

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947  
November 2013

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Editor: Tom Faber

## Table of Contents

- Page 1...** November Meeting, Astronomical League.  
**Page 2...** October Meeting Report & Photos. Next BoD Meeting.  
**Page 3...** Charlie Elliott Chapter Outreach.  
**Page 4...** Telescope Donation, Next CE Mtg, M27, 2013 PSSG.  
**Page 5...** The 2013 Peach State Star Gaze Photo Album.  
**Page 6...** The 2013 Peach State Star Gaze Photo Album.  
**Page 7...** AAC Online, Memberships, Club Officers & Contact Info  
**Page 8...** Calendar, AAC List Serv Info, Focal Point Deadline

## November General Meeting

Please join us for the November meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club on **Saturday**, November 16th starting at 8PM. For our November meeting AAC member Alan Coffelt will present a talk about planetary imaging and image processing. Our November meeting will take place at the Atlanta Freethought Society (AFS) building in Smyrna. After the main meeting there will be stargazing if the weather permits. A Board Meeting will be held at 6PM on this same day.

### The Program

Planetary processing software programs and options that will compliment your image processing workflow and get more uses out of your AVI files than just an image, especially if you capture a lot of them. Alan's topics include Jovian bolide impact detection in video observations, AVI file pre-processing, batch processing in Registax 6, and for some of your best images, planetary anaglyphs (3D images) for an eye-popping experience.

### Our Speaker

Alan was introduced to planetary imaging in 2008 using an 8" Meade LX 90 SCT and an Imaging Source color camera to image the Sun, Moon, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. He has attended the PSSG for a number of years and has applied techniques and best practices learned at the planetary imaging symposiums and the wealth of information from the local and online amateur astronomy communities. In 2011, Alan upgraded to a Celestron C11 SCT and CGE mount, and a Point Gray Flea 3 color video camera. Alan regularly contributes images to the Planetary Virtual Observatory and Laboratory (PVOL) and the ALPO Japan image databases. He is a member of Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO) and a member of the AAC since 1999.

### Upcoming AAC Meetings

Our meetings will usually be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month. The December meeting date is Dec 14 (2nd Saturday) for the December meeting and Holiday potluck dinner. Locations AFS unless noted.

### Future Programs:

In order to keep our programs interesting and relevant for everyone from beginners to old pro's I need your help. Finding topics of interest to our members and speaker to do the programs is always a challenge. I am including a list of ideas I have and would like your input of additional program ideas. If you would like to do a program or know someone who would be a good speaker please let me know. You can contact me at: [programs@atlantaastronomy.org](mailto:programs@atlantaastronomy.org)

1. The Drake equation updated with the latest information on exoplanets.
2. Exobiology: Life as we know it and what else may be out there.
3. Near earth objects: Comets, Asteroids and all that other stuff out there.
4. The electromagnetic spectrum: How we use it to explore what's out there.
5. Star life cycles: Use the H.R. Diagram to explore the life & death of stars.
6. Spectroscopic analysis: How we use it to explore the universe.
7. Radio Astronomy: What we can learn from the radio part of the spectrum.
8. Science Fiction vs. Fact: What fiction has become true and what the future holds.
9. Atmospheres: What we can learn by observing weather on other planets.
10. Earth observations: How NASA, ESA, JAXA & others observe Earth.
11. Solar observing: What we know about our home star & would like to know.
12. A biographical program on any famous Astronomer / Scientist.

## 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.

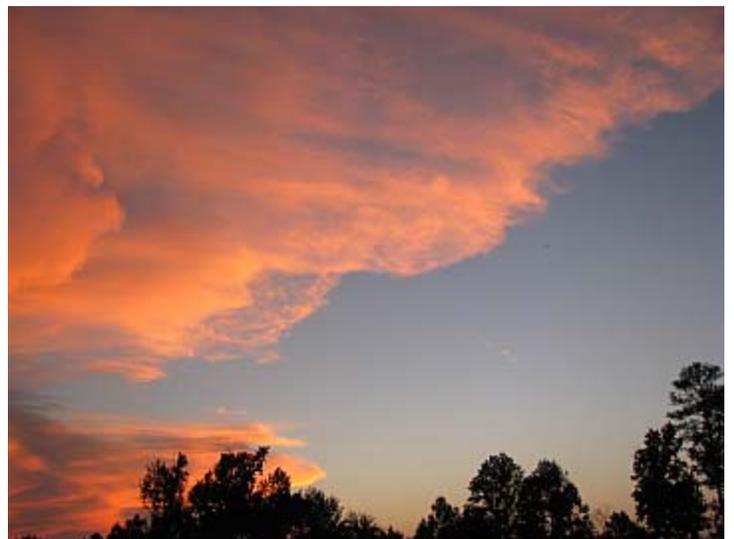
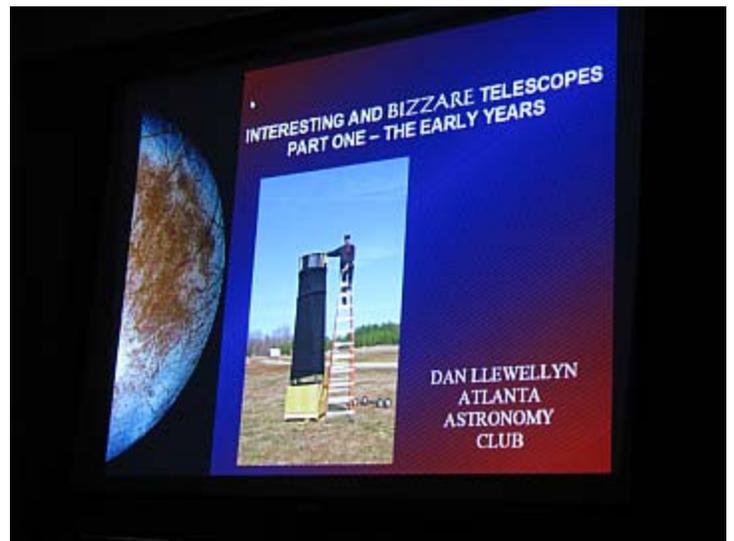
To learn more about the Astronomical League and its benefits for you, visit <http://www.astroleague.org>

## October AAC Meeting Report

Photos by Tom Faber unless noted.

The October meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was held on Saturday, October 19 starting at 8PM at the Atlanta Freethought Society building. There were about 25 members and several guests present (photos below) for the general meeting. Our speaker for the evening was AAC member Dan Llewellyn (photo right top). Dan presented a very interesting and informative talk titled "Interesting and Bizarre Telescopes" (photo right middle). The talk covered various strange and interesting telescopes from Galileo's first scopes up through the late 19th century. Some of these telescopes were very successful while others were expensive failures.

After Dan presented his talk and answered questions, club officers presented updates about the AAC status, activities, and upcoming events. Join us on November 16th for the next AAC meeting.



*A colorful sunset was visible before the meeting.*

## The Next AAC Board Meeting

The next Board meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club is scheduled for Saturday, November 16th at 6PM, prior to our 8PM general meeting. Location of the meeting is at the Atlanta Freethought Society building in Smyrna. Contact President Mark Banks or Board Chair Daniel Herron for more information about the meeting.

## Charlie Elliott Chapter Outreach

By Theo Ramakers, Outreach Coordinator

<http://ceastronomy.org/tramakers>

Charlie Elliott Astronomy reached out three times this month. Two times to Flint Hill Elementary school in Oxford and another time to Stone Mountain Middle school. On October 1st Frank Garner and Theo Ramakers went back to Flint Hill School to let the 4th graders look at the sun and they also learned about NASA's Mars rover Curiosity. To top it off, they also learned how we study the Sun. On the 18th we went back for the attendees of the ASAP program and they were treated to a similar session. Forty students from Stone Mountain Middle School obtained a permission slip to come to the Jon Wood field on October 12th to look at all the nice things one can see in the night sky and they got a treat. In addition to the parents and students, attendees of two workshops at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center came over and took advantage of the opportunity to take a look at some of the stars, double stars, star clusters, nebulas and the moon. A great and rewarding month again for CE Astronomy's outreach.

Thanks and Clear skies!



## Telescope Donation by Morgan Cline

By Theo Ramakers, CEA Outreach Coordinator

CEA member Morgan Cline upgraded his Solar Scopes to a large aperture H-alpha scope to be able to get a better resolution. However, he decided that rather than selling his scopes on AstroMart, he would like to see the younger generation to get a chance to see some of the beauty of the sun and maybe become inspired by it and progress in science. So he donated a Lunt 35mm H-alpha scope and a double stacked PST to the outreach group of Charlie Elliott Astronomy for use in our outreach events. Well, we can assure Morgan that the scopes will come in handy, and will for sure generate lots of Oohhs, Ahhs and Wowwws. Steve Siedentop, Chapter director, and Theo Ramakers, chapter outreach coordinator, accepted his donation in the September CEA potluck dinner meeting. The picture shows Morgan (right), Steve (middle) and Theo (left).

Morgan, thanks so much for your generous donation, and so do all the kids (and adults) that will see the Sun through them.



## The Next Charlie Elliott Meeting

Join us for our next meeting at 3:30 p.m., Saturday, December 7th, at the Charlie Elliott Conference Center for our quarterly potluck!

### Meeting Agenda - Dinner & a Movie!

We'll be enjoying a good movie, good food, and good company. If you can bring food or help out with the setup or clean up, please contact us on the CEA web page at : <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/home>

### Book Review

Jack Fitzmier will present the third in a series of quick and concise book reviews to start our meeting. Check back soon for the December book!

### What's Up!

Before we start stuffing our faces, Charlie Elliott Astronomy Observing Supervisor John Town will be talking about What's Up, a short presentation of what you can expect to see in the December Sky.

### Sunset Time Alert

When the meeting is indoors, and if the meeting runs extra-long, a "Sunset Time Alert" will be announced. While we'd love for everyone to stay for the entire meeting, we also realize that some folks prefer to leave a bit earlier so as to set up their equipment at the observing field before dark.

### "Observing after the Meeting"

All are invited to the observing field immediately after the meeting (weather-permitting) (or to stay on the observing field if the meeting was outdoors). Everyone is welcome.

Place: Jon Wood Astronomy Field at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center.

## M27 by Chuck Painter

A 4 hour exposure of M27 (48 X 5 minute exposures) taken over two nights. The data was collected using my AT8RC on a Atlas EQG mount. Camera was a Orion Starshoot Pro V1 one shot color camera. Guided using an Orion ST-80 and Orion Autoguider. The image was processed using Nebulosity and Pixinsight.



## The 2013 Peach State Star Gaze

Photos by Tom Faber

Here are more photos of the 2013 Peach State Star Gaze - the 20th anniversary Peach State! We had clear skies most nights and many hours of great observing. Even though we lost our keynote speaker, astronaut Dr. Donald Pettit, because of the partial government shutdown we still had a number of interesting talks on Friday and Saturday. Friday evening the AAC treated attendees to brownies and ice cream, and Saturday also saw many of attendees win door prizes at the drawing after the talks. We all had a great time and look forward to seeing everyone at the 2014 PSSG. Next month the Focal Point will have more photos of the 2013 PSSG including some of the door prize winners!



*PSSG Chair Peter Macumber, Co-chair Joanne Cirincione, and Sharon Carruthers who does just about everything else.*



*The crescent moon rising Thursday morning.*



*Joanne Cirincione, silhouetted by the dining tent, watches Venus and Scorpius setting as night falls.*



*Vendor Dave Lacko displays meteorites for sale.*



*Breakfast (above) from Micki's Kitchen (top right) Friday morning.*



*PSSG Chair Peter Macumber opens the talks Friday morning.*

*Continued on next page*



Hap Griffin presented a talk on modifying DSLRs for astrophotography.



Lining up for brownies and ice cream Friday evening.



Vic Menard gave a workshop on collimation using video.



Dinner time at Micki's Kitchen!



Part of Grier's field Friday afternoon - check back next month for more photos from the 2013 Peach State Star Gaze including photos of more of the speakers and some of the door prize winners.

## 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 that 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](http://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 as a PDF please do!

## DSO Dates and Locations

The dates and locations for the AAC Dark Sky Observing for the remainder of the year are: November 2nd at DAV, and November 30th at the Charlie Elliott site.

## Beginner's Guide to Astronomy

New to astronomy and have a few questions on where to start? Check out our new Beginners Guide to Astronomy at: [http://atlantaastronomy.org/?page\\_id=778](http://atlantaastronomy.org/?page_id=778)

Check back frequently as we add more information and tips.



The **Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.**, one of the South's largest and oldest astronomical society, meets at **8:00 P.M.** on the **3rd Saturday of each month** at the Atlanta Freethought Society building in Smyrna, 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](mailto: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](mailto:President@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

**Program Chair:** Richard Jakiel [Programs@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Programs@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

**Observing Chair/BoD Chair:** Daniel Herron  
[Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

**Corresponding Secretary:** Tom Faber  
[Focalpoint@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Focalpoint@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

**Treasurer:** Sharon Carruthers [Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

**Recording Secretary:** Open

**Board Chair:** Daniel Herron, [Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

**Board:** Brigitte Fessele, Contact info TBA

**Board:** David Lumpkin, Contact info TBA

**Board:** Steve Phillips [sandsphillips@att.net](mailto:sandsphillips@att.net)

**ALCor:** Open - [President@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:President@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

**Elliott Chapter Director:** Steve Siedentop  
[director@ceastronomy.org](mailto:director@ceastronomy.org)

**Elliott Observing Supervisor:** John Towne  
[observing@ceastronomy.org](mailto:observing@ceastronomy.org)

**Elliott Recording Secretary:** Marie Lott  
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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:** Theo Ramakers 770-788-0843  
[webmaster@CEastronomy.org](mailto:webmaster@CEastronomy.org)

**Elliott Outreach Coordinator:** Theo Ramakers 770-788-0843  
[outreach@ceastronomy.org](mailto:outreach@ceastronomy.org)

**Georgia Astronomy in State Parks:** Sharon Carruthers  
[Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

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

**PSSG Co-Chair:** Joanne Cirincione  
[starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:starrynights@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

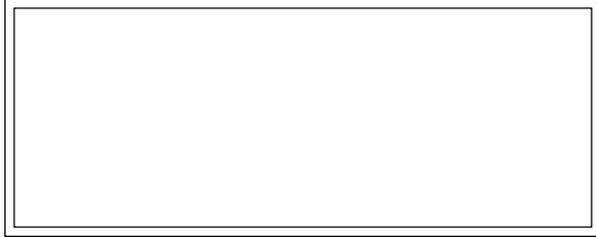
**Sidewalk Astronomy:** Brad Isley  
[sidewalkastronomy@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:sidewalkastronomy@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

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

**Woodruff Observ. Coordinator:** Sharon Carruthers  
[Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

**AAC Webmaster:** Daniel Herron, [Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

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



FIRST CLASS



www.beclage.com



## AAC Events are listed in BOLD

- Nov 2nd, Saturday: **DSO @ DAV. CE Chapter Meeting @ 5PM.**
- Nov 3rd, Sunday: New Moon.
- Nov 10th, Sunday: Moon First Quarter.
- Nov 16th, Saturday: **AAC Meeting, 8PM at AFS. Leonid Meteors.**
- Nov 17th, Sunday: Full Moon.
- Nov 25th, Monday: Moon Last Quarter.
- Nov 28th, Thursday: Comet ISON at perihelion.
- Nov 30th, Saturday: **DSO @ CE Chapter.**
- Dec 1st, Sunday: Moon near Mercury and Saturn.
- Dec 2nd, Monday: New Moon.
- Dec 3rd, Tuesday: 40 years ago today Pioneer 10 becomes the first spacecraft to visit Jupiter.
- Dec 5th, Thursday: Moon near Venus.
- Dec 7th, Saturday: **CE Chapter Meeting & Potluck Dinner.**
- Dec 8th, Sunday: Earliest Sunset in Atlanta: ~5:27PM EST.
- Dec 9th, Monday: Moon First Quarter.
- Dec 14th, Saturday: **AAC Meeting & Holiday Potluck Dinner, 6PM at AFS. Gemmid Meteors.**
- Dec 15th, Sunday: Moon in the Hyades.
- Dec 17th, Tuesday: Full Moon.
- Dec 21st, Saturday: Winter Solstice at 12:11 PM EST
- Dec 25th, Wednesday: Moon Last Quarter.
- Dec 29th, Sunday: Mercury at Superior Conjunction.
- Jan 1st, Wednesday: New Moon.
- Jan 4th, Saturday: Earth at Perihelion 7:00AM EST.

For more event listings see the calendar at [www.atlantaastronomy.org](http://www.atlantaastronomy.org)

## 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) .

## 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](mailto:focalpoint@atlantaastronomy.org). Please send images separate from articles, not embedded in them. Articles are preferred as plain text files but Word documents or PDF's are okay. You can submit articles anytime up to the deadline. **The deadline for December is Friday, November 22nd. Submissions after the deadline will go in the following issue.**



# The Focal Point

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

FROM:

Tom Faber

2206 Tretridge Parkway  
Alpharetta, GA 30022

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

Atlanta Astronomy Club

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Atlanta, GA 30358-1155

[www.atlantaastronomy.org](http://www.atlantaastronomy.org)

On Twitter at <http://twitter.com/atlastro>

