

The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
Established 1947
May 2008

Vol. 20 No. 12

Editor: Kat Sarbell

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May General Meeting

by Keith "Kosmic Kow" Burns

The May meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club will be held on Friday, May 16th. We have shifted the meeting schedule to follow more closely with the lunar phases. Of course, this year the lunar calendar lines up with the third Friday schedule we used to follow. You won't notice a change until November and even then it's only by one week.

The meeting will take place in room 207 of White Hall on the Emory University Campus. Directions are on pg 7 and on our website. Tonight we also have our yearly election of officers. There will be a new 5-minute segment on an Astronomical League Observing Club. Plus the highly anticipated new installment of "There's Nothing to See." Don't worry, there will not be a Stephen Hawking imitation of the now famous line, "Next Slide Please."



Comet Hale-Bopp photo by Tom Faber.

Finally our featured speaker for the meeting is Club member Rich Jakiel. WOW!!! Rich's talk is titled: "Messengers of the Gods - How Comets have shaped History." He writes: "When a brilliant comet like McNaught lights up the skies, its beauty can be a source of inspiration for all of us.

But this hasn't always been the case. Before their true nature was known, comets were thought to be agents of change - whether it is the birth/death of kings, harbingers of pestilence and war, or even the deification of a great leader. In this presentation, we will look at some of the greatest comets of ancient times and how their sudden appearance have been linked to the course of history."

Speaker Biography

Here is a little about Rich in his own words. "I grew up in small college town (Fredonia) located in Western New York, about 40 miles southwest of Buffalo. Though I lived within the village, my backyard was blessed with good dark skies that were often better than 6.5 mag. (visual). I got my first telescope in 1974, when I was a junior in high school. It was a 4 1/4"



Photo by Frank Marchese.

f/10 Edmund Newtonian on a steel pedestal German Equatorial mount (GEM). Within a year, I had seen all the "Messier's" and hundreds of other deep-sky objects. Two years later, after much scrimping and saving, I bought an 8-inch Cave OTA mounted on a massive, homemade GEM, plus a small domed observatory. It would become my main instrument and it was used extensively to observe nearly 2000 objects until I moved to Atlanta, GA in August of 1987.

Today I own several telescopes including a rich-field refractor, 17.5-inch rebuilt Coulter Dobsonian and a 12-inch LX200 GPS that I have finally figured out how to use."

"In a very short time I became an active member of the AAC serving a dozen times as a club officer or on the Board of Directors since late 1987. I spent a great deal of time using the telescopes at Villa Rica during much of that time, plus attended all of the PSSGs since their inception. Though I've concentrated on "deep sky" observing, I am also a dedicated solar system observer and (of late) - an imager. Before acquiring a decent imaging platform, I spent a great deal of time sketching the cosmos and have a half dozen notebooks filled with hundreds of drawings. Over the years a fair number of these have been published in magazines and in several books."

"Back in 1990, I had my first major article (on galaxies in Ursa Major) published by Astronomy magazine. Since then I have had over 50 articles published in Astronomy, Sky & Telescope, ALPO's - Strolling Astronomer, Astronomie Heute, Magellanias, Amateur Astronomy, and the Deep Sky Observer (Webb Society) to name a few. Most of these articles have been on "deep sky" observing, though I've had written several book reviews, biographical sketches and other historical pieces. I have also

Continued on next page

written a ½ dozen technical articles in geochemistry and radiochemistry for several major refereed scientific journals. In the last year, I helped co-author (with Wolfgang Steinicke) an observer's guide to galaxies - Galaxies: How to Observe Them as part of Springer's continuing amateur observer series."

(Editor's Note: Keith is adding the following couple of sentences) Rich is the owner of Wise Guy Observatory. This building houses a 12-inch Meade that is permanently mounted. The building sits on the site of Stooges' field, a slightly dark observing spot that is used by the Stooges, and the "Friends of Stooges." We shall not forget, Big A Observatory that is located in the adjacent field to Stooges'. Big A is owned and operated by Gil aka part time Curley Joe for those keeping track. It will make sense later on.

June-September Meeting Announcements

I just wanted to give everyone a heads up of upcoming programs for the coming months. June 20th will feature a talk or two. One of the talks is rumored to be about a recent trip to the Mid South Star Gaze. In pictures is all I have been able to obtain for the mystery guest. So come and find out more. No people will be hurt in the viewing of this.

On July 18th, Dan Llewellyn will do a talk / workshop on basics of video camera, planetary camera, & web camera imaging and processing.

August 15th, Dr. Amy Lovell of Agnes Scott College will do a talk on "Comets, and the Meteor Shower Connection."

September 19th, Dr. Chris Sirola of Southern Miss will give a talk titled, "Happy 100th Birthday Tunguska!"

AAC April General Meeting Minutes

by Richard Jakiel, AAC Recording Secretary



The April 18th general meeting of the AAC started at 8 PM, in the large auditorium of White Hall. As this was a special joint meeting between the AAC and Emory, there was no business portion of the meeting.

Instead, Dr. Rick Williamon introduced the featured speaker – Jeff Hester, pictured on the left – to the crowd of 120 AAC members, students and faculty.

Meeting photos by Tom Faber.



Dr. Hester's talk "To Know" asked the fundamental question about "how do we know something to be true"? He discussed how the scientific method tackles this problem and that many of science's greatest discoveries were made by those who challenged what was then "known to be true". As he stated, science is a type of "no holds barred intellectual violence" and that even the most elegant and beautiful fruits of our creativity are subject to an unending barrage of challenges as new evidence is brought forth.



After the lecture, Dr. Williamon presented Dr. Hester with a T-shirt from the students of the Emory Astronomy Club. The front was decorated with constellations (including Orion), and the back had the latitude and longitude of the Emory Observatory printed on it.



Dr. Hester continued to capture guests' interest. He answered more questions from visitors long after his talk was over.

Upcoming Club Elections

by Peter Macumber, AAC President

During the meeting in May, we will have annual elections. So far the nominations are as follows:

Treasurer – Sharon Carruthers

Corresponding Secretary – Tom Faber

If you would like to make a nomination for an office, please contact me at president@atlantaastronomy.org

We will also vote on a change in the bylaws as follows. The changes are noted in italics.

The *current* article of the bylaws states the following:

.....
ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the six Club officers and *six* non-officer Board Members. *Three* non-officer Board Members shall be elected annually, to serve a two year term, from slate provided by that year's Nominating Committee. At the close of the June meeting, or as soon thereafter as possible, the newly-installed President shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors, at which time the Chairman of the Board shall be elected.

.....
If passed by majority vote, the *proposed* article of the bylaws will state the new wording:

.....
ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the six Club officers and *four* non-officer Board Members. *Two* non-officer Board Members shall be elected annually, to serve a two year term, from a slate provided by that year's Nominating Committee. At the close of the June meeting, or as soon thereafter as possible, the newly-installed President shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors, at which time the Chairman of the Board shall be elected.

.....
In order to achieve a balance of two board members being elected every year for a two year term, this year's election would elect two board members for a two-year term. In 2009, we would elect two board members for a two year term. For the year 2008-2009 there would be five board members. Board members Mark Banks, Marc Sandberg and Larry Wallace will carry out their terms until May 2009. Board members Tom Crowley, Brad Isley and Gil Shilcutt are ending their two-year term.

Please remember to attend the meeting and vote - and hear Rich's talk.

Bradley Observatory Open Houses

Amateur Astronomy - Unlike nuclear physics or space flight, astronomy is a scientific discipline to which those without advanced degrees in the subject can and do make significant contributions. An amateur is defined as "a person who engages in a study for pleasure rather than for financial benefit or professional reasons." This year, we will hear from and about a number of "amateur" astronomers, and the contributions that they have made, and are making to our understanding of the universe. All lectures will be held at 8PM at Bradley Observatory on the Agnes Scott College campus. Afterwards there will be a planetarium show and observing with the 30-inch Beck Telescope (weather permitting).

May 9, 2008: Kevin Marvel (American Astronomical Society).

For additional information including directions to Bradley Observatory visit <http://bradley.agnesscott.edu>.

Charlie Elliott Meeting Minutes

by Clevis Jones, CE Recording Secretary

(Minutes have been edited for space constraints.)

Attendance: Twelve guests and members enjoyed the April 5th meeting.

Business: Debbie Jones of the Charlie Elliott Chapter 2008 Election Committee encouraged volunteers to consider nominations to the three CEC Officer positions - all of which are open and will be voted on May 17, 2008. The CEC club meeting starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Charlie Elliott Visitors' Center. E-mail Debbie with nominations at: Debbie@CEastronomy.org

SUNSET (and mud depth) ALERT was given.

2008 schedule for the CE Meeting is: May 17 (Jakes Day event & Officer Election), Jun. 7, Jul. 26, Aug. 30, Sep. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 29, Dec. 27.

Feature Presentation: "Jupiter: Oval BA" Dr. Richard Schumde, Jr. treated us to his interpretation of the data that has been gathered over the years on oval BA. His slide presentation and talk began with an introduction to Oval BA, and continued with it's history, and changes. Those changes have been in color, area, length, and wind speed. Attendees got hands on experience determining the width of oval BA with a templet and image Dr. Schumde provided. Fascinating as always, Dr. Schumde's talk elicited many questions from his audience. Images can be seen on our Web-site. Dr. Schumde is the Jupiter coordinator for the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (<http://www.alpo-astronomy.org/>). Thank you, Dr. Schumde!

What's Up Tonight: Steve Bieger covered Saturn, it's close approach, the tilt of the rings, and it's retrograde motion. In addition he covered featured objects in Leo, revisited the use of filters including some links for downloadable filter use and wavelength guides. His featured science section covered some history of the "magical disappearing trick". The featured scientists were Christiaan Huygens and Giovanni Domenico Cassini. For the May meeting, he will cover the early summer sky. Thanks Steve!

Current Events: Clevis Jones flew us from an extra solar planet with water vapor and methane, into our solar system with recent close flybys and discoveries of Cassini at Enceladus and Messenger at Mercury. Closer to home, thanks to Angela Poor, we saw some great auroras. Stephen Ramsden & Jon Wood captured, from the Charlie Elliott observing field, images of STS-123's lift. We took a look at the ISS & DEXTRE. And then it was time for a trip back to 1873 for Jules Verne's *Around the World In 80 Days* with some music of the same title (three select pieces actually) to speed our way back to the future of today when the ESA Jules Verne makes the trip in 90 minutes in search of, and to dock with, the ISS. The music was played in company with two movies.

Observing Session: Canceled - wet, rainy, obscured.

Charlie Elliott Future Meetings

by Clevis Jones, CE Recording Secretary

May 17, 5:00 p.m.: Election of Officers and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (extends to about 4 p.m. at the Visitors' Center) JAKES DAY at Charlie Elliott. <http://georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=315&txtPage=10> We will have an astronomy 'booth' in the classroom at the Charlie Elliott Visitor's Center - VOLUNTEERS WELCOME! Stephen Ramsden has volunteered to bring two different types of Solar Telescopes for some viewing of the Sun during JAKES DAY. Don't miss it! If you'd like to volunteer to help us at the astronomy booth, contact me (see below). Please check our Web-site, listed below, for details. Charlie Elliott Visitors' Center (JAKES DAY volunteers arrive about 9 a.m., - CE MEETING starts at 5 p.m). <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/CEWMA/about.html> For Meeting updates & other info please check the CEastronomy website: <http://www.CEastronomy.org>

GASP at Tallulah Gorge State Park

The GASP volunteers presented a program for the campers at Tallulah Gorge State Park on March 29th. Although the weather didn't cooperate for using the telescopes Saturday night, Sharon Carruthers gave her beginner's astronomy talk at the park's interpretive center and answered questions afterwards. In addition to Sharon, the AAC volunteers included Joanne Cirincione, Keith Burns, Peter Macumber, Tom Faber, Kat Sarbell, and Holly and John Ritger. Also present for the talk was AAC member Tom Buchanan. Photos by Tom Faber.



Setting up camp - Peter, Joanne, and Kat help Keith set up his canopy.



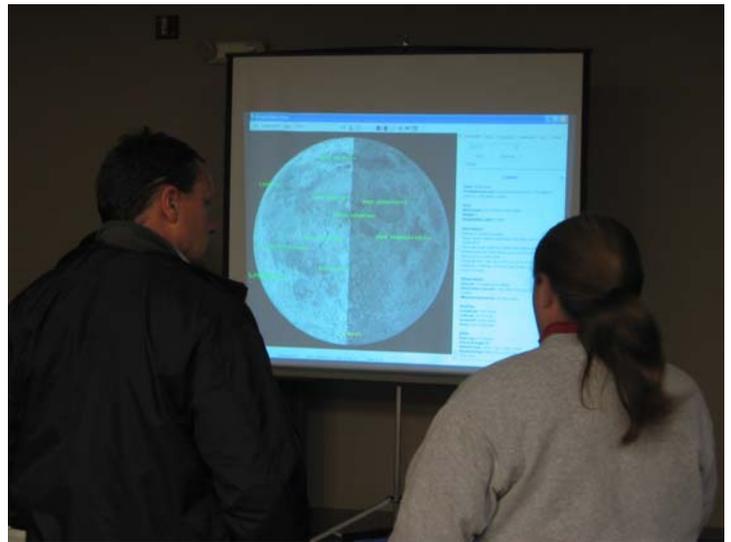
Peter grills burgers for Friday night dinner.



A Fire Breathing Dragon? Not really, but this shot of Peter's Friday night campfire does look a little like a dragon!



Sharon discusses the presentation with Keith before the talk.



Sharon begins her talk showing the *Virtual Moon Atlas*.

The Astronomical League

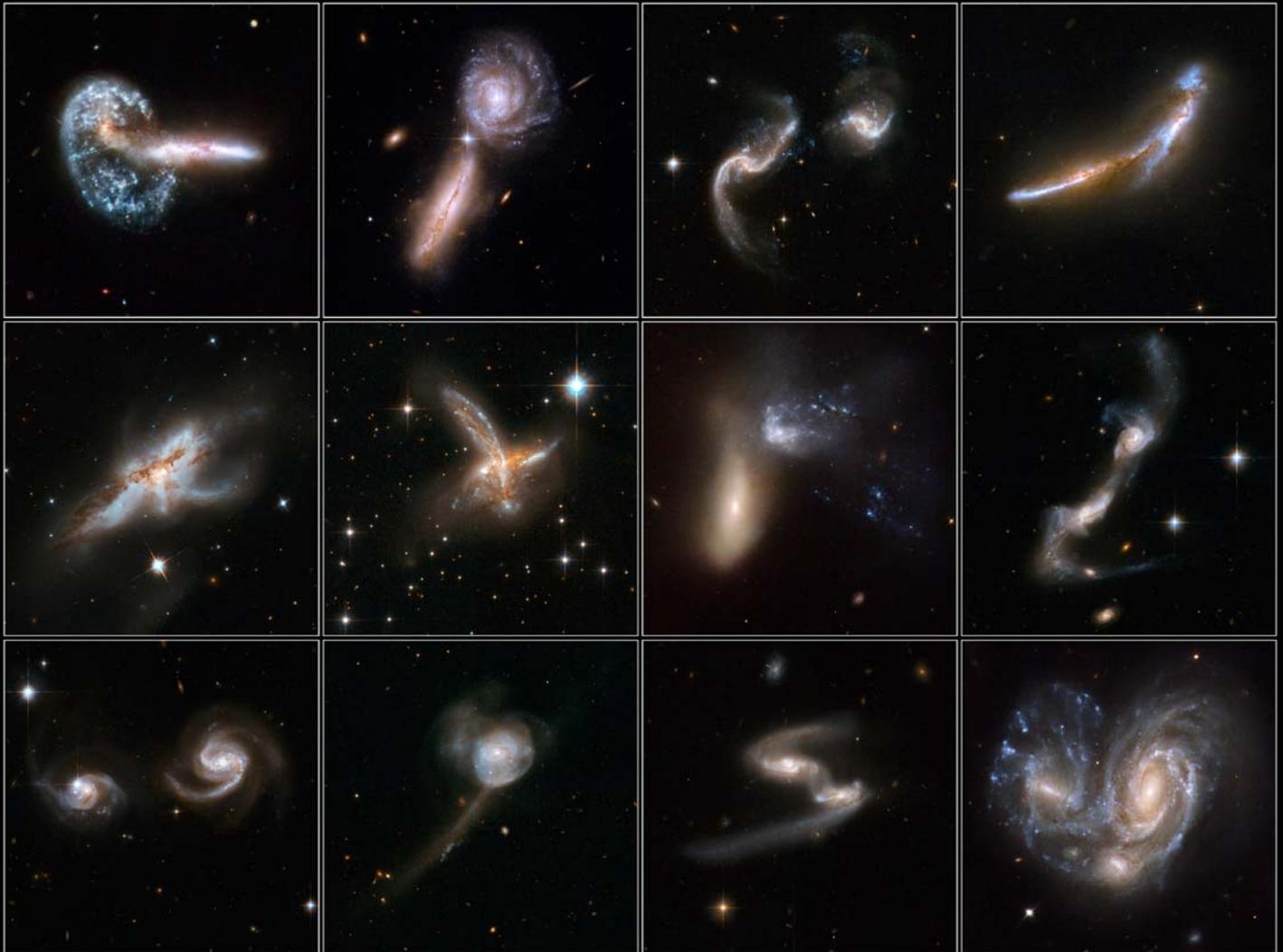
As a member of the **Atlanta Astronomy Club** you are automatically also a member of the **Astronomical League**, a nation wide affiliation of astronomy clubs. Membership in the AL provides a number of benefits for you. They include:

- * You will receive *The Reflector*, the AL's quarterly newsletter.
- * You can use the Book Service, through which you can buy astronomy-related books at a 10% discount.
- * You can participate in the Astronomical League's Observing Clubs. The Observing Clubs offer encouragement and certificates of accomplishment for demonstrating observing skills with a variety of instruments and objects. These include the Messier Club, Binocular Messier Club, the Herschel 400 Club, the Deep Sky Binocular Club, and many others.

To learn more about the Astronomical League and its benefits for you, visit <http://www.astroleague.org>

Interacting Galaxies

Hubble Space Telescope • ACS/WFC • WFPC2



NASA, ESA, the Hubble Heritage (AURA/STScI)-ESA/Hubble Collaboration, and A. Evans (University of Virginia, Charlottesville/NRAO/Stony Brook University)

STScI-PRC08-16a

Plethora of Interacting Galaxies on Hubble's Birthday

Space Telescope Science Institute News Release - April 24, 2008

Astronomy textbooks typically present galaxies as staid, solitary, and majestic island worlds of glittering stars.

But galaxies have a wild side. They have flirtatious close encounters that sometimes end in grand mergers and overflowing “maternity wards” of new star birth as the colliding galaxies morph into wondrous new shapes.

Today, in celebration of the Hubble Space Telescope's 18th launch anniversary, 59 views of colliding galaxies constitute the largest collection of Hubble images ever released to the public. This new Hubble atlas dramatically illustrates how galaxy collisions produce a remarkable variety of intricate structures in never-before-seen detail.

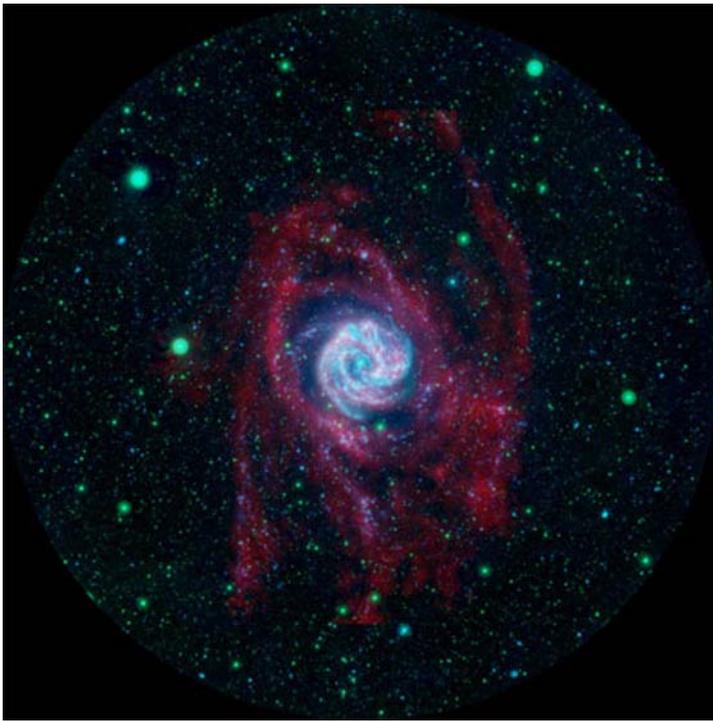
Astronomers observe only one out of a million galaxies in the nearby universe in the act of colliding. However, galaxy mergers were much more common long ago when they were closer together, because the expanding

universe was smaller. Astronomers study how gravity choreographs their motions in the game of celestial bumper cars and try to observe them in action.

For all their violence, galactic smash-ups take place at a glacial rate by human standards - timescales on the order of several hundred million years. The images in the Hubble atlas capture snapshots of the various merging galaxies at various stages in their collision.

Most of the 59 new Hubble images are part of a large investigation of luminous and ultra-luminous infrared galaxies called the GOALS project (Great Observatories All-sky LIRG Survey). This survey combines observations from Hubble, NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope, NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, and NASA's Galaxy Evolution Explorer. The majority of the Hubble observations are led by Aaron S. Evans of University of Virginia, Charlottesville/NRAO/Stony Brook University.

Image Credit: NASA, ESA, the Hubble Heritage (STScI/AURA)-ESA/Hubble Collaboration, and A. Evans (University of Virginia, Charlottesville/NRAO/Stony Brook University)



The blue and pink pinwheel in the center is the Southern pinwheel galaxy's main stellar disk, while the flapping, ribbon-like structures are its extended arms. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/VLA/MPIA

Stellar Birth in the Galactic Wilderness

NASA/JPL News Release - April 17, 2008

A new image from NASA's Galaxy Evolution Explorer shows baby stars sprouting in the backwoods of a galaxy -- a relatively desolate region of space more than 100,000 light-years from the galaxy's bustling center.

The striking image, a composite of ultraviolet data from the Galaxy Evolution Explorer and radio data from the National Science Foundation's Very Large Array in New Mexico, shows the Southern Pinwheel galaxy, also known simply as M83.

In the new view, the main spiral, or stellar, disk of M83 looks like a pink and blue pinwheel, while its outer arms appear to flap away from the galaxy like giant red streamers. It is within these so-called extended galaxy arms that, to the surprise of astronomers, new stars are forming.

"It is absolutely stunning that we find such an enormous number of young stars up to 140,000 light-years away from the center of M83," said Frank Bigiel of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Germany, lead investigator of the new Galaxy Evolution Explorer observations. For comparison, the diameter of M83 is only 40,000 light-years across.

Some of the "outback" stars in M83's extended arms were first spotted by the Galaxy Evolution Explorer in 2005. Remote stars were also discovered around other galaxies by the ultraviolet telescope over subsequent years. This came as a surprise to astronomers because the outlying regions of a galaxy are assumed to be relatively barren and lack high concentrations of the ingredients needed for stars to form.

The newest Galaxy Evolution Explorer observations of M83 (colored blue and green) were taken over a longer period of time and reveal many more young clusters of stars at the farthest reaches of the galaxy. To better understand how stars could form in such unexpected territory, Bigiel and his colleagues turned to radio observations from the Very Large Array (red). Light emitted in the radio portion of the electromagnetic spectrum can be used to locate gaseous hydrogen atoms, or raw ingredients of stars. When the astronomers combined the radio and Galaxy Evolution Explorer

data, they were delighted to see they matched up.

"The degree to which the ultraviolet emission and therefore the distribution of young stars follows the distribution of the atomic hydrogen gas out to the largest distances is absolutely remarkable," said Fabian Walter, also of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, who led the radio observations of hydrogen in the galaxy.

The astronomers speculate that the young stars seen far out in M83 could have formed under conditions resembling those of the early universe, a time when space was not yet enriched with dust and heavier elements.

"Even with today's most powerful telescopes, it is extremely difficult to study the first generation of star formation. These new observations provide a unique opportunity to study how early generation stars might have formed," said co-investigator Mark Seibert of the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution of Washington in Pasadena.

Other investigators include: Barry Madore of The Observatories of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; Armando Gil de Paz of the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain; David Thilker of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Elias Brinks of the University of Hertfordshire, England; and Erwin de Blok of the University of Cape Town, South Africa.



The view at left was created by combining images taken using red, green and blue spectral filters, and shows Saturn in colors that approximate what the human eye would see. The storm stands out with greater clarity in the sharpened, enhanced color view at right. NASA/JPL/Space Science Institute

Cassini Tracks Raging Saturn Storm

NASA/JPL News Release - April 29, 2008

PASADENA, Calif. -- As a powerful electrical storm rages on Saturn with lightning bolts 10,000 times more powerful than those found on Earth, the Cassini spacecraft continues its five-month watch over the dramatic events. Scientists with NASA's Cassini-Huygens mission have been tracking the visibly bright, lightning-generating storm -- the longest continually observed electrical storm ever monitored by Cassini.

Saturn's electrical storms resemble terrestrial thunderstorms, but on a much larger scale. Storms on Saturn have diameters of several thousand kilometers, and radio signals produced by their lightning are thousands of times more powerful than those produced by terrestrial thunderstorms. Lightning flashes within the persistent storm produce radio waves called Saturn electrostatic discharges, which the radio and plasma wave science instrument first detected on Nov. 27, 2007. Cassini's imaging cameras monitored the position and appearance of the storm, first spotting it about a week later, on Dec. 6.

"The electrostatic radio outbursts have waxed and waned in intensity for five months now," said Georg Fischer, an associate with the radio and plasma wave science team at the University of Iowa, Iowa City. "We saw similar storms in 2004 and 2006 that each lasted for nearly a month, but this storm is longer-lived by far. And it appeared after nearly two years during which we did not detect any electrical storm activity from Saturn."

The new storm is located in Saturn's southern hemisphere -- in a region nicknamed "Storm Alley" by mission scientists -- where the previous lightning storms were observed by Cassini. "In order to see the storm, the

Continued on next page

imaging cameras have to be looking at the right place at the right time, and whenever our cameras see the storm, the radio outbursts are there," said Ulyana Dyudina, an associate of the Cassini imaging team at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, Calif.

Cassini's radio plasma wave instrument detects the storm every time it rotates into view, which happens every 10 hours and 40 minutes, the approximate length of a Saturn day. Every few seconds the storm gives off a radio pulse lasting for about a tenth of a second, which is typical of lightning bolts and other electrical discharges. These radio waves are detected even when the storm is over the horizon as viewed from Cassini, a result of the bending of radio waves by the planet's atmosphere.

Amateur astronomers have kept track of the storm over its five-month lifetime. "Since Cassini's camera cannot track the storm every day, the amateur data are invaluable," said Fischer. "I am in continuous contact with astronomers from around the world." The long-lived storm will likely provide information on the processes powering Saturn's intense lightning activity.

Georgia Astronomy in State Parks (GASP) Events

The GASP events for 2008 are being planned. Scheduled so far is:

November 8 - 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.

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>

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 (\$35)** for a family or single person membership. College Students membership fee is **\$15 (\$20)**. These fees are for a one year membership (\$5 per year extra charge to receive the *Focal Point* mailed).

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

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focalpoint@atlantaastronomy.org

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Recording Secretary: Rich Jakiel
secretary@atlantaastronomy.org

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Board: Brad Isley - Contact Info TBA

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

Board: Gil Shillcutt - Contact Info TBA

Board: Mark Banks - Contact Info TBA

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Elliott Recording Secretary: Clevis Jones cjones@aaahawk.com

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

Elliott Webmaster: Larry Owens planetographer@comcast.net

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Light Trespass: Marc Sandberg 404-531-4227
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AL Observing Programs Assistance: Keith Burns 770-427-1475
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Co-Chair: Joanne Cirincione starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Sidewalk Astronomy: Brad Isley
sidewalkastronomy@atlantaastronomy.com

Woodruff Observ. Coordinator: Sharon Carruthers
Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Webmaster Atlanta Astronomy: Peter Macumber 770-941-4640
pmacumber@nightsky.org

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 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 may be 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 or go to the Emory web site.

Calendar by Tom Faber (All times EDT unless noted)

- May 1st, Thursday: Mercury near M45.
May 3rd, Saturday: **DSO at DAV - Contact Daniel Herron for details.**
May 5th, Monday: New Moon. Eta Aquarids Meteors.
May 6th, Tuesday: Moon near Mercury.
May 9th, Friday: Bradley Observatory Open House, 8PM. See pg. 3 for details.
May 10th, Saturday: Moon near M44.
May 11th, Sunday: Moon First Quarter.
May 12th, Monday: Moon near Saturn & Regulus.
May 13th, Tuesday: Mercury Greatest Eastern Elongation.
May 16th, Friday: **AAC Meeting at White Hall, 8PM, Emory University.**
May 17th, Saturday: **Telescope & Instrument Workshop - Contact Sharon Carruthers for details. CEC Meeting - See pg 3 for details.**
May 19th, Monday: Full Moon.
May 20th, Tuesday: Moon near Antares.
May 22nd, Thursday: Mars in M44.
May 24th, Saturday: Moon near Jupiter.
May 27th, Tuesday: Moon Last Quarter.
May 31st, Saturday: **DSO at location TBA - Contact Daniel Herron for details.**
June 3rd, Tuesday: New Moon.
June 7th, Saturday: **CEC Meeting - See pg 3 for details.**
June 10th, Tuesday: Moon First Quarter.
June 18th, Wednesday: Full Moon.
June 20th, Friday: **AAC Meeting at White Hall, 8PM, Emory University.** Solstice at 7:59PM.
June 21st, Saturday: **Telescope & Instr Workshop - Contact Sharon Carruthers for details.**
June 26th, Thursday: Moon Last Quarter.
June 27th, Friday: Latest Sunset (~8:52 PM at Atlanta).

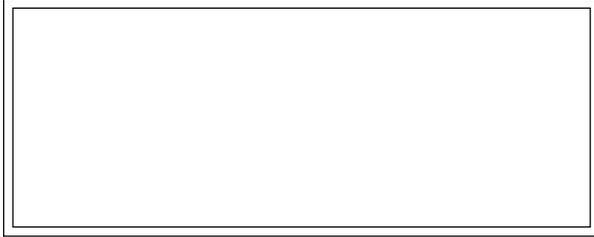
Atlanta Astronomy Club Listserve

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 to and including the deadline date. **The deadline for June is Thursday, May 29th at 4:00 PM ... Submissions will no longer be accepted after the deadline.**

FIRST CLASS



Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

The Focal Point

FROM:

Kat Sarbell

506 Treeridge Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30022

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

Atlanta Astronomy Club

P.O. Box 76155

Atlanta, GA 30358-1155

www.atlantaastronomy.org