

The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
Established 1947
July 2011

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Editor: Tom Faber

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July General Meeting

Join us for the July meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club on Friday July 15th at 8PM. Refreshments will be provided starting around 7:30PM. We will meeting at a new location this month. The July meeting will be in the Atlanta Freethought Society building in Smyrna. Directions to the meeting at The Atlanta Freethought Building: Take I-285 to exit # 16. Go south (in towards Atlanta) about half a mile. Turn right on to North Church Lane. The first Building you see on the left is it (Looks like a small brick church). The street address is 4775 North Church Lane S.E. , Smyrna 30080.

The Program:

AAC member and club Astronomical League correspondent Art Zorka will present a talk about the NASA Night Sky Network and how it can be used by the club members.

Speaker Bio:

Art Zorka did not intend to become a member of our club, 15 years ago. He paid for his wife's membership and he came along for the ride. Maria was enthralled by the night sky so he bought her a telescope for her birthday.

Since then, he has been club secretary, four times a board member, and club correspondent to the Astronomical League. He has received 12 Astronomical League observing awards and is a club coordinator for the NASA Night Sky Network.



Photo by Art Zorka.

Art was educated as a photographer at the New York School of Industrial Art, was in the US Army as a combat photographer and then transferred to Army Intelligence and Security Agency, serving in Washington, DC, Arlington, Virginia and service in Laos, Cambodia and Japan.

Leaving the service, he went to work for a private contract, as a photo lab technician, working for NASA. He remembers processing and printing the photos of astronaut Ed White, making the historic first space walk.

Art became an educator during his 15 years with PBS and GPB, and 20 years as a after-dinner speaker and professional magician. It is this love for education that has excited him about Astronomical League Observing Programs and Outreach. Coming to the NASA Night Sky Network is a natural for him.

Upcoming AAC Meetings:

Aug 19th - Former AAC member Art Russell will present a talk about planetary nebulae.

Future meetings are scheduled for September 9, October 14, November 11, and December 10 (Christmas potluck dinner). Meeting locations, speakers, and talk topics will be announced at a later date.

Woodruff Warmup Shed

The warmup shed on the observing field at the Woodruff Boy Scout Camp has a new lock. Before going up you should contact Sharon Carruthers for the combination. Sharon can be contacted at 770-941-4640. Kendall Foster at Woodruff also has the combination.

Woodruff Volunteer Needed

by Sharon Carruthers, AAC Treasurer

The summer scout camping season is upon us. Perhaps we can inspire you to help out at the Woodruff Boy Scout Camp (near Blue Ridge) Summer Camp this year by implanting the idea early. In exchange for the Club's use of the Astronomy field at the Woodruff Camp, the AAC volunteers to go up once a week during their summer camping session and give the campers an opportunity to look through a telescope as part of their Astronomy Merit badge.

The viewing nights are Thursdays; and the campers usually are there between 9:00 - 11:00 p.m. It is advisable to bring your own telescope; but we have a 10" Dob on site; and I usually leave one of my smaller Dobs up there during the summer. We get from 15 to 60 boys each night; between the ages of 10 - 16.

If you could volunteer one or more nights to help us out, it would be very much appreciated both by the scouts and the AAC. Contact me or Daniel Herron (see page 7), if you wish to volunteer or have any questions.

Remaining Camp Dates: July 7, July 14, July 21, July 28.

June General Meeting Minutes

by Pixie Bruner, AAC Recording Secretary.

Photos by Tom Faber

The Atlanta Astronomy Club held its May meeting on Friday, June 17th at Emory University's Math and Science Building Planetarium. Light refreshments were hosted by Sharon and we thank her for her time and effort to provide snacks and soft drinks to hungry stargazers. The meeting was started at 8:00 PM by Richard Jakiel (below), who was standing in for AAC president Mark Banks. There was an impressive total 58 members and several young stargazers present and several guests in attendance.



Our speaker for the evening was AAC Treasurer Sharon Carruthers presenting on "Planet X" (below) which was a fact-filled and funny talk.

Upcoming speakers include Art Zorka next month at Atlanta Freethought Society Hall in Smyrna GA, presenting the NASA Night Sky Network to us on 7/15. Les Johnson of NASA will present a talk on unmanned space missions, Dan Llewellyn will present on astro imaging, and others are to be future presenters at general meetings. The speaker roster is impressive for amateur astronomers in Atlanta. AAC Alumnus Art Russell has agreed to present on August 19th and that looks to be another fascinating and visually stunning presentation. Daniel Herron, AAC BoD Chairman, spoke on upcoming sidewalk events, and to top off the night, Phillip Sacco presented Art Zorka with his pin and award for having completed the not-so-glamorous and not-always-exciting Herschel 400 observer accomplishment (photo right). Art is only one step away from making recognized as one of what will be 3 Master Observers in Georgia. Peter Macumber asked



for PSSG volunteers. Upcoming events of interest to astronomers are always listed in *The Focal Point* and on the AAC website. Volunteers are always welcome and needed for events so please give back with your free time to show your appreciation and love of the skies. Our deepest condolences to the family of the late Harold Champ, he will be greatly



missed by his friends and the local astronomy community.

The upcoming meeting schedule is as follows so please save these dates:

7/15 - Art Zorka presenter at AFS Hall, 8/19 - Art Russell presenter, location TBA, 8/28 - BoD Meeting- Mars House BBQ (contact Richard Jakiel or Pixie Bruner for directions), 9/9 - Speaker & location TBA, 10/14 - Speaker & location TBA, 11/11 - Les Johnson of NASA presenter, 12/10 - Annual AAC Christmas/Hannukah/Solstice Potluck Party at Emory.

We had a great meeting in May and hopefully June will be even better! Keep looking skywards and clear sky wishes!

Minutes of the April 17 BoD Meeting

By Tom Faber, filling in for Julie Moore

BoD Members present: Mark Banks, Marie Lott, Theo Ramakers, and Tom Faber. Meeting called to order at 3:10PM with only 4 BoD members present.

Theo's Report:

- *Theo won't run again as CE Chapter Director. He will keep doing outreach and CE web page.

- *3 outreach events last month. 2 more scheduled next month.

- * Moved CE web page to a virtual site.

We discussed possible candidates for May elections.

Need more communications between the Board and the PSSG committee.

Woodruff Scout Summer Program - Will let Sharon make the call if we continue doing it after this summer due to being hard to get people to go up on a week night.

We discussed ways to get new people to run for club positions.

Marie announced that there will be a picnic and open house at DAV on Saturday, May 28. Camping is free Saturday night. \$5/person/night the other nights of that weekend. Marie to send notice for the Focal Point.

Need to update membership form on AAC web page. The one on there now still says \$5 extra per year for mailed Focal Point. Ask Sharon about making payments through Pay-Pal. Are names case sensitive?

Meeting was then adjourned.

CE Chapter June Outreach Programs

by Theo Ramakers - <http://ceastronomy.org/tramakers>

The chapter did 8 outreach events this month and three of them were all day events. We reached out to 320 scouts and 60 parents of the Fayette County Cub Scouts for two days during their camp at the Providence United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. 50 minute sessions for 20 dens gave the scouts a better understanding of the solar system, they learned about asteroids and meteorites, and they got to see the sun with some nice sunspots and prominences. Many of them and their parents told us that this was the highlight of their camp. We presented the Sun to the Conyers Girl Scouts at the Elks Aidmore Childrens Home in Conyers. A group of special needs children from Madison got to see the sun, and learned about it at a special event at Hard Labor Creek State Park. The Charlie Elliott Summer Camp Counselors invited us during their training and we introduced them to the various activities we can do for their campers. They also got to see the night sky at the Jon Wood field at CE, and they gave us some valuable information on how to make the astronomy segment of this year's camps better suited for their campers.



We also reached out to Atlanta's Middle and High School students who participated in the Arts and Science Life-Lab Event at the Norcross Middle School. Students and parents got more information about what's involved in getting a job in astronomy and space exploration, and learned about current and future NASA missions. Some of them also enjoyed the view they got through our solar scopes.



And finally the participants of Charlie Elliott's Wildlife Week on June 29 will view and learn about the sun. In a separate session they will take a look at the night sky at the Jon Wood field and listened to a presentation in the visitor's center.

Thanks here to all who participated in these so gratifying events.

Clear Skies! Theo Ramakers - <http://ceastronomy.org/tramakers>

June Charlie Elliott Chapter Minutes

by Marie Lott, CE Chapter Recording Secretary

The June meeting of the Charlie Elliott Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on Saturday, June 4 in the Visitor center at 5 PM. This was the quarterly potluck dinner, with twenty two people in attendance.

Outreach coordinator Theo Ramakers announced that the chapter sponsored eight community astronomy events in May and has several major events planned for June. See the chapter calendar for details at www.ceastronomy.org. Let Theo know if you can help out with any of the upcoming outreach events.

Elections were held in May for all chapter offices with the exception of director. Ken Poshedly agreed to fill the open position of chapter director and was elected unanimously.

Marie Lott gave the evening's talk, "Stargazers, Starfarers and Kepler", a Night Sky Network presentation about the Kepler Mission and the search for exoplanets.

Steven Philips, Observing Supervisor, presented "Observing 101", a highlight of current sun, moon and planet rise & set times, observing targets and challenges. In June Saturn will be visible in the evenings and Jupiter, Mars, and Venus will rise before sunrise. For most of June, Saturn will be within a degree of the bright double star Porrima (Gamma Virginis). June 19-22 the Moon will be near the Pleiades, and on June 28 the crescent Moon will be below Mars & the Pleiades.

Small Telescope/Binocular Target List for June: Galaxies M51 (Whirlpool), M63 (Sunflower), M64 (Black Eye), M101 (Pinwheel) and M104 (Sombrero); globular clusters M3, M5 & M13; double stars Porrima & Cor Caroli; and carbon star SS Virginis.

The featured object for the month is NGC 6543, the Cat's Eye Nebula, a spectacular planetary nebula in Draco. Structurally it is one of the most complex nebulae known, with gas arches, knots and bubbles. In the center of the nebula is a bright hot star which is thought to have lost its outer envelope about 1000 years ago. The nebula was discovered by William Herschel on February 16, 1786. Its approximate distance is 3300 light years and it was the 1st planetary nebula to be observed with a spectroscope (by William Huggins on August 29, 1864).



A large number of scopes were set up on Jon Wood field after the meeting for an enjoyable evening of observing.

The next meeting of the chapter will be Saturday, July 2, 2011 at 5 PM in the Charlie Elliott Visitor Center. Ken Poshedly will present a talk about the Moon, its origins and topography. Larry Owens will speak briefly on lunar photography. Immediately following the close of the meeting will be the dedication of a new sign at our observing field, designating it as the "Jon Wood Astronomy Field". Weather-permitting, all are invited to stay afterwards for observing.

Remembering Harold Champ

June brought more very sad news for the Atlanta Astronomy Club. Long time club member Harold Champ passed away on the 16th. Harold, along with his wife Claudia, were regular volunteers for the AAC's Georgia Astronomy in State Parks (GASP) group. Below is Harold's obituary. He will be greatly missed.



Harold at Unicoi State Park for the March 2010 GASP. Photo by Tom Faber

Harold James Champ, Jr. 62, of Doraville died June 16, 2011. A graduate of Truman High School in Kansas City, Missouri, Harold served in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps during the Vietnam War, receiving the Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars. He was later stationed at the Pentagon as security for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In Belgium he served as personal security for Alexander Haig, the Supreme Allied Commander of Europe. Closer to retirement he served at US Army Forces Command designing the operational procedures for the Patriot Missile System. He attained the rank of Sergeant First Class and retired in 1988. He was also a member of the Doraville Citizens Police Academy and the Atlanta Astronomy Club. Survivors include his wife, Claudia Champ, son and daughter-in-law, Damian and Cindy Champ of Carlisle, Ohio, daughter and son-in-law, Diana Champ Davis and Michael Davis of Dunwoody, brother and sister-in-law, Dayle and Pauletta Champ of Yakima, Washington and sister, Meg Atwell of Huntsville, Alabama. A memorial service for Harold was held on June 20th.

From the President's Desk

It's that time of year again when the kids are out of school and complaining about being bored. To break that boredom try taking them on a local science field trip. There are plenty of great places to take them around town. We have The Georgia Aquarium, The Atlanta Botanical Gardens, The Atlanta Zoo, Fernbank Science Center, and The Tellus Science Museum. This should keep them busy and maybe they can learn something along the way. If you want a good book to help out with all their questions I recommend a book I recently found titled "The Complete Idiot's Guide to The Science of Everything," by Steve Miller (ISBN# 978-1-59257-796-5). Have fun this summer and try not to strain your brain too much!

Mark Banks, AAC President

The Next AAC Board Meeting

The next Board meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club is scheduled for Sunday, August 28th at 3PM at Richard Jakiel's Mars House in Lithia Springs. Contact President Mark Banks or Board Chair Daniel Herron for more information about the meeting agenda, and Rich for directions.

Deepsky Images by Dan Llewellyn

The image below is the supernova in Messier 51 from the Deerlick Astronomy Village. June 9, 2011, 05:38UT, stack of 5 - 8 minute subs, Starshoot Pro II Color Camera, AstroTech 12-inch Imaging Newtonian, Baader MPCC Coma Corrector.



Below is Messier 8 (Lagoon Nebula) from the Deerlick Astronomy Village. June 9, 2011, stack of 7 - 8 minute subs, Starshoot Pro II Color Camera, AstroTech 12-inch Imaging Newtonian.



2012 - DOOM or DUMB?

By Sharon Carruthers, AAC Treasurer

Part 5 - The Mayan Calendar Connection

As we have seen in Parts 1-4, neither Sitchin nor Lieder originally set December 21, 2012 (the Winter Solstice) as the time for their planet to return. So, how did this become the “Doom Date”?

December 21, 2012 is the “end” of the Mayan Long Count calendar. The Mayan calendar, like an odometer reaching 999,999 miles, rolls over to 000,000 at the end of its longest cycle, equal to 13 b’ak’tun or 5,125 1/4 years. The question is “At the end of this cycle, did the Mayans reset their calendar, like an odometer, and keep counting? Did they prophesize the end of civilization, or even of time and of the Earth? Or did they just ran out of space on their calendar stone?”

The Mayan civilization existed from 250-900 A.D. in the Central and South Americas. They were superb astronomers, documenting the phases of the moon, eclipses, and the movement of Venus. The Venus cycle was an important calendar for the Maya. Their records enabled them to predict future astronomical cycles with great accuracy.

They had three principle calendars: the *Haab*, used as the civil calendar; the *Tzolkin* used for religious observances, and the *Long Count*, used to record past and future historical events. The *Haab* and *Tzolkin* were used together to form the *Calendar Round*, a cyclical calendar of 52 years, used to keep track of daily events over the “average” human life span. The *Long Count* calendar was created by the Olmecs and used by several cultures in Central and South America before European colonization.

The Mayan *Long Count* calendar used a base system of 18 & 20, (and had a “zero year”, unlike our A.D. calendar, that caused so much confusion in the year 2000).

1 b’ak’tun	1 k’tun	1 tun	1 winal	1 k’in
= 20 k’atun	= 20 tun	= 18 winal	= 20 k’in	= 1 day
1.0.0.0.0	0.1.0.0.0	0.0.1.0.0	0.0.0.1.0	0.0.0.0.1
20x7200 =	20x360 =	18x20=	20 days	1 day
144,000 days	7200 days	360 days		
12	19	18	8	11

The Maya believed that their gods had created three failed worlds. Their 3rd creation ended on a long count of (12.19.19.17.19). The gods put man on their fourth successful world which started at (0.0.0.0.0) (calculated to be August 11, 3114 BCE, by modern Mayan scholars, who used astronomical events recorded by the Mayans to synchronize it with our Gregorian calendar). The next (12.19.19.17.19) will occur on December 20, 2012, followed by the start of the 14th b’ak’tun (13.0.0.0.0), on December 21, 2012.

In the 1966, Michael D. Coe, PhD Anthropology, Harvard U, and one of the foremost scholars of Mayan culture, wrote that “there is a suggestion ... that Armageddon would overtake the degenerate peoples of the world and all creation on the final day of the 13th [b’ak’tun]. Thus ... our present universe [would] be annihilated [in December 2012] when the Great Cycle of the Long Count reaches completion.” *The Maya, 1966*. This became the common interpretation though the early 1990’s.

However, more recent scholars, such as Sandra Noble, executive director of the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, E. W. Andrews V, director of the Tulane University Middle American Research Institute and Susan Milbrath, curator of Latin American Art and Archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History, have disputed that the Maya had any apocalyptic expectations in their religion. Ms Noble says

“For the ancient Maya, (13 b’ak’tun) was a huge celebration to make it to the end of a whole cycle,” much as we regarded the start of the second millennium in 2000 AD. Most classic Maya inscriptions are strictly historical and do not make any prophetic declarations. There are also inscriptions that refer to events that fall after this date, such as the anniversary, in 4772 AD, of Pakal’s accession to the throne.

In the 1970’s, some New Age authors, promoting the idea that there would be a “shift of consciousness” after the millennium, tied Coe’s conjectures about the Mayan dates to their own expectations. In his book *The Mayan Factor: Path Beyond Technology*, Jose Argüelles set the date of December 21, when the Earth would pass through a great “beam” from the center of the Milky Way, claiming that the Maya aligned their calendar in anticipation of that event. John Major Jenkins asserts that the Maya chose the winter solstice of 2012 to end of their calendar to coincide with the *galactic alignment*. Most of these New Age authors foresee 2012 as a time of spiritual change, not an apocalyptic ending to the world.

How scientific is this belief that the world as we know it will end, either in a fiery apocalypse or a new spiritual age, on 13 b’ak’tun?

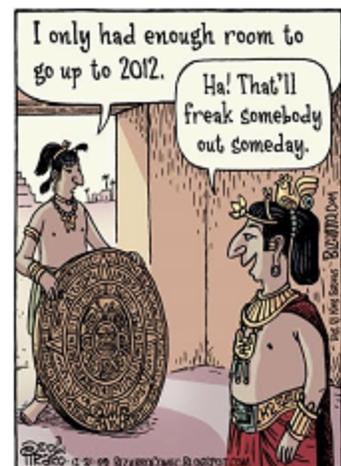
Firstly, we cannot be sure that the conversion from the Mayan to Gregorian calendar is correct. There have been various methodologies used. The Maya based their new moon calculations on the appearance of the first observed crescent, so it is necessary to mesh their astronomy with ours. Thirteen b’ak’tun may actually fall on another date than December 21, 2012.

What we know of the Mayan culture and religion is educated conjecture. They did not seem believe in apocalyptic prophecy. One would expect that if they believed the world would end, it would have had some prominence in their theology.

The Maya had numbers that went higher than the b’ak’tun (a *pictun* is 20 b’ak’tuns or about 7,885 years; a *calabtun* is 20 pictun; a *kinchiltun* is 20 calabtun, etc). It seems that the only reason that 13 b’ak’tuns (rather than 20 b’ak’tuns) gained significance was because the previous world ended on that date. To accept this interpretation, one must believe that the gods existed, had a plan to cycle worlds on pre-selected dates and decided to disclose it to selected individuals. In other words, this is knowledge base on revelation, not reality. I, personally, am highly skeptical of such scenarios.

The Mayan Calendar connection feeds in two common “pop culture” beliefs. The ancients had superior knowledge modern man has lost (Interestingly, this goes hand in hand with the belief that they were too “primitive” to come up with their brilliant ideas and awesome buildings without some superior god/alien race giving them a hand). And our self-absorbed fantasy that the Great Plans of the Gods/Universe *must* unfold while we are alive to see it happen. Millennium endings have been times of great apocalyptic fervor, and people who are expecting the worst are given a “quasi-scientific” explanation, handed down as “ancient wisdom” that confirms their beliefs.

How did the New Age beliefs become intertwined with apocalyptic ideas? I blame the Internet. It has provided a vehicle to disseminate snippets of



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<http://bizarrocomic.blogspot.com>

Continued on next page

unfounded ideas to others, where they are picked up and woven together to form and reform into new narratives - a sort of re-mix of pseudo-scientific ideas. Scientific illiteracy is also a factor. All these scenarios have shamelessly ripped off scientific knowledge (brown dwarfs, galactic alignments, black holes, etc) to give them an air of authenticity. Science becomes merely a thin sugar coating around a lot of pseudo-science.

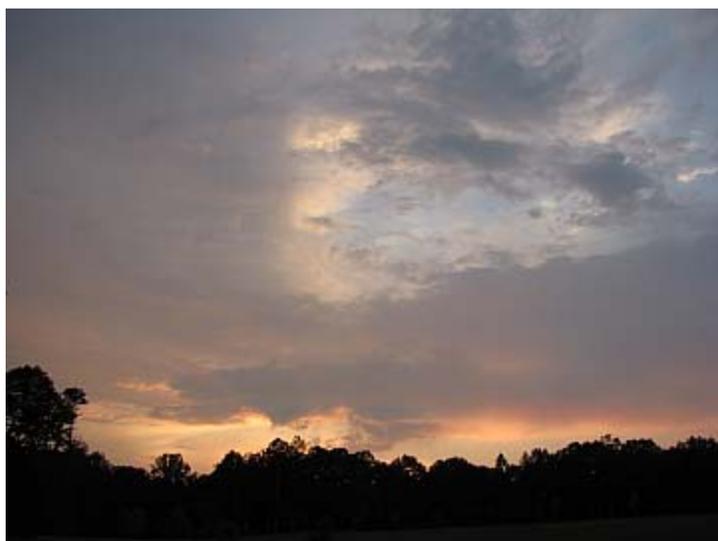
Next month: 2012 - DOOM OR DUMB? Part 6 - The Galactic Alignment (Opinions expressed in this series are those of the author; not of the Atlanta Astronomy Club, its Board, its membership, nor the editors of the *Focal Point*.) *Editor's Note: But they do happen to be my opinion.*

GASP at Tugaloo State Park

Over the weekend of June 10-12 three members of the Atlanta Astronomy Club's GASP (Georgia Astronomy in State Parks) group travelled to Tugaloo State Park on Lake Hartwell to present a beginners astronomy program and telescope viewing to the campers and guests at the park. The AAC members were Sharon Carruthers, Kat Sarbell, and me (Tom Faber). About 35 people were present for Sharon's talk and the telescope viewing. As the sun was setting Sharon gave the guests an introduction to the night sky, astronomy, and what would be visible that night. When Sharon finished her talk the sky was dark enough to show the visitors the moon and Saturn through the telescopes. Sharon and Kat each operated a telescope while I answered questions, pointed out stars and constellations with my green laser pointer, and took photos. It was another successful GASP event! Here are some photos. Photos by Tom Faber.



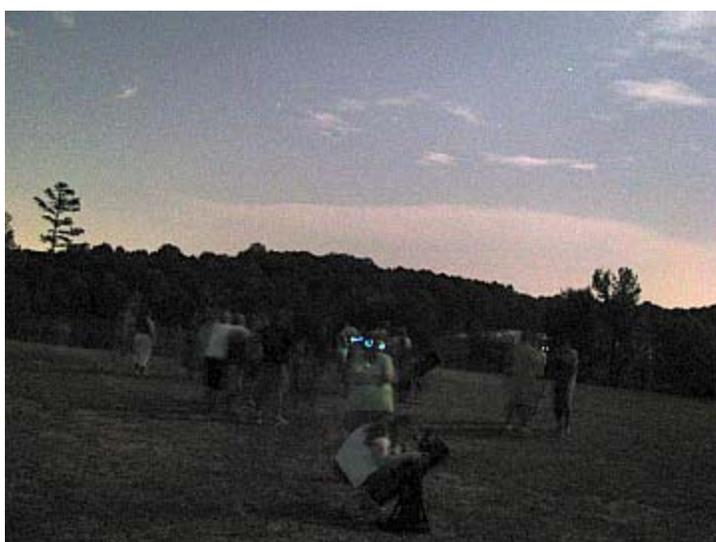
Tom Faber, Kat Sarbell, and Sharon Carruthers Sunday morning.



Some storms moved through the Lake Hartwell area late Saturday afternoon but fortunately the clouds began to break around sunset.



About 15 people were present when Sharon began her talk but more arrived during the program and about 35 were there for the later parts of the talk and the telescope viewing.



Kat operating the telescope in the foreground and Sharon is running the scope in the background while showing the guests the moon and Saturn.

You Are Invited

by Art Zorka, Night Sky Network Coordinator

The Atlanta Astronomy Club is now using online services offered through the Night Sky Network that provide tools to allow us to much more easily manage club events, keep track of volunteer hours, and manage communications. Take a look at a video that tells you more. I think you'll find it as exciting as I do.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qw5CyNEYHks>

To take best advantage of the services, we would like to invite all our club members to be a part of the Night Sky Network. If you are already a participant in the Night Sky Network, you already have access. You may add yourself to the Night Sky Network using this form:

http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club_apply.cfm?Club_ID=1304&ApplicantType=Member

You will have your own personal user name and a private password to log in. You can control your online privacy and communications.

The Night Sky Network online services give you:

- * Local, regional and national calendar of astronomy events.
- * Quarterly national teleconferencing with world-famous experts on astronomical topics. (Next scheduled for July 28, 2011 on Astrobiology)
- * One-touch directions to events as well as time of sunset, moon phase, weather forecast, and simple sky maps.
- * Easy access to up-to-the-minute information about AAC events (new events, cancellations, how many people have volunteered to help out).
- * Downloadable scripts and PowerPoint presentations for educational programs.
- * Downloadable handouts about planetary, celestial and galactic objects.
- * Enter and track volunteer hours (including mileage for tax purposes) to gain recognition for your service.
- * Plus many more features. Sign on and explore. You'll be amazed.

We are looking forward to you joining us on the Night Sky Network!

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 (\$42)** for a family or single person membership. College Students membership fee is **\$15 (\$27)**. These fees are for a one year membership (\$12 per year extra charge to receive a printed *Focal Point* by mail).

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.

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>.

AAC Officers and Contacts

President: Mark Banks President@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Program Chair: Richard Jakiel Programs@AtlantaAstronomy.org

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Elliott Webmaster: Theo Ramakers 770-464-3777
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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

Calendar by Tom Faber (Times EDT/EST unless noted)

AAC Events are listed in BOLD

- July 1st, Friday: New Moon.
- July 2nd, Saturday: **Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting - 5PM.**
- July 4th, Monday: Earth at Aphelion.
- July 8th, Friday: Moon First Quarter.
- July 15th, Friday: **AAC Meeting Atlanta Freethought Society, 8PM.** Full Moon.
- July 20th, Wednesday: Mercury at Greatest Elongation East
- July 22nd, Friday: **August Focal Point Deadline.**
- July 23rd, Saturday: Moon Last Quarter.
- July 25th, Monday: Moon near Pleiades.
- July 27th, Wednesday: Moon near Mars.
- July 30th, Saturday: **Charlie Elliott Chapter Meeting - 5PM.** Dark Sky Observing at Mentone, AL site. New Moon. Southern Delta Aquarid Meteors.
- August 6th, Saturday: Moon First Quarter.
- August 13th, Saturday: Full Moon. Perseid Meteors.
- August 16th, Tuesday: Venus Superior Conjunction.
- August 17th, Wednesday: Mercury Inferior Conjunction.
- August 19th, Friday: **AAC Meeting at location TBA, 8PM.**
- August 21st, Sunday: Moon Last Quarter.
- August 22nd, Monday: Neptune at Opposition.
- August 26th, Friday: **September Focal Point Deadline.**
- August 27th, Saturday: **Charlie Elliott Chapter Mtg - 5PM.**
- August 28th, Sunday: **BoD Meeting 3PM.** New Moon.
- September 9th, Friday: **AAC Meeting at location TBA, 8PM.**
- September 24th, Saturday: **Charlie Elliott Chapter Mtg - 5PM.**

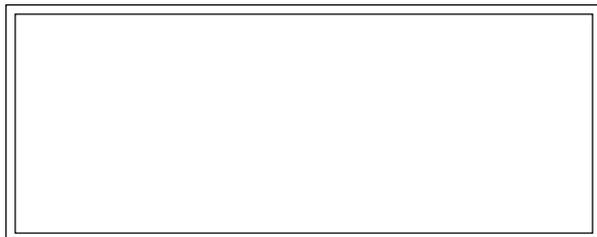
September 25th - October 2nd: Peach State Star Gaze

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 August is Friday, July 22th. Submissions will not be accepted after the deadline.**



FIRST CLASS



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The Focal Point

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

FROM:

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

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