

The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
Established 1947
February 2010

Vol. 22 No. 9

Editor: Tom Faber

Table of Contents

- Page 1**...Feb Mtg & Upcoming Meetings, Membership Renewal
Page 2...AAC January Meeting, March "Zombie" Star Party.
Page 3...BoD Mtg Minutes, CEC December Meeting.
Page 4...In Memoriam: Jonathan Wood.
Page 5...Next CEC Meeting, Bradley Lectures, AL Info.
Page 6...Suspected Asteroid Collision Imaged, Spirit's Winter Haven.
Page 7...GASP Info, Directions to White Hall, Web Site, Memberships, Club Officers & Contact Info
Page 8...Calendar, AAC List Serv Info, Focal Point Deadline

February General Meeting

by Keith Burns, AAC President

The Program

The next general membership meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club will be held on Friday, February 26, at White Hall on the Emory University Campus in Room 207. The meeting starts at 8PM. Refreshments and snacks will be served starting around 7:30PM. Directions to White Hall are at the bottom of this article. The meeting starts out with the monthly announcements Power Point program that will run before the meeting starts and at the beginning of the meeting. After that, we move on to our featured speaker of the night - Amy Lovell of Agnes Scott College, who will present a talk titled "Asteroids and Comets, What's New?" Amy says that "in the presentation, I'll review the current state of knowledge on asteroids and comets in our solar system. I'll offer some recent findings that may be of interest and look towards the next good observation opportunities for both amateurs and professionals."

Our Speaker

Amy Lovell is the Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Physics & Astronomy, Agnes Scott College. Her educational background is a Bachelor of Arts in Physics, Agnes Scott College and a PhD in Astronomy, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amy is interested in both comets and asteroids, primarily as targets for observations with radio telescopes. She has observed over 20 comets



March is Membership Renewal Month

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: The AAC has moved to a "one-date-for-all" membership renewal. ALL CLUB MEMBERS, with some exceptions, should submit their \$30 (\$35 if you receive the mailed *Focal Point*) dues for 2009 by March 20th - The Vernal Equinox. (There will be an R1 in the upper right corner of your *Focal Point* label if you receive it in the mail. If you receive the *Focal Point* online you will receive an email - be sure we have your current email address). New members and those who have not yet paid their pro-rated dues, will receive a notice in their *Focal Point* stating the amount you owe to bring you in line with the March date. (There will be either an xxx or an RF on your label). If you have questions or concerns, please let the Treasurer (Sharon Carruthers) know.

with the Arecibo 305m radiotelescope in Puerto Rico and the 100m Green Bank Telescope in West Virginia. She also enjoys teaching astronomy and physics to Agnes Scott students and sharing the wonder of astronomy with Bradley Observatory visitors of all ages. (*Editor's Note: See page 5 for information about the Bradley Observatory Open Houses.*)

Directions to White Hall and Parking

For now, the best places to park are the Peavine Parking Deck and the Fishburne Parking Deck. Fishburne Parking Deck is located on Fishburne Drive. When driving on North Decatur Rd, turn onto Dowman Drive (Dowman is now a one-way road into the campus now from North Decatur Road. Exit either by Oxford Road or Fishburne Drive) and then right on Fishburne Drive. You can also access Fishburne Drive from Clifton Road southbound on right before the N. Decatur Rd intersection. Note the Fishburne Parking deck is actually accessible from Fishburne Lane. When driving on Fishburne Drive, watch for the parking lot signs. The parking deck is located behind the Rich Building.

The Peavine parking deck is accessible from North Decatur Road. Take N. Decatur Rd to Oxford Road. Oxford is accessible from N. Decatur Road at two spots. If you are traveling east on North Decatur, then turn right onto Oxford. If traveling west, turn left onto Oxford. Take Oxford Road to the back entrance of Emory and turn onto Eagle Row. Take that to the Peavine parking deck. Note Peavine is across the street from the running track. You can also access Peavine from Clifton Road. Take Clifton south from Briarcliff Road. Turn right onto Asbury Circle. Asbury Circle changes names to Eagle Row. Parking deck will be on right side of road.

Directions to White Hall are on page 7. See the Emory web site for more details and directions: www.emory.edu

Upcoming AAC Meetings:

Our new program chairman is working on speakers for the year 2010. As soon as he has information, it will be passed on to you. Meeting dates are the following: March 26, April 23, May 21, and June 25.

January Meeting Minutes

Julia Moore, Recording Secretary. Photos by Tom Faber

President Keith Burns opened the January meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club at 8:00 PM on Friday, January 22 with 35 in attendance. Tom Buchanan reported on the North Georgia Dark Sky Association, website: www.darkskynga.org



Dan Herron reminded us of the Zombie party scheduled for March 11-13. It's also a great weekend for the Messier Marathon, so come on out, have some fun, learn more about the sky and get a certificate!

Other dates to remember are: Jan 31 - Board Mtg, Emory, Feb. 2 - Sidewalk Astronomy, Feb 6 - Villa Rica Open House, Feb 12 - Bradley Observatory Open House, Feb 13 - Woodruff DSO, Charlie Elliott, Speaker Prof William Shea, March 26 - Science Night (Gwinnett County)

GASP dates so far are: Mar 20 - Unicoi State Park, June 5 - Tugaloo State Park, Nov 13 - Red Top Mtn State Park.

ALL membership dues are due on Mar 15. (Guess that's why they call them dues!)



Programs Chair Richard Jakiel (right) introduces our speaker while President Keith Burns gets the computer set up for Dr. Schumde's talk.

Dr. Richard Schumde (photo below) was the speaker for the evening, bringing us up to speed on the upcoming Opposition of Mars occurring Jan 29. It will be closest to us on Jan 27. If you'd like to help with the observing, this is a good opportunity to observe the North Polar Cap shrinkage and the movement and development of clouds on Mars. Submit observations to: rjvmd@hughes.net, jim.melka@alpo-astronomy.org and marsobservers@yahoo.com. A helpful website would be: Alpo-astronomy.org.



Dr. Richard Schumde (center, seated) answers questions during a demonstration portion of his talk where he showed how the size of soil or dust particles affects the amount of light they reflect.

Zombie Star Party 2010

The 2010 Spring Zombie Star Gaze will be run from Thursday afternoon March 11th through Sunday morning March 14th.

The location is Grier's Field at the Deerlick Astronomy Village. DAV is located off I-20 one hour west of Augusta. The field has power along the fence. There are also bathrooms and showers. The club has 30 x 18 building. There is a large pavilion located between the DAV field office and the bathrooms. Plus dark skies far from the light pollution of the Atlanta metro area. You can either tent camp or sleep in your vehicle.

The price is \$10 per night per person. There is no preregistration. All you have to do is pay on site. The money goes toward improvements to the Grier's field site and help with improving the AAC property on site.

This is the best time of the year to observe all 110 Messier objects in the night sky in one night. Or in this case, you can do it over several nights.

For more information, contact Daniel Herron at Observing@atlantaastronomy.org or check the Zombie Party link at www.atlantaastronomy.org



Graphic design by Daniel Herron, AAC Observing Chair.

November 22, 2009 BoD meeting Report

By Richard Jakiel, former AAC Recording Secretary

The BoD meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM, with 8 members in attendance. Minutes from the previous meeting (August 9, 2009) were distributed and motioned to be noted 'as read' by the members (8 to 0).

Old Business:

AAC Insurance - update/refine the coverage, and both the AAC and DAV need to be involved.

New Business:

Replace the VP of Programs. Rich Jakiel (AAC Recording Secretary) - volunteered to replace David Lumpkin, Motion carried by 8 to 0.

Recording Secretary. Position to be filled by Julie Moore. Motion carried by 8 to 0.

New AAC Website - is already "up and running" by Dan Herron. Recognition given to Peter Macumber for 10+ years as the AAC Webmaster.

Zombie Party (Dan Herron), Dates selected this year are March 11 - 13, 2010. Details are already on AAC website.

Holiday Party - December 5th, 2009. Time: 6:30 to 10 PM, and setup and other details being coordinated by Julie Moore.

Speaker Programs - Creation of a list of regional speakers and their presentation topics. Coordination with SERAL and/or Art Zorka was suggested.

May Elections - An election committee will be formed in January 2010.

Next BoD meeting was scheduled for Jan 31st, 2010.



ice ages experienced so far by planet Earth. "For the past couple decades, there has been a lot of discussion over global warming. But technically, Earth is still locked into an ice age - this is only a warm interglacial period. At least a half-dozen "ice ages" are known - mostly tens or even hundreds of millions of years. Several have been so intense that nearly the entire planet froze over, giving rise to the "Snowball Earth Theory". At the CE meeting, there was discussion of the main causes of the great ice ages and a look at four of the best studied periods. Rich's presentation can be seen on-line at: <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/wpcontent/uploads/2009/PresentationDownloads/IcePlanetHothImeanEarth.ppt>

After a short break and filling in for Jon Wood was Steve Biegler's "Observing 101" segment which included his always striking renditions of planetary positions, meteor showers and cometary phenomena for the next several weeks. Steve's presentation can be seen online at: http://ceastronomy.org/blog/wpcontent/uploads/2009/PresentationDownloads/wu_dec_09_04.ppt

Theo's "Current Events in Astronomy & Space Exploration" presentation can be viewed online at <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/wpcontent/uploads/2009/PresentationDownloads/CurrentEvents2009-12YE.wmv>

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The next CE chapter meeting will be 3 p.m., Saturday, January 16, when Professor William R Shea, Galileo's Chair from the University of Padua (Italy) presents "The New World of Galileo". (*Editor's Note - This meeting was cancelled due to its conflict with the memorial services for Jonathan Wood, CE Observing Supervisor.*)

CE Chapter December Meeting Minutes

by Ken Poshedly, CE Recording Secretary, Photos by Theo Ramakers

The meeting was held on December 19 at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Visitor Center and called to order at 3:10 p.m. by CE Chapter Director Theo Ramakers. The final meeting attendance was 29 members and guests; poor weather prohibited sky observing after the meeting.

This being a pot-luck dinner/meeting, business was suspended after welcoming remarks by Theo until mealtime (photo below and top right) was completed. Official proceedings resumed at 4:10 p.m. when our featured speaker, Rich Jakiel, gave his presentation, "Ice Planet Hoth - Err, I mean Earth" (photo bottom right). Rich's program covered the various



In Memoriam: Jonathan Wood

There's probably someone who you've known for a while, but you really believe you have known him for a lifetime. Well, to me, Jon Wood was one of those people. I joined the Charlie Elliott chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club in January of 2007. The chapter has monthly meetings at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center in Mansfield. When I went to my first meeting in the beginning of 2007, I walked nervously into the meeting room with the lights tempered low and wondered what everybody would say or think. As I scanned the room, I saw this fellow with a big smile on his face and guess what, the chair next to him was empty. I decided that's where I wanted to sit, and it was Jon who immediately made me feel comfortable in this new club. This was the first time I met Jon, but that's how many people who came to our meetings and observing sessions felt about him - a big, friendly fellow with a big smile and very big heart.

The friendly outreach did not stop at the meeting, but continued afterwards when we went to the nearby observing field. Jon kept impressing me and putting fuel on that fire that astronomers feel when they are outside in the dark and cold, looking through their telescopes and get connected with all that is "up there". It was winter and Jon showed me that first night M42 (the Orion Nebula), the brightest nebula in the sky and some other night-time jewels. Well, Jon got me hooked and following this first night, there were many late evenings and nights we spent together on the field.

Because of his knowledge of the night sky, Jon became the chapter's observing director. This was a natural for him. You know, Jon always had the answer if someone needed to know what this star or that star was, or needed to know which stars to align a scope onto. He would help newcomers or anyone who had trouble with their gear. If they needed an



eyepiece for the night, Jon had it, if someone needed a Barlow eyepiece for the night, Jon had it; he had everything - even the hardware if you lost a screw somewhere on your gear.

And Jon did not only help people, but he also was a great astronomer. He participated in the chapter's event to observe the transit of Mercury across the face of the Sun, and he was the one who recorded the event into a short movie you really should not miss. That movie also won him the Charlie Elliott Chapter "Larry" Award for the Best Astronomy Movie Director.

Do you believe you need to go to Florida to observe the launch of the space shuttle? Not for Jon. In December 2006, as chapter members watched the night launch of the space shuttle on the Internet in the warm conference room at the Charlie Elliott visitors' center, Jon was up the road with his telescope in the cold, taking images of the shuttle launch some 350 miles away, as it slowly rose over the tree line of the Charlie Elliott observing field!!! That was Jon, no challenge too big for him. And to prove it, please visit his photo gallery on the Charlie Elliott website and see the image. He did this not one just once, but twice!! I was also one of several other lucky chapter members with Jon at the observing field to witness the launch of another space shuttle launch in March 2008 at 2:30 A.M. in the morning as it took off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida!

You think imaging something 350 miles away is great? Jon thought different, he loved to locate comets millions of miles away as well as galaxies, star clusters and nebulas millions of light years away and image them. Comets come in different sizes and the ones Jon liked were the really faint ones. I still remember the night when both of us were trying to identify a light spot seen through Jon's scope that was not on star maps. Based on the star charts, we believed we did locate a comet, but it took us another day to ensure that the faint light dot we had identified as a comet was actually not there anymore and had moved a little way from its previous day's location.

We had many laughs with Jon and I would like to share one of them. We were observing after the meeting in which I had made a presentation about observing the moon. Jon wanted to see Rupus Recta (the "Straight Wall"), a 68-mile-long straight ridge on the Moon. As I was guiding Jon in "crater-hopping" towards the feature, he interrupted me and said: "Hold on for a moment, I need to clean my eyepiece, I believe I have an eyelash on the eyepiece". We burst out laughing as we both realized that the hair was not a hair, but actually the Straight Wall!

Jon's greatest passion in astronomy was not astronomy itself but being able to reach out to people - especially youngsters - as illustrated by a comment made by one of our members who has small children. "Every time I made the 38-mile trip to Charlie Elliott, I always wondered if I would

Continued on next page



see Jon as I pulled up onto the observing field. Sometimes one of my boys would ask me 'if the man with the big red truck was going to be there.' My answer was, 'I don't know, but if the sky is clear tonight, I bet that we will see him.' Jon had a way of making everyone feel comfortable and special."

Jon had this special way to get the small ones interested. I remember last Jakes Day, Charlie Elliott's outdoor festival in May of 2009 (named for its founder and benefactor Charlie Elliott). Jon had set up his scope inside the visitors' center, and on a table next to it he was running a computer program called "Celestia" which allows you to simulate a flight through the solar system, enter orbits around the planets and their moons and look back at Earth. A little girl had made it to Jon and was looking at the scope and the monitor of his laptop. She got really comfortable with him and excited about the spaceflight and ended up on his lap while looking at the monitor as they were orbiting some moons and again the planet Saturn. I noticed her excitement and how she was involved in the flight and what she saw as she turned to Jon and said: "Can we turn around and fly back to the moon?"



Jon did touch the interest of many, both the old and the young. He was an extraordinary fellow and I am proud to have called him my best friend. Finally, I feel so lucky to have gone out and imaged the red planet Mars on January 5th. It was 21 degrees with wind gusts up to 19 miles an hour, so you can imagine how it felt on the outside. But inside, I felt good, because I knew that I captured how Mars looked as Jonathan was passing by on his way into the Heavens Above!

Jonathan, you always will be remembered, and may you rest in peace.



Theo Ramakers, Director, Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club.

Next CE Chapter Meeting

Join us for our next meeting on March 13 at 4:00 p.m. This will be a quarterly Potluck Dinner Meeting and observing after the meeting. Enter the meeting room through the side door. The meeting will also include the "Observing 101" and "Current Events in Astronomy and Space Exploration" programs. There will be observing on the field afterwards, weather permitting. Everyone is welcome!

Future meeting dates are: Apr 17, May 15, Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 7, Sept 11, Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4.

Bradley Observatory Open House Series 2009-2010

The Galileo Project: Revealing Hidden Worlds

During the 2009-2010 academic year, the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first astronomical use of his telescope, Agnes Scott College is hosting "Project Galileo: Revealing Hidden Worlds". This year-long series of events will explore Galileo's complex life and innovative work, and it will help us engage the challenges we all face when pushing the boundaries of exploration in the quest for knowledge. Lectures focus on Galileo's contributions to astronomy and to changing the way we see the universe. Programs begin at 8PM and will be followed by a planetarium show and observing with the Beck telescope (weather permitting).



March 19 - Spring Equinox Concert and Open House

April 9 - Tina Pippin, professor of religion, Agnes Scott College: "Galileo and the Church"

May 7 - Jeffrey Young, Georgia State University Honors Program: "Galileo and the Birth of the Modern"

For more info see: <http://www.agnesscott.edu/academics/bradleyobservatory/open-house-series.aspx>

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>

Suspected Asteroid Collision Imaged

NASA/STScI News Release - February 2, 2010

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has observed a mysterious X-shaped debris pattern and trailing streamers of dust that suggest a head-on collision between two asteroids. Astronomers have long thought the asteroid belt is being ground down through collisions, but such a smashup has never been seen before.

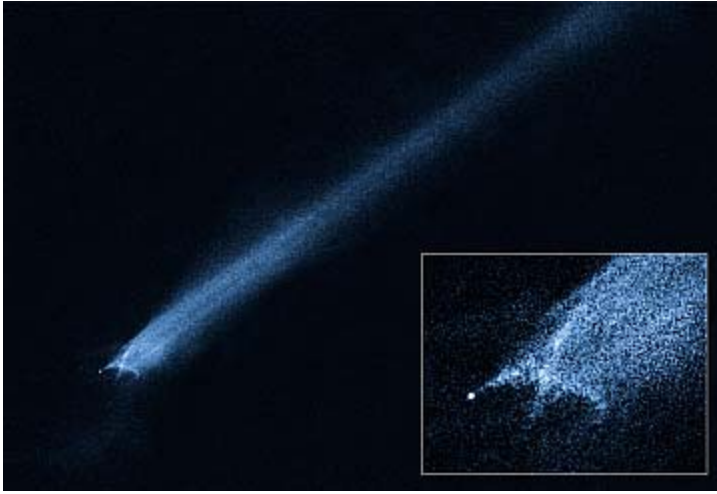


Image Credit: NASA, ESA, and D. Jewitt (UCLA)

Asteroid collisions are energetic, with an average impact speed of more than 11,000 miles per hour, or five times faster than a rifle bullet. The comet-like object imaged by Hubble, called P/2010 A2, was first discovered by the Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research, or LINEAR, program sky survey on Jan. 6. New Hubble images taken on Jan. 25 and 29 show a complex X-pattern of filamentary structures near the nucleus.

"This is quite different from the smooth dust envelopes of normal comets," said principal investigator David Jewitt of the University of California at Los Angeles. "The filaments are made of dust and gravel, presumably recently thrown out of the nucleus. Some are swept back by radiation pressure from sunlight to create straight dust streaks. Embedded in the filaments are co-moving blobs of dust that likely originated from tiny unseen parent bodies."

Hubble shows the main nucleus of P/2010 A2 lies outside its own halo of dust. This has never been seen before in a comet-like object. The nucleus is estimated to be 460 feet in diameter.

Normal comets fall into the inner regions of the solar system from icy reservoirs in the Kuiper Belt and Oort Cloud. As a comet nears the sun and warms up, ice near the surface vaporizes and ejects material from the solid comet nucleus via jets. But P/2010 A2 may have a different origin. It orbits in the warm, inner regions of the asteroid belt where its nearest neighbors are dry rocky bodies lacking volatile materials.

This leaves open the possibility that the complex debris tail is the result of an impact between two bodies, rather than ice simply melting from a parent body. "If this interpretation is correct, two small and previously unknown asteroids recently collided, creating a shower of debris that is being swept back into a tail from the collision site by the pressure of sunlight," Jewitt said. The main nucleus of P/2010 A2 would be the surviving remnant of this so-called hypervelocity collision. "The filamentary appearance of P/2010 A2 is different from anything seen in Hubble images of normal comets, consistent with the action of a different process," Jewitt said. An impact origin also would be consistent with the absence of gas in spectra recorded using ground-based telescopes.

The asteroid belt contains abundant evidence of ancient collisions that have shattered precursor bodies into fragments. The orbit of P/2010 A2 is

consistent with membership in the Flora asteroid family, produced by collisional shattering more than 100 million years ago. One fragment of that ancient smashup may have struck Earth 65 million years ago, triggering a mass extinction that wiped out the dinosaurs. But, until now, no such asteroid-asteroid collision has been caught "in the act."

At the time of the Hubble observations, the object was approximately 180 million miles from the sun and 90 million miles from Earth. The Hubble images were recorded with the new Wide Field Camera 3 (WFC3).

For more information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/hubble>

Spirit Finishes Pre-Winter Drives

NASA/JPL News Release - February 11, 2010

NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Spirit is now parked for the winter. The rover team is commanding Spirit this week to make additional preparations for the Mars southern hemisphere winter season. The team does not plan further motion of the wheels until spring comes to Spirit's location beside the western edge of a low plateau called Home Plate.

On Sol 2169 (Feb. 8, 2010), the rover's last drive before winter changed the angles of its suspension system, but it did not produce a hoped-for improvement to the overall tilt of the solar array for catching winter sunshine. Drives since Sol 2145 (Jan. 15, 2010) moved Spirit 34 centimeters south-southeastward. However, a counterclockwise yawing of the rover during the drives prevented it from reducing its southerly tilt.

Spirit will spend the coming winter tilted 9 degrees toward the south, an unfavorable attitude for the solar panels to catch rays from the sun in the



NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Spirit recorded this fisheye view with its rear hazard-avoidance camera after completing a drive during the 2,169th Martian day, or sol, of Spirit's mission on Mars (Feb. 8, 2010). The drive left Spirit in the position where the rover will stay parked during the upcoming Mars southern-hemisphere winter.

northern sky. Spirit's parking positions for its previous three Martian winters tilted northward. Engineers anticipate that, due to the unfavorable tilt for this fourth winter, Spirit will be out of communication with Earth for several months.

Spirit may enter a low-power hibernation mode within a few weeks, shutting down almost all functions except keeping a master clock running and checking its power status periodically until it has enough power to reawaken. It may go in and out of this mode a few times at the beginning and at the end of an extended hibernation period.

Continued on next page

This week the rover team is uploading schedules to Spirit for when to communicate with Earth or with the orbiting Mars Odyssey during the rest of this year and into 2011. Spirit will use these schedules whenever it has adequate power to wake up. Spirit will take a set of "before" images of surroundings from the parked position this week, for comparison with images in the Martian spring to study effects of wind. Images toward the south will also aid preparations for possible future drives, although, with only four of its six wheels still working, the rover is not expected to move farther than short repositioning drives. Other preparations for winter will include putting the robotic arm into a position for studies of atmospheric composition when power is available and changing the stow positions of the high-gain antenna and panoramic camera to minimize shadowing of the solar panels.

Spirit is more than six years into a mission originally planned for three months on Mars. Its twin, Opportunity, is exploring an area halfway around the planet and closer to the equator, where that rover does not need to park for the winter.

Georgia Astronomy in State Parks

The following GASP events are currently scheduled:

March 20 - Unicoi St. Park.

June 5 - Tugaloo St. Park.

Nov 13 - Red Top Mtn SP.

For more information about these events, contact Keith Burns at 770-427-1475 or Keith_B@bellsouth.net.



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 Friday closest to full moon of each month at Emory University's White Hall or occasionally at other locations or times. 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: Keith Burns 770-427-1475 Keith_B@bellsouth.net

Program Chair: Rich Jakiel Programs@atlantaastronomy.org

Observing Chair: Daniel Herron observing@atlantaastronomy.org

Corresponding Secretary: Tom Faber
focalpoint@atlantaastronomy.org

Treasurer: Sharon Carruthers Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Recording Secretary: Julia Moore Secretary@atlantaastronomy.org

Board Chair: Don Hall - donrhall@bellsouth.net

Board: Misty Herron - mistyherron@gmail.com

Board: Theo Ramakers 770-464-3777 director@ceastronomy.org

Board: Marie Lott 770-496-5774 mtlott@comcast.net

ALCOR: Art Zorka 404-633-8822 (H) 404-247-2474 (C)
star.myth@juno.com

Elliott Ch. Director: Theo Ramakers 770-464-3777
director@ceastronomy.org

Elliott Observing Supervisor: Steve Bieger
observing@ceastronomy.org

Elliott Recording Secretary: Ken Posedly 678-516-1366
posedly@bellsouth.net

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

Elliott Webmaster: Larry Owens 678-234-5399
webmaster@CEastronomy.org

Georgia Astronomy in State Parks: Keith Burns 770-427-1475
Keith_B@bellsouth.net

Light Trespass: Open - Contact Keith Burns if you would like to volunteer.

PSSG Chairman: Peter Macumber pmacumber@nightsky.org

PSSG 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: Daniel Herron
observing@atlantaastronomy.org

Directions to White Hall at Emory

Our meetings are generally held in White Hall. To get to White Hall, turn onto Dowman Drive from North Decatur Rd at the five way intersection (across from Everybody's Pizza). White Hall is located across from the new Science & Math building. The best places to park are the Peavine and the Fishburne Parking Decks. The Fishburne deck is located on Fishburne Drive which is accessible from N. Decatur Rd. Turn onto Dowman and then right on Fishburne. You can also access Fishburne Drive from Clifton Road just north of N. Decatur. The Peavine parking deck is accessible from N. Decatur Rd. Turn onto Oxford Rd, go to the back entrance of Emory and turn onto Eagle Row. Take that to the Peavine deck. You can also access the Peavine deck from Clifton Rd. Turn onto Asbury Circle. It's the intersection next to the railroad tracks on Clifton. 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 (Times EDT/EST unless noted)

AAC Events are listed in BOLD

February 14th, Sunday: Moon near Venus & Jupiter.
February 21st, Sunday: Moon First Quarter.
February 26th, Friday: **AAC Meeting at White Hall, 8PM, Emory University.**
February 28th, Sunday: Full Moon. Jupiter conjunction with Sun.
March 5th, Friday: **March Focal Point Deadline.**
March 7th, Sunday: Moon Last Quarter.
March 11-13th: **Zombie Star Party & Messier Marathon at DAV - Contact Daniel Herron.**
March 13th, Saturday: **Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting at 4PM.**
March 14th, Sunday: Daylight Saving Time begins at 2AM. Mercury at Superior Conjunction.
March 15th, Monday: New Moon.
March 19th, Friday: Open House and Equinox concert at Bradley Obs, 8PM - see pg 5 for details.
March 20th, Saturday: **GASP at Unicoi State Park - See pg 7 for details.** Equinox at 1:32PM.
March 21st, Sunday: Saturn at Opposition.
March 23rd, Tuesday: Moon First Quarter.
March 26th, Friday: **AAC Meeting at White Hall, 8PM, Emory University.**
March 29th, Monday: Full Moon.
April 2nd, Friday: **April Focal Point Deadline.**
April 6th, Tuesday: Moon Last Quarter.
April 8th, Thursday: Mercury at Greatest Elongation East.
April 9th, Friday: Open House at Bradley Observatory, 8PM - see pg 5 for details.
April 14th, Wednesday: New Moon.
April 17th, Saturday: **DSO at Woodruff, Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting at 4PM.**
April 18th, Sunday: **AAC BoD Meeting at Emory University, 4PM.**
April 21st, Wednesday: Moon First Quarter.
April 23rd, Friday: **AAC Meeting at White Hall, 8PM, Emory University.**

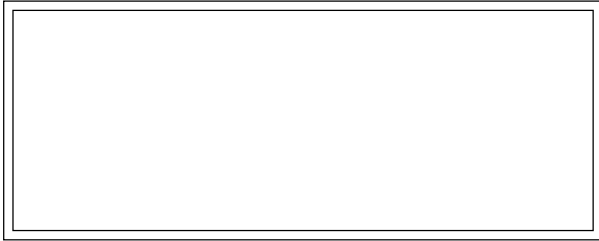
Atlanta Astronomy Club Listserv

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 Lemmy Abbey.

Focal Point Deadline and Submission Information

Please send articles, pictures, and drawings in electronic format on anything astronomy, space, or sky related to Tom Faber at focalpoint@atlantaastronomy.org. Please send images separate from articles, not embedded in them. Articles are preferred as plain text files but Word documents or PDFs are okay. You can submit articles anytime up to the deadline. **The deadline for March is Friday, March 5th at 4:00 PM. Submissions will not be accepted after the deadline.**

FIRST CLASS



Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

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

Tom Faber
2206 Tretridge Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30022

Atlanta Astronomy Club

P.O. Box 76155

Atlanta, GA 30358-1155

www.atlantaastronomy.org

