

# The Focal Point

The Atlanta Astronomy Club  
Established 1947  
June 2024

Vol. 36 No. 10

Editor: Tom Faber

## Table of Contents

**Page 1...** CE Chapter July Meeting, Upcoming AAC Meetings  
**Page 2...** The AAC June Meeting & Photos  
**Page 3...** Woodruff Summer Camp, AAC June Meeting Photos  
**Page 4...** M 85 and NGC 4394 by Dan Llewellyn  
**Page 5...** M 8 (The Lagoon Nebula) by Richard Jakiel  
**Page 6...** M 16 (The Eagle Nebula) by Eugene Rush  
**Page 7...** M10 by Richard Jakiel, Memberships, Contacts  
**Page 8...** Calendar, AAC List Serv Info, Focal Point Deadline

## Charlie Elliott July Meeting & Observing

Saturday, July 6, 2024

Our Program — Details forthcoming for our July meeting! Check here for updates: <http://ceastronomy.org/blog/home/>

Meeting Agenda — Opening remarks and general introductions, then “What’s Up” in the sky this (and part of next) month by Observing Supervisor Dennis Ruzeski followed by any questions/comments from those who wish to share any of their own observing experiences. The scheduled presentation will follow.

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 8:48 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. 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

*Continued on next page.*

## The July AAC Meeting

The next AAC meeting will be on Saturday, July 20 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:

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

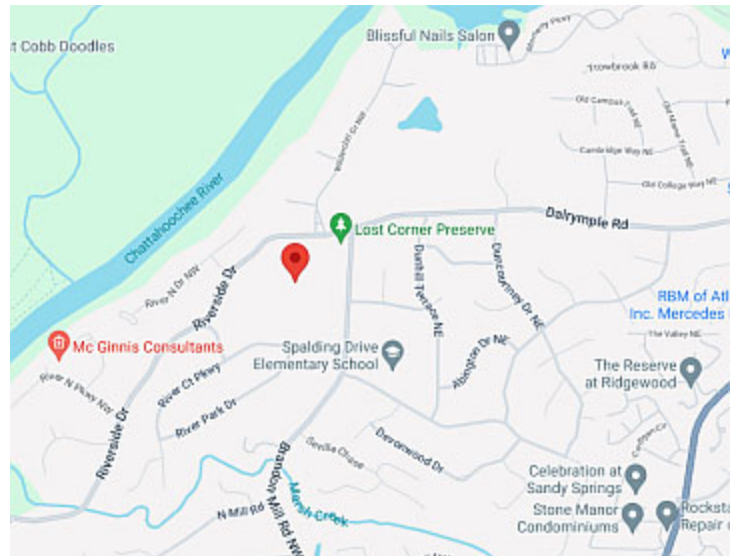
We need volunteers for speakers and topics so let’s do it this way:

- \* 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*

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.

### Observing on the Jon Wood Astronomy Field

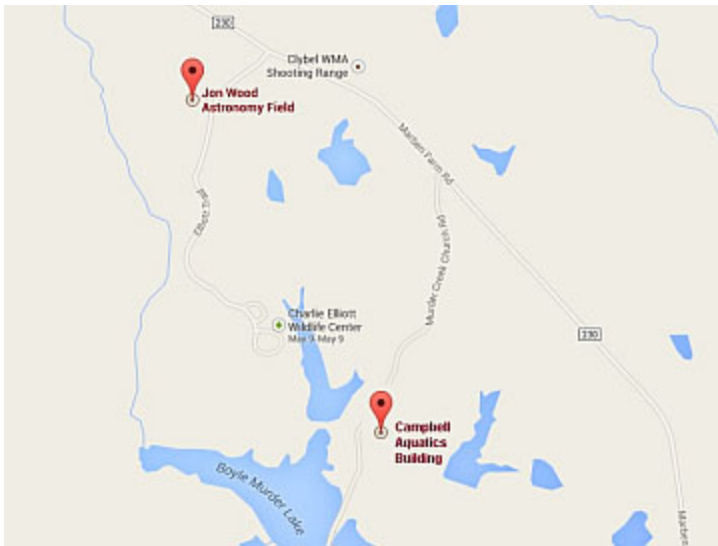
Please refrain from using white lights on the observing field to preserve night vision. Red lights are readily available at department and sporting goods stores in the Atlanta area. As stated above all are invited; however, to bring their own telescopes or binoculars or at least their interest in astronomy. 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 June Meeting Report

Photos by Tom Faber

The Atlanta Astronomy Club's May general meeting was held on Saturday, June 15, at our new location. Our meeting was held at the Lost Cottage at Lost Corner Preserve in Sandy Springs starting at 7:00PM. About 18 club members and guests were present.

AAC Observing Chair Daniel Herron (photo below) presented some information about the AAC, then introduced our speaker, new AAC member Jo Welsh (bottom photo). Jo presented an interesting talk about the upcoming Artemis lunar missions and compared and contrasted them to the Apollo missions of over 50 years ago.

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

Join us at the Lost Cottage at 7:00PM on Saturday, July 20 for the next AAC General Meeting. The talk for this meeting is TBD.



Photos continue on next page



# 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



NASA moon missions - how do they compare?

	Apollo	Artemis
When?	1961 - 1972	2022 - 2035
Why?	Then: President Kennedy proposed Project Apollo as a political response to the threat of Soviet influence on the world order. He saw spaceflight as an essential form of soft power in the United States' contest for geopolitical alignment and international influence. — Terrell Multi-Harmony, Project Apollo curator, National Air and Space Museum	Now: Space Policy Directive 1 states Artemis is intended to be the first step in "an innovative and sustainable program of exploration with commercial and international partners to enable human exploration across the solar system and to bring back to Earth new knowledge and opportunities." — John M. Logsdon, Professor Emerita of Political Science and International Affairs, Space Policy Institute at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University
Who?	NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)	NASA + ESA + JAXA + UAE's MBRSC





## M 85 and NGC 4394 by Dan Llewellyn

Messier 85 with NGC 4394 (left), and little IC 3292 off to the right. Located 60 million light years away, this lenticular galaxy is in the constellation Coma Berenices. Stack of 3 different exposure times (98 total) to preserve the inner part. C14 Edge at f/11 taken on April 29, 2024.

For more information on M85 see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messier\\_85](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messier_85)



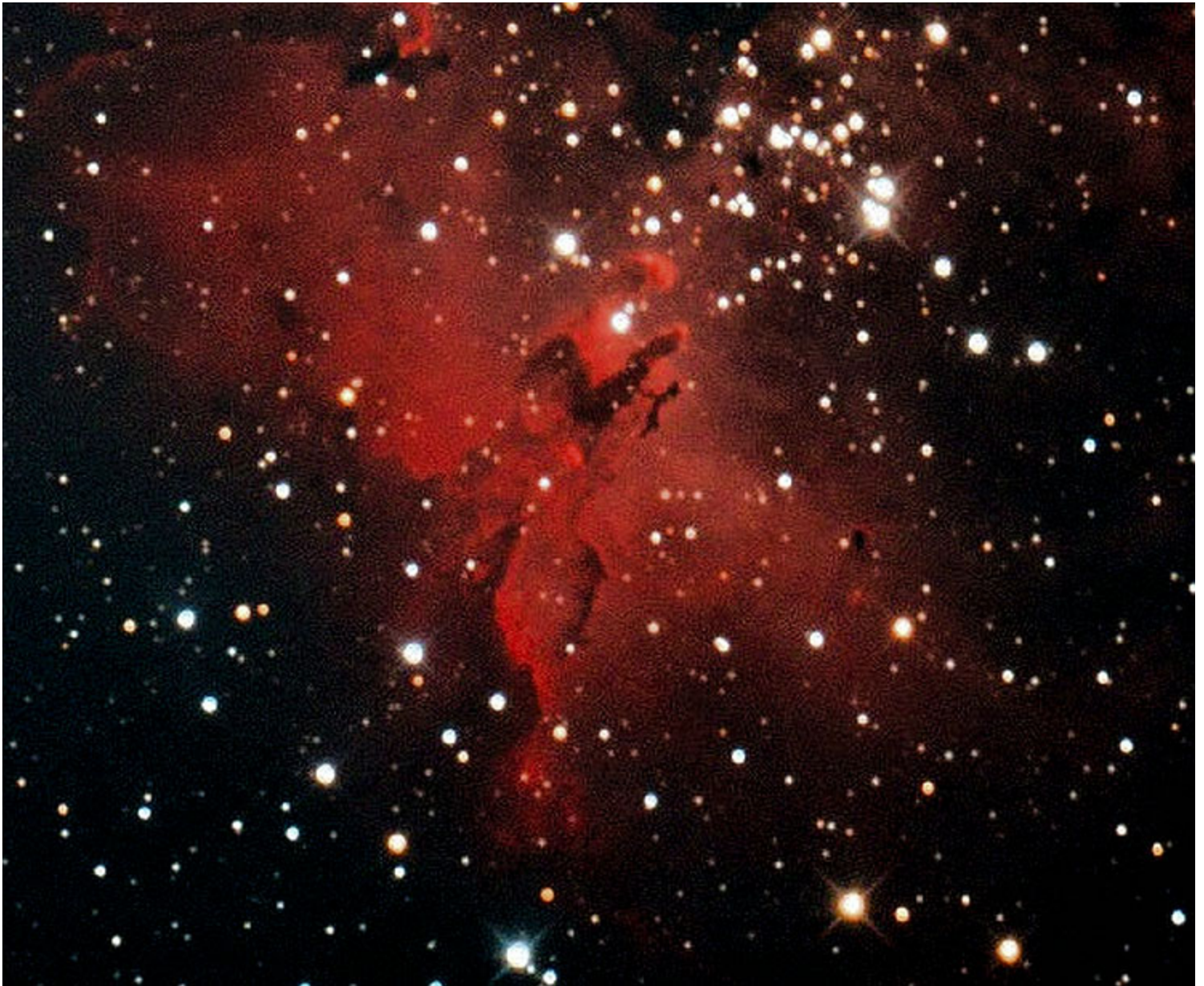


## Messier 8 by Richard Jakiel

This is M8, aka the Lagoon Nebula- an immense cloud of gas, dust and newborn stars located ~ 5000 LY from Earth. The dark rifts and knots are Bok Globules, dense clouds of dust and gas which are collapsing to form new star systems. The nebula glows via the output of UV radiation from bright blue giants that ionize the gas clouds.

Imaged at the Deerlick Astronomy Village, using a 6-inch Richey Cretien.

For more information on Messier 8 see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messier\\_8](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messier_8)



## **M16 (The Eagle Nebula – Pillars of Creation) in Serpens by Eugene Rush**

This image shows The Eagle Nebula which is part of a diffuse emission nebula in Serpens. The Hubble telescope produced the now famous images entitled “The Pillars of Creation.” My image was made using an 8-inch Ritchey-Chretien telescope with a ZWO ASI071MC pro camera. The image consists of twenty, 180-minute subs, one 300-minute sub and taken from Sharpsburg GA on June 8, 2024.

For more information see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eagle\\_Nebula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eagle_Nebula)





## Messier 10 by Richard Jakiel

This image shows the bright globular cluster M10 in Ophiuchus. Often overlooked in most observing and imaging lists, its a impressive cluster in a medium to larger sized telescope.

M10 is located 14,300 LY from Earth and has a diameter of 83 LY. Its stars are ancient, estimated to be 11.4 billion years old.

Richard took this image with a 6-inch RC from “suburbia”.

For more information on Messier 10 see:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messier\\_10](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messier_10)

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](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:** David 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

[Focalpoint@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Focalpoint@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

**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, [bhfessele1@gmail.com](mailto:bhfessele1@gmail.com)

**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:** Steve Siedentop

[director@ceastronomy.org](mailto:director@ceastronomy.org)

**Elliott Observing Supervisor:** Dennis Ruseski

[observing@ceastronomy.org](mailto:observing@ceastronomy.org)

**Elliott Recording Secretary:** Daniel de la Reza

[secretary@ceastronomy.org](mailto:secretary@ceastronomy.org)

**Elliott Program Coordinator:** Steve Siedentop

[program@ceastronomy.org](mailto:program@ceastronomy.org)

**Elliott Outreach Coordinator:** Marie Lott

[outreach@ceastronomy.org](mailto:outreach@ceastronomy.org)

**Elliott Astrophotography Coordinator:** Mike Mardis

**Elliott Chapter AL Liaison:** David Whalen

**Elliott Facilities Coordinator:** Matt Harvey

[facilities@CEastronomy.org](mailto:facilities@CEastronomy.org)

**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 Tresspass:** Ken Edwards, Contact info TBA

**Woodruff Observ. Coordinator:** Sharon Carruthers

[Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org](mailto:Treasurer@AtlantaAstronomy.org)

**AAC Webmaster:** Daniel Herron

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

### AAC Events are listed in BOLD

- June 27th, Thursday: Latest Sunset at Atlanta ~8:52PM.
- 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 6th, Saturday: **CE Chapter Meeting & Observing, 7:00PM**
- July 13th, Saturday: 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 2nd, Friday: Mercury, Venus near Regulus evening (in bright twilight).
- 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 14th, Wednesday: Mars near Jupiter morning.
- Aug 17th, Saturday: **AAC Meeting, 6:00PM.**
- Aug 19th, Monday: Full Moon.
- Aug 26th, Monday: Moon Last Quarter.
- Aug 27th, Tuesday: Moon near Mars & Jupiter morning.
- Sept 2nd, Monday: New Moon.

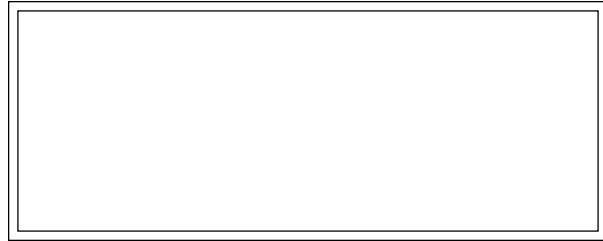
For more event listings and updates see the calendar at [www.atlantaastronomy.org](http://www.atlantaastronomy.org)

### 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](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 August is Saturday, July 27. Submissions received after the deadline will go in the following issue.**



FIRST CLASS



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



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](http://www.atlantaastronomy.org)

On Twitter at <http://twitter.com/atlastro>



*The Focal Point*