL, you can do one of the many observing programs available. Upon successful completion of the requirements the AL



awards you a pin and certificate for your troubles. Hope you also gain knowledge along the way and an interest in some aspect of astronomy.

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.

---

---

## From the Prez's Desk...

Our first Peach State of the new millennium has come & gone and, despite the terrible events of Sept 11 that saw our keynote speaker, Wil Tirion, stranded in the Netherlands and unable to attend, it was a success.

I wish to thank Ken Poshedly for the year of hard work he put into organizing PSSG'01; Joanne Circionne, who arranged for volunteers and acted as site manager; Vic Menard, who stepped in at the last minute to present a talk in Tirion's place; and all the others, who lent a hand over during the event. Joanne said it was the least stressful PSSG she had attended, due to the number of people who offered to help shoulder the load.

Pat yourselves on the back – you did **GOOD!**

On the Tuesday before the PSSG, as I watched the horrific events unfold, I wondered how we could possibly hold a "fun evening under the stars" the following weekend. It seemed so trivial. But getting together with so many friends, old and new, was a very healing experience. The AAC also decided to donate the profits from our food sales to the Red Cross and to the family of Jeremy Glick. Jeremy was the passenger on Flight 93 from Pittsburgh who fought the terrorists for control of the plane and died in the crash. He is the nephew of Tom Crowley, a fellow AAC member; and he left a wife and 3-month old son.

It was also a comfort to be out under my beloved stars. Many people feel dwarfed and insignificant when they contemplate the size and age of the heavens. They cannot understand the passion we amateurs have for our pursuit. But for me to know that the cosmos existed long before my time and will exist long after I am gone, gives me peace.

Sharon

***"You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars." Desiderata***

## Upcoming GASP Events

### Joanne Cirincione

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

**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](mailto:starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org) for more information on any GASP event.*

---

---

## October Observing

Here's a brief overview of the October observing events. October 13<sup>th</sup> is the monthly deep sky observing session for members. This month is takes place at the recent completed Caulder Observatory located at Woodruff BSC near Blue Ridge, GA. These events are scheduled around new moon and at locations far from the city lights of metro Atlanta. This is a time for folks to gather together and work on those observing projects. Note that no white lights are to be used while at these events. Dark skies are only dark when we don't use white lights. Red flashlights only, please. Contact Richard Blackburn or John Lentini for more information. You can find their email and phone numbers listed on the next to last page of this publication.

October 19<sup>th</sup> Dr. James Kaler will be coming to speak at our monthly general membership meeting. He will talk about Planetary Nebula. See the article on page two for more information on his talk and other background info. The meeting takes place at White Hall which located on the Emory University Campus. Refreshments and socializing starts at 7:30 PM with the meeting starting at 8 PM.

October 20<sup>th</sup> is the GASP event. This month we are going to FDR state park located near Pine Mountain, Ga. Our president Sharon Carruthers will give a general astronomy talk to the public starting at 7 PM. Observing with telescopes will follow. These events are a way for the AAC to bring astronomy to the general public. For more information, please talk to Joanne Cirincione. Her email and phone number are listed in this newsletter under GASP.

October 27<sup>th</sup> is our annual picnic to celebrate another birthday of the Walter Barber Observatory located near Villa Rica, Ga. It's our first and most used observatory. Picnic starts at Noon. We are having an open house for the general public starting at 5 PM. Since it's only a few days till Halloween, we are having "The Night of the Living Dob." Either dress up your dobsonian telescope or dress up yourself. Contact Richard Blackburn for more information.

## November Events

November 3<sup>rd</sup> is the annual workshop we do with Fernbank Science Center. "How to Buy a Telescope," is basically us bringing our telescopes to Fernbank. We show the public what's available on the market to buy. All that is needed is your scope, a few hours time, and your expertise. It's a one on one deal with the public. We need your help. Help prevent the public who don't know from buying the wrong equipment and feeling frustrated as a result. Contact Sharon Carruthers for more information. See next to last page of this publication for list of email addresses and phone numbers.

November 10<sup>th</sup> and November 24<sup>th</sup> are GASP events. November 10<sup>th</sup> we take our telescopes and/ or binoculars to Unicoi State Park up in the North Georgia Mountains. We did Unicoi for the first time last year and had a large number the public attend. Unicoi is a beautiful park to camp at and enjoy the trails by day. Basic format is a talk at 5:30 PM follow by sidewalk astronomy with the telescopes and/ binoculars. Talk topic TBA later.

November 24<sup>th</sup> the GASP group goes to Tallulah Gorge State Park. This is one of the better parks in the state and our favorite place to go. Talk and sidewalk astronomy. Talk topic TBA later. Starts at 5:30 PM. Contact Joanne Cirincione for more information. Her email and phone number are listed on the next to last page of this publication.

November 16<sup>th</sup> the monthly general membership meeting will be held at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Center. There will be no speaker but just a business meeting. Starts at 8 PM. Time may change.

November 18<sup>th</sup> Fernbank Science Center and the AAC are bringing several cosmonauts to town to give a talk at Fernbank Science Center. This will take place in the afternoon. Exact time TBA. Location is the planetarium. Contact Carol Abernathy for more information. Her email and phone number are listed on the next to last page of this publication.

November 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Zombie Party scheduled to take place at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Area. Observing to take place at the AAC observing field located there. Camping location TBA. There will be a small fee for camping. Deep sky observing and camping. Orientation scheduled for Saturday afternoon at 4 PM. Contact Philip Sacco for more information. His number and email address are listed on the next to last page of this publication.

November 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Chiefland star party. This is a fund-raiser for site improvements. There is a fee for camping each night. A worthy cause and a great observing location. Located south of Chiefland, Fla. No speakers but plenty of observing. Contact Tom Crowley for more information. His number is listed phone list in this publication. The event runs through the week

*Continued on the next page.*

but many folks attending from the AAC are going down Thursday and coming back Sunday.

---

---

### **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) 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). Announcements of meetings will be posted on the AAC listserv. You can also find out about upcoming meetings from Skip.

They are using Skip's house currently but are interested in moving the group to another location. If you have a place where they can meet and work on those projects, please contact Skip.

I have recently seen the scopes that the regular ATMers have built, and I was impressed with the quality of their scopes. It's amazing what hard work, determination, shared knowledge, and a little money can do to make these wonderful instruments.

---

---

### **PEACH STATE STAR GAZE 2001**

**By Ken Poshedly**

It was so close, you could almost feel it. With one exception, all arrangements for the Year 2001 Peach State Star Gaze were completed. The mailings were out and delivered. The registrations were received and confirmed. The power company had scheduled a crew to disable the exterior security lights at the site. The food, the black plastic sheeting for the windows, the . . . well, just about everything had been looked after. The only things left to do were to welcome our international visitor and have the event.

But then, the morning one day prior to the arrival of our overseas guest, the world changed.

Terrorists hijacked four passenger jetliners and flew two of them into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and flew another into the Pentagon in Washington, DC. The fourth jet crashed into the ground outside Pittsburgh as passengers tried to wrest control of it back from the hijackers; its target is said to have been either the White House or the Capitol building in Washington, DC. As it turns out, AAC members Tom & Lynn Crowley lost a nephew in the Pennsylvania crash; Jeremy Glick was one of those who chose who grouped together to regain control of the jet before it crashed. Perhaps their actions saved many more lives in Washington, DC.

Over 6,000 people perished in one morning due to events now

tied to a single individual in Afghanistan. And suddenly the star party and all our hard work didn't seem so important.

The mailings, the registrations, the lights, even the grounding of all air travel, which even prevented our friend Wil Tirion from being here, were all of a sudden not so crucial.

And then the question arose, "Should we move ahead with the event?" After discussions between club officers and the star party committee, the decision was made to proceed with the event. And it was a good thing to do. Most folks needed it. Whether they realized it or not, they did need to have a weekend away to speak their minds about what had just transpired.

As for the Peach State Star Gaze itself, the event proved to be even more successful than last year's event, with over 300 folks registered. Though Mr. Tirion couldn't be here in person, he was here in spirit, as throngs of people spent the three evenings with either or both of the Peach Fuzzies observing lists, Tirion teeshirts on scores of folks walking the fields, a large number of astrophotos and astrosketches in the display frames in the dining hall, great deep sky-oriented talks and workshops all the rest of those things that have made the Peach State Star Gaze a premier star party for those in the southeastern United States. And the black monolith which suddenly appeared early Friday morning on the main observing field was a nice touch, too, reminiscent of the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey". True, we had no apes or bones like in the movie, but some of us did watch a DVD screening it one night as the skies remained less than perfect until a few hours later. After all, how many times does the year 2001 come around?

My personal thanks go out to all who worked the event, either out in front or behind the scenes. The planners, the setup crew (who spent the night before the event onsite prepping it for the next day), the registration counter volunteers, the cleanup crew – everybody who helped make this the biggest one yet deserve a giant pat on the back.

Again, thanks to all for your hard work and support once more.

I look forward to planning and producing many more PSSG events, and the opportunities to show the world that the AAC has what it takes to make astronomy a fascinating pastime for everybody. Next year's Peach State Star Gaze will be held Thursday through Sunday, October 3 - 6, at a location on the Tennessee/Georgia state line. At this time, I am able to announce that our featured speakers will be David Levy and Wil Tirion.

---

---

### **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

*Continued on page eight.*



**Peach State Star Gaze 2001.** Some pretty bizarre things occurred at the PSSG this year. The Macumbers celebrated their 25th anniversary. Mildred the short lady who was sited on several occasions. The monolith which was known to change locations from time to time. The appearance of the Pod for the first time. Sunspots shaped like Aliens. While we did not get to see Wil Tirion this year, several others stepped in to fill the hole. Thanks to the speakers Vic Mernard, Jerry Armstrong, Rich Jakiel, Richard Schmude, Art Russell, Mel Bartels, and Philip Sacco.





PSSG 2001



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 **November issue** is **November 1st, 2001.**

---

## THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND ITS DISASTER SERVICES AID PROGRAM

By Ken Poshedly, chairman, Peach State Star Gaze

Many of us are very aware that the Red Cross is just about THE agency to contact about blood donations. But many of us are only slightly aware that the American Red Cross helps in disaster events with food, shelter, clothing, and so on worldwide.

Since the tragedies in New York City, Washington, DC, and outside Pittsburgh on September 11, the American Red Cross has been the major agency for the collection of contributions and distribution of aid to victims of the events and their families.

We, the Atlanta Astronomy Club, announced at the Peach State Star Gaze that the proceeds from the sale of food and the souvenir stamped envelopes would go to the Red Cross for disaster relief services in New York, Washington and the Pennsylvania plane crash. This should amount to several hundred dollars.

And, as usually happens, one or two folks complain about the Red Cross with bogus or ten-times-removed rumors. To put to rest some comments about the Red Cross, its work and its fundraising-cost-to-aid-delivered ratio, I offer the following.

I worked for the Greater Cleveland (Ohio) Chapter of the American Red Cross for almost 4 years as a staff member and I also assisted as a volunteer in disaster services during airplane crashes, blizzards, and house fires, and I can tell you that:

1. (From the ARC website) The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers, guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

2. (Again, from the ARC website) The American Red Cross functions independently of the government but works closely with government agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), during times of major crises. It is responsible for giving aid to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and to disaster victims at home and abroad. It does this through services that are consistent with its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement allowing the Red Cross to stay neutral and impartial.

3. Disaster services aid is in the form of emergency food, shel-

ter, clothing and similar items (blankets, etc.) AT ABSOLUTELY NO COST TO THE RECIPIENTS. Food and clothing items are literally handed over and shelter is provided at various locations that have agreed with the ARC to accept disaster victims (area motels and such). The Red Cross pays the shelter. In addition, a small amount of cash may be provided to purchase other small incidentals not available at the time the aid was presented. This is not to say money is given away willnilly. Instead, trained volunteers meet and talk with the victims and their families, prepare a survey of emergency needs, and only then is the aid provided. Even folks who have been burned out of their own homes but have insurance are put up in area motels immediately by the ARC if they have nowhere else to go and must wait for insurance money to come through. And none of the Red Cross aid is ever requested back from the victims or their families.

4. While the ARC does charge a fee for safety classes and books in order to recover costs for printing books and materials, and it does charge a blood ARC-collected blood and blood byproducts, it is a federal offense to charge for ARC-provided disaster services aid.

5. And perhaps most importantly, the ARC overhead and fundraising costs are among the lowest. I have consistently seen figures of between 6 and 12 percent for overhead and administrative costs, near rock-bottom — especially for a multi-million dollar agency that is squeaky clean. Even if it is a few percent higher, it is still the best deal there is.

Compare this to the fire department and police department “benevolent societies” that periodically phone you for money for Cobb, Fulton, and Gwinnett fire and police department families. They are NOT police and fire personnel who phone you.

A few years I phoned the Georgia Secretary of State’s Office, which tracks charitable and fundraising organizations in Georgia and found that the amount of money turned over to the fire and police departments from these for-profit companies is about 12 to 20 cents on the dollar. Don’t believe me? Then check it out yourself. (I later mentioned this to a solicitor for one of these agencies when he phoned me and he simply said “that’s the way it goes” and hung up on me. We don’t hear from this agency anymore.) Again, please have no fear about your donation to the American Red Cross. For more information, visit <http://www.redcross.org>

---

## September General Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks: The meeting commenced at 7:35pm at Indian Springs State Park, Jackson, GA to the strains of 2001: A Space Odyssey. Thirty-one persons were in attendance.

Sharon Carruthers began the meeting with a mention of the

*Continued on the next page.*



tragic events of the past week and a request for a moment of silence in tribute to those missing dead. It was announced that all proceeds from and refreshments sold at the PSSG would be donated to the Red Cross Relief efforts in New York and Washington.

## II. Committee Reports:

**Focal Point:** Keith Burns reported that the September Focal Point has been published and is available on-line. **Treasurer:** No report. **CEWMC:** Phil Sacco announced that a Zombie Party is scheduled at Charlie Elliot on the weekend of November 16-18. Speakers are scheduled as well as a Chapter meeting.

**Woodruff:** John Lentini reviewed upcoming events scheduled—weekends of October 15th and December 15th will be Dark Sky events. The December date will include a dedication of the new observatory. **GASP:** Joanne Cirincione briefly reviewed the mission of GASP. Upcoming events scheduled for 11/10 at Unicoi State Park and Thanksgiving weekend at Tallulah Gorge.

**Astronomical League (AL):** Keith Burns presented the AL Sun spotter Award to Frank Marchese. Frank has the distinction of being only the 41st recipient of this award. **Observing Chair:** No report.

**Villa Rica:** Sharon Carruthers reported on planned Villa Rica events—October 6th is a New Members Orientation and October 27th a Public Open House and Orientation combined with Halloween costumes for participants and/or telescopes (“Night of the Living Dob”).

**PSSG:** Ken Poshedly announced that next year’s Peach State Star Gaze will be held at White water Express in Tennessee on October 3rd, 2002. David Levy has been confirmed as speaker. Donation of some of the profits from PSSG will be to the Muscular Dystrophy Association at Mr. Levy’s request. The revised schedule for September 15th was reviewed. Ken also announced that the club will pay for pictures of this year’s PSSG and requested members contact him or mail/send photos to him. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

**Submitted by: Karen Stiles**

---

---

## Moonlighting

**By Alex Langoussis**

When are the skies at VR no worse than anywhere else? When the moon is almost full, that’s when!

Desperate for a photon fix, Chuck Painter, Keith Burns, Rich Jakiel, and I headed out to VR on a wonderfully clear evening. Keith and Chuck brought scopes, while Rich and I just mooched views in their scopes. ‘Preciate the views, guys!

The seeing slowly settle down through the evening, and was pretty decent after midnight. The night was good enough that we could see down to magnitude 15.7 in Chuck’s 20-inch, even with the bright moon. On this kind of night, high surface bright-

ness planetaries are still pretty doable. Rich brought a short list, and we got to see a couple of bi-polars that we hadn’t seen before. We ended with a bit of lunar observing. Found a nice crater with a bright rim, dark floor, and lit central peak that cast a detailed shadow onto the wall of the opposite rim. (Can’t remember the crater, it was late! Rich?). Keith found some sort of road kill, which I’ll let him explain. :-)

While the usual high humidity at VR caused me to feel colder than I have ever been at 47 degrees, VR does have the advantage of Crissy’s Corner, as well as having the closest Waffle House of any of our observing sites!

So, when life gives you the moon, make moonshine, or go out and enjoy the evening with your scope.

## Moonlighting Comments Made by Others Present

The crater was Pythagoras and the central peak shadow was a narrow, tilted finger of darkness projected against the bright inner rim. It was spectacular! ( Dammit Jim, I’m a deepsky observer not a Lunatic!) :-)

My favorite planetaries last nite were Pk 86-8.1 (Hu 1-2) a tiny bipolar and NGC 7026 (also bipolar) which looked like a tiny figure 8.

- Rich

P.S. I think the roadkill looked like a woodchuck. :-)

To me the dead creature looked more like a four legged furry creature that failed to cross the road successfully. In the field of view, the legs were sticking out to the sides and the head laying flat on the ground. Kinda gross but that is what my imagination, eyes, and the angle of the sun revealed. The object we are describing is Mons Rumker. A volcano dome complex located in Oceanus Procellarum.

-Keith

---

---

## Saturday Observing (Sept 23, 2001)

**By Keith Burns**

I decided to make a run out to VR on Saturday night. While the skies were not the best, they were good enough. I sketched many deep sky objects. Many old favorites and some new ones.

I sketched M103 and noticed some interesting things about it I’ve never seen before. Granted I placed it on the Homer list of objects several years ago. There are a few redeeming qualities about it. And no, I wasn’t drinking either. The individual stars in it are many different colors. I’ve never seen this many in one cluster.

Since the moon was up for the first three hours, I did a tour of the open clusters, planetary nebulas, and globular clusters. The moon light did impact on them but I was still able to detect the features of each.

*Continued on the next page.*

I did a comparison of the sizes and densities of the open clusters and globular clusters. I used the same magnification when viewing each object. Magnification was 56X using a 13 inch dob. Viewed and sketched M103, M13, M15, and M103. The largest cluster was M13 with M103 leading a close second. M15 was third with M30 being the smallest. M15 seemed to be the most dense. M30 was the hardest to detect but I was still able to find it. Could not detect individual stars but I could see that nebulosity extended out in all directions from the small bright center. There was two dim stars visible just below the star cluster. Not sure if they were members of the cluster or foreground stars.

Moving on to planetary nebulas, the results were even better. I viewed and sketch NGC 6543(cats eye). Moving up to 147X, I was able to detect not just a round fuzz ball but a oval shaped fuzz ball. And yes it looked like a catseye. The extensions out to the side were fainter then the central area. Pretty cool none the less. I did not use any nebula filters when viewing either.

M27 was very impressive to see. This is the best I have ever seen this planetary in my scope. You could see the bright areas which resembled the dumbell shape everyone is use to seeing. I also detected the dimmer regions around it that make this object appear round. Another sketch added to the collection.

Moving on I located M110. Seems to have more to it then M32. Fairly bright core with arms extending out. Much bigger. Is this some kind of spiral galaxy? I know M32 is a elliptical galaxy but this one doesn't have that round dense shape.

Before the moon had set, I did some viewing of it. Decided to pick a interesting feature to sketch. Turns out it was Crater Posidonious. I didn't know but it had several Rimae. I thought that it was several small ridges. I looked it up in Rukl's and discovered what it was. How's that for dumb luck? The sketch is pretty good but nothing like Tracy's excellent sketches of the moon. The clouds finally started to move in at this point. So I packed up and headed home.

---

### 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.yahoogroups.com/group/AstroAtlanta>. This list is owned by Lenny Abbey.

This is a publication of the **Atlanta Astronomy Club. Copyright 2001.**

---

### 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>

---

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.

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	

**President:** Sharon Carruthers 7-941-4640  
[SCarruthers@NightSky.Org](mailto:SCarruthers@NightSky.Org)

**Program Chair:** Carol Abernathy 7-736-7623  
[CarolAbba@aol.com](mailto:CarolAbba@aol.com)

**Observing Chair:** Richard Blackburn 7-801-9759  
[rblackburn@mindspring.com](mailto:rblackburn@mindspring.com)

**Corresponding Secretary/ ALCOR:** Keith Burns 7-427-1475  
[Keith\\_B@Bellsouth.net](mailto:Keith_B@Bellsouth.net)

**Treasurer:** Peter Macumber 7-941-4640  
[PMacumber@NightSky.Org](mailto:PMacumber@NightSky.Org)

**Recording Secretary:** Karen Stiles 4-873-1566  
[kmstiles@yahoo.com](mailto:kmstiles@yahoo.com)

**Board:** Tom Crowley 4-233-6886  
[crowleytj@hotmail.com](mailto:crowleytj@hotmail.com)

**Board/ Boy Scout Liasion:** John Lentini 7-984-0175  
[johnlentini@yahoo.com](mailto:johnlentini@yahoo.com)

**Board:** Jim Moore 7-242-6735  
[hollin@dwcs.com](mailto:hollin@dwcs.com)

**Board:** Chuck Painter 7-664-0837  
[crpainter@mediaone.net](mailto:crpainter@mediaone.net)

**Board:** Gil Shillcutt 4-873-1566  
[Gil.Shillcutt@choicepoint.net](mailto:Gil.Shillcutt@choicepoint.net)

**Board Chair:** Bear Simmons 4-299-7511  
[bearsimmons@earthlink.net](mailto:bearsimmons@earthlink.net)

**Amatuer Telescope Making:** Skip Cook 4-325-4987  
[scz9@cdc.gov](mailto:scz9@cdc.gov)

**CEWC Coordinator:** Philip Sacco 4-296-6332  
[ppsacco@mindspring.com](mailto:ppsacco@mindspring.com)

**Georgia Astronomy in State Parks:** Joanne Cirincione 7-898-4271  
[starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

**Light Tresspass:** Tom Buchanan 7-521-2136  
[tombucha@family.net](mailto:tombucha@family.net)

**Obser. & Telescope Training:** Stef Whetstone 7-460-7678  
[swhetstone@mindspring.com](mailto:swhetstone@mindspring.com)

**Peach State Star Gaze:** Ken Poshedly 7-979-9842  
[ken.poshedly@mindspring.com](mailto:ken.poshedly@mindspring.com)

**Sidewalk Astronomy:** Mark Banks 4-257-2766  
[bank4@mindspring.com](mailto:bank4@mindspring.com)

**Villa Rica Observ. Coordinator:** Rich Jakiel 7-577-2330  
[phacops@bellsouth.net](mailto:phacops@bellsouth.net)

**Woodruff Observ. Coordinator:** John Lentini 7-984-0175  
[johnlentini@yahoo.com](mailto:johnlentini@yahoo.com)



*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:*

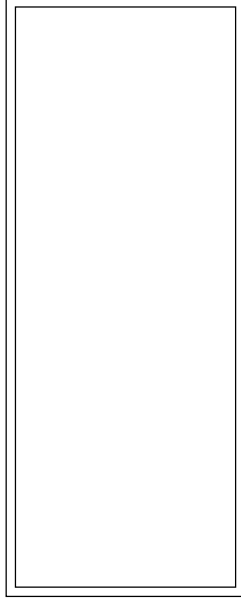
Atlanta Astronomy Club

PMB 305

3595 Canton Road A9

Marietta, GA 30066

**FIRST CLASS**



## Calendar

**October 13th- Deep Sky Session** at Woodruff BSC. 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.

**October 27th- Picnic and Open House** at Villa Rica Observatory. Picnic starts at Noon. Open House starts at 5PM. Night of the Living Dob.

**November 3rd- How to Buy a Telescope.** Fernbank Science Center.

**November 10th- GASP** sidewalk astronomy at Unicoi State Park. Starts at 5:30PM.

**November 16th- General Membership Meeting** to be held at CEWC. Regular meeting. No speaker as we are having a speaker on November 18th. Starts at 8PM.

**November 16th-18th- Deep Sky Session** at either Chiefland, FLA or Zombie Party at CEWMA. 4PM Orientation on Saturday Nov. 17th.

**November 18th- Special Speaker.** Cosmonauts at Fernbank. . Taking place Sunday afternoon at Fernbank Science Center. More details to be announced at a later date.

**November 24th- GASP** sidewalk astronomy at Tallulah Gorge State Park. Starts at 5:30PM.

**December 15th- Deep Sky Session** at Woodruff BSC in the evening. Dedication of the William Caulder Observatory in the afternoon.