

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947  
May 2010

Vol. 22 No. 12

Editor: Tom Faber

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## May General Meeting

by Keith Burns, AAC President

The May meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club will be held on Friday May 21st, 2010 at 8PM. This month we leave our usual meeting place at Emory University and head over to the Georgia Tech campus in Midtown to the Howey Physics Building (*Editor's Note: My old stomping ground*). The Howey Physics Building is located on the corner of Ferst Street and State Street. Parking is available next to the building on the corner of Ferst and State Streets. The street address is 837 State Street NW. A campus map is at: <http://gtalumni.org/map/> and driving directions are available at: <http://capella.physics.gatech.edu/Observatory/Directions.pdf>

We will meet in Lecture Hall 5. We will also hold elections of officers and board members at this meeting. The slate of Officers and Board members is: 1) President- Mark Banks, 2) VP Programs- Rich Jakiel, 3) VP Observing- Daniel Herron, 4) Treasurer- Sharon Carruthers, 5) Recording Secretary- Julie Moore, 6) Corresponding Secretary- Tom Faber. 7) Board member- Theo Ramakers, 8) Board member-? Note that we can take nominations from the Floor at the meeting. So if you want to run for any of these posts, you can do so.



## The Program

The meeting starts out with the monthly announcements power-point program that will run before the meeting starts. If you have any information you want to announce, please let the president, Keith Burns, know. You can contact him at [president@atlantaastronomy.org](mailto:president@atlantaastronomy.org). After the meeting starts, we move on to business meeting and elections. This will be followed by our featured speaker of the night. Dr. Jim Sowell of Georgia Tech. He will talk about “Astronomy at Georgia Tech.”

During the last three years, the Astronomy presence at Georgia Tech has significantly grown. (A) Three years ago the campus Observatory, on the roof of the Howey Physics Building, had its Grand Opening. Its Meade 16-inch telescope (below, left) is being actively used for Public Nights, class nights, K-12 outreach, and research. (B) The School of Physics has hired four astrophysicists and the School of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences has hired a jovian planet expert. (C) On average, one or two Physics majors go on to earn an Astronomy PhD. Recent GT grad Nicole Cabrera will describe her two summer research experiences; the first was at Hawaii (extra-solar planets) and the second was at the National Solar Observatory (Sun's chromospheres). (D) Based on his Evening at Emory course taught during the 1990's, Jim Sowell has written and published the book *The Naked-Eye Sky*. All of these topics will be briefly covered. Afterwards, viewing through the telescope of the Moon and Saturn will be possible.

## Our Speaker

Jim Sowell obtained his B.S. and M.S. at Vanderbilt University and his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in 1986. He is currently an astronomer in the School of Physics at Georgia Tech, where he is the Director of the Campus Observatory. There he educates the general public, campus groups, and K-12 students. Jim has received Teaching Excellence awards and grants for his college-level courses. He has recently published “The Naked-Eye Sky” book, which is based on an Evening at Emory course taught during the 1990s.



## Parking News Update at Emory University

Starting June 1st the parking deck behind the admissions building will be open again for parking. So those of you who have been walking from either the Peavine or Fishburne parking decks will not have to do that anymore. Plus they are opening a new Barnes and Noble and other shops on the top floor. So there will be a few things to do while waiting for the meeting to start. This new facility and parking area is located next to the Math and

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Science Building and directly behind the Admissions building. Math and Science is across the street from our usual meeting place at Whitehall.

## Upcoming AAC Meetings:

### June Meeting News:

The June meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club is schedule for June 25th. We return to Whitehall at Emory University for this meeting. The room location will change to room 101, which is located in the basement of Whitehall. Located across the hall from the double doors to the basement entrance located on the Dowman Drive side of the building.

### July Tellus Meeting:

Our July meeting will take place on July 24th at Tellus Northwest Georgia Science Museum, as this will be AAC membership day. The date is a Saturday and the meeting will be held in the afternoon. This was a popular meeting last year, so we decided to try it again to encourage more folks to come. Stephen Ramsden will be giving a talk about "The Sun." We will do some observing of the sun afterward outside. The plan is to head over to the I-Hop afterward for a bit of dinner.

### Future Meeting Dates:

Future meeting dates for 2010 are June 25th, July 24th, Aug 20th, Sept 17th, Oct 22nd, Nov 19th, and Dec 11th (Saturday). Meetings held in Room 207 unless noted.

## April Meeting Report

Photo & Text by Tom Faber

The April meeting of the AAC was held on April 23 in the planetarium in the Math and Science Building at Emory University with about 30 members and guests attending. President Keith Burns opened the meeting shortly after 8PM, then Program Chair Richard Jakiel introduced our speaker. Our guest speaker was Dr. Paul Schenk of the Lunar and Planetary Institute of Houston, Texas, who gave a talk titled, "Galileo at 400." The talk covered the vast increase in our knowledge of the outer planets and moons due to the Pioneer, Voyager, and Galileo spacecraft. Dr. Schenk answered many questions after his talk.



*Dr. Paul Schenk began his talk with a slide showing the cover of a book published circa 1960 titled "All About the Planets" to illustrate how our knowledge of these worlds has exploded since the dawn of the Space Age.*

## CE Chapter Activities

By Theo Ramakers

The Charlie Elliott Chapter was busy with outreach programs this month. Four new members, Annette, Phillipe, Jimmy and Milena as well as Frank Garner and Theo Ramakers attended the 6th Space Camp of Hightower Trail Elementary school in Conyers. It is very rewarding to see that this school has taken this to a complete new level. They now are also a participating school in NASA's direct program and some of the teachers have made their first weightless flight in the 0-G plane with their experiments. Follow what they have done at <https://rcps-rgo.wikispaces.com/Your+Teachers+in+Zero+G%27s%21>

Despite the cloudy evening, some 120 students at Space Camp got to see Saturn, Mars and some nice closeups of the moon. We did 2 events, one solar and one at night for the Garden of Discovery Montessori of Grayson, GA at CE's Outdoor Discovery School at Charlie Elliott on April 24th. Summerour Middle School had invited us to do some inside presentations as well as to bring our scopes for outside observing on their Astronomy Night. Annette, Phillipe, Frank and Theo responded to the request. It was too bad that a high cloud range only allowed us to see a washed out moon, but the inside presentations gave the students a great idea of what's out there. The Fayette Montessori school of Fayetteville, GA was at Charlie Elliott from April 27-29 for a solar program at noon with Marie Lott, Frank Garner, Stephen Ramsden and Theo Ramakers, and an inside presentation at 7:00 followed with observing at the field with Frank and Theo which got these kids really excited. I believe some of these kids will end up with astronomy as a hobby at least. Below are some pictures of these events. Thanks everyone who participated.



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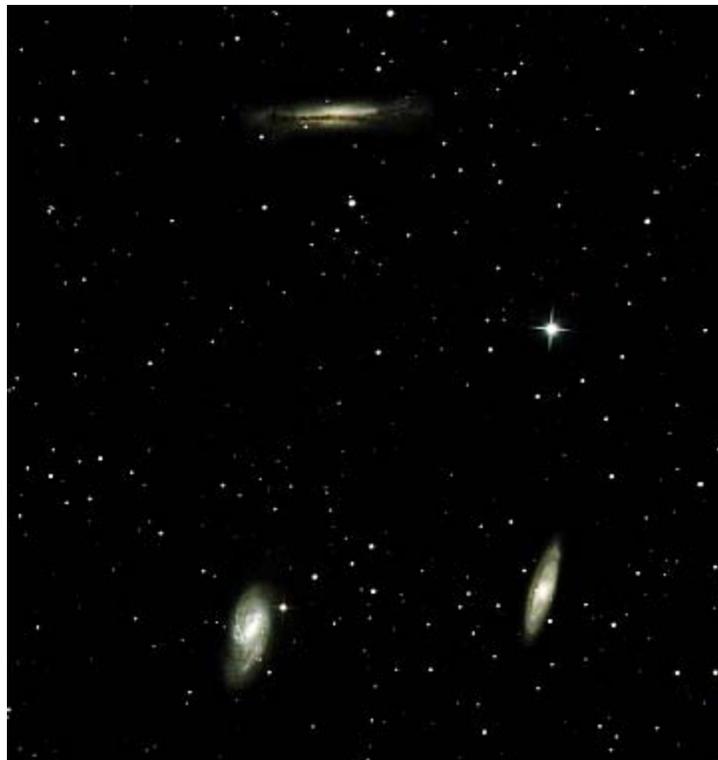
## Next CE Chapter Meeting

Join us for our next meeting on May 15. We will participate in CE's JAKES Day program by having solar observing starting at 10:00AM. The regular meeting will begin at 5:00PM and will include showing of the movie *Journey to the Stars*. The meeting will also include the "Observing 101" by Steve Bieger and "Current Events in Astronomy and Space Exploration" by Theo Ramakers. There will be observing on the field afterwards, weather permitting. Everyone is welcome!

Future meeting dates are Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 7, Sept 11, Oct 2, Nov 6, and Dec 4.

## Deep Sky Images by Rich Jakiel

Here is a selection of images that were done at this year's Mid-South Star Gaze at French Camp, Mississippi in April. These are essential "first light" images done with my Orion 8-inch f/4 Astrograph on a CGEM mount. The camera was a modified Canon XS (10.3 MP). I had some guiding issues at times - as the DMK planetary camera (4 pin firewire) was used as a last minute substitute for an ailing Orion auto-guider. But most of the time my subs were around 3 to 3.5 minutes, plenty for f/4 optics. For these images, there was 12 - 15 x 3 or 3.5 minute subs used.



*The Leo Trio, M66 (NGC 3627) on the lower left, M65 (NGC 3623) on the lower right and the edge-on spiral NGC 3628.*



*M81 (NGC 3031) on the lower right, M82 (NGC 3034) on the upper right and NGC 3077 on the bottom left.*

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M83 (NGC 5236) in Hydra.



M99 (NGC 4254) in Hydra on the right with NGC 4299 and NGC 4302 on the left.

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## Saturn by Dan Llewellyn

This image of Saturn was made at this year's Mid-South Star Gaze at French Camp, Mississippi on April 16th. Image info: CM1-252, CM2-78, CM3-160. Telescope C-14 with Zeiss 2X Barlow, One Spacer, using a Bayer color camera.



## Georgia Astronomy in State Parks

by Keith Burns, AAC President & GASP coordinator

One of the main things we do in the Atlanta Astronomy Club is provide sidewalk astronomy events for the public. As an offshoot of sidewalk astronomy, a group of us formed GASP. GASP or Georgia Astronomy in State Parks goes out to select state parks, and we do an astronomy talk with viewing through telescopes following the talk. In case of rain, we set up the telescopes inside and show them to the attendees. The events are always scheduled on a Saturday night. Currently we are doing four of these events per year.

Any Atlanta Astronomy Club member is welcome to join us and help out at one of these events. You don't need a telescope - just being able to answer questions is a big help when dealing with the public. For more information on the group, please email me at keith\_b@bellsouth.net.

The remaining dates and locations of events for the year 2010 are the following. June 5th, Tugaloo State Park located on Lake Hartwell just north of I-85. Tugaloo is located an hour southwest of Greenville, South Carolina. The start time for this event will be about 9PM.

August 14th, at Moon Lake Community Library in Mentone, Alabama. This is a special event to help out the Late Roger Dowiat family support the Library and promote astronomy in the community. Roger was an avid supporter of the club and provided us with a field for some of our DSO events. We will be camping at Desoto Falls State Park Located about 10 minutes from the library. Start time is 8:30PM Eastern Time or 7:30 PM Central Time.

November 13th, at Red Top Mountain State Park on Lake Allatoona near Cartersville, Georgia. This event is close to Atlanta for any club member to attend. Only 45 minutes north of downtown Atlanta. This event usually draws a large crowd of people. Start time is 7PM.

We are always looking for new state parks to explore and perhaps do an event at. So if you have any ideas, please let Keith know. Hope to see you at the next event, "out in the wilds and under the stars."

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## M83 Image by Chuck Painter

Chuck took this 30 minute exposure of M83 on April 10 from the Deerlick Astronomy Village. The image was taken with Chuck's 8-inch AstroTech Ritchey-Chretien telescope.



# Deerlick Astronomy Village Memorial Day Weekend Picnic and Open House

by Marie Lott

Mark your calendars! The annual Memorial Day Weekend Potluck Picnic will be held at Deerlick Astronomy Village on Sunday May 30 at 5 PM at the pavilion on Grier's Field. Everyone is invited. On Sunday afternoon there will also be an Open House so that guests may tour DAV. The Deerlick Group will provide the meat (burgers and brats) and provide volunteers to perform the cooking duties. Please RSVP to [picnic@deerlickgroup.com](mailto:picnic@deerlickgroup.com) by May 27th with what side dish or dessert you'd like to bring to the picnic and how many will be attending.

Camping will be FREE on Sunday night May 30th for Deerlick visitors who would like to camp overnight on the field after the picnic. Friday & Saturday camping will just be \$5 per guest per night. DAV field membership is not required for those attending this event. This year Memorial Day weekend will be just after a full moon, so although the skies might be bright, the moon will be beautiful :-). The Atlanta Astronomy Club has a nice clubhouse and telescope on the field - if you've not been out to the site, this is a great time to come check out the setup! Bring some friends out for a great picnic supper and see what Deerlick Astronomy Village is all about.

A good map to Deerlick Astronomy Village may be found at <http://www.deerlickgroup.com/PDF/DeerlickMap1.pdf>. More details about the picnic and open house will be posted on the DAV web site in May.

## 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> You may also contact the AAC's Astronomical League Correspondent Art Zorka for more information about the AL's Observing Clubs. Contact Art at [artzorka@yahoo.com](mailto:artzorka@yahoo.com) or by phone at 404-633-8822.

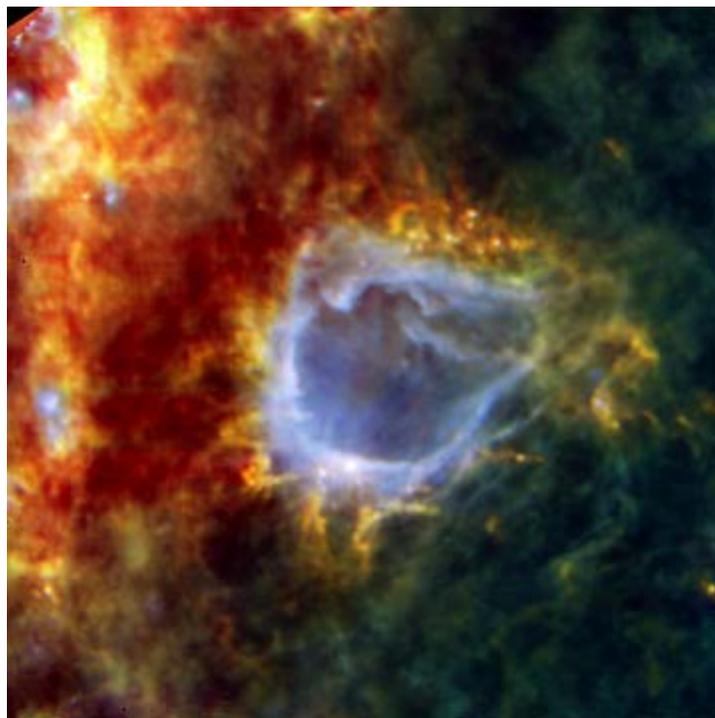
## Herschel Gets Sneak Peak at Star Birth

NASA/JPL News Release - May 06, 2010

The first scientific results from the Herschel infrared space observatory are revealing previously hidden details of star formation. New images show thousands of distant galaxies furiously building stars and beautiful star-forming clouds draped across our Milky Way galaxy. One picture even catches an "impossible" star in the act of formation.

Presented today during a major scientific symposium held at the European Space Agency in the Netherlands, the results challenge old ideas of star birth, and open new roads for future research. The mission is led by the European Space Agency with important participation from NASA.

"Herschel is a new eye on a part of the cosmos that has been dark and buried for a long time," said the mission's NASA project scientist, Paul Goldsmith, at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif.



*The galactic bubble RCW 120. Credit: ESA/PACS/SPIRE/HOBYS Consortia*

Herschel's observation of the star-forming cloud RCW 120 has revealed an embryonic star, which appears ready to turn into one of the biggest and brightest stars in our galaxy within the next few hundred thousand years. It already contains eight to 10 times the mass of the sun and is still surrounded by an additional 2,000 solar masses of gas and dust from which it can feed further.

"This star can only grow bigger," says Annie Zavagno, Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille in France. Massive stars are rare and short-lived. To catch one during formation presents a golden opportunity to solve a long-standing paradox in astronomy. "According to our current understanding, you should not be able to form stars larger than eight solar masses," says Zavagno.

Read more at [http://www.esa.int/esaCP/SEM7N7KPO8G\\_index\\_0.html](http://www.esa.int/esaCP/SEM7N7KPO8G_index_0.html).

Herschel is a European Space Agency cornerstone mission, with science instruments provided by consortia of European institutes and with important participation by NASA. NASA's Herschel Project Office is based at JPL. JPL contributed mission-enabling technology for two of Herschel's three science instruments. The NASA Herschel Science Center, part of the Infrared Processing and Analysis Center at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, supports the United States astronomical community. Caltech manages JPL for NASA.

## Cassini and Amateurs Chase Storm on Saturn

NASA/JPL News Release - April 29, 2010

With the help of amateur astronomers, the composite infrared spectrometer instrument aboard NASA's Cassini spacecraft has taken its first look at a massive blizzard in Saturn's atmosphere. The instrument collected the most detailed data to date of temperatures and gas distribution in that planet's storms.

The data showed a large, turbulent storm, dredging up loads of material from the deep atmosphere and covering an area at least five times larger

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than the biggest blizzard in this year's Washington, D.C.-area storm front nicknamed "Snowmageddon."

"We were so excited to get a heads-up from the amateurs," said Gordon Bjoraker, a composite infrared spectrometer team member based at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Normally, he said, "Data from the storm cell would have been averaged out."

Cassini's radio and plasma wave instrument and imaging cameras have been tracking thunder and lightning storms on Saturn for years in a band around Saturn's mid-latitudes nicknamed "storm alley." But storms can come and go on a time scale of weeks, while Cassini's imaging and spectrometer observations have to be locked in place months in advance.

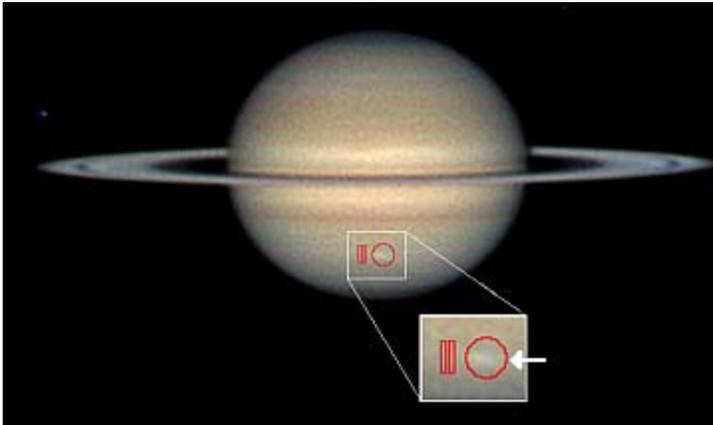
The radio and plasma wave instrument regularly picks up electrostatic discharges associated with the storms, so team members have been sending periodic tips to amateur astronomers, who can quickly go to their backyard telescopes and try to see the bright convective storm clouds. Amateur astronomers including Anthony Wesley, Trevor Barry and Christopher Go got one of those notices in February and were able to take dozens of pictures over the next several weeks.

In late March, Wesley, an amateur astronomer from Australia who was actually the first person to detect the new dark spot caused by an impact on Jupiter last summer, sent Cassini scientists an e-mail with a picture of the storm.

"I wanted to be sure that images like these were being seen by the Cassini team just in case this was something of interest to be imaged directly by Cassini or the Hubble Space Telescope," Wesley wrote.

Cassini scientists eagerly pored through the images, including a picture of the storm at its peak on March 13 by Go, who lives in the Philippines.

By a stroke of luck, the composite infrared spectrometer happened to be targeting the latitude of the storms. The instrument's scientists knew there could be storms there, but didn't know when they might be active.



Amateur astronomer Christopher Go took this image of the storm on March 13, 2010. The arrow indicates the location of the storm and the red outlines show where Cassini's composite infrared spectrometer gathered data. Image credit: C.Go and NASA/JPL-Caltech/GSFC

Data obtained by the spectrometer on March 25 and 26 showed larger than expected amounts of phosphine, a gas typically found in Saturn's deep atmosphere and an indicator that powerful currents were dredging material upward into the upper troposphere. The spectrometer data also showed another signature of the storm: the tropopause, the dividing line between the serene stratosphere and the lower, churning troposphere, was about 0.5 Kelvin (1 degree Fahrenheit) colder in the storm cell than in neighboring areas.

"A balloonist floating about 100 kilometers down from the bottom of Saturn's calm stratosphere would experience an ammonia-ice blizzard with the intensity of Snowmageddon," said Brigitte Hesman, a composite infrared spectrometer team member who is an assistant research scientist at the University of Maryland. "These blizzards appear to be powered by violent storms deeper down - perhaps another 100 to 200 kilometers down - where lightning has been observed and the clouds are made of water and ammonia."

The Cassini-Huygens mission is a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. JPL, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, manages the mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington, D.C. The Cassini orbiter and its two onboard cameras were designed, developed and assembled at JPL. The composite infrared spectrometer team is based at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md., where the instrument was built.

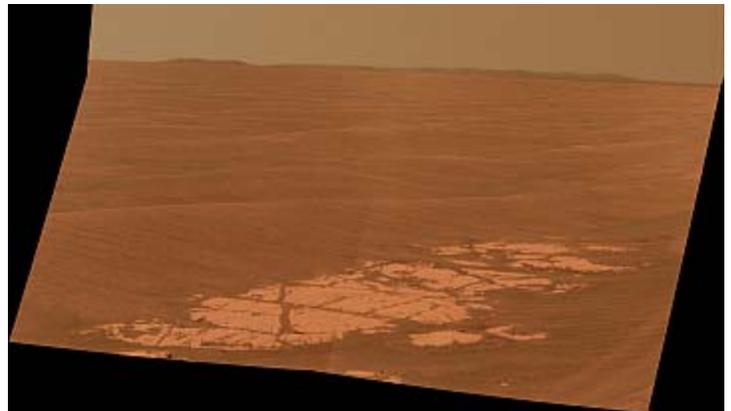


Amateur astronomer Anthony Wesley obtained this image of a storm on Saturn from his backyard telescope in Murrumbateman, Australia, on March 22, 2010. He sent it to scientists working with NASA's Cassini spacecraft the next day. Image credit: A. Wesley

## Mars Rover Sees Distant Crater Rims on Horizon

NASA/JPL News Release - April 30, 2010

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This image shows an outcrop of rocks at the foot of the rover and beyond these rocks rippled dunes, which are about 20 centimeters tall. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell University.

NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity has captured a new view of the rim of Endeavour crater, the rover's destination in a multi-year traverse along the sandy Martian landscape. A portion of the rim about 13 kilometers away appears on the horizon at the left edge of the image, along with the rim of an even more distant crater, Iazu, on the right.

Endeavour is 21 kilometers in diameter, about 25 times wider than Victoria crater, the last major crater Opportunity visited. Opportunity began a marathon from Victoria to Endeavour in September 2008 after spending two years exploring Victoria.

See all related images: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/features.cfm?feature=2585>

## Georgia Astronomy in State Parks

The following GASP events are currently scheduled:

**June 5** - Tugaloo St. Park.

**Aug 14** - Special Event:  
Moon Lake Community  
Library in Mentone,  
Alabama.

**Nov 13** - Red Top Mtn SP.

For more information about these events, contact Keith Burns at 770-427-1475 or [Keith\\_B@bellsouth.net](mailto: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 Online

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 and other information. <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org> You can also follow the AAC on Facebook by joining the AAC group, and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/atlastro>.

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](mailto: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](mailto:Keith_B@bellsouth.net)

**Program Chair:** Rich Jakiel [Programs@atlantaastronomy.org](mailto:Programs@atlantaastronomy.org)

**Observing Chair:** Daniel Herron [observing@atlantaastronomy.org](mailto:observing@atlantaastronomy.org)

**Corresponding Secretary:** Tom Faber  
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**Treasurer:** Sharon Carruthers [Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

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**Board Chair:** Don Hall - [donrhall@bellsouth.net](mailto:donrhall@bellsouth.net)

**Board:** Misty Herron - [mistyherron@gmail.com](mailto:mistyherron@gmail.com)

**Board:** Theo Ramakers 770-464-3777 [director@ceastronomy.org](mailto:director@ceastronomy.org)

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**Elliott Coordinator:** Alesia Rast [Alesia\\_Rast@mail.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:Alesia_Rast@mail.dnr.state.ga.us)

**Elliott Webmaster:** Larry Owens 678-234-5399  
[webmaster@CEastronomy.org](mailto:webmaster@CEastronomy.org)

**Georgia Astronomy in State Parks:** Keith Burns 770-427-1475  
[Keith\\_B@bellsouth.net](mailto:Keith_B@bellsouth.net)

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

**PSSG Chairman:** Peter Macumber [pmacumber@nightsky.org](mailto:pmacumber@nightsky.org)

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**Woodruff Observ. Coordinator:** Sharon Carruthers  
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**Webmaster Atlanta Astronomy:** Daniel Herron  
[observing@atlantaastronomy.org](mailto: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](http://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

- May 5th, Wednesday: Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower.  
May 6th, Thursday: Moon Last Quarter.  
May 7th, Friday: Open House at Bradley Observatory, 8PM  
May 13th, Thursday: New Moon.  
May 15th, Saturday: **DSO at DAV, Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting at 4PM.**  
May 20th, Thursday: Moon First Quarter.  
May 21st, Friday: **AAC Meeting at White Hall, 8PM, Emory University.**  
May 26th, Wednesday: Mercury Greatest Elongation West.  
May 27th, Thursday: Full Moon.  
May 30th, Sunday: Memorial Day Weekend Potluck Picnic at DAV - see pg 5.  
June 4th, Friday: Moon Last Quarter.  
June 5th, Saturday: **GASP at Tugaloo State Park - see pg 7.**  
June 6th, Sunday: Mars near Regulus, Jupiter near Uranus.  
June 12th, Saturday: **Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting & Potluck Dinner at 5PM.** New Moon.  
June 14th, Monday: Earliest Sunrise in Atlanta (~6:25AM).  
June 15th, Tuesday: Moon near Venus.  
June 19th, Saturday: Moon First Quarter.  
June 21st, Monday: Solstice at 7:28AM.  
June 23rd, Wednesday: Bootid Meteor Shower (Moonlight will interfere).  
June 25th, Friday: **AAC Meeting at White Hall, 8PM, Emory University.**  
June 26th, Saturday: Full Moon. Partial Eclipse.  
June 27th, Sunday: Latest Sunset in Atlanta (~8:52PM).  
June 28th, Monday: Mercury at Superior Conjunction.  
July 4th, Sunday: Moon Last Quarter.  
July 10th, Saturday: **Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting at 5PM.**

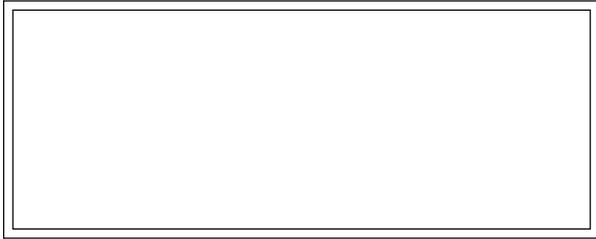
### Atlanta Astronomy Club Listserv

Subscribe to the Atlanta Astronomy Club Mailing List: The name of the list is: AstroAtlanta. The address for messages is: [AstroAtlanta@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AstroAtlanta@yahoogroups.com) . To add a subscription, send a message to: [AstroAtlanta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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@atlantaastro.org](mailto:focalpoint@atlantaastro.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 June is Friday, May 28th at 6:00 PM. Submissions will not be accepted after the deadline.**

### FIRST CLASS



Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.



*The Focal Point*

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

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