

Astrofiles

Auburn Astronomical Society E-Newsletter October, 2012

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Events Calendar

We'll hold our **monthly meeting** on **Friday, October 5**, at 7:45PM, in room 215 of Davis Hall, the Aerospace Engineering Building. Remember that this is a home game weekend and parking will be more of a problem. I'll need to sit this one out – visiting grandchildren trump astronomy meetings.

Let's try our **dark-sky star party** on **Saturday, October 13**, at [Cliff Hill's farm](#).

Oct. 05, monthly meeting in room [215 of Davis Hall](#)

Oct. 07-14, [Peach State Star Gaze](#), Damian Peach will be the keynote speaker.

Oct. 13, New Moon and away game – star party at [Cliff Hill's farm](#).

Oct. 18, **Blount Elementary School** (Montgomery) **Fall Festival Stargaze**

Oct. 20, **Tuskegee Airmen NHS Stargaze**

Oct. 21, 1st quarter Moon

Oct. 25, Rain date for Blount Elementary School Fall Festival Stargaze

Nov. 2, Monthly AAS meeting

Nov. 7-11, [Deep South Regional Star Gaze](#)

Magazine Subscription & Renewal

[John B. Zachry](#)

I will be taking club subscription orders for *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy* magazines at October meeting and if need be at November meeting. To qualify for the discount, I need five members to order **Astronomy** magazine at \$34.00/year. **Sky & Telescope** subscriptions are \$32.95/year with no required number of subscriptions.

Remember, you can order club subscriptions to *Astronomy* magazine anytime after we qualify for 2013 but I and *Astronomy* magazine prefer October order month. I can order club subscription to *Sky & Telescope* magazine anytime. Send checks made out to **Auburn Astronomical Society**, to:

Mr. John Zachry, Secretary/Treasurer
501 Summerfield Road
West Point GA 31833

Web Links

(Unless otherwise noted, links are from Dr. Wayne Wooten in Pensacola.)

Interesting read on **how the planet Uranus was named**.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/49202994/ns/technology_and_science-space/

Warp Engine Propulsion Using Dark Energy

<http://www.cosmosmagazine.com/news/2141/dark-energy-spacecraft-could-fly-faster-light>

Also <http://www.space.com/17628-warp-drive-possible-interstellar-spaceflight.html> and [Star Trek's Warp Drive: Are We There Yet? Video](#),

<http://www.space.com/16413-star-trek-s-warp-drive-are-we-there-yet-video.html>

Update on Mars Exploration

Now that Curiosity is starting its research at Gale Crater on Mars, it is time to look back at the many accomplishments our robot orbiters and landers and rover have made recently on the red planet. <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/news/Much-Ado-at-Mars-171014841.html>

Two Naked eye comets for 2013?

Hot off the press, check out new Comet ISON, which will be visible in fall skies next year. Here is the link: <http://www.spaceweather.com/>

And, **comet PANSTARRS**. Here is the latest on it, due in the Spring of 2013.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C/2011_L4

Orbital parameters for the upcoming super-comet C/2012 S1 (ISON)

For all of you that have GOTO scopes that will take new comet orbital parameters.

<http://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/sbdb.cgi?sstr=2012%20S1>

Comet nuclei seem now to be much more diverse in composition and origins than Whipple's simplistic "dirty snowballs" of the 1950's. Here is an interesting update on Panstarrs from Sky and Telescope....

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/community/skyblog/observingblog/Comet-PanSTARRS-Still-on-Track-147166535.html>

This **eXtreme Deep Field image** is 2 X 2.3 arc minutes in size and contains approximately 5,500 galaxies. Clicking on the image takes you to a zoomable version. <http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/2012/37/>

Transit of Venus: The Other Half of the Longitude Story

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/podcast/geek-life/profiles/transit-of-venus-the-other-half-of-the-longitude-story>

Invitation to SpaceUp Atlanta

My name is Curtis Iwata, and I am a student at Georgia Tech. We're organizing a space conference for the public on Oct. 6, and I was wondering if you could help us by spreading the word out to your members at the Auburn Astronomical Society. SpaceUp Atlanta is a space unconference, where participants decide the topics, schedule, and structure of the event collectively.

Unconferences have been held about technology, science, transit, and even cupcakes, but this is the first one focused on space exploration, science, STEM and anything about space. Everyone who attends SpaceUp is encouraged to give a talk, moderate a panel, or start a discussion.

You will be amazed at what comes out of SpaceUp. We hope to gather students, teachers, space professionals, and enthusiasts in the area to foster a grassroots space community.

Event: SpaceUp Atlanta

Time: Oct 6, 2012, 9:30 AM - 6 PM

Location: Georgia Tech Research Institute Conference Center, 250 14th Street, NW , Atlanta, GA

To sign up for our event by Oct 3, please visit:

<http://spaceupatl.eventbrite.com/>. We'll provide you with lunch, snacks and drinks so you don't have to worry about eating. We want you to focus on talking about space all day long, and all this for only \$20. Plus, we'll throw in some freebies you can take home to remind you how much fun it was. Make sure to register early because late/onsite registration will be \$30.

For more information, please visit

<http://spaceup.org/near-you/atlanta>, follow us on Twitter @SpaceUpAtl, or become a fan on our Facebook page SpaceUpATL. Thank you!

Curtis Iwata

SpaceUp Atlanta - where "Space is Peachy"

BBC article and video: Astronomy Photographer of the Year

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-19637073>

One of the great stories in astronomy is the **discovery of Uranus**. This week's video from Sky&Telescope is timely, since Uranus is easy to spot below the Square of Pegasus in the SE evening sky right now, even with the naked eye under dark skies:

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/videos/skyweek/September-17---23-2012-161461285.html>

Also read the more extensive article on the **discovery of both green giants** at:

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/planets/12435011.html>

[Uranus-Neptune-2012 Finder Chart.pdf](#)

From Larry Owsley: Science and Technology - "**Working on Mars: Voyages of Scientific Discovery with the Mars Exploration Rovers**" - Book TV

<http://www.booktv.org/Program/13791/Working+on+Mars+Voyages+of+Scientific+Discovery+with+the+Mars+Exploration+Rovers.aspx>

Vesta Video as Dawn heads to Ceres: A NASA/ESA video of the results of months of imaging by Dawn as it orbited the large asteroid Vesta.

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/dawn/news/dawn20120830.html

Public Stargazes

Oct. 18, **Blount Elementary School** Fall Festival Stargaze
1650 Ray Thorington Road, Montgomery AL 36117 [[MAP](#)]

Oct. 20, [Tuskegee Airmen NHS](#) **Stargaze** Kids Astronomy Camp
[[DIRECTIONS](#)] Set up the telescopes near the upper parking lot

Oct. 25, Rain date for **Blount Elementary School Fall Festival Stargaze**

Dec. ??, **Mary Olive Thomas Demonstration Forest** (TBA)

[Please let me know](#) if you can help with your telescope.

Hope you can make it to the meeting,

Russell