

Astrofiles

Auburn Astronomical Society E-Newsletter January, 2014

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Events Calendar

We'll hold our regular monthly **meeting** on **Friday January 10**, in [room 215 of Davis Hall, the Aerospace Engineering Building](#), on the [main campus of Auburn University](#). Among the items to be discussed, will be the proposed [2014 meeting / star gaze calendar](#). See the [December 2013 Astrofiles](#) for the reasons for the proposed changes.

Our next **star party** will be on the Saturday January 4 — the week before our delayed January meeting. (Also see **John Tatarchuk's** announcement below.)

January 04, January star party (& Earth at perihelion)
January 07, First quarter Moon
January 10, Monthly meeting – postponed one week for holiday & bowl games
January 15, Full Moon
January 24, Third quarter Moon
February 01, Forest Preserve Stargaze at [Kiesel Park](#)
February 08, Cloud date for the Forest Preserve Stargaze at [Kiesel Park](#)

2014 Membership Dues

If you haven't already taken care of this, AAS memberships (\$20.00/\$10.00 for full-time students) are due in January. Make checks payable to "Auburn Astronomical Society". Families are covered with a single membership. If you're unable to attend our January meeting, mail your dues to:

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

Special thanks to those members who do not attend on a regular basis but still want to help us out by paying AAS their membership dues.

Member News

Congratulations to AAS member, **Bill Eisele** for being awarded yet another telescope to his collection at this past summer's Astronomical League Convention in Atlanta. See the complete article beginning on page 12 of the December 2013 issue of the Reflector.

We had a note from potential new member, **John Goss**, who wrote to express interest in our group. We look forward to meeting John soon.

Conecuh National Forest on Friday: Assuming the forecast holds for Friday night, I'm planning on going observing at the Conecuh National Forest on FRIDAY evening. Right now, the forecast for Saturday night is still looking pretty bad for astronomy. It would be at the same spot, the dirt field at 31 06' 40"N 086 42' 26"W. Like I said, the weeds/trees grew up a bit, but still has plenty of room for lots of scopes, and pretty good horizons... just so long as you bring a tarp to set the scope on.

Anyway, I'm only reasonably confident I will go observing, as the forecast has to be pretty much 0% chance of cirrus, and Friday is still too far away to know if that will really happen or not.

Thanks,
[John Tatarchuk](#)

Let John know if you're interested in going, contact John at: <tatarjj@tigermail.auburn.edu>

Public Stargazes

Jennifer Lolley has asked that we postpone her Forest Preserve group's stargaze at [Kiesel Park](#) until February. We'll plan on February 1, and February 8, as a cloud date.

Maxwell Air Force Base Elementary and Middle School: A date in April you be determined.

Web Links

From Larry Owsley: 11 Science Facts That Seem More Like Science Fiction - <http://huff.to/1eCZdeZ>

Dark Matter May Have Already Been Found - <<http://huff.to/1fgMG12>>

Can Human Civilization Survive Forever? - <http://huff.to/1fRACUz>

Icy Alien Dust Links Ancient Famine To Celebrated Comet - <http://huff.to/1cTI4On>

China joined the United States and Russia in successfully landing **a spacecraft on the Moon**. <<http://www.theverge.com/2013/12/14/5210042/china-successfully-lands-spacecraft-on-moon>>

First **Alien Moon** May Have Been Spotted - <http://huff.to/1d3nECH>

Light pollution article from National Geographic .
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/light-pollution/klinkenborg-text>

Alien World May Lurk Closer Than Expected - <http://huff.to/1dcQ9xO>

From: Laura K. Lincoln: NASA's Space Place is pleased to announce a new way to learn about science [Space Place in a Snap!](#) These brief, narrated stories are engaging and entertaining, and they come with a downloadable poster, too. Check it out: <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/solar-system-formation>.

Antique astronomy books from Google Books in PDF:
[A plea for reflectors being a descripti.pdf](#) &
[On the construction of a silvered glass\[1\].pdf](#)

From John Wingard: Some may be interested in a series of video lectures online by Walter Lewin, professor emeritus of physics at MIT. They cover a variety of topics closely related to astronomy and are very informative. He also has a book out called "For The Love of Physics" which is very good. You can find the video lectures at http://web.mit.edu/physics/people/faculty/lewin_walter.html

"The **Sun's Magnetic Field** is about to Flip". <<http://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/the-suns-magnetic-field-is-about-to-flip/>>

Rod Mollise's "Used CAT (Schmidt Cassegrain/Maksutov Cassegrain Telescope) Buyer's Guide" 10th Edition is online (as a .pdf) <http://skywatch.brainiac.com/used/index.htm>

Apollo 8 photo recreated: <<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/nasa-re-creates-iconic-apollo-8-earthrise-45-years-later-2D11783463>>

Light pollution video on CBS (following some old news in the first 30 seconds).
<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/how-bad-is-light-pollution/>

Most of **T. W. Webb's deep-sky objects** from the collection of Webb Society observing books. <http://home.comcast.net/~ismch/WebbObjects-Tour.HTM>

From **Wes Schwarz:** The Evolution of Telescope Technology: [Timeline of telescope technology - Maurice Depestre](#)
<http://timelines.zanspace.com/teletech/>

Have a good meeting,

Russell