



ASTROFILES

Auburn Astronomical Society Newsletter

March 2018

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

April Meeting Reminder

According to our newly adopted meeting schedule for 2018, our next formal “meeting” will be held in conjunction with the National Astronomy Day activities at the W. A. Gayle Planetarium in Montgomery, AL on Saturday, April 21, 2018. The AAS has supported this event for quite a few years now and the event last year had one of the largest public turnouts ever. AAS members are encouraged to bring any type of scope that they may have and plan to arrive at the planetarium well before dark to have adequate time to set up their equipment. This has always been a rain or shine event, so in the case of rain or cloudy weather, we can set up some of our scopes in the planetarium lobby and answer any questions that the visitors may have. There are usually one or more planetarium programs for the public inside prior to coming outside to view through the various telescopes.

Here are the scheduled months for the remaining club meetings for 2018.

- June
- August
- October

Details on the specific dates and locations of these meetings will be posted well in advance in this newsletter, on the club Facebook page, and in e-mail reminders to the members. If you know of an interesting place in our area that would be of interest to the members, let us know about it as well. What topics would you like to learn more about at the meetings? We really need feedback from you to help us improve our meeting experience. You can send me your ideas, comments, etc. to the e-mail at the beginning of the newsletter. Of course, for those meetings that are held in our usual meeting location on the AU campus, we can always adhere to the first Friday schedule unless it conflicts with some activity in Auburn such as home football games.

For additional information about the club and our activities, check out the following links:

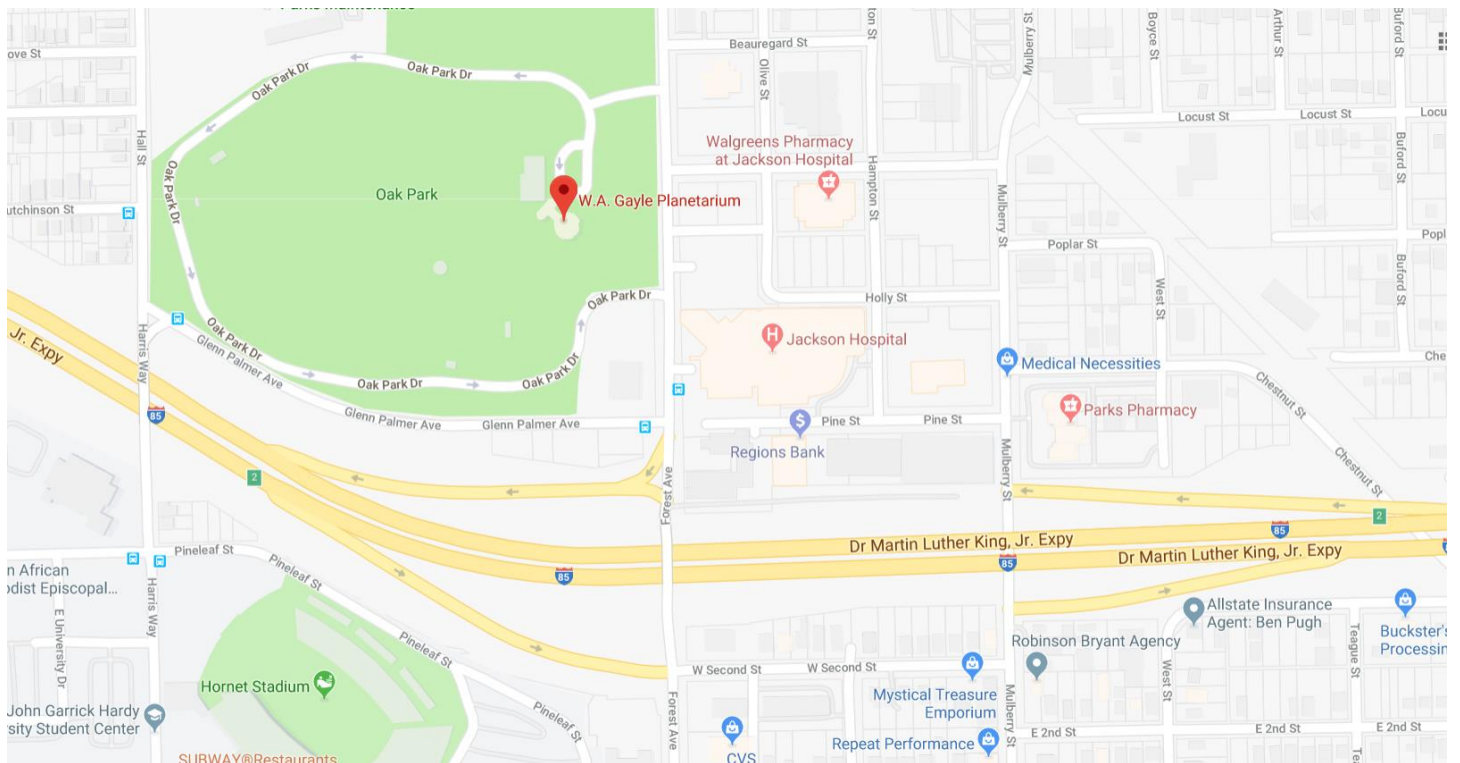
The Auburn Astronomical Society web page: <http://www.auburnastro.org>

The AAS Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/79864233515/>

Upcoming Events



As mentioned earlier, our April 2018 “meeting” will be held in conjunction with the National Astronomy Day event planned at the W.A. Gayle Planetarium in Montgomery on Saturday, April 21st. The AAS has supported this event for many years and we hope that all members will turn out to assist the planetarium staff in presenting the wonders of the night sky to the public. **This is also the 50th anniversary of the planetarium so they are really hoping for a great turnout.** AAS members should plan to arrive late afternoon in order to have time to set up their scopes before dark. The planetarium is located within Oak Park, just off I-85 at Exit 2 and adjacent to Jackson Hospital. Below is a map of the location.



We hope that the weather will be clear on the 21st, but this is typically a rain-or-shine event, meaning that if the skies don't cooperate, we can display some of our scopes inside and answer questions from the public. The planetarium usually has one or more programs under the dome prior to the outside activities after dark. We had a great turnout last year and here are a couple of photos from that event.

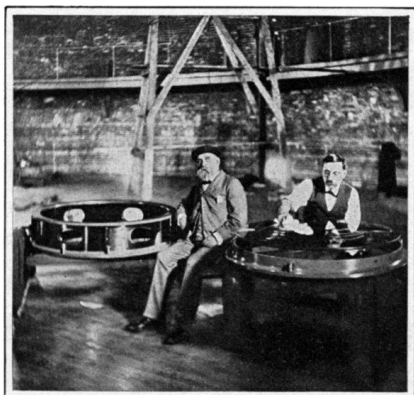
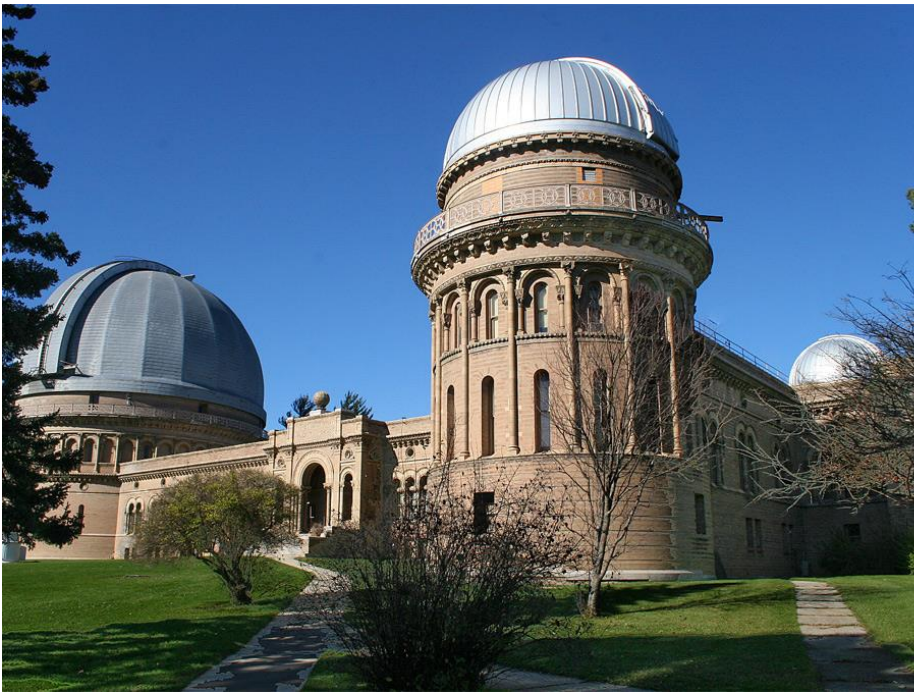


AAS Dues Reminder

It's not too late to renew your 2018 AAS dues. If you have not already done so, please take a minute to do so. The dues are \$20.00 for the year and a portion of your dues goes to membership in the Astronomical League. The AL is the national organization that represents all member astronomy clubs and offers a wide variety of resources to support the clubs and their members. As a paid-up member of the AAS, you are entitled to receive their quarterly publication, The Reflector. Please fill out the renewal application at the end of this newsletter, especially if any of your contact information (mailing address, e-mail, etc.) has changed recently and return it to me along with your dues by mail at the address indicated on the form. Also check out the web site of the Astronomical League at: <http://www.astroleague.org>

Yerkes Observatory Slated to Close

Many in the astronomical community were recently saddened to learn that the historic Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, Wisconsin is scheduled to be closed in October of 2018. It was founded in 1897 by astronomer George Ellery Hale and financed by Charles T. Yerkes. It is perhaps best known as the home of the world's largest refracting telescope, featuring a huge 40-in. diameter doublet objective made by the famous optical firm of Alvan Clark & Sons. As you might expect, the telescope itself is massive, featuring a tube over 60-ft. long. The building that houses the telescope is an architectural marvel as well. However, the University of Chicago which operates the facility has deemed it to be too expensive to maintain. Plus, the telescope itself has fallen victim to the advancing technology of ever-larger mirror telescopes. The hope is that it can be retained and used for some sort of public outreach instead of being dismantled. Here are a few photos of the facility.





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 are a **NEW** member joining after the first of the year, refer to the prorated 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

Thank you for supporting the Auburn Astronomical Society!