

The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
Established 1947
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Editor: Tom Faber

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May AAC Meeting Cancelled

There will be no May meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club. While we are not able to hold our monthly meetings right now, please continue to follow AAC on its web page and Facebook page for updates until we are able to have our regular meetings again. Hopefully, with the recent reopening of the Fernbank Science Center we will be able to resume in person meetings in September.



Fernbank Science Center's Planetarium At Home Programs

While we have been unable to have in-person AAC meetings at the Fernbank Science Center for a while now, our host, Fernbank Science Center's planetary geologist Scott Harris, has been having a series of virtual programs about astronomy and planetary sciences on Fernbank's Facebook page. Recent programs have been about the Whitecourt Impact Crater in Alberta, Canada, Comet Leonard & the Catalina Sky Survey, and Defending Our Planet from Near-Earth Objects. For more information about Scott's upcoming programs check out Fernbank's Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/fernbankcenter>

No Summer AAC Meetings

Due to a decision made by the AAC Board of Directors, the Atlanta Astronomy Club will not hold meetings during the summer months of June, July, and August. This decision was made due to low attendance at the summer meetings and the difficulty in finding speakers for the summer months. So the next meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club will be in September at a time and location to be announced. Check out the AAC web page and Facebook page for updates about the September meeting, and summer activities such as the dark sky observing dates.

The Charlie Elliott Astronomy chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club will hold meetings during the summer and have observing after their meetings, weather permitting. See the dates on page 8. AAC members are encouraged to attend these meetings.

Because of not having meetings during the summer, the *Focal Point* will not be published during the summer months either. The next issue of the *Focal Point* will be the September issue, which will be published in late August or early September. Have a great summer, and clear skies!

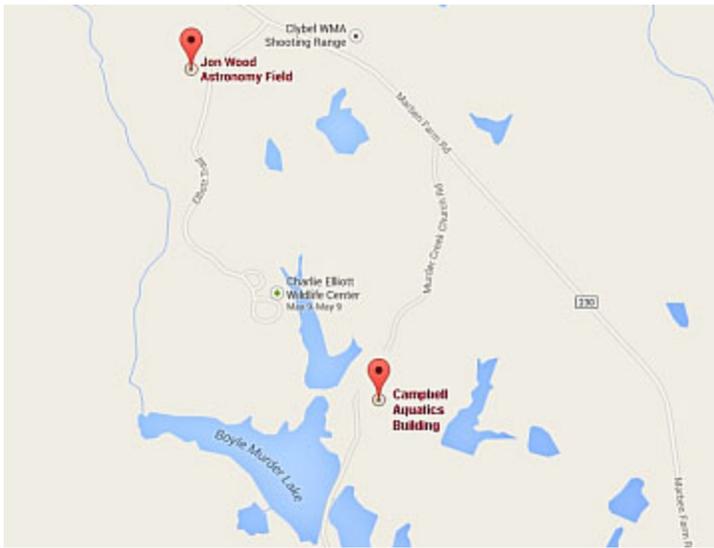
Charlie Elliott June Meeting

Join us on June 25th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Campbell Aquatics Building at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center for our June meeting for a presentation by Georgia State University PhD candidate Beena Meena. Beena's research is focused on active galactic nuclei. At the heart of almost every galaxy, there is a supermassive black hole anywhere from a million to a billion times the size of our Sun. Black holes, as you probably already know, aren't actually holes, but stars that have accumulated so much mass that their gravitational field is so strong it prevents photons (light) from escaping. These supermassive black holes are actively acquiring mass through their accretion disks which we call Active Galactic Nuclei and the "host" is called an Active Galaxy. As matter is accreted, heat and friction results as well as a release of energy in the form of radiation. This radiation is so powerful that it often outshines the galaxy itself. Beena's research focuses on these energy outflows in an attempt to identify their origins through optical and spectroscopic data from the Hubble Space Telescope as well as the Apache Point Observatory 3.5 meter telescope...quite a bit bigger than the telescopes we use for observing and imaging!

Beena's interest in astronomy started at a very young age when Indian-American astronauts like Kalpana Chawla flew on the Space Shuttle Program. During her early education stages, images from the Hubble Space



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Credit: Google Maps

Telescope were widespread and extremely popular in India and this fascinated and intrigued her. Before she started high school, she knew she wanted a career in Astronomy. Beena is an avid cyclist and often rides up to 70 miles in a day. The biking community in Atlanta has been incredibly supportive and motivated her to build her strength and push herself which has resulted in benefits in all areas of her life.

For more information about Beena and her research see here: <http://www.astro.gsu.edu/~bmeena/index.html#>

For details about Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Area activities and directions, call the Visitor’s Center at 770-784-3059 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

“All of the Above”

Following welcoming remarks by Chapter Director Steve Siedentop, Observing Supervisor Dennis Ruseski will be on hand to enlighten and inform us on what you can see and image in the night sky this month. This is Dennis’ first meeting as Observing Supervisor, so all of us are excited to see his presentation!

Observing on the Jon Wood Astronomy Field

After the meeting, we’ll make our way down to Jon Wood Astronomy Field for a night of observing and imaging. Please refrain from using white light on the field. Red lights are readily available at department and sporting goods stores in the Atlanta area.

From the meeting site –Take Murder Creek Church Rd to Marben Farm Rd, then turn left. Turn left once more onto Elliott Trail and the Jon Wood Astronomy Field dirt driveway will be on the right.

From Hwy 11 — Turn onto Marben Farm Rd., then turn right onto Elliott Trail and the Jon Wood Astronomy Field dirt driveway will be on the right.

A Few Items to Note...

Plan to treat this outing like you would a camping trip and be prepared. Dress appropriately for the weather and the environment, bring snacks and drinks if needed, and plan to take your garbage with you. There is a regularly serviced Porta-Potty on Jon Wood Astronomy Field available for use during the observing session.

The main gate on Elliott Trail closes to new entry at 7 p.m. and will automatically open at any time for exiting traffic. If you plan to observe on Jon Wood Astronomy Field, please arrive before 7 p.m. or make arrangements with a club member for access.

Covid Requirements

IMPORTANT! Masks are optional for those that are vaccinated. If you are not vaccinated, please wear a mask and kindly observe the latest CDC guidelines regarding social distancing.

More About the Charlie Elliott Astronomy Club

Check out the Charlie Elliott Astronomy Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ceastronomy>. There you’ll find a welcoming group of people sharing ideas and tips as well as organizing ad-hoc observing and imaging sessions on the Jon Wood Astronomy Field.

For those not familiar with the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, go to <https://georgiawildlife.com/charlie-elliott-wildlife-center>

The CEWC phone is 770-784-3059, Monday through Saturday 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Workshops

If you have an idea for a 15 to 20-minute pre-meeting presentation about something you’ve learned or a project you’re working on, contact Steve Siedentop or Ken Poshedly.

Our Monthly Meetings and Public Observing Nights

The status of in-person meetings will be announced monthly as the COVID situation changes. Visit the “Our Calendar” tab at the top of the page for our 2022 meeting, observing, and outreach schedule. Start times vary throughout the year so please check back for details.

All Charlie Elliott Astronomy events are free and open to the public and you don’t have to be a member to attend our meetings or join us on Jon Wood Astronomy Field. However, we would encourage you to consider a yearly paid membership for less than the cost of a couple of pizzas. Your membership dues allow us to continue our science outreach programs in area schools and youth organizations, merit badge programs with area Scout Troops, and allow us to maintain the facilities on Jon Wood Astronomy Field. To become a member, you can fill out our Membership Form or contact an officer.

The Charlie Elliott Chapter is a member of the Night Sky Network.



Jon Wood Astronomy Field Gate Update

The code for the gate to Jon Wood Astronomy Field will be changed on May 1st, 2022. As a courtesy extended to club members by Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Area leadership, the gate code to Jon Wood Astronomy Field is made available to dues-paying members of the Atlanta Astronomy Club for use of the field between meetings. Please contact Matt Harvey at facilities@ceastronomy.org or 770-298-5570 for more information. Steve - 404-769-1559

March was Membership Renewal Month

The AAC has moved to a “one-date-for-all” membership renewal. ALL CLUB MEMBERS, with certain exceptions, should submit their \$30 dues for 2022 by the end of March. Please send your renewals to AAC Treasurer Sharon Carruthers, or renew online using PayPal. For more information see:

http://atlantaastronomy.org/?page_id=22

Thank You for your support of the AAC!

You are invited to the
2022 Deerlick Astronomy Village Memorial Weekend Picnic
Sunday May 29th, 5 PM

Time: Grilling, socializing & set up will start in the pavilion at 4 PM. We hope to chow down about 5 PM. This event is free and open to anyone interested in DAV.

Where: The DAV pavilion on Grier's Field, Deerlick Astronomy Village, Sharon, GA
(located at the end of Aaron Grier Road, off of Double Wells Road –maps below)

Potluck: Please bring a favorite dish to share - go to <http://bit.ly/DAVpicnicRSVP> to sign up! Please indicate how many people are in your party. If you sign up by the Friday before the picnic, we'll grill some burgers for you!

Camping Under the Stars: If you would like to camp on Grier's Field during the weekend, it's free on Sunday after the picnic. There will be a \$5 camping fee per person per night for those who would like to come early & camp on Friday &/or Saturday night. Camping is open to all this weekend – no DAV membership is needed. A full bath house is located on site.

Dark Sky rules apply while camping at DAV - see <http://bit.ly/DAVrules>

Driving Directions: <https://deerlickgroup.com/directions/>

Google Maps: <http://bit.ly/DAVmap>

For more information about
Deerlick Astronomy Village
visit www.deerlickgroup.com



Picnic questions? Email
DAVpicnic@yahoo.com

M64 by Dan Llewellyn

Messier 64, also known as the Croc's eye galaxy, this two ring spiral is in the constellation Canes Venatici. I have processed it to bring out more of the blue channel. Taken on my C14 Edge HD at f/7 on April 21, 2022. Stack of 25-2 minute subs using a cooled and modified Sony A7s.



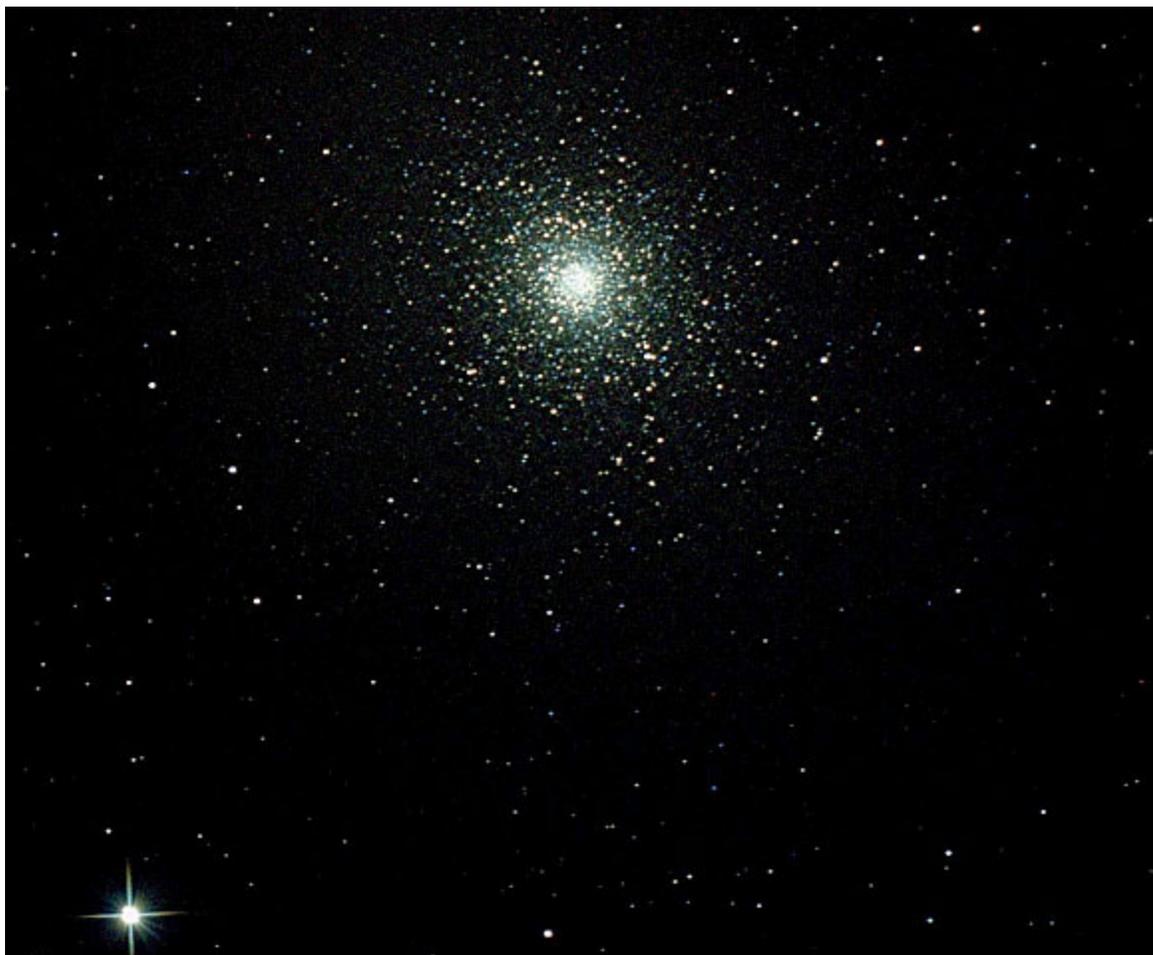
NGC 4631 by Dan Llewellyn

NGC 4631 the Whale Galaxy with calf, the dwarf elliptical NGC 4627. Located in the constellation Canes Venatici, the Whale is part of the Virgo Supercluster of galaxies, and is approximately 25 million light years away. It has a very active starburst region and a double worm structure associated with it. This image was taken on my c14 Edge HD at f11, focal length 3910 mm on April 27, 2022. It is a stack of 50-1 minute subs using a Sony a7s3 and Orion LPR.



Globular M5 by Richard Jakiel

A small telescope showcase - the large, bright globular cluster M5. Rich made this image using a 6-inch Ritchey–Chrétien telescope.



Globular M101 by Richard Jakiel

The pinwheel galaxy M101 in Ursa Major. 6-inch RC, Canon 1000 XS. This was imaged at the 2011 Mid South Star Party.





ALCON 2022

July 28 – 30

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

1000 Woodward Pl. NE

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

<https://alcon2022.astroleague.org/>

(Website available by January 14, 2022)



Hosted by:

The Albuquerque Astronomical Society

www.TAAS.org

Lunar Eclipse by Tom Faber

The moon approaches star S672 during the total lunar eclipse on May 15, 2022. These 2 exposures, about 6 minutes apart, were taken with a Canon T5i at ISO-800 and a 300mm lens on an iOptron tracking mount. The second image is a little hazy due to high cirrus that moved through during the exposure.



The **Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.**, one of the South's largest and oldest astronomical society, meets at **3:00 P.M.** on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Fernbank Science Center in Decatur, or occasionally at other locations or times. Membership fees are **\$30** for a family or single person membership. College Students membership fee is **\$15**. These fees are for a one year membership.

Magazine subscriptions to *Sky & Telescope* or *Astronomy* can be purchased through the club for a reduced rate. The fees are **\$43.95** for Sky & Telescope and **\$34** for Astronomy. Renewal forms will be sent to you by the magazines. Send the renewal form along with your check to the Atlanta Astronomy Club treasurer.

The Club address: Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc., P.O. Box 76155, Atlanta, GA 30358-1155. AAC Web Page: <http://www.AtlantaAstronomy.org>. Send suggestions, comments, or ideas about the website to webmaster@AtlantaAstronomy.org. Also send information on upcoming observing events, meetings, and other events to the webmaster.

Atlanta Astronomy Club Online

While this newsletter is the official information source for the Atlanta Astronomy Club, it is only up to date the day it is posted. So if you want more up to date information, go to our club's website. The website contains pictures, directions, membership applications, events, updates, and other information. <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org> You can also follow the AAC on Facebook by joining the AAC group, and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/atlaastro>.

AAC Officers and Contacts

President: Dave Lumpkin President@AtlantaAstronomy.org
Program Chair: Open Programs@AtlantaAstronomy.org
Observing Chair: Daniel Herron Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org
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Treasurer: Sharon Carruthers Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org
Recording Secretary: Lilli Lindbeck,
Secretary@AtlantaAstronomy.org
Board Chair: Sharon Carruthers Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org
Board: Brigitte Fessele, bhfessele1@gmail.com
Board: Open
Board: Steve Phillips sandsphillips@att.net
ALCor: Open
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Elliott Observing Supervisor: Dennis Ruseski
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Elliott Recording Secretary: Daniel de la Reza
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Elliott Outreach Coordinator: Marie Lott
outreach@ceastronomy.org
Elliott Astrophotography Coordinator: Mike Mardis
Elliott Chapter AL Liaison: David Whalen
Elliott Facilities Coordinator: Matt Harvey
facilities@CEastronomy.org
Georgia Astronomy in State Parks: Sharon Carruthers
Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org
PSSG Chairman: Peter Macumber pmacumber@nightsky.org
PSSG Co-Chair: Open
Sidewalk Astronomy: Open
sidewalkastronomy@AtlantaAstronomy.org
Light Tresspass: Ken Edwards, Contact info TBA
Woodruff Observ. Coordinator: Sharon Carruthers
Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org
AAC Webmaster: Daniel Herron

Calendar by Tom Faber (Times EDT/EST unless noted)

AAC Events are listed in BOLD

- May 22nd, Sunday: Moon Last Quarter.
- May 28th, Saturday: **CEA Observing night. 8:40PM.**
- May 30th, Monday: New Moon.
- June 7th, Tuesday: Moon First Quarter.
- June 11th, Saturday: Earliest Sunrise at Atlanta ~6:25AM.
- June 14th, Tuesday: Full Moon.
- June 20th, Monday: Moon Last Quarter.
- June 21st, Tuesday: Summer Solstice at 5:13AM.
- June 25th, Saturday: **CEA Chapter Meeting and Observing 6:30PM.**
- June 27th, Monday: Latest Sunset at Atlanta ~8:52PM.
- June 28th, Tuesday: New Moon.
- July 4th, Monday: Earth at Aphelion.
- July 6th, Wednesday: Moon First Quarter.
- July 13th, Wednesday: Full Moon.
- July 20th, Wednesday: Moon Last Quarter.
- July 23rd, Saturday: **Members bonus observing night. 8:45PM.**
- July 26th, Tuesday: Moon near Venus morning.
- July 28th, Thursday: New Moon.
- July 29th, Friday: Southern Delta Aquariids Meteor Shower peaks.
- July 30th, Saturday: **CEA Chapter Meeting and Observing 6:30PM.**
- Aug 5th, Friday: Moon First Quarter.
- Aug 11th, Thursday: Full Moon.
- Aug 19th, Friday: Moon Last Quarter.
- Aug 27th, Saturday: New Moon. **CEA Chapter Meeting and Observing 6:00PM.**

For more event listings and updates see the calendar at www.atlantaastronomy.org

Atlanta Astronomy Club Listserv

Because of the shutdown of Yahoo Groups, the Atlanta Astronomy Club Mailing List has been moved to IO Groups. You can visit the group, start reading messages and posting them here: <https://groups.io/g/AtlantaAstronomyClub>.

Focal Point Deadline and Submission Information

Please send articles, pictures, and drawings in electronic format on anything astronomy, space, or sky related to Tom Faber at focalpoint@atlantaastronomy.org. Please send images separate from articles, not embedded in them. Articles are preferred as plain text files with images separate but Word documents or PDFs are okay. **The deadline for September is Sunday, August 21. Submissions received after the deadline will go in the following issue.**



FIRST CLASS



www.betagg.com



The Focal Point

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

We're here to help! Here's how to reach us:

Atlanta Astronomy Club
P.O. Box 76155
Atlanta, GA 30358-1155
www.atlantaastronomy.org
On Twitter at <http://twitter.com/atlastro>