

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947  
April 2004

Vol XVI No. 11

Editor: Keith Burns

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## April Banquet instead of Meeting

The April Banquet will take place on **Saturday April 24th**. The Banquet will take place at **Cox Hall** on the **Emory University Campus**. Dinner starts at **6:30 PM sharp**. The program will start at 8PM. Cost of the dinner is **\$25.00 per person**. Price includes Tax and Gratuity. **YOU MUST RSVP and PAY BY MONDAY, APRIL 19<sup>th</sup> IN ORDER TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE**. Make out check to Atlanta Astronomy Club. Mail to Sharon Carruthers at 1057 Trestle Dr, Austell GA 30106-1583. Be sure to write Banquet on check somewhere or on the envelope.

Menu choice include Choice of 1 main entrée. 1) Grilled Flank Steak. 2) Tuscany Chicken w/ Sun Dried Tomatoes, Artichoke Hearts and Capers. Both Entrees include the following: Fresh Seasonal Fruit and Cheese Platter w/ baguettes and crackers. House Salad with cherry tomatoes, cucumbers & roasted red peppers. Served w/ balsamic vinaigrette. Parmesan Risotto. Green Beans Amandine. Fresh Baked rolls w/ butter. Cheesecake with seasonal fruit or Dark and White Chocolate Mousse cake. Fresh Brewed Iced Tea, Coffee, Ice Water.

**Talk title:** Fully automated Junk Bond Observatory.

**Abstract:** The presentation has three main parts. The first describes the building of the dome at JBO for the 32-inch Ritchey, and the installation of the "loaner" 20-inch Ritchey, and a brief overview of the dome and scope operating systems. The second part gives a quick overview of the process of CCD imaging, and the third describes how we use CCD imaging to discover new asteroids and track hazardous ones at JBO.



**Speaker:** Dave Healy.

**Background on speaker:** About nine years ago Dave Healy escaped to the dark skies of southeastern Arizona from the fiscally rewarding but light-polluted New York City area. Maintaining his day job as a securities analyst for a New York firm more or less by remote

control via phone, the Internet and e-mail, Healy is both director and staff of Junk Bond Observatory, which now operates 14-inch, 16-inch, and 20-inch reflectors, and hopefully before too long, a 32-inch reflector.

Observatory projects include expanding and deepening a hazardous-asteroid search program (which has already discovered 112 new but non-threatening asteroids) and taking pictures of deep-sky objects, with colliding galaxies a favorite target. He can be considered a poster-boy for a hobby escalating out of control. Dave is a contributing editor of ASTRONOMY, and his photos, equipment reviews, and "how-to" and "how-not-to" articles on astrophotography have appeared frequently in the Magazine.

He is a recipient of the Lone Stargazer Award from the Texas Star Party "for outstanding achievement in visual observing, astrophotography, and CCD imaging." In the more dubious achievement category, Healy claims to be a co-holder of the world record for empty magnification, having observed Mars at 533,500 power.



*Nothing like having an observatory in your backyard. Of course, the grass is a little tough to cut. JBO pictured to the left.*

*Continued on the next page.*

## 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.

**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:** Now that you are on Dowman Drive what's next. Take Dowman Drive to the end. Turn right onto Dickey Drive. Take Dickey Drive to 1st road on left. Turn left onto Fraternity Row. Parking lots are located a block down on the left. Park here. There's no parking at Cox Hall. Walking to Cox Hall, take Fraternity Row to Dickey Drive. Turn left and follow Dickey Drive to end. Right onto Asbury Circle. Cox Hall second building on left.

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## 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 April 17th at 7PM**. Topic of talk is a Special talk for Boy Scouts: Astronomy Badge Observing and lecture to help scouts earn an astronomy badge. 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 [www.AtlantaAstronomy.Org/CEWMA](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.

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## AAC Treasurer

By Sharon Carruthers

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!

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](mailto:webmaster@AtlantaAstronomy.org). Also send information on upcoming observing events, meetings, and other events to the webmaster.

## Minutes of the March 2004 Board Meeting

The Board of the Atlanta Astronomy Club met on March 4, 2004 at Fernbank Science Center. In attendance were Chuck Painter, Jim Moore, Sharon Carruthers, Alex Langoussis, Peter Macumber, Joanne Cirincione, Keith Burns, Dan Llewellyn, Mike Boni, Ken Poshedly, Brigitte Fessele, and Julie Moore.

Thanks were given to Sharon for getting the books in order.

Chuck presented the proposed 2004 budget. After discussion on the operating portion of the budget, Jim moved that it be approved and Ken seconded. The motion passed with no opposition.

The capital expenditure portion of the budget was presented and discussed. Mike moved to accept it, with Jim seconding. It was approved unanimously also.

The mailing list for the Focal Point was discussed. It was decided that one more renewal notice would be sent to all expired members. They would then be dropped if there were no response.

Motion was made and seconded that the meeting adjourn. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Moore,

Recording Secretary.

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## March 2004 General Meeting

The Atlanta Astronomy Club met at Emory, White Hall on March 19, 2004 at 8:00 PM. There were approximately 60 in attendance.

Observing VP Dan Llewellyn announced several upcoming events including the Zombie Party at Woodruff April 16-17 and May 5 "Moon Walk" at Atlanta Botanical Gardens from 7-9 PM.

Corresponding Secretary Keith Burns reminded everyone that the Focal Point is online with free access.

GASP chairman Joanne Cirincione announced an event at Cloudland on Memorial day weekend.

Sidewalk astronomy events include 2 evenings of planet watching at the businesses of club members, Apr. 27 at Pickneyville Middle School and June 4<sup>th</sup> at Chattahoochee Nature Center. More can be learned about this at [www.chattnaturecenter.com](http://www.chattnaturecenter.com)

Program VP Rich Jakiel announced that the 2004 Banquet will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-11 PM at Emory. The cost is \$25 per person. The speaker will be David Healy.

The speaker for the evening was Rich Jakiel with an update on Mars. Thanks for an interesting and informative talk, Rich.

Respectfully Submitted, Julie Moore, Recording Secretary

## Looking For 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).**

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## 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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

*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](mailto: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



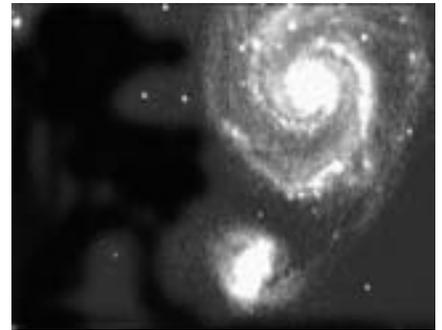
Hubble Space Telescope image of M104.



Hubble Space Telescope Image Mars.

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.

**\*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.

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>

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## **GASP (Georgia Astronomy in State Parks**

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](mailto:Starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org). Our events are also posted on the Website.

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## **Sciencecraft**

**by Patrick L. Barry and Tony Phillips**

Probes that can distinguish between “interesting” things and “boring” things are vital for deep space exploration, say JPL scientists. Along with his colleagues in NASA’s Space Technology 6 Project (ST6), JPL’s Steven Chien is working to develop an artificial intelligence technology that does just that. They call it the Autonomous Sciencecraft Experiment, and it’s one of many next-generation satellite technologies emerging from NASA’s New Millennium Program.

As humanity expands its exploration of the outer solar system-or even neighboring solar systems!-the probes we send suffer from two unavoidable handicaps. First, commands radioed by mission scientists on Earth take a long time to reach the probe: six hours for the planned New Horizons mission to Pluto, for example.

Second, the great distance also means that data beamed back by the probe trickles to Earth at a lower bandwidth-often much less than an old 28.8 kbps modem. Waiting for hundreds or thousands of multi-megabyte scientific images to download could take weeks. And often many of those images will be “boring,” that is, they won’t contain anything new or important for scientists to puzzle over. That’s certainly not the most efficient way of using a multi-million dollar probe.

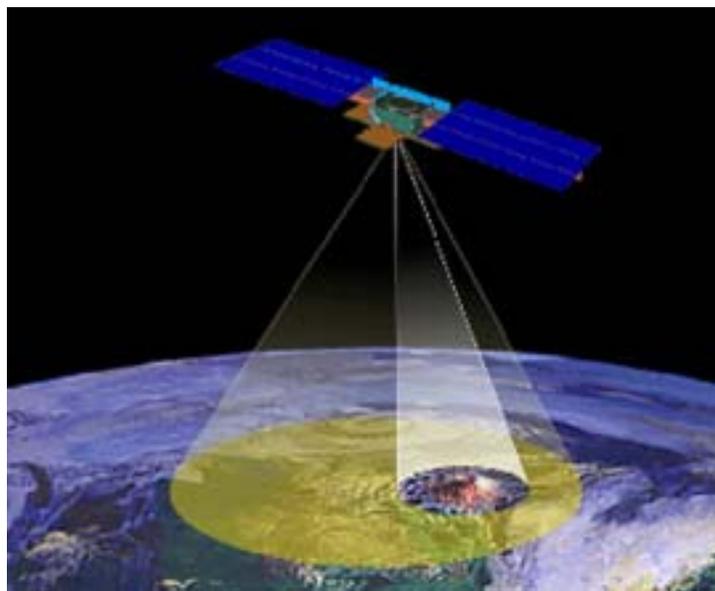
Even worse, what if one of those images showed something extremely “interesting”-a rare event like a volcanic eruption or an unexpected feature like glaciers of methane ice? By the time scientists see the images, hours or days would have passed,

and it may be too late to tell the probe to take a closer look. But how can a probe’s computer brain possibly decide what’s “interesting” to scientists and what’s not? ”What you really want is a probe that can identify changes or unique features and focus on those things on its own, rather than just taking images indiscriminately,” says Arthur Chmielewski, one of Chien’s colleagues at JPL.

Indeed, that’s what Chien’s software does. It looks for things that change. A mission to Jupiter’s icy moon Europa, for instance, might zero in on newly-formed cracks in the ice. Using artificial intelligence to set priorities, the probe could capture a complete movie of growing fractures rather than a single haphazard snapshot.

Until scientists can actually travel to deep space and explore distant worlds in person, they’ll need spacecraft “out there” that can do some of the thinking for them. Sciencecraft is leading the way.

*The Autonomous Sciencecraft technology that will be tested as part of NASA’s Space Technology 6 mission will use artificial intelligence to select and transmit only the scientifically significant images.*



Learn more about Sciencecraft at [nmp.nasa.gov/st6](http://nmp.nasa.gov/st6). Kids can make a “Star Finder” for this month and learn about another of the ST6 technologies at [spaceplace.nasa.gov/st6starfinder/st6starfinder.htm](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/st6starfinder/st6starfinder.htm).

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





## Hubble's Deepest View Ever of the Universe

Astronomers at the Space Telescope Science Institute today unveiled the deepest portrait of the visible universe ever achieved by humankind. Called the Hubble Ultra Deep Field (HUDF), the million-second-long exposure reveals the first galaxies to emerge from the so-called "dark ages," the time shortly after the big bang when the first stars reheated the cold, dark universe. The new image should offer new insights into what types of objects reheated the universe long ago.

This historic new view is actually two separate images taken by Hubble's Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) and the Near Infrared Camera and Multi-object Spectrometer (NICMOS). Both images reveal galaxies that are too faint to be seen by ground-based telescopes, or even in Hubble's previous faraway looks, called the Hubble Deep Fields (HDFs), taken in 1995 and 1998.

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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 (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](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. 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 pro-

gram 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.

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## 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](http://www.adobe.com). Download the FP at [www.atlantaastronomy.org](http://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](mailto:pmacumber@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

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## Candidates Running for Office 2004-2005

As of April 2nd the following people are running for the following positions. Dan Llewellyn President, Chuck Painter President, Nancy Cronin Program Chair, Jim Holley Observing Chair, Julie Moore Recording Secretary, Kat Sarbell Corresponding Secretary, Kelly Melikian Treasurer, Chris Hetlage Board, Tom Faber Board, and Donovan Conrad Board.

Anyone who is interested in running for one of these positions please contact one of the individuals on the nomination committee. The nomination committee consists of Joanne Cirincione ([starrynights@mindspring.com](mailto:starrynights@mindspring.com)), Art Russell ([artrussell@mindspring.com](mailto:artrussell@mindspring.com)), and Brigitte Fessele ([brigitte\\_hf@earthlink.net](mailto:brigitte_hf@earthlink.net)). Several of them have phone numbers listed in the AAC Contact section on page seven of this publication.

There are a total of six officer positions and six board positions. All office positions are for a one year term. The board positions are for a two year term. Only three board positions are open for this year. The following individuals still have one year left on their term of two years: Brigitte Fessle, Mike Boni, and Mark Banks.

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## Villa Rica Observatory Update

Several improvements have been made at our Villa Rica observatory. A few weeks ago several loads of crusher run gravel where delivered and spread in the washed out area located near the entrance to the driveway. Now access drive into the site is much smoother then in times past.

After many years of service, the focuser on the 10 inch cave scope finally broke. A new focuser has been installed in it's place. This new focuser accepts 1 1/4inch and 2 inch eyepieces. Adjustments were made with the mirrors to accommodate the new focuser. The scope works beautifully like it did in the past. So if you have been trained on the scope, go on out and use it. Note that the balance on the scope will have to be

*Continued on the next page.*

adjusted some to accommodate the new mirror positions. That will be taken care of soon.

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>

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## 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.yahoo.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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## 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

**President:** Jim Moore 7-242-6735

Hollin@Bellsouth.net

**Program Chair:** Rich Jakiel 7-577-2330

rjakiel@earthlink.net

**Observing Chair:** Dan Llewellyn 6-579-9661

zoser@mindspring.com

**Corresponding Secretary/ ALCOR:** Keith Burns 770-427-1475

Keith\_B@Bellsouth.net

**Treasurer:** Sharon Carruthers 770-941-4640

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:** 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

taylorfj@aol.com

**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:** Larry Phillips 404-377-3861

lwphillips@mindspring.com

**Georgia Astronomy in State Parks:** Joanne Cirincione 4-824-4751

starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org

**Light Trespass:** Tom Buchanan 7-521-2136

buchanant@bellsouth.net

**Obser. & Telescope Training:** Stef Whetstone 7-460-7678

swhetstone@mindspring.com

**Sidewalk Astronomy / Board:** Mark Banks 4-257-2766

Jmarkbanks@earthlink.net

**Villa Rica Observ. Coordinator:** Vacant at this time

**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.

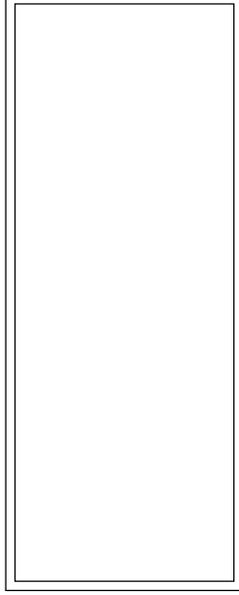
FROM:

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.

**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 5th: Moonlight Walk.** Sidewalk astronomy Location: Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Contact Mark Banks for more information.

**May 15th: Deep Sky Observing.** Location: Woodruff BSC between Blue Ridge and Blairsville.

**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 on Saturday May 29th at dusk and sidewalk astronomy to follow.

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

**June 1st: Focal Point Article Deadline.**

### 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 May is 11:59 PM May 1st. Submissions will no longer be accepted after the deadline.** Note that the editor will start working on the newsletter on **May 1st**. It takes me a week to do the newsletter.