



ASTROFILES

Auburn Astronomical Society Newsletter

February 2018

John Wingard - Secretary/Treasurer - Auburn Astronomical Society - jwin1048@gmail.com

April Meeting Reminder

According to our newly adopted meeting schedule for 2018, our next formal meeting is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the National Astronomy Day activities at the W. A. Gayle Planetarium in Montgomery, AL on Saturday, April 21, 2018. The AAS has supported this event for quite a few years now and the event last year had one of the largest public turnouts ever. AAS members are encouraged to bring any type of scope that they may have and plan to arrive at the planetarium well before dark to have adequate time to set up their equipment. This has always been a rain or shine event, so in the case of rain or cloudy weather, we can set up some of our scopes in the planetarium lobby and answer any questions that the visitors may have. There are usually one or more planetarium programs for the public inside prior to coming outside to view through the various telescopes.

Here are the scheduled months for the remaining club meetings for 2018.

- April
- June
- August
- October

Details on the specific dates and locations of these meetings will be posted well in advance in this newsletter, on the club Facebook page, and in e-mail reminders to the members. If you know of an interesting place in our area that would be of interest to the members, let us know about it as well. What topics would you like to learn more about at the meetings? We really need feedback from you to help us improve our meeting experience. You can send me your ideas, comments, etc. to the e-mail at the beginning of the newsletter. Of course, for those meetings that are held in our usual meeting location on the AU campus, we can always adhere to the first Friday schedule unless it conflicts with some activity in Auburn such as home football games.

For additional information about the club and our activities, check out the following links:

The Auburn Astronomical Society web page: <http://www.auburnastro.org>

The AAS Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/79864233515/>

Upcoming Events



We have a star gaze scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2018 at Kiesel Park in Auburn, AL. This is being sponsored by the Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve at Auburn University. Kiesel Park is located just a couple of miles west of Auburn on Chadwick Lane and can be accessed either from Highway 14 or Highway 137 (Wire Road). As usual, AAS members need to arrive well before dark to set up their equipment. This event last year had a very large public turnout.

AAS Dues Reminder

It's not too late to renew your 2018 AAS dues. If you have not already done so, please take a minute to do so. The dues are \$20.00 for the year and a portion of your dues goes to membership in the Astronomical League. The AL is the national organization that represents all member astronomy clubs and offers a wide variety of resources to support the clubs and their members. As a paid-up member of the AAS, you are entitled to receive their quarterly publication, The Reflector. Please fill out the renewal application at the end of this newsletter, especially if any of your contact information (mailing address, e-mail, etc.) has changed recently and return it to me along with your dues by mail at the address indicated on the form. Also check out the web site of the Astronomical League at: <http://www.astroleague.org>

Lunar Eclipse

There was a lunar eclipse in the very early morning hours of Wednesday, January 31, 2018. The timing was such that from our location here in this part of the country, most of the eclipse occurred as the moon was setting at sunrise so unless you were up very early and had a clear shot to the horizon, it was difficult to see. AAS member Mike Lewis did manage to get a few captures from his location in Alex City, AL using a small scope and a cell phone camera. They were taken between 6:12 AM and 6:29 AM local time. Mike used an Orion Astroblast 4.5", f/4 mini-dob reflector at approximately 20X. He used an iPhone 6 connected to the scope with an Orion SteadyPix EZ Smartphone Telescope Photo adapter. I am seeing more and more people doing some quite good astrophotography using cell phone cameras, so if you have a telescope and a cell phone with a camera, you might be surprised at what you can do with minimal equipment. I would strongly suggest that you invest in a suitable phone holder for your particular model phone. Otherwise, it is quite difficult to get the cell phone camera lens properly aligned with the eyepiece lens of the telescope.





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

Thank you for supporting the Auburn Astronomical Society!