

THE FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT
RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

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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:

BIG NEWS!! We are meeting in person again! We will hold a 'hybrid' in-person and online meeting for July. If you choose to participate online, a Zoom invite will be sent out this week. FRAC member George Ruff will be giving a presentation on meteorites, and will have some samples to display.

The meeting will be held Thursday, July 8, 2021, 7:30 pm at the UGA Gardens in Griffin, and online using Zoom.

FRAC Observing: Club observing weekend, Friday and Saturday July 9-10, 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 July 2021.

We will have public observing events starting in August at Sprewell Bluff Park near Thomaston and Lake Horton County Park in Fayetteville.

Please keep checking your email for updates regarding club events.

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President's Message:

Hello FRAC Members,

I am really excited about July's meeting. It has been just short of a year and a half since we have seen each other in person, and I am looking forward to seeing all of you. If you have the opportunity to join us, please do. We will be at the UGA Gardens in Griffin on West Ellis Road.

In the event that you would like to participate from home, we will be webcasting the meeting on Zoom. I want to give a HUGE shout-out to Doug Stewart from UGA who has set us up with a projector, a webcam, and everything we need to make this happen. The dry run that we did went great, and I am extremely optimistic about how this will work.

Finally, to address the question regarding masks. I have no official word from UGA, nor do I have an opinion of my own. If you have been vaccinated, I leave the choice to you. If not, I respectfully request that you wear a mask during the meeting for the benefit of everyone. We still want to see part of your face!

Sean

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Aaron's Trivia:

Here is how you can visualize how many stars are in the Milky Way:

Imagine a grain of rice representing one star. Now picture a 2.2 lb bag of rice. Get 9 more bags. Add 10 bags of rice a day. How long will you have to do this? 10 days? A month? A year? No, you would have to do this for 44 years!!

NASA Coordinator's Message:

- NASA has a new administrator: Senator Bill Nelson
- NASA has selected 2 missions to Venus, DaVinci and VERITAS. DaVinci will probe the Venusian atmosphere and provide Hi-Res images of the planets' surface. VERITAS will produce 3D topographical maps of Venus' surface. Both missions will launch sometime during 2028-2030.
- More can be found here: [NASA Venus Missions](#)

Thanks,
Felix

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Previous Meetings/Activities:

FRAC Meeting - June 10, 2021 - 7:30pm on zoom.us

- 9 club members attended our virtual meeting: Sean Neckel, Dwight Harness, Felix Luciano, Dr. Richard Schmude, Steve Hollander, Alan Pryor, John Cruickshank, Tom Moore, and new member Michael Basmajian.
- Dr. Richard Schmude gave a presentation on cloud formations and volcanoes on Mars, and how to spot Olympus Mons.
- Dwight Harness was contacted by a senior citizens group from Fayetteville. They have asked for a daytime presentation in October. Members have already sent some presentation materials. If you have anything you would like to add, please send it to me by email, or ask me for the group link where we will collaborate on the presentation.

FRAC Observings:

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

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Solar System Observing – July 2021

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

Venus is visible low on the horizon after sunset, setting about 90 minutes after the sun.

Mars is close to the sun and not observable in July.

Jupiter rises just after midnight and is visible until sunrise.

Saturn is visible from just before midnight until sunrise.

Uranus rises about 3am, and is visible with a telescope for about 3 hours before sunrise.

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

Moon: LQ 7/1 New: 7/9 FQ: 7/17 Full: 7/23 LQ: 7/31

<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 6210, Courtesy of Alan Pryor

I decided to photograph a planetary nebula in the last part of May, NGC 6210, which is also known as the Turtle Nebula. It resides in the constellation of Hercules. Planetary nebulae are usually small, and this one is definitely small. It is thought to be 5400 light-years away. The central star can be seen with a bright central section surrounding it. Then there is another ring of gas that has a pink tint. This in turn is surrounded by a green region that is a little fainter. Finally there are 3 legs of the turtle that can be seen at 1 o'clock, nearly 3 o'clock and a little past 6 o'clock. These are very faint.

Here is a link to the photo.

[NGC 6210 Full Image](#)

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