

The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
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Editor: Keith Burns

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COSMONAUT VISIT ~ NOVEMBER 18

The Atlanta Astronomy Club, in conjunction with Fernbank Science Center, is pleased to announce a very special event taking place this month. Two Russian cosmonauts are going to be doing a presentation on "From Mir to Mars" at **Fernbank planetarium on Sunday, November 18th at 3:30 p.m.** Cosmonauts Alexander Volkov and Alexander Martynov will present a one-hour illustrated talk about Mir, the Russian Space Station, and will answer questions about their experience as pilots and space-walkers. Why do people pay so much attention to Mars? What are the main results of its exploration? Is there any life on Mars? These are some of the topics to be discussed in this presentation, as well as the purposes of the first manned expedition to this planet.

ALEXANDER VOLKOV, cosmonaut and Commander of the Cosmonauts Team, Russian was born on 27 May, 1948. He graduated from the High Military Aviation School named after S. I. Grivtsev in 1970. Military



rank: colonel. As a cosmonaut-researcher he had a space flight on board the orbital research complex "Soyuz T-14", "Salut-7"

from 17 September to 21 November, 1985. He had his second space flight as Commander of the Soviet-French team on board of the orbital research complex "Mir" from 28 November, 1998 to 27 April, 1989. During the flight a large program of scientific research was carried out and also the Soviet-French program with cosmonaut-researcher Jean-Louis Cretien was realized. He had his third flight as Commander of Expedition from 2 October, 1991 to 25 March, 1992. During this space flight Soviet-Austrian and Russian-German programs were realized together with cosmonauts researchers Frants Fibek and Klaus Ditrih Flade. Alexander Volkov was awarded a rank of Hero of the Soviet Union and Space Pilot of the USSR, Order of Lenin, Order of October Revolution and the "Golden Star" medal for the courage and heroism shown during these flights. He had been working as Commander of the Cosmonauts Team at the Cosmonauts Training Center from January 1991 until August 1998. His work was to prepare Russian and foreign cosmonauts for future flights to space stations "Mir" and "New International Space Station".

ALEXANDRE IVANCHENKOV was born of the 28th of September in 1940 in the city of Ivanteyevka, near Moscow.

In 1958, he finished middle school with a gold medal. He entered the Moscow Aviation Institute, on graduating from which in 1964, he began to work at the Korolev Design Office. He was engaged in designing space vehicles.



In 1971, he transferred to the test flight division of the Design Office run by S. Anohin. In March of 1973, Ivanchenkov was taken on the test cosmonauts' group of the Central Design Office of Experimental Machine Building. He was taken into

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the crew for the first time when the program, called Apollo-Soyuz Experimental Flight, was being realized. He and Yu Romanenko were in the back-up crew of the Soyuz-16 spacecraft that made a six-day practice flight in December of 1974 by the Soyuz-Apollo program. Four times from 1975 to 1978, Ivanchenkov was as a flight engineer in back-up crews together with Yu. Romanenko (the Soyuz-19 and Soyuz-25 spacecrafts) and V. Kovalienok (the Soyuz-26 and Soyuz-27 spacecrafts). From 1978 to 1982, he flew twice as a flight engineer. In 1978, Ivanchenkov and Kovalienok, crew's commander, went into orbit on board the Soyuz-29 spacecraft and made a record 140-day flight on board the Salut-6 orbital station. During that flight, Ivanchenkov went into outerspace for 2 hours and 5 minutes. Two expeditions visited the station: Soviet and Polish cosmonauts (P. Klimuk and M. Guermashevskiy) on board the Soyuz-30 spacecraft, Soviet and German cosmonauts (V. Bykovskiy and Z. Yen) on board the Soyuz-31 spacecraft. Ivanchenkov returned to the Earth on board Soyuz-31. In June



of 1982, the cosmonaut made the second flight on board the SoyuzT-6 spacecraft and the Salut-7 orbital station. Duration of the flight was 8 days. On board the station there was a crew of the main expedition consisting of A. Berezovoy and V. Lebedev. Then Ivanchenkov was trained for flights on board the Buran orbital spacecraft. He was preparing as a flight engineer of the main crew for the first manned flight on board Buran. When the Buran Space Shuttle program was over in 1993, he left the cosmonauts' group. Now he goes on working as deputy chief of a department at the Energiya Rocket and Space Corporation. He is engaged in training cosmonauts for long space flights. He is a cosmonaut of the first class. Ivanchenkov is twice Hero of the Soviet Union (1978, 1982), a Hero of Labour of the German Democratic Republic. He has been awarded a Tsiolkovskiy gold medal by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, two Orders of Lenin, an Order of Honorary Legion's Commander (France), a Polish Gryunvald Cross of the first class and the other orders and medals. He is a member of the Presidium of the Council of the France Friends Society. His bronze bust has been installed in the city of Ivanteyevka, his birthplace.

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Blue Moon

This month we will have two full moons. The first full moon occurs on November 1st in the early morning hours. It's known as a ordinary full moon. The second full moon happens on the 30th. This sec-



ond full moon is known as the blue moon. Events like this are a disaster for Deep Sky observers and paradise for Lunar observers. Deep sky folks will be hibernating the first week and the last week of the month while us lunatics will be running about the countryside.

FROM THE PREZ'S DESK...

Dr William A Calder left a career as an astronomer in Cambridge, Mass and took over as head of the astronomy department at Agnes Scott in 1947, because he found the vocation of an astronomer was "too solitary for his tastes." He was immediately put in charge of building the Bradley Observatory (named for the W C and Sarah H Bradley Foundation, which contributed \$50,000 to the building project); and installing the 30" reflecting telescope (named in honor of Lewis H. Beck).

Dr Calder was keenly interested in bringing astronomy to the public. He hoped that an observatory in the middle of a major city would reach more people than one "planted on a mountain top". The audience to a series of public lectures presented by Dr Calder the year he arrived in Atlanta became the core of the newly formed "Atlanta Astronomers", who met at Bradley and finished off each meeting with an observing session at the 30" Beck telescope.

In honor of Dr Calder, the founder of the Atlanta Astronomy Club, our new observatory at the Woodruff Boy Scout Camp will be called "The W A Calder Observatory".

I want to invite all the members of the Atlanta Astronomy Club to the dedication of the W A Calder Observatory on Saturday December 15 at 4:00 p.m., at Woodruff Boy Scout Camp. Refresh-



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ments will be served. (RAIN DATE: Sunday December 16, 2001, Noon).

CEWMA

The next meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the AAC will be Nov. 17th. This will be the weekend of the Zombie Party being hosted out there Nov. 16-18. All east side members are encouraged to attend so that we may launch the chapter. Future meetings will be decided upon by attending members.

To date, while the CEWMA has seen very good participation for observing, attendance for the chapter meetings has been poor. If the membership from this area of town fail to elect officers, future meetings will be unlikely. While we have some 30 members who have joined in the Mansfield/Conyers area, virtually none of them have repeat visited. Where are you guys? If you want to have future meetings at the CEWMA, your attendance is vital.

Zombie Party 2001

The CEWMA will host the Zombie Party this year. Camping on the observing field is permitted for observing tents. All other camping is limited to the camp area. The firing range will be open, and many hiking trails are available for those interested in doing some birding.



The November meeting of the AAC general membership will be at the Elliott Area Visitor Center, Friday Nov. 16th, 7:30 pm

There will be no charge for the Zombie Party attendance, and likewise no refreshments will be provided. 'Gonna have to bring your own coffee this year I am afraid...

Talks will be held on the

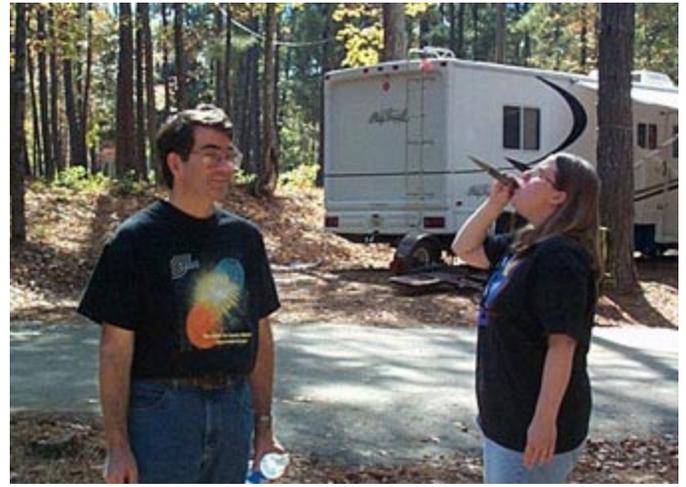
observing field during the day. This is also a great weekend to catch some of the Leonid meteor shower so bring a blanket and a thermos Friday night to catch what may be the best peak in three years.

GASP EVENTS 2001

Joanne Cirincione

FDR State Park – October 20, 2001

I wanted to thank all of you who joined us at FDR State Park. We had a pretty good turn out with our club members and also a fantastic turnout with the public. We had between 125 – 150



Picture above Kat crow calls with Tom looking on. Part of the daytime non-astronomy related activities.

people there!

What a night for the crowd! We had clear, dark skies, an iridium flare with it's brightest at -8 and the Milky Way just screaming at us. There were so many stars that we had a difficult time finding Cassiopeia! We were hoping for a meteor shower but it didn't happen when the crowd was out. We saw a few meteors but nothing out of the ordinary. I believe a few of the members who stayed up at the overlook saw more than we did back at our campsite.

I wanted to thank Ranger Ashley Applegate for welcoming us, once again, to her beautiful park! We are schedule to be there Labor Day Weekend 2002 and we are working on an event for Spring.

I also wanted to thank the following members who came out to help with this successful event: Sharon Carruthers, Peter Macumber, David Macumber, Keith Burns, Tom Faber, Kat Sarbell, Tom & Lynn Crowley, Ken Adams, Phil Brundige and Chuck Woodward.

Unicoi State Park – November 10, 2001

Please join us on Saturday, November 10th at Unicoi State Park

Sharon Carruthers will start her slide presentation at 7:00p at the Back Room Trading Post - Campground. This will be followed by an observing/learning session on the field beside the Trading Post - Campground. As always, Peter Macumber and Keith Burns, our "Scopemen" will be out with the scopes.

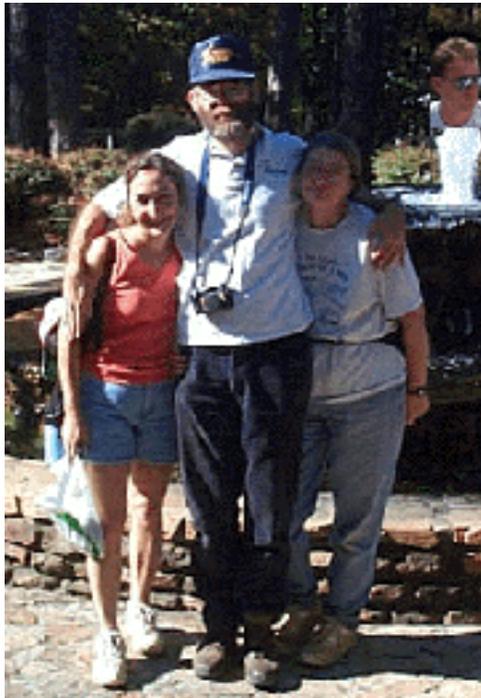
We encourage as many of you to attend. We've been having such tremendous turnouts with the public that we need all the help we can get. (Last year at Unicoi, on a full moon night, in chilly weather we had over 200 in attendance with 2 scopes.) You can bring your scope or binoculars. If you don't have equipment just bring yourself. If you are a new member or just learning about astronomy this is the perfect place to be.

Please contact me at starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org if
Continued on the next page.

you are planning to attend or just need more information. We hope to see a bunch of you there! Clear and starry skies.

Unicoi State Park is located 2 miles northeast of Helen via Ga. Hwy. 356.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF OUR GASP EVENTS, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT ATLANTA.ASTRONOMY.ORG AND GO TO THE GASP LINK.



Who are these people in this picture? To the far left is Joanne. Planner and organizer of all things GASP. Miracle worker to. To the far right is Sharon. Our speaker at these GASP events and the AAC president. Pictured in the middle is Peter. Scopeman for these events and AAC treasurer.

Of course, I was not present since someone had to take this picture. You know me as Scopeman and the AAC Editor dude.

Tallulah Gorge State Park – November 24, 2001

Joanne Cirincione

Please join us on Saturday, November 24th at Tallulah Gorge State Park

The slide presentation will begin at 7:00p either at the Visitor's Center or at the main fire ring in the campground. The weather will determine the location. If it's clear the observing session will take place at the helicopter field beside the campground.

Please contact me at starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org if you are planning to attend or just need more information.

Clear and starry skies,

Tallulah Gorge is located on U.S. Hwy. 441 within the city limits of Tallulah Falls, GA

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version is bigger and better. The free Adobe(R) Reader allows you to view, navigate, and print PDF files across all major computing platforms. Download the free reader at www.adobe.com Visit NightSky.Org/aac on the web. In a private sub-web, the past year of Focal Points can be found. Check it out. If it works for you, send Peter Macumber an e-mail at pmacumber@nightsky.org. The Focal-Point web can be entered by using the Username of **AAC** and a password of **Aries**. These names are case sensitive! Type **AAC** and **Aries** exactly as you see it here.



Does the idea of having to clean your telescopes mirror sound impossible? Image what these guys have to do when they clean the mirror of the 200 inch Palomar Scope. Your job is easy compared to theirs. Read on below. Just remember to use caution and go forth gently.

HOW TO CLEAN MIRRORS AND LENSES

by Lenny Abbey

The cleaning of optical surfaces, especially those of first-surface mirrors, is the most delicate and exacting task which the astronomer is called upon to perform. At the time of cleaning, a lens is most vulnerable to damage; damage which cannot be repaired. Yet if a telescope is to perform at its greatest potential, cleaning must be done time to time.

I have used the following method for over twenty-five years without adding a single scratch to the surface of my mirrors and lenses. It has the advantage of requiring only materials which are readily available at the neighborhood pharmacy or grocery store. The cost is less than twenty-five cents per cleaning.

First you must realize that usually the best advice on cleaning mirrors and lenses is.....DON'T DO IT. Dirt and grease which are adhering to the surface of mirrors and lenses may degrade image quality, but they will not damage the delicate optical surface until they are moved against it. Removing dirt without allowing it to rub against the underlying optical surface

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is what makes cleaning such a tricky task. If your mirrors and lenses are so dirty that they must be cleaned, then this is the way to do it:

FOR MIRRORS

1. Blow all loose dirt off with “Dust Off” or another canned clean air product. (Available in camera stores.) Take care not to shake the can while you are using it, and be sure to release a little air before using it on the optical surface. This will assure that no liquid is dispensed to make things worse! You can use a rubber bulb for this purpose, but it is not nearly as effective.
2. Prepare a VERY dilute solution of mild liquid detergent (e.g., Dawn). Use about 2 - 4 drops per liter (quart).
3. Rinse the mirror off under a moderate stream of luke-warm



water for two or three minutes. Test the temperature of the water with your wrist, just as you would when warming a baby's bottle.

4. Make a number of cotton balls from a newly opened package of Johnson & Johnson sterile surgical cotton, U.S.P. Soak 2 or 3 balls in the detergent solution. Wipe the surface of the wet mirror with a circular motion, going first around the circumference, and then working your way towards the center. The only pressure on the cotton should be its own weight. For this first “wipe” you should use several fresh sets of cotton balls.
5. Throw cotton balls away.
6. Repeat process with new cotton balls, using a LITTLE more pressure.

7. Rinse mirror thoroughly under tap, which has been kept running for this step.
8. Rinse mirror with copious amounts of distilled water (do this no matter how clean or “hard” your tap water is).
9. Set mirror on edge to dry, using paper towels to absorb the water which will all run to bottom of mirror. Keep replacing the paper towels as the mirror dries.
10. If any beads of water do not run to bottom, blow them off with Dust Off, or the rubber bulb.
11. Replace the mirror in its cell, being careful to keep all clips and supports so loose that the mirror can rattle in the cell if it is shook. (Perhaps .5 to 1 mm clearance).
12. Spend the next month realigning your scope.
13. If you do anything more than this, you will damage the coating, and maybe the glass.
14. You should not have to clean an aluminized mirror more often than once per year. Do NOT over clean your optics.

FOR OBJECTIVE LENSES

DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES REMOVE A LENS FROM ITS CELL, OR THE CELL FROM THE TELESCOPE.

This restriction means that the above procedure must be modified. Only the front surface can be cleaned. If you remove the cell from the telescope, you will be in big trouble. There are probably not more than 25 people in the United States who can effectively collimate a refractor!

1. Blow loose dirt off with Dust-Off or a rubber bulb, using the above precautions.
2. Soak the cotton balls in a 50:50 solution of Windex (commercial glass cleaner containing ammonia) and water. Squeeze slightly so that the balls are not dripping wet.
3. Wipe front lens surfaces with the wet cotton, using only the pressure of the weight of the cotton balls. Follow immediately with dry cotton, using little or no pressure.
4. Repeat procedure, using slightly more pressure.
5. If some cotton lint remains on surface, blow off with Dust-Off or rubber bulb.
6. Repeat procedure if lens is not clean, but if one repeat does not do it give up and leave it as is.
7. Inspect lens to make sure that no cleaning solution has found its way into the lens cell, or between the elements. If this has happened, leave the telescope with the lens uncovered in a warm room until it is dry.

FOR EYEPIECES AND BARLOWS

Follow the procedure given for objective lenses, but use Q-Tips (cotton on plastic sticks) instead of cotton balls. You may, of

course, clean both surfaces. The eyebrow juice on the eye lens of eyepieces may require repeated applications. I think that this is OK in this case.

SOME DONT'S

1. Do not use any aerosol spray product, no matter who sells it, or what their claims are.
2. Do not use lens tissue or paper. It DOES scratch.
3. Do not use pre-packaged cotton balls, they frequently are not cotton.
4. Do not use any kind of alcohol, especially on aluminized surfaces.
5. Do not use plain water.
6. Do not use any lens cleaning solution marketed by funny companies, like Focal, Jason, or Swift. Dawn and Windex (or their equivalents in other countries) are cheap and commonly available.

Chiefland Star Party 2001

Star party to be held November 12th- 18th. As always AAC members are encouraged to camp with Lynn and I at Chiefland. Check out c-av.com for details.

A major star party will occur November 12-18, 2001 at Chiefland Astronomy Village. Chiefland Star Party 2001 will include internationally-known speakers and vendors and feature some of the best dark sky conditions for viewing and astrophotography in the Southeastern US.

Registration fees will be \$10 per person plus \$5 per night for overnight stay on site. RV hookups and one of the highest quality electrified astronomy fields in North America will be available to participants.

Further announcements of the event will be published in Sky and Telescope and Astronomy magazines. Questions and comments can be forwarded to Star Party Coordinator, John O'Neill at 1-727-539-1090 or john@oneilladvertising.com

Amatuer Telescope Makers Group

Interested in building your own telescope? Want to enhance your current scope with some features or fix problems with it? Do you want to grind your own mirror or learn how it is done? This is the group for you. The ATM group meets every couple of weeks at Skip Cook's house. He has generously offer this location for this purpose. Contact him via phone (404-325-4987) or email (scz9@cdc.gov) 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

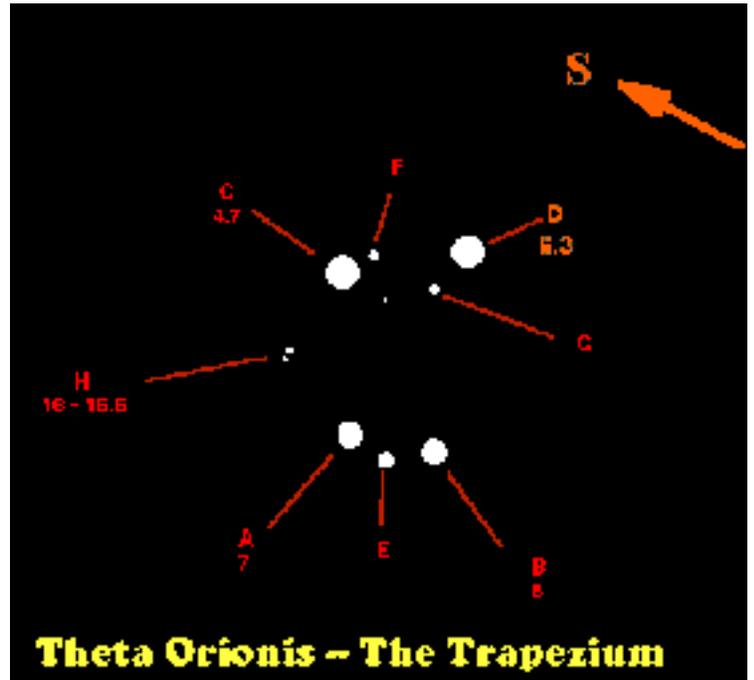
moving the group to another location. If you have a place where they can meet and work on those projects, please contact Skip.

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.



It's amazing what fairly good results you can get with a simple setup. The picture to the left was taken on Halloween night. The full moon blazing in the skies. I used a pair of 8x56 orion mini giant binoculars. They were mounted on a tri-

pod. Using a No. 21 orange filter to get the color effect. I taped the filter to the back of the bino lens and then took pictures with a Kodak 210 digital camera. Of course, those of you who have a black and white copy of the newsletter can't see the color.



Lenny's Challenge

Here's something you can try to observe this winter. Everyone has seen Orion's Nebula in the winter sky. In the trapezium area of the nebula are four bright young stars. Well several of those stars have companion stars. See if you can observe them. Use the chart above to help locate them.



Same equipment as above moon picture except Violet filter used instead.

A new breed of telescope was recently sighted at the club's Walter Barber Observatory. Many folks reported sighting the animal at this year's annual picnic. Experts were called in to help identify it. After many hours of studying the picture, they have determined that this is indeed a new breed. Now known as the Dobstein. Its preferred viewing the moon and thought deep sky observing was a waste of time. What else do you expect from a bovine?



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.



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.

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 December issue is November 30th, 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.yahooogroups.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.

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Marietta, Georgia 3006	

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CEWC Coordinator: Philip Sacco 4-296-6332
ppsacco@mindspring.com

Georgia Astronomy in State Parks: Joanne Cirincione 7-898-4271
starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Light Trespass: Tom Buchanan 7-521-2136
tombucha@family.net

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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
rjakiel@earthlink.net

Woodruff Observ. Coordinator: John Lentini 7-984-0175
johnlentini@yahoo.com



The Focal Point

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

FROM:

Keith Burns Email: Keith_b@bellsouth.net

3740 Burnt Hickory Road

Marietta, Georgia 30064

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

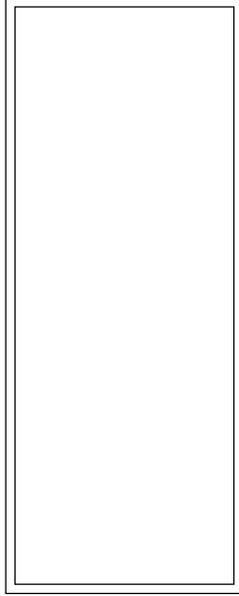
Atlanta Astronomy Club

PMB 305

3595 Canton Road A9

Marietta, GA 30066

FIRST CLASS



Calendar

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 12th- 18th- Star Party at Chiefland, Fla. Fee for event. Excellent observing and well known speakers.

November 16th-18th-Zombie Party at CEWMA. 4PM Orientation on Saturday Nov. 17th. Daytime Speakers. No fee for event.

November 18th- Special Speaker. Cosmonauts at Fernbank Science Center. Starts at 3:30PM. Located in the Jim Cherry Planetarium. Reception to follow.

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

December 15th- Caulder Observatory Dedication. Starts at 4PM.

December 15th- Deep Sky Observing. Caulder observatory. Woodruff BSC. Starts at Dusk.

December 21st- Christmas Dinner and Show. Bradley Observatory. More information TBA.

December 26th- 29th- Observing at Walter Barber Observatory. Exact date and other info TBA.

January 12th- Deep Sky Observing at Walter Barber Observatory.