

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947  
February 2003

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Editor: Keith Burns

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## February General Membership Meeting

Believe it or not - Glenn Burns from WSB-TV is going to be our guest speaker at the February meeting! This has been an event I have tried to book close to a year now. And, bar no unforeseen weather emergencies, he will be at our meeting to discuss weather patterns. Glenn has been an advocate of our club and has helped us enormously by doing "free" advertising of the club's activities.



Glenn will have to be back at the station to do his 11 o'clock weather report, so our meeting will begin promptly at 8:00 (as usual, refreshments will be at 7:30) and we will bypass the usual opening statements until after he has done his presentation. So, all that said, please join us for the presentation, and if you

have any questions for Glenn, I am sure he will be glad to answer them! Thanks and see you on the 21st!

Carol Abernathy Program Chair

## 2003 PEACH STATE STAR GAZE

Now approaching a decade of success, the Peach State Star Gaze proudly celebrates its 10th anniversary this coming October 22-26 with a look towards the future and recognition of the

past. Both include a tradition of top-notch, world-class speakers, workshops, comradery and an effort to sometimes be a little different, with the result being considerable success by the Atlanta Astronomy Club in securing a financial footing to establish dark-sky observing sites in north Georgia.

Building on our past, we are proud to again hold the event at our new site, WhiteWater Express campground in the north Georgia mountains on the Georgia-Tennessee line. The site features much darker skies than our previous location (which itself started out much darker early on). And the huge observing field at WhiteWater Express can accommodate many more observers, plus those who choose to camp at the scope for convenience. For those who choose not to rough it as much, a generous number of sleeping cabins for indoor lodging are scattered throughout the site.



Looking towards the future, we continue our solid foundation of knowledgeable and popular speakers important to those of us in amateur astronomy. Thus, we are proud to present Dr. Brian G. Marsden of the International Astronomical Union as a PSSG 2003 speaker. As director of the IAU's Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams from 1968 to 2000, Brian was responsible for the timely dissemination of information about transient astronomical objects and events. (It was Brian who was contacted by our own Jerry Armstrong and Tim Puckett regarding

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their discovery of the supernova in M51 in April 1994; they were subsequently given first credit for the discovery.)

To bolster that tradition even more, we also present Dr. Richard Schmude, associate professor at Gordon College's Department of Science and Physics (Barnesville, Georgia) and expert on the planet Mars, which will be at its closest apparition with Earth in the past 57,000 years. Dr. Schmude is also an observing coordinator of several sections of the Assn. of Lunar & Planetary Observers (ALPO), which maintains an active network of amateur and professional Solar System observers. Dr. Schmude has spoken both at previous PSSG events and meetings of the Atlanta Astronomy Club where he has been warmly received each time.



But in recognition of the PSSG past, several criteria were used. First, which event put the PSSG “over the top” with a major milestone in attendance? And which PSSG speaker endeared himself to PSSG attenders with patience

in the face of unexpected problems, and which speaker was the first to bring major notoriety to our event from all quarters with his presence?



The answers to all three questions are the year 2000 Peach State Star Gaze, when registrations reached the 300-person level, and the speaker was the author of the world-famous “Atlas of the Moon”, Antonin Rukl, who “kept his cool” when a sudden storm cut power to the PSSG site and 35-degree temperatures set in while he was in the midst of his Saturday afternoon presentation. Thus, we are once again proud to feature Mr. Rukl at our 2003 event as our look back to a major success.

In efforts to “grow” the PSSG and involve more of its attenders, two new features are being added this year. First, an additional day — and night — have been added to the front of the event to accommodate those who wish for extra time to enjoy this solid event. Several folks who travel considerable distances

have asked for this for several years.

Second, a “call-for-presentations” will be issued as part of the registration packet to be mailed later this spring. All those who are pre-registered will be invited to submit an abstract or comprehensive description of a topic they would like to present; a select committee of three judges from the AAC will then review all materials submitted and choose one. The winner will give his or her presentation to officially open the Friday afternoon talks.

With this being the extra-special 10th anniversary PSSG, a full-color cloth patch celebrating the event is being issued and will be presented free to the first 200 persons who pre-register (limit 2 per family). Additional copies of this ceremonial patch will be available for sale at the event itself.

Other improvements include extra toilet facilities at the edge of the observing field, more workshops, a wider selection of astronomy equipment vendors, better food service and more coordinated activities for guests and spouses of PSSG attenders. Plus, we’ll still offer the traditional PSSG program booklet, the “Peach Fuzzies” observing list of “special” objects, the great doorprizes, and the great PSSG teeshirt, each year totally different from the previous years.

And even more work is being done on the event as the dates of the event get closer.

More news about the PSSG will be published in the coming weeks and months on the official website of the Atlanta Astronomy Club at <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org> (click on the link for “PSSG2003”). Plus, all are invited to join the PSSG listserv; simply send a subscribe message to [PSSG-Discussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PSSG-Discussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com), or contact Ken Poshedly at [poshedly@bellsouth.net](mailto:poshedly@bellsouth.net).

As usual, the net proceeds go to helping the Atlanta Astronomy Club develop more dark sky observing sites.

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## Minutes of Meeting CE

Charlie Elliott Chapter /Atlanta Astronomy Club Date of January 25, 2003

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Program Chair Philip Sacco. President Mark House arrived at 7:00 to take over chair of the meeting.

Members present were Bill Snyder, Fred Taylor, Philip Sacco, Art Zorka, Larry Owens, Clevis Jones, Debbie Jones, Alesia Rast, and Mark House. Guests were Mike Soucie, Crystal Watson and Gene Wands.

Alesia Rast reported on the progress being made concerning the creation of an Amateur Telescope Making facility at CE. Plans are to use an old storage building as a workshop. The building is still full of stored objects and a place must be found

*Continued on the next page.*

for them. She is continuing to look for a way to empty the building, as it is perfect for our needs.

Alesia is remaining in contact with the local schools to keep them aware of our interest in Sidewalk Astronomy presentations. We look forward to an active relationship with them.

Alesia again reminded us that the park safety officers have found the remains of campfires on a field adjoining the observing field. Although there is no proof, thoughts were that these fires were the work of astronomers because such care was taken to keep the area clean. We were reminded that except in designated areas, open fires are forbidden at the CEWMA. Anyone with information concerning these fires are asked to contact one of the chapter officers or Alesia Rast at 770-784-3059.

Members discussed plans for future meetings. The next meeting will be on February 22. Tentative program will be a presentation by Tom Crowley on Radio Astronomy. March 29th program is still to be announced.

April 26th program topic is on Niribu, also known as Planet X, and will be presented by Philip Sacco. Phil tells us that this object is scheduled to come within 1 million miles of Earth's orbit on May 5th. He says that it is quite large and should appear as a second moon in the sky. Planet X is the stuff of which legends are made and has quite extensive coverage on the internet, including the NASA website. The program will be an interesting one.

May 24th program will be a continuation of a discussion of Planet X, along with reports and photographs from those who observed the phenomenon, if any.

All meetings begin at 7:00pm at the Welcome Center. All programs are followed by a trip to the observing field and an evening of stargazing and astro-imaging, weather permitting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm followed by a presentation by Art Zorka and Phil Sacco on the RA/Dec. grid and the use of equatorial mounts. Stars were projected onto the ceiling and walls by Art's 45 year old "Spitz Junior Planetarium". The telescope was provided by Fred Taylor.

Art Zorka, Secretary

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## Woodruff Combination Change

I was up at Woodruff yesterday and successfully changed the combination lock for access to the Power box. The combination to the 24" remains unchanged. The power box also is holding both keys (one for the warmup shed, one for the cabin up the road). The rangers have been informed.

If you are a member of the Atlanta Astronomy Club and have signed the Woodruff release form and would like the new combination, please contact Chuck Painter, Bear Simmons, Sharon Carruthers, Harry Falise, or John Lentini.

Other doings at Woodruff: There is now a nice gas heater installed on the back wall of the warmup shed which should make the place habitable on even the coldest of nights. There is a working phone. The phone number is 706-781-2238. Please note that outgoing direct long distance calls are blocked. If you're up there and need to call back

to town, you'll need a calling card, 800 number, or some other method.

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## Astronomical League



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).

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 **\$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:**

Atlanta Astronomy Club  
PMB 305  
3595 Canton Road A9  
Marietta, Georgia 3006

**Treasurer's address is:**

Harry Falise AAC  
4300 Jimmy Carter Blvd, Apt #107  
Norcross, Georgia 30093

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.

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## 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@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:pmacumber@AtlantaAstronomy.org). The Focal-Point web can be entered by using the Username of **AAC** and a password of **Moon**. These names are case sensitive! Type **AAC** and **Moon** exactly as you see it here.

## Board of Directors Meeting – 12 Jan, 2003

**General.** AAC Chairman of the board, Chuck Painter, called the meeting into order at 3:15PM and closed the meeting at approximately 5:15PM. AAC members attending were Bear Simmons, Sharon Carruthers, Harry Falise, John Lentini, Chuck Painter, Carol Abernathy, Keith Burns, Ken Gabrielson, and Art Russell. **Actions.** The following actions were decided during the meeting. **President, Bear Simmons.** Investigate possibility of locating the AAC Library in Books and Bytes book store. **Vice President – Programs, Carol Abernathy.** Investigate possibility of locating the AAC Library in Emory University's new science center with Richard Willamon. **Vice President - Observing, Sharon Carruthers.** Investigate possibility of locating the AAC Library in Fernbank Science Center's Library in a mutual use arrangement. Revise and publish guidelines for the club's Loaner Telescope Program; complete hand receipt. Return of 8" Celestron telescope on long-term loan to an AAC member. Coordinate survey and repair of the Villa Rica 20 inch telescope. Coordinate actions to bring about AAC observation of Astronomy Day. **Treasurer, Harry Falise.** Provide detailed discussion of the budget at the next board meeting. **Officer's Reports. President – Bear Simmons.** Bear is pleased with the turnout for the club's annual Christmas party that was held at Agnes Scott College's Bradley Observatory. He also noted that AAC Member Joanne Cirincione has been asked by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific to help provide advice on materials for a forthcoming educational project they are undertaking. **Vice President – Programs, Carol Abernathy.** Christmas Party. Carol is pleased with the club's annual Christmas although there was some confusion concerning the time of the event. Discussed were the difficulties and limitations of scheduling the Annual Banquet and Christmas Parties on Friday nights as is the current practice. The board decided that the 2003 Annual Banquet and Christmas Banquet will be scheduled on a Saturday evening during their appropriate times of year. The board will monitor attendance and member satisfaction with the change and if supported will move to permanently schedule these events on Saturday evenings going forward. **Vice President - Observing, Sharon Carruthers.** Over 150 adult Scout leaders attended the event hosted by the Atlanta Astronomy Club at the Woodruff observatory. Planning is currently underway for this year's GASP year events. An informal meeting was scheduled to take place after the January general meeting to continue developing the schedule. Loaner Telescope Program; Sharon is working to create a new hand receipt to record and control use of club loaner equipment. She also provided a revised accounting of club loaner equipment. One of the club's telescopes has been on long-term loan to an AAC member. Sharon is working its return. Survey and Repair of the Villa Rica 20 inch telescope; No action has taken place to date. However, Sharon has scheduled a survey session to coincide with the club's 25

January Open House and Orientation at Villa Rica. A Celestron C14 telescope has been offered to the club. Sharon is working the details. Astronomy Day. The club has made no effort to observe Astronomy Day for the past several years. Sharon will coordinate a club effort to observe the 2003 Astronomy Day which will occur on 10 May. She also noted that there will be a total Lunar eclipse on 15 May. **Corresponding Secretary, Keith Burns.** The club is mailing fewer physical copies of the Focal Point as more members take the newsletter by email. This has resulted in a reduction in production costs and a lower burden on the budget. **Recording Secretary, Art Russell.** Minutes from the 27 October, 2002 board meeting were presented and accepted. **Treasurer, Harry Falise.** The Treasurer's report was deferred until the next meeting of the board. **Old Business.** Dark Sky Site. Although no significant meetings have taken place, it was the sensing of the board that the concept of a new dark site, while generally accepted among the more advanced observers, must still be sold to the general membership. **New Business.** AAC Library. Discussed were ideas addressing reestablishing the AAC's club library. Key questions issues concerned the location of the library and how it would be used to meet the members' needs. The Nominating Committee for the 2003-2004 elections was formed. Corresponding Secretary, Keith Burns, and Board Member, John Lentini, agreed to serve on the nominating committee. One position remains to be filled. **Next Board Meeting.** 23 February, 2003, in the Druid Chase Office Complex meeting room. Primary topic for discussion will be the club's budget.

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

## NEW MEMBERS FOR JANUARY

We're off to a great start in 2003 with 13 new members in January (that's 23 family members!). I've included equipment for those that requesting help in using it. If you think you can help, please send them a message. Thanks.

Helmut Stadlbauer [renhelm@aol.com](mailto:renhelm@aol.com); Peterkin Family (Scott, Rachel & Barbara) [martlet@mindspring.com](mailto:martlet@mindspring.com) Astroscan; Jeb Bell [jebbell@equipmentcontrols.com](mailto:jebbell@equipmentcontrols.com); Mike Soucie [msoucie@cdc.gov](mailto:msoucie@cdc.gov); Marinda Graham [marinda.graham@yahoo.com](mailto:marinda.graham@yahoo.com) Orion 8" Dob; Connie Guinta [Connie.Guinta@agg.com](mailto:Connie.Guinta@agg.com) Meade Starfinder; Sid & Lynn Williams [swillia4@bellsouth.net](mailto:swillia4@bellsouth.net) ETX 125; Jodee Nagle [jodeesworld@mindspring.com](mailto:jodeesworld@mindspring.com) 3" Refractor & 6" Newtonian; Dave & Carolyn Bard [davebard@aol.com](mailto:davebard@aol.com) 60mm Refractor; Ramon San Andres [ramonsa@alumni.haas.org](mailto:ramonsa@alumni.haas.org) 8" Dobsonian; Bussey Family (Bill, Kathy, Christi & Chip) [wbussey@mindspring.com](mailto:wbussey@mindspring.com);

Callahan Family (Larry, Laura and Taylor) [larrydelr@aol.com](mailto:larrydelr@aol.com) Meade 10" SCT Caty; Brett & Valerie Manley [mckaylik@yahoo.com](mailto:mckaylik@yahoo.com) Interested in Sidewalk Astronomy.

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## Invisible Tornadoes

By Tony Phillips

The biggest problem with tornados-next to the swirling 300-mph winds-is that it's hard to see them coming.

But soon scientists will be able to foresee, not merely tornados, but the severe storms that spawn them, hours before there's even a cloud in the sky! Mind you, this isn't a vague "30 percent chance of rain today" type forecast. Thanks to a new

satellite technology being co-developed by NASA, NOAA and the U.S. Navy, emergency personnel will actually watch the invisible beginnings of a storm unfold.

"They're going to know where the storm centers are forming before the storms are there," says James Miller, project manager for Earth Observing 3 (EO3), a satellite that will test out this new technology in 2005 or 2006.

Unlike the tiny water droplets that make up clouds, the water vapor that feeds storms is invisible to the human eye. Water vapor is easy to detect, however, at infrared (IR) wavelengths. EO3 will use an IR-sensitive device called GIFTS-short for Geosynchronous Imaging Fourier Transform Spectrometer-to make 3D movies of temperature, pressure, and water vapor in Earth's atmosphere.

Three or four hours before the storm clouds are visible, meteorologists will notice water vapor converging toward an area. This water vapor, which provides the "fuel" for the coming storm, is too close to the ground for today's weather satellites to see. Then meteorologists will check precisely how the air temperature over that area varies vertically (something else ordinary satellites can't do). This temperature variation determines whether the humid air will rise to form storm clouds. And when these conditions look ominous, the meteorologists can alert the public.

The goal of EO3 is to "test drive" this new technology and prove that it works. If successful, NOAA plans to incorporate GIFTS-style sensors into its next generation of weather satellites.

These future satellites will give meteorologists exactly what they need in order to give the people exactly what *they* need:

an earlier warning that tornados may be on the way.

GIFTS and EO3 are managed by NASA's New Millennium Program. NASA and NOAA will operate EO3 during its first year in geosynchronous orbit above the United States. If the technology works as planned, the U.S. Navy will assume control of EO3, move the satellite to a point above the Indian Ocean, and use it to monitor weather in shipping lanes there.

For adults, the EO3 web site at <http://nmp.jpl.nasa.gov/eo3> has more about the mission and the GIFTS instrument. For children, The Space Place web site at [spaceplace.nasa.gov/eo3\\_compression.htm](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/eo3_compression.htm) has a jazzy, interactive "squishy ball" demo of the data compression methods that will



IMAGE CAPTION: *This severe tornado hit south of Dimmitt, Texas, on June 2, 1995.*

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be used on EO3.

*This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*



Night shot taken of the Von Braun Astronomical Society Observatory. Shot taken during a full moon.



Picture of M-45 taken by Dan Ford. Taken while down at Chiefland Astronomy Village.

## Tales from the Villa Rica Logbook

The following has been taken from the logbook that is permissibly stationed out at the Villa Rica observatory. I didn't make these up either. They are indeed real. This is what happens when you try to write at early hours, late hours, or any hours.

Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, 1997

Joanne Cirincione and Gil Shillcutt at dusk—In this chapter, Gil subjects Joanne to the abject horror of Deep-Sky astrophotography. Barking dogs in the distance marked her retreat.....

Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, 1998

Keith and Peter here to lay new floor in observatory. Now we know where the dead bodies are buried!

Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, 1998

The smallest orientation crowd ever. The total number of one dedicated soul showed up. I can't understand why no one else would show up on such a wonderful evening. What's a FEW Clouds and RAIN? After 30 minutes wait, I shall go elsewhere.

July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1998

Visiting from Adelaide, South Australia, An. C. Beresford. FRAS, FBIS, Hon Life member ASSA.

Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, 1998

And it came to pass. The observing chairman brought fourth the new 12 inch scope. WOW!! It is heavy.

Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, 1998

Visiting after the "Golden Budda" a rare sign-in by Alex Langoussis, Tracy Wilson, Peter Macumber, Sharon Carruthers (& David), Gil Shillcutt, and Phil Harrington, who says, "Great Scope, sorry I brought the clouds!"

Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, 1998

Keith and Gil checked out 20 inch scope. Secondary mirror holder bolt bent slightly. Primary mirror now centered with spider. Took secondary mirror home to get it fixed.

Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 1998

Secondary took the secondary to the 20" scope! What has happened??? This is a serious problem the 20 inch is inoperable! ALERT

Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 1999

Observing chairman extraordinaire here to do some lunar observing with Maksitov in Bowman Dome. Nailed one lunar dome but failed on two others. Repeated unwanted advances by clouds brings this session to an end. #@@#@##@

Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999

CONJUNCTION IN THE SNOW!!!

*Continued on next page.*

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.

Date unknown

TRACY- Collimation Looks so Fine!! Sooo Fine!! How FINE??  
OH- OOOOHHH SOO FINE!!

Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 1999

Stef's 4 inch TAK Kicked proverbial butt..!!! Paul DiBono had 10 inch Meade LX-50 set up. Keith Burns had Rainmaker set up. Charles played with electricity wires for a while.

Sept 27<sup>th</sup>, 2000

Observing on a weekend! (woo). Looked like a good deepsky nite. But the jet stream got pissy and lots of funky cirrus clouds showed up. There was no joy in mudville....

Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001

Keith Burns says seeing "sucks"! Peter & Sharon; Chuck and Delaine Painter; Dan Ford.

Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, 2000

AAAAAH.... Hello partially written logbook. Have you seen all the observers using this scope? We look for things. Things that make stuff glow.

Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001

SHIPS!!! LOG!!! Stardate Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Out to visit the 10 inch.....scope. More planet viewing. Why? WHY NOT!!! I have successfully viewed and sketched Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn. Saw five moons of Saturn and know which ones they are finally. 10 inch needed a bit of tweeking. So I made the executive decision to fix it without approval. End result. Problem fixed. ALL BETTER NOW!! I'm waiting for the moon to clear the trees. Will catch a few views and then leave. Jim Taylor and family here. They are using his 6 or 8 inch SCT. I can't tell what it is in the dark.

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999

Rich Jakiel and Dave Riddle. Looked at an assortment of painfully faint and difficult objects. Hightlight was Art's "NED 211".

Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1997

Brian Skiff comes to talk, visit, eat, and VIEW! Philip Sacco, Chrissy Mondell, Ken Poshedly, Douglas Deal, Harry Falise, Brian A. Skiff, Rich Jakiel, Keith J. Burns, Phil Bracken.

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## QUICK QUIZ !!

What Italian astronomer, better known for his studies of a planet, was the first person to correlate the passage of comets with meteor storms?

ANS: In 1866, Giovanni Virginio Schiaparelli, correlated the 1862 passage of Comet Swift-Tuttle with the Perseid meteor showers. Schiaparelli was made more famous by his studies of Mars, where he mapped canals that did not exist.

### AAC Contacts

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## *The Focal Point*

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

FROM:

Keith Burns

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

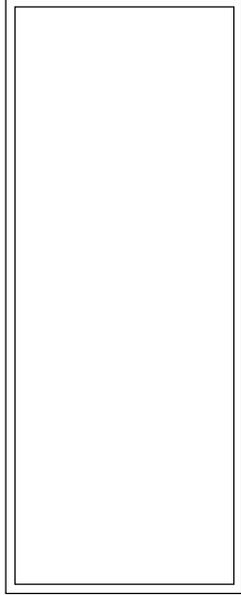
Atlanta Astronomy Club

PMB 305

3595 Canton Road A9

Marietta, GA 30066

**FIRST CLASS**



### Calendar

**February 21st- General Membership Meeting.** Starts at 8PM. Meteorologist Glenn Burns to give talk. White Hall Building at Emory University Campus.

**February 22nd- Meeting of Charlie Elliott Chapter** of AAC. Meeting starts at 7PM. Location is the Welcome Center at CEWMA. Observing to follow meeting at observing field. Speaker is Tom Crowley who will talk about Radio Astronomy.

**February 23rd- AAC Board Meeting.** Starts at 3PM. Location is Carol's office. Contact Chuck Painter or Carol Abernathy for directions and other information.

**March 1st- Work Party** during the daytime. Contact John Lentini or Sharon Carruthers for more information.

**March 1st- Dark Sky Observing** at Woodruff.

**March 8th- Open House and Orientation.** To be held at our Villa Rica Observatory.

**March 21st- General Membership Meeting.** Starts at 8PM. Refreshments from 7:30PM to 7:55PM. Speaker TBA.

**March 22nd- Open House** at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Area.

**March 29th- Charlie Elliott Chapter AAC meeting.** Meeting to be held at the welcome center. Starts at 7PM. Observing to follow at field. Speaker TBA.

**April 5th- Deep Sky Observing** at Woodruff BSC near Blue Ridge, Ga.

**April 18th- General Membership Meeting** of the AAC. Starts at 8PM. Location and speaker TBA.

**April 26th- Charlie Elliott Chapter** of the AAC meeting. Starts at 7PM. Speaker Philip Sacco. Topic of talk on Planet X aka Niribu.

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

#### 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](mailto:Keith_B@bellsouth.net). You can submit articles any-time up and including the deadline date. The **deadline** for the **March issue** is **March 2nd**.