

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947  
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Editor: Tom Faber

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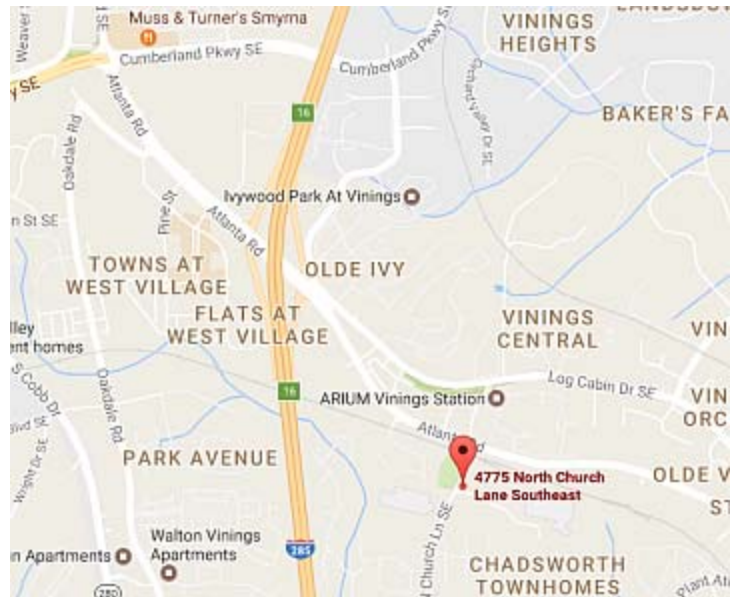
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## November AAC General Meeting

Please join us for the next general meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club, to be held on Saturday, November 11th at 6PM, at the Atlanta Freethought Hall, 4775 North Church Lane S.E., Atlanta/Smyrna. North Church Lane is located off of Atlanta Road, which is exit 16 on I-285 (See map). Our Speaker will be AAC member Daniel Herron. Daniel will present a talk about his trip to Wyoming to view and photograph the total solar eclipse on August 21. Please join us for this very interesting and informative talk. All Astronomy club meetings are free and open to the public. For more information on the Club go to [www.atlantaastronomy.org](http://www.atlantaastronomy.org)



One of the many images of the total eclipse taken by Daniel Herron.



Credit: Google Maps

## December Holiday Potluck Meeting

The AAC's annual Holiday Potluck Meeting will be at the AFS building in Smyrna, on Saturday, December 9 beginning at 6PM. We will supply ham, turkey, soft drinks & coffee and ask you to bring the sides and/or desserts for 6-10 people. Family favorites and ethnic dishes are especially welcome. If you could drop me a line ([Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org)) or a call at 770-941-4640 to tell me what you plan to bring, it would help prevent too many duplicate dishes. Also, if you have any folding tables & chairs that you can bring, it would really help us out. Suggested dishes to bring are:

**APPETIZERS:** Deviled Eggs, Chips & Dip, Pretzels, Cheese & Crackers, Veggie Tray

**SIDES:** Pickles/Relish Tray, Buns & Rolls

**VEGGIE SIDES:** Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Sweet Potatoes, Pasta/Rice, Green Bean Casserole, Corn Pudding, Peas, Carrots, Tossed Salad, Jelled Salad, Coleslaw

**DESSERTS:** Cookies, Squares, Cake, Pies, Puddings

After we have dinner there will be a short program, topic TBA.

**LOCATION:** Atlanta Freethought Hall, 4775 North Church Lane, Smyrna 30080 / Atlanta 30339

## The Next Charlie Elliott Meeting

Join us for our next meeting on Saturday November 18th, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the Charlie Elliott Conference Center, Conference Room B.

### Meeting Details

“Who needs remote control?”

Lloyd Smith of Deep Sky West will be joining us for our November meeting on November 18 at 3:00 p.m. to talk about the benefits and advantages, as well as the trials and tribulations, of remote observatories. There are quite a few of us that take advantage of remote capabilities from a few feet away just so we can sit closer to our heaters on Jon Wood Astronomy Field in the Winter Months. There are also those who leverage full-blown remote observatories and imaging rigs at prime dark sky locations.

Lloyd Smith designed the Deep Sky West facilities which reside under dark skies near Rowe, New Mexico. Lloyd is also closely involved in managing the imaging system operations of Deep Sky West. Lloyd's interest in astronomy started in the early 1970's following the United States' missions to the moon and he was also fortunate to have a supportive teacher who facilitated visits to the Greenbank Observatory in West Virginia. His teacher also supported his interest in visual astronomy. Lloyd acquired a C8 after college and, after a few career accomplishments, Lloyd found himself involved in astrophotography with an AstroPhysics Mach 1



Credit: Google Maps

mount, a Takahashi FSQ-106 telescope, and a QSI683wsg-8 which he still uses today. If you would like to check out some of Lloyd Smith's images, you can find them here.

Even if remote observatories and astrophotography aren't up your alley, you'll more than likely find something in this presentation that can be applied to your particular area of focus in amateur astronomy. Be prepared to leave the meeting having learned something new!

Check here for updates: <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/home>

### All of the Above!

David Whalen, the most interesting observer in the world, who also happens to be the Observing Supervisor for Charlie Elliott Astronomy, will give a short talk about what you can expect to see in the sky this month with binoculars and small telescopes. David will also cover the Charlie Elliott Observing Challenge. Be sure to ask for the monthly target list and a SkyMap! David will be joined by Astrophotography Coordinator Mark Woolridge who will cover the imaging challenges of the month and tips on how to image them.

### Observing After the Meeting

All are invited to Jon Wood Astronomy Field immediately after the meeting (weather-permitting). As always, the event is free and everyone is welcome.

### Technical Workshops

Valorie Whalen will be on hand at 2:30 p.m. to give a workshop about the ongoing Constellation Hunter program that Valorie has been leading for the past several months. If you're new to amateur astronomy, feel free to join us and learn something new. If you've made several trips around the sun with your telescope, this will be a good chance for you to brush up on the seasonal constellations. This workshop will be approximately 20 to 30 minutes long. The Technical Workshop is your chance to share something you've learned. If you have an idea for a 15-30 minute discussion or presentation that you would like to see or would like to give, contact the Charlie Elliott Program Coordinator, Steve Siedentop.

Future Charlie Elliott meetings will be held on: December 16, January 20, February 17, March 17, April 14, May 12, June 16. Meetings start approximately 2 hours before sunset.

## The September Charlie Elliott Meeting

Stephanie Dickson, Secretary, Charlie Elliott Chapter

**Meeting Minutes: 9/23/17**

Pre-meeting start time: 5:30pm, Pre-meeting presenter: Pot-Luck Dinner, Pre-meeting topic: N/A

#### Attendees:

Meeting 30, Field 80

Meeting time: 6:07pm, Meeting called to order by: Mike Shaw

#### Outreach:

- 9/23 Mansfield Elem on the field
- 10/4 Professional Piercer's Association 7-9pm
- 10/7 Madison Chili Cook Off
- 10/11 Charlie Elliott Over Night 7:30-9:30pm
- 11/4 Becoming an outdoors woman at C.E. 1-4:30pm

Awards - N/A

#### Other news:

Ken - Oct 28 9-5pm astronomy conference at UGA physics building

David gave his presentation on "All of the Above" at 6:20pm, Solar Rock Movie by David. Valerie: Constellations are Pegasus, Cassiopeia, Andromeda, Aquarius (November pre-meeting to go over drawings). Target Lists given for naked eye, binocular, small/medium telescopes, light buckets. Challenge: Comet C/2017 01. Astrophotography targets given for beginner, intermediate, advanced, narrowband.

Main Presentation started at: N/A

Field conditions: Excellent

Meeting ended at 6:54pm

# Minutes of the Jan 22, 2017 BoD Mtg

(Approved by the Board at the Nov 5, 2017 BoD Meeting)

Atlanta Astronomy Club Board Meeting January 22, 2017

In attendance: Sharon Carruthers, Ken Olson, Steve Phillips, Dave Lumpkin, Mark Banks, Brigitte Fessele - Proxy vote to S Carruthers, Tom Faber - proxy vote to M Banks

Meeting started at 2 pm.

Recording Secretary - Minutes of previous meeting read, moved and approved to accept.

President - Mark Banks

VR - finish removing stuff from VR - Ken Olson has trailer to haul stuff; he & Peter Macumber will arrange a date to go to VR to disassemble scopes & toilet after Peter retires (March?)

DAV - sign a contract ASAP for use of DAV for PSSG; Peter Macumber will write up requirements & proposals before the AAC approaches DAV

Board Elections - as most members of the current Board have held their positions for 7 years or more, and are resigning at the end of this term, we need people to fill the positions of Program Chair, President, Newsletter Editor, Secretary, President & Board Members

Summer Meetings - a motion offered, seconded and passed to cancel meetings in June, July & August; and possibly have outreach programs instead (i.e. at East Cobb Park) or observing nights for members & public

PSSG - Ken Poshedly may be willing to assume Chair or Co-Chair position

Eclipse August 2017 - as most members of the Club will be out of town to view this event, the AAC is reluctant to commit to offering in-Atlanta programs for the public on Eclipse Day - Sharon Carruthers will send out a survey to the general membership to find out how many members would be willing to run any in-town programs before we commit to them

February Meeting - Phil Danneman will talk about planets and moons

March 18th Meeting - moved to the Math & Science Building at Emory U. at 7 pm - a ½ hour movie about the Webb Telescope followed by Q&A panel discussion

April Meeting - moved to Atlanta Freethought Society building as Fernbank has an event booked on our meeting day - potluck dinner at 6 pm; meeting at 7 pm; observing at 8 pm

Treasurer - Budget 2017 & financial report presented; moved, seconded & passed

Program Chair - see President notes

Observing Chair - absent - President reported on currently scheduled upcoming events

New Business

College Night - January 28, 2017, Chaired by Dave Lumpkin & Sharon Carruthers - website set up to take pre-registration & PayPal payments - \$20/person pre-registration; \$25/person after Jan 23rd - volunteers are needed with scopes to help the students - no charge for any volunteers - coffee & hot chocolate will be provided for free

Zombie - April 22nd or April 29th (New Moon April 26th)

Meeting Date Changes - as the New Moon will fall near the 3rd Saturday of the month in September, the General Meeting will be moved to the 2nd Saturday of the month in the Fall.

Meeting Adjourned at 4 pm - Next Board Meeting's date to be set by incoming Board.

# The 2017 Peach State Star Gaze - Pt 1

Photos by Tom Faber unless noted otherwise

The 24th annual Peach State Star Gaze was held from Sunday, October 15th to Sunday, October 22nd.

The event started out quite warm on Sunday with mostly clear skies. A cold front moved through on Monday bringing a few clouds and much cooler temperatures. Skies mostly cleared by evening and for most of the rest of the week we had good conditions. Vendor *Explore Scientific* was at the Peach State for most of the week. They set up a number of scopes for attendees to check out by day and at night.

Friday's featured speakers were Lloyd Smith who presented a talk about The Case for Remote Imaging, Barry Fitzgerald who spoke about using Sequence Generator Pro - Auto Focus, and then Peter Macumber who hosted a round table discussion about the total solar eclipse with a number of images of the eclipse. Friday evening the AAC hosted a cake and ice cream social on the DAV pavilion.

Saturday featured more talks with Barry Fitzgerald presenting a talk about using the Intel Compute Stick CS125 for wireless control of your telescope and imaging sessions. Dr. Richard Schmude from Gordon State College then presented a talk about the upcoming 2018 Mars opposition and observations amateurs can do to contribute to research about the planet. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Erin Bonning of the Emory University Department of Physics. Dr. Bonning presented a very interesting talk about gravitational waves, how they are detected, and the recent observation of an optical counterpart to a gravitational wave event detected by the LIGO gravitational wave detectors in August.

After Dr. Bonning's talk the door prize drawing was held. A number of attendees won various prizes. The grand prize, an ED102 Air-Spaced Triplet refractor provided by *Explore Scientific*, was won by Marie Lott. Some thin cirrus moved through on Saturday and brought some amazing atmospheric optics displays. The cirrus hampered the observing some Saturday night, but we had already had a number of nights of good observing.

Micki and GC were back with Micki's Kitchen serving breakfasts, sandwiches, snacks, and dinners during the day and plenty of hot coffee, hot chocolate, and brownies at night to keep us observers awake! We all had a great time and look forward to seeing everyone at the 25th anniversary PSSG in 2018!

On the next several pages are images from the 2017 Peach State Star Gaze. Check back next month for more photos from the PSSG 2017, including some of the door prize winners.





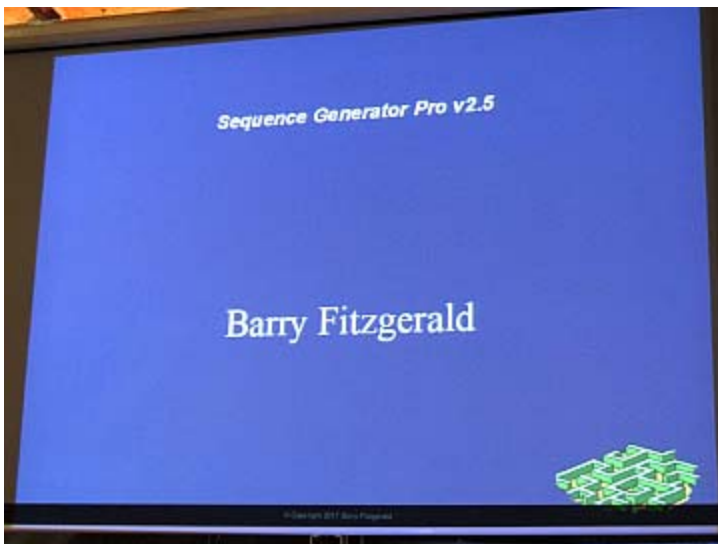
*Explore Scientific set up a number of telescopes for attendees to check out and view through at night.*

*Ken Olson (in foreground) set up his hydrogen alpha scope for viewing solar prominences. While sunspots were lacking, there were several good prominences visible.*



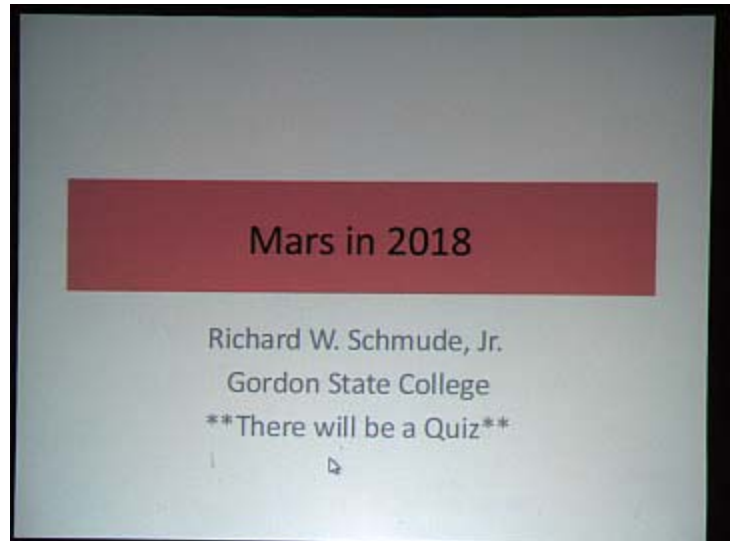
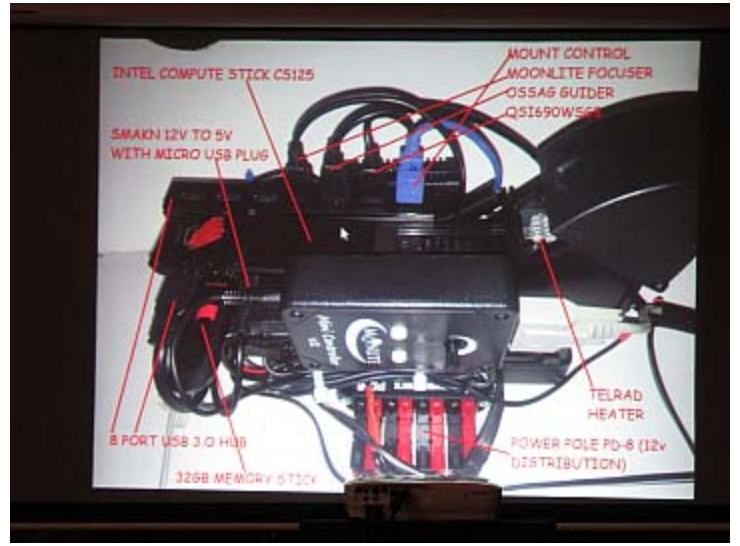


Lloyd Smith presents his talk about remote imaging.



Barry Fitzgerald's Friday talk was about using Sequence Generator Pro - Auto Focus.

PSSG Chair Peter Macumber hosted a roundtable discussion about the August Total Solar Eclipse and showed a number of images of the eclipse.

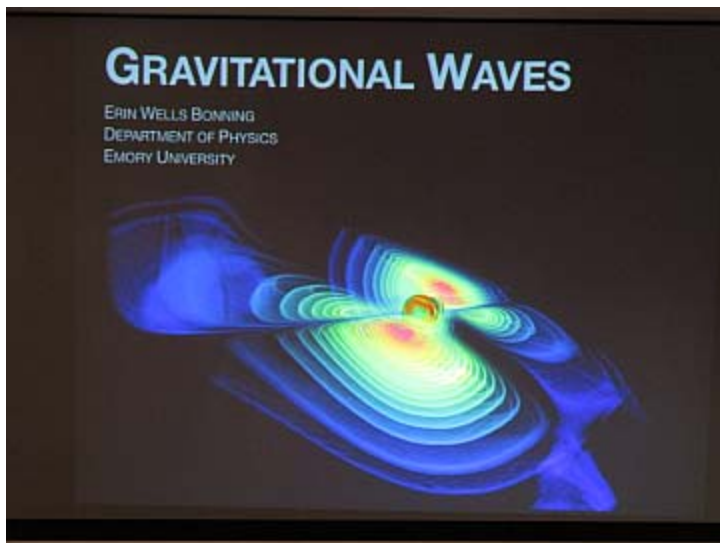


Friday evening's ice cream social begins.



Barry Fitzgerald presented a talk on Saturday about using the Intel Compute Stick CS125 (top right) for remote control of the scope and imaging.

Dr. Richard Schmude from Gordon State College presented a talk about the upcoming Mars opposition.



*Dr. Erin Bonning of the Emory University Department of Physics begins her talk about gravitational waves.*

More photos from the 2017 Peach State Star Gaze will appear in the December *Focal Point*.

The **Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.**, one of the South's largest and oldest astronomical society, meets at **3:00 P.M.** on the 2nd 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 **\$33** 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](mailto: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](mailto:President@AtlantaAstronomy.org)
- Program Chair:** Open [Programs@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Programs@AtlantaAstronomy.org)
- Observing Chair:** Daniel Herron [Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org)
- Corresponding Secretary:** Tom Faber  
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- Treasurer:** Sharon Carruthers [Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org)
- Recording Secretary:** Lilli Lindbeck,  
[Secretary@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Secretary@AtlantaAstronomy.org)
- Board Chair:** Sharon Carruthers [Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org)
- Board:** Brigitte Fessele, Contact info TBA
- Board:** Open
- Board:** Steve Phillips [sandsphillips@att.net](mailto:sandsphillips@att.net)
- ALCor:** Ken Olson, [keneolson@yahoo.com](mailto:keneolson@yahoo.com)
- Elliott Chapter Director:** Mike Shaw [director@ceastronomy.org](mailto:director@ceastronomy.org)
- Elliott Observing Chair:** David Whalen  
[observing@ceastronomy.org](mailto:observing@ceastronomy.org)
- Elliott Recording Secretary:** Stephanie Dickson  
[secretary@ceastronomy.org](mailto:secretary@ceastronomy.org)
- Elliott Astrophotography Coordinator:** Mark Wolridge
- Elliott Chapter ALCor:** Jack Fitzmier
- Elliott Coordinator:** Lacy Mitchell, [Lacy.Mitchell@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Lacy.Mitchell@dnr.ga.gov)
- Elliott Webmaster:** Larry Owens [webmaster@CEastronomy.org](mailto:webmaster@CEastronomy.org)
- Elliott Outreach Coordinator:** Dan Thoman  
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- Georgia Astronomy in State Parks:** Sharon Carruthers  
[Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org)
- PSSG Chairman:** Peter Macumber [pmacumber@nightsky.org](mailto:pmacumber@nightsky.org)
- PSSG Co-Chair:** Open
- Sidewalk Astronomy:** Open  
[sidewalkastronomy@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:sidewalkastronomy@AtlantaAstronomy.org)
- Light Trespass:** Ken Edwards, Contact info TBA
- Woodruff Observ. Coordinator:** Sharon Carruthers  
[Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org)
- AAC Webmaster:** Daniel Herron  
[Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

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

## AAC Events are listed in BOLD

Nov 5th-12th: Northern & Southern Taurid Meteor Showers.

Nov 10th, Friday: Moon Last Quarter.

Nov 11th, Saturday: **AAC Meeting at the AFS Building at 6PM.**

Nov 16th, Thursday: Moon near Venus and Jupiter.

Nov 17th, Friday: Leonid Meteor shower.

Nov 18th, Saturday: **CEA Chapter Meeting 3PM.** New Moon.

Nov 19th, Sunday: Moon near Mercury.

Nov 20th, Monday: Moon near Saturn.

Nov 23rd, Thursday: Mercury at Greatest Elongation East.

Nov 26th, Sunday: Moon First Quarter.

Dec 3rd, Sunday: Full Moon near Aldebaran.

Dec 7th, Thursday: Earliest Sunset in Atlanta: ~5:27PM EST.

Dec 9th, Saturday: **AAC Holiday Potluck at the AFS Building at 6PM.**

Dec 11th, Sunday: Moon Last Quarter.

Dec 13th, Wednesday: Moon near Mars morning. Mercury at inferior conjunction.

Dec 14th, Thursday: Moon near Jupiter morning. Gemind Meteor Shower morning.

Dec 16th, Saturday: **CEA Chapter Meeting.**

Dec 18th, Monday: New Moon.

Dec 21, Thursday: Winter Solstice at 1:28AM. Saturn in Conjunction with Sun.

Dec 26th, Tuesday: Moon First Quarter.

Dec 30th, Saturday: Moon occults Aldebaran: Disappears ~6:09PM, reappears ~6:52PM.

Jan 1st, Monday: Mercury at Greatest Elongation West.

Jan 4th, Thursday: Earth at Aphelion. Latest Sunrise in Atlanta: ~7:42 AM.

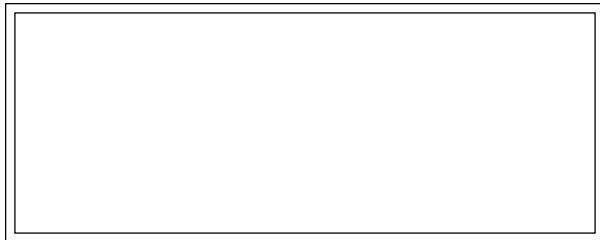
**For more event listings see the calendar at [www.atlantaastronomy.org](http://www.atlantaastronomy.org)**

## Atlanta Astronomy Club Listserv

Subscribe to the Atlanta Astronomy Club Mailing List: The name of the list is: AstroAtlanta. The address for messages is: [AstroAtlanta@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AstroAtlanta@yahoogroups.com) . To add a subscription, send a message to: [AstroAtlanta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AstroAtlanta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) .

## 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](mailto: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 December is Saturday, November 18. Submissions received after the deadline will go in the following issue.**



FIRST CLASS



[www.betagg.com](http://www.betagg.com)



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

Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.



*The Focal Point*

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