THE

FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

Vol. 25, No. 3 March 2021

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Club Calendar:

FRAC Meeting: Thursday, March 11, 2021, 7:30pm on Zoom.

A meeting invitation will be sent out in early March for the meeting. If you do not get an invite to the meeting, please email me at stneckel@gmail.com and I will reply with the invite.

Meetings will continue to be virtual going forward in 2021 until we have use of the UGA Experimental Garden in Griffin again.

FRAC Observing: Club observing weekend, Friday and Saturday, March 12-13, 2021 at Joe Kurz WMA, sunset until whenever.

No other events are scheduled for March 2021.

Please keep checking your email for updates regarding club events.

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Trivia:

1. How many Earths can fit across the Sun?
2. What is the surface temperature of the Sun?
3. How does the Sun get its energy?
4. What is the average distance from the Earth to the Sun?
5. What color is the Sun?

Extra credit

What is the stellar classification of the Sun?

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President's Message:

Hello FRAC Members,
Just a few quick messages this month.

- I would like to thank all our club officers, board members, and committee chairs for continuing in their roles through 2021.
- If you did not have the chance to watch Perseverance landing on Mars on February 18 (or even if you did), check out the landing video released by JPL / NASA. https://youtu.be/4czjS9h4Fpg
- Yearly club fees of $15 are due by the end of March. Send to Sean Neckel 788 Rising Star Rd. Brooks, GA 30205. Checks can be made out to Flint River Astronomy Club or FRAC.

Sean

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Welcome!
Welcome new member Wade Simmons!

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Previous Meetings/Activities:

FRAC Meeting - February 11, 2021 - 7:30pm on zoom.us

- 15 members attended our virtual meeting. Sean Neckel, John Cruickshank, Mark Grizzaffi, Felix Luciano, Alan Pryor, Steve Hollander, Katie Nagy, Wade Simmons, Tom Moore, Steve Benton, Erik Erikson, Dwight Harness, Jeffrey Baldwin, Elaine Stachowiak, and George Ruff.

- 2020 officers were reaffirmed for 2021.
- Before the next meeting we will pay for a yearly subscription to Zoom, allowing us to have longer meetings.

FRAC Observings:
The February observing weekend of 2/12 and 2/13 was a rainout.

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Solar System Observing – March 2021

Mercury is very close to the sun and not observable.
Venus is beginning to pass behind the sun and will not be visible.
Earth will be visible 24 hours a day all month. Less so during night hours. Local topography may also affect visibility.
Mars will be visible at dusk, setting after midnight.
Jupiter will briefly be visible before sunrise for most of March, rising about an hour before the Sun.
Saturn will also be visible before sunrise, rising about 2 hours before the Sun.
Uranus is visible with a telescope early evening until just before midnight.
Neptune is very close to the sun and not observable.
Moon: LQ 3/5 New: 3/12 FQ: 3/21 Full: 3/28
https://in-the-sky.org/

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Classifieds:

If you have something you would like to buy, sell, or trade, email the specifics, including your contact information to stneckel@gmail.com

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NGC 1333
Photo courtesy of Alan Pryor

NGC 1333 is a reflection nebula in the constellation of Perseus. It is about 1000 lightyears away, and it has an apparent magnitude of 5.6. Even at that it is a tough target to image especially when there is light pollution present. It has some nice molecular clouds which can be seen in the image.

It was taken with a 14" Planewave telescope and an FLI 16803 camera. It was a total of 3 hours and 20 minutes of exposure. 28 luminescent frames at 5 minutes each. There were 11 sets of 5-minute red, green and blue frames and one extra red frame.

Full size image:
NGC 1333

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Trivia Answers:
1. 109
2. 10000 F
3. Nuclear fusion
4. 93,000,000 miles
5. White. It looks yellow because of the Earth's atmosphere.
Extra Credit:
G2V

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