

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947  
April 2002

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Editor: Keith Burns

## AFLAC in the Stars

AFLAC insurance has reportedly paid NASA 11 millions dollars for the open star cluster M-11. This cluster is better known as the Wild Duck Cluster. AFLAC spokes person reported that you will be seeing the duck in the heavens from now on shouting the virtues of AFLAC. It pays to advertise in the heavens. At least that is what NASA is saying tonight.

## Satan Versus God

Many amateur astronomers report the sighting of the face of Satan in the reflection nebula M-78. Not to be outdone, other astronomers report seeing God in the deep sky objects M-42, M-43, M-44, M-45, M-46, M-47, etc. Now the Pope was contacted about this and we don't know what he said. No one at this publication can understand Polish. He did say that if you want to find God, simply just look up in the sky anytime.



## Area 52?

Recently this photograph was taken of a secret astronomy base located in Tom Crowley's backyard. The base is known as Area 52. Wow, now this is what I call really getting into radio astronomy. I wonder how he got approval from the neighborhood zoning committee.



## Comet to Hit Atlanta

A newly discovered comet known as Comet Bobby Sue is headed on a direct collision course for the earth. Atlanta metro falls in the center of the target of this comet. Scientists say that the comet is big. Real big. They also used other terms to describe the comets size like, huge, geez, and whoa. Comet Bobby Sue is named after the co-discoverers Bobby and Sue. Both were on a date when their car broke down. They were walking to the nearest gas station when they looked up and saw this thing up in the sky. That thing turned out to be a comet. The comet is expected to strike Atlanta on March 25, 2002 at exactly 5:30 PM. This is considered a disaster for other cities in the US. For Atlanta metro residence, the afternoon rush hour is far worse.

## April Fools Fun

This is what happens when you have a very fertile imagination and lots of extra time on your hands.

### In This Issue:

**Page 1...**April Fools Fun.

**Page 2-3...**April General Membership Meeting.

**Page 3-4...**Atlanta Astronomy Expo 2002

**Page 4...**GASP. March meeting minutes.

**Page 5-7...**Zombie Party. Moon shot.

**Page 7...**Amateur telescope makers group. AAC contacts. Banquet rescheduled for June 21st.

**Page 8...**Events calendar.

## Astronomers Fight Light Pollution

Astronomers have taken a new approach to fighting light pollution. They are having many more street lights and billboards constructed and installed. The idea is to make the public sick of seeing them by simply flooding the countryside with them. More is better? Jim Astro who heads the committee responsible for this movement commented by saying, "Heck, I'm game for it. What's the worse thing that could happen?"

## April General Membership Meeting

Meeting night is Friday April 19th. Refreshments and socializing from 7:30PM to 7:55PM. Meeting at 8PM. Location is the White Hall Building on the Emory University Campus.

Dr. Julius L. Benton, Jr. our April speaker, is a native of Albany, Georgia. He first became interested in astronomy and space science when he was only seven years old after a thoughtful aunt gave him a homemade planisphere and a subscription to *Sky and Telescope* magazine. His talk will be on various aspects of lunar observing.

Fortunate to have dark and unobstructed skies for most of his childhood, he spent countless hours making naked-eye observations of the heavens and getting acquainted with the constellations. He regularly observed meteor showers, followed the motions of the brighter planets and phases of the Moon, and read every piece of astronomical literature he could get his hands on.

Just before he turned twelve, his father surprised him with a Unitron 6.0 cm. (2.4 in.) refractor for Christmas, and thereafter his passion for astronomy only deepened. Using his new telescope on virtually every clear night, he searched the skies for as many Messier and NGC objects as he could find, but he was particularly captivated by his earliest telescopic views of Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, and the Moon. He developed the habit of keeping careful notes and drawings of objects he saw in the eyepiece, a practice that markedly improved his powers of visual perception.

Fortuitous circumstances afforded him a unique opportunity to work under the tutelage of a retired professional astronomer who had become planetarium director at the local science museum. Their evolving friendship enabled Julius to fine-tune his observing skills, plus gain an understanding of important astronomical concepts from his mentor.

By the time he entered high school in the early 1960s, Julius had already moved up to his next telescope, a Unitron 10.2 cm. (4.0 in.) refractor with setting circles, a weight-driven clock drive, and a massive wooden tripod. More aperture, of course, meant better views of his favorite objects, but despite devoting many evenings to ongoing surveys of deep-sky objects from his backyard observatory, Julius progressively turned his attention to detailed studies of the Moon and brighter planets.

He also maintained his affiliation with the local science museum, giving planetarium lectures and actively encouraging others to take up the pastime of amateur astronomy. His perseverance resulted in the formation of an astronomy club that

eventually became a member organization of the Astronomical League, and interaction with peers sharing similar interests proved mutually beneficial for learning more advanced observing methods and techniques.

In addition to regular club meetings, classes in amateur telescope making were conducted in the workshop of the science museum. Julius learned rudimentary opto-mechanical skills, such as grinding and figuring lenses and mirrors for incorporation into finished telescopes. This tinkering with optics produced a 12.8 cm. (5.0 in.) rich-field telescope, which he employed for comet-seeking and timing occultations, and a 15.2 cm. (6.0 in.) refractor he used for observing the Moon, all before he graduated from high school in 1964.

Academic pursuits at Armstrong Atlantic State University and the University of Georgia consumed the next several years, as Julius completed undergraduate and advanced studies in biophysics, ecology, and environmental physics. But not long after he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees, the continuing Vietnam conflict in the early 1970's necessitated a brief postponement of his graduate work while he served two years as an Intelligence Officer in the U.S. Air Force.

Remaining in the Air Force Reserve while resuming graduate studies, he finally received his doctorate in environmental physics in 1975 and embarked on a long and successful career in the aerospace industry, teaching, and research. Throughout his college years, graduate school, and early professional life, the zeal Julius had for observing never diminished, although his astronomical interests followed an earlier trend and became more specialized and eventually focused almost exclusively on the Moon and planets.

During the late 1960's, Julius had already been corresponding regularly with Walter Haas, founder and director of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO), which led to his membership in that organization by 1967. Right away, he started submitting all of his observational work to the Lunar, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Comets observing sections, remaining immersed in the work of the ALPO with tireless enthusiasm and dedication ever since.

He was appointed Coordinator of the Lunar Section in 1970, heading up the Selected Areas Program, and in 1971, he assumed additional duties as Coordinator of the Venus and Saturn Sections. He still holds all three posts today, after nearly three decades of successful leadership and administration of ALPO observing programs.

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As his lunar and planetary horizons expanded over the years, he became Eastern Regional Coordinator for the American Meteor Society in 1972, and he joined and became active in the British Astronomical Association (BAA) a year later. In 1994, Julius was elected to the board of directors of the ALPO, and he has served as distribution editor for the *Journal of the A.L.P.O.* since 1996. In 1998 he became Associate Director of the organization and he is now completing his term as Executive Director of the ALPO.

In addition to his professional research that has appeared in various technical journals, Julius has written extensively on the subjects of lunar and planetary astronomy for over 25 years.

He has also made considerable contributions to the existing literature on methods and techniques for making visual observations of the Moon and planets with various astronomical instruments and accessories.



For many years his articles have appeared in *Sky & Telescope*, *Astronomy*, *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, *Journal of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers*, *Star and Sky*, and elsewhere. He has also published comprehensive ALPO observing manuals on Saturn, Venus, and the Moon so that enthusiasts all over the world could plan and execute useful research programs.

Julius has frequently been a guest speaker at local and national astronomical gatherings, and his efforts as a liaison between amateur and professional planetary scientists has helped improve the significance of ALPO observational work.

### Contributing to the Newsletter

Please send 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 hard copies of pictures. Articles can either be sent 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 **May issue** is **April 30th**.

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 **\$30** for a family or single person membership. College Students membership fee is **\$15**. 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.

<b>Club address is:</b>	<b>Treasurer's address is:</b>
Atlanta Astronomy Club	Peter Macumber AAC
PMB 305	1057 Trestle Drive
3595 Canton Road A9	Austell, Georgia 30106
Marietta, Georgia 3006	

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

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

Send suggestions, comments, or ideas about the website to [webmaster@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:webmaster@AtlantaAstronomy.org). Also send information on upcoming observing events, meetings, and other events to the webmaster.

## Atlanta Astronomy Expo 2002 3-5 May, 2002

During the first weekend of May, Atlanta Astronomy Club in conjunction with Agnes Scott college are having an astronomy extravaganza! Activities begin on Friday and go through Sunday - and you won't want to miss any of the action! The governor is again proclaiming "Astronomy Day in Georgia" and the proclamation is being presented by the governor's office during this weekend!

The activities start at 9:00 a.m. on Friday 3 May at the Bradley Observatory on the Agnes Scott campus and conclude at 4:00 p.m. During this time the professional astronomers of Georgia will present their current research. Limited seating is available for this, so please contact Tom Crowley if you are interested in attending. The cost for this meeting is \$10.00 per person.

On Friday evening, we begin at 6:00 p.m. at Evans Hall for a social and dinner begins at 7:00. The featured speaker is a person who probably needs no introduction - Carolyn Shoemaker! Carolyn is very excited about speaking to both the professional astronomers and the Atlanta Astronomy club members. The cost for the dinner is \$20.00.

On Saturday continuing at Evans Hall, the general admission doors open at 8:00 a.m. We are pleased to announce the speakers and all the activities this year and hope to see everyone come out for this event. Carolyn Shoemaker will be making another presentation for the expo! Last year Chris Butler wowed the audience and this year he is presenting "Our Little Corner of the Galaxy." Our own Michael Covington has his "twins" coming out and will be speaking on these as well as

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signing his books. They are entitled "How to Use a Computerized Telescope" and "Celestial Objects for Modern Telescopes." There will be other speakers to be confirmed, planetarium shows and telescopes set up for solar viewing (weather permitting). Refreshments will be provided for a nominal price during the event. The price for the day is \$10.00 per person attending.

On Sunday at the Bradley observatory beginning at 11:00 a.m. there will be a "hands on" telescope program that is free to all. So, whether you are a neophyte or advanced, bring your scopes and come out for this event.

Folks, last year those of us who attended had a great time. The presentations were great; there were awesome deals provided by vendors on astronomy related items, the planetarium shows were a hit, and many people in the community had a chance to experience what we in our club are very excited about. This year we expect a large turnout - many of the professional astronomers will be staying in order to attend and especially with all the talk about comets now, this will be an even larger draw with Ms. Shoemaker being our keynote. Let's show the public what our club can do, so please come out for as many of these events as you can!

For more details, please contact either Tom Crowley 404.233.6886 or Carol Abernathy. Look for upcoming brochures and information at our April meeting.

### Get the Focal Point Online

The Focal Point is available online in PDF format. The PDF version is also in color. 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](http://www.adobe.com)

Visit [www.AtlantaAstronomy.org](http://www.AtlantaAstronomy.org) on the web. The link to Focal Points is located at the top of the front page of the website. If it works for you and you want to get the FP via email, send Peter Macumber an e-mail at [pmacumber@nightsky.org](mailto: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.

## GASP Tallulah Gorge State Park

March 2, 2002

**Tallulah Gorge State Park** was a wash out but we still had fun. Though it rained..... all day.... we still had a tremendous turnout from our club members. I want to thank the following members for joining us on this miserable rainy day:

Tom & Lynn Crowley, John & Holly Ritger, Bear & Karen

Simmons, Peter, Sharon & David Macumber, and Charles Hinley.

We had a total of 4 people show up for the program, but I thought that was pretty good considering the weather. It was the first time we had so many members outnumber the public. What a bunch of troopers!

Our next event will be April 20 at **Florence Marina State Park**. The presentation will start at 8:30p followed by an observing session. Hope to see you there. We sure can use the manpower.

### Atlanta Area Astronomers Listserv

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

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

## 15 March, 2002 General Meeting Minutes

Atlanta Astronomy Club (AAC) President, Sharon Macumber, opened the March meeting of the AAC at 8:08 PM with a thanks to Julie Moore for her coordination of the evening's refreshments, and a welcome to visitors and new members. She also thanked John Lentini for the use of audio-visual equipment for the evening and announced that following the regular meeting, the normal "unofficial" meeting would adjourn at Melton's App & Tap on North Decatur Road. Note that next month's scheduled annual banquet has been postponed. A new date in June will be announced as soon as arrangements can be made. Following her remarks, Sharon accepted club officer's reports.

Treasurer's Report: Club dues are going up in order to compensate for increased costs of publication of the Focal Point. Over the past several years, publication costs have increased several fold, outstripping the club's ability to publish a monthly newsletter as well as fund its general activities. Increasing dues by five dollars to \$30 per year will help defray increased costs of publication and is effective immediately. It was also recommended that club members should eschew receiving a paper copy of the Focal Point in favor of reading the Internet, or "on-

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line” version which has more features, color images, and costs the club significantly less to produce. Observing

Chairman’s Report: Planned observing events were announced (see the “Club Calendar”) with the forthcoming Villa Rica Open House and Orientation (23 Mar), Spring Zombie Party (12-14 Apr), and Atlanta Astronomy Expo (4-5 May) being emphasized. Corresponding Secretary: Keith Burns announced that the deadline for submitting articles for publication in the April Focal Point is 30 March.

Programs Chairman’s Report: Cambridge Press sales representative Kate Kloosterman was introduced. Offering discounts on Cambridge Press book sales associated with the forthcoming Atlanta Astronomy Expo, Ms. Kloosterman also displayed a wide range of astronomy books that can be ordered from Cambridge Press. Currently scheduled to speak at the Atlanta Astronomy Expo are Chris Butler (featured speaker at last year’s Astronomy Expo), Carolyn Shoemaker, wife of the late Gene Shoemaker and discoverer of more comets than any other living person, and possibly Glenn Burns (Channel 2 weatherman).

Other Reports: Atlanta Astronomy Club Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of the AAC will be 3PM, 7 April, at the 5 Seasons Restaurant in the Prado on Roswell Road in North Atlanta. Sidewalk Astronomy: 300 members of the public recently attended a Sidewalk Astronomy session conducted at Milton High School and was well received. Sidewalk Astronomy Chairman Mark Banks detailed upcoming events and asked that anyone interested in helping call him at: 404-257-2766. GASP: As short report was made. See the “Club Calendar” for a list of events.

SERAL: No report was made. Astronomical League (AL): Keith Burns, club AL representative, spoke briefly on the virtues of the AL’s many observing programs and asked that those interested contact him (phone: 770-427-1475). Boy Scout Liaison: The AAC’s Woodruff Boy Scout Camp will shortly have an operational telephone. Additionally, the summer Scouting season begins soon and its time for the AAC to meet its obligation to the Boy Scouts by providing instruction. Please contact John (phone: 770-984-0175) to sign up to help teach astronomy to the Boy Scouts (see list of dates in the April Focal Point). Light Pollution: Tom Buchanan reported that the city of Roswell is holding hearings to consider light pollution legislation. Additionally, the city of Alpharetta, and Fulton county are considering light pollution legislation as well. Responding to a query from the membership, Tom related that the International Dark-Sky Association (<http://www.Darksky.org>) has a significant amount of information that can help members leverage their efforts to support local light pollution efforts.

Peach State Star Gaze (PPSG) -2002: Ken Poshedley reported that the next PSSG will take place at White Water Express which will provide much improved facilities in support of the

event. This year’s featured speakers will be Wil Tirion and David Levy. Spring Zombie Party: Phil Bracken made a short presentation about the forthcoming Zombie Party and its location at White Water Express, also the location of the forthcoming PSSG Nominations Committee: The Nominations Committee asked that those interested in serving in positions of responsibility in the club contact committee members Rauna Long, Frank Marchese, Alex Langoussis, or Art Russell.

At 8:50 PM, Carol Abernathy, Programs Chairman, introduced Richard Jakiel, the evening’s featured speaker. Richard’s topic was “Amateur’s Contribution to the Study of Galaxies,” reprising his keynote address of the same topic last year at the Webb Society’s Annual Banquet in Oxford, England. The meeting ended at 9:40PM and was adjourned to Melton’s App and Tap for refreshments.

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Hello All-

There has not been a lot of discussion in the club about who the candidates are for the coming elections.

I wanted to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for President. For those of you that may not know me, I was president four years ago when the club experienced an unprecedented growth in activities and membership.

Since that time, I have witnessed a lag in membership and a flagging of volunteers for our events. As president, I would like to see if these trends can be reversed again and bring a new higher level of fresh membership to the club as well as try means to facilitate more volunteerism. I believe the key is in incorporating fun events for our members such as mixers, as well as regularly scheduled educational programs to augment our training programs.

We have a great club and I would like to see it continue to be the enriching experience I know it has been for many of you.

Thank you all for your support.

Philip Sacco

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## AAC Spring “Zombie PARTY”

Location is the “Whitewater Express” dark-sky Resort which is just 99 minutes north of Atlanta via I-575. Dates for the event are Friday-Sunday April 12-14, 2002.

AAC’ers Phil Bracken and Charlie Cottingham would like to invite you, your family and friends to take part in our Club’s spring “Zombie Party” observing retreat at this scenic 90-acre resort near Blue Ridge, GA. Feel free to drive up as early as midday Friday and depart as late as Sunday afternoon. This is the same excellent resort chosen for our 2002 Peach State Star Gaze, October 3-6, 2002. If our successful “mini-retreat” last September at Whitewater Express was any indication, you’ll

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Scope: LX200, 10" F/10. Camera: SBIG ST7E/CFW8. Imager: Larry Owens.

Image: The crater Copernicus taken at F/10, 3/23/02 at 10:00pm EST. RGB combined and processed with CCDSoft, exposure .5 seconds each color in combination with a 13% neutral density filter. Camera temp -10C.

enjoy not only their huge dark-sky observing field, but also their many convenient amenities & activities.

**OUR "BASE FEE" OF \$4.77 PER PERSON PER NIGHT**

**COVERS:** 1) Entrance and Parking at the Whitewater Express resort. 2) Overnight Camping in your own tents & RVs (no hookups). 3) Use of Comfort Stations & Hot Showers. 4) Use of the large dark-sky Observing Field. 5) Freedom to explore the resort's Expansive Scenic Areas & Trails. 6) A free Ocoee River-side Scenic Dayhike excursion midday Sunday.

The **WHITEWATER EXPRESS HIGH ADVENTURE CAMP & RETREAT CTR.** (Est. 1995) is in Tennessee just north of its 3-way corner with GA and NC — an easy under-2-hour drive from Atlanta via I-575.

Charlie will guide a **FREE AAC OCOEE RIVER DAYHIKE & PICNIC** late Sunday morning. Also, for you golfers, the well-kept Copper Basin **GOLF COURSE** adjoining the resort is open to the public. Please **SIGN UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** by taking the steps detailed below.

**SIGN-UP and FURTHER QUESTIONS :** 1) **SELECT SPECIFIC OPTIONS** from the list below for each person in your

party, including bunk lodging if desired, and any desired meals or activity options. 2) **BY FRIDAY MARCH 22**, if possible: **CALL WHITEWATER EXPRESS** at 404-325-5295 (their local Decatur Office, open generally 9AM-5PM M-F). Tell them you're with our AAC group, and book your space. You can also Fax their office at 404-325-3918 or call them Toll-free at 1-800-676-7238. 3) **BOOK YOUR OWN SPACE** with **THEM** (at \$4.77 per person per night plus fees for any desired options) by giving them a major **CREDIT CARD** number & expiration date. If you need to cancel part of your booking due to a personal emergency, etc., notify them by Apr 11 and you may be permitted to apply fees toward future events at Whitewater Express.

**NOTE FOR LATECOMERS:** It is likely that through about April 10 you can still sign up for camping/ observing only.

**FURTHER QUESTIONS??** If you need more details about the resort's fees, facilities, meals, or activities, feel free to consult our friends at the Whitewater Express office discussed above. For more details about the AAC observing activities contact Charlie Cottingham or Phil Bracken. Email Charlie at:

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Cott4Treks@aol.com or Phone/Fax him at 404-321-4831. Email Phil at: PhilB@mindspring.com or Phone/Fax him at 770-941-6517.

\***DIRECTIONS** from Atlanta to WHITEWATER EXPRESS: The "High Adventure Camp & Retreat Center" is 3 miles E. of Ducktown, TN and less than one mile NW of the point where U.S. Hwy 64 crosses the TN/NC state line. Suggestion: Zero your Trip Odometer at each turn and note mileages. **1)** From I-75/I-285 Interchange in NW Atlanta (I-75 Mile#259), take I-75 N about 9 miles, passing Marietta en route. **2)** Exit to your Right (Exit #268) onto I-575 North, and stay on I-575/ GA-515/ GA 5 for about 70 miles, all the way to the GA-5 North Traffic Light in Blue Ridge, GA. (En route, bypass Canton & Tate, and pass thru Jasper & Ellijay.) **3)** In Blue Ridge at the traffic light just before McDonalds (on your left), turn Left off GA-515 onto GA-5 North and go 10 miles to McCaysville, GA. **4)** In McCaysville, (on GA/TN state line) turn left at traffic light onto TN Hwy 68, and continue 3 more miles (through Copperhill, TN) to U. S. Hwy 64/74. **5)** Bear Right at the ramp onto US-64/74 East, and go about 3.5 miles on this big 4-lane hwy to Golf Course Road on your left (last Left in TN, where big US-64 right curve begins). If you cross the state line sign into NC you're 0.2 mile too far. There's a small blue "Whitewater Express" sign just before the correct Left turn.) **6)** Turn Left (north) onto Golf Course Road, follow it around the bends for about 0.9 mile. **7)** Turn Right at the "Whitewater Express" entrance sign onto a gravel road. After passing the stable on your left, and then a second wooded area, you'll see a large grassy field to your left. **8)** Continue straight ahead to the open-air resort Dining Hall on the far side of this field. Check in here. If no resort personnel are here, look for AAC member assistance in the large observing field beyond (north of) the Dining Hall.

As a member of the AAC, you are automatically a member of the Astronomical League. For more information on the AL, either go to the website at <http://www.astroleague.org> or contact ALCOR (Keith Burns).

## April Banquet Cancelled

The April Banquet has been cancelled. The Banquet has been rescheduled for June 21st, 2002. More information about location and speaker to be announced in the May issue of the Focal Point, club website, and at April Meeting.

Note that material you see in the Focal Point has been sent to me is for use in our newsletter only. If anyone wants to use the material elsewhere, please contact the author of the article or photographer who has taken the picture. With rare exceptions, most people will grant you permission.

## Amateur Telescope Makers Group

Interested in building your own telescope? Want to enhance your current scope with some features or fix problems with it? Do you want to grind your own mirror or learn how it is done? This is the group for you. The ATM group meets every couple of weeks at Skip Cook's house. He has generously offer this location for this purpose. Contact him via phone (404-325-4987) or email ([scz9@cdc.gov](mailto:scz9@cdc.gov)) for more information and directions. Tracy Wilson runs the group and has much expertise to offer. You can contact him via email ([tracy@c2optical.com](mailto:tracy@c2optical.com)). Announcements of meetings will be posted on the AAC listserv. You can also find out about upcoming meetings from Skip.

**The ATMer's are looking for a place to hold meetings and work on projects.** If you know of a location or have one to offer, please contact either Skip, Tracy, or Sharon Carruthers. It's amazing what hard work, determination, shared knowledge, and a little money can do to make these wonderful instruments.

### AAC Contacts

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## *The Focal Point*

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

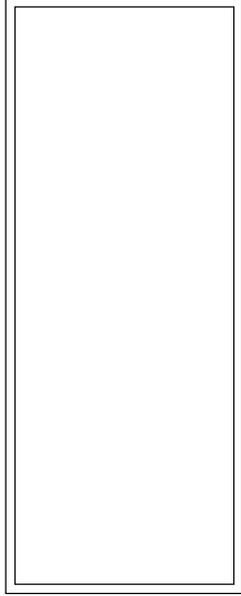
FROM:

Keith Burns  
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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

**April 7th- Board Meeting** at 5 Seasons in the Prado Shopping Center in Sandy Springs. Starts 3PM. Continue to discuss budget.

**April 12-14th- Spring Zombie Party** at Whitewater Express Camp located east of Ducktown, Tn.

**April 19th- General Membership Meeting.** Location is Emory at White Hall. 8PM. Speaker is Julius Benton. Talk is about various aspects of lunar observing.

**April 20th- Open House and Orientation** at the CEWMA site. Orientation at Visitors Center.

**April 20th- GASP** sidewalk astronomy at Providence Canyon/ Florence Marina. Located near Florence, Georgia which is south of Columbus.

**May 3rd-4th- Atlanta Astronomy Expo.** Location Agnes Scott College Campus. Details inside this newsletter.

**May 17th- General Membership Meeting.** Speaker TBA and election of 2002-2003 officers.

**May 18th- Open House and Training** at the Walter Barber Jr Observatory north of Villa Rica.

**May 24th-27th- GASP** Monte Santo State Park near Huntsville, Alabama. Sidewalk astronomy with the AAC and VBAS folks.

**June 21st- AAC Banquet.** Speaker, fee, time, and location TBA.

**June 15th- Open House** at Walter Barber Jr Observatory north of Villa Rica.

**June thru August-** John Lentini is looking for individuals who can come up to Woodruff on a Tuesday or Thursday night and setup their scopes to do sidewalk astronomy with the Boy Scouts. Contact John for more information via phone at 770- 984-0175 or email at johnlentini@yahoo.com.