

THE FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT
RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

Vol. 25, No. 6 **June 2021**

Officers: President, **Sean Neckel**; Vice President, **Aaron Calhoun**; Secretary / ALCOR **Mark Grizzaffi**; Treasurer, **Steve Hollander**; Board of Directors: **Dwight Harness, Felix Luciano, and George Ruff**; Program/Observing Coordinator: **Sean Neckel**; Facebook Coordinator: **Aaron Calhoun**; Webmaster: **Tom Moore**; Newsletter Editor: **Dawn Chappell**; NASA Contact: **Felix Luciano**

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Club Calendar:

FRAC Meeting: Thursday, June 10, 2021, 7:30pm on Zoom.

Dr. Richard Schmude will be presenting his latest work on Mars.

Meetings will continue to be virtual only going forward in 2021 until we have use of the UGA Experimental Garden in Griffin again. Estimated time frame for in-person meetings is July or August 2021.

FRAC Observing: Club observing weekend, Friday and Saturday June 11-12, 2021, at Joe Kurz WMA, sunset until whenever.

If you are at the field and the gate is not yet unlocked, contact Sean at 678-994-7606 for the combination. When you leave, please relock the gate by attaching our lock to the chain and the other lock.

No other events are scheduled for June 2021.

Please keep checking your email for updates regarding club events.

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Trivia:

1. A stars' lifetime is dependent on its what?
2. What is the lifespan of the sun?
3. True or false: Pluto is smaller than our moon.
4. What is the final stage of the sun?
5. What planet has its day longer than its year?

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President's Message:

Hello FRAC Members,
We are on the downslope now of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am getting requests for public events, signs requiring masks are coming down, and a large portion of the population has been vaccinated. Just today, my employer has allowed vaccinated employees to stop wearing masks once a vaccination record has been provided.

Through all the mask-wearing, quarantining, and general fear of the virus, we have learned some things. We expanded our network, having guests and guest speakers to join us through Zoom. We enjoyed a new way to communicate and learn as FRAC adopted an online meeting mode, which I am currently looking into continuing once we are back face to face.

I am investigating equipment to continue our online meetings. If you have suggestions, ideas, Amazon links, or conferencing equipment for us to try out, please let me know. This is new to me, and I'm looking for ideas, and for people to help set it up.

The word from UGA regarding use of the building in Griffin is that it is reopening, and I am currently working to schedule in-person meetings starting on July 8. Between now and then I will work with UGA to see how we can also have our meeting on Zoom for members who want to participate remotely.

If you do not have Zoom yet, I encourage you to do so. It's free and will let you attend meetings from home. If you want an info session or tutorial, let me know and I'd be glad to set it up!

Way back at the beginning of this, I wrote that "...the sky is still open for business." (Flint River Observer, April 2020). The rest of the world looks like it is finally catching up. But let's not forget what we have learned together during our time apart.

Sean

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NASA Coordinator's Message:

<https://youtu.be/SDigXwZJY1I>

Please view the YouTube link of a Helen Sawyer Hogg Prize Lecture - Nobel Winner Andrea Ghez on Supermassive Black Holes

She won part of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics. The team has been researching the Black Hole at the center of our galaxy for many years.

Either let the video run for about 4 minutes or fast forward it, then the host will get started. There is a problem with the audio at the beginning but stay with the video. It improves as it continues.

Hope that you enjoy the presentation.

Thanks,
Felix

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Previous Meetings/Activities:

FRAC Meeting - May 13, 2021 - 7:30pm on zoom.us

- 11 club members attended our virtual meeting: Sean Neckel, John Cruickshank, Steve Hollander, Steve Benton, Tom Moore, Mark Grizzaffi, Bill Evans, Felix Luciano, Dwight Harness, Elaine Stachowiak, and George Ruff.
- Our guest speaker, Larry McHenry, gave a highly informative and interesting lecture on "Galileo - The First Optical Astronomer". Learn more about Larry, and view his presentations at <http://www.stellar-journeys.org/>

FRAC Observings:

Regarding May's observing weekend, I have no information. If you were there, let us know!

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Solar System Observing – June 2021

Mercury is very close to the sun and not observable in June.

Venus is visible just above the horizon after sunset, setting about an hour after the sun.

Earth is getting back to normal... for Earth anyway.

Mars will be visible at dusk, in the evening twilight, and setting 3 hours after sunset.

Jupiter is visible from the early morning hours until sunrise.

Saturn is visible from just after midnight until sunrise.

Uranus just passed solar conjunction and is not visible.

Neptune is visible with a telescope starting around 3am until just before dawn.

Moon: LQ 6/2 New: 6/10 FQ: 6/17 Full: 6/24

<https://in-the-sky.org/>

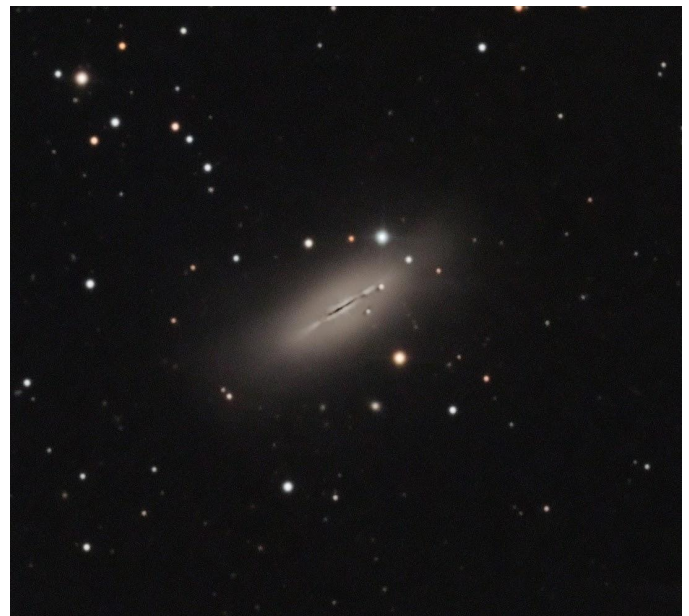
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Classifieds:

- Aaron Calhoun has an 8" Dobsonian that he would like to find a new home for, no charge. Contact Aaron at (678) 598-2609
- Ken Harris has a 10'x12' roll-off roof observatory he would like to give away. Contact him at lowbtu@gmail.com or (404) 661-0978
- Felix Luciano has some books he would like to sell, all in like new condition:
 - o Hidden Treasures by Stephen James O'Meara (Hardcover) - \$30.00
 - o Build Your Own Telescope by Richard Berry (Hardcover) - \$20.00
 - o Observing and Photographing the Solar System (Hardcover) - \$20.00

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 5866, Courtesy of Alan Pryor

"I decided to try for NGC 5866. Most people believe it is also M 102, but in the past the identity of M 102 has been questioned because Messier did not record the coordinates of M 102. It is a lenticular galaxy in Draco with a distance of 50 million lightyears. There is a dust lane down the middle of it.

The photo was made with the 14" Planewave and the FLI 16803 camera. The exposure sequence was 8 sets of 5-minute Red, Green and Blues. Then I did 24 Luminescent exposures at 5 minutes each. That is a total of 4 hours of exposures."

Full size image here: [NGC 5866](#)

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Trivia Answers:

1. Mass
2. 10 billion years
3. True
4. White dwarf
5. Venus

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