

# The Focal Point

Vol XVI No. 5

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947  
October 2003



Editor: Kosmic Kow

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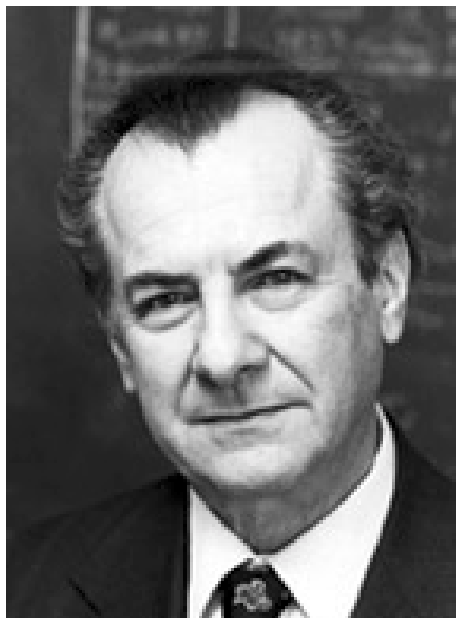
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## October General Membership Meeting

The October meeting will take place on Friday October 17th. Refreshments and general socializing takes place from 7:30 PM to 7:55 PM. Meeting starts at 8 PM sharp. Our featured speaker is Dr. Ron Buta.

The title of the talk is "From the Age of Heroes: Gerard de Vaucouleurs and the Universe." Gerard de Vaucouleurs (1918-1995) was an influential French-American astronomer who laid the groundwork for many important topics in extragalactic

astronomy. I would like to introduce people to the life of Gerard de Vaucouleurs and his first wife, Antoinette, who together made the observation and study of external galaxies practical and precise. Among Gerard's many contributions to astronomy, he first established the reality of the Local Supercluster, discovered the remarkable homogene-



ity in the luminosity distributions of elliptical galaxies, made a personal revision of Hubble's famous 1926 galaxy classification system, developed the most precise methods for deriving integrated magnitudes and color indices of galaxies, and tirelessly sought to estimate the Hubble constant using extensive observations of nearby galaxies. His studies often brought him at odds with others, and he was very opinionated on what he perceived to be the arrogance of people at some established institutions, such as Palomar. He was very empirical in his approach to science, having a reverence for the data unmatched by many of his peers. Antoinette also made important contributions to astronomy with her coauthorship of three "Reference Catalogues of Bright Galaxies" and her quiet discovery of the optical variability of active galactic nuclei. Together the de Vaucouleurs were a remarkable astronomy team for more than 50 years.

### Ron Buta

A little information on the speaker in his own words. I received my PhD in astronomy from the University of Texas at Austin in 1984. My dissertation was titled "The Structure and Dynamics of Ringed Galaxies", and my supervisor was Gerard de Vaucouleurs. From 1984-1986 I was a postdoctoral fellow at the Australian National University in Canberra and worked at the Mount Stromlo Observatory. From 1986-1988 I returned as a post-doc to the University of Texas to work with Gerard and Antoinette de Vaucouleurs on the Third Reference Catalogue of Bright Galaxies. In 1989, I joined the faculty of the Department of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

My research has principally been involved with the morphology and dynamics of spiral galaxies. I have focussed on the interpretation of star-forming galactic rings and the quantification of the strength of bars in disk galaxies. I have also been interested in the study of galaxies in the "Zone of Avoidance" and in some classes of interacting gal-



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axies.

Other notes - meetings for **November, December and January** will be on the **2ND FRIDAY** of the month due to accommodating speaker schedules and Chiefland Star Party (November) and the xmas holidays.

This month the meeting will take place on the Emory University Campus in the White Hall Building. White Hall is located across the street from the new Math and Science Building. Street access is via North Decatur Road. Take North Decatur to Dowman Drive (5 way intersection). Turn onto Dowman Drive and White Hall is second building on right side of road. Note that Dowman Drive changes names to Dickey Drive but still same road. Parking is available along Dowman Drive and a parking lot is located behind the Admissions Building. Access is via first left after turning onto Dowman Drive from North Decatur Road.

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## October Observing Events

The Dark Sky Event will be the PSSG. There is no official open house or work party called this month, however, keep a close eye on the AAC list on YahooGroups as small groups of individuals will be announcing their observing intentions and destinations.

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## Georgia Astronomy in State Parks

All events start at sunset on Saturday. They begin with a slide presentation on basic astronomy then followed up with an observing session. Club members and guests are encouraged to participate. We only have 2 to 3 scopes on average and can really use the help! You can bring your scope, binoculars or just yourself. It is a lot of fun and a great way to relax and get to know other club members! The state parks and campers really appreciate us being there. If you have any questions, please contact: Joanne Cirincione - [starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

The following are the dates for the rest of 2003:

**November 15 - Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA.**

<http://www.gastateparks.org/>

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## ATM Meeting

**Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> - Amateur Telescope Makers Meeting 10:00AM - 2:00PM**

Larry Phillips is willing to host the Amateur Telescope Maker subgroup. Larry's house is in Decatur, off Church St near Scott Blvd.

It is rumored that Tracy Wilson will do a demo of his new telescope mount idea at the first meeting. If you are interested, please send an email to Larry and let him know. Larry will provide directions.

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:**

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

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

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

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

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## Sidewalk Astronomy Events

**Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> - Scout Expo - 10:00AM - 4:00PM**

**Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> - Woodruff Scout Outing - Dark 'till ????**

The Scout Expo will be held at JR Miller Park in Marietta on October 11. Last year we had both an inside venue for our slide show and an outside venue for solar observing. The AAC's participation was very well received and appreciated.

This year we're doing it again. We need some folks with solar observing equipment to come out. The expo runs from 10 to 4, and has some pretty cool stuff related to camping and other outdoor activities.

I will be bringing the 24 inch scope to the expo as a "show and tell" and will be taking it back up to Woodruff that evening for a Cub Scout outing. I could use a few good astronomers with scopes for that event as well.

Please pick one, or both, and contact me off list to let me know that you can help out.

John Lentini Scout Liaison

**Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> -Sidewalk Astronomy - 8pm Autrey Mill Nature Preserve - Alpharetta - North Fulton**

Phil Sacco will be giving a talk from 8-9pm on constellations. Viewing of the Moon and Mars from 9pm — 'till ???. Please contact Mark Banks for directions.

**Wednesday October 22 - Sunday October 26, 2003 PSSG 2003 - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

With a decade of success now behind it, the Peach State Star Gaze proudly celebrates its 10th anniversary this coming Octo-

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ber with both 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. Thus, we are proud to announce that the 10th annual Peach State Star Gaze will be held Wednesday afternoon through Sunday morning, October 22 -26, 2003.

### **December 4<sup>th</sup> - 8PM - Sidewalk Astronomy - Sierra Club Meeting, North Cobb**

Sierra Club is having their annual Christmas Dinner (Covered Dish). We are invited. Please contact Mark Banks for more information and directions.

## **Professional Astronomers Meeting**

### **January 4 - 8, 2004 - American Astronomical Society**

The 2004 Annual Meeting of the **American Astronomical Society**.

Hosted by: Georgia State University

Date: January 4 - 8, 2004. (Sunday through Thursday)

Volunteers are encouraged to contact Art Russell via email at: [art russell@mindspring.com](mailto:art russell@mindspring.com)

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## **Charlie Elliott Chapter**

There will be no meeting October because of the PSSG 2003 planned for that weekend.

Additional information on the Chapter including pictures, can be seen at the following website. New location for the CEC website is the following. <http://www.AtlantaAstronomy.Org/CEWMA>

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## **The AAC Web Site – AtlantaAstronomy.Org**

The website is due for a revamping and new look. At the request of the Board, a committee is being formed to discuss the “new” website. In order to promote discussions to this end, a subscribable mail list has been created. See notes below on how to subscribe.

If you wish to be involved and contribute your ideas, please join the mail list and express your interest and ideas. If required, we can meet as a group and go over various designs. If you do not wish to join the list, but provide some input to the committee, send an email to [WEB@AtlantaAstronomy.Org](mailto:WEB@AtlantaAstronomy.Org). I will then post this message to the list.

AtlantaAstronomy.Org

The Web Site is hosted on a Linux platform. It has Frontpage Extensions. It has PHP and MySQL. (Additional features are also present.) It is possible to prototype a web design as a subweb from the current website. Currently, GASP and CEWMA are subwebs. We have sufficient space (600M total) and traffic allowance (15GB) to handle our needs.

General Considerations: A number of members of the club have expressed, in the past, because they are still running their internet connections via dial-up, that a heavy graphics site is not desirable. Provide a CMS, Content Management System, to allow moderators to post information directly to their sections.

Joining the list: Send an email to [webcommittee-request@atlantaastronomy.org](mailto:webcommittee-request@atlantaastronomy.org) to join the list. Once you have subscribed to the list, messages can be posted to the list by sending an email to [webcommittee@atlantaastronomy.org](mailto:webcommittee@atlantaastronomy.org)

This is a simple mail list, the TO: field MUST contain the list address as the first entry.

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## **Minutes of Meeting Sept 19th, 2003**

The General Meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was opened at 8:00 PM on September 19, 2003 by President Jim Moore with approximately 70 in attendance. Several visitors and new members were present.

Several committee chairs and officers gave reports: The next Dark Sky event was planned for 9/20/03 in Mentone, AL. GASP has programs scheduled for 10/04/03 and 11/15/03. Sidewalk Astronomy events are planned for Chatahoochee High School 9/29/03 and the Sierra Club 12/4. Focal Point Deadline will remain the **first of every month**. Fannin County is considering Light Pollution ordinances. The Christmas dinner date is still unsure. Will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday or Saturday in Dec. PSSG dinner is being debated. Treasurer reported things are getting under control after several turnovers in the office. She can be reached at [AAC@Whalens.org](mailto:AAC@Whalens.org)

The speakers for the evening were a panel of club members who shared their experiences as astro-imagers. Thank you Dan, Chuck, and Chris for sharing your knowledge and encouraging others to give it a try!

Respectfully submitted, Julie Moore Recording Secretary.

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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.



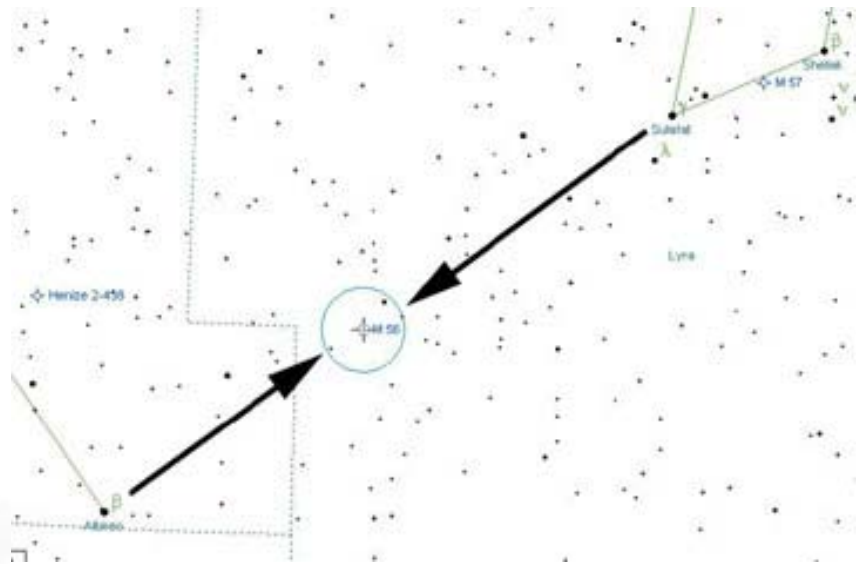
## Star-Hopping – October 2003

By Art Russell

August's star-hop featured the planetary nebula M57, the Ring Nebula, in the constellation Lyra. This month M57 is high overhead when it gets dark and will serve as our starting point as we find our way to M56. M56 is a small globular cluster also located in the constellation Lyra, but it is located conveniently between M57 and the bright star Alberio, Beta Cygni, in the constellation Cygnus, "the Swan," and one of the more attractive double-stars that is worth a look just for itself.

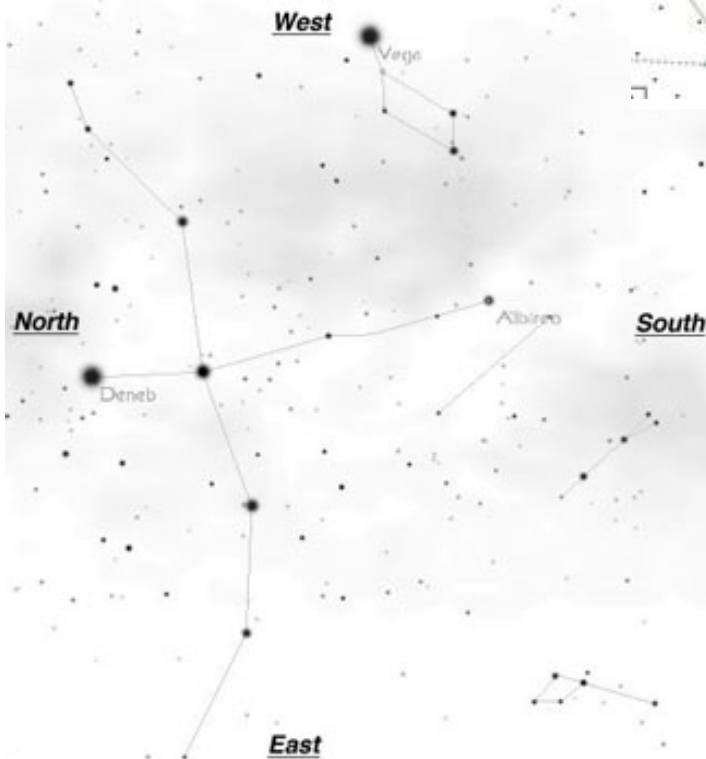
To begin the star-hop, we start high overhead at the zenith; which at about 10PM during the month of September is located in the constellation Cygnus and is comprised of two major stars; Deneb and Albireo, the "Eye of the Swan." West of Deneb and Albireo is the bright star Vega in the constellation Lyra, from which we started our star-hop to M57 last month. Just looking up at the zenith one might be intimidated when considering

the small bright star about 2 degrees (twice the distance spanned by you little finger held at arm's length) to the southeast. From there, star-hop about 4 degrees (perhaps a little less than the distance spanned by three fingers held at arm's length) south-southeast to the small bright star Sheliak. Then star-hop about 1 degree (the distance spanned by you little finger held at arm's length) to the west-southwest and continue past M57 to Sulafat.



M56 is visible in moderate and larger binoculars where it is seen as a small soft glow with soft edges. In larger scopes, this small globular cluster is incompletely resolved, but is a fine example of the many smaller globular clusters which can be seen from the northern hemisphere.

Note: All images were created on a computer running Macintosh OSX 10.2.6. The night sky image was created in Stellarium 0.4.9 and manipulated in Photoshop. The star chart image was created in Megastar 5.0.07 running under Virtual PC 6.0 and manipulated in Photoshop.



how to start-hop to an unseen target, even though they know *something* is supposed to be there. However, its not that tough. Whenever I star-hop to M56, I typically just spilt the difference between Albireo and Sulafat, Gama Lyri, near M57. There are two ways to find Sulafat. In a "direct" method, start at Vega, Alpha Lyri, and star-hop about 7 and a half degrees, or about the distance spanned by 4 fingers held together at arm's length, to the south-southeast across a small parallelogram of stars to its southern-most member. In a more "round-about" method, start at Vega like we did with the star-hop to M57, and hop to

### 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). He is the one who sends out the notice when the monthly issue is available on the website for download. Note that you **do not need** a password or user name to access the newsletter.

## The Simplified Schmidt: Pros and Cons

Recent years have seen the introduction of a line of Schmidt cameras intended for the amateur astronomer. These cameras produce images whose quality leaves little to be desired. However, they do suffer from certain drawbacks which tend to limit their appeal. The first of these drawbacks is their high cost, starting at \$625. This limits the class of users to the rich or those associated with organizations purchasing such cameras. The other drawbacks are more mechanical in nature.

The first problem of this type is caused by the fact that the corrector plate is the same diameter as the mirror. This causes the edge of the field to have reduced illumination. In particular, at the edge of the field (0.83 inches from the center) the smaller model Schmidt delivers only 54% of the illumination as at the center. Thus, the practical (75% illumination) field of this camera is one inch in diameter!

A second serious drawback of these cameras is their short focal length and high speed. The focal length of the smaller model is, in fact, little more than that of a 135-mm telephoto lens. A good 135-mm lens operating at a speed of  $f/2.8$  and mounted on a camera body costs less than \$70, as opposed to \$625. If one wishes for more speed, a lens of the same focal length a speed of  $f/1.8$  or  $f/2.0$  can be had for less than \$200. Obviously, the images of such lenses, pressed into the service of astronomy as they are, will not equal those of a Schmidt. However, due to the size of the grain structure of most films, it is not easy to tell the difference.

It has been claimed that the high speed of these Schmidts is likewise a drawback. This is so because the speed of these cameras causes sky fog to often become objectionable. If all that one is interested in is nebulae then this is no more of a problem at  $f/1.5$  than it is at  $f/8$ . If, however, the observer is interested in star clusters, there is indeed a problem. For the limiting magnitude of a camera for stars is determined only by the diameter of the lens, not the speed. Hence a 5-inch  $f/3.5$  camera can expose longer before reaching sky fog than 5-inch  $f/1.65$ , and will capture more stars. It should be noticed that the early workers regarded  $f/3$  as a good all-around speed. (See the paragraph on Schmidts in *Amateur Telescope Making III*.)

The final (and for this writing most telling) drawback of the present family of Schmidts is the extreme inconvenience of using cut film. Not only is the cut film, individually loaded into the cameras, difficult to use in the field, it is a first-class pain to process. This problem is aggravated by the fact that many astrophotographers now use color film which is extremely difficult to process at home.

For these reasons, this writer feels that the present family of commercial Schmidts are a "bad buy." What should we do? Use our 135-mm' (or maybe 200-mm) lenses until time runs

down? A way out is found by a careful analysis of the commercial Schmidt design. First, what stops you from making a Schmidt? The corrector plate! Solution? We abolish it. Ah! Now we have spherical aberration to contend with. To reduce the effects of this, we must make the camera longer, say increasing it from  $f/1.65$  to  $f/3$  or so. But this is wonderful. Not only have we reduced the spherical aberration to a tolerable figure (0.0035 inch), but we have also reached the old-timers' optimal speed. We should also notice that, for a diameter of 5.5 inches, the total tube length is less than 40 inches. We also observe, with glee, that A. E. Jaegers Co. sells a 6-inch mirror (spherical) with a focal length of 16 inches for \$40 complete. Thus, in one stroke, we have increased the focal length, cut costs and decreased the speed. This solution, called the Simplified Schmidt, has been proposed and built several times.

The major problem of the cut film still remains. Its solution is obvious. We must use a camera body to hold the film. This step demands that we use a diagonal mirror, as in a Newtonian. This presents two new problems. First, as is well known, the field of best focus for a Schmidt is a sphere. Hence if the center of the field is focused sharply, the edge must be slightly defocused if we hold the film flat, as in a camera body. Exactly how much is the edge defocused? Happily, by placing the ring of best focus roughly  $1/3$  inches from the center, we assure that the most any image will be enlarged over a one-inch circle is 0.001 inch. We recall that the usable field of the commercial Schmidts is only one inch. Thus, using a camera body to hold the film and eliminating the corrector (but keeping the aperture stop) we have greatly simplified the construction and operation of our "Schmidt."

There remains the problem of how to mount the camera body to the tube. This is done most efficiently in the following way: The experimenter should buy a T-mount adapter to fit his camera style. The fitting which carries the T thread is removed and the front (lens end) of the adapter is hand filed to match the telescope tube. The mount is then drilled, as is the tube, and countersunk so that four or six small machine screws can hold the mount against the tube. Now the camera can be easily attached to the tube assembly. When the camera is thus mounted close to the tube a diagonal of modest cost and size can be used. This writer has found the 2.14 inch minor axis model of Coulter Optical (\$16.50) quite suitable. The entire system as described here is no more work to assemble than a small Newtonian. If the mirrors, mirror mounts and tubing are all purchased from common sources and the T-mount is ordered from a mail-order house, the entire project can be assembled in a few evenings work for under \$100. The final adjustment is done using the mirror cell adjusting screws while inspecting the image through the camera view-screen. It should be mentioned that the author has built one of these "lazy-man's Schmidts" and finds it entirely practical.

*Continued on the next page.*

**-Mark Christensen**

## **An Update From The Author:**

Well, since this was written over 30 years (yikes!) ago, a lot has changed. First, you can't buy a Schmidt Camera hot off a production line. Celestron stopped making them years ago, along with the Comet Catcher (a Wright Schmidt). Some specialty manufacturers do make them, but be ready to reach deep into your pockets. And you still have to deal with the film issue. Second, yes, I did build the instrument described above but rarely used it: The images were not quite as good as I hoped (in retrospect my expectations were unrealistic) and it was a bear to keep it focused and in alignment; I used the three mirror screws for both focusing and alignment. To improve the images I tried making a field flattener lens but since it was 2 inches away from the film plane it introduced its own problems. Plus, I never got it coated, as the set-up charge for a small batch of lenses (like one) was over \$100 and the performance didn't seem to be worth it.

Finally, if you do a little math, you'll see that the instrument I was describing was effectively a 400mm focal length, f/4 lens. And it had to be as long as an 800mm focal length one. It would have been more straightforward to just build a 4" f/4 Newtonian and live with the coma, which would have been about 0.004 inches at the edge of the field. The Newtonian version would be shorter (since there is no diaphragm at the center of curvature of the mirror) to boot. Of course, the problem of mounting the camera body and focusing it still remains. Mechanical stuff is often the hardest to lick.

So how do I do astrophotography now? I use a 135mm f/2.8 and 300mm f/4 telephoto, together with 6" f/5 and 8" f/5.5 Newtonians. The 300mm lens has nearly the same focal length as the two reflectors described above and is a lot cleaner optically over a wider field of view. Since a lot of my sky-shooting is now done piggybacking on business trips to the desert south west I usually end up just using the two lenses. Below is a sample taken with the 300mm f/4 on EliteChrome 200 during late June of this year. I was 90 miles north of Mojave, CA when I took it. A CG-5 class mount is portable enough to go as checked luggage and can easily deal with the two telephotos when manually guiding. I still haven't crossed the bridge to auto-guiding, as I can't see using my laptop in the middle of the desert unprotected: The laptop is worth more than all the rest of my portable astro-gear combined. Plus I use it to make my living.

Some dreams (or schemes?) never die. I still have the mirror used to make the Simplified Schmidt. It's a 6" f/2.5. After 30 years of storage it has no scratches. Periodically I toy with parabolizing it. The coma wouldn't be too awful (assuming the pictures aren't enlarged) for the first 1 inch of the field. And it would be Fast. And Big. I also toy with designing a Ross cor-

rector to reduce the coma but suspect that I would have to move the last lens surface right near the film plane in order to do a decent job of it, which would make it tough to use a 35mm camera body. If you want to see what is involved, read article Ed Jone's on "A Photographic Tele-Compressor for Newtonians" in *The Best of Amateur Telescope Making Journal, Volume 1* (edited by none other than our fellow alumni of the AAA, Bill Cook). The main thing that stops me is still the mechanical arrangements: I'd still have to find a way of moving the camera body in and out without requiring a huge diagonal mirror.

An alternative that did not exist when I wrote the original article is to go on e-Bay and bid on a used 300mm f/2.8 Adaptall lens by Tamron. These have an excellent reputation and go for between \$700 and \$1200 depending on condition. But this is only marginally faster than the excellent 300mm f/4 lenses that can be had for between \$150 and \$300. Or you can just make the cut over to CCD imaging. If you cross that bridge then you can go the Schmidt route again, thanks to Celestron's FASTSTAR system. Something else to dream on.

Best Wishes, Mark Christensen

September 4, 2003

AAA Member from 1975 to 1984

### **A note from Lenny:**

Mark Christensen was a member of the AAC from about 1975 to 1985. He was the "spark plug" behind the construction of the 20". Unfortunately, his job duties took him away from Atlanta. I recently came across the following article that he wrote for an earlier publication, The Atlanta Observers' Notebook. The AON was privately published for members of the AAC, but was not its official journal. I was co-editor, and we handed it out at meetings.

Some of the commercial information in the article is outdated, but the optical principles and procedures are sound and widely accepted. I asked Mark to take a look at the article and he has kindly provided some comments that make it more timely.

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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.

## Atlanta Astronomy Club Listserv

If you have email access with a computer, then you can subscribe to the Atlanta Astronomy Club 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 Astronomy Club Mailing List: The name of the 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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## Atlanta Astronomical Imagers Listserv

To join the AAI group simply subscribe to the AAI listserv described below. Once subscribed, you will be connected to a wealth of knowledge and content.

As stated above, the AAI will also maintain a Yahoo Groups listserv. The name of this Yahoo Group is Atlanta\_Astro\_Imaging. To learn more about the Atlanta\_Astro\_Imaging group, please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AtlantaAstroImaging>. To join the AAI listserv simply send an email to; [AtlantaAstroImaging@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AtlantaAstroImaging@yahoogroups.com). If you wish to unsubscribe simply send an email to [AtlantaAstroImaging-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AtlantaAstroImaging-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com). All are welcome to join, even if you just want to see the wonderful images produced by this group. The moderators are Chris Hetlage, [mailto:chrishet@attbi.com](mailto:mailto:chrishet@attbi.com) and Donovan Conrad [mailto:donovan@donconrad.com](mailto:mailto:donovan@donconrad.com).

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## Charlie Elliott Chapter Website

For those who don't know, we have a chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club called the Charlie Elliott Chapter. They meet monthly at the visitor's center on the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Area property. Visit their website at <http://www.AtlantaAstronomy.Org/CEWMA>.

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## Atlanta Astronomy Club Website

While this newsletter is the official information source for the Atlanta Astronomy Club, it is only up to date the day it is

printed. So if you want more up to date information, go to our club's website. The website contains pictures, directions, membership applications, events updates (when available) and other information. <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org>

### AAC Contacts

**President:** Jim Moore 7-242-6735  
[Hollin@DWCS.com](mailto:Hollin@DWCS.com)

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**Observing Chair:** Dan Llewellyn 6-579-9661  
[zoser@mindspring.com](mailto:zoser@mindspring.com)

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**Board Chairman:** Alex Langoussis  
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**Board:** Mark Banks 4-257-2766  
[Jmarkbanks@earthlink.net](mailto:Jmarkbanks@earthlink.net)

**Board:** Brigitte Fessele 4-371-4713  
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[mkhz28@yahoo.com](mailto:mkhz28@yahoo.com)

**Elliott Observing Chair:** Fred Taylor 7-385-9106

**Elliott Recording Secretary:** Lyle Fischer 478-218-0460  
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**Elliott Coordinator:** Alesia Rast [Alesia\\_Rast@mail.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:Alesia_Rast@mail.dnr.state.ga.us)  
**Amateur Telescope Making:**

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**Sidewalk Astronomy:** Mark Banks 4-257-2766  
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**Villa Rica Observ. Coordinator:**

**Woodruff Observ. Coordinator:** John Lentini 7-984-0175  
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## *The Focal Point*

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

FROM:

Kosmic Kow

3740 Burnt Hickory Road

Marietta, Georgia 30064

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

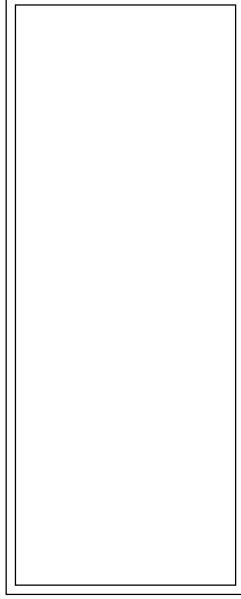
Atlanta Astronomy Club

PMB 305

3595 Canton Road A9

Marietta, GA 30066

FIRST CLASS



### Calendar

**Oct 17th: General Membership Meeting.** Featured speaker Dr. Ron Buta. Meeting starts at 8PM sharp. Meeting to be held at Emory University.

**October 22nd- 26th: PSSG 2003.** Registration fee required. No walkins. Observing and talks.

**November 1st: Focal Point** Submissions Deadline.

**November 8th: Amateur Telescope Makers meeting** at Larry Phillips house. Please contact Larry for more information and directions. His email and phone are listed in your members directory. Times are from 10AM to 2PM.

**November 14th: General Membership Meeting.** Featured Speaker is Eric Honeycutt. Topic Deep Sky Observing Stuff. Meeting takes place at Emory University White Hall Building. Starts at 8PM.

**December 1st: Focal Point** Submissions Deadline.

**December 4th: Sidewalk Astronomy** Sierra Club Meeting, North Cobb. Contact Mark Banks for more information.

**December 12th or 13th?: Christmas Banquet.** To be held at Emory University. Date and location could change. It will be either the second Friday or the Second Saturday of the Month of December.

**January 4th-8th: American Astronomical Society** annual meeting to be held at Georgia State University.

### 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 Kosmic Kow via my spokes person at the following address. Send it to Keith Burns 3740 Burnt Hickory Road Marietta, Georgia 30064 or email my spokes person at [Keith\\_B@bellsouth.net](mailto:Keith_B@bellsouth.net). You can submit articles anytime up and including the deadline date. **The deadline for November is 11:59 PM Nov 1st. Submissions will no longer be accepted after the deadline.** Note that the **November issue** will be published **November 1st**. It takes me a week to do the newsletter. So don't expect to see it til about the 7th.