

The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
Established 1947
March 2004

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Editor: Keith Burns

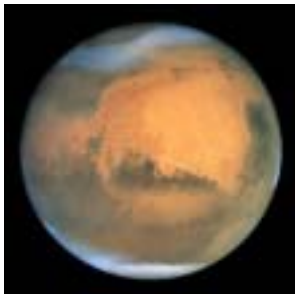
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March General Membership Meeting

The March meeting will take place on Friday March 19th. The meeting will take place at White Hall on the Emory University Campus. Starts at 8 PM sharp. Refreshments and socializing before hand out in the hallway from 7:30PM to 7:55PM.

Talk title: March Mars Madness!



Abstract: The next ACC meeting (March 19, 2004) will feature a presentation by the club's program chair, Richard Jakiel. Titled "March Mars Madness" the talk will discuss the current state of Martian Geology (and the search for water/life) with heavy emphasis on the findings

from the latest probes and landers/rovers. Numerous images from the Mars Global Surveyor (MGS), Mars Express (ESA), Pathfinder and the current Mars Exploration Rovers (Spirit, Opportunity) will be shown, many of which have not been published in science and astronomy magazines.

Speaker: Rich Jakiel.

Background on speaker: Richard Jakiel has a MS from Georgia Tech in the field of isotope geochemistry and a BS in geology and biology. He is currently employed for the State of Georgia's Radiation Protection Division as



a research scientist. Over the past 15 years he has written nearly 50 articles in the fields of astronomy, geochemistry and

paleontology.

Directions to Emory University

From I-20 East or West: Take exit 60-B, the Moreland Avenue North exit. Turn right on Moreland and follow it approximately 3 miles. Moreland will change to Briarcliff Road once it crosses Ponce de Leon Avenue. Continue straight on Briarcliff approximately 2 miles to North Decatur Road. Turn right and follow North Decatur one mile to the Dowman Drive intersection. It's a five way intersection. Emory University will be on your left.

From I-75 North or South: Take exit 248-C, the Freedom



Parkway exit. Cross Boulevard; continue on Freedom Parkway; veer right at split. Road will pass by Carter Center. Continue on through next traffic light. Road deadends at next traffic light. Turn left onto Moreland Avenue. Road changes names

after crossing over Ponce de Leon Avenue to Briarcliff Road.. Go approximately 2 miles on Briarcliff Road to North Decatur Road. Turn right and follow North Decatur Road one mile to the Dowman Drive intersection. Emory University will be on your left.

From I-285 East: Take I-285 to Stone Mountain Freeway (exit 39). Take the Atlanta/ Decatur exit. Take the Stone Mtn



Freeway to the end(1 Mile). Turn left onto Lawrenceville Hwy. Road will change names to Scott Blvd. Take Scott Blvd to North Decatur Road. Note that it is a five way intersection. Turn right onto North Decatur Road. Take road for 1 1/2 to 2 miles to Dowman Road. Note that

Dowman Road is a five way intersection. Turn right onto Dowman Road.

Continued on the next page.

From I-85 South or North: Take exit 91, the Clairmont Road exit. Turn (east/south) on Clairmont and follow it approximately 3 miles to North Decatur Road. Turn right and follow North Decatur approximately one mile to Dowman Road. Note Dowman is located at a five way intersection. Turn right onto Dowman Road.

Where to Park on Dowman Drive: Now that you are on Dowman Drive what's next. Parking is available along Dowman Drive on both sides of the roads. There is a large parking lot behind the Admissions Building. When you turn onto Dowman Drive you will see a driveway on the left side with a gate and small building. Turn left onto the drive and proceed past the gates. After 6PM there is no fee to park. There is a small parking lot to the right just past the small building. There are two larger parking lots straight ahead to if the small on to the right is full. At the end of the large parking lot it the new math and sciences building. White Hall is located across the street from the new Math and Sciences Building. Ironically the color of White Hall is white.

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 **\$33** 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 30066

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.

Charlie Elliott Chapter

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. Located east of Covington, Georgia about 12 miles south of I-20. So for those of you on the east side of town, check them out.

The **next meeting of the Elliott Chapter** will be on **Saturday March 20th at 5PM**. Topic of talk TBA. Additional information on the Chapter including pictures, can be seen at the website. Check the Charlie Elliott Chapter website for info on date and time of meetings. Visit the website at <http://>

www.AtlantaAstronomy.Org/CEWMA. Information will also be posted on the AAC listserv. Located in the AAC Contact on page seven of this newsletter is the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of the Elliott Chapter officers.

New AAC Treasurer

Due to the pressures of family responsibilities, our previous Treasurer has resigned and The Board appointed me as the new Treasurer until the next election. I am currently getting myself up to speed on the status of the AAC Treasury and the membership files. If you have any queries about your membership, subscriptions, badges, etc, phone me at 770-941-4640; or drop me an e-mail and I will check it out for you. Messages sent to the Treasurer on our new website will automatically be forwarded to me.

The address at Canton Rd in Marietta is a P.O. Box. Mail sent there must be picked up and forwarded to the Treasurer, so it can take at LEAST 2 WEEKS for me to receive it. It is preferable for all paperwork, checks, etc to be sent to my home address: 1057 Trestle Dr, Austell GA 30106-1583.

Please Note: Sky & Telescope may take up to 6-8 weeks to process new or renewal subscriptions; and they request that Clubs send these in only ONCE A MONTH. This can lead to a lag time in processing your subscription of up to two months (in the worst case). Also note, the expiry date on the form is for the month of the last ISSUE, not the month of last DELIVERY - and since S&T and Astronomy are delivered three months in advance (i.e. the March issue is delivered in January), the expiry date can sneak up on you! Please send your renewal notices in before the last month listed on the form!

Sharon Carruthers

Treasurer, AAC scarruthers@AtlantaAstronomy.org

February General Meeting

The general meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held at Emory University on February 20th, 2004 at 8:00 PM. Approximately 70 members and visitors were in attendance.

Dan Llewellyn, observing VP reported on several events: A **dark sky event at Woodruff** on 2/21; The **Zombie Party** April 16 & 17 also at Woodruff - Space is limited to about 100, some electricity will be available; March 27 **GASP event at Talluah Gorge**; and an **Open House at Villa Rica** 4/3.

Art Zorka reported that there would be an imaging workshop at Charlie Elliot on 2/21 at 7:00

Peter Macumber reported that the date for this year's **Peach State Star Gaze** will be October 13-17 at Whitewater Express.

Mark Banks, chairman of the Sidewalk Astronomy committee

Continued on the next page.

reported that the Cherokee County observing site is about 500 wooded acres and will have to be cleared some before it can be used. He also reminded us of the **need for a new Sidewalk Astronomy Chairman**. Wouldn't someone like to step forward and offer to head this committee that does so much in the community? Thanks, Mark for your years of service here.

Sharon Carruthers, our new treasurer reported that the best way to get dues and magazine subscriptions to her in a timely manner is to mail them directly to her home or bring them to the meeting. Her address is: 1057 Trestle Dr. Austell, GA 30106.

The Camera Bug has a new owner, Tim Nix, who was introduced to the club. He plans to continue with the previous owner's policy of a discount to AAC members and wants input concerning what astronomy items he should stock. The store is at 1799 Briarcliff in the Sage Hill shopping center.

Rich Jakiel, vice president for programs, announced that he would give the March meeting (3/19) talk on Mars Madness. The **banquet is Saturday, April 24th at Emory**. The speaker will be Dave Healy. The May meeting is still open, and elections will be held at then.

Dr. Scott Shaw of the UGA astronomy and physics department gave a very interesting and entertaining talk on Binary Stars.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Moore,

Recording Secretary

Minutes AAC Board Meeting Feb. 5, 2004

The Executive Board of the Atlanta Astronomy club met Thursday, February 5, 2004, 7:30 PM at Fernbank. Alex Langoussis moderated. Present were: Jim Moore, Alex Langoussis, Rich Jakiel, Brigitte Fessle, Dan Llewellyn, Evelyn Whalen, Ken Poshedly, Keith Burns, Dan Llewellyn, Julie Moore, Mike Boni, Joanne Cirincione, Phil Sacco, Art Zorka, Sharon Caruthers, Peter Macumber, Chuck Painter and John Lentini.

Agenda items: 1. Treasury- Evelyn Whalen resigned. 2. PSSG. 3. Budget.

1. Motion was made by Jim Moore to appoint Sharon Carruthers treasurer and seconded by Dan Llewellyn. It carried and Sharon is the new treasurer. Thanks for helping out, Sharon!

2. Peter presented a report listing goals and responsibilities for the PSSG committee. It was amended to reflect the bylaws of the club, which require the president to appoint committee chairs each year. The amended report was accepted by a vote of the committee. Peter Macumber was appointed chairman and Joanne Cirincione was appointed co-chairmen of the PSSG Committee.

3. Chuck Painter presented the work done thus far on the budget for 2004. The board will meet again Thursday March 4, 2004 to approve the final budget. Minimal expenditures were

recommended until the financial statement was brought current. The following back expenditures were approved for immediate action: \$750 for gravel at Villa Rica (Dan). \$100 for bookshelves at Villa Rica (Sharon). \$800 for power accommodations at Woodruff (John).

1. Rich Jakiel reported that speakers have been secured through the May meeting and the banquet will be at Emory on Saturday, April 24, 2004.

2. Sharon was asked to check on name badges and new member packets.

3. The next board meeting is set for Thursday, March 4, 2004 at 7:30 PM at Fernbank Science Center. Please e-mail the board list with any proposals for the new budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Moore

Recording Secretary

GASP (Georgia Astronomy in State Parks)

Tallulah Gorge State Park – 3/27/04

Please join us at Tallulah Gorge State Park, Saturday, March 27. The program will start at 7:00p with a slide presentation on "Basic Astronomy" followed by an observing session with the campers. Weather permitting; we will be set up on the helicopter field right next to the campground. If it rains, we will have the program in the Interpret Center up the hill from the campground.

Future GASP Events:

May 29 – Cloudland Canyon State Park

September 4 – FDR State Park

October 2 – Florence Marina State Park

November 20 – Unicoi State Park

If you have any questions about any of our events please let me know. Joanne - Starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org. Our events are also posted on the Website.

DARK SKY FRIENDLY YARD LIGHTS

by Tom Buchanan

In case you want a dark sky friendly light fixture for your yard, know a neighbor who needs one, or know an interested subdivision developer, here is some information.

Magnaray International sells the W1PL13, W1PL18, and W1PL36 light fixtures. Light control blinders can be added. A 13-, 18-, or 36-watt fluorescent bulb, respectively, provides the light. The Web site is at: <http://www.magnaray.com>. Larry can be contacted for information at: larry@magnaray.com.

The Glarebuster Company has The GlareBuster Model #GB-

Continued on page five.

Location: Woodruff Boy Scout Camp located in the North Georgia Mountains.

SOUTHERN ZOMBIE PARTY

THE FIRST NO PRESSURE STAR PARTY. COME AS YOU ARE, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BRING A TELESCOPE, OR OWN ONE FOR THAT MATTER. COME & HAVE FUN!!!!

PLAN ON ATTENDING! E-MAIL CONFIRMATIONS WILL GUARANTEE YOU A SPOT. WALK-INS WELCOME IF THERE IS ROOM SO, DON'T TAKE A CHANCE. ELECTRICITY IS AVAILABLE. GENERATORS OK, BUT WILL BE PLACED AT THE EDGE OF THE FIELD. BRING YOUR OWN CAMPING STUFF.

CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO GUARANTEE A SPOT. Send an email to: zoser@mindspring.com

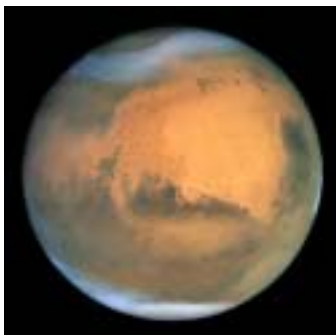
How do you get there?

From Atlanta: Take I-575 to GA 515. Follow 515 through Ellijay and Blue Ridge. Go 2.2 miles past the intersection of 515 and GA 60. Take a left on Loving Road, and follow it until it ends (almost 10 miles). Turn right on GA 325 and go about 50 yards to Boy Scout Road. Turn right again. The entrance to the Scout Camp is about 2.5 (twisty windy) miles on the right. The road makes a right after the entrance. Go straight past the lake on left. The main road turns rough at the second rangers house, but Chestnut Gap Road goes left, and is OK, but the pavement ends after 50 feet. Take the left. (Follow the pavement) Go about a half-mile, and again the road ahead gets rough, but you should turn right at a sign that says Private Road, Do Not Enter. Follow to field & registration desk.

From Blairsville: Take 515 West toward Blue Ridge. Turn right on GA 325. The road takes a couple of turns, including a T intersection where you go left. Boy Scout Road comes up on your left after you pass the lake. Go about 3 miles and the camp entrance is on your left. Once you find the camp, take the main entrance road (Turner Gap Rd.) and follow it past the lake on left. Read above to get to field.

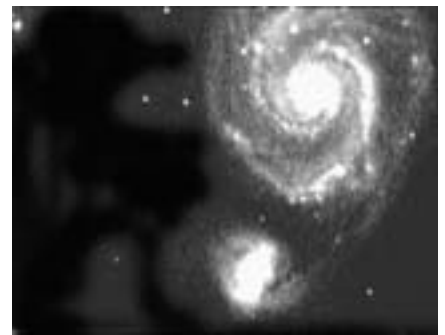


Hubble Space Telescope image of M104.



Hubble Space Telescope Image Mars.

***LARGE SPRING STAR PARTY! *CHEAP ADMISSION, ONLY \$10. FOR BOTH DAYS, KIDS FREE! *VOLUNTEER MEMBERS WILL TALK ABOUT**



GALAXY HUNTING, PLANETARY. *IMAGING, DIGITAL AND VIDEO IMAGING. IMAGE PROCESSING Q&A WITH ATLANTA IMAGERS. *LARGE DOB FOR VISUAL, THE AAC HAS A 24" TECTRON.



Images Jupiter & Saturn taken by Dan Llewellyn.

Yard Lights Continued

1000 unit in White and in Bronze. ACE Hardware stores can obtain this unit, but might not have it in stock. The bronze unit is ACE #3194883. The white unit is ACE #3194875. The GlareBuster representative can be contacted for information at 1-800-548-8714. See: <http://www.theglarebuster.com/>

Need a Sidewalk Astronomy Coordinator

This is a great way to get involved with club members and the public. I have been doing this job for the last 5 years. I am involved in other club projects now so I think this is a good time to let someone else take over.

There's no rocket science involved here. You just need to be able to take requests from the public and arrange for the appropriate club members to do the event. You don't need to have a telescope or know a lot about astronomy. You just need to go out there with evangelical zeal and get as many converts as possible.

If you would like to get more information on this job, please contact me. Thanks, Mark Banks (404-257-2766) or (jmarkbanks@earthlink.net).

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

Georgia Sky View 2004 Star Party

The Flint River Astronomy Club will be hosting it's first annual Star Party. Date: May 21 - 23, 2004. Location: Camp McIntosh (Indian Springs State Park), Jackson, GA. Schedule of Fees: Each Adult and Child, 10 and over the fee is \$26.00 (covers entire event)**. Each Child under ten years old is \$10.00 (covers entire event)**. Dormitory Lodging fee is \$5.00 per night/per person. State Parking Pass \$2.00 per vehicle (fee charged by the park - if you have a current "Georgia Park pass" season pass this fee is waived. The event T-Shirt is a Grey shirt with logo on front (full front) \$18.00 each. There is a \$10 add on fee per person attending event for those who register after May 1st, 2004. **Note: The event attendance fee is the same for a single day/night or the entire event. The attendance fee must be paid to enter the property whether observing or 'visiting'.

No Electrical hookups are provided on the observing field. Limited electricity is available in the Dorms and other buildings on

site, but is not close to the observing field. Modern quiet generators will be allowed within reason and subject to the policies of the planning committee. Construction generators will not be allowed at any time. Any ruling prohibiting the use of a specific generator made by the planning committee is final and not subject to appeal.

**The "Release & Hold Harmless Agreement" which is part of the registration packet *MUST* be returned and be signed by all persons registering. Entry into the site will not be permitted unless this document is complete, properly signed and in the possession of the planning committee.

This event is a "rain or shine" event and all fees are non-refundable. Fees are transferable to another person, subject to properly documenting the transfer with the planning committee and the substitute attendee(s) delivering a complete registration form and "Release & Hold Harmless Agreement" to the planning committee.

MIDNIGHT MUNCHIES We are planning to have fresh baked & hot cinnamon rolls and sausage biscuits delivered to the observing field during the night for a nominal fee (baked on site).

Note: Attendee's should make plans to bring their own food (other than above).

Folks can also go to our website for info and registration forms.. <http://www.flintriverastronomy.org>

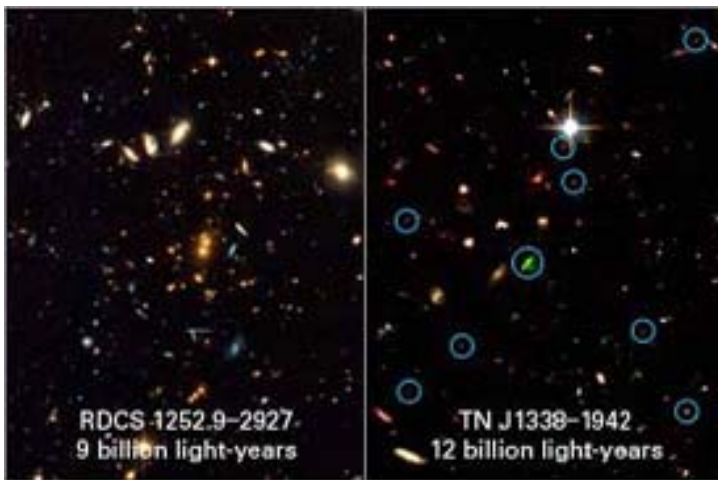
Tale of Two Record-Breaking Galaxy Clusters

Looking back in time to when the universe was in its formative youth, the Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) aboard NASA's Hubble Space Telescope captured these revealing images of two galaxy clusters.

The image at left shows mature galaxies in a massive cluster that existed when the cosmos was 5 billion years old. The cluster, called RDCS 1252.9-2927, is as massive as 300 trillion suns and is the most massive known cluster for its epoch. The Hubble image reveals the core of the cluster and is part of a much larger mosaic of the entire cluster. Dominating the core are a pair of large, reddish elliptical galaxies [near center of image]. Their red color indicates an older population of stars. Most of the stars are at least 1 billion years old. The two galaxies appear to be interacting and may eventually merge to form a larger galaxy that is comparable to the brightest galaxies seen in present-day clusters.

The red galaxies surrounding the central pair are also cluster members. The cluster probably contains many thousands of galaxies, but only about 50 can be seen in this image. The full Hubble mosaic reveals several hundred cluster members. Many of the other galaxies in the image, including several of the blue galaxies, are foreground galaxies. The color-composite image was assembled from observations taken between May and June

Continued on the next page.



2002 by the ACS Wide Field Camera.

In the image at right, astronomers are seeing an embryonic cluster as it was when the universe was 1.5 billion years old. The young system, called TN J1338-1942, is the most distant known developing cluster, or proto-cluster. It is dominated by a massive “baby galaxy,” the green object in the center with the blue circle around it. The galaxy is producing powerful radio emissions, and is the brightest galaxy in the proto-cluster. The green color indicates that the galaxy is emitting glowing hydrogen gas. Its clumpy appearance suggests that it is still in the process of forming. Smaller developing galaxies, marked by the blue circles, are scattered around the massive galaxy. The galaxy on the left of the massive galaxy is a foreground galaxy. The bright object in the upper half of the image is a foreground star. This color-composite image was assembled from observations taken between July 8 and 12, 2002 by the ACS Wide Field Camera

Credits for RDCS 1252: [NASA](#), [ESA](#), J. Blakeslee (Johns Hopkins University), M. Postman ([Space Telescope Science Institute](#)), and P. Rosati (European Southern Observatory)

Credits for TN J1338: [NASA](#), [ESA](#), G. Miley (Leiden Observatory), and R. Overzier (Leiden Observatory)

Image Type: Astronomical STScI-PRC2004-01

Space Phenomenon Imitates Art in Universe’s Version of the Van Gogh Painting

This image resembling Vincent van Gogh’s painting, “Starry Night,” is Hubble’s latest view of an expanding halo of light around a distant star, named V838 Monocerotis (V838 Mon). This Hubble image was obtained with the Advanced Camera for Surveys on February 8, 2004. The illumination of interstellar dust comes from the red supergiant star at the middle of the image, which gave off a flashbulb-like pulse of light two years ago. V838 Mon is located about 20,000 light-years away from Earth in the direction of the constellation Monoceros, placing the star at the outer edge of our Milky Way galaxy.

Credit: NASA and The Hubble Heritage Team (AURA/STScI)



The Astronomical League

As a member of the AAC, you are automatically a member of the Astronomical League. AL for short. I (Keith Burns) 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. Phone evenings (770-427-1475) or email (Keith_B@Bellsouth.net).

All of the leagues observing programs are available at the AL website. You can either download a copy of the list for a program or purchase the helpful workbooks available. There are 22 programs now. The better known ones include Messier Binocular, Messier, Lunar, Double Star, Urban, Sampler, Sunspotter, Planetary, Meteor Shower, and Herschel.

Note that all the material you see printed in this newsletter has been provided to us for use in this newsletter only. If you would like to use a particular picture or article (somewhere else), contact the author or photographer to get permission. With a few
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exceptions, most people will gladly grant you permission to use the material elsewhere with proper credit given.

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>

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.

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: chrishet@attbi.com) and Donovan Conrad [mailto:donovan@donconrad.com](mailto: donovan@donconrad.com) .

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

AAC Contacts

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[zoser@mindspring.com](mailto: zoser@mindspring.com)

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[buchanant@bellsouth.net](mailto: buchanant@bellsouth.net)

Obser. & Telescope Training: Stef Whetstone 7-460-7678
[swhetstone@mindspring.com](mailto: swhetstone@mindspring.com)

Sidewalk Astronomy / Board: Mark Banks 4-257-2766
[Jmarkbanks@earthlink.net](mailto: Jmarkbanks@earthlink.net)

Villa Rica Observ. Coordinator: Vacant at this time

Woodruff Observ. Coordinator: John Lentini 7-984-0175
[johnlentini@yahoo.com](mailto: johnlentini@yahoo.com)

Webmaster Atlanta Astronomy: Peter Macumber 7-941-4640
[pmacumber@nightsky.org](mailto: pmacumber@nightsky.org)

Webmaster Charlie Elliott: Lyle Fischer
[starhoppers@hotmail.com](mailto: starhoppers@hotmail.com)



The Focal Point

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

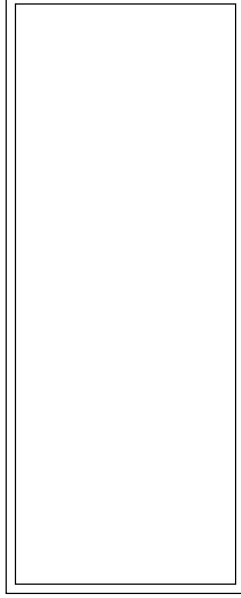
FROM:

Keith Burns
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.

March 19th: General Membership Meeting. Emory University. Starts at 8PM. Speaker: Rich Jakiel. Topic: March Mars Madness.

March 20th: Dark Sky Observing. Location Woodruff.

March 27th: GASP sidewalk astronomy and camping. Location: Tallulah Gorge State Park.

April 1st: Focal Point Article Deadline. This is for real.

April 16th -18th: Spring Zombie Party at Woodruff. Admission \$10 for event. Pay at event.

April 24th: Annual Banquet. Dave Healy with talk about at totally automated observatory. Location is Emory Student Center.

May 1st: Focal Point Article Deadline.

May 15th: Deep Sky Observing. Location TBA

May 21st: General Membership Meeting. Emory University. Elections of officers and board positions.

May 29th: GASP sidewalk astronomy and camping. Location Cloudland Canyon State Park. Some folks will be camping from the 28th- 31st. Talk given at dusk and sidewalk astronomy to follow.

May 29th: Open House at Villa Rica. Our Walter F. Barber Jr observatory. Start time 6PM.

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 at the following address. Send it to Keith Burns 3740 Burnt Hickory Road Marietta, Georgia 30064 or send it via email to **Keith_B@bellsouth.net**. You can submit articles anytime up and including the deadline date. **The deadline for April is 11:59 PM April 1st. Submissions will no longer be accepted after the deadline.** Note that the editor will start working on the newsletter on **April 1st**. It takes me a week to do the newsletter.