

Astrofiles

Auburn Astronomical Society E-Newsletter

October, 2009

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Events Calendar

We'll hold our October meeting on **Friday, October 2**, at **7:45PM**, [in room 215](#) of [Davis Hall, the Aerospace Engineering Building](#). The doors to the building automatically lock at 8:00PM, so if you're running late, rap on the door nearest our meeting room and we'll let you in. It's an away game weekend in Auburn, so it should be a little easier to find a parking space. **We'll have a special presentation by Tom McGowan on the most recent innovations to his truss-tube Dobsonian Midnight telescopes.** Tom has three of the 12.5-inch f/5 ready for delivery. He's bringing one of these to demonstrate the filter slide and adjustable altitude bearings. You won't want to miss this.

Riders from the Montgomery area are welcome to meet at the [home](#) of Russell Whigham, [518 Seminole Dr.](#), and carpool over to Auburn. Plan to be ready to leave for Auburn at 6:45PM.

Our new moon star party this month will be on **Saturday, October 17** at [Cliff Hill's farm](#) or , [Conecuh National Forest](#) , depending on how far you're willing to drive for dark skies.

October 02, October meeting, 7:45 PM, [in room 215](#) of [Davis Hall](#)

October 11– 18 [Peach State Star Gaze 2009](#) will be held at the Deerlick Astronomy Village

October 14– 18 [DSRSG](#) Wednesday, at [The Feliciana Retreat Center](#), in Norwood, LA

October 17, [Cliff Hill's farm](#) or [Conecuh National Forest](#) star party

November 06, **Normal first Friday meeting changed** to 11/13 because of home football game

November 13, November meeting, 7:45 PM, [in room 215](#) of [Davis Hall](#)

November 14, Star party at [Cliff Hill's farm](#)

November 21, Public stargaze from 7-10 p.m, Mary Olive Thomas Demonstration Forest

December 4, December meeting, 7:45 PM, [in room 215](#) of [Davis Hall](#)

Member News

Ray Kunert has added a TOA-130 Takahashi refractor, with the new Ortho-Apochromat to his collection. Congratulations, Ray!

Upcoming Programs

I've asked **Phil Hosey** to consider giving a demo/program on digital image processing. I've heard several folks mention that they'd like to know more about this art. Phil modestly replied:

I'm still learning the ins and outs of processing myself, and I make no claims that I know anything about it really. Anything I can provide would be the most basic stuff, but I could share what I do personally if that would help.

Phil asked if could wait until his work load eases up – perhaps early 2010. We anxiously await this presentation. See Phil's results to date at: < <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jphosey/>>

In a similar vein, **August Johnson** shared his [MallinCam](http://mallincam.tripod.com/) < <http://mallincam.tripod.com/>> hardware with us at the September meeting. If you're not familiar with this, it's a real-time video imager. I think we can count on a MallinCam demo/program from August in the near future as well.

If there's a topic that you'd like to learn more about, or better yet, willing give a presentation on, [let us know](#).

Magazine Subscription/Renewal Time

John B. Zachry

AAS discount subscriptions/renewals to *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy* magazine are due in October and November. We need 5 subscriptions to qualify for each magazine. *Sky & Telescope* discount rate is \$ 32.95 (Regular \$ 42.95), and *Astronomy* magazine is \$34.00 for AAS members (Regular \$ 42.95). Subscriptions for to both will be \$66.95.

Make checks payable to Auburn Astronomical Society. Only members of Auburn Astronomical Society are entitled to club subscription rates. If you are unable to attend our October meeting, mail checks to:

Auburn Astronomical Society
c/o John B. Zachry
501 Summerfield Road
West Point, GA 31833

Space News
John B. Zachry

Sept. 29 - 3rd flyby of Mercury by Mercury Messenger spacecraft at 4:53 p.m. CDT
Sept. 30 - Soyuz TMA-16 to I.S.S. with next Expedition crew of 3 at 2:14 a.m. CDT
Oct. 01 - [Soyuz TMA-16](#) Soyuz FG Launch (It will transport 2 members of the [Expedition 21](#) crew and a Canadian entrepreneur to the ISS.)
Oct. 19 - New Horizons spacecraft 2000 days to Pluto encounter
Oct. 06 - [Phobos-Grunt](#) (Russian Phobos Sample Return Mission & China Mars Orbiter)
Oct. 09 - [LCROSS Impacts Moon](#) (seen with large amateur telescopes)
Oct. 13 - [Cassini](#), Distant Rhea Flyby
Oct. 14 - [Cassini](#), Distant Mimas & Tethys Flyby
Oct. 27 - Ares 1-X Test Flight (Ares program developed to replace Space Shuttle.)

Oct. 31 - Ares 1-X Test launch

Nov. ? - Large Hadron Collider restarted at reduced power.

Nov. 13 Dawn spacecraft on the way to Vesta and Ceres “entered the asteroid belt on June 30, 2008 and exited on September 20. It will cross the boundary once again on November 13, 2009 and will remain in the asteroid belt for the rest of its mission and likely for millennia if not millions of years beyond”.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting,

Russell