



# ASTROFILES

## Auburn Astronomical Society Newsletter

**July 2016**

\*\*\*\*\*

*John Wingard - Secretary/Treasurer - Auburn Astronomical Society - [jwin1048@gmail.com](mailto:jwin1048@gmail.com)*

\*\*\*\*\*

The next meeting of the Auburn Astronomical Society will be on Friday, August 5, 2016 at 7:45 PM CT. We will be in our usual location in Room 215 of Davis Hall (Aerospace Engineering) on the AU Campus. Specific details about the room location and parking information can be found on our web page at <http://www.auburnastro.org>

Our program for this meeting will be a presentation by Jim Lauridson regarding his recent trip to the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in Greenbank, WV. During his visit there he had the opportunity to get in some observing time on one of their dishes. This should be a very interesting program!

For those that might want to learn more about the NRAO, you can visit these two websites to find out more about the facilities and their mission: <http://www.nrao.edu> and [public.nrao.edu](http://public.nrao.edu)

Just as amateurs can participate in optical astronomy, many are also involved in radio astronomy. The official organization for amateur radio astronomy is the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers (SARA). They publish a very nice digital journal and the annual membership is only \$20.00. More information can be found at their web site: <http://www.radio-astronomy.org>

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Proposed AAS Stargazes at Wind Creek State Park**

AAS member Mike Lewis has been working with the staff at Wind Creek State Park, near Alexander City, AL, to come up with some dates for stargazes for the park guests. Here are the dates for those scheduled events:

Saturday, July 30, 2016

Saturday, August 27, 2016

Saturday, October 22, 2016

At this time, the observing site in the park will be at the very end of the main park road which ends at a point to the left of observing silo (at end of main road, turn left at silo and proceed beyond traffic cones to loop). The park will block road access to observing area with cones for non AAS members at 7PM. AAS members are requested to arrive at the park no earlier than 7:00 PM CT with observing activities beginning around 8:00 PM. Make sure to tell them at the entrance gate that you are there with the AAS and you will be allowed to enter at no charge.

\*\*\*\*\*

## New Digital Astronomy Magazine Available - Free Subscription

I was recently made aware of a fairly new digital magazine devoted exclusively to astronomy-related equipment. Upon downloading a free sample copy I noticed a special offer to astronomy club members for a free one-year subscription. The two issues that I have received have been very good and cover a lot of the latest scopes, mounts and other items used in astronomy. If you are interested, just go to their web page <http://www.astronomytechnologytoday.com> and look for the area to subscribe and enter the word "club" in the discount box. Below is a copy of the special offer:

**ASTRONOMY TECHNOLOGY TODAY**  
Your Complete Guide to Astronomical Equipment  
[astronomytechnologytoday.com](http://astronomytechnologytoday.com)

### FREE Subscription Offer!

*In celebration of our new digital-centric focus, we are offering three special opportunities to sample our new format. There are no complicated codes to remember! Simply enter the word "trial," "club" or "education," as appropriate.*

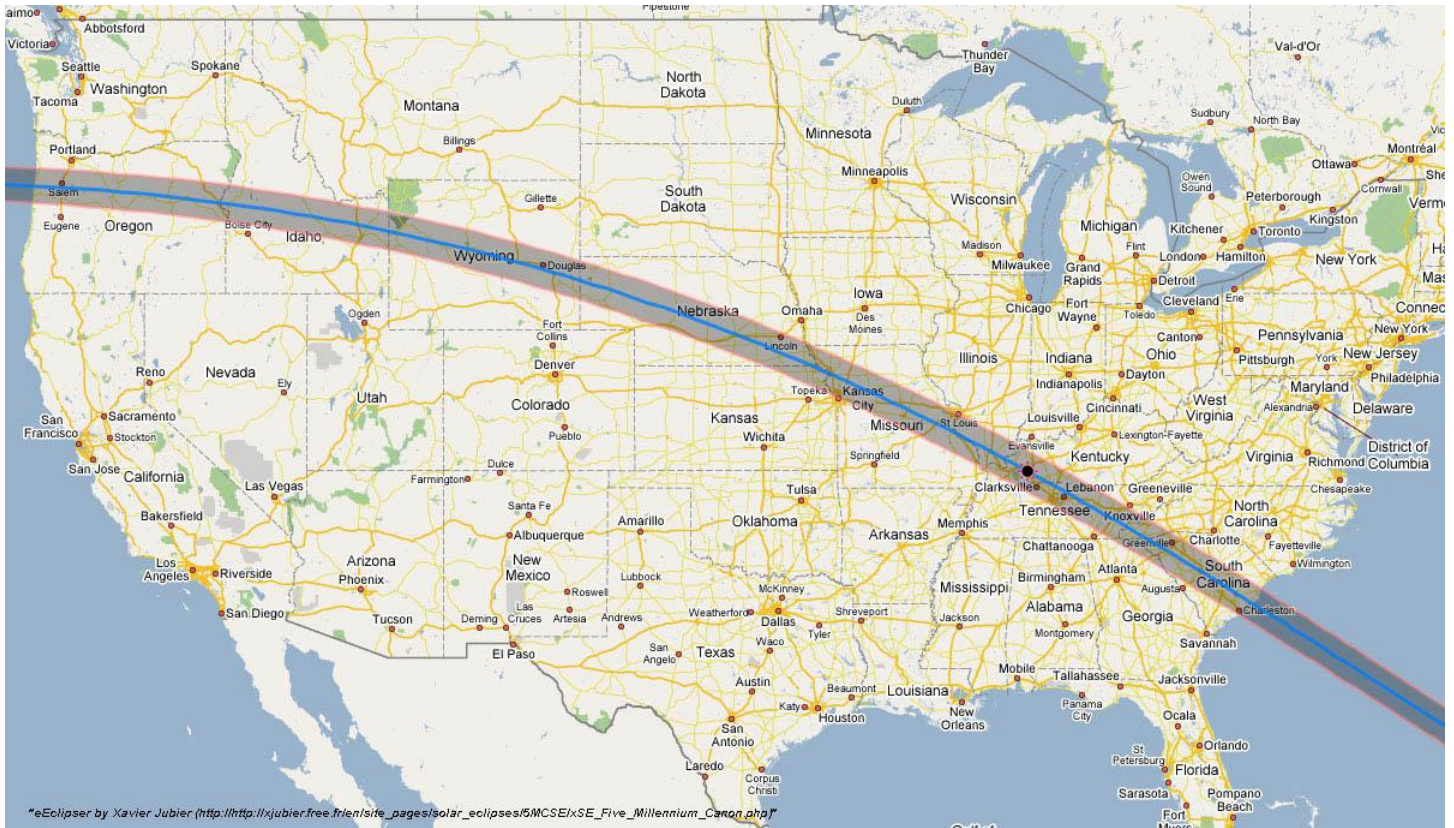
Offer One	Offer Two	Offer Three
<b>FREE-To-All Worldwide Trial Subscription</b>	<b>Astronomy Clubs Members FREE Subscription</b>	<b>FREE Academic Subscription</b>
<b>FREE SIX-MONTH</b> trial subscription. This offer is open to any and all astronomy enthusiasts worldwide. Simply enter the word "trial" in the discount-code box at this link. There are no catches, so spread the word with everyone you think might enjoy this great opportunity!	<b>FREE 12-MONTH</b> subscription. Astronomy clubs and astronomical societies play a key role in helping astronomy enthusiasts get the most from our great pursuit, so we are doubling down on the six-month worldwide trial offer for anyone who is a member of one of these important organizations. If you are a member and would like to help make this offer available to your fellow members, just send the link to your appropriate club officer and ask that they share this offer. To take advantage of this free 12-month trial, simply type in the word "club" in the discount-code box at this link.	<b>FREE 12-MONTH</b> subscription. As technology further blurs the distinctions between amateur and professional astronomy, we believe that educational programs – K-12, as well as higher education – will play an increased role in the future of amateur astronomy. We are therefore extending our <b>FREE 12-MONTH</b> subscription offer to any student or academic professional interested in learning more about the practical tools of astronomy. If you are involved in, or are aware of, an educational program that might benefit from this offer, we hope you will share it with them. To take advantage of this free 12-month trial, just enter the word "education" in the discount-code box at this link.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Solar Eclipse 2017

It's now just a little over a year until "The Great American Eclipse" of August 21, 2017. The path of totality will span the entire US, beginning at the Oregon coast in the northwest and continuing through the mid-section of the country all the way into the southeast, where it will exit the coast of South Carolina. As a benefit of our club membership, I recently received a small quantity of eclipse glasses from the Astronomical League that can be used to view not only this eclipse, but others as well. Many amateurs have already made their plans to travel to more ideal viewing sites out west, as have the many scientists and educational institutions that

will be observing. This will be one of the most well-placed eclipses for US observers in a long time. This map of the eclipse path across the country shows why.



\*\*\*\*\*

## For Sale Item

AAS member Alan Cook has a scope for sale.

For Sale: Meade LX90 / 10" SCT (Schmidt-Cassegrain) with accessories  
\$1000.00

Includes:

- Meade adjustable tripod (about 30 lbs.)
- 10" objective Optical tube with lens cover, adjustable altitude wedge, & clock drive azimuth motor; excellent optics (about 45 lbs.)
- handbox for two-axis slewing with four different speeds and connecting cords
- large after-market Centech portable power pack 12v battery with two plugins, work light; may also be used to jump start auto (could also power dew suppression devices)
- Meade after-market counter-weight system
- after-market focuser which accepts both 1 1/4" & 2" eyepieces & field flattener lens attachment – these fit the back of the optical tube and are not necessary for telescope functioning but add convenience and viewing features
- large Orion dew shield
- solar filter for front of the objective tube (perfect for the coming solar eclipse in August of 2017)
- reflective mylar full scope cover
- original packing box with foam inserts

contact: Alan Cook  
334-444-0055 (mobile); 334-887-7143 (home)  
[cookala@auburn.edu](mailto:cookala@auburn.edu)

