

The Focal Point

Vol XVI No. 6

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
Established 1947
November 2003



Editor: Cosmic Kow

In This Issue:

- Page 1-2**...November Meeting. GASP
Page 2-3...November Observing Events/Meetings.
Page 3...Seral and the Astronomical League Update.
Page 4...Fannin Lighting Ordinance News.
Page 5-6...November Starhop. Mars Opposition.
Page 7...AAC Listserv. Club Websites. AAC Contacts.
Page 8...November Calendar.

October General Membership Meeting

The **November meeting** will take place on **Friday November 14th**. The meeting will take place at White Hall on the Emory University Campus. Refreshments and general socializing takes place from 7:30 PM to 7:55 PM. Meeting starts at 8 PM sharp. Our featured speaker this month is Eric Honeycutt. His talk will be on Deep Sky Challenges of The Fall Sky.



Eric Honeycutt of Raleigh, NC is one of the top planetary nebulae (PNe) observers in the U.S. His accomplishments include: successful observations of the entire Abell Planetary Nebula

Catalogue, a featured PNe publication in Sky and Telescope's May 2002 issue, he is the owner and moderator of the Planetary Nebula Yahoo Group, and is a regular speaker at the Mid Atlantic Star Party, as well as, many clubs throughout North Carolina. Eric has spoken at the Great Plains Star Party in Scopesville, Kansas and was, most recently (August of 2003), a featured guest on NPR's (WUNC) the "State of things" where he discussed the recent Mars / Earth opposition.

Eric teaches 'Observational Astronomy' at Wake County Com-

munity College and is program founder / leader of the "Astronomy In The Park" program (a monthly public observing program that takes place in southern Wake County parks). Eric's current project involves an attempt to observe the entire Southern European Catalogue of Galactic Planetary Nebula (SECGPN).

Eric owns and operates VegaDesigns, Inc. (a web design and photography firm) in Raleigh, NC. He is married to a fantastic wife and has 3 wonderful children.

Advanced observational projects for amateur astronomers can be found at Eric's Astronomy Website: <http://www.icplanetaries.com>.

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.

Georgia Astronomy in State Parks

November 15 GASP will be at Unicoi State Park in Helen, GA. Georgia Public Broadcasting's "Georgia Outdoors" will be there filming us for a future show. They will be there Friday night and Saturday night. (11/14 & 15).

I am really hoping that we can have a great Club turnout for this event. We have a handful of loyal members who come out every event but Unicoi has been one of our more successful events. We started 3 years ago with 150 campers coming to see our "show". Year 2 we had 250 campers, last year we had over 300 campers (on an overcast night!). We actually stopped

Continued on the next page.

counting at 300. We only had a few scopes. So if not for the "cameras" please do it for the hundreds of campers who show up to see what the Atlanta Astronomy Club has to show them.

Please e-mail me (starrynights@atlantaastronomy.org) to let me know if you are interested. Yes, it would be great if you had a scope or binoculars to bring, but just being there will be worth your while!

Scheduled Board Meeting

There is a board meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening **November 11th at 7:30PM**. Location is Fernbank Science Center. Contact Alex Langoussis for more information. Topics to be discussed included proposed Spring Star Gaze and Fall PSSG 2004. Meeting open to all club members.

Sidewalk Astronomy Events

November 6th -7:30PM-Sidewalk Astronomy- Columbia High School

Students from the gifted program and their parents will be on hand to see the stars. Further information is available from Mark Banks at 404-257-2766 or email at jmarkbanks@earthlink.net. There is a map posted on the website.

November 22nd- Sunset- Sidewalk Astronomy/ Merit Badge- Woodruff BSC

There is a Scout Troop planning to go camping at Woodruff on Nov 22, and they would like to have an astronomer or two come out and show them some cool stuff. Some of their boys are working on the astronomy merit badge, which requires spending three hours observing, learning 10 constellations and 10 named stars.

I will be out of town at that time, but since it's the new moon, I know I can count on someone from the AAC stepping up and handling the request. Contact Eric Flamm Troop 772 (Foothills) if you can help, and copy me. Flamm Consulting, Inc. 770.552.8206 eric@flamm.com

December 4th - 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)

Forwarded herein is a request for volunteers to help out with the January 2004 meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

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 **\$33** for Sky & Tel and **\$29** for Astronomy. Renewal forms will be sent to you by the magazines. Send the renewal form along with your 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. Also send information on upcoming observing events, meetings, and other events to the webmaster.

ety. The last time the AAS met in Atlanta our members helped out as volunteers. Those that attended enjoyed the experience and report that they had an opportunity to attend the events as well as take in the displays. It looks like the same courtesies will be extended to our volunteers in January.

Please contact Dr. Douglas Gies of Georgia State University for additional information and to let him know that you'd like to participate as a volunteer.

AAC November Dark Sky Event

I had the pleasure of meeting Victor Rodgers, President of the Barnard Astronomical Society in Chattanooga Tennessee, at the Peach State Star Gaze. They have a tract of land appropriately called Orion Acres in which they hold their star parties, and Victor was kind enough to invite the Atlanta Club. So, the AAC Dark Sky event will be in conjunction with the Barnard Astronomical Society at Orion Acres on November 22, 2003, starting at 3 PM. This is the weekend before Thanksgiving, so why not get some good star gazing in at a new site before you eat sleep and shop yourself silly. You can go to their website, <http://www.chattanooga.net/bas/> and click on meetings and events, and on that page is star parties, click on Orion Acres. I will try and write a set of directions and post it to the Astro Atlanta group. I also sorta put my foot in my mouth and said we would bring about 25 AAC club members, so help the ole' Observing Chair out and plan on attending. A new site (fun!), new Astro club to make friends with (alliances!), and as a bonus, Bill Burgess of Burgess Optical who had the great refractors and binoculars at the PSSG will be in attendance. Tempting to look in those scopes, eh? See you there!

Continued on the next page.

Directions to Orion Acres

Take I-75 north from Atlanta to Chattanooga. Upon crossing the Tennessee state line you will enter into the city limits of East Ridge. Continue on I-75 for another 1 to 2 miles. Take I-24 west which is exit 185. Note that the exit ramp from I-75 to I-24 is the far left lane. Take I-24 west for 7 miles to US 27 north. It's exit 178. Note US 27 north is a limited access 4 lane highway. Take US 27 north for several miles. Exit US 27 at US 127(Signal Mtn Road). Turn left onto Signal Mtn Road. Signal Mtn Road will become Signal Mountain Blvd. From Signal Mountain Blvd., turn left onto Suck Creek Road (Tenn 27). Go about 17.3 miles to Whitwell and turn right on Highway 28. After 0.5 miles turn left on Highway 108. Follow Highway 108 for 11.3 miles until you cross the Grundy County line. Take the first left onto Firetower Road. Go about 0.7 mile and Orion Acres will be on the right side of the road.

For more information contact Dan Llewellyn at zoser@mindspring.com.

Charlie Elliott Chapter

The november chapter meeting is scheduled for **Saturday November 22nd**. Meeting will take place at the Visitors center with observing following the meeting weather permitting. Observing will take place at the AAC observing field. **Lyle Fischer** will give a talk on **“How to choose at telescope.”** For more information on time of meeting contact either Lyle Fischer, Mark House, or Fred Taylor. Their phone numbers and email addresses are listed on page 7 of this publication.

Note that there will be **no meeting in December** due to scheduling conflicts with the Christmas Holidays. See you again January.

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

A Note from SERAL

By Philip Sacco

With the advent of cooler weather, I hope we will all begin some constructive deep sky hunting. I know that many of our club are new to astronomy, and therefore I would like to offer a new program.

The Astronomical League is a fond sponsor of a wide variety of Observing Clubs for its members. These programs range from the new “Sky Puppies” program for the beginner, to the “Herschel I and Herschel II” programs for the avid and rabid galaxy hounds. The versatility of the AL programs is fantastic and the offer something for everyone.

As SERAL, I would like to introduce to the AAC a new system for organizing those endeavoring to take on the various AL

Observing Clubs. The hope is to foster more friendships between the new members and the ‘old hands.’ Think of this program as a buddy system or a mentoring program.

What I propose is to organize those members that have an interest in fostering one of the AL Observing Programs, one which they themselves have participated in. I would like to call for volunteers from the membership of any awardees of AL programs to step up and offer to serve as a lynch pin for the Observing Program of their choice. Your responsibility as an Observing Program Buddy would be to answer questions of those working on the list and give pointers on a good approach to working thru the program of your choice. As participants finish the Observing Club criterion, the paper work would be presented as normal either thru the AAC Alcor, Keith Burns, or myself. The Buddy will have absolute control over how much or how little they would like to contribute to the efforts of those attempting to follow in their footsteps. It is my hope that many friendships may be fostered thru this approach, as well as a rise in participation of club members in becoming recognized for their observing efforts.

A listing of the AL Observing Clubs can be found on the AL homepage. Off the top of my head, those programs which I know we have recipients include- the Sunspotter, Lunar Club, Double Stars, Herschel I, Arp Peculiar Galaxies, Urban Club, Meteor Club, Messier Club, Binocular Messier Club, Deep Sky Binocular Club, Universe Sampler, Caldwell Club, Planetary Club and finally the Master Observers Program.

I encourage anyone interested in helping me promote or participate in any of these programs to contact me personally. As I get volunteers to take over mentoring the various programs, I will post notices to the Focal Point, and see if we can get a new page on our website devoted to keeping those working on the programs better in touch with each-other and those in a position to help them out.

I can be reached at 404-296-6332, or at ppsacco@comcast.net

Thanks, and I look forward to seeing many more of our members, especially our new members, taking on these observing challenges!

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 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. Email and phone numbers on page 7 of this publication.

Updated Info Check for Members Directory

Attention Members: It is now November and time to produce a new membership directory, for distribution to club members. Please **check the label on your Focal Point or on your renewal** for any **changes or omissions**. If I do not hear back from you **before Thanksgiving**, your name and address will appear as it is. Please send an email to

MemberUpdate@AtlantaAstronomy.Org

Lighting Ordinance for Fannin County

By Tom Buchanan

With the efforts of Byron Windham, Fannin County Commissioners passed a billboard ordinance, the interesting parts of which follow.

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE UTILIZATION OF OUTDOOR ADVERTISING, SIGNS AND / OR BILLBOARDS

An ordinance to regulate the utilization of outdoor advertising and / or billboards within the unincorporated areas of Fannin County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia. Said ordinance shall be sited as the Fannin County Outdoor Advertising Ordinance 2003"

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners of Fannin County, Georgia, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, is charged with preserving and maintaining the resources of Fannin County; and Whereas, the natural resources, environment, and natural vistas of Fannin County, Georgia, are one of the most beneficial resources of the County; and Whereas, the ability to travel unobstructed is a requirement for the safety of the traveling public;

Whereas, in order to preserve and protect said natural resources, including the ability to view the heavens in the night sky, environment and natural vistas of Fannin County, Georgia and to further ensure the safety of the traveling public, the Board of Commissioners of Fannin County, Georgia, do hereby enact and adopt the within Ordinance for the purpose of regulating the utilization of outdoor advertising and / or billboards within the unincorporated areas of Fannin County, Georgia.

Section 1-1-16 Illumination.

(a) The light from any illuminated sign shall not be of an intensity or brightness which will interfere with the peace, comfort, convenience, and general welfare of residents or occupants of adjacent properties.

(b) No sign shall have blinking, flashing or fluctuating lights or other illuminating devices which have a changing light intensity, brightness or color except those depicting only time, temperature or date.

(c) No colored lights shall be used at any location or any man-

ner so as to be confused with or construed as traffic control devices.

(d) Neither direct nor reflected light from primary light sources shall create a hazard to operators of motor vehicles.

(e) All lighting shall be installed in a manner to comply with (a) thru (d) above or from the interior of the sign.

(f) All existing signs with lighting prior to the adoption of this ordinance shall be brought into compliance with this section by January 1, 2005.

(g) All lighting on newly erected signs, must conform with (a) through (f) above and must point downward.

(h) All illuminated externally lighted signs must be darkened by 1:00 AM EST and remain so until 5:00 AM EST.

Judging Astronomy

By John Lentini

The Georgia Council of Superior Court Judges got an introduction to Astronomy, to the AAC and to the subject of light pollution on October 29. The Judges were holding a meeting at the Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, and had invited the AAC to come out for a night of viewing.

After a seafood and dessert buffet, the program opened with Sharon Carruthers presenting the PowerPoint program she presents at GASP events, "A Guide to the Night Sky." Tom Buchanan then gave a short presentation on light pollution, complete with examples of good and bad outdoor lighting, and a discussion of reasonable lighting ordinances. Both presentations were well received.

We then adjourned to the 18th green, where the club's 24-inch scope was set up, along with club members' scopes in the 5 to 10 inch range. The Judges got a good look at the moon, Mars, M13, M31 and a few other Messiers.

We closed up shop at about 10:30, then went over to Woodruff to put away the 24. The skies had been clear at Brasstown Valley, but the extra darkness at Woodruff was like night and day.. Several folks had to stay up for a few more hours of excellent viewing.

Thanks to the following club members for making the drive on a Wednesday evening: Sharon Carruthers, Tom Buchanan, Steve Wilson and Mike Garretson.

Get the Focal Point Online

The Focal Point is available online in PDF color format. 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. Download the FP at www.atlantaastronomy.org. If it works for you and you want to get the FP via email, send Peter Macumber an e-mail at pmacumber@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Star-Hopping – November 2003

By Art Russell

October's star hop took us to the small and often overlooked globular cluster M56. Interesting in its own right, *M56* is unfortunately placed in the same constellation as the much more popular *M57*, the *Ring Nebula*, a target quickly learned by many novice amateur astronomers because of its convenient location near the prominent star Vega which is itself a member of the *Summer Triangle*. This month's star hop takes us to the *Great Andromeda Galaxy*, *M31*, and its companion galaxies of *M32* and *M110*.

M31 is both an easy and a challenging object to observe. It is often one of the first objects found by beginning astronomers as it is a naked-eye object even under relatively light polluted skies. Surely an object that can be seen with the naked-eye should yield wonderful details with even a moderate telescope. Unfortunately, many beginners find that *M31* "fails to deliver." As noted by a number of authors (Burnham, 1978; Clark, 1990, 1993), *M31* appears unimpressive, despite its brightness when viewed at low power in a small rich-field telescope. However, if you want to dive off the deep-end, do something a little different. Instead of spending perhaps 2-3 minutes on *M31* before moving on to your next target as most novice amateurs do, plan on spending an hour or more here. Take your time exploring *M31* and look for the details. At the easier end of the spectrum you'll find *M31*'s system of dark lanes and spiral arms and its companion galaxies of *M32* and *M110*. If you have access to larger telescopes you may be able to tackle more difficult prey such as *M31*'s *globular clusters* of which there are at least 50 that are visible in amateur telescopes. The key to observing the *M31* system and really to all amateur astronomy is to take your time. Its not a race to see

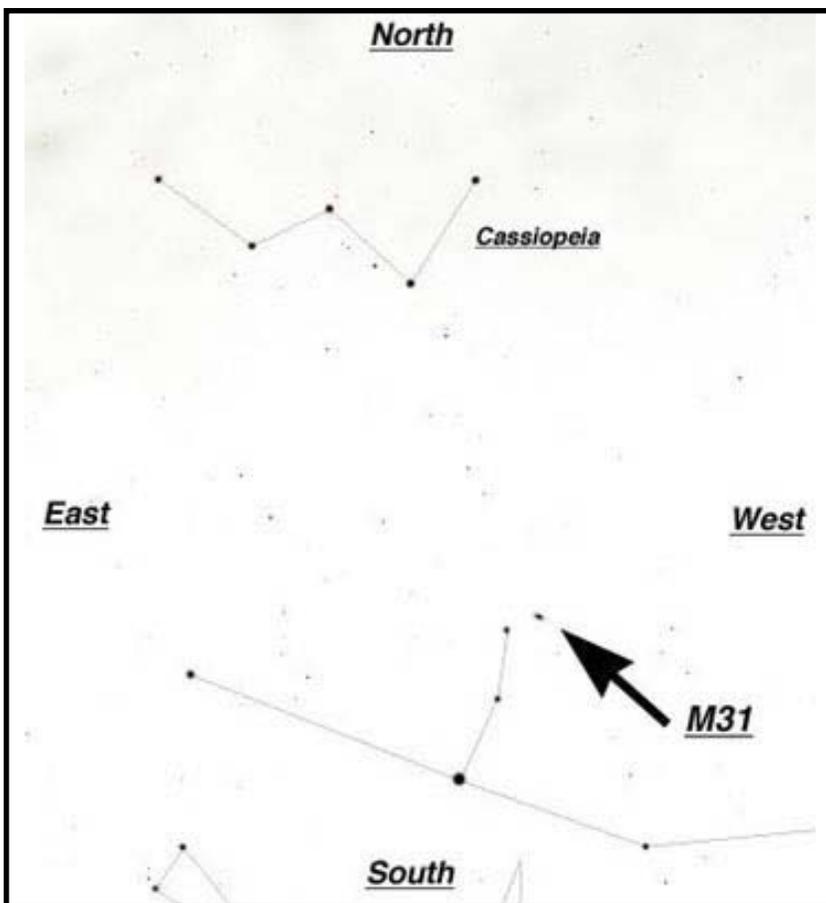


Image 1 above is map of Cassiopeia- Andromedia region.

may also be able to find two soft diffuse, but concentrated patches of light which are *M31*'s companion galaxies, *M32* and *M110*. In the final image, the directions have been changed to show how *M31*, *M32*, and *M110* would appear through an inverting telescope, with south up and east to the right. Here, you'll find *M32* is located above and close to the nucleus of *M31*, and *M110* is located a bit of a distance below *M31*. See

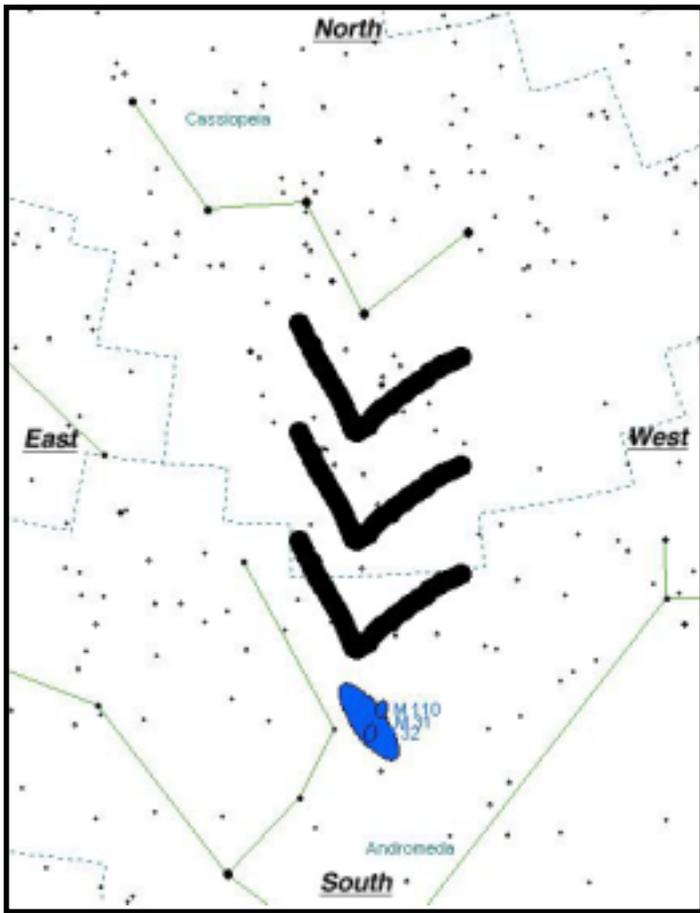
how many objects one can "tag" during the course of the evening. Instead, relax and take your time to learn how to "see." You'll be surprised to discover how much your observing will improve if you slow down to "smell the roses" along the way.

Enough pontificating; on to *The Andromeda Galaxy*! There are a number of different ways to locate Andromeda. However, over the years, I've found that I most reliably use the constellation *Cassiopeia* as my starting point. If *Cassiopeia* is visible, I can find *M31* as this constellation nicely points in the direction of *M31*. To begin the star-hop, we start high overhead at the zenith; which at about 10PM during the middle of the month of November is located south of *M31*. From there look directly north to the "lazy-W" formed by the prominent stars in *Cassiopeia*. See image 1 on left side of this page. Starting at the western end of *Cassiopeia*'s "lazy-W," I imagine three "V's" of approximately the same size and oriented in the same direction as the "lazy-W's" western-most three stars. See image 2 on top left corner of next page. Just by following the "V's" you'll be taken to the location of *M31* where you should see the galaxy as a faint smudge that is visible to the naked eye. Using binoculars or a small telescope you should begin to make out the spiral arms and dark lanes defining the galaxy as it spreads over 4 degrees of the sky! In a small telescope you

image 3 on top right of next page.

Notes: All images were created on a computer running Macintosh OSX 10.2.8. 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

Continued on the next page.



PC 6.0 and manipulated in Photoshop.

References:

Burnham, R. (1978). *Burnham's Celestial Handbook: An Observer's Guide to the Universe Beyond the Solar System* (Vol. One, Andromeda Through Cetus). New York: Dover Publications.

Clark, R. N. (1990). *Visual Astronomy of the Deep Sky*. New York: Sky Publishing Company (*Get your own copy. I'm jealously guarding mine! <GRIN>*).

Clark, R. N. (1993, November, 1993). A Visual Tour of M31. *Sky & Telescope*, 86, 100-101.

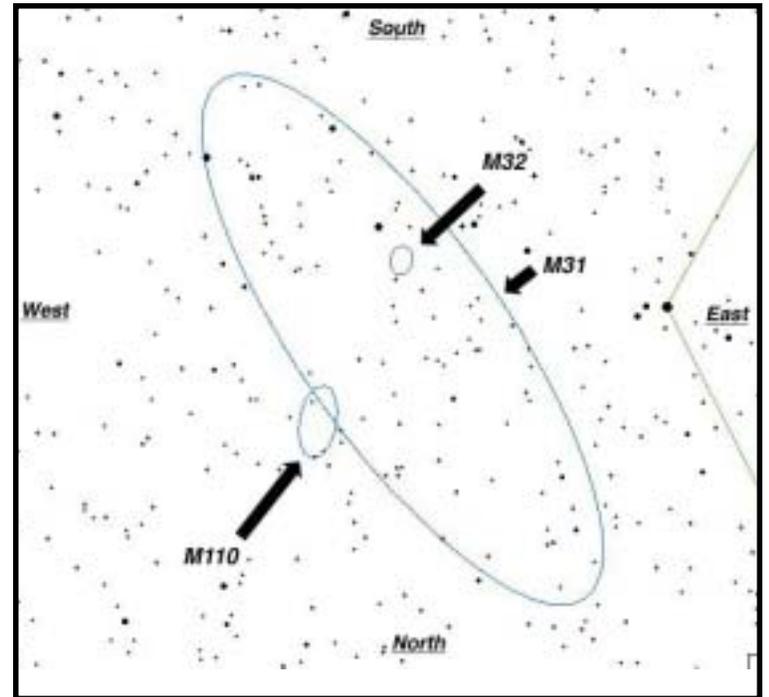


Image 2 is above map. Image 3 located to the right is a close up map of the M31 region. Note that the two satellite galaxies are located on opposite sides to each other from the center of M31.

Mars Opposition 2003



Mars Opposition 2003. The planet Mars was closer to Earth in 2003 than at any time in recorded history. These images were recorded using a Celestron 14" Schmidt Cassegrain telescope with a focal length of nearly 10,000mm (over 32 feet!). A monochrome (black and white) CCD camera (ST7E) with a color filtering system was used to create these colorful images. Each image is a stack of many images out of hundreds of exposures taken each evening through Red, Green and Blue filters. Each component image was manually aligned, stacked and color corrected by computer. All of the images except the opposition image were taken from Alpharetta, GA and the opposition image (08/27/03) was taken from Bahia Honda State Park in the Florida Keys. Imager: Larry Owens: ltoewens@comcast.net

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. To add a subscription, send a message to: AstroAtlanta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To cancel your membership, send a message to AstroAtlanta-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com. Messages for the list-owner (me) go to: AstroAtlanta-owner@yahoogroups.com or to 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.

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. If you wish to unsubscribe simply send an email to 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 and Donovan Conrad mailto:donovan@donconrad.com.

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>.

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

Program Chair: Rich Jakiel 7-577-2330
rjakiel@earthlink.net

Observing Chair: Dan Llewellyn 6-579-9661
zoser@mindspring.com

Corresponding Secretary/ ALCOR: Kosmic Kow 770-427-1475
Keith_B@Bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Evelyn Whalen 770-840-0535
Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.Org

Recording Secretary: Julie Moore 7-242-6735
moorequiver@bellsouth.net

Board: Mike Boni 770-956-7486
mikeboni@atlantaastronomy.org

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

Board: Ken Poshedly 7-979-9842 poshedly@bellsouth.net

Board Chairman: Alex Langoussis
aleko@mindspring.com

Board: Mark Banks 4-257-2766
Jmarkbanks@earthlink.net

Board: Brigitte Fessele 4-371-4713
brigitte_hf@earthlink.net

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

Elliott Observing Chair: Fred Taylor 7-385-9106

Elliott Recording Secretary: Lyle Fischer 478-218-0460
starhoppers@hotmail.com

Elliott Coordinator: Alesia Rast Alesia_Rast@mail.dnr.state.ga.us
Amateur Telescope Making:

Georgia Astronomy in State Parks: Joanne Cirincione 4-824-4751
starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Light Trespass: Tom Buchanan 7-521-2136
tombucha@family.net

Obser. & Telescope Training: Stef Whetstone 7-460-7678
swhetstone@mindspring.com

Sidewalk Astronomy: Mark Banks 4-257-2766
Jmarkbanks@earthlink.net

Villa Rica Observ. Coordinator:

Woodruff Observ. Coordinator: John Lentini 7-984-0175
johnlentini@yahoo.com

Webmaster Atlanta Astronomy: Peter Macumber 7-941-4640
pmacumber@nightssky.org

Webmaster Charlie Elliott: Lyle Fischer
starhoppers@hotmail.com



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:

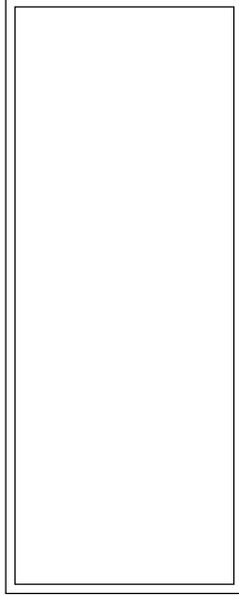
Atlanta Astronomy Club

PMB 305

3595 Canton Road A9

Marietta, GA 30066

FIRST CLASS



Calendar

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.

November 15th: GASP at Unicoi State Park. Starts at 7PM. Talk with sidewalk astronomy to follow talk. GPB will be filming this event.

November 22nd: Dark Sky Observing with Barnard Astronomical Society Chattanooga, Tn. This will take place at Orion Acres. Directions and other info in this issue of newsletter.

December 1st: Focal Point Submissions Deadline.

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

December 12th: Christmas Potluck Dinner. To be held at Emory University. More info in December issue. Planetarium show to follow dinner.

December 20th: Villa Rica Christmas Party and Observing. Will take place at the Walter F. Barber Jr Observatory.

January 1st: Focal Point Article Deadline. Hey, it maybe New Years Day but there's still a deadline.

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

January 9th: General Membership Meeting. To be held at Emory University White Hall. Starts at 8PM.

January 10th: Winter Scouters Campout. Camping and sidewalk astronomy with the scout leaders. Dinner provided to those who help out. Location is frosty Woodruff. Contact John Lentini for more information.

January 17th: Dark Sky Observing. Location is Woodruff BSC. Starts at Dark.

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. You can submit articles anytime up and including the deadline date. **The deadline for December is 11:59 PM Dec 1st. Submissions will no longer be accepted after the deadline.** Note that the editor will start working on the newsletter on **December 1st**. It takes me a week to do the newsletter.