



ASTROFILES

Auburn Astronomical Society Newsletter

November/December 2016

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Apologies to all for not getting a November newsletter out. Yours truly has been doing a little outside work for a former co-worker that has started his own business and he needed some help in setting up some wide-format inkjet printers and color management software to produce fine-art prints on canvas. (That's one of the things that I did at my former job before I retired). Hopefully I have him up and running now so I can get back to the newsletter and other things. As a result of all of this, I decided to combined the November and December issues.

AAS Meeting Notice

We are currently putting together the schedule of monthly meetings and other events for 2017. As usual, we are going to try to have most of the meetings on the first Friday of each month, but a few will likely need to be shifted in the fall to avoid the congestion in Auburn preceding the home football weekends. A finalized schedule will be published in the January 2017 newsletter. However, we do plan to start 2017 with our first meeting on Friday, January 6, 2017. Meeting time will still be 7:45 PM CT and we will meet in Room 215 of Davis Hall (Aerospace Engineering) on the AU campus. More details about the specific location of the meeting space can be found on our web page: <http://www.auburnastro.org>

Recent Activities

The AAS had two requests for stargazes in November. We were asked to do one on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 for a group of home-schooled students from the Prattville, AL area. We arranged to have the event at the Alabama Wildlife Federation/Nature Center in Millbrook, AL, just north of Montgomery. However, the weather conditions that evening were not promising so the event was cancelled. Hopefully we can accommodate this group at some future date.

The other request for a stargaze was from the folks at the Alabama Wildlife Federation/ Nature Center in Millbrook. This event was scheduled for Saturday, November 19, 2016 and was for a group that was camping out in the Center that weekend. Fortunately, the skies were clear for this event and we were able to do the event. Many thanks to AAS members Allen Screws, Mike Lewis and John Wingard for coming and bringing their equipment. Upon arrival, we discovered that the location was not the best in terms of visibility to the horizons in most directions, but we did what we could to find some interesting targets. There was no moon up at the time and Venus and Mars were already disappearing behind the trees in the Southwest as we got our scopes set up. However, we did get some fleeting views through the openings in the trees for a short while. We did manage to observe a few nebula such as M31 and M57 and a few prominent double stars. The attendance was not quite what we expected as we discovered that the food was being served about the same time as our best observing period. However, we did have a few interested individuals come by and look through the scopes.

AAS 2017 Dues Reminder

Annual 2017 dues to the AAS are coming up beginning on January 1, 2017. Several members have already paid for the following year(s). Dues are \$20 and can be mailed to me at the address on the application form at the end of this newsletter. You can also pay your dues at any AAS club meeting. As a paid member, you are also automatically enrolled in the Astronomical League, the national organization that represents astronomy clubs. As an AL member, you will receive a quarterly edition of the AL "Reflector" which contains interesting articles and news about other astronomy clubs across the country.

Special Announcement

AAS member Rhon Jenkins has asked me to mention the recent passing of a lady that helped the Society back in the 1980's by permitting the construction of a nice club observatory on her property. Ms. Jemelene Chastain Moore, age 80, passed away on October 22, 2016 in Greenville, SC. She formerly lived in Society Hill, a small community just south of Auburn. At that time, it was a fairly dark-sky site. In the early 1980's she gave the AAS permission to build a very nice 14' x 40' observatory with a roll-off roof on her property. After a lot of hard work by many AAS members, the finished observatory was dedicated in 1984. Unfortunately, in late 1988 the AAS received a notice that the facility need to be removed from her property by the end of that year due to insurance concerns. This was a heartbreaking turn of events for the Society but it continues to this day although without a permanent facility to call home. For the benefit of our newer members, I have included a few photos of the observatory as it was being constructed. I would encourage everyone to go to our web page <http://www.auburnastro.org> and read the very interesting history of not only this project but the club itself since its founding in 1980.



AAS Moore's Meadow Observatory under construction



Dedication of the AAS Moore's Meadow Observatory on Sunday, September 23, 1984 (Russell Whigham at the podium)

That's about it for this issue. If you have not already done so, please don't forget to pay your dues for 2017. I hope that every has a safe and enjoyable holiday season and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting in January!



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, effective January 1*. *Full-Time* student membership is half the Regular rate.

* If you are a *new* member 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