

The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
Established 1947
August 2010

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Editor: Tom Faber

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August General Meeting

By Keith Burns, A-V Coordinator

The August meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club will be held on Friday August 20th, 2010 at 8PM. Location is the room 207 of White Hall on the Emory University Campus in Dekalb county. The meeting will run for 1½ to 2 hours. Before the meeting starts, we run the monthly PowerPoint presentation that give you all the latest information on up coming meetings, sidewalk astronomy events, and club observing events.

If you have any information you want to put into the pre meeting announcement PowerPoint, please let Keith Burns know. You can contact him at keith_b@bellsouth.net. If you have any announcements you want to make during the meeting, please contact our President, Mark Banks. That way he can schedule the time for you during the meeting. His contact information is on page 7.

When the president calls the meeting to order, we start the meeting with our featured speaker of the night, Dr. Richard Schmude of Gordon College in Barnesville, GA.

The Program:

Dr. Schmude will give the latest updates on the planet Jupiter. He will talk about new findings and interesting happenings occurring on the Solar System's largest planet. He is always a very animated speaker and a great teacher! So be prepared to learn something new. After Richard is finished, we move on to the business portion of the meeting. We will then adjourn the meeting and head to one of the local eateries for food and conversation.



Speaker Bio:

Dr. Schmude is a professor of physics and astronomy at Gordon College. He is the Remote Planets Section Coordinator, the Jupiter Coordinator, and board member of ALPO, as well as Secretary of the Astronomical League. He is also an active member of the American Association of Variable Star Observers, and the Flint River and Atlanta Astronomy Clubs. Raised in Texas, he received his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Texas A&M University in 1994. Since then, Dr. Schmude has been teaching astronomy, physics and chemistry at Gordon College. His primary areas of study include the solar system, variable stars and planetary nebulae.

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The Peach State Star Gaze!

By Keith Burns, A-V Coordinator

The next Peach State Star Gaze is fast approaching! The AAC's annual star party will again be held at the Deerlick Astronomy Village near Sharon, GA. This year the PSSG will run from Sunday, October 3 to Sunday, October 10 (new moon is October 7). DAV has an 11-acre field that has room for RVs, campers, and tents. Limited power is available on the field. Full restrooms with showers are available on the field along with a 40' x 40' pavilion and gas BBQ grill. The Atlanta Astronomy Club's 24" telescope will be set up on the field and AAC's clubhouse will be open. We will have speakers, workshops, and vendors. One speaker will be Sue French who writes the "Deep Sky Wonders" column in Sky & Telescope. She will present a talk titled "A Few of my Favorite Things". Keep checking our website as information is always being updated. Registration is now open. Please visit us at AtlantaAstronomy.org/pssg/. You can also email us at pssg@atlantaastronomy.org. For information about the DAV visit the Deerlick Astronomy Village's web site at Deerlickgroup.com.

Dragon*Con Sidewalk Astronomy Event

By Keith Burns, AAC A-V Coordinator

Anyone who attended the June meeting heard Lorraine "Rain" Glynn who is the organizer of the Space track at Dragon*Con give a great talk. Dragon*Con is a yearly convention held on Labor Day weekend. It takes place in Downtown Atlanta at several hotels. See the Dragon*Con website for more information at <http://www.dragoncon.org>. This year the dates are Friday Sept 3rd to Monday Sept 6th. The space track features all kinds of talks on space topics including astronomy. We have been asked to help-out by providing astronomers with telescopes setup for conventioners to view the wonders of the night skies. The dates for the sidewalk events are the evenings of Friday Sept 3rd and Saturday Sept 4th. We are also making plans to setup a table to help promote astronomy in the Atlanta metro area and the club at the event. There will be more information on this later. If you can help out with the sidewalk events by bringing a telescope, send me an email at Keith_b@bellsouth.net. Please title the email "Dragon*Con Sidewalk Event". Let me know what nights you can come to help-out.

July General Meeting Minutes

Photos and text by Tom Faber

The July meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on Saturday, July 24 at the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville. About 45 members and visitors were present. Our host for the meeting was Tellus astronomer David Dundee. Club member Stephen Ramsden presented a talk about the Sun. After the meeting we braved the heat to go outside and view the Sun through several telescopes (both white light and hydrogen alpha) that Stephen had set up. A number of Tellus visitors also got to view the Sun. Some large prominences were visible along the limb. After the solar viewing many of us went to a nearby Cracker Barrel for dinner.



President Mark Banks opens the July AAC meeting at Tellus.



Stephen Ramsden begins his talk about the Sun.

Photo center right: Stephen Ramsden (right next to the truck) set up an impressive array of two white light and two hydrogen-alpha solar scopes!

Photo right: Kat Sarbell views the Sun through a hydrogen-alpha scope while other visitors look through white light telescopes.



Our host David Dundee demonstrates the "Sun Gun" solar projection telescope that was donated to Tellus. From left to right: Kat Sarbell, Peter Macumber, David Dundee, Stephen Ramsden, Mark Banks, and Sharon Carruthers.



(Continued from page 1)

Upcoming AAC Meetings:

Future meeting dates for 2010 are Sept 17th, Oct 22nd, Nov 19th, and Dec 11th (Saturday). Meetings held in Room 207 of White Hall unless noted.

Parking News Update at Emory University

Starting in July 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 Science Building and directly behind the Admissions building. Math and Science Building is directly across the street from our usual meeting place at White Hall.

April 18, 2010 BoD meeting Report

By Julie Moore, AAC Recording Secretary

The meeting of Atlanta Astronomy Club's Board of Directors was called to order at 4:00PM at Emory University's Math and Science Building by Chairman Don Hall. Ten members were present.

Old Business:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. Other officers reported:

The VP/Program reviewed the lineup of speakers through August.

The Observing VP reported that more schools were inviting us to help with special events and more volunteers are needed to help with these and other community outreach and sidewalk astronomy programs. Come on out and lend a hand and have some fun!

Charlie Elliot Chapter has 9 events planned, 4 daytime and 5 evening.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved with several comments: We need to appeal the higher tax rate at the Villa Rica property before the deadline next year; a new projector was purchased, spare bulb will follow; DAV was paid for their part in the Peach State Star Gaze.

Under Old Business: Inventory of AAC property is almost complete.

New Business:

Past member Dorothy Brown donated old issues of the *Focal Point*. These are available for any member to enjoy; AAC Group is a new Facebook page; On Twitter we are ATLASTRO; Nominating committee is Misty, Keith and a TBA mystery guest; Next meeting time is TBA.

Motion was made to Adjourn.

The Focal Point Archives

The AAC began publishing the *Focal Point* as a PDF online in June 1998. Since then every issue has, and still is, available for download from the club's web page. Recently that archive has expanded. Sharon Carruthers has scanned 61 issues of the AAC's newsletter (then called *The Atlanta Astronomers' Report*) from 1948 to 1977. Although many issues from this period are still missing these provide a valuable record of the club's early years. In addition I (Tom Faber) came across 19 issues of the *Focal Point* from the years 1995-1998 that I scanned to make available on the club's web site. Again not every issue during this period is available but it is another step in maintaining and making available to all a record of the AAC's history. Our web master Daniel Herron has uploaded these to the web site as PDF's for download. Just visit www.atlantaastronomy.org and click on the "Focal Point Archives" link on the right side of the page. If you have any of the missing issues of the club's newsletter that you would like to scan and submit to Daniel please do!

The Next AAC Board Meeting

The next Board meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club is scheduled for Sunday, November 7th at 3PM at Emory University in the Math and Science building room N301. Contact Marks Banks or Board Chair Jim Moore for more information about the meeting agenda.

From the President's Desk

We need volunteers for our upcoming public outreach events. You don't need to be a rocket scientist or expert. Most of the people at these events know little about astronomy, but are very interested in learning more about the night sky. Last month's meeting was a good example. We had a great program on solar observing, followed by actual solar viewing outside at the Tellus Science Museum. We had lots of visitors and picked up some new members.

Some upcoming events for volunteers include:

- * Numerous school astronomy programs.
- * Dragon*Con
- * Lunar eclipse viewing at the Tellus Museum.
- * Several G.A.S.P. (Georgia Astronomy in State Parks) events.

So please check the events calendar and join us. Share your enthusiasm for astronomy with the public. It's very rewarding to turn someone on to the wonders of the night sky!

Mark Banks, AAC President



Jupiter by Dan Llewellyn

This Jupiter image was taken on July 11 in my backyard through a C-14. I used a Zeiss 2x barlow and a Point Grey Research Flea2 monochrome camera. Astronomik filters were used for 30 second AVI runs at 30 frames per second for the red, green, and blue channels. The AVI's were stacked with Registax, combined in Astra Image Pro, and finalized in PhotoShop.

July CE Chapter Minutes

by Ken Poshedly (filling in for the vacationing Recording Secretary Marie Lott)

The meeting was held July 10 at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Visitor Center and called to order at 5:30 p.m. with CE Chapter Observing Director Steve Phillips filling in for vacationing Chapter Director Theo Ramakers. The final meeting attendance was approximately 15 members and guests.

Next was a vote was taken by acclamation to elect Marie Lott as the CE chapter recording secretary. The results were unanimously in favor.

The featured speaker for the evening was Phil Sacco whose groundwork so many years ago in getting the CE chapter started has resulted in the enjoyment of the CE facilities for us. Phil's talk, "Making Something Out of Nothing", dealt with the extreme differences in sizes and distances of various celestial bodies. From Phil's own writeup: "Everything we see - the Sun, planets, galaxies, the Orion Nebula, each other - are really great to see, but what makes them all up? Space and a little bit of matter and THAT'S what matters - the "matter". Everything is made up of "matter" - really, really small atoms." Phil's talk covered not only atomic nuclei, but density, the vacuum of space, comparisons of our planets to the Sun, and then comparisons of our Sun to other stars and those stars to other stars, etc., etc.

After a short intermission, copies of the July 2010 issue of "The Evening Sky Map" were distributed. Go to <http://www.skymaps.com/> for more information.

Next Steve Phillips presented the July edition of "Observing 101". The July Sky Map, along with monthly charts and target lists pages, are now available on the CE website at <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/observing>.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.

CE Chapter Outreach Programs

by Theo Ramakers, CE Chapter Director

We did have one outreach event this month for the Garden Club of Georgia. Frank Garner, Phil Sacco and Dan Schmitt taught the kids some basics about the night sky, and showed the campers the planets and some deep sky objects (unfortunately we do not have pictures of the event). The outreach program for the "Girls of the Great Outdoors" was cancelled.

Next CE Chapter Meeting

The next meeting will be on September 11th and begin at 5:00PM. The meeting will include a talk on a topic TBA, Observing 101 presentation, and observing after dark (weather permitting). Future meeting dates this year are: Oct 2, Nov 6, and Dec 4.

ISS Transits the Sun

by Theo Ramakers, Chapter Director

The image below was made on July 30 as Frank Garner and I set out to capture that afternoon's transit of the Sun by the ISS on its 67033 orbit since the launch of its first element on November 20, 1998. The center line passed less than 2000 feet from the "Dutch Observatory". The distance to the ISS was 405 kilometers. The angular size of the station was 47.2 arc-seconds, which makes it 1/40th of the diameter of the Sun. The ISS came close to Sunspot AR1092 and some nice solar prominences are also visible in the photo. We almost missed this pass as an object went across the field of view about 20 seconds prior to the ISS's scheduled time, which we first

thought was an early pass. We stuck to our imaging plan and caught the right pass on time. It also appears that the transfer between the camera and my laptop was quite busy, since it skipped a few images in the sequence. But I am quite happy with the result of our team work! <http://ceastronomy.org/tramakers>



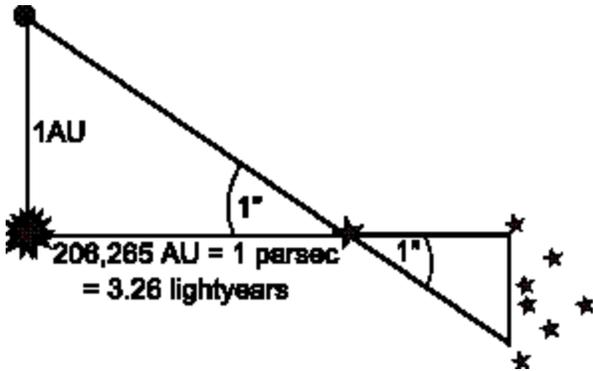
ISS Transit. 2010-07-30 19:35:20 UT Lunt LS60T-Ha and DMK21AU-04AS
Theo Ramakers and Frank Garner. Social Circle, GA



Measuring the Cosmos - Part 3

By Sharon Carruthers, AAC Treasurer

When we are measuring distances inside our solar system, the Astronomical Units (AU) is adequate. However, when we want to measure distances to stars, it is far too small, so astronomers use the parsec. The parsec is based on the annual parallax. This is measured by observing the angle to a star at two extreme points of the Earth's orbit (i.e. 6 months apart.). The



angle is divided in half (making the baseline 1 AU) and a 90 degree angle between the Earth, Sun and the star. The distance at which this angle (the annual parallax) is 1 arcsecond is called a parsec and is equal to 3.26 light years. Today, the AU is precisely calculated by radar reflections off the surfaces of the planets. The term parsec was coined by Herbert Hall Turner and first used 1913.

Astrometry (measuring the position and distance to stars) is not just a matter of answering "How far away? How big is the Universe?" It is crucial to calibrating the light output of so-called "standard candles" stars (such as Cepheid Variables and RR Lyraes) in galaxies too far to measure with parallax. The mass of stars in a binary system can be determined more easily if we know how far away they are. Distance can be used to determine the true light output of the star in order to better derive the age and composition of star clusters, to determine if stars are really part of a cluster or just a "chance alignment", to explore how interstellar dust impedes starlight, and to deduce the overall patterns of movement of stars in our region of the galaxy. This, in turn, enables astronomers to explore the problems related to the structure, origins and history of our galaxy.

Up to the end of the 18th century, the parallax of only about 100 stars had been measured, and not very accurately because it was dependent on visual observation and affected by atmospheric aberration. The introduction of stellar photography in the mid-19th century improved the accuracy - one could measure positions on photographic plates rather than at the eyepiece of a telescope. But the problem of Earth's atmosphere still lingered until the space age in the 20th century.

In 1989, the European Space Agency (ESA) launched the Hipparcos - High Precision Parallax Collecting Satellite (named in honor of Hipparchus, the Greek astronomer who tried to calculate the size and distance of the Sun and the Moon) which, between 1989 and 1993, mapped the position of over 100,000 stars, up to 1,600 lightyears away. Each star was observed about 100 times. The average precision of parallax is 0.001 arcsecond for stars up to 300 lightyears; and within 1% for stars up to 30 lightyears away.

In 1997, the Hipparcos Catalogue was published listing the positions of over 100,000 stars using the data obtained from the 4 year mission.

The ESA has plans to launch the Global Astrometric Interferometer for Astrophysics (GAIA) in 2012 (originally scheduled for 2009) to obtain astrometric measurements (the positions, distances, and annual proper

motions, as well as other properties) of 1 billion stars down to 20th magnitude (with an accuracy of about 20 microarcseconds (μs) for 15th magnitude stars, and 200 μs for 20th magnitude stars). This will enable astronomers to create a 3-D map of the Milky Way and the region of space around it. GAIA will also map other solar systems, extra-solar planets, quasars and other galaxies, as well search for asteroids inside Earth's orbit that are close to the sun and would only be observable in daylight.

NASA had planned to launch the Full-sky Astrometric Mapping Explorer (FAME) in 2004 but it was cancelled in 2002 due to budgetary and other concerns. It was to have measured the parallax of objects up to 8,000 lightyears away.

Information for these articles was based on the following works:

Parallax: The Race to Measure the Cosmos. By Hirshfeld, A.W.H. Freeman and Company. 2001. (An excellent book on the subject)

Distance: A History of Parallax and Brief Introduction to Standard Candles by B.J. Guillot, Houston, Texas

http://www.bgfax.com/school/distance_history.pdf (Primarily a summary of Hirshfeld's book)

Astrometric Measurement Techniques by Sabine Reffert Landessternwarte, Konigstuhl 12, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany. http://www.vlti.org/events/assets/4/documents/03_reffert-techniques.pdf (A good overview of old & new astrometry techniques)

Wikipedia articles on Parallax and Hipparcos

Next month: "Lighting a 'Standard Candle' in the Dark"

Georgia Astronomy in State Parks

by Keith Burns, A-V Coordinator & GASP Coordinator

One of the main things we do in the Atlanta Astronomy Club is provide sidewalk astronomy events to 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 does an astronomy talk followed by viewing through telescopes. In case of rain, we set up the telescopes inside and show our telescopes to the attendees of the events. 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 contact Keith Burns at keith_b@bellsouth.net.

On August 14th we will be at the 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 to do some of our DSO events from. We are camping at Desoto Falls State Park located about 10 minutes from the library. Start time is 8:30PM Eastern Time and 7:30 PM Central Time. Roger's widow Judy, along with his other family members will be there as special guests.

If you are planning on coming to Mentone to help out, please send me an email at the above address and let me know. If you want to camp at Desoto State Park, please let me know also. This is so I will know how many sites they need to set aside. Title your email "Mentone Sidewalk Event".

Mentone is wonderful town and is located within an area of Lookout Mountain known for its history and beautiful natural scenery. Waterfalls abound along with a nearby canyon called Little River Canyon. The river runs its entire length on top of Lookout Mtn. It ends after dropping off

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the mountain and emptying into nearby Lake Weiss. Mentone is a fairly dark region that is well known to many outdoorsy types.

On November 13th we will be at Red Top Mountain State Park on Lake Allatoona near Cartersville, Georgia. This is close to Atlanta for any club member to attend. Only 45 minutes northwest of Downtown Atlanta. This event usually draws large crowds of people. Start time is 7PM.

I was recently contacted by Panola State Park about possibly doing an astronomy program there next year. So the GASP group in one form or another will perhaps be heading there next year. Time will tell as we discuss this with the park ranger.

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

NGC6992 by Chuck Painter

This is the eastern portion, NGC 6992, also known as the monkey wrench, taken recently from my driveway in Alpharetta. I wish I could get out to dark sites more often, but it's amazing what can be captured from light polluted skies. And, it's tough to beat the convenience of the driveway outside your house!



Image Technical Details:

This image is 24 X 5 minutes = 2 hour and was taken through an Astrotech 8-inch Ritchey-Chretien at F/8 mounted on an Atlas EQ-G mount. The camera is an Orion Starshoot Pro V1 Color CCD. It was guided using an Orion Short Tube 80 and an Orion Starshoot Autoguider.

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.

Continued on next page

July DSO at Brasstown Bald Mountain

The AAC held its July Dark Sky Observing session at Brasstown Bald the night of July 10-11. Even though the weather was hot in the Atlanta area, at the Brasstown parking lot it was much cooler! The temperature dropped to 61F by morning and the humidity was low. There was almost no dew that night. The skies were clear most of the night with just a few passing clouds. We saw a pass of the ISS, an evening and morning Iridium flare, lots of other satellites, quite a few meteors, and of course the stars, planets, and deep sky objects. Ten club members were present and four of us stayed the whole night. It was a great night for us heat weary and photon deprived folks! Photos by Tom Faber.



Setting up for the night in the cool temperatures of Brasstown's parking lot.



Keith Burns and Kat Sarbell begin the evening's observing by viewing Venus, as Steve Yood looks on.



Steve Yood brought an 8-inch Astrophysics refractor. Here it's lit up by a red flashlight as the Big Dipper sets in the northwest.

* 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 or by phone at 404-633-8822.

Georgia Astronomy in State Parks

There is one GASP event remaining for this year:

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 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. Also send information on upcoming observing events, meetings, and other events to the webmaster.

AAC Officers and Contacts

President: Mark Banks President@AtlantaAstronomy.org

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 678-531-2134

Secretary@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Board: Jim Moore - 678-598-5820 hollin@bellsouth.net

Board: Misty Herron - mistyherron@gmail.com

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

Board: Marie Lott mtlott@comcast.net

ALCOR: Art Zorka 404-633-8822 (H) 404-247-2474 (C)
artzorka@yahoo.com

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

Elliott Observing Supervisor: Steven Phillips 770-601-9816
observing@ceastronomy.org

Elliott Recording Secretary: Dan Schmidt - Contact Info TBA

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

Audio-Video Coordinator: Keith Burns 770-427-1475
Keith_B@bellsouth.net

PSSG Chairman: Peter Macumber pmacumber@nightsky.org

PSSG Co-Chair: Joanne Cirincione
starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Sidewalk Astronomy: Brad Isley
sidewalkastronomy@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Light Trespass: Open - Contact Mark Banks if you would like to volunteer for this position

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

AAC Webmaster: 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

- Aug 9th, Monday: New Moon.
Aug 11th, Wednesday: Moon near Mercury.
Aug 12th, Thursday: Moon near Venus, Mars, and Saturn.
Aug 13th, Friday: Perseid Meteors.
Aug 14th, Saturday: **GASP at Mentone Library - See p. 5 for details.**
Aug 16th, Monday: Moon First Quarter.
Aug 18th, Wednesday: Mars near Venus.
Aug 19th, Thursday: Venus Greatest Elongation East, Neptune at Opposition.
Aug 20th, Friday: **AAC Meeting at White Hall, Emory University, 8PM.**
Aug 24th, Tuesday: Full Moon.
Aug 27th, Friday: **September Focal Point Deadline.**
Sept 1st, Wednesday: Moon Last Quarter.
Sept 3rd, Friday: Mercury Inferior Conjunction.
Sept 8th, Wednesday: New Moon.
Sept 11th, Saturday: **Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting at 5PM. DSO at Woodruff BSC - Contact Daniel Herron for details.**
Sept 15th, Wednesday: Moon First Quarter.
Sept 17th, Friday: **AAC Meeting at White Hall, Emory University, 8PM.**
Sept 19th, Sunday: Mercury at Greatest Elongation West.
Sept 20th, Monday: **October Focal Point Deadline (Early due to PSSG).** Jupiter & Neptune at Opposition.
Sept 22nd, Wednesday: Equinox at 11:09PM.
Sept 23rd, Thursday: Full Moon, Venus at Greatest Evening Brilliance.
Sept 30th, Thursday: Moon Last Quarter: Saturn Conjunction with Sun.
Oct 2nd, Saturday: **Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting.**

October 3rd-10th: Peach State Star Gaze at DAV!!!

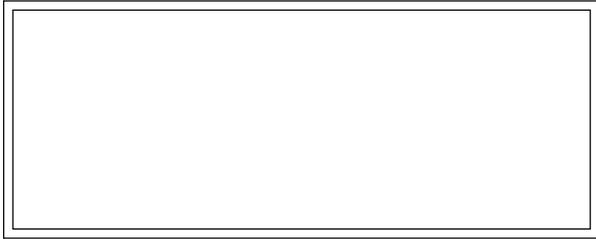
Atlanta Astronomy Club Listserv

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@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 September is Friday, August 27th 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:



FROM: Tom Faber
2206 Treeridge Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30022

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