

MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK

Of The



A Guide to The Atlanta Astronomy Club's Locations, Policies, By-Laws and Other Information. Please read and keep as a future reference.

The Purpose of the Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc. shall be
 Educational, Literary, Scientific,
 And especially to promote
 The public knowledge of, and interest in astronomy

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|---|----|
| AAC Articles of Incorporation..... | 13 |
| The Astronomical League (The AL)..... | 7 |
| The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc (Overview)..... | 3 |
| By-Laws of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc..... | 14 |
| Boy Scout Memorandum of Understanding..... | 16 |
| Charlie Elliot Astronomy (CEA)..... | 6 |
| Dark Sky Etiquette..... | 9 |
| Magazine & Book Discounts..... | 7 |
| Meetings - AAC & CEA..... | 5 |
| Membership and Dues Structure..... | 4 |
| Message Groups..... | 6 |
| The Night Sky Network (NSN)..... | 7 |
| Newsletter – <i>The Focal Point</i> | 4 |
| Observing Locations – Deerlick Astronomy Village..... | 10 |
| Observing Locations – Charlie Elliott Astronomy..... | 11 |
| Observing Locations – Woodruff BSC/ Calder Observatory..... | 12 |
| Club Organization..... | 5 |
| Payment Options..... | 4 |
| Star Parties - The Peach State Star Gaze (PSSG) & the Zombie..... | 8 |
| Website & Contacting the AAC..... | 4 |
| Woodruff Boy Scout Camp R&HH..... | 19 |

We ask that you take time to read this Handbook. It will answer many of
 The questions you may have about the Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.
 Please, keep it for future reference.

Edited December 2020

The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc

The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc was founded in 1947 by Dr. William Calder, who came from the Harvard College Observatory to head the Astronomy and Physics Department at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. He was put in charge of building the Delafield Planetarium and the Bradley Observatory at the college, including the purchase and installation of the 30" Beck reflecting telescope. In 1947, Dr Calder presented a series of public lectures and from the attendees, he founded the Atlanta Astronomy Club (The AAC) to promote the collaboration of professional and amateur astronomers, and to provide a venue for non-professionals to share their interests. Today, it is one of the largest organizations of beginner and amateur astronomers in the South Eastern United States.

The AAC incorporated in 1963 as a nonprofit organization. It is educational, literary, and scientific in nature, and is dedicated especially to promoting the public knowledge of and interest in astronomy.

Our membership comes from all walks of life - career professionals, stay-at-home parents, students, and senior citizens – and from all age groups. As their interests range from astronomy education to personal observing, the AAC serves its members by offering a variety of programs. Every month we schedule a General Meeting and a "Dark Sky" event.

At the General Meeting, Club business and announcements are briefly discussed and the best of amateur and professional speakers are invited to talk.

The "Dark Sky" event is scheduled on the New Moon weekend, so that observers can have an opportunity to pursue their own observing agendas.

East of Atlanta, we have a chapter, Charlie Elliott Astronomy (CEA), which holds a meeting on the New Moon weekend every month, followed by observing on the adjacent astronomy field.

Since 1993, the AAC has hosted an annual star party in the Fall, called The Peach State Star Gaze (The PSSG). We also host a 3 day, no frills "mini" star party in the spring, called The Zombie Party.

Observers can be roughly split into the "Shallow Sky Observers", who are interested in observing the objects within the Solar System (Sun, Moon, planets, asteroids, comets, etc.); and "Deep Sky Observers", who hunt down and observe objects outside the Solar System (nebulae, galaxies, stars, etc.). Anyone who observes from dusk to dawn can officially call themselves a "Zombie".

While most of our members are pure hobbyists, some have pursued serious work and made major scientific discoveries.

Peter Herdvary, a Hungarian born geologist and AAC member, had a lunar crater named for him by the International Astronomical Union, in recognition of his work as an amateur astronomer.

Ken Poshedly, founder of the PSSG and editor of the *"The Strolling Astronomer"*, the journal of the Association of Lunar & Planetary Observers had an asteroid named in his honor.

In 1994, AAC members Jerry Armstrong and Tim Puckett discovered a supernova in the Whirlpool Galaxy (Messier object M51). Since then, Club members Alex Langoussis and Tom Crowley have assisted Tim Puckett in his supernovae searches and have dozens of finds to their credit.

Membership and Dues Structure

Dues are set by the Board of Directors (as specified in the bylaws). Memberships are for one year and are payable on the **Vernal Equinox** each year (around March 21st). New members pay for one year, and in March, if you re-new your membership, you can pay the pro-rated difference to bring you in line with the other Club members. You may pay as many years in advance as you wish.

There are four classes of memberships:

Individual/Family..... \$30

Student..... \$15

(A student member is anyone, of any age, who is enrolled full time in a public, private or home school.)

Lifetime..... \$600

(Lifetime membership = 20 years X current individual dues rate - 1/3 of total past memberships paid)

Honorary Life: Permanent

(Lifetime membership given to those who the Board deems worthy of the distinction.)

Payment Options

Membership dues, magazine subscriptions, donations, PSSG registrations, etc can be paid using Cash, Check, Credit Card or PayPal.

To pay using PayPal, click on the "Membership" tab on our website and submit payment to either:

AACDues@AtlantaAstronomy.org for dues, magazines, donations, etc; you can post a comment to specify how you want your payment to be disbursed).

PSSG@AtlantaAstronomy.org for PSSG payments.

The AAC accepts credit cards payments using a cell phone card reader; however pre-arrangements must be made with the Treasurer as the card reader may not be available at every event.

The Club Newsletter - *The Focal Point*

The Focal Point is the monthly newsletter of the Club. The current issue is usually posted on the AAC's website in the first week of the month.

In addition to informative articles by fellow members, news and facts about the Club, *The Focal Point* lists upcoming events, Club Officers and contact information.

Past and current issues of *The Focal Point* are available on the Club website, in PDF format, for those wishing to read it online or print out a copy. The editor welcomes submissions of articles, photos, etc from Club members. Send them to: fpeditor@AtlantaAstronomy.org.

Website & Contacting the AAC

www.AtlantaAstronomy.Org

The AAC website offers a Club calendar of upcoming events (meetings, observing sessions and background data), Club contacts, membership info and an application form; hotlinks to other astronomical websites; weather and Dark Sky updates for our observing sites, and many other features.

AAC & CEA Meetings

The AAC holds General Program Meetings, which are open to all members and the general public; Board meetings, which are open to all AAC members; and Committee meetings, which are open to all interested members. Meetings are announced in the Club's monthly newsletter, *The Focal Point*, on our website and on the AAC Listserv.

The AAC General Meetings are held at Fernbank Science Center (NB: NOT the Fernbank Museum of Natural History) on the 3rd Saturday of the month. There are no meetings in the summer months of June, July & August.

The Fernbank Science Center is owned by the DeKalb County Board of Education. It houses a planetarium and an observatory with a 32" reflecting telescope, and offers regularly scheduled public programs. There is no admission charge to the FSC (though donations are accepted), but there is for the planetarium programs. The AAC and Fernbank Science Center have worked closely together to bring many high-profile astronomy speakers and programs to the public. AAC members often assist Fernbank by bringing their telescopes to public Open Houses.

Fernbank Science Center and Observatory, 156 Heaton Park Drive, Atlanta www.fernbank.edu Ph 404-378-4311

The Charlie Elliott Astronomy (CEA) Chapter holds a monthly meeting (generally 2 hours before sunset), followed by observing, on New Moon weekends at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center.

CEWC, 543 Elliott Trail, Mansfield, GA 30055. Ph. 770-784-3059 <https://georgiawildlife.com/CharlieElliott>

As special circumstances may sometimes move the time and/or place of the meeting, we strongly suggest that you always check for changes before you go.

Club Organization

The Atlanta Astronomy Club is an all-volunteer organization. It is run by a Board composed of ten elected members – six Executive officers and four Board members. Elections are held at the May General Meeting. Anyone who has been a member of the AAC for a minimum of six months and is a member in good standing can run for a Board position. Non-elected Chairs are appointed by the President to run various committees.

Officers (elected)

President - presides at all meetings as described in the club's bylaws.

Program Chairman (First Vice President) - secures speakers for the club's program meetings and arranges special meetings, (banquets, holiday pot-luck).

Observing Chairman (Second Vice President) – arranges the Club's observing and training activities, and maintains the observing sites

Treasurer - handles the membership files and the financial matters of the club.

Recording Secretary - maintains official proceedings of the club's program and board meetings.

Corresponding Secretary - publishes the Club's monthly newsletter, *The Focal Point*; and handles incoming and outgoing correspondence

Board of Directors - sets policy for the club.

Committee Chairs (appointed by the President)

AAC Webmaster - maintains the club's site on the World Wide Web.

Light Pollution - responsible for keeping the club informed about light trespass events, including legislation, new construction, etc.

Sidewalk Astronomy - this committee works with outside groups such as schools, churches, homeowners groups, etc., to arrange for public observing sessions and talks about amateur astronomy and the Atlanta Astronomy club.

All of our Committees welcome new members to join and help out with their events and activities. Contact the

Chairs or Committee heads for more information and upcoming events or meetings. Their e-mail addresses and/or phone numbers are in *The Focal Point*, our monthly newsletter or on the Club's website:
www.AtlantaAstronomy.org

Charlie Elliot Astronomy (CEA)

<http://ceastronomy.org/blog/home>

In 2000, the CEA Chapter was formed, based out of the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Area (CEWMA) near Mansfield, GA. Members of the CE Chapter pay their dues to the parent Club, the AAC, and are full members of the AAC with all the privileges.

The CE Chapter has its own By-Laws, its own Board, composed the elected positions of Chapter Chair, Secretary, and Observing Chair, and sets its own schedule of meetings and events. Members of the AAC may participate in all events and activities of the CE Chapter. However, only those living within the geographic boundaries set out in the CE Chapter By-laws may run for and serve on the Chapter's Board.

The CEA holds monthly meeting on the New Moon weekend, followed by observing.

AAC & PSSG Message Groups

The AAC has a group message board that is run by AAC members for the benefit of both AAC members & interested non-members.

Subscribers can post messages or questions about various astronomy and Club related topics; arrange informal meet-ups with others observers; and get information about Club activities, such as meetings or observing events.

Participants have to request membership to this group & be approved by the group moderators.

The message group address is: AtlantaAstronomyClub@groups.io.

To join the: AtlantaAstronomyClub@groups.io, use one of these methods:

1) Use "Envelope" icon on AAC website homepage to go to: <https://groups.io/g/AtlantaAstronomyClub>

2) Enter into your browser's address bar: <https://groups.io/g/AtlantaAstronomyClub>

On the page that comes up, click on: AtlantaAstronomyClub@groups.io

The Message Group home page will display:

- Post: AtlantaAstronomyClub@groups.io
- Subscribe: AtlantaAstronomyClub+subscribe@groups.io
- Unsubscribe: AtlantaAstronomyClub+unsubscribe@groups.io
- Group Owner: AtlantaAstronomyClub+owner@groups.io
- Help: AtlantaAstronomyClub+help@groups.io

Click on: **Subscribe:** AtlantaAstronomyClub+subscribe@groups.io

3) Enter into your browser's address bar: **Groups.io**

Search for **Atlanta Astronomy Club** in search bar on page.

Click on: **Atlanta Astronomy Club** to join that group

Click on either: **Subscribe:** AtlantaAstronomyClub+subscribe@groups.io

OR the bar with **+Apply for membership in this group**

Your request will have to be approved by the site moderator(s), which may take a few days.

The PSSG Message Group- The Peach State Star Gaze (PSSG) is the AAC's annual star party held in the fall at The DeerLick Astronomy Village (The DAV) near Sharon, GA in Taliaferro County. The PSSG features seven nights of stargazing, speakers and workshops. The PSSG Message Board is used to post information and discussion about the PSSG.

To join the PSSG@groups.io: Click on the PSSG logo on the upper right of the AAC website homepage. It will take you to the PSSG page. Enter your e-mail address in the subscribe box on the page.

Your request will have to be approved by the site moderator(s), which may take a few days.

Magazine & Book Discounts

Your membership in the AAC entitles you to discounts from the most prestigious astronomical publishers. **Sky & Telescope** and **Astronomy** magazines can be ordered through the Club Treasurer at approximately 25% off the cover price (contact the Treasurer or see *The Focal Point* for the exact amount). If you are a current subscriber, just send your renewal notice along with the discounted payment amount to the Treasurer to renew your subscription at the club rate. Current subscriptions cannot be discounted and subscriptions are available in only one-year intervals.

Club members can renew their **Sky & Telescope** subscriptions by remitting payment directly to them (information is on the renewal notice they send you). **Astronomy** can **only** be renewed through the Club. Sky Publishing, Corporation offers a 10% discount on their catalogue of books and atlases, *if you also subscribe to their magazine*. Contact their customer service department directly at 1-800-253-0245 or www.skypub.com and tell them you are a member of the Atlanta Astronomy Club.

The Astronomical League (The AL)

Your AAC membership also includes membership in The Astronomical League, an umbrella organization of amateur astronomy clubs. (<https://www.astroleague.org/>). Membership includes a subscription to their quarterly newsletter. **The Reflector**, low-priced observing guides; and free certificates and pins for completion of their observing lists. The **AL Book Service** sells any astronomical book in print at 10% off the retail price (no S&H). For more information, go to: <https://www.astroleague.org/al/bookserv/bookserv.html> Their book sales representative as of January 2020 is: Marilyn Unruh, 324 Gurley St., Prescott AZ 86301; phone 928-778-2130; e-mail: marilyn@booknookprescott.com

The Night Sky Network (NSN)

The Night Sky Network is an organization started by NASA/JPL to provide services to amateur astronomy clubs and their members. It provides educational seminars, videos, posters and kits to participant clubs; and also an event calendar, a membership roster page and bulk e-mailing capabilities.

When you join the AAC, you are registered on the NSN as a Club member within two weeks of joining. You will be sent an e-mail from the AAC through them with an assigned user id and password. You can log-on and change your password and edit your information. The Club uses the NSN primarily to maintain a calendar of events (which is posted on our website) and to bulk e-mail Club members about up-coming events and other announcements, such as dues renewal reminders.

If you do not wish to receive the event notifications, you can log into the site and reset your preferences.



Star Parties: The Peach State Star Gaze (PSSG) & "The Zombie"

Star parties are observing events that run for several nights (unlike Dark Sky events that are usually only Saturday night), often include other activities, such as workshops and/or speakers and have registration and/or camping fees. Proceeds are used as a fund-raiser for the Club.

The Peach State Star Gaze (PSSG) is the AAC's annual star party, started by Ken Poshedly in 1993, as a fund-raiser for the purchase and development of a permanent dark sky site. The PSSG is now a week-long event held in the fall, featuring guest speakers, vendors, observing and lots of camaraderie amongst amateur astronomers.

The PSSG has been held on Grier's Field at the DAV since 2006.

Information and registration forms are available, prior to the event, on the AAC website:

<http://www.atlantaastronomy.org> - click on the "PSSG" tab on the top or go to:

<http://www.atlantaastronomy.org/PSSG/>

The Zombie is a 3 night (Thursday, Friday & Saturday), low cost (usually \$15/night), "mini" no-frills star-party held at the DAV in the spring. No speakers, or workshops are offered – just lots of observing with lots of fine, friendly amateur astronomers.

It is a good opportunity for beginners to experience their first star party. Information is posted in the *Focal Point*, on the AAC website and on the Groups message board prior to the event.

Dark Sky Etiquette

Good, dark skies are a rare and precious commodity to astronomers. Most of the objects we wish to observe are faint gray fuzzy patches on a darker gray sky; and it takes ½ hour for our eyes to become dark-adapted. So we have some strict observing rules to protect the “eyes & skies” during our Dark Sky events (which are held during the New Moon nights, when the skies are the darkest).

NB These rules DO NOT apply to public/orientation/new member events – these are usually scheduled on non New Moon nights and we prefer safety to darkness.

No White Lights. No Bright Red Lights; As it takes the human eye over 30 minutes to get fully adapted to the dark, any light can ruin an observer’s night vision and start the adjustment cycle over from scratch. Bright lights are particularly harmful to astrophotography.

When on the field, use red lights. LCD flashlights are very popular; or you can cover the end of an ordinary flashlight with red brake light tape.

Turn off ALL automobile lights before entering the observatory field: Headlights sweeping the field are an obvious nuisance; but bright red back-up lights can also ruin night vision, as can dome lights, map lights, trunk lights, door lights, etc. Cover them with brake light tape, or remove the bulbs or fuses.

In general, dark sky events are scheduled so attendees can stay all night. So you are expected to set up before dark and stay until dawn. If you wish to leave earlier, you must park so that you do not disturb the other observers when you leave. If possible, drive off the field with your lights off – ask someone to guide you safely off the field.

Watch Your Step: Familiarize yourself with the grounds before dark and walk with care. Dark sky sites are usually not the most neatly groomed fields! Watch for the steps up into buildings; and for power cords, eyepiece cases, ladder legs, etc that get set up around the observing field. Not only could you hurt yourself but you may also damage some very expensive equipment.

KIDS - No Running!!! No Horseplay!! around the scopes or on the field.

If You Don’t Know, Ask: Don’t be afraid to ask questions. If you need help with your own or Club equipment, please ask someone for help. If you want to know about someone else’s equipment, just ask them. Most people love bragging about their “toys”. Most members are very generous about letting you take a peek through their scopes – but PLEASE ask before you touch!

If You Get it Out, Put it Away: If you open up any building, or take out any equipment, you are responsible for putting it away, unless you make arrangements for another member to do so. Because we pack up in the dark, people may not notice an item you took out when they close up the site. The last person to leave a Club site should make certain that the power is turned off, doors are locked, roofs rolled back in place, equipment is put away, garbage is removed or stowed, etc.

Report Missing or Damaged Equipment Promptly: If you experience any problems with the observatory or any of its equipment, notify The Observing Chair, site chair or another officer as soon as possible.

Be Considerate: Let other members have a look, especially with telescopes that belong to the club.

Please Keep the Grounds Clean: Pick up all trash (even if its not yours).

**Remember, Club Equipment and Property are YOURS –
Take care of it like it is YOUR OWN!**

Observing Locations

Scheduled observing sessions are held on one or two weekends each month, based on the phases of the Moon and/or special astronomical events. These will be posted in the *Focal Point*, on the website calendar or check with the Observing Chairman (Second Vice President) for more information.

Members often go observing ‘solo’ or get together for informal observing sessions, which they often post on the AAC ListServ, if they are looking for company.

The Club owns several telescopes at DAV and CEA. The equipment is available to all Club members, but you have to meet our training requirements in order to use it.

If you note a problem with the site or the equipment, please contact the Observing Chair, the site Co-ordinator or any Board member A.S.A.P.

The AAC has three primary observing sites: The DeerLick Astronomy Village (DAV).
 Charlie Elliot Astronomy(CEA)
 The Calder Observatory (Woodruff)

The Walter F. Barber, Jr., Observatory (Villa Rica - VR) - was permanently closed in 2016 due to light pollution and encroaching residential developments around the site.

The DeerLick Astronomy Village (DAV) www.DeerLickGroup.com

The DAV is not open to the public.

AAC members and their guests may use the AAC property with no charge, and are welcome to use the DAV property & facilities, however, you must pay their camping fee if you do.

All other users must make arrangements with the DAV to use the site.

The DeerLick Astronomy Village is a 97 acre privately owned astronomy village with privately owned lots at the southern end and a 10 acre observing field (Grier’s Field) at the north end. It has bathrooms with showers and flush toilets; a warm-up shed with electricity; power on the field and a picnic pavilion. The DAV is home to our annual Zombie Party (held in the spring) and Peach State Star Gaze (held in the fall).

The AAC owns a 1½ acre lot on Grier’s Field purchased as its primary, permanent Dark Sky site. The Club has a 20’ x 40’ warm-up building with electricity but no water (water is available on the DLG property), and an observatory under construction. Members may use the Club property free of charge at any time – contact the Club Treasurer for the lock combinations.

The DLG has an annual membership fee and a nightly camping fee to use their property and facilities. There is no fee if you stay on AAC property.

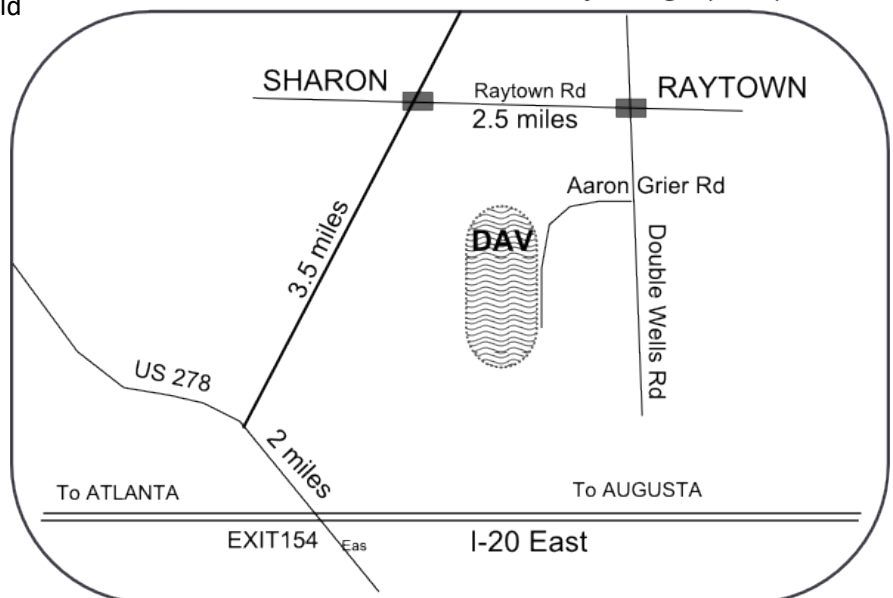
However, if you wish use the DLG field or facilities (such as the bathrooms or their observing pads, etc), you will be required to pay the nightly camping fee to them

(a drop box is located on their warm-up building). The camping fee is discounted for DLG members, so it may be worthwhile to buy a field membership from the DLG if you go there often.

Go to the DAV website and click on the “DAV Membership” tab:

<http://www.deerlickgroup.com/DavMembership.php>

Directions to the DeerLick Astronomy Village (DAV)



The Charlie Elliott Astronomy (CEA)

Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, 543 Elliott Trail, Mansfield, GA (770) 784-3059

In 2000, the CEWMA Chapter of the Atlanta Astronomy Club was formed, based out of the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Area (CEWMA) near Mansfield, GA. Members of the CE Chapter pay their dues to the parent Club, the AAC, and are full members of the AAC with all the privileges. The CE Chapter has its own By-Laws, its own Board, composed the elected positions of Chapter Chair, Secretary, and Observing Chair, and sets its own schedule of meetings and events.

AAC may participate in all events and activities of the CE Chapter. However, only those living within the geographic boundaries set out in the CE Chapter By-laws may run for and serve on the Chapter's Board.

The Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Area is a nature preserve near Mansfield (east of Atlanta, south of I-20). They have set aside a field for observing; and permit the AAC to hold the CE Chapter meetings at the Wildlife Center. The only permanent structure on the field is a storage shed for the Chapter's equipment.

Meetings are usually held in the Wildlife Center on New Moon weekends, followed by an observing session on the field. The washrooms are left open for use of the observers on meeting nights. No washroom facilities are available at other times or on the field.

There are two gates at the field entrance. The CEWMA controls the lock on one gate; both CEWMA and CEA control the lock on the second gate. Members of the AAC should contact the CEA Director or Observing Director to get the code to the lock.

The Chapter and CEWMA ask that you sign in the log located in the mailbox on the observing field when you use the field.

CEWMA has several primitive, no reservations and no fees campsites away from the field.

SLEEPING TENTS ARE PERMITTED ONLY IN THE DESIGNATED CAMPSITES, NOT ON THE FIELD.
OBSERVING TENTS ARE PERMITTED ON THE OBSERVING FIELD

Directions

Take I-20 East to Exit 98, the Mansfield exit.

Turn right onto State Highway 11 and drive through Mansfield.

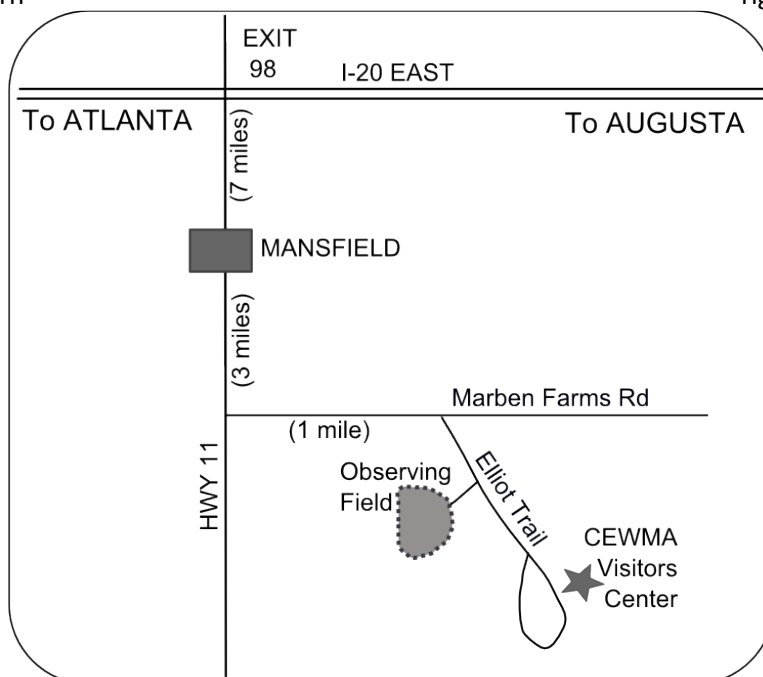
A mile after the RR tracks, turn left onto Marben Farm Road and drive for one mile.

Turn right onto Elliott Trail and drive for a ¼ mile.

Turn

right onto grass/ gravel driveway and proceed up hill to an open field. This is the observing field.

Continue to the end of Elliott Trail to reach the Wildlife Center.



William Calder Observatory (Woodruff BSC)

31 Woodruff Drive, Blairsville, GA 30512 Ph: 770-956-5687 woodruff@Atlantabsa.org

The Calder Observatory, a dark sky observing site, is located at the Woodruff Boy Scout Camp, east of Blue Ridge, GA and is named in honor of our club's founder Dr William A. Calder. The observatory building was funded by the Atlanta Astronomy Club and is located on Beaver Field, in the back of the Woodruff property.

This is the first time in the history of the American Boy Scouts that an outside organization has been given free access to their property. In return, the AAC runs an educational program during their summer camp program. We ask that Club members volunteer to help with this program.

The Calder Observatory has a microwave, chairs, propane heater, and folding cots. In front of it is a 20'X20' concrete pad; and to the sides are 3 piers and, on the field, are four cement pads for small scopes. The site has two port-a-potties. Bring water!

Requirements to use Woodruff

Woodruff is owned by the Boy Scouts and is **not open to the public!** Any AAC member or Scout, or their guests, can use the field. A non-AAC member cannot use any AAC equipment on site unless they join the AAC and have met our training requirements. AAC members must sign the Boy Scouts Release & Hold Harmless Agreement (in the back of the Handbook or available at <http://www.atlantaastronomy.org>); and follow the rules for those on Scout property (**NO drugs or alcoholic beverages are permitted**). AAC members who are not also Scouts should stay within the boundaries of Beaver Field unless invited to other areas of the Camp by the Scouts.

Send the Release & Hold Harmless Agreement to:

The AAC
Attn: Treasurer
422 Constellation Lane,
CRAWFORDVILLE, GA 30631

and we will give you the combination to the lock on the doorknob of the Calder Observatory, which has a key to the building and the gate. You may request a copy of the keys from the Treasurer if you go there frequently. You may use Woodruff at any time. We can camp on the field. Please sign in the log inside the warm-up shed. If you plan to go to Woodruff, it is advisable to contact the Rangers before you go up (occasionally, they have closed the camp for a few days and don't permit people on site).

Directions to the Observing Field at Woodruff

PLEASE OBSERVE THE SPEED LIMITS FOR THE SAFETY OF THE SCOUTS!!

Take I75 to I575 to GA 515. Follow 515 through Ellijay and Blue Ridge. Go 2.2 miles past the intersection of 515 and GA 60. Take a left on Loving Road, and follow it until it ends. Turn right on GA 325 and go about 50 yards to Boy Scout Road. Turn right again. The entrance to the Scout Camp is about 2.5 miles on the right. Take the main entrance road (Turner Gap Rd.) and follow it past the lake (on your left). The road is paved until the ranger's house (on the left). Pass the house and turn left at the first road (a dirt road). Drive about a half mile until the road becomes overgrown. On the right is a road with a gate that might be padlocked. Go up this road, it will curve to the right and you will see a cabin on the left. Continue up this road, at the end it opens to the right at the Beaver Field. You will see the observatory building in middle of the field at the north edge. The gate will be open for planned Club events. At other times, you may need the key. (The gate was damaged several years ago and is not usually locked because the posts became misaligned.)

**ORDER OF COURT CHARTERING AND INCORPORATING
THE "ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC."-**

The foregoing petition for the incorporation of the Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc., has been carefully read and considered. It is found to be legitimately within the purview and intention of the laws of this State and to meet all the requirements of law for a non-profit, non-stock, educational, literary and social organization. A certificate having been presented to me from the Secretary of State declaring that the name of the proposed Corporation is not the same of any other then-existing corporation registered in the records of the Secretary of State, the petition is granted as mentioned and sought, and petitioners are hereby chartered and incorporated as prayed for a period of thirty-five years under the name and style of "ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC." with all of the rights, powers, privileges, and immunities, which now are or hereafter may be allowed by law to like corporations not organized for profit.

This the 24th day of October, 1963.

(signed) Claude D. Shaw

Judge, Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit

I, Ben W. Fortson, Jr., Secretary of the State of Georgia, do hereby certify that the ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC. was on the 24th day of October, 1963, duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia by the Superior Court of Fulton County for a period of Thirty-five years from said date, in accordance with the certified copy hereto attached, and that a certified copy of the charter of said corporation has been duly filed in the office of the Secretary of State and the fees therefore paid, as provided by law. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of office, at the Capitol, in the City of Atlanta, this 24th day of October in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Three and of the Independence of the United States of America the One Hundred and Eighty eighth.

The (signed) Ben W. Fortson, Jr.

Secretary of State, Ex-Officio Corporation

Commissioner of the State of Georgia

Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc Articles of Incorporation

While the following documents indicate an incorporation period of 35 years, all incorporations were made permanent by the Georgia legislature in 1969, unless specifically stated otherwise in the petition itself. That part of the Georgia Code (Section 14-2-302) is quoted in part below:

"Every corporation has perpetual duration and succession in its corporate name, unless its articles of incorporation adopted on or after April 1, 1969, or an amendment thereto adopted on or after April 1, 1969 provides otherwise."

TO THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA:

The petition of Harold W. Stephens, 19 Alden Avenue, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia; Chandler H. Holton, 830 Drewry Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia; Mrs. J.L. Brown, 1676 Moores Mill Road, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia; Mrs. Tom O. Fleming, 93 Howard Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia; Leonard Abbey, Box 22236, Emory University, Georgia; J.L. Brown, 1676 Moores Mill Road, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia; W.H. Close, 225 Forkner Drive, Decatur, Georgia; E. Fried, 1510 Loch Lomond Trail, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia; Howard J. Landis, 2395 Woodhill Lane, East point, Georgia; Frazier Owen, 5400 Lake Forest Drive, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia; and Douglas A. Head, 3650 Habersham Road, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia, respectfully shows to the Court the following facts, to wit:

1. Petitioners desire for themselves, their associates, successors, and assigns to be chartered and incorporated under the Acts of 1889, pages 160 et seq., and the Code of Georgia of 1933 as amended. Section 22-1881, as a nonprofit corporation and an educational, social and literary society, with all of the privileges and immunities now or hereafter granted by law to such corporations, under the name ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC., for a term of 35 years.
2. The purposes of this Corporation are literary, social and educational, with emphasis upon astronomy, the stud

y of the stars, planets, space, the heavenly bodies and laws, and particularly to educate the younger generation in observing the wonders of astronomy in a space age.

3. This Corporation is not organized for any individual's profit, though the Corporation may buy and sell for the sole purpose of furthering its activities within the scope mentioned in this charter.

4. The principal offices of the Corporation shall be at 1203 Healey Building, Atlanta, and in the Agnes Scott College Astronomical Observatory, Decatur, Georgia, with the right to change such offices at will by vote of the Board of Directors. The Corporation may organize and conduct branches, including a junior club or clubs, who shall have the privileges of having their own officers and by-laws not inconsistent with the charter and by-laws of this Corporation.

WHEREFORE, petitioners pray that they, their successors and assigns be granted a charter and incorporated as a non-profit, non-stock, educational, literary and social corporation, with the name ATLANTA ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC., for a period of 35 years, with the right of renewal, and with all of the rights, powers, privileges and immunities now or hereafter granted and permitted by law to like corporations.

Respectfully submitted, (signed and printed)

Hugh G. Head, Jr.
Attorney-at-Law, for petitioners
1203 Healey Building, Atlanta 3, Georgia

By-Laws of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc., and it shall operate in no other style or name.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

Section 1. The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc., shall be a non-profit organization.

Section 2. The purposes of the Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc. shall be educational, literary, scientific, and especially to promote the public knowledge of, and interest in astronomy.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS

Section 1. Monthly meetings shall be held at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Second Vice President - Observatory Chairman shall be responsible for scheduling monthly observing sessions, weather permitting, for each of the twelve months of the year.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership is open upon payment of appropriate dues to anyone without regard to age, race, sex, nationality, creed, or minority status. The classes of membership shall be set by majority vote of the Board of Directors, provided at least six Board members are present.

ARTICLE V: DUES

Section 1. Dues shall be set by majority vote of the Board of Directors, provided at least six Board members are present.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc., shall be: President, First Vice President, Program Chairman, Second Vice President, Observatory Chairman, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer

Section 2. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee at the March meeting. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of nominees for presentation to the membership at the April meeting. slate shall be published in the issue of the newsletter mailed to the membership between the April and May meetings. Nominations may also be made by any member in good standing, including nominations from the floor. Nominees must be members in good standing, and must have agreed to serve if elected.

Section 3. The election shall be conducted at the May meeting either by a show of hands or by secret ballot. The nominees shall be elected to office by a majority vote of those members in good standing present, provided not less than twenty- five members are present. Elections shall not be held at meetings for which payment of any

kind is suggested.

Section 4. The officers shall assume their duties at the close of the May meeting. Any vacancy in midterm shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at general meetings, meetings of the officers and special meetings of the membership called by the President or Chairman of the Board of Directors. The President shall be responsible for the administration of Club affairs. He shall establish all committees and shall appoint the chairmen of such committees other than the Program and Observatory Committees. The President shall be ex-officio member of all committees with the power to vote. He shall appoint a presiding officer to serve in his absence at general membership or other meetings if the First or Second Vice Presidents cannot do so. The President may call a meeting of the officers when necessary to coordinate the execution of policy decisions made by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The First Vice President shall preside at meetings if the President cannot do so. The First Vice President shall succeed to the presidency if that office is vacated. He shall be in charge of planning programs and securing speakers for general meetings. He may act alone or select a committee to aid him.

Section 3. The Second Vice President shall preside at meetings if the President or First Vice President cannot do so. He shall be responsible for scheduling monthly observing sessions throughout the year and training members for the use of the Club-owned telescopes and observing equipment.

Section 4. The Recording Secretary shall take minutes at all general, officers' and Board of Directors' meetings and shall prepare them in writing for approval at the next session of the respective bodies. After the approval of the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings, an abbreviated report of the Board's decisions shall be prepared by the Recording Secretary for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Section 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall prepare and mail the newsletter to the membership each month. It shall contain an announcement of the next meeting together with other material at his discretion or as required by the Board of Directors. The Corresponding Secretary shall distribute the annual membership list in the fall.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall be in charge of records of dues, all expenditures, disbursements of money; and of overall financial responsibilities of the Club. He is responsible for filing the Club's Income Taxes and paying the annual Georgia State Incorporation Fee. The Treasurer shall prepare the annual membership list to be distributed by the Corresponding Secretary.

ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the six Club officers and six non-officer Board Members. Three non-officer Board Members shall be elected annually, to serve a two year term, from slate provided by that year's Nominating Committee. At the close of the June meeting, or as soon thereafter as possible, the newly-installed President shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors, at which time the Chairman of the Board shall be elected.

Section 2. There must be at least two meetings each year of the Board of Directors, called by the Chairman. Members of the Board must be notified of meetings by mail, telephone, or verbally at least seven days in advance of the date of the meeting. In an emergency, if the Board cannot be assembled, the Chairman is empowered to act. A report of his actions, made under such circumstances, shall be presented for ratification to the full Board within sixty days.

Section 3. In the event that a vacancy is created in an officer's or Board member's position, the vacancy shall be filled by majority vote of the Board, providing at least six Board members are present.

Section 4. The Board of Directors may conduct business by majority vote, provided at least six Board members are present.

Section 5. The Board shall be responsible for the formulation of Club policy.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Club in good standing. The membership must be notified by mail at least ten days prior to a vote to amend these bylaws. Amendments will be adopted upon a majority vote of members present, provided not less than twenty-five members are present.

ARTICLE X: RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section 1. Votes of any kind on any matter must be made at a general or called meeting of the membership,

provided not less than twenty-five members are present.

Section 2. The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern Club proceedings except where in conflict with the charter or Bylaws of The Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc.

Adopted October 6, 1978.

Amended October 17, 1980.

Amended February 18, 1994

Amended March 16, 1996

Amended February 21, 1997 - Article VIII

Boy Scout Memorandum of Understanding

(Between the AAC of the Boy Scouts and the AAC in regards to the use of Woodruff)

The purpose of this Memorandum is to define the relationship between the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America (the Scouts), and the Atlanta Astronomy Club, Inc. (the Club) as it pertains to the establishment and operation of an astronomical observing facility to be built on the Woodruff Scout Reservation (Woodruff).

The skies above Woodruff are exceptionally dark, and the Club wishes to have the opportunity to observe there. The Club also has as one of its main goals the teaching of astronomy to promote an appreciation of the beauty of the night sky.

The members of the Club possess expertise in astronomy, and the Scouts wish to take advantage of that expertise to further their goal of teaching boys and adult leaders (Scouters) about astronomy, and instilling in them an appreciation for the beauty of nature.

The establishment of an astronomical observatory at Woodruff, and an agreement for its operation, as outlined in this Memorandum, will assist both groups in achieving their goals.

I. Facilities

The observing facility will be located at the Bee Field at Woodruff. The observing facility will consist of a 20 by 20 foot concrete slab connected by a walkway to a barn-like structure to be used as a warm up shed and for storing telescopes and other equipment. The Club will pay all of the costs associated with construction of the observing facility, and will keep at least one large telescope at the observatory.

The Club may authorize movement of its telescope(s) to any officially sanctioned Club function off of the Woodruff site, but the Woodruff Observatory will be the normal storage place for the telescope.

The Scouts will provide the observatory with infrastructure in the form of a campsite, a latrine, electricity, and running water. The Scouts will maintain the road to the Bee Field so that it is easily accessible by two wheel drive vehicles. A gate with a combination lock will be installed on Chestnut Gap Road to control vehicle access to the facility.

Temporary sanitation and camping facilities may be provided initially, but the Scouts will make a goodfaith effort to have permanent camping infrastructure installed by December 1, 2000.

Until the camping facilities are in place, the cabin located just south of the Bee Field will be made available "as is," with the water and power supplied by the Scouts, for sleeping and sanitation facilities.

Club members may elect to make repairs and improvements to the cabin, with the approval of the Scouts.

The Scouts may elect to utilize the cabin for other purposes, which may preclude use by astronomers at certain times.

II. Instructional Program

The Club will provide at least one astronomer with a large aperture telescope on at least one weeknight per week during camping season (June and July) for the purpose of teaching astronomy to Boy Scouts attending Summer Camp. Astronomers who are instructors will be required to become registered Scouters.

Housing (tents or cabin) will be provided for visiting astronomers. Meals will be provided for visiting astronomers who are present during normal meal serving times at Summer Camp. Additional astronomers may be supplied both during camping season and at other times, provided that a timely request is made to the Club, and personnel are available. The Club will schedule training sessions at Woodruff periodically so that individuals who are members of the Club may become certified in the use of the Club's equipment.

III. Access to Facilities

The observing facility will be located on Scout property. As such, Scouts and Scouters will be welcome to use the observing field for stargazing at any time. Other activities, which do not interfere with the astronomical use of the facility may also take place.

The camping facilities at the Bee Field will be available to Scouts and Scouters accompanied by an Atlanta Astronomy Club member. Reservations for astronomy-based campouts will be made both with the Ranger and with the Club's Scout Liaison Committee.

Club members will be welcome to use the observing field and/or cabin at any time, as long as they sign in upon arrival at the observing facility, and have signed the release described below. Club members may only use the Club's equipment if they are certified in its use. The Ranger at the reservation may require identification of any persons on the observing field or in the camping area. Club members who wish to bring more than two guests will contact the Club's Scout Liaison. Guests who are not registered Scouters must be accompanied by their sponsoring Club member at all times.

Scouts and Scouters may have access to the Club's equipment by joining the Atlanta Astronomy Club and becoming certified by the Club in the use of the equipment.

Only camp staff and Club members who have been certified on the use of the Club's equipment will be given the combination to the equipment building.

The Ranger will be provided with a list of Club members currently authorized to use the facility. The Ranger will have unlimited access to all facilities.

Events that involve large (more than 30 people) gatherings of astronomers will be scheduled at least two weeks in advance through the Club's Scout Liaison. During June and July, large gatherings will only be scheduled for Saturday nights, to minimize potential conflicts with Summer Camp activities.

Unless special arrangements are made at least 30 days in advance, the maximum number of Club members who are not registered Scouters using the facility at one time will not exceed 100 persons. Club members who are not registered Scouters will have access to the observing facility and associated camping facilities only. Club members who are registered Scouters will be afforded the same access to Woodruff facilities as are afforded to all registered Scouters.

13

IV. Rules of Conduct

Common courtesy will be expected of anyone using the facility. The Club and the Scouts will advise anyone wishing to use the facility of the following rules of conduct.

1. No white lights should be used on the observing field, except in emergencies.
2. Vehicles may be parked on the observing field, but no vehicles will be allowed (except for loading and unloading) in the camping area.
3. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed on the Woodruff Scout Reservation.
4. Only certified Club members may operate the Club's equipment.
5. All users of the facility must sign a visitor's log.
6. All users of the facility will adhere to the Scout's Outdoor Code, and will leave the site in the same or better condition than it was upon arrival.
7. All users of the facility agree to follow the applicable safety rules set forth in the "Guide to Safe Scouting" while on the Scout reservation. (Attached as Exhibit 1).
8. The Woodruff speed limit of 14 mph will be observed at all times. Drivers agree to exercise extreme caution, due to the presence of many pedestrians.
9. Neither the Scouts nor the Club assume any responsibility for injuries or other losses sustained by anyone using the facility. Users of the facility assume all risks associated with activities that necessarily take place in the dark and/or in the out-of-doors.

V. Ownership

All permanent structures and improvements to real property will become (or remain) the property of the Scouts.

All telescopes and other equipment supplied by the Club will remain the property of the Club.

VI. Security and Insurance.

Security at the facility will be provided by its remote location. Vehicle access, except during scheduled Club or Scout observing sessions, will be limited to those individuals who have the combination to the gate lock.

The Scouts will not be responsible for loss or damage to the Club's equipment. The Club will maintain liability insurance sufficient to meet National Scout risk management requirements.

Any Club member who wishes to use the facility at any time other than a scheduled Club event will be required to sign a document (attached as Exhibit 2) which states that the Club member agrees to:

1. abide by the Rules of Conduct set forth above,
 2. assume all risks for injury or loss of property,
 3. release the Scouts and the Club from any liability for personal injury or loss, or damage to property.
- The original release will be kept by the Club's Scout Liaison, and a copy will be provided to the Scouts.

VI. Amendment

This agreement may be amended with the consent of both the Scouts and the Club.

VII. Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either group upon 30 days written notice.

In the event that this Memorandum is terminated by the Scouts prior to December 31, 2003, the Scouts agree to reimburse the Club for 50% of the cost of constructing the observatory. The total cost to the Scouts in this event will not exceed \$2,500.

Exhibit 1 (13 Pages of Excerpts from Guide to Safe Scouting)

Page 4, Adult Leadership

Pages 14-18, Camping

Page 19, Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use and Abuse

Page 20, Emergency Preparedness

Page 21-22, First Aid

Page 23-24, Fuels and Fire Prevention

Page 44, Youth Protection and Child Abuse

Exhibit 2

Release and Hold Harmless Agreement form located on last page of this handbook.

WOODRUFF Boy Scout Camp (R&HH)

Release and Hold Harmless Agreement

In consideration of being allowed to use the observing and/or camping facilities located on the Woodruff Scout Reservation, I, _____ agree to the following:

I will abide by the following rules:

1. No white lights should be used on the observing field, except in emergencies.
 2. Vehicles may be parked on the observing field, but no vehicles will be allowed (except for loading and unloading) in the camping area.
 3. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed on the Woodruff Scout Reservation.
 4. Only certified Club members may operate the Club's equipment.
 5. All users of the facility must sign a visitor's log.
 6. All users of the facility will adhere to the Scout's Outdoor Code, and will leave the site in the same or better condition than it was upon arrival.
 7. The Woodruff speed limit of 14 mph will be observed at all times. Drivers agree to exercise extreme caution, due to the presence of many pedestrians.
 8. The Woodruff Camp Ranger is responsible for enforcing all rules on Scout Property.
- 2) I acknowledge that there are risks inherent in astronomical observing including injuries caused by falling, and that there are risks inherent in camping outdoors. I hereby agree to assume all of those risks.
- 3) I agree to hold the Boy Scouts, their employees, or any persons acting on their behalf, harmless for any accident or injury that may occur while I am on Scout property. I further agree to hold the Scouts harmless for any loss or damage to property that may occur while I am on Scout property.
- 4) I agree to hold the Atlanta Astronomy Club, its officers, or any persons acting on their behalf harmless for any accident or injury that may occur while I am on Scout property. I further agree to hold the Atlanta Astronomy Club harmless for any loss or damage to property that may occur while I am on Scout property.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please Print Name _____

Phone # or E-Mail Address _____

Mail the Release & Hold Harmless Agreement to:

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
Attn: Treasurer
422 Constellation Lane
CRAWFORDVILLE, GA 30631

