

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947  
May 2003

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Editor: Keith Burns

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## May General Membership Meeting

This month the meeting will take place on the Emory University Campus. The exact location is White Hall Building located across the street from the new Math and Science Building. The date of the meeting is Friday May 16th. Refreshments and general socializing takes place from 7:30 PM to 7:55 PM. Meeting starts at 8 PM.



Speaking this month is club member Jerry Armstrong. A gifted realistic space artists. He paints space scenes as they really are. Not what we wish them to be. Jerry will treat us to many of his great stories while completing a painting. A man of many interests. He collects fossils, meteorites, and astronomy atlases. Jerry has observed almost 200 comets in a telescope and has dis-

covered several himself. Discovered supernovas with partner Tim Puckett back in the 1990's. He is a Veteran of the Vietnam war and recently retired from the Cobb County Fire Department.

Following Jerry's presentation we will have our annual elections for officers and board members. Here is the slate for this year. President 1) Jim Moore 2) Philip Sacco. Vice President Speaker Chair 1) Rich Jakiel. Vice President Observing Chair 1) Dan Llewellyn. Recording Secretary 1) Julie Moore. Corresponding Secretary 1)? Treasurer 1) Michael Nischan. Three Board positions for two year term. 1) Mark Banks 2) Mike Boni 3) Bridgitte Fessele. One board position for a one year term to replace Rich Jakiel 1) Alex Langoussis.

## Nominations for May Elections

By Keith Burns

Positions open for the elections include President, Vice President (Speaker Chair), Vice President (Observing Chair), Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter Editor), and Treasurer. There will also be 3 board positions with a two year term. Plus one board position to replace seat left vacant by Rich Jakiel who is running for speaker chairman. This final position is for a one year term only.

If you are interested in or want to run for one of these positions, contact one of us. If you are curious about one of these positions and need more information, please contact me or Tom or John. Is there someone else you would like to nominate for one of these positions? Again please contact us.

I can be reached through email or phone at [Keith\\_B@Bellsouth.net](mailto:Keith_B@Bellsouth.net) and phone # 770-427-1475 evenings. John Lentini via email at [johnlentini@yahoo.com](mailto:johnlentini@yahoo.com) phone 770-984-0175. Tom Crowley via email at [crowleytj@hotmail.com](mailto:crowleytj@hotmail.com)

The only qualification for running for a position is that you be a good member in standing. Make sure those membership dues have been paid.

As of May 5th, we are still looking for someone to run for Corresponding Secretary(Newsletter Editor). This position will become vacant when the new officers take over June 1st officially the current editor is retiring.

The slate is included in the May Meeting announcement on this page. Nominations can also be accepted from the floor night of elections according to the Bylaws. If you want to review the bylaws, a copy of them was provided to each club member in *Continued on next page.*

the most recent member handbook you received either via mail or email.

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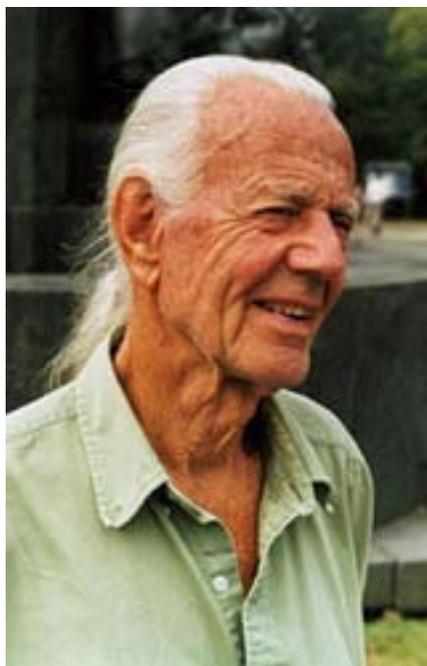
## John Dobson – Tuesday May 13th

The AAC will be hosting a special “sidewalk astronomy” event at Fernbank Science Center (on Heaton Park Rd), Tuesday May 13 at 7:30p.m. Our special guest will be John Dobson, the creator of the “Dobsonian” (or as her prefers it called, the alt-az) telescope; and the father of “sidewalk astronomy”. Sidewalk astronomy the concept taking your telescopes to the streets where the people are, rather than have them come to you.

John was born in Peking, China, on September 14, 1915. His family moved to San Francisco in 1927. He took a degree in Chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley in 1943, and worked in a defense-related job for a year until he became a monk of the Ramakrishna Order and joined the Vedanta Monastery in San Francisco.

He spent 23 years in the Monastery, where he built his first telescope, (a small refractor made with salvaged optical parts), because he wanted to see for himself what the universe looked like. When a fellow monks told him that it was possible to grind a telescope mirror, John made his first mirror out of a marine-salvage 12 “ porthole glass in 1956. When he looked at the third-quarter moon with his finished telescope, he was surprised and deeply moved by what he saw. His first thought was, “Everybody’s got to see this.” John was transferred to the Vedanta Monastery in Sacramento in 1958, where he became seriously involved in telescope making. The first telescope he made at Sacramento was a 5" reflector; the mirror made from the cut-out bottom of a discarded gallon jug.

After 23 years as a monk, he was thrown out of the monastery



in 1967, not because he was making telescopes, but because they couldn’t imagine that he wasn’t up to something more. Every clear night, he set his telescopes up on a San Francisco street corner where John talked about astronomy to the thousands of people who peered through his telescopes. He supported himself by teaching classes in telescope-making and astronomy at the Jewish Community Center, and at the

California Academy of Sciences, where he still teaches.

In 1968, the San Francisco Sidewalk Astronomers was formed to take astronomy to National Parks and Monuments, Indian reservations, and out of the country to places where “dark skies and the public collide”. Sidewalk astronomy clubs have set up in several cities, made up of people who would rather show the skies to others than observe by themselves.

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## JAKES Day Festival

*By Mark House Charlie Elliot Chapter Director*

It’s that time of year again. Charlie Elliot Wildlife Management Area is having its annual Outdoor Festival & JAKES Day. It will take place on Saturday, May 17, 2003, from 10 am until 2 pm. They will also have a tent set up to sell hamburgers and hotdogs.

This is an event that is designed to educate the general public about the many aspects of wildlife and outdoor opportunities. As we all know, our love for the skies always takes us to the outdoors where we can enjoy the skies as well as the nature that surrounds us. This is a great chance to introduce the public to the Atlanta Astronomy Club.

Phillip Sacco and I will be representing the club on that day. We will be handing out flyers, answering questions and so forth. This year, we plan to have a more interactive booth than we had last year (of course with the weather there was not much we could do).

We will have a telescope setup with a solar filter so that the public can get a chance to look at the Sun and its spots. We will also have a laptop with some Astronomy software (Starry Night and Deep Space Explorer) that we can demonstrate to the public.

So if you have that day free, stop by and say hello and enjoy all of the other activities that will be there. It is a great time for the whole family.

“May the stars of heavenly delight shine upon you tonight”

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## Berry O. Pyron (1922 - 2002)

*By Lenny Abbey*

Another of our founding members has passed away. Berry Pyron was at our first meeting and remained an active member until the mid-seventies. He died on December 2, 2002.

Tall and thin, possessed of the sharpest mind I have ever encountered, Berry was our club’s “intellectual.” If you ever needed a technical question answered, you went to Berry. He always knew the answer.

Berry never owned a telescope, but he was an active attendee of our early observing parties. He loved gadgets and unusual mechanical devices. He had a monstrous Swiss wristwatch

*Continued on the next page.*



with a multitude of dials. It even showed the phases of the Moon. This was pretty unusual for 1948. He used a Minox camera, but for more serious work liked to take pictures in stereo, using the only such camera ever marketed in this country, a Kodak. At one time he had the 5-place log and trig tables microfilmed, and laminated in plastic. These he carried in his

shirt pocket, and with a magnifying glass he was able to do any mathematical calculations which his genius required – on the spot! He had one of the first battery-operated transistor radios in Atlanta. It was built into a plastic cigarette box, and he carried it in his shirt pocket.

From about 1955 until the mid-70's Berry operated a book sales table at AAC meetings. In those days books on astronomy were not easy to find in Atlanta. Berry would scour the bookstores each month, and purchase the books that he thought would be of interest to Club members. He sold them at cost. This operation was quite popular, and sales were brisk.

An inveterate bachelor, he finally succumbed to marriage when in his fifties. Sadly his wife, Amy, passed away exactly two months after his death. Further details of his life are available in his Atlanta Journal-Constitution obituary, which I have saved on this site. If you ever met Berry, you will miss him; if not, you missed something in this life.

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## Astronomical League News

ALCON 2003 in Nashville, Tennessee is fast approaching. For additional information, again, please see the League's web site [Matt Ganis, our webmaster, is doing



outstanding work keeping the League website updated with timely news]. July 8-12 will be here very soon, and we hope to see you at ALCON.

We are making great progress with the ISS Amateur Telescope project. In addition, our first ever, national office is now open in Kansas City. Stand by for additional news announcements on these projects.

As an all volunteer organization, we appreciate all you are doing for astronomy. If you'd like to volunteer at the national level, please let me know. Currently, we are looking for a League press officer. Wishing you all clear skies, bright stars, and good observing, Bob Gent President, Astronomical League [www.astroleague.org](http://www.astroleague.org) An educational federation of 270+ astronomical societies.

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:**

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Peter Macumber AAC  
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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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## Atlanta Area Astronomy Listserv

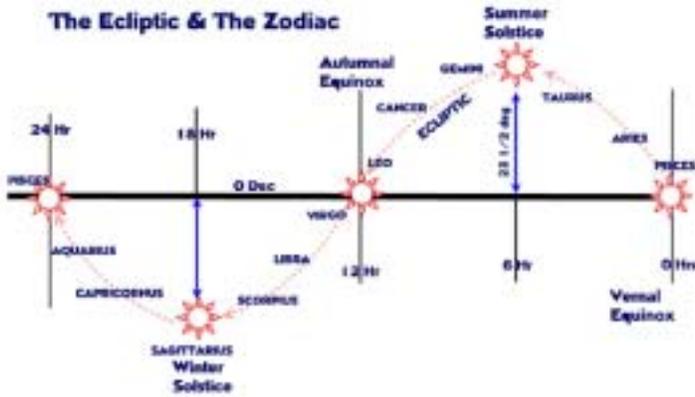
If you have email access with a computer, then you can subscribe to the Atlanta Area Astronomy Listserv. This is a source for up to the minute info on observing events. You can also post questions about astronomy. You can talk to fellow astronomers about the hobby.

Subscribe to the Atlanta Area Astronomy 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.

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## The Astronomical League

As a member of the AAC, you are automatically a member of the Astronomical League. AL for short. I am the ALCOR for the club. My job is to relay information from the AL to our membership. The AL consists of a national organization. Members in the AL include individuals and other astronomy clubs. Check out the website for the AL at [www.astroleague.org](http://www.astroleague.org) to see what they offer. You also get the AL newsletter called The Reflector four times a year. If you have any questions about the AL, please contact me at either [Keith\\_B@Bellsouth.net](mailto:Keith_B@Bellsouth.net) or phone at 770-427-1475.



The +23 ½ deg point marks the *Summer Solstice*; the -23 ½ deg is the *Winter Solstice*. (“*Solstice*” means as “Sun stops or ceases”, because it seems the Sun stops in its upward/downward movement, then changes direction).

The two points where the Sun crosses the CE are the *Vernal and Autumnal (Fall) Equinoxes*. (“*Equinox*” means equal day & night. The Sun is right over the Earth’s equator during these times and if not for the atmosphere of the Earth bouncing light around the Earth’s terminator, making our morning and evening twilights, day & night would be 12 hours long). The *Vernal Equinox*, when the Sun crosses the CE is 0 Hours RA, and the beginning of spring.

As kids we are told that you cannot see your shadow at noon, because the Sun is overhead. This is only true if you are within the +/- 23 ½ deg belt around the Earth’s Equator;

## The Sky 101: A Beginners Introduction

### Part III: The Zodiac & The Astronomer

We now have the Earth inside a Celestial Sphere that rotates clock-wise and divided into a grid made up of lines of Declination and Right Ascension.

When we look at a model of the Solar System, the planets all orbit off the equatorial plane of the Solar System (except Pluto). If the equators of the Earth, CS and the Solar System were all lined up, things would be nice & neat but a lot less pleasant on the Earth!

Instead the Earth’s Equator and the CE are tilted 23 ½ deg off the Solar System’s equator. As the Earth orbits the Sun, the North Pole always points to the same place on the CS, ½ deg off the star Polaris. The Sun shines on the Northern Hemisphere during our summer; and on the Southern during our winters, giving us our seasons, and a nice temperate climate.

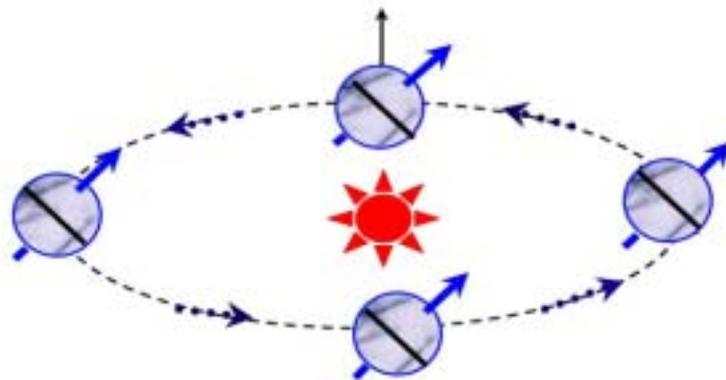
If we project the Sun’s apparent movement against the CS for a year, it seems to rise to a maximum of 23 ½ deg above the CE, fall downward and cross it, and continue falling to a maximum of -23 ½ deg below the CE, then rise upward again.

The Sun’s apparent path around the CS is called the *Ecliptic* (the region in which eclipses occur). As it moves through the CS, it crosses in front of twelve constellations of the Zodiac (from “zoo”, a menagerie of animals). Actually, it also moves through a 13<sup>th</sup> constellation, Ophiuchus, which is not officially in the Zodiac. (In astrology, your “Sun Sign” designates the constellation the Sun was sitting on top of at your time of birth.)

and only at the times of the year when the Sun is overhead at that latitude. You may also have studied about the *Tropics of Cancer & Capricorn* during history. These latitudes on Earth are where the Sun will be overhead during the *Solstices*, and were named for the constellations the *Solstices* occurred in 2,000 years ago.

But things change. When the grid system was first created by the Greeks over 2,000 years ago, things were a bit different. The Earth has a wobble, like a top as it slows down, that causes the North Pole to trace out a circle in the sky over 26,000 years. This “wobble” is called the “*Precession of the Equinox*”. It causes our RA/Dec “grid” on the CS to shift westward over time.

Over 2,000 years ago, Thuban in Draco, was the pole star. The



*Continued on the next page.*

*Vernal Equinox* was in Aries; and was sometimes called “*The First Point in Aries*” and designated on sky maps with a ram’s head symbol. Today, the *Vernal Equinox* is in Pisces and moving towards Aquarius. This is why star charts are based on a date, as the *Tirion 2000*, which fixes star positions at their location on the grid in the year 2,000 A.D.

It is also why the musical **Hair** celebrated the ‘dawning of the Age of Aquarius’. It was a reference to the *Vernal Equinox* entering Aquarius, which will be complete by 2013. So in ten years, brace yourself for some “harmony & understanding, mystic crystal revelations, and the mind’s true liberation...”

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## AAC Board of Directors Meeting – 27 April, 2003

**General.** AAC Chairman of the board, Chuck Painter, called the meeting into order at 3:05PM and closed the meeting at approximately 5:15PM. AAC members attending were Bear Simmons, Sharon Carruthers, Peter Macumber, Chuck Painter, Carol Abernathy, Keith Burns, Rich Jakiel, Ken Poshedley, and Art Russell. **Actions.** The following actions were decided during the meeting. **Chairman of the Board, Chuck Painter.** Take steps to ensure the AAC’s timely payment of Federal Income Taxes. **Vice President - Observing, Sharon Carruthers.** Continue development of the Scope Loaner Program and equip each loaner scope with two eyepieces. Long-Term Loan of Celestron C14 to the AAC; Continue actions to properly support, maintain, and make the C14 available for the club’s use as a permanently mounted scope. Recommend to the 2003-2004 AAC Board of Officers: “The board should provide serious consideration to building a permanent facility at the Woodruff observatory site in which to house the offered C14.” Library; Collate and organize the library pending final decision about its location. Continue Woodruff improvement projects. Villa Rica Light Pollution; Continue to work towards reduction of light shining on the Barber Observatory from new home owners neighboring the property. 20 Inch Telescope repair efforts continue. **Vice President – Programs, Carol Abernathy.** Inquire about housing the AAC Library in the new Emory University Science Building. **DarkSky Search Committee.** AAC Board Member, Rich Jakiel, and AAC Member, Tom Crowley are pursuing leads on property that might be available for the creation of a new AAC DarkSky Observatory.

**Officer’s Reports. President – Bear Simmons.** Bear is working with Tom Buchanan on creation and distribution of light pollution literature to governmental bodies that may have responsibilities bearing on abatement of light pollution. 22 packets have been distributed to date. Bear also noted that the club’s annual elections are coming at the next general meeting of the AAC. **Vice President – Programs, Carol Abernathy.** Carol reports that the Annual Banquet was well received. Jerry Armstrong will be the speaker for the May general meeting.

June and July speakers have not been identified at this date, but Mitsy Adams has agreed to speak at the August general meeting. **Vice President - Observing, Sharon Carruthers.** There will be no official AAC events recognizing Astronomy Day. The AAC will host an evening with John Dobson at Fernbank Science Center on Tuesday, 13 April, 2003, at 7:30PM. It is planned that observing will be a part of the presentation as John Dobson prefers a hands-on approach to his presentation. Maintenance and repair needs to be done to the 8 inch scope dome. Sharon has purchased primer and paint for the purpose, but needs interested parties to help make it happen. Sharon has also proposed moving the 24 inch Tectron temporary to a central location in Atlanta in order to simplify training and certification with the expectation that the scope will be returned to Woodruff as soon as training is completed for those members of the club that are interested. **Nominating Committee – Keith Burns.** Keith published the slate for the 2003 elections: President; Jim Moore and Philip Sacco. Vice President Programs; Rich Jakiel. Vice President Observing; Dan Lewellyn. Treasurer; Michael Nischan. Recording Secretary; Julie Moore. **Corresponding Secretary; Vacant.** Board Members; Mike Boni, Mark Banks, and Bridgitte Fessele. In the event Rich Jakiel is elected to serve as Vice President – Programs, Alex Langoussis has agreed to serve out Rich’s remaining year as a board member.

**Old Business. Chairman of the Board, Chuck Painter.** Chuck presented the AAC’s 2003 Budget for board approval. The budget approved in two parts; as an Operating Budget, and as a Capital Budget. **New Business. AAC Treasurer, Peter Macumber.** Peter proposed revising the classes of membership Most importantly, the proposal creates a new class of membership, the “Life Member.” The proposal was accepted after discussion. **Next Board Meeting.** No date has been set for the next board meeting. Submitted by Recording Secretary, Art Russell.

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## GASP Dates for May

Special announcement. There are two events scheduled for May. 1st is Saturday May 10th. We will do sidewalk astronomy at Florence Marina State Park. This park is located about an hour south of Columbus, Georgia. 2nd is Memorial Weekend which is May 24th. This time the GASP group visits Cloudland Canyon State Park. Sidewalk astronomy follows a short talk.

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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.

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## Volunteers Needed Woodruff & Bert Adams

It's once again that time when I ask AAC members to make the ultimate sacrifice, and try to do astronomy in the Georgia Summer, with Boy Scouts. It's the "rent" we apy for having access to Woodruff (which has been recently improved with the addition of four new concrete pads.)

There is a new Nature Staff Director at Woodruff who LIKES the idea of astronomy, and we have decided to have a regular MONDAY night program there. If anyone wants to volunteer to go up on any other night, we can make those arrangements as well, but we want to cover each Monday for nine weeks in June, July and early August.

For Bert Adams, there are three weeks of camp in June to cover, plus some three day camps in July. Who wants to sign up? Contact John via email at [johnlentini@yahoo.com](mailto:johnlentini@yahoo.com). or phone at 770-984-0175.

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## Eggs in the Air

By Patrick L. Barry

The sky will be filled with flying eggs on May 10, 2003, when a thousand students converge on The Plains, Virginia, for the first-ever national high school rocketry competition.

Called the Team America Rocketry Challenge (<http://www.rocketcontest.org>), the competition sets the goal of flying a custom-built, two-stage rocket carrying two raw eggs to a height of exactly 1,500 feet, and then returning the eggs to the ground unbroken. The team that comes closest to 1,500 feet without breaking their eggs will win the national title.

The competition is being organized by the Aerospace Industries Association and the National Association of Rocketry (NAR). NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe will attend the final event.

"The idea is to get kids interested in the world of aerospace," says Trip Barber, director of the competition and vice-president of the NAR. "And they will learn some important lessons about the power of math and science-and cooperation and teamwork-along the way."

To develop their designs, the students first used computer simulator software provided by NAR. Then they had to apply old-fashioned ingenuity and craftsmanship to bring the design to life and flight testing to refine it.

Students constructed rocket bodies using a combination of hobby-store rocket kit parts and custom materials. A typical rocket might consist of cardboard tubes from paper-towel or wrapping-paper rolls, a pre-made nose cone, rocket-kit body segments cut to size, and light-weight, balsa wood fins. But the greatest challenge for many was designing the compartment for the eggs.

Some used plastic Easter eggs as casings, padding the inside



*A Boeing Delta II (7326) rocket launched the New Millennium Program Deep Space 1 spacecraft on October 24, 1998.*

with bubble wrap, foam peanuts, or even gelatin. Others decided not to "reinvent the wheel," making a cradle from the egg-crate material used for shipping eggs. Some chose to make larger, more powerful rockets big enough to carry the eggs inside, while others made smaller, more efficient rockets that have a bulging egg compartment mounted on top.

A hundred unique designs will be put to the test in Virginia. Only one will win. But for the students, the real prize has already been won: Learning an approach to problem-solving that works, whether you're launching eggs over a field or sending astronauts to Mars.

In the end, it's all about the future: Future technologies and the kids who will grow up to create them. Many advanced technologies are being developed now by NASA's New Millennium Program (<http://nmp.nasa.gov>). Who will do that work in the future? Perhaps some kids who spent their weekends launching eggs in the air.

*Continued on the next page.*

Are you a kid? Would you like to build your own rocket? Visit NASA's Space Place and learn how to make a bubble-powered rocket! (<http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov/rocket.htm>.) It won't take you to Mars, but it's a good way to get started.

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

### 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.



### Farewell

The final weeks of my term as Corresponding Secretary are ticking away. Seems almost like yesterday when I started on this adventure. It's been fun and a little frustrating at times. Hopefully someone will come along to take my place. Until then this position will be vacant as of June 1st. I won't be doing this stuff anymore but you will still see me around. I'm the guy with the legendary telescope and I always have some kind of digital camera handy. So if you see me coming, please smile. Of course, some folks have taken to running away instead.

Above is a parting shot taken of the sun appearing through a break in the clouds. It looks to be resting on the clouds. Keith Burns, Corresponding Secretary aka Focal Point Editor 1999-2003.

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## *The Focal Point*

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

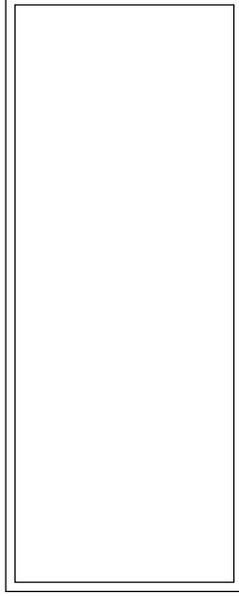
FROM:

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

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**FIRST CLASS**



### Calendar

**May 10th- Sidewalk Astronomy at Florence Marina** state park. Talk with sidewalk astronomy to follow. Starts about 8:45PM.

**May 13th- Sidewalk Astronomy with John Dobson** at Fernbank Science Center. Starts at 7:30 PM. To take place in the parking lot. See article inside Focal Point for more info.

**May 15th- Lunar Eclipse.**

**May 16th- General Membership Meeting.** Location: White Hall at Emory University. Jerry Armstrong space artist and club member. Topic: Talk and painting. Elections for year 2003-2004 to follow Jerry's talk.

**May 24th- Sidewalk Astronomy at Cloudland Canyon** State Park. Talk with sidewalk astronomy to follow.

**May 31st- Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting.** Observing to follow weather permitting. For more info, checkout <http://touchmoon.com/ce/index.shtml> Visit the new Charlie Elliott Chapter Website for more information on up coming meetings and happenings.

### 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. Note that the June issue will be published in the first week of June. Since I no longer hold the position, I can't give an exact date. Until a new contact can be provided, please continue to send articles and other info to me. Thanks.