



# ASTROFILES

## Auburn Astronomical Society Newsletter

**August 2016**

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

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### **Important Meeting Notice**

The next meeting of the AAS will be an "off-site" star gaze at Wind Creek State Park on Saturday, September 10, 2016. Our normal September meeting date would have been the Friday before the Labor Day weekend, and due to a string of home football games in Auburn during the month of September, we felt it was best that we have a star gaze in lieu of the regular meeting. Wind Creek is near Alexander City, AL. We have already had a couple of events there and actually have another one scheduled for this Saturday, August 27th. Please see the separate announcement below for directions and times to both events.

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### **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 dates for stargazes for the park guests. Here are the dates for those scheduled events:

Saturday, August 27, 2016

Saturday, September 10, 2016 (in lieu of regular AAS monthly meeting)

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.

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AAS members Allen Screws and David Blake are set up at Wind Creek State Park on July 30, 2016 as they wait for darkness. (Photo courtesy of AAS member Mike Lewis)

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## **Venus-Jupiter Conjunction**

This coming Saturday, August 27, 2016, there will be a very interesting conjunction of the two brightest planets, Venus and Jupiter. They will be so close together in the sky as to almost appear as one object. They should present a very nice view in a small telescope at low power or even a pair of binoculars. This is the description from the Sky & Telescope website:

"Starting about 20 minutes after sunset, look low above the horizon due west (left of where the Sun went down). Bring binoculars. The two planets will be less than  $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  apart at the time of twilight for most of the world, and only about  $0.1^\circ$  apart for the longitudes of the Americas. That's so close that you may need binoculars to see that they are two objects, not one!"

Obviously you will need to make sure that you have a clear view to the west, almost down to the horizon in order to see this event.

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I am preparing an updated list of AAS members to submit to the Astronomical League for their AL Reflector mailing list. If you have not paid your AAS dues for 2016, please take a minute and do this. Dues are \$20.00 for current members. A dues form is included at the end of the newsletter for your convenience and you can mail it to me at the address listed on the form.

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## 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)



Auburn Astronomical Society  
**Membership Application Form**

Name:

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Address:

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

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

E-mail:

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Telescope(s):

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Area(s) of special interest:

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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: [jwin1048@gmail.com](mailto:jwin1048@gmail.com)