

The Flint River Observer

Newsletter of the Flint River Astronomy Club

April 2005

Vol. 9, No. 2

Officers: President, **Steve Knight:** sdknight@flintriverastronomy.org Vice President, **Steven (Smitty) Smith:** Saratoga@flintriverastronomy.org ; Secretary, **Doug Maxwell:** doug@flintriverastronomy.org ; Treasurer, **Dawn Knight:** sdknight@flintriverastronomy.org ; Board of Directors: **David Ward:** dward@flintriverastronomy.org ; **John Wallace:** JWCOSMOS@att.net; and **Scott Hammonds:** Scott@creatorsview.com; Public Observing Liaison, **Felix Luciano:** Montb02@yahoo.com. Webmaster, **David Ward** (see above); Alcor/Librarian, **Curt Cole:** 24e29d55c@speedfactory.net ; Event Photographer, **Doug Maxwell** (see above). Club mailing address: 114 Central Lake Cir. Griffin, GA 30223. Web page: www.flintriverastronomy.org, discussion group at FRAC@yahogroups.com. Please notify **Dawn Knight** if you have a change of address, telephone no. or e-mail provider.

Club Calendar. Fri.-Sat., April 1-2: Cox Field observing (at dark); **Sat. April 2:** FRAC meeting (Griffin Library 2:00 p.m.) Directions found in directions section.; **Fri.-Sat., April 8-9:** Cox Field observing (at dark); **Sat. April 16:** Astronomy Day at Kohl's directions in directions section; **Thurs. April 21:** Heritage Inn Barnesville (Solar observing/Astronomy Day event); **Fri.-Sun., April 22-24:** Boy Scout Camporee (information and directions below)

Treasurer's Message: As most of you will notice the newsletter is looking different than before. We are currently revamping the newsletter due to recent changes in the officers of FRAC. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or would like to submit any information please contact Dawn Knight sdknight@flintriverastronomy.org. As most of you are aware March has been a difficult month for FRAC. Bill Warren has decided to leave FRAC for personal reasons. I am sure that the club will not only miss Bill's newsletters but also his knowledge of the night sky. We wish Bill the best in everything that he pursues. Enough of the past, now to look forward. We have a very busy two months ahead of us. We have Astronomy Day, helping Dr. Schmude at Heritage Inn and the Boy Scout Camp-o-ree. Then we have Georgia Sky View in May. We have started receiving registrations and are hoping to have another excellent turnout. If you plan to attend submit your registration. We also have some neat events occurring in the sky. We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and hope that you will plan to attend Georgia Sky View 2005.

Dawn Knight

Memberships/Renewals: If your name is listed below we still show that we have not received your dues for 2005. As you know we have changed the schedule for dues and the amount you should pay for 2005 is listed on the website.

Tim and Celia Astin(15.00), Kathy Davis (7.50), Peter and Claudia DeGuzman (12.50), Jim and Rebecca Hamilton (2.50), David Hoover (7.50), Jamey Jenkins (12.50), Che' and Bonita Judon (15.00), Charles Sykes (7.50), David Ward (15.00) and Jerry Williams (15.00).

If your name is on this list and you have previously paid your 2005 dues please contact Dawn Knight.

Directions for upcoming events:

Meeting - Griffin/Spalding County Public Library 800 Memorial Dr. Griffin, GA. From 19/41 - take 19/41 to Hwy. 16. Turn left on Hwy. 16. This will become Taylor St. and then Memorial Dr. You will go through town on Hwy. 16. There will be a cemetery on your left and the library is a red brick building on the right. From I-75 take Hwy. 16 to Griffin. Just before reaching town you will see a cemetery on your right and the red brick library on your left.

Astronomy Day - To get to Kohl's from Griffin, follow Ga. Hwy. 92 (McIntosh Rd.) to Fayetteville, turn right at Ga. Hwy. 85 N in Fayetteville, and after about 3 mi. look for the massive **Fayetteville Pavilion** shopping complex on your left. Turn left onto the road through the Pavilion, and Kohl's will be about ½ mi. on your left. It's the last store in that section. We will try to set up in the same area as we have in the past.

Solar Observing/Astronomy Day with Dr. Schmude - From Griffin go down Hwy 1941 to Barnesville; Once you reach Barnesville, there will be a BP station on your left and then an ACE Hardware on your left. Make a left turn on the next driveway after ACE hardware and you will turn into Heritage Inn. If you reach St. Anne's Church then you went too far.

Boy Scout Camp-o-ree - From I-85 exit #47 take Hwy 34 west (Bullsboro Drive) towards Newnan. Turn right onto Hwy 34 bypass. There will be a KFC and a Chick-fil-a at this intersection. Continue on the bypass and cross over Hwy 29, Hwy 70, and Hwy 27/16. Turn right onto Hwy 34 west (Franklin Hwy). Go 4.7 miles on Hwy 34 west and turn right onto Pierce

Chapel road. Then take an immediate left onto Sanders Davis road. Take your next right onto Boy Scout road. Travel approximately 1.3 miles on Boy Scout road. Camp Jim Stephens will be on your right just past a creek and a yellow house. (Directions from scoutmaster) From Griffin - Take GA Hwy 16 West approximately 37 miles, turn left onto GA Hwy 34 West, go about 7.5 miles, turn right on Sanders Davis Rd. The next right will be Boy Scout Road. Travel approximately 1.3 miles on Boy Scout road. Camp Jim Stephens will be on your right just past a creek and a yellow house.

(Directions obtained from Mapquest)

Interesting Quotes - *"The night sky is the world's largest national park with its stark beauty available to anyone who steps outside and looks up."*

- Geoff Chester, US Naval Observatory
"From now on, we live in a world where man has walked on the moon. It wasn't a miracle, we just decided to go."

- Jim Lovell, "Apollo 13"

"Nothing exists except atoms and empty space. Everything else is opinion."

- Diogenes Laertius

"The sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent on it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do."

-Galileo

Upcoming Meetings/Activities.

We would like for anyone who has any information, posters or other items related to Apollo 13 (or other Apollo missions), Yuri Gagarin or the Space Shuttle to bring those items with you to Astronomy Day. We will be celebrating these events and people at Astronomy Day. April 12th is the 44th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin becoming the person in space. It is also the 24th anniversary of the first space shuttle launch, Columbia. April 11th - April 17th is the 35th anniversary of the Apollo 13 mission.

April 14th being the actual date of the accident. The Boy Scout Camp-o-ree near Newnan. The scouts have offered to cook for us on the nights that we attend. We hope that we will have a good FRAC turnout for this event.

According to Sky and Telescope there will be a partial solar eclipse visible to the South on **April 8th**. Their chart shows that for Atlanta, GA first contact will be at 5:35 p.m. with the sun's altitude at 30°. The mid-eclipse time is 6:18 p.m. with the sun's altitude at 21°. And final contact at 6:59 p.m. with the sun's altitude at 13°. For more information go to http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/eclipses/article_1445_1.asp

Make sure to use a solar filter if you choose to observe the eclipse.

APRIL 2005

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 Cox Field Observing	2 Cox Field Observing
3	4	5	6	7 New Moon	8 Cox Field Observing Partial Solar Eclipse Chiefland Picnic	9 Club Meeting / Cox Field Observing Chiefland Picnic
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Astronomy Day Kohl's 4-10 p.m.
17	18	19	20	21 Dr. Schmude Heritage Inn 3 p.m.	22 Boy Scout Camp-o- ree	23 Boy Scout Camp-o- ree
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
