

THE FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT
RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

Vol. 25, No. 9 September 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**

* * *

Club Calendar:

FRAC Observing: Club observing weekend, Friday and Saturday September 3-4, 2021, at Joe Kurz WMA, sunset until whenever.

FRAC Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2021, 7:30pm on Zoom. Alan Pryor will be presenting his astrophotography work.

Public Observing Event:

September 18, 2021, 8:30pm. Astronomy in the Park at Indian Springs State Park in Flovilla, GA. This has the potential to be a great observing location. We will be setting up on the dam overlooking Chief MacIntosh Lake.

Please keep checking your email for updates regarding club events.

Welcome!

Welcome new members Richard Thomas and David Stone, who both joined the club at the August meeting.

* * *

Trivia:

What is the only constellation that is split in two non-contiguous parts?

Which planet's north and south poles experience a cycle of 42 Earth years of day and 42 Earth years of night?

What was the first element discovered off Earth?

What is the most common element on Earth?

* * *

President's Message:

Hello FRAC Members,

Our much-anticipated return to the public world sort of fizzled out this month. In August, clouds and Covid managed to upset our plans. But we are not giving up yet!

We have an upcoming public event at Indian Springs State Park on September 18 at 8:30pm. I recently went to the location to find a spot to observe from, and I am very excited about where we will set up. Overlooking Lake Chief MacIntosh from the dam is an ideal location, with nearly no lights around, and low horizons everywhere but to the north. If you can attend, please come join us, weather permitting.

Sean

* * *

Previous Meetings/Activities:

FRAC Meeting - August 13, 2021 - 7:30pm on zoom.us and in-person at the UGA Garden in Griffin, GA

- 4 club members attended our meeting in person: Sean Neckel, Steve Hollander, Aaron Calhoun, Richard Thomas, and David Stone.
- 10 club members joined us through Zoom: Katie Nagy, Felix Luciano, Chelsea Neckel, Tom Moore, John Cruickshank, George Ruff, Dawn Chappell, Michael Basmajian, and Terry Morgan
- Aaron and Sean held a trivia night on Zoom and Kahoot! for the club. Katie Nagy finished in first place, with Chelsea Neckel, Mark Grizzaffi, Dawn Chappell, and Richard Thomas coming in 2nd through 5th, respectively.

- Mark Grizzaffi, ALCOR has contacted local newspapers to advertise the club meetings, and has attempted to contact the AL to update our club officer and address information
- Felix Luciano, NASA coordinator, informed us of the DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) mission. This mission will test the feasibility of changing the course of an asteroid through impact with a man-made probe. He also told us that the James Webb Space Telescope had completed testing and will launch in late 2021.
- Member Katie Nagy let us know about the Astronomical League virtual conference, which took place on August 19-21.

FRAC Observings:

The August club observing nights on the 6th and 7th were mostly cloudy.

Public Observing Events:

Stargazing events at Lake Horton in Fayetteville (clouds) and Sprewell Bluff (Covid) were both cancelled.

* * *

Solar System Observing – September 2021

Mercury will reach its greatest elongation east of the Sun on September 13. It will only be about 10° above the horizon and set about an hour after the Sun.

Venus is visible in the evening sky, setting about 2 hours after the Sun.

Earth is where electricity goes in England.

Mars is close to the sun and not observable.

Jupiter rises before sunset and will be visible until almost 6am.

Saturn rises before sunset and will be visible until about 5am.

Uranus is visible with a telescope from around 1am until dawn.

Neptune is visible with a telescope from around 11pm until dawn.

Moon: New: 9/6 FQ: 9/13 Full: 9/20 LQ: 9/28

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

* * *

Classifieds:

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

* * *

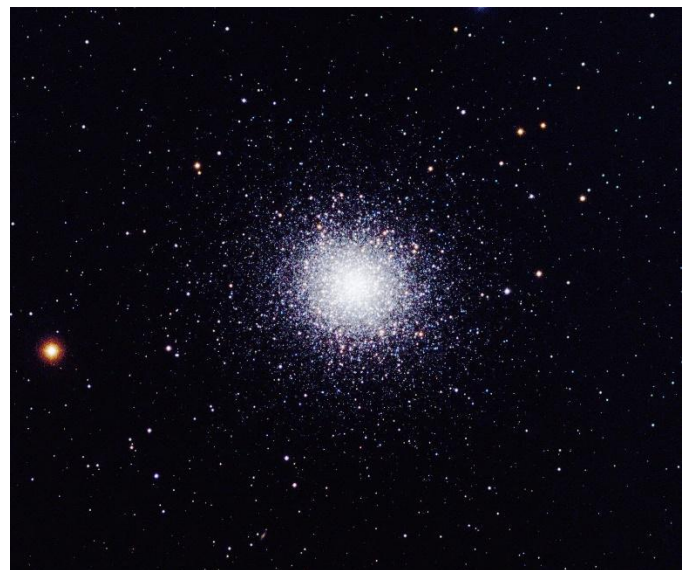


Sharpless 2-88, Courtesy of Alan Pryor

Sharpless 2-88 is a diffuse nebula in the constellation of Vulpecula. It contains a lot of ionized hydrogen which is excited by the UV radiation from a nearby star. This makes it an H II region. It also contains a lot of neutral hydrogen too. It is about 6,500 light years away.

The full-size image is located at:

[Sharpless 2-88](#)



M13, The Hercules Cluster Courtesy of Felix Luciano

M13, The Hercules Cluster

Telescope: A-P 130GT @ FL819mm

Camera/Filters: ST8300M @ -10C, FW5, Baader Filters

Exposures:

RED: 11 X 180 sec

GRN: 10 X 180 sec

BLU: 11 X 180 sec

Full size image can be seen here:

[M13 Hercules Cluster](#)

* * *

Trivia Answers:

Serpens. It is divided into Serpens Cauda (serpent head) and Serpens Caput (serpent tail), with Ophiuchus (the snake handler) in the middle.

Uranus. Because of its 97.77° axial tilt relative to the solar plane.

Helium was discovered in the Sun using spectroscopy in 1868. Its name is from the Greek word 'Helios', meaning sun.

Oxygen. It makes up about half the mass in the Earth's crust, atmosphere, and water.

* * *

##