



ASTROFILES

Auburn Astronomical Society Newsletter

October 2017

John Wingard - Secretary/Treasurer - Auburn Astronomical Society - jwin1048@gmail.com

November Meeting Notice

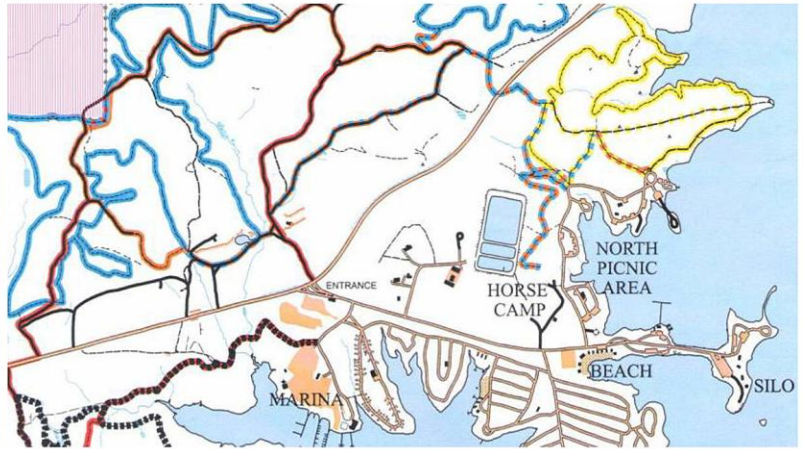
The next meeting of the Auburn Astronomical Society will be Friday, November 3, 2017. We will meet at 7:45 PM CT in Room 215 of Davis Hall (Aerospace Engineering) on the AU campus. More specific information on the location of the building and room can be found on the AAS web page at

<http://www.auburnastro.org>

Wind Creek State Park Star Gaze

The final star gaze at Wind Creek State Park near Alexander City, AL was held on Saturday, October 14, 2017. Thanks to all of the AAS members that participated in the events at the park this season. AAS Member Mike Lewis submitted the following report on the final event:

My son David and I arrived about 6 PM and had the observing location to ourselves until about 7:30 PM when some park guests arrived to view the heavens. I brought out my Celestron C9.25 OTA and my son's Orion AstroBlast 4.5 Newtonian Dob. We left our refractors at home this time. Aside from a steady northeasterly breeze which nearly necessitated a sweater, the evening was pleasant and skies were mostly clear. The attached photo (see next page) shows mostly clear skies in the NE direction. By 8 PM the Milky Way was distinct overhead. We showed the 5 park guests and one staffer Vega, M57 (Ring Nebula), M32 (Andromeda Galaxy), M13 (Hercules Globular Cluster) and the Double Cluster in Perseus. Also caught a meteor or two. We closed it down by 9 PM. Lower park turnout was probably due to the earlier clouds as well as the evening football games. WCSP program manager Marijean Hadley thanked the club for their support this year and looks forward to our resuming programs in 2018. I have been searching for better venues from which to conduct our observing within the park, including out on the tiny hook-shaped peninsula adjacent to Hospice Point (north of the Silo on the map on next page). There is a clear patch on the peninsula without trees which offers a pretty good view of the sky. Access to the peninsula currently is blocked by a metal cable. Maybe we can arrange for the park to lower it to allow club members to haul gear out to the point. Will look into that.



W.A. Gayle Planetarium News



The AAS would like to extend a welcome to a new member of the staff at the W.A. Gayle Planetarium in Montgomery, AL. He is Dr. Christopher Crockett. Dr. Crockett has a Ph.D in astronomy from UCLA. He has also worked as an electrical engineer and high school physics teacher as well as doing research at the U.S. Naval Observatory. More recently he has written for numerous science-related publications including Scientific American. In his most recent position, he served as the astronomy writer for Science News. In addition to writing, he also enjoys diving, acting, dancing and hiking. We look forward to meeting him, perhaps at the next Astronomy Day event at the planetarium.

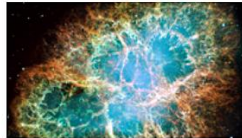
The Messier Catalog and the Hubble Telescope

Nearly everyone that has even had a moderate interest in astronomy has probably heard of “The Messier Catalog,” or “Messier objects.” They are named for the famed French astronomer Charles Messier (1730-1817). Messier was primarily a comet hunter and in the process of hunting for comets in the skies, he often encountered other objects that were not comets but sometimes looked like comets. He then began to start indentifying them with letter/number combinations (M1, M2, M3, etc.), primarily as a guide for other comet hunters so that they would not mistake these objects for comets. As Messier continued his searches, his list grew and it ultimately contained 103 different objects consisting of nebulae, galaxies and star clusters. 20th Century revisions have since added seven more objects to the list, bringing the total to 110. The “Messier objects” as they are commonly called, are among the most popular targets for many amateur and well as professional astronomers. With the advent of the orbiting Hubble telescope, most all of these objects have been photographed in breathtaking detail. Recently, NASA has compiled many of these objects into a collection that is accessible on the internet.

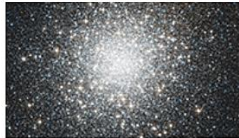
They can be found at: <http://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/hubble-s-messier-catalog>



Charles Messier 1730-1817



M1



M2



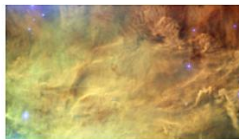
M3



M4



M5



M8



M9



M10



M11



M12



M13



M14

2017

January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October





Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

-  **AU Home Football Games (includes "A Day" on April 8)**
-  **Proposed AAS Meeting Nights**
-  **Astronomy Day (April 29, 2017)**
-  **Total Solar Eclipse (August 21, 2017)**



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, effective January 1*. *Full-Time* student membership is half the Regular rate.

* If you are a *new* member 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: jwin1048@gmail.com