

The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
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Editor: Keith Burns

In This Issue:

- Page 1-2...**October Meeting. November Elliott Meeting.
Page 2-3...Autumn's Number One Deep Sky Objects.
Page 3...Astronomy Calendars.
Page 4-5...Board Meeting Minutes Sept 15th.
Page 5-6...Minutes Elliott Chapter Meeting Sept 14th.
Page 6...General Meeting Minutes Sept 20th.
Page 7... Boy Scout Sidewalk Astronomy Events. AAC Contact Info.
Page 8...Events calendar.

Newsletter Deadline and Info

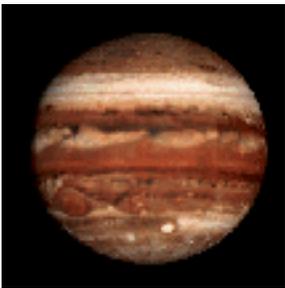
Please send articles, pictures, and drawings on anything astronomy related. All formats are acceptable. Pictures can be sent as either JPEGs, GIFs, or other formats. I can also scan hard copies of pictures. Articles can either be sent to Keith Burns 3740 Burnt Hickory Road Marietta, Georgia 30064 or email at Keith_B@bellsouth.net. You can submit articles anytime up and including the deadline date. The **deadline** for the **November issue** is **October 28th**.

October General Membership Meeting

We are pleased to welcome back as our guest speaker Dr. Richard Schmude. Dr. Schmude will be speaking about the Planet Jupiter. All things Jupiter or something like that? Of course, the actual title is a club secret. You have to come to the meeting in order to find out what the real title is. There has been a lot of news about Jupiter in the past couple of years. Competing with Saturn for planet with the most moons. Fading of the Great Red Spot among other things.

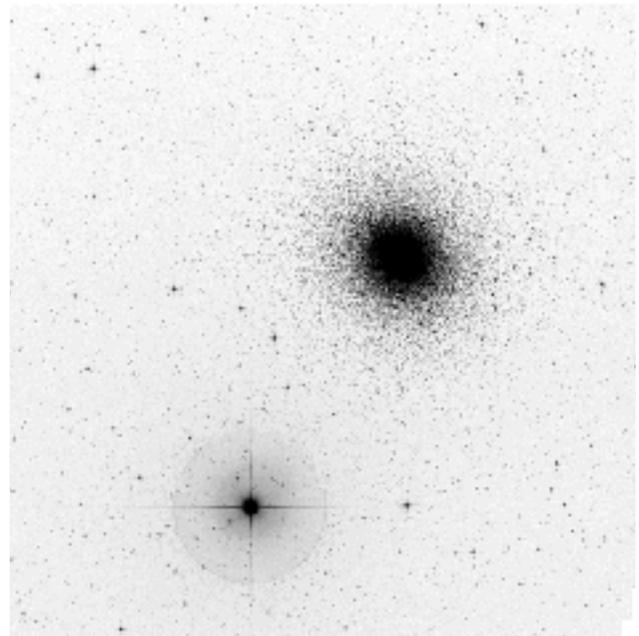
Dr. Schmude is the Remote Planets Section coordinator, and a board member, of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, and is also an active member of the American Association of Variable Star Observers and the Atlanta Astronomy Club.

Since receiving his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Texas A&M University in 1994, Dr. Schmude has been teaching Astronomy, Physics and Chemistry at Gordon College in Barnesville, GA. His primary areas of study include the solar system, variable stars and planetary nebulae. He is coordinator of the Jupiter section for ALPO. Recently he was awarded the 2002 Walter H. Haas Observing Award for his numerous contributions to ALPO.



November Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting

November 16th 5pm - general meeting followed by a presentation by Larry Owens on CCD imaging. The November meeting is scheduled to start at 5pm. That should give us enough time to cover the minutes from the October meeting and the presentation by Larry Owens will start about 5:15-5:30. Following the meeting we will make our way out to the field to prepare for the Leonid Meteor Shower. The Decem-



ber meeting will be held on the 14th of December - Chapter Meeting / Partial Solar Eclipse for most of North America

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.

Club address is:	Treasurer's address is:
Atlanta Astronomy Club	Harry Falise AAC
PMB 305	4300 Jimmy Carter Blvd, Apt #107
3595 Canton Road A9	Norcross, Georgia 30093
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>

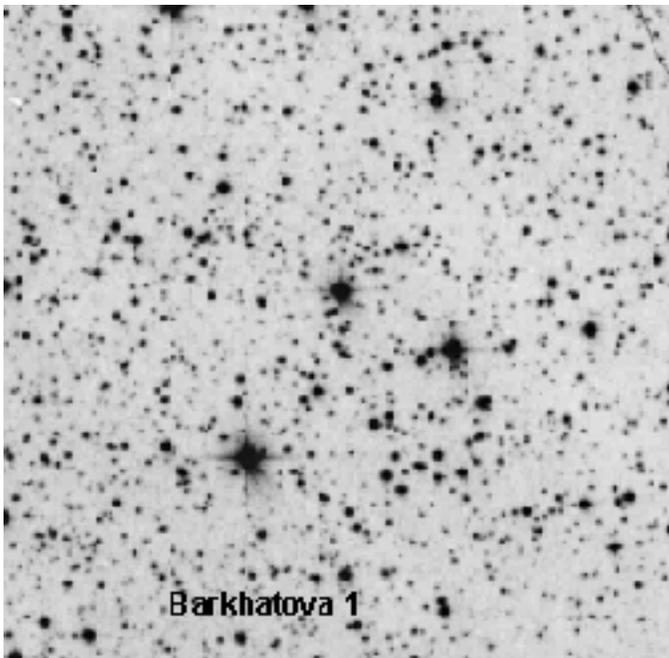
Send suggestions, comments, or ideas about the website to webmaster@AtlantaAstronomy.org. Also send information on upcoming observing events, meetings, and other events to the webmaster.

Autumn's Number One Deep Sky Objects

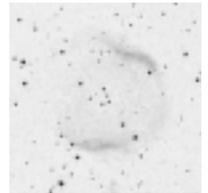
Susan C. French

These aren't the brightest or the best denizens of the starry sky. Rather, they are just a few of the objects that are the first in their respective designations.

Barkhatova 1 is an often-overlooked cluster that lies just above the North America Nebula in the rich star fields of Cygnus. Its status as a true star cluster was first written up in 1958 in the *Russian Astronomical Journal*. It had been uncertain whether this was a physically related group or a chance condensation in the band of the Milky Way. The article credits the cluster with 60 stars of 10th to 15th magnitude, and the *Catalogue of Star Clusters and Associations* (2nd edition; 1970; Alter, Balázs, and Ruprecht) puts it at 470 light years distant and 2.6 light years across. Through a 10" scope this is a moderately rich group. About sixty stars can be counted within 20'. A 9th magnitude star at the northeast edge has an orange hue.



When a budding astronomer takes up deep sky observing, he must learn to use averted vision. **Jones 1** is an object for more advanced amateurs who have cultivated the gentle art of averted imagination. This planetary nebula is fairly large, but has a very low surface brightness. In a 10" scope with



an O III filter, Jones 1 appears annular with a large, darker central area. The annulus has two fairly long, brighter arcs - one to the NNW and one to the SW. Jones 1 is more or less round, but the eastern side of the annulus fades into the background sky.

After observing Jones 1 in Pegasus, I was amazed to find an article in the March 1988 issue of *Sky & Telescope* that placed Jones 1 in Lynx. I couldn't have been that far off! A little research revealed that the object in *S&T* would more appropriately be called **Jones-Emberston 1** (PK 164 +31.1), not Jones 1 (PK 104 -29.1). Rebecca B. Jones and Richard Maury Emberston first reported the former in the *Harvard Bulletin* in 1939. Rebecca Jones alone recorded the latter, two years later.

Strangely, the bulletin article on JE-1 states: "On a recent photographic plate... a faint nebular ring has been detected joining two condensations, NGC 2474, observed by Sir John Herschel, and NGC 2475." While the drawing included in the article is that of a planetary nebula, NGC 2474 and NGC 2475 are a pair of galaxies found $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ south of that planetary. The identification of the galaxy with NGC 2474 seems certain, since Herschel's description includes the notation "L*nF" (large star, north following). The star can plainly be seen on photographs of this galaxy. No similar star lies northeast of the planetary. The confusion may have arisen because photographs of JE-1 show bright knots on opposite sides of its annular ring. Jones and Emberston must have mistakenly assumed that these were the two nearby NGCs. The error was carried over into the Perek-Kohoutek *Catalogue of Galactic Planetary Nebulae* where PK 164 +31.1 is given the alternate designation of 2474-5.

These perambulations through the literature made me curious. I turned my 10" f/6 Newtonian toward Jones-Emberston 1. Despite the lovely photos I had seen, JE-1 seemed tougher than Jones 1. This is an exceptionally faint target for a 10" under my rural/suburban skies. An O III filter helped - but not much. Averted vision was needed just to be sure this 6' round glow was there. The "bright knots" were "bright nots". Long, hard looks convinced me that I could just detect a slightly brighter patch on the southeast edge, and that perhaps another might exist on the opposite side. I could only briefly get a sense of the nebula's annularity.

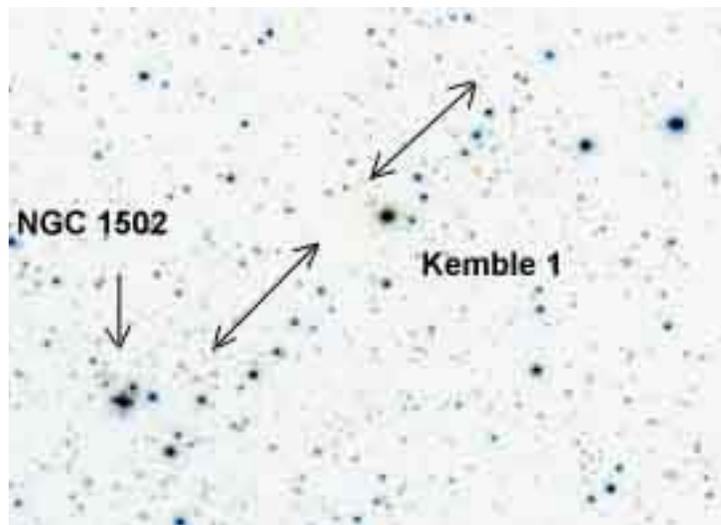
Scanning a half-degree to the south and boosting the power from 44x to 170x, I turned my attention toward the galaxy duo NGC 2474/75. The pair appears as a faint, oval patch of light oriented NE-SW. Two slightly brighter nuclei can be seen within. A $9\frac{1}{2}$ magnitude star lies about 2' to the northeast. The galaxy cores lie less than 0.2' apart and cannot be visually mistaken for the more widely spaced bright knots in the annulus of JE-1.

NGC 1 is the first entry in the *New General Catalogue of Nebulae and Clusters of Stars* compiled in 1888 by the Danish astronomer Johan Ludvig Emil Dreyer. This 12.8 magnitude galaxy lies within the Great Square of Pegasus just $1\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ from Alpheratz (α Andromedae). Through a 13.1" f/6.5 Newtonian at 127x, NGC 1 appears small, very faint, and slightly oval. It lies near the tip of an isosceles triangle of equal magnitude stars. The 14.1 magnitude galaxy NGC 2 lies less than 2' to the south. In my first printing copy of *Uranometria 2000.0, Volume 1*, a galaxy symbol labeled NGC 7839 is found 5' to the

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southeast of NGC 1. The last entry in the original *New General Catalogue* was NGC 7840 in Pisces, but this object is considered non-existent. This would appear to leave the first and last entries in the *NGC* quite close together. However, the addenda and errata tables in the second volume of *Uranometria 2000.0* make a note to delete NCG 7839, calling it a double star. This leaves NGC 7838 as the last valid entry in the *NGC*. This 14.2 magnitude galaxy lies in Pisces 19.3° south of NGC 1.

Kemble 1 (more commonly known as Kemble's Cascade) is such a charming group of stars in Camelopardalis. Through 14x70 binoculars this asterism shows 18 stars, mostly 9th magnitude, in a striking NW-SE line. One 5th magnitude star dominates the center. The southeast end forks southward in a straggling line of seven more stars, and northeast to a cluster of about ten stars (NGC 1502) including a pretty and close pair of 7th magnitude stars.



The late Father Lucian Kemble, discoverer of the asterism, graciously gave me this personal account:

“I stumbled upon the chain of stars by pure accident while scanning with binox. Intrigued, my first question, which I posed to Scott Houston of *S&T* when I sent in my description and drawing, was: is the chain simply a random arrangement of stars in our line of sight [such as happens when patterns form by random scattering of beans on a floor] OR, is there some kind of connection, gravitational influence, etc., as maintains in a cluster.

S&T did not answer my question but they did publish drawing and description and it is Scott Houston who gave it the name “Kemble's Cascade”. First hint I had that it was recognized as a listed asterism is on page xlvii of *Sky Catalogue*

2000.0 Vol. 2, under Glossary of Selected Astronomical Names.

The resolution of its true nature comes with recent CD-Rom programs such as ECU, MegaStar, etc., where one can obtain distances of stars, etc. It would appear that the very wide range of distances would rule out any kind of connection and that the streak [other than the lovely OC NGC1502, of course] is nothing but a chance alignment in our line of sight. But a lovely one, nonetheless.”

Many other “number one” objects are scattered across the celestial vault. It is amusing to collect these leading deep sky wonders, and add them to the list of friends you visit in the sky.

Object	Epoch 2000.0	RA / DEC	Uranometria 2000.0 Map Number
Barkhatova 1	20 ^h 53.7 ^m	+46° 02'	85
Jones 1	23 ^h 35.9 ^m	+30° 28'	124
NGC 1	00 ^h 07.3 ^m	+27° 43'	125
Kemble 1	03 ^h 58.0 ^m	+63° 06'	18
Jones-Emberson 1	07 ^h 57.9 ^m	+53° 26'	43
NGC 2474/75	07 ^h 58.0 ^m	+52° 52'	43

Astronomy Calendars

The folks at Kalmbach are selling their wall calendars at \$6.00 each to AAC members. If you're interested, I need a check payable to the Atlanta Astronomy Club, by NOVEMBER 15 (you pick calendar at Dec meeting).

Please include Name, E-mail, phone, and Qty. No shipping or tax is required, just \$6.00 each (no limit). Mail it to: Harry Falise, 4300 Jimmy Carter #107, Norcross, GA 30093.

To check it out, search for “2003 Calendar” at <http://shops.astronomy.com/>

The AAC does not make anything on this. I just thought it was a good deal... the photos are pretty sharp, plus they include current and historical astro events. Sorry, I can't mail them to you, you must pick them up at meeting. Thanks. Harry

AAC Board Meeting – 15 September, 2002

General. AAC Chairman of the board, Chuck Painter, called the meeting into order at 3:10PM and closed the meeting at 5:30PM. AAC members attending were Bear Simmons, Ken Poshedley, Sharon Carruthers, Rich Jakiel, Ken Gabrielson, Harry Falise, Gil Shilcutt, John Lentini, Peter Macumber, Chuck Painter, Carol Abernathy, Tom Crowley, Phil Danneman, Keith Burns, and Art Russell. **Actions.** The following actions were decided during the meeting. **AAC Board Chairman, Chuck Painter.** Announce time and location for next board location. **AAC President, Bear Simmons.** Incorporate new program format items for the October General Meeting and evaluate with assistance from **AAC Board Member Gil Shilcutt.** **Observing Chairwoman, Sharon Carruthers.** Loaner Telescope Program: Revise and publish guidelines for the club's Loaner Telescope Program. Equipment Spreadsheet: Distribute the Equipment Spreadsheet to board members and determine replacement value of listed items, as well as note errors and omissions. Survey 20-inch telescope at Villa Rica. **Treasurer, Harry Falise.** Fiscal Report and Balance Sheet: Send to board members and provide them with budget analysis comparing capital and operating expenses as well projection of budgetary activities. Investigate investment opportunities and make a recommendation to the Board about club funds currently in savings and checking. Revise the Membership Packet for future distribution. **Peach State Star Gaze (PSSG) Chairman, Ken Poshedley.** Research actions to secure copyright of AAC Logo. **Board Member, John Lentini.** Research the cost of building additional telescope pads on the observing field. **Board Member, Rich Jakiel.** Act as Chairman of the Dark Site Committee and prepare a recommendation on duties and responsibilities of the Dark Site Committee to the board modeled on that of the Membership Committee. Chairman of a committee to coordinate documentation of AAC. **AAC Member, Tom Crowley.** Act as coordinating agent for club activities at PARI; provide information to the Dark Site Committee about possible location of sites near Lake Oconee. **Agenda-Officers' Reports.** **President, Bear Simmons.** Bear is pleased with the work progressing in the club's various committee's and believes it is now time to reorganize and charter activities of a new Dark-Site Committee. Part of the committee's duties are to create a plan for a new dark-site that, unlike the other club sites, would be solely owned by the club, rather than be owned in conjunction with another organization. Bear, in reflecting on the work of the club's officers and committees, observed that the best source of new members for the club is other new members. **Observing Chairwoman, Sharon Carruthers.** Loaner Telescope Program: Sharon is working on revising the club's current policies on loaning equipment to members. Several suggestions were made about the program including requiring a deposit, or a small fee from the borrower that could be used to help defray maintenance costs. 8-inch Criterion tele-

scope: Don House (not an AAC member) donated an apparently mint condition Criterion telescope to the club that will be used in the loaner program. Sharon passed out copies of a list of club equipment held by the Observing Committee. She also noted that she will distribute an electronic copy of the spreadsheet to board members in order to identify errors and omissions in the equipment listed. It was also requested by board members that replacement costs be specified for the items on the list. **Recording Secretary, Art Russell.** Minutes from the last board meeting were presented and accepted. **Corresponding Secretary, Keith Burns.** Deadline for submission of articles for publication in the October, 2002, Focal Point is 28 September, 2002. Focal Point Publication Costs: Reproduction costs for this month's Focal Point were cut in half by using a copier at AAC member Mark Bank's office this month. "New Members' Corner:" Board Member, Gil Shilcutt will be writing a monthly column in the Focal Point for new members. He asked that board members provide him with articles and ideas for the column in order to help support the development of the club's new members. **Treasurer, Harry Falise.** Income Statement: Harry distributed and explained an income statement to the board members. He will also distribute a balance sheet by email as soon as possible to further detail the club's financial position. As a further note, the income statement forecasts a fund surplus at the end of the year. Additionally, the Chairman of the Board asked that Harry prepare a Forecast of Future Expenditures to facilitate long range planning and distribute it to the board prior to the next meeting. Harry was also asked to send a Fiscal Report and Balance Sheet to board members and provide board members with budget analysis comparing capital and operating expenses as well projection of budgetary activities. He will investigate investment opportunities and make a recommendation to the Board about club funds currently in savings and checking. Revision of Membership Packet: An error was found on the membership packet that was distributed last month; Harry will revise the packet for future distribution. **Peach State Star Gaze (PSSG) Chairman, Ken Poshedley.** Currently 230 attendees have registered for the PSSG, but only 8 individuals have signed up for the after-PSSG dinner with guest speaker Wil Tirion. KenPo suggested that the AAC logo design should be copyrighted and agreed to research actions necessary to secure the copyright. The PSSG Committee will meet during the week of 23 September at a time and place to be determined in order to cover issues relating to the PSSG. **Programs Chairwoman, Carol Abernathy.** Speakers have been identified for all meetings through June, 2003. Meeting Format. An experimental change to the meeting format was proposed for the October meeting. The experimental addition of three short items of topical interest during the October general meetings were suggested. Each item is to be of a short 2 minute duration to provide a quick focus on that topic: (1) As-

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tronomy 101. A short discussion of a topic of general interest, (2) NASA Minute. A short highlight of NASA related topics, (3) What's Up Tonight. A short highlight of astronomical objects visible in the sky tonight. Bear Simmons and Gil Shilcutt agreed to coordinate incorporation of the new program format items for the October General Meeting and evaluate whether they should be kept as a change to the program format. **Membership Committee, Art Russell.** The 4 August, 2002, Report of the Standing Committee on Membership was submitted to the board and accepted. **Agenda-Old Business. Observing Chairwoman, Sharon Carruthers.** Survey 20 inch telescope at Villa Rica - Action remains open. No significant action has been taken to date on this item. Sharon reports that AAC Member Richard Schmude indicated the west focuser is in its best possible collimation and that the declination and right ascension hand controllers are now working. Reschedule PARI observing event, finalize September observing site - Done. The club will not schedule an observing session at PARI this month or in November because of scheduling difficulties. Tom Crowley observed that as a general rule, PARI typically requires about a three months. Tom agreed to act as the club's go-between when we wish to schedule activities at PARI. Sharon suggested that the club might consider PARI for a Spring '03 observing event. **Treasurer, Harry Falise.** Send Fiscal Report and Balance Sheet to board members - Action remains open. Provide board members with budget analysis comparing capital and operating expenses as well projection of budgetary activities - Action remains open. Investigate investment opportunities and make a recommendation to the Board about club funds currently in savings and checking - Action remains open. **Recording Secretary, Art Russell.** Provide list of capital equipment to Treasurer - Done. Provide paper cutter to support production of membership badges - Done. **Ken Poshedley.** Provide Rich Jakiel with Microsoft Word copy of most recent version of the membership packet - Done. **Rich Jakiel.** Provide membership packet and proposed revisions (introduction) to membership packet revision committee by 26 July, 2002 - Done. Organize and conduct membership packet revision meeting at Villa Rica, 27 July, 2002, at 5PM, irrespective of weather - Done. **Membership Committee.** Present final recommendation on duties and responsibilities of the Membership Committee to the board - Done. **Peter Macumber.** Conduct meeting to produce name badges for the club - Done. **Agenda-New Business.** Atlanta Astronomy Expo. Tom Crowley has not been reimbursed for the costs he incurred in organizing and presenting the Expo. The board agreed unanimously that Tom should be reimbursed for his expenses. **AAC Activities with the Boy Scouts at Woodruff.** Chuck Painter asked for an assessment of the current status of Woodruff and our activities with the Boy Scouts there. Summer Camp Instruction. After Sharon Carruther's observations about the successes and challenges met this summer in teaching astronomy this summer with the

Boy Scouts, John Lentini, noted that the Boy Scouts were satisfied with the current arrangement, but would accept any changes we might wish to make about the format and form of instruction the AAC provides. Board Member, Ken Gabrielson, noted that attendance of AAC instructional activities at Bert Adams this summer were well attended. Facilities Improvements. Improvements to the Woodruff facilities were briefly discussed, but dropped due to discussion of other issues. However, John Lentini indicated that he would research the cost of building additional telescope pads on the observing field. Woodruff Derived Memberships. In response to a question by Gil Shilcutt, John noted that two new members joined the AAC last week because of their activities at Woodruff. **Dark Site.** Bear Simmons addressed his ideas about restarting the club's Dark Sky Committee in order to locate a new dark site for the club that would be solely the property of the AAC. He also noted that involvement in the committee offered an opportunity for new members to become involved in the operation of the club. In further discussion, Rich Jakiel agreed to head the committee. Additionally, Tom Crowley indicated that his research suggests the area around Lake Oconee would offer the best opportunities for a new dark site and that he would provide a copy of his information to the committee. Bear directed that the first order of business for the new committee would be to define its mission statement in a manner similar to the Membership committee. **Documenting AAC Events.** Board Member Rich Jakiel observed that to date the club has no plan for documenting its activities photographically. He agreed to head a committee to correct the problem. **Capital Budget.** AAC Treasurer, Harry Falise, will send the Capital Budget to the Board for its review. Further action was tabled until the next board meeting. **Next Board Meeting.** Tentatively scheduled for 27 October, 2002, at a time and place to be announced by Chuck Painter.

Minutes CE Chapter Meeting Sept 14th

There were 6 chapter members present. The mailbox (log in box) will be moved to a location so that it may be seen and used properly. It will be placed on the entrance drive to the observing field. The current location is on the backside of the field, not easily seen.

Monthly Chapter Meetings at CE are held rain or shine. The observing after the meeting is an added bonus, provided the weather cooperates. It was brought forth that the interim officers should continue their seats for another six months bringing the term to a 12-month period.

The voting issue was also brought forth. That is pending the reviews of the CE Chapter Bylaws. There seems to be a question as to exactly who may vote at chapter meetings. The question of whether we can get a board represented position

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on the BOD was brought up.

The idea to invite the members of F.R.A.C. to the Public Events was also brought before the chapter. For those that may not know, Generators are ok at PSSG (contact Ken Poshedly if any further info is needed). The Visitors Center at CE is unavailable during the month of October. The October meeting will be held, as a "Front Porch Meeting" The CCD presentation by Larry Owens will unfortunately have to be rescheduled to a later date.

The idea to have a presentation on Radio Astronomy was also brought forth. The future meeting of the club are as follows (subject to change) Meeting time are changing due to the time change. October 12th - 6pm Chapter Meeting / Observing after meeting. November 16th 5pm- Chapter Meeting / Leonid Meteor Shower. December 14th - Chapter Meeting / Partial Solar Eclipse for most of North America.

A rousing a thought provoking talk was given by Philip Sacco on the "Essential Nothingness to Space." The book "The One Universe" was highly regarded and suggested as reading for anyone interested in gaining exposure to more than the elementary aspects of visual astronomy.

General Meeting – 20 September, 2002

Approximately 60 members and guests attended the August General Membership Meeting of the AAC held at Emory University's White Hall. "**Bear**" **Simmons, President**, opened the meeting and welcomed 2 new members as well as 5 guests to the evening's meeting. During his welcome, he emphasized the importance of our new members and also the upcoming Peach State Star Gaze (PSSG). The business meeting was short and continues to emphasize Bear's efforts to shorten that portion of our meetings. During the meeting, Bear also presented two certificates of *Spectroscopic Observing Challenges* from *The Forum for Amateur Spectroscopy* to Tom Buchanan. **Art Russell, Membership Committee**, welcomed new members and guests, and emphasized the benefits of membership. He also asked that any of the membership or guests contact the Membership Committee should they have any questions touching on membership in the AAC. **Keith Burns, Astronomical League Representative (AL)**, presented the AL's certificate recognizing successful observation of 70 Caldwell objects to **AAC Member Chuck Painter**. **Joanne Cirincione, PSSG Staff**, asked for volunteers to help with the work behind the scenes at the PSSG. **Ken Poshedly, Peach State Star Gaze Chairman**, reviewed preparations for the upcoming Peach State Star Gaze scheduled for **3-6 October** (see the website for details at: <http://personal.atl.bellsouth.net/atlp/o/poshedly/pssg/index.html>). He also discussed planning for an after PSSG dinner to honor featured speaker Wil Tirion on **7 October**. Additionally, Ken asked that AAC members attending the PSSG volunteer to help run

its various activities. Ken also distributed copies of the first color edition of the *Journal of The Association of Lunar & Planetary Observers*, the cover of which reflected **AAC Member Richard Schmude** receiving the *2002 Walter H. Hass Observing Award* from ALPO honoring his contributions to that organization. **Harry Falise, Treasurer**, noted that all members should now have membership badges and stated that if they did not they should contact him as soon as possible. He also noted that AL dues have been paid. Additionally, as in previous years, as treasurer he will have Astronomy themed calendars for 2003 available for purchase (cost \$6). **Philip Sacco, Charles Elliot Wildlife Management Area (CEWMA) Chapter**, addressed upcoming chapter events and note their interest in scheduling a presentation on Radio Astronomy by **AAC Member Tom Crowley**. **Ken Gabrielson**, conducted a drawing for meeting door prizes which this evening were three collections of postal event covers for astronomy and manned space flight events: (1) Keck telescope, and the 1948 dedication of the Mount Palomar telescope; (2) 1978 Viking program with an autograph by Clyde Tombaugh; and (3) Apollo 12 and 15 covers with an the autograph of Dick Gordon, command pilot for Apollo 12. The drawing also included a 1908 commemoration of Yerkes observatory. **Mark Banks, Sidewalk Astronomy Coordinator**, noted that with the cooler Fall weather, the AAC was again being asked to conduct sidewalk astronomy sessions at local schools, and that he will need volunteers to meet these obligations. He noted the currently scheduled sessions: 11 October, Johnson Elementary School, Cobb County; 21 October, Atlanta Botanical Gardens Moonwalk, Atlanta; 22 November, Murdock Elementary School, East Cobb. **Sharon Carruthers, Observing Chairwoman**, speaking about upcoming speakers, noted that **AAC Member Richard Schmude** would be our featured speaker for October and that **AAC Member Michael Covington** will be our speaker for November. Additionally scheduled are our annual XMAS meeting which will be a potluck dinner at the Bradley Observatory; a January tour of the new Emory University observatory, and a February presentation by television weather personality, Glenn Burns. Sharon also noted the current club observing schedule which is listed elsewhere in this edition of the Focal Point. Sharon went on to introduce the evening's featured speaker, Brian Cudnick, coordinator of the ALPO Lunar Section's Lunar Meteoric Impacts Search, who spoke on *Watching Lunar Meteor Impacts From the Earth's Surface—The Results of Nearly 3 Years of Observing Lunar Meteors*. **Bear** closed the meeting at about 9:45PM and many members met afterwards at Melton's App & Tap on North Decatur Road.

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).

Boy Scout Sidewalk Astronomy Events

There are several sidewalk type events coming up where AAC members are requested to assist with teaching astronomy to scouts and their adult leaders, known as scouters. Anyone who would like to participate should contact John Lentini (johnlentini@yahoo.com) or call 770-984-0175. (Posts to this list will not work.)

Friday, October 18 at Camp Jamison, Scouts and Webelos will be doing night activities all night Friday night.

Saturday, October 19 at Camp Gorman. Cub Scouts and their parents will meet at the observing dome for training at 6 PM and will return for stargazing after their campfire, around 8:30. Both "camps" are in the Bert Adams Scout Reservation near Covington. Skies are slightly lighter than Charlie Elliot, it's about 10 miles due east of there.

Friday or Saturday, October 25 and 26, There is a cub campout in Acworth.

Saturday, November 23. There will be a "Scout Expo" at the Jim Bishop Complex in West Cobb. This is a daytime event. Some solar observing, and showing slides about our club and its activities.

Monday, November 25. Venture Crew at Woodruff. These are older co-ed scouts, ages 16-21.

January 10-12, 2003. the "Scouter's Winter Campout", about 300 adult leaders—no boys—will happen at Woodruff. This is always a good time. The AAC has been there for the last three years.

There are lots of opportunities to observe and spread the word. John Lentini.

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Visit 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@AtlantaAstronomy.org. The Focal-Point web can be entered by using the Username of AAC and a password of **Crux**. These names are case sensitive! Type AAC and **Crux** exactly as you see it here.

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hfalise@imnisp.com

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KGabrielson@aol.com

Board/ Boy Scout Liaison: John Lentini 7-984-0175
johnlentini@yahoo.com

Elliott Chapter Director: Mark House 7-867-7742
mkhz28@yahoo.com

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Note that material you see in the Focal Point has been sent



The Focal Point

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

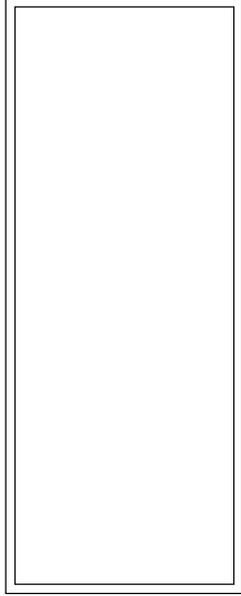
FROM:

Keith Burns
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Marietta, Georgia 30064

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

Atlanta Astronomy Club
PMB 305
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FIRST CLASS



Calendar

October 18th- General Meeting at White Hall on the Emory University Campus. Meeting starts at 8PM. Dr. Richard Schmude will speak about Jupiter.

October 19th- GASP talk and sidewalk astronomy at Cloudland Canyon State Park. Located east of Trenton, Ga. Talk starts about 7PM with telescope viewing to follow.

October 26th- Annual Picnic at Villa Rica. The picnic starts about 2PM. New members orientation scheduled 5PM. Observing in evening with permitting. Few days before third quarter moon.

November 2nd- Deep Sky Observing at Woodruff. Starts at dusk.

November 2nd- GASP Talk and Sidewalk astronomy at Unicoi State Park located north of Helen, Ga. Talk starts at dusk with sidewalk astronomy to follow.

November 9th- Orientation and Open House at the Villa Rica observatory. Special on "How to Buy a Telescope?" Starts at 4PM.

November 15th- General Membership Meeting at Emory University at White Hall. Starts at 8PM.

November 16th- Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting. Starts at 5PM. Meeting at Visitor's Center. Talk by Larry Owens on CCD imaging. Observing Leonid Meteor shower to follow at observing field.

November 16th- GASP sidewalk astronomy at Red Top Mountain State Park located on Lake Allatoona. Leonid Meteor Shower viewing.

December 7th- Deep Sky viewing at Woodruff. Starts at dusk.

Visit the new Charlie Elliott Chapter Website for more information on upcoming meetings and happenings. <http://touchmoon.com/ce/index.shtml>