

The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
Established 1947
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Editor: Tom Faber

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Charlie Elliott June Meeting, Observing, & Potluck

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Join us at the Campbell Aquatic Center on Murder Creek Church Road for our monthly astronomy club meeting and quarterly potluck, resuming at long last! Our location is located in the back woods of the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center nature preserve. Please see our web site for directions and more details, <http://ceastronomy.org>

ceastronomy.org

Sign up for the potluck here! <https://bit.ly/CEpotluckRSVP>

Weather-permitting, there will be observing on Jon Wood Astronomy Field immediately after the meeting.

As always, this is free and everyone is welcome.

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Eastern

Location: Campbell Aquatic Building, 2403 Murder Creek Church Road, Mansfield, GA 30055

Weather-permitting, we'll then head out (by car) to the nearby Jon Wood Astronomy Field; all are invited to bring your own telescopes or binoculars — or at least your interest in astronomy. Sunset on our meeting night will be at 8:22 p.m. and the Elliott Trail sliding gate for incoming traffic closes at 7 p.m., so be sure to be on the observing field before then. The sooner, the better. Club members already have the Elliott Trail gate lock digital combination, so others should already be on the field by 7 p.m. The gate opens automatically for all exiting traffic no matter what time it is.

A few items to note:

Plan to treat this outing like you would a camping trip and be prepared.

Continued on next page.

The June AAC Meeting

The next AAC meeting will be on Saturday June 15 at 7:00PM at our new location in Sandy Springs. The speaker and topic are TBD.

Lost Cottage at Lost Corner Preserve, 7300 Brandon Mill Road Northwest, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

<https://www.sandyspringsga.gov/places/lost-corner-preserve>

Although the Lost Cottage at Lost Corner Preserve will be our meeting venue for the rest of the year, here is the meeting schedule (Guest speakers and topics still need to be determined) thru November:

June 15th 7-9pm, July 20th 7-9pm, August 17th 6-8pm, Sept 14th 6-8pm, Oct 19th 6-8pm, Nov 16th 6-8pm.

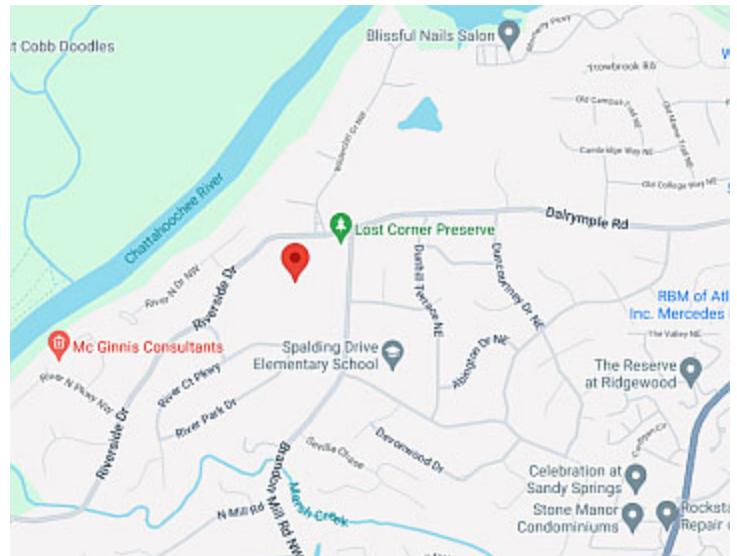
We need volunteers for speakers and topics so let's do it this way:

* If you have a topic you want to hear about let us know we may find a speaker for it.

* If you have a topic and would like to talk let us know.

* If you know a student or anyone that may like an audience let us know.

After the talks we will handle club business, Q&A, and meet & greets. If you have any equipment questions or need help, bring your scopes and we will also try to help.



Credit: Google Maps

Dress appropriately for the weather and the environment, bring snacks and drinks if needed, and plan to take your trash with you.

There is a regularly serviced Porta-Potty on the field.

The main gate on Elliott Trail closes to new entry by vehicle at 7 p.m., but will automatically open for exiting traffic at all times. If you are not a member and plan to arrive after 7 p.m., please make arrangements with a club member for access at least a day in advance.

Please refrain from using white light on the field. Red headlamps are cheap and easy to find at your favorite store. They're even cheaper to make with a spare flashlight and red nail-polish on the lens.

For more information about Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, please visit the Charlie Elliott website.

<https://georgiawildlife.com/charlie-elliott-wildlife-center>

Observing on the Jon Wood Astronomy Field

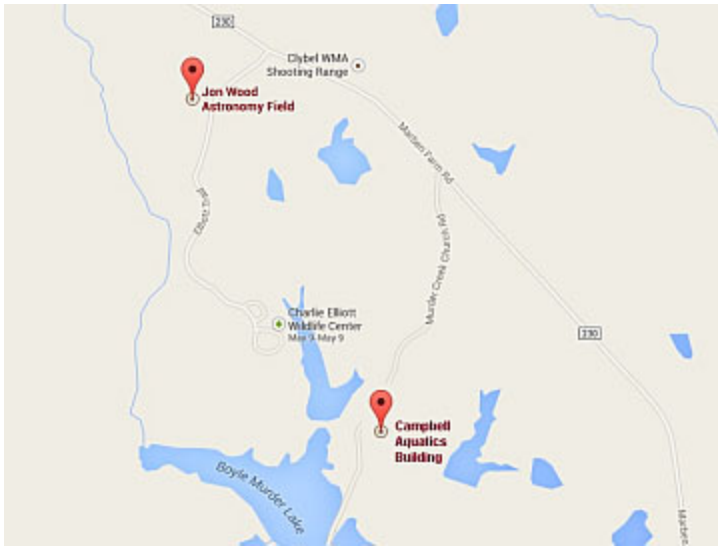
Please refrain from using white lights on the observing field to preserve night vision. Red lights are readily available at department and sporting goods stores in the Atlanta area. As stated above all are invited; however, to bring their own telescopes or binoculars or at least their interest in astronomy. For more information about Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, visit: <https://georgiawildlife.com/charlie-elliott-wildlife-center>

Our Monthly Meetings and Public Observing Nights

Our monthly meetings and public observing nights are free and open to the public. Visit the "Our Calendar" tab at the top of the page for our 2024 meeting, observing, and outreach schedule. Start times vary through the year so please check back for details. View our Full Calendar of all meetings & outreach events here:

<http://ceastronomy.org/blog/outreach/charlie-elliott-astronomy-calendar>

It's easy to become a member of Charlie Elliott Astronomy! Pay dues here: <http://atlantaastronomy.org/membership/>



Credit: Google Maps

AAC May Meeting Report

Photos by Tom Faber

The Atlanta Astronomy Club's May general meeting was held on Saturday, May 18, at our new location. Our meeting was held at the Lost Cottage at Lost Corner Preserve in Sandy Springs starting at 7:30PM. About 20 club members and guests were present.

We actually had two talks. First Georgia Tech Physics/Aerospace Engineering student Oscar Haase (below) present a talk about General Relativity and black holes. He described how he wrote software to create rendering of a black hole.

Our next speaker was Philip Sacco (next page), who presented a talk on the mythology of constellations focusing on the history and myths of the constellation Draco.

AAC President David Lumpkin also presented information about upcoming club and astronomical events.

Join us at the Lost Cottage at 7:00PM on Saturday, June 15 for the next AAC General Meeting.



Photos continue on bottom of next page



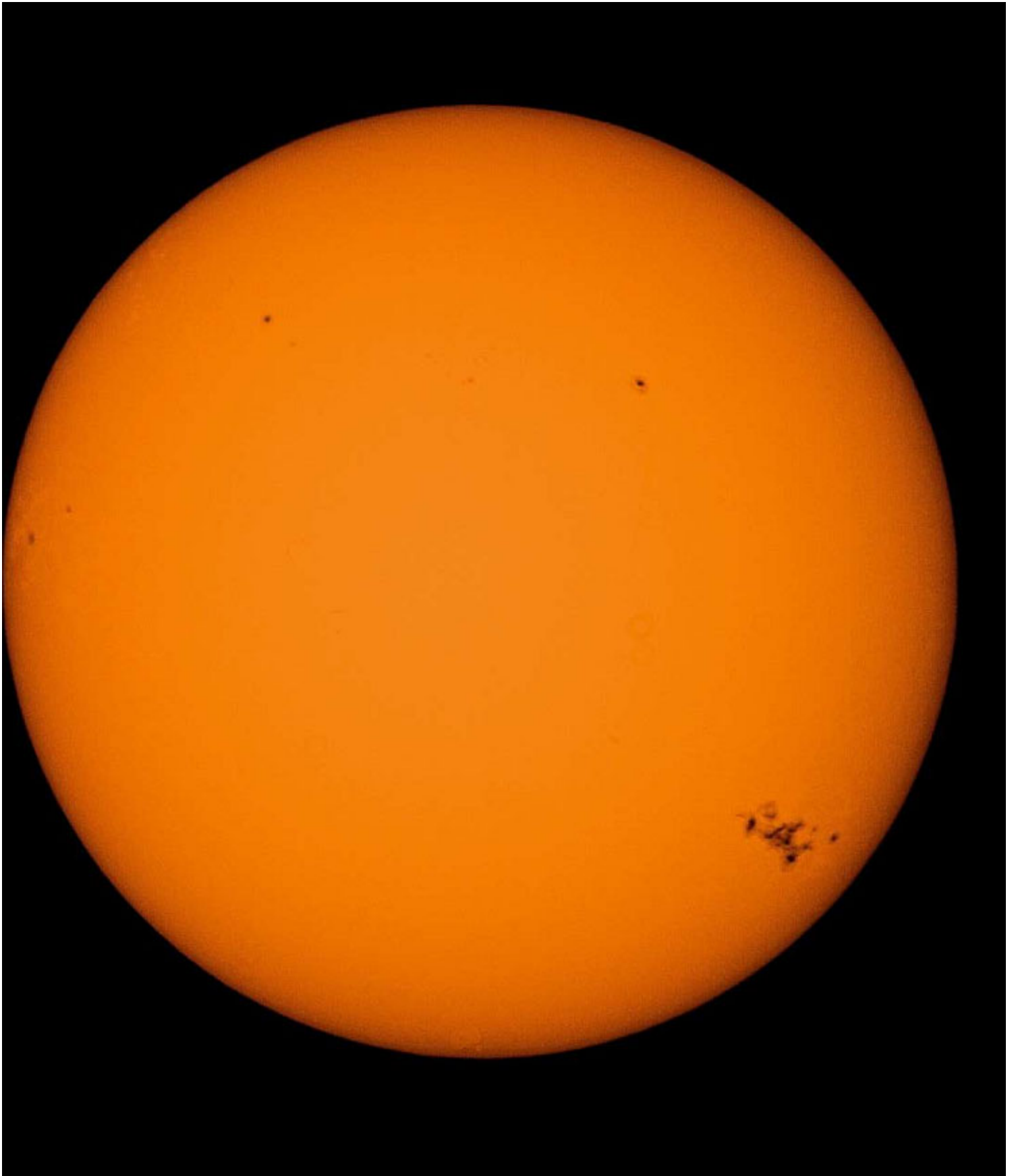
Messier 109 by Clay Turner

Messier 109 - The clouds stopped me at just 1 hour, 15 minutes into this. As I was closing up the observatory, lightning was flashing nearby - a little later it rained. This image was made using a Celestron C14 with Starizona LF reducer - effective focal length = 2507 mm.

For more information on Messier 109 see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messier_109



More photos on page 7



Sunspot Region 3664 by Eugene Rush - see details on next page



Aurora from the Suburbs by Tom Faber

I took this photo of the aurora from a location near heavily light polluted Roswell during the major geomagnetic storm of May 10. This was a 13-second exposure at ISO-800 using a Canon T5i. There was a lot of red and a little green in the lower center.

For more about the great geomagnetic storm of May 10, 2024 see this page and the ones for the next several days:

<https://www.spaceweather.com/archive.php?view=1&day=11&month=05&year=2024>

Sunspot Region 3664 by Eugene Rush

Previous Page: This image shows the Sunspot Region 3664 on May 11, 2024. The Sunspot Region 3664 produced a G5 level (extreme) geomagnetic storm resulting in the Northern Lights being visible as far south as Florida over several days. The image was made using an 8-inch Ritchey-Chretien telescope with a solar filter and a Sony a6000 camera. The image is an 1/400 exposure at ISO 200 and taken from Sharpsburg GA on May 11, 2024.

For more information on daily sunspot activity see: <https://www.spaceweatherlive.com>



NGC 4631 and NGC 4627 by Dan Llewellyn

NGC 4631, the whale, and the calf, NGC 4627. These galaxies are in the constellation Canes Venatici and lie approximately 30 million light years from Earth. Taken on May 11, 2024 with my c14 Edge at f11 3910 FL. Stack of 120-25 sec subs, Sony A7s, IDAS HEU1B-II filter.

For more information on NGC 4631 see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NGC_4631

For more information on NGC 4627 see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NGC_4627

Scouts at the Woodruff Summer Camp

By Sharon Carruthers, AAC Treasurer

The AAC holds an outreach event for the Scouts at the Woodruff Boy Scout Camp (Blairsville, GA) who are trying to earn their astronomy merit badge. We provide the “hands-on” part of the badge requirements by bringing our telescopes so the scouts can get practical observing under the stars.

We would like to have two volunteers to help out starting at 9 pm on Thursday nights each week for the seven weeks of the camp. Setup begins at 8 pm, and the events run until about 11 pm.

The dates are: June 6; June 13; June 20; June 27; July 4; July 11; July 18

If you can help out, please contact Sharon Carruthers at:

Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Meeting photos continued from page 3



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 **\$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. 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: David Lumpkin President@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Program Chair: Open Programs@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Observing Chair: Daniel Herron Observing@AtlantaAstronomy.org

Corresponding Secretary: Tom Faber

Focalpoint@AtlantaAstronomy.org

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: Ken Olson, keneolson@yahoo.com

Elliott Chapter Director: Steve Siedentop

director@ceastronomy.org

Elliott Observing Supervisor: Dennis Ruseski

observing@ceastronomy.org

Elliott Recording Secretary: Daniel de la Reza

secretary@ceastronomy.org

Elliott Program Coordinator: Steve Siedentop

program@ceastronomy.org

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

- June 4th, Tuesday: Venus at superior conjunction.
- June 6th, Thursday: New Moon.
- June 8th, Saturday: **CE Chapter Meeting, Observing, and Potluck, 6:30PM.**
- June 14th, Friday: Moon First Quarter.
- June 15th, Saturday: **AAC Meeting, 7:00PM.**
- June 20th, Thursday: Summer Solstice at 4:51PM
- June 21st, Friday: Full Moon.
- June 28th, Friday: Moon Last Quarter.
- July 1st, Monday: Moon near Mars morning.
- July 3rd, Wednesday: Moon near Jupiter morning.
- July 5th, Friday: New Moon.
- July 13th, Saturday: **CE Chapter Meeting & Observing, 7:00PM, Moon First Quarter.**
- July 15th, Monday: Mars near Uranus morning.
- July 20th, Saturday: **AAC Meeting, 7:00PM.**
- July 21st, Sunday: Full Moon.
- July 27th, Saturday: Moon Last Quarter.
- July 30th, Tuesday: Moon near Mars & Jupiter morning.
- Aug 3rd, Saturday: **CE Chapter Meeting & Observing, 6:30PM.**
- Aug 4th, Sunday: New Moon.
- Aug 11th-12th, Sunday night/Monday morning: Perseid Meteor Shower Peaks.
- Aug 12th, Monday: Moon First Quarter.
- Aug 17th, Saturday: **AAC Meeting, 6:00PM.**
- Aug 19th, Monday: Full Moon.

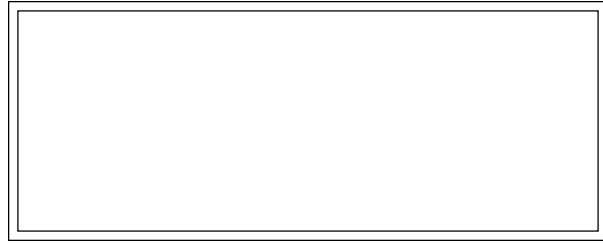
For more event listings and updates see the calendar at www.atlantaastronomy.org

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 July is Saturday, June 22. Submissions received after the deadline will go in the following issue.**



FIRST CLASS



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Newsletter of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.



The Focal Point

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

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