



ASTROFILES

Auburn Astronomical Society Newsletter

April 2016

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Apologies for being a little late with this issue. I've had both computer issues and internet connection problems of late. Hopefully the computer issues have been resolved. However, I'm seriously considering switching internet service providers soon, and when I do that will necessitate having a new e-mail address. I will try to notify everyone in the event that happens.

The next meeting of the AAS will be Friday, May 6, 2016. We will meet in Room 215 of Davis Hall (Aerospace Engineering) on the AU campus. The meeting starts at 7:45 PM CT. Specific directions to the meeting location can be found on the AAS web page:

<http://www.auburnastro.org>

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ... The annual Astronomy Day open house event that was scheduled to be held at the Gayle Planetarium on Saturday, May 14, 2016 has been cancelled. The planetarium staff will be busy preparing for a week-long planetarium directors conference later that month and will not have the time and resources to also prepare for the Astronomy Day event. The AAS always helps with this event and will continue to do so when it hopefully resumes next year.

Recent AAS Activities

The AAS had planned to conduct a stargaze at the Alabama Wildlife Federation in Millbrook, AL on March 31, 2016. However, that entire region experienced heavy rainfall that day so the event was called off. It's possible that another event can be rescheduled but details are not known at this time.

We also had a stargaze scheduled on the evening of Monday, April 11, 2016 at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, AL. This event was for a group of students at the elementary school on base.

Unfortunately, that evening was also overcast with sporadic rain so it was called off. It's possible that we can reschedule that event for sometime in the fall of this year.

A third stargaze was scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2016 for a group of home-schooled students from the Prattville/Millbrook, AL area. The original site that this group hoped to use was not available and after some discussions with them regarding an alternate site, they chose to have it at Wind Creek State Park near Alexander City, AL. This time the weather cooperated and we had a cool, clear night that was relatively dark except for a few lights on a nearby shoreline across from our viewing area. We had a great turnout of AAS members and were able to provide our guests with nice views of the crescent moon, Jupiter, Orion nebula and various other targets. We even caught a nice view of a high-altitude weather balloon that we initially mistook for a planet or satellite. Below are some photos of our various telescope setups as well and the fine group of students and parents. (*Photos courtesy of Russell Whigham, David Blake and John Wingard*).

Note: AAS member David Blake brought a nice reflector scope that was recently donated to the AAS by a nice gentleman from Montgomery with the stipulation that we use it in educational outreach events such as this. The scope with the orange tube is pictured in several of the photos below. Thanks David for bringing the scope and being the current caretaker of it!





That's about it for this month. The next newsletter should have some coverage of the most recent star gaze at Tuskegee National Forest on Saturday, April 16. Please mark your calendar for our next meeting on Friday, May 6, 2016. Also, if you are on Facebook, check out our page. Just search for Auburn Astronomical Society and you should find us. We post photos, meeting and other activity notices, etc. It's one way that we communicate with our members and the public. Also, check our web page at <http://www.auburnastro.org>



Auburn Astronomical Society Membership Application Form

Name:

Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Date of Application* ____/____/____

E-mail:

Telescope(s):

Area(s) of special interest:

Enclose: \$20.00 for regular membership, payable in January. *Full-Time* student membership is half the Regular rate.

* If you're joining after January, refer to the Prorated Dues Table below:

Jan \$20.00	Feb \$18.33	Mar \$16.66	Apr \$14.99	May \$13.33	Jun \$11.66
Jul \$10.00	Aug \$8.33	Sep \$6.66	Oct \$4.99	Nov \$2.33	Dec \$1.66

Make checks payable to: Auburn Astronomical Society and return this application to:

Auburn Astronomical Society
c/o John Wingard, Secretary/Treasurer
#5 Wexton Court
Columbus, GA 31907

For questions about your dues or membership status, contact: jwin2485@bellsouth.net

Thank you for supporting the Auburn Astronomical Society!