

Astrofiles

Auburn Astronomical Society E-Newsletter February, 2011

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Click on "**Astrofiles**"

In this Issue

- Events Calendar
- Membership
- Cub Scout Stargaze
- Web Links

Events Calendar

We'll hold our February meeting on **Friday, February 4**, at **7:45PM**, [in room 215](#) of [Davis Hall](#), the Aerospace Engineering Building. 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, February 26**, at [Cliff Hill's farm](#).

February 03, New Moon

February 04, Monthly meeting **7:45PM**, [in room 215](#) of [Davis Hall](#).

February 07, Waxing crescent moon passes 6 degrees north of Jupiter in evening sky

February 11, First quarter moon,

February 18, Full Moon, the Hunger Moon

February 21, Waning gibbous moon passes 7 degrees S. of Saturn, rising at 10 PM

February 24, Last quarter moon

February 26, Star Party at [Cliff Hill's farm](#)

March 01, Waning crescent moon passes 1.6 degrees north of Venus in dawn sky

March 04, Monthly meeting 7:45PM, [in room 215](#) of [Davis Hall](#).

March 04, New Moon

March 06, Waxing crescent moon passes 6 degrees north of Jupiter, low in SW

March 13, First quarter moon, spring forward Sunday to CDT

March 15, Mercury passes 2 degrees north of Jupiter in evening twilight

March 19, Full Moon, the Grass Moon

March 20, Vernal Equinox; spring begins at 6:21 PM CDT, moon 7 deg. S. of Saturn

March 23, Mercury at GEE, 19 degrees east of sun in evening sky

March 26, Last quarter moon

March 31, Waning crescent moon passes 6 degrees north of Venus in dawn

Membership

We currently have twelve members who are current on their 2011 membership dues. If it's just slipped your mind, enclose a check payable to Auburn Astronomical Society -- \$20.00 for Regular Membership, Full-Time Student Membership is \$10.00, and send to:

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

If you thought you had paid for 2011, but don't see your name listed in [blue](#) on the AAS [Members](#) page, contact AAS treasurer, [John B. Zachry](#) to resolve the discrepancy.

Cub Scout Stargaze

On Saturday evening, January 29 we combined our monthly dark-site star party with a long over due stargaze for Amy McKay's Opelika Cub Scouts, at Cliff Hill's farm. Attending were: Alan Cook (3.5-inch Questar and 20x100 binoculars), Jeff Crawford (CPC-11 and 10-inch Dobsonian), Jim McLaughlin (8-inch Meade LX200), Russell Whigham (C-11), Chuck Lewis (green laser pointer), Aniket Shirgaokar and his wife, first time visitors John and Dorothy Ziegler, and about ten 8 - 11 year-old cub scouts, eager to earn their astronomy belt-loops.

The requirements included:

- Set up and demonstrate how to focus a simple telescope or binoculars.
- Explain how to use a star map.
- Find at least 1 planet and identify it.
- Find and identify 5 constellations..
- Find the North Star. Explain its importance.
- Interview an astronomer. This person may be a professional or an amateur astronomer from a local astronomy club.
- Visit a planetarium or a local astronomy club.

With all of their goals met, they should all be wearing their astronomy belt-loops soon. Thanks to Amy for being so patient with us while we waited for the right night.

Web Links

Old Telescope Catalogs

<<http://geogdata.csun.edu/~voltaire/classics/>>

<<http://geogdata.csun.edu/~voltaire/classics/zeiss/zeiss1.pdf>>

US Cities dimming their lights

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2010-12-29-light-pollution_N.htm>

Hope to see everyone at the meeting,

Russell