

The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
Established 1947
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Editor: Kat Sarbell

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Message from the Editor

Most of the images in the Focal Point are in color, but you won't see that if you are getting the mailed version. You can download the full color version from the AAC web site each month. By receiving the Focal Point over the Internet instead of having it mailed, you can save the club about \$12 a year in printing and mailing costs. It may not sound like much, but the more people that use the Internet to receive the Focal Point, the more money the club will have to support its other activities. Just send an email to Kat Sarbell (FocalPoint@AtlantaAstronomy.Org) requesting that your name be removed from the Focal Point mailing list.

June General Meeting

By Keith "Kosmic Kow" Burns, Retired AAC Program Chair

The next general meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club will be on Friday, June 15th, at 8 P.M. at Emory University at the Goodrich Whitehall building. The meeting will take place in room 207. This is the first room on the left after entering into the building through the double doors. We will have refreshments just outside of the room before the meeting. A small donation in the "kitty" box is requested but not required. Directions to White Hall and new parking info are on page 7.

The meeting starts at 8 PM sharp. We will have our business meeting first. This includes any announcements and other things of astronomical interest. Anyone who wishes to make any announcements please notify Peter Macumber at president@atlantaastronomy.org and also email me at Keith_B@Bellsouth.net. That way Peter knows who is speaking ahead of time and he can schedule the time required. I need to know so I can put your information on a Power Point presentation slideshow that will run before and during the beginning of the business meeting. Please have the announcement info to me by no later than May 15th (Tuesday).

Our featured speaker of the night, Chris Hetlage, gives his talk with questions and answers to follow. We will adjourn the meeting and head off to a local eating establishment for supper, dessert, and/or just a drink.

Chris Hetlage will be presenting the the AAC an update on The Deerlick Astronomy Village, <http://deerlickgroup.com>. Chris is one of the founding partners of The Deer Lick Group, LLC, a group of local amateur astronomers whose interest in a permanent dark sky site has resulted in the development of this unique village. The Deerlick Astronomy Village is a unique planned communicated suited to the needs of amateur astronomers. DAV is located in the very dark skies of central Georgia. DAV has a number of different membership types and ownership opportunities. This presentation will discuss the vision of the group, a history of the project, challenges, and a current state update.



Speaker Biography:

Chris is an avid astrophotographer, <http://hetlage.com>, and has recently brought to market an automation system for roll-off roof observatories called m1 OASYS, Observatory Automation System, <http://m1oasys.com>. Chris is an executive for a major healthcare information systems company and travels frequently, but with his automated observatory can image from anywhere in the world.

Upcoming Speaker and Program:

July 20th - Dr. Richard Schmude will present a talk about Jupiter.

Photo by Rich Simons

Upcoming Telescope & Instrument Workshop Meetings

by Sharon Carruthers

The next few meetings of the Telescope and Instrument Workshop will be 11 AM Saturdays, June 2, July 7, and August 4 at the Bradford Map & Telescope Atlanta store, 300 Hammond Rd, Sandy Springs. We are planning to build loaner scopes. Or bring your scope problems and we will try to help you out. For more info you can contact me at 404-843-9610 (work) or scarruthers@AtlantaAstronomy.org.

May 18th General Meeting Minutes

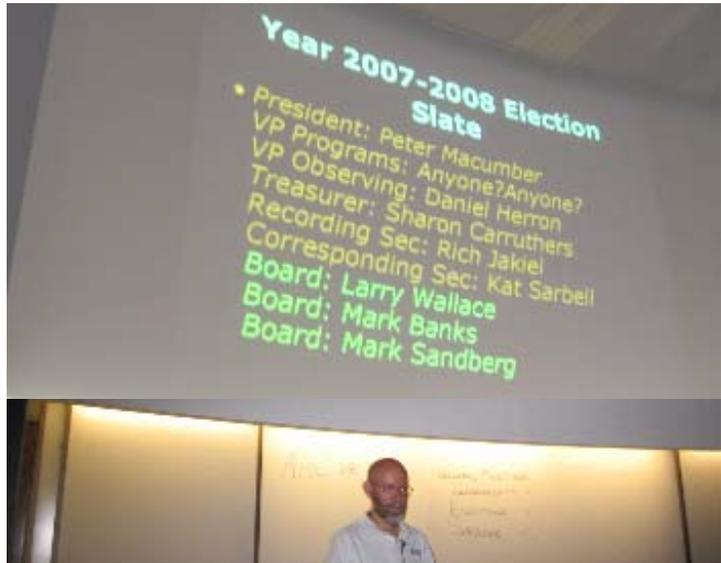
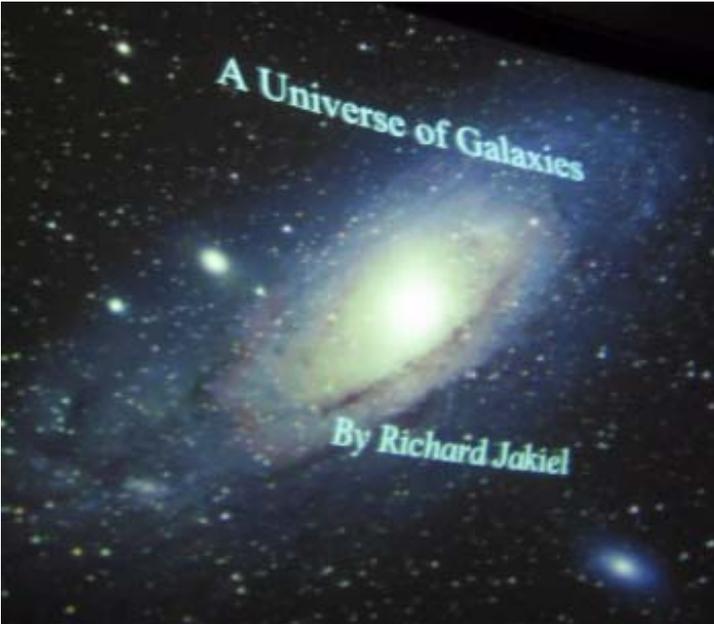
By Richard Jakiel, AAC Recording Secretary

Meeting Photos by Tom Faber

The May 18th meeting began at 8:05 PM, with Peter Macumber presiding. About 35 AAC members and their guests were in attendance (30 AAC members). The following announcements were made: CE Chapter meeting - May 19th at 5 PM, the DSO make-up event at DAV (5/19), Telescope & Instrument workshop (at Bradford Map) – 6/2 and Dave Lumpkin discussed the New Members Forum (Villa Rica) for 6/9. Also discussed were the next GASP event at the Tallulah Gorge State Park (6/23) and the upcoming June Meeting which will feature the history and development of the DAV site (6/15).

The summer scout schedule at the Woodruff BSC was also discussed. On Thursday nights for 8 weeks (6/7 to 7/26), AAC members will be showing the scouts the wonders of the summer skies for a couple hours during the evening. It is the way the AAC “pays the dues” for the use of this excellent site, so please contact Sharon Carruthers for more details.

Newly elected BOD member Larry Wallace discussed the prospects for the build-out of the property owned by the AAC at the DAV location. Currently, \$6000 has been allocated by the AAC BOD for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. This year, a concrete pad + small building for the club’s 24-inch telescope and the construction of a larger “warm-up”/meeting hall style building (18’ x 30’) have been proposed. For more details on the build-out committee and future work dates – please contact Larry.



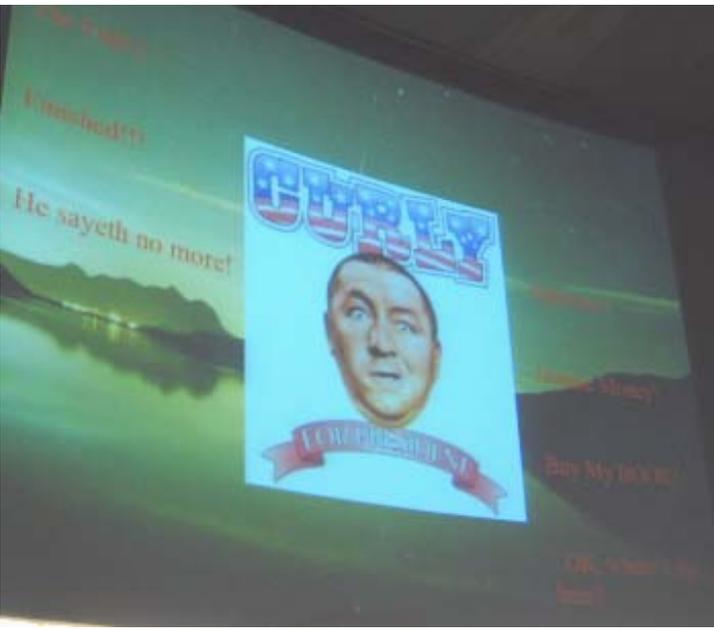
“A Universe of Galaxies”
After the business portion of the meeting, Rich “Curly” Jakiel gave a very beautiful and informative presentation on the classification, structure and evolution of galaxies. Dozens of stunning galaxy images shown were taken by amateurs, including a number “home grown” imagers. At the very end of the talk, there was a surprise slide announcing Curly’s nomination for president. Too bad the general election was already over. *grin*

After the presentation, many members dropped over to Athens Pizza for the “meeting after the meeting”.

AAC General Elections Results

Unlike recent years, the elections of AAC officers and BOD members from the nomination slate presented by the Former Speaker Chair know as the “Kosmic Kow” went unopposed.

The results: President – Peter Macumber, VP – Speaker Chair (vacant), VP – Observing Chair – Daniel Herron, Treasure – Sharon Carruthers, Corresponding Secretary – Kat Sarbell, Recording Secretary – Rich Jakiel; - BOD members – Marc Sandberg, Mark Banks and Larry Wallace.



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

by Richard Jakiel, AAC Recording Secretary

March 6, 2007. Attendance: Ten AAC BOD plus 2 other AAC members in attendance at the Bradford Map location, Tom Crowley presiding as AAC BOD chairman.

Old Business:

Review of the 2006 PSSG:

– AAC president and PSSG Chair Peter Macumber gave the major highlights of last year's event.

~ 3500 dollars profit, with approximately 100 attendees.

- Some discussion of the workshop format, and receiving very good to excellent marks for the NASA Van and speakers/workshops in general.

PSSG 2007 at DAV:

- Dates: October 7 – 14th, in conjunction with DAV

- Event costs – to include: Porta potties, vendors and large meeting tents

- Food Vendors – on site, Potluck Dinner?

- Advertising: Astronomy, Sky & Telescope, AL –etc.

2007 “Zombie Party”, Dan Heron giving the update.

- April 13 to 15th, at DAV's Grier Field

- Cost: 15 dollars/day, 25 dollars per” family”

Approved by the BOD: 10- 0

DAV Build-out Plan:

Steering committee: P.Macumber, Brad Isley (chair), Kosmic Kow and Larry Wallace

- 5-year build-out plan – with prioritizing of various related projects.

Proposed 2007 AAC Budget – Sharon Carruthers, ACC treasurer reporting

Discussion Points:

- Recommend reduction in Observing Chair budget (to around ½ current)

- Woodruff site funds: - is the site supportable?

- Renew Voice Mail – for only 6 months and monitor the amount of traffic

- Website – use is down, however brochures, renewals –etc. can be completed on the current site.

- Focal Point – a significant proportion of the AAC membership still receives the paper version.

Motion 1: *Should the AAC charge extra for the paper version?*

Proposal – increase the dues for members who receive the paper instead of the electronic version. (Amount of increase – suggested at 4 to 10 dollars/ year).

Discussion – “It's a good thing” – Kenpo; this subject is to brought up for discussion in the next AAC general meeting and to voted on in the next BOD meeting.

Motion carries: 10 to 0.

Motion 2: *Accept the AAC budget as proposed?*

Motion carries by 10 – 0 vote. (and there was much rejoicing!)

New Business:

1. Art Zorka – Presented recommended changes for bylaws regarding the Astronomical League (AL). (Motion carriers 10-0).

Should we sell off excess copies of Sky & Telescope (and other publications) in Astromart and/or Ebay? (Rich J. will check/sort the extras held in storage at Crissy's Corner)

Charlie Elliott May Minutes

by Clevis Jones, CE Recording Secretary

May 19 Attendance: Fourteen guests and members attended the meeting.

Business: Jake's Day at Charlie Elliott: Debbie Jones thanked Alesia Rast and the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center for their support and facilities and all the club volunteers for a very successful public event. There were about 60 visitors who passed through the indoor "planetarium" and outdoor Solar Observatory. Thanks to Steven Phillips and his young son Brian for bringing a solar telescope. Thanks to Steve Bieger for bringing his solar telescope. In company with Debbie Jones, Steven and Steve talked to the visitors about the Sun and showed them the Sun with sunspot 956 (Active Region 10956) meandering across the surface of the Sun throughout the day. Inside, Larry Owens had established his normal club meeting "planetarium" atmosphere, played music, showed astronomy movies (thanks Olga and Carlos Flores), and while connected to the Internet looked up coordinated for the evenings objects. Theo Ramakers, Jon Wood, Debbie and Clevis Jones talked with folks who came through about astronomy subjects, and answered questions. Theo set up his new 9.25-inch Celestron for folks to see; Steve set up one of the club's Maksutov telescopes.

Elections: Debbie Jones conducted the Elections for Officers: Director: Larry Owens. Observing Supervisor: Steve Bieger. Recording Secretary: Clevis Jones.

Chapter director, Larry Owens, updated us on the club projects.

The 2007 remaining schedule for the CE Meetings is: June 9, July 7, Aug 18, September 15, October 6 (note: Peach State on the 13th), November 3 (back to 3 PM. for the winter), December 15.

Feature Presentation: "Photoshop for Astro-Imagers" by Larry Owens.

What's Up Tonight: Steve Bieger took us on another informative trip into the night sky. This month's Moon is called the Flower Moon or Planting Moon. His various featured segments covered Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Mayan Indians and their astronomy, the constellations of Virgo, Bootes, Draco, doubles, and the history of various US observatories featuring Yerkes and the numerous famous astronomers who worked there creating many of the star catalogs in use today.

Observing Session: About 10 folks went to the observing field to catch the Moon and Venus early, enjoying the excellent weather and further observing and imaging.

Charlie Elliot Future Meetings

by Clevis Jones, CE Recording Secretary

June 9 at 5:00 PM. (Don't be late or there won't be any food left :-)

Feature Presentation: POT LUCK night Start time is 5:00 PM.

Afterwards, we'll have What's up Tonight by Steve Bieger and Current Events by Clevis Jones, followed by Observing on the field weather permitting.

Place: Charlie Elliott Visitor's Center

Next Meeting: July 7, 5:00 PM.

Feature Presentation -TBD

FOR UPDATES & DIRECTIONS & LIVE broadcasts: PLEASE check the CEastronomy website for the most current meeting information !

<http://www.CEastronomy.org>

Woodruff Boy Scout Summer Camp

by Sharon Carruthers, AAC Treasurer

The summer scout camping season is fast upon us. This is not only our time to “pay the rent” for our use of Woodruff as a Dark Sky site; but also our best opportunity to fulfill our Club mandate to “educate” and “to promote the public knowledge of and interest in astronomy”.

Our on-field viewing with the scopes will be on Thursday night, after dark (from 9:30 – 10 PM.). You can set up the Club’s 24” (if you have been trained on it), or use your own scope. Charles Hinley has donated his 10”/ F6.0” Discovery Dob to the Club & I will be bringing it up for the summer program.

We need volunteers to commit to go up on Thursdays, from June 7 – July 26. Please phone or e-mail us if you can commit to one or more evenings. Contact me at scarruthers@AtlantaAstronomy.org or 770-941-4640 (h); 404-843-9610 (w).

DSO at Woodruff Report

by Keith Burns, f/k/a the AAC Program Chair but still the “Kosmic Kow”

Last night was fantastic at Woodruff. I give it a 9.85 out of 10. Temps were a bit cool but the air was dry. The only dew that formed was on my Telrad but it was not enough to even bother with the hairdryer. Skies were clear and I mean clear. Sharon and I taught the star navigation part of the scout program for the scout group. There were about 60 of them there. They camped on the astronomy field overnight. Before starting we showed the folks the conjunction of Venus and the crescent Moon. We viewed them in the scopes too.

The program started about 8:30 PM and it was over by 11:00 PM. Many went off to bed. So we had the skies to ourselves after that. We broke down the 24 inch scope with lots of help from the few remaining folks who were still up. Then followed a midnight snack with an hour’s nap.

I woke up and headed outside to use my 10 inch scope. The Moon and Venus had set. The skies were much darker. The Milky Way was blazing from horizon to horizon. Cygnus was about 45 degrees up in the sky by this time. This is one of those views I often dream about but seldom see.

It’s very strange being out there with 61 people surrounding you on the field but all sleeping. Occasionally I would hear something moving in the woods but I knew I was safe. After all, there were 60 people on the field and most are carrying knives. A most comforting thought considering I could not see what was moving around in the woods nearby. Sharon does not carry a knife so now you know why I mentioned 60 people instead of the 61 of earlier.

For the first time since I bought the computer for my 10 inch scope, tonight was the real road test. I proceeded to do the Messiers in order from 2 to 104. Of course, some were not visible because of the Sun or Moon blocking them or the trees blocking my view or the fact that they were below the horizon too. About 80% were viewable. I even looked for and found Barnard’s Galaxy. It looked like a bar shaped cluster of stars. Some nebula was visible. The eyepiece of choice was the 14 mm Televue radian. It gave me a good indication of the difference in size of various objects. I suggest you try this trick with your favorite eyepiece next time you are out viewing. Especially with the globular clusters. I used no filters either. No nebula filters or light pollution filters. The computer stayed on target the entire time. It was amazing how close it came to each object I entered into the system. The object was either dead center in the eyepiece or on the edge of the FOV. Since my cell phone did not work there, I did not know what the time was. I figured I stayed out about 3 1/2 hours. Plus the evening view we had done with the scouts. Not an all nighter but definitely a night I will not forget. A gold star night.

I wanted give a special thanks to Rick LaRosa for helping us with the scopes and other things. Plus the use of the laser pointer.



Nebula Images by Rich Jakiel

These are a couple of images taken with the 12-inch LX200 at f/5. Exposures are for a total of 15 minutes with a DSI Pro II CCD. Top: M20, the Trifid Nebula. Bottom: M16, the Eagle Nebula.



Tom Faber took this image of the close conjunction on the evening of May 19th at 10:50 PM along Peachtree Road in Buckhead. He used a handheld (braced against the Focal Point Editor’s car) 4 MP Canon A520. The exposure was 1 second at F5.5 and 4X zoom.

The Moon and Venus Over Peachtree

Sky & Telescope Subscription Change

by Sharon Carruthers

S&T has been bought out by a new company and their subscription service has been transferred to an off-site location. They have changed their subscription procedures which should make it easier for our members and the Club Treasurer (me!!)

Renewal Subscriptions Only: Members can now renew directly at S&T via mail or phone (1-800-253-0245). Payment is due when you re-order. You can still renew through the Club, if you wish. S&T will send the Treasurer a subscription list once a year to vet whether or not the subscribers contacting them are actually AAC members.

New Subscriptions: Must still be submitted through the Club!

If you have any questions, please contact me at Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Observing Events for 2007

by Daniel Herron, Observing Chair

Here are some dates in 2007 for Observing events (all dates subject to change). I am sure some will be added or changed during the course of the year but I will try and stick to them if possible. I will update the locations and times later as well as add them to the AAC web site and the Yahoo Astro Atlanta List.

DSO Dates (locations noted if known/decided) June 16th, July 14th, August 11th, September 8th, October @ DAV (PSSG), November 10th, December 8th

GASP Events (only 2 known as of today, more to come) June 23rd - Tallulah Gorge State Park, November 3rd - Red Top Mtn State Park.

New member Orientation/Open Houses (all at Villa Rica for now unless noted) July 21 (New member Orientation), September 22nd (Open House), October 20 (New member Orientation), December 15th (Open House - New member Orientation).

Mars Rover Unearths Surprise Evidence of Wetter Past

NASA News Release, May 21, 2007

PASADENA, Calif. - A patch of Martian soil analyzed by NASA's rover Spirit is so rich in silica that it may provide some of the strongest evidence yet that ancient Mars was much wetter than it is now. The processes that could have produced such a concentrated deposit of silica require the presence of water.



Members of the rover science team heard from a colleague during a recent teleconference that the alpha particle X-ray spectrometer, a chemical analyzer at the end of Spirit's arm, had measured a composition of about 90 percent pure silica for this soil.

"You could hear people gasp in astonishment," said Steve Squyres of Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., principal investigator for the Mars rovers' science instruments. "This is a remarkable discovery. And the fact that we found something this new and different after nearly 1,200 days on Mars makes it even more remarkable. It makes you wonder what else is still out there."

Spirit's miniature thermal emission spectrometer observed the patch, and Steve Ruff of Arizona State University, Tempe, noticed that its spectrum showed a high silica content. The team has laid out plans for further study of the soil patch and surrounding deposits.

Exploring a low range of hills inside a Connecticut-sized basin named Gusev Crater, Spirit had previously found other indicators of long-ago water at the site, such as patches of water-bearing, sulfur-rich soil; alteration of minerals; and evidence of explosive volcanism.

"This is some of the best evidence Spirit has found for water at Gusev," said Albert Yen, a geochemist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif. One possible origin for the silica could have been interaction of soil with acid vapors produced by volcanic activity in the presence of water. Another could have been from water in a hot spring environment. The latest discovery adds compelling new evidence for ancient conditions that might have been favorable for life, according to members of the rover science team.

David Des Marais, an astrobiologist at NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Calif., said, "What's so exciting is that this could tell us about environments that have similarities to places on Earth that are clement for organisms."

Spirit and its twin rover Opportunity completed their original three-month prime missions in April 2004. Both are still operating, though showing signs of age. One of Spirit's six wheels no longer rotates, so it leaves a deep track as it drags through soil. That churning has exposed several patches of bright soil, leading to some of Spirit's biggest discoveries at Gusev, including this recent discovery.



NASA's Spirit rover has found a patch of bright-toned soil so rich in silica that scientists propose water must have been involved in concentrating it. Credit: NASA/JPL/Cornell

Doug McCuistion, director of NASA's Mars Exploration Program, said, "This unexpected new discovery is a reminder that Spirit and Opportunity are still doing cutting-edge exploration more than three years into their extended missions. It also reinforces the fact that significant amounts of water were present in Mars' past, which continues to spur the hope that we can show that Mars was once habitable and possibly supported life."

The newly discovered patch of soil has been given the informal name "Gertrude Weise," after a player in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, according to Ray Arvidson of Washington University in St. Louis, deputy principal investigator for the rovers.

Continued on next page

"We've looked at dozens of disturbed soil targets in the rover tracks, and this is the first one that shows a high silica signature," said Ruff, who last month proposed using Spirit's miniature thermal emission spectrometer to observe this soil. That instrument provides mineral composition information about targets viewed from a distance. The indications it found for silica in the overturned soil prompted a decision this month to drive Spirit close enough to touch the soil with the alpha particle X-ray spectrometer. Silica commonly occurs on Earth as the crystalline mineral quartz and is the main ingredient in window glass. The Martian silica at the Gertrude Weise patch is non-crystalline, with no detectable quartz.

Spirit worked within about 50 yards of the Gertrude Weise area for more than 18 months before the discovery was made. "This discovery has driven home to me the value of in-depth, careful exploration," Squyres said. "This is a target-rich environment, and it is a good thing we didn't go hurrying through it."

Meanwhile, on the other side of the planet, Opportunity has been exploring Victoria Crater for about eight months. "Opportunity has completed the initial survey of the crater's rim and is now headed back to the area called Duck Bay, which may provide a safe path down into the crater," said John Callas, project manager for the rovers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Frictional Heating Explains Plumes on Saturn Moon

NASA News Release, May 16, 2007

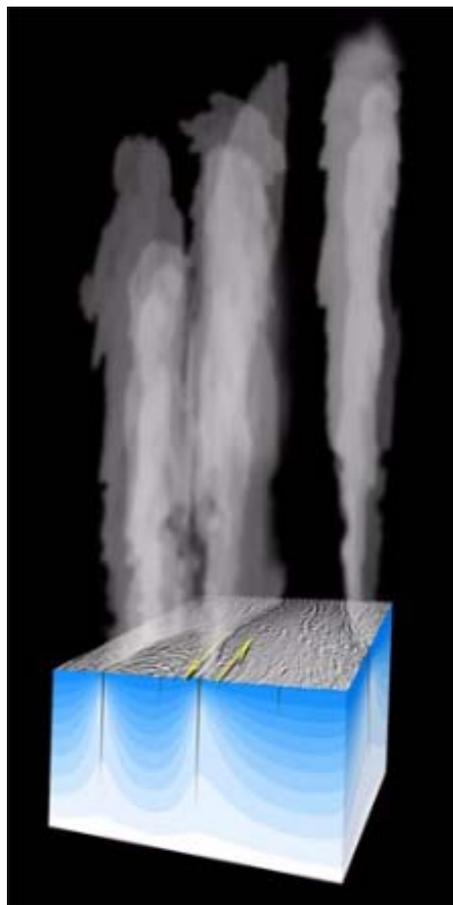
GREENBELT, Md. - Cracks in the icy surface of Saturn's moon Enceladus open and close daily under the pull of Saturn's gravity, according to new calculations by NASA-sponsored researchers.

"Tides generated by Saturn's gravity could control the timing of eruptions from cracks in the southern hemisphere of Enceladus," said Dr. Terry Hurford of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. Hurford is lead author of a paper on this research appearing in *Nature* May 17. This paper is one of two studies on Enceladus in this issue of *Nature*. The other paper explains that tidal forces cause the sides of the cracks to rub together and produce enough heat to vaporize ice into plumes that jettison off the moon, researchers suggest.

In 2005, the Cassini spacecraft flew by Enceladus and saw plumes of material erupting from the south pole of Enceladus. Scientists were surprised to see this because eruptions are powered by heat from an object's interior. Enceladus is tiny compared to most moons, only about 500 kilometers (310 miles) in diameter, so it should have lost its interior heat to the cold of space long ago.

A closer look by Cassini revealed a series of 120-kilometer (75-mile) long cracks in the south polar region of Enceladus, which were nicknamed "Tiger Stripes" because they resembled a tiger's distinctive marks. The stripes are warmer than their surroundings, so scientists believe they are the source of the eruptions. The Cassini observations also show the plumes consist of water vapor, so there is evidence for liquid water under the ice. Since liquid water is necessary to support known forms of life, Enceladus has become a promising place to look for extraterrestrial life.

Enceladus' 1.3-Earth-day orbit around Saturn is slightly elliptical (egg-shaped), so the moon's distance from Saturn changes regularly as it travels in its orbit. When Enceladus is closer to Saturn, the pull of Saturn's gravity is stronger, creating a larger tide; and when Enceladus is farther away, the pull is weaker, creating a smaller tide. Saturn's position in Enceladus' sky also changes slightly, moving the location of the tide on Enceladus' surface from east to west and back again with each orbit. These two effects combine to produce changing stress on the moon's icy surface. The team developed a computer model to calculate how the changing stress affects the Tiger Stripes.



Plumes of water vapor and other gases escape at high velocity from the surface of Saturn's moon Enceladus, as shown in this artist concept. Credit: NASA/JPL

"We found that because of the way the Tiger Stripes are oriented on the surface, when Enceladus is farthest from Saturn, the stresses in the region pull most of them open, and when Enceladus is closest to Saturn, the stresses force most of them to close," said Hurford. "Different stripes open at different times in the orbit. Assuming they erupt as soon as they open, exposing liquid water to the vacuum of space, we can predict which stripes will be erupting at certain times in the orbit. Also, because most of the stripes are open when Enceladus is farthest from Saturn, we expect the eruptive activity to be greatest at this time."

It has been hard to conclusively test the model so far because of the orientation of the stripes when Cassini took images of the eruptions. Cassini saw the eruptions when they appeared on the edge of Enceladus as they were backlit by the sun. From this viewpoint, the Tiger Stripes were lined up so that some were closer to the spacecraft and some were farther away. It is hard for the team to tell if an eruption was coming from a stripe in the foreground or from one in the background. However, future observations of the moon when Cassini is in a different location may provide a partial test by allowing the eruptions from one stripe to appear distinct from the rest.

The research was funded through NASA's Postdoctoral Program Fellowship. The team includes Hurford, Dr. Paul Helfenstein of Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., Dr. Greg Hoppa of Raytheon, Woburn, Mass., Dr. Richard Greenberg of the University of Arizona, Tucson, and Dr. Bruce Bills of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, Calif., and Goddard. The Cassini-Huygens mission is a cooperative project among NASA, the European Space Agency, and the Italian Space Agency. JPL, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, manages the Cassini-Huygens mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington. The Cassini orbiter was designed, developed, and assembled at JPL.

Directions to White Hall at Emory

Our meetings are generally held in a classroom in White Hall. To get to White Hall turn onto Dowman Drive from North Decatur Road at the five way intersection (across from Everybody's Pizza). White Hall is located on the across from the new Science & Math building. Parking is available along Dowman Drive on both sides of the road. **The parking lot on the left behind the Admissions Building is now closed.** Additional parking is available in two parking decks near White Hall. For maps to the decks see <http://map.emory.edu>. For more detailed directions to Emory University, visit www.atlantaastronomy.org. to the Emory web site.

Georgia Astronomy in State Parks (GASP) Events

The GASP events for 2007 are being planned. Scheduled so far are:

June 23rd - Tallulah Gorge State Park

November 3rd - Red Top Mountain State Park

For more information about these events, contact Joanne Cirincione at Starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org.

The GASP volunteers at FDR State Park on Labor Day weekend 2004 - From left to right: Joanne Cirincione, Keith Burns, Harold and Claudia Champ with Ginger, Peter Macumber, Sharon Carruthers, Tom Faber, Kat Sarbell, and Holly and John Ritger. Photo by Holly Ritger.



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 or times. 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 & Telescope* or *Astronomy* can be purchased through the club for a reduced rate. The fees are **\$33** for Sky & Telescope and **\$34** 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.

The Club address: Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc., P.O. Box 76155, Atlanta, GA 30358-1155.

AAC Web 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.

AAC Officers and Contacts

President: Peter Macumber 770-941-4640
president@atlantaastronomy.org

Program Chair: Vacant programs@atlantaastronomy.org

Observing Chair: Daniel Herron 770-330-9679
observing@atlantaastronomy.org

Corresponding Secretary: Kat Sarbell 404-352-0652
focalpoint@atlantaastronomy.org

Treasurer: Sharon Carruthers Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Recording Secretary: Rich Jakiel
secretary@atlantaastronomy.org

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Board: Brad Isley - Contact Info TBA

Board: Larry Wallace - Contact Info TBA

Board: Marc Sandberg 404-531-4227 sandberg235@earthlink.net

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Elliott Recording Secretary: Clevis Jones cjones@aaahawk.com

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Elliott Webmaster: Larry Owens planetographer@comcast.net

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zoser@mindspring.com

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starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Light Trespass: Marc Sandberg 404-531-4227
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AL Observing Programs Assistance: Keith Burns 770-427-1475
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PSSG Chairman: Peter Macumber pmacumber@nightsky.org

Co-Chair: Joanne Cirincione starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org

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Atlanta Astronomy Club Website

While this newsletter is the official information source for the Atlanta Astronomy Club, it is only up to date the day it is printed. So if you want more up to date information, go to our club's website. The website contains pictures, directions, membership applications, events updates (when available) and other information. <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org>

Calendar by Tom Faber (All times EDT unless noted)

June 2nd, Saturday: **Telescope & Instrument Workshop at Bradford Map/Telescope Atlanta - See p.1 for details.** Mercury Greatest Elongation East. Venus near Castor & Pollux.

June 7th, Thursday: Jupiter at Opposition.

June 8th, Friday: Moon Last Quarter.

June 9th, Saturday: **CEC Meeting - See p.3 for details.** Venus Greatest Elongation East.

June 12th, Tuesday: Venus in M44.

June 14th, Thursday: New Moon. Earliest Sunrise (~6:25 AM at Atlanta).

June 15th, Friday: **AAC Meeting at White Hall, 8 PM, Emory University.**

June 16th, Saturday: **DSO at location TBA - Contact Daniel Herron for details.**

June 17th, Sunday: Pluto at Opposition.

June 18th, Monday: Moon between Venus and Saturn.

June 19th, Tuesday: Moon occults Regulus.

June 21st, Thursday: Solstice at 2:06 PM.

June 22nd, Friday: Moon First Quarter.

June 23rd, Saturday: **GASP at Tallulah Gorge State Park - See p.7 for details**

June 27th, Wednesday: Latest Sunset (~8:52 PM at Atlanta).

June 30th, Saturday: Full Moon (Rose, Flower, or Strawberry Moon). Venus near Saturn.

July 4th, Wednesday: Earth at Aphelion.

July 7th, Saturday: **Telescope & Instrument Workshop at Bradford Map/Telescope Atlanta - See p.1 for details.** CEC Meeting - See p.3 for details. Moon Last Quarter.

July 13th, Friday: Venus near Regulus.

July 14th, Saturday: **DSO at location TBA - Contact Daniel Herron for details.** New Moon.

July 16th, Monday: Moon near Venus, Saturn, and Regulus.

July 20th, Friday: **AAC Meeting at White Hall, 8 PM, Emory University.**

July 21st, Saturday: **New member Orientation at Villa Rica - Contact Daniel Herron for details.**

July 22nd, Sunday: Moon First Quarter.

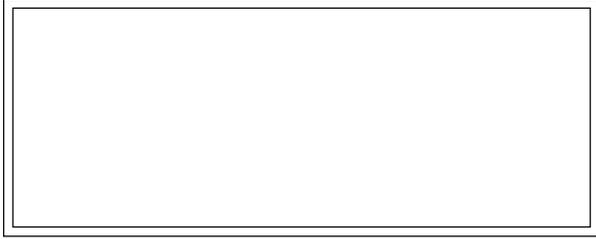
Atlanta Astronomy Club Listserve

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 . This list is owned by Lenny Abbey.

Focal Point Deadline and Submission Information

Please send articles, pictures, and drawings in electronic format on anything astronomy related to Kat Sarbell at focalpoint@atlantaastronomy.org. Please send images separate from articles, not embedded in them. Articles are preferred as plain text files but Word documents are okay. You can submit articles anytime up and including the deadline date. **The deadline for July is Thursday, June 28th at 4:00 PM Submissions will no longer be accepted after the deadline.**

FIRST CLASS



Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.



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