

Astrofiles

Auburn Astronomical Society E-Newsletter December, 2012

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Events Calendar

We'll hold our **monthly meeting** on **Friday, December 7**, 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, December 15** Cliff Hill's farm.

Dec. 07, Monthly meeting in [room 215 of Davis Hall](#)
Dec. 11, Webelos Stargaze and [ISS pass](#)
Dec. 12-14, Geminid meteor shower
Dec. 13, New Moon
Dec. 15, Star Party at [Cliff Hill's farm](#).
Dec. 20, First quarter Moon
Dec. 21, Winter Solstice
Dec. 28, Full Moon

Public Stargazes

We had to push-back our planned stargazes with **Tuskegee Airmen NHS** and **Forest Ecology Preserve**, due to their busy schedules. We'll try again after the new year. But, we ARE still on for next Tuesday's (December 11) visit with the **Webelos Stargaze** for Cub Scouts in Montgomery at 6:30, at St. James Methodist Church on Vaughn Road, in east Montgomery. [Please let me know if you can help with your telescope](#). See the [November Astrofiles](#) for the requirements for their Astronomy Belt Loop and Pin. We'll begin with an indoor talk about how the sky works and the tools astronomers use to study the sky before going out to the telescopes in the field behind the church. I think we should plan to arrive by 6:00. Jupiter should be high enough to view, we can share some binary stars and an [excellent ISS pass](#).

Here's a [Map](#) and a [Campus Diagram](#) sent by den leader, Allen Gilbert.

Web Links

From Brian Combs:

Conditions were better than any I have seen this year when this **image [of Jupiter]** was taken last night:

http://www.bcastpics.com/img/gallery/3/Jup_091112_051814_g2_b3_ap20-RGB3_full.jpg

From: Amy Stewart (via Wayne Wooten): **Hawking And Thorne: Black Holes**

<http://www.nerdist.com/2012/08/stephen-hawking-a-nerdist-news-special-report/>

http://article.wn.com/view/2012/08/13/Bizarre_Black_Holes_Explained_Q_A_With_Physicist_Kip_Thorne/

From **Rick Evans** AND **John Wingard**

On the 12th anniversary of crews continuously living and working aboard the **International Space Station**, NASA announced Friday a new service to help people see the orbiting laboratory when it passes overhead. "Spot the Station" will send an **email or text message** to those who sign up for the service a few hours before they will be able to see the space station.

<http://spacewatchtower.blogspot.com/2012/11/new-nasa-service-spot-space-station.html>

From: Ronald McCuiston (via Wayne Wooten):

Alabama Meteorites?

http://mobile.al.com/advhunts/pm_29185/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ewqAVE8g

From: Amy Stewart (via Wayne Wooten):

Wonderful **New Star Map** Program From Google

[Website](#) Application: [100,000 Stars](#)

[Editor's note: This didn't work on my Firefox, but it could be my old graphics card.]

On a recent C-SPAN2 interview with **Ray Kurzweil**, I was intrigued by this man's brilliance, so I Googled him in [[Wikipedia](#)] and learned of the "spoken articles" Wikipedia has online, a technology he developed.

Here are the spoken articles in the [Physics and Astronomy](#) section — if you like to learn with your eyes closed.

Ham Radio Astronomy

My neighbor, **Dr. James Lauridson**, recently shared his attempts at combining astronomy and amateur radio. He achieved the results below using a hand-held antenna pointed at the ISS. He wrote:

I have been working on receiving and eventually transmitting signals to the ISS. Although this is not exactly astronomy, it is near space. There was a great ISS pass his morning at 4:55 AM.

Just finished 5 AM ISS pass. Picked up the packets as soon as it came over the horizon from Mexico. Packet activity increased significantly as it passed over the US.

Definite Doppler shift. I compensated for that with having six different frequencies preprogrammed in the FT 60. Overhead the signal was enough to break squelch.

Jim has offered to give a program on Ham Radio Astronomy if there is an interest in this field.

Here is a video that Jim sent, of a ham in England who was able to download a weather satellite images: Amsat-UK satellite link
<http://www.uk.amsat.org/?p=11597>

Please Welcome...

New member, **Scott A. Cook** from LaGrange. Scott must have been a very good boy this year. His wife has surprised him with a pair of 20X80 binoculars and tripod. Can't wait to have a look.

Magazine Subscriptions

John Zachry

I sent out club subscriptions for **Sky & Telescope** and **Astronomy** magazines today. Only had 4 members for **Astronomy** magazine but at October meeting we decided to order extra subscription and make it a "Door Prize" for each meeting.

Hope to see you at the meeting,

Russell