

# Astrofiles

## Auburn Astronomical Society E-Newsletter September, 2013

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### Events Calendar

There will be **NO September meeting**. To add to AU's influx of football fans, the City of Auburn is hosting a music festival downtown Friday night. Since parking will be next to impossible anywhere near our usual place, and with another home game the following week, Rhon has made the difficult decision to cancel the meeting. We tried three other venues, but none worked for this month. We'll try again in October, but at a different location to be announced.

Our September new moon **star party** will be the next evening **Sep. 07**, at [Cliff Hill's farm](#). There will be a night game at AU. The athletic department will be giving a light pollution demonstration clinic until about midnight, so you'll have to wait to see anything rising in the NE.

Sep 06, **NO Monthly meeting** (see above)

Sep 07, New moon **star party** at [Cliff Hill's farm](#).

Sep 22, Autumnal equinox

Sep 29 – Oct 06, [Peach State Star Gaze](#)

Oct 04, Monthly meeting – location TBA

Oct 05 (?), Frank Ward's son's scout troop wants a stargaze in Lowndes County

Oct 05 or Nov 2, Darkest Alabama sky star party at [Concuh National Forest](#).

Oct 12, Tuskegee Airmen stargaze

Oct 30–Nov 03, [Deep South Regional Star Gaze](#)

Dec 07 or 14, Forest Preserve fall stargaze

### Public Stargazes

#### Lee County Historical Society Stargaze Review

**Allen Screws** addressed the Lee County Historical Society Saturday morning speaking on amateur astronomy with emphasis on the Perseid meteor shower. That evening, the Allen, Rodger, and I arrived at the field behind the museum in Lochapoka around sunset with our telescopes. Persistent clouds, high humidity, and nearby lighting stymied our attempts at observing. Only brief views of Saturn and a few other objects were seen by a few visitors.

**Frank Ward's son's Scout Troop** stargaze in Lowndes County on **October 5** ?

**Tuskegee Airmen Stargaze** scheduled for **October 12**

**Forest Preserve** fall stargaze that had originally been planned for November 23, needs to be rescheduled for **December 7** or **14**.

## Web Links

[APOD: 2013 April 24 - Wringing a Wet Towel in Orbit](#)

**From John Zachry:** Interesting website about free **Meteor Counter App**.  
[ScienceCasts: Tracking Meteoroids - YouTube](#)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=etEIBjh2dKg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etEIBjh2dKg)

and,

[http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2011/13dec\\_meteorcounter/](http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2011/13dec_meteorcounter/)

## Member News

**John Tatarchuk** on October Observing

I was thinking that maybe we could plan a another trip down to the [Conecuh National Forest](#) again this October (or maybe November) new moon? On my way through the area last year, I visited the old observing site (the sand field at 31 06' 39"N, 086 42' 26"W) and it's still a good observing site- it's got a few more weeds and the saplings are a little taller, but it will be usable still for many years to come. I haven't had the opportunity to go back since, however- other than the Mary Olive and Astronomy Day events, I haven't been able to use my telescope since last November. 😞

October is usually a good time, but new moon weekend is pretty early this October (Saturday, October 5), so that might be a bit before the normal cold front pattern settles in. Maybe we could plan for a backup date of Saturday, November 2, in case the October date is clouded in.

Anyway, what do you think?

Your timing is excellent. There was a discussion about this at [the August] meeting that generated a good bit of interest. We MAY have a scout stargaze that weekend in Lowndes County but the date hasn't been confirmed.

Russell