



# ASTROFILES

## Auburn Astronomical Society Newsletter

**December 2015**

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*John Wingard - Secretary/Treasurer - Auburn Astronomical Society - [jwin2485@bellsouth.net](mailto:jwin2485@bellsouth.net)*

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### **Important Notice...**

According to our published meeting schedule, the December meeting should be Friday, December 18th. However, this falls during a very busy time for most of us, with Christmas coming just a week later, so the decision has been made to forego meeting this month. Beginning in January of 2016 we have also decided to return to having the meetings on the first Friday of each month. Hopefully this will make it easier for our members to remember the meeting dates. There will be a couple of exceptions to this schedule, the first being in January. The first Friday in January, 2016 just happens to be New Year's Day so that meeting will be moved to the following Friday, January 8, 2016. Towards the latter part of 2016 there will be a couple of conflicts with home AU football weekends. All of the proposed meeting dates and known activities are contained in a year-long listing that you will find later in this newsletter.

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### **Important AAS Dues Reminder...**

The normal AAS dues cycle runs from January 1 - December 31 of each year. That means that it is time to renew your dues for 2016, or better yet, consider joining the AAS to help support our activities throughout the year. Individual and family memberships are \$20.00 and *full-time* student membership is half the normal rate. A membership application is included with this newsletter. It is important that all of your contact information including full mailing address and e-mail address is included. As a benefit of being a paid-up AAS member, you are also enrolled as a member of the Astronomical League, the national association of astronomy clubs in the U.S. You are then eligible to receive their quarterly magazine *The Reflector*. However, they must have your mailing address for the magazine. Your e-mail address is also important for us since this is our primary means of sending announcements, meeting reminders, and of course this monthly newsletter. Take a minute to send in your dues for 2016 to the address indicated on the membership form.



## Auburn Astronomical Society Membership Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application\* \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telescope(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) of special interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose: \$20.00 for regular membership, payable in January. *Full-Time* student membership is half the Regular rate.

\* If you're joining after January, refer to the Prorated Dues Table below:

Jan \$20.00	Feb \$18.33	Mar \$16.66	Apr \$14.99	May \$13.33	Jun \$11.66
Jul \$10.00	Aug \$8.33	Sep \$6.66	Oct \$4.99	Nov \$2.33	Dec \$1.66

Make checks payable to: Auburn Astronomical Society and return this application to:

Auburn Astronomical Society  
c/o John Wingard, Secretary/Treasurer  
#5 Wexton Court  
Columbus, GA 31907

For questions about your dues or membership status, contact: [jwin2485@bellsouth.net](mailto:jwin2485@bellsouth.net)

**Thank you for supporting the Auburn Astronomical Society!**

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We were excited to hear recently about a new project at Auburn University that will involve the building of an astronomy terrace on campus that will greatly enhance the study of astronomy at Auburn. The proposed terrace will be built on top of the Leach Science Center and will house multiple telescopes that will be permanently mounted. Beneath the terrace in the building will be a computer lab with links to these telescopes so that students can conduct research and gather data. Along with this project, there was a recent "giving day" at Auburn that resulted in over \$10,000 being pledged for purchase of a new telescope for the facility. We expect to learn more about this exciting project in the months to come. Here's a YouTube link that explains a little more about the project:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzaYA9hvrpk&feature=youtu.be>

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Next year the Gayle Planetarium in Montgomery will be hosting the Southeast Planetarium Association Conference. It's scheduled for May 31-June4, 2016. There is the possibility that some AAS volunteers will be needed at various times during the event if they are available. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the event. And while we are talking about the Gayle Planetarium, they currently have a number of special holiday programs in progress during the month of December. Check out their website and Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/gayleplanetarium/>

<http://www.troy.edu/planetarium>

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On the next page is our proposed meeting and events schedule for 2016. We have decided to return to having club meetings on the first Friday of each month. There are a few exceptions as noted. Our first meeting of 2016 will be January 8 instead of January 1 since that's New Year's Day. Since we meet on the AU campus, we occasionally have conflicts in the fall during football season. The campus on Friday nights prior to home games is very congested and parking is restricted, so we have to either adjust the meeting date if possible or try to arrange to meet off-campus. Those instances are noted as well. You will also note that dates for all of the new moons in 2016 are listed. This is for the benefit of those that need especially dark skies for observing or astrophotography.

Unless otherwise noted, we normally meet in Room 215 of Davis Hall (Aerospace Engineering) on the AU campus. Meetings begin at 7:45 PM CT. You can find more information about the meeting location as well as the Auburn Astronomical Society on our web page and Facebook page:

<http://www.auburnastro.org>  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/79864233515/>



## Auburn Astronomical Society - Scheduled 2016 Club Meeting and Events Schedule\*

Date	Event
08-Jan-2016	Club Meeting (Delayed 1 week due to 1st Friday being New Year's Day)
09-Jan-2016	New Moon
05-Feb-2016	Club Meeting
08-Feb-2016	New Moon
04-Mar-2016	Club Meeting
08-Mar-2016	New Moon
01-Apr-2016	Club Meeting
07-Apr-2016	New Moon
06-May-2016	Club Meeting
14-May-2016	National Astronomy Day - Traditional Open House at Gayle Planetarium - Montgomery - AAS Participation Requested
31-May - 04-Jun-2016	SE Planetarium Association Conference - Gayle Planetarium - Montgomery - AAS Volunteers Needed
03-Jun-2016	Club Meeting
04-Jun-2016	New Moon
01-Jul-2016	Club Meeting
04-Jul-2016	New Moon
02-Aug-2016	New Moon
05-Aug-2016	Club Meeting
01-Sep-2016	New Moon
02-Sep-2016	Club Meeting (Three straight AU home football games this month - may need to cancel or meet off-campus)
30-Sep-2016	New Moon
07-Oct-2016	Club Meeting
30-Oct-2016	New Moon
11-Nov-2016	Club Meeting (Delayed 1 week due to AU home football game on 11/5/2016)
29-Nov-2016	New Moon
02-Dec-2016	Club Meeting
29-Dec-2016	New Moon

\* Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Friday of each month unless there is a conflict with holidays or other events  
 Unless otherwise noted club meetings start at 7:45 PM CT