

THE FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT
RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

Vol. 26, No. 9 September 2022

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, September 8 at the UGA Gardens. We will be hosting about 10 high school students and a few teachers from The Foundry Academy in Fayetteville to give a telescope demonstration. The intent of this demo is to show the students, and interested club members, the different types of telescopes, how they function, what they are best for observing, etc. The students are in an astronomy class and will be joining us at a few of our observing events later in their fall semester.

If you plan to attend and are willing to participate, please bring a telescope to set up and demo to the students. I will be at the Garden building about an hour before the meeting to open up the gates and building, so that we have enough time to set up the telescopes. Look for the invite in your email during the first week in September.

Public Observing Events:

Stargazing at Lake Horton, Fayette County Rec Department, Friday September 16, 8pm. Weather date is Saturday September 17, also at 8pm. Students from the Foundry will be participating.

FRAC Observing Events:

Friday and Saturday, September 23-24 from sunset until whenever at Joe Kurz Wildlife Management Area.

Please keep checking your email for updates regarding club events.

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Club Projects:

Starry Skies South

Starry Skies South is officially a chapter of the International Dark Sky Association. Look for meeting reminders for the chapter Zoom meetings that occur on the first Thursday each month.

The Foundry School

Students and teachers from the Foundry School will be attending our September meeting. We will be having a telescope demo, so if you are attending, please bring your scope. The gates and building will be open at 6:30pm to allow time to set up before the meeting.

Solar System Model

We may have an opportunity to set up our Solar System model for the Space Explorer Day at the Fernbank Natural History Museum on October 10, in conjunction with a solar observing. More details to come!

FRAC T-Shirts

T-shirts are now available. They will be \$20 and at the next meeting, and at future FRAC gatherings.

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Astronomy Trivia:

1. What is the name of the brightest star in Orion?
2. What is the largest moon in the solar system?
3. Where is the largest confirmed impact crater in the solar system?
4. What is the brightest star in the *southern* hemisphere?
5. What is the largest dwarf planet?

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Previous Meetings/Activities:

August Events:

FRAC Meeting - August 11, 2022 - 7:30pm at the UGA Gardens and on Zoom.

- 10 members joined the meeting in person at the UGA Gardens: Tom Moore, Bill Evans, Carlos Flores, Sean Neckel, David and Rosanne Stone, Ben, Steve, and Mercy Barker, and Richard Thomas. 16 members participated on Zoom: Mark Grizzaffi, John Cruikshank, Nelson Stevenson, Chelsea Neckel, Toukhina Copeland, Aaron Calhoun, Doyne Tallman, Scott Hanson,

Alan Pryor, Alfred McClure, Dave Mansell, Elaine Stachowiak, Steve Hollander, Wade Simmons, Mark Sutton, and Felix Luciano

- Carlos Flores did a presentation on DSLR Astrophotography.
- Richard Thomas has been hired by Sean's daughter's school to work with the Astronomy students. Anyone interested in helping Richard out is appreciated.

FRAC Observings:

The August observing events on 8/26 and 8/27 were rainy and cloudy. Wade Simmons made the trip on Friday and was clouded out. Carlos Flores went to Joe Kurz on Saturday and was also clouded out.

Public Observing Events:

No public events were held in August.

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Solar System Observing – September 2022

Mercury is close to the horizon and not visible.

Venus is visible in the morning sky at 6:00am until sunrise at around 7:00am.

Earth always seems to be in the news.

Mars is visible starting just after midnight, and visible until sunrise.

Jupiter is visible starting around 9:30pm, visible until sunrise.

Saturn is visible around 8:40pm, and sets about 4:30am...

Uranus is visible with a telescope at around midnight.

Neptune is visible in a telescope starting around 10:00pm until dawn.

Moon: FQ: 9/3 Full: 9/10 LQ:9/17 New: 9/25

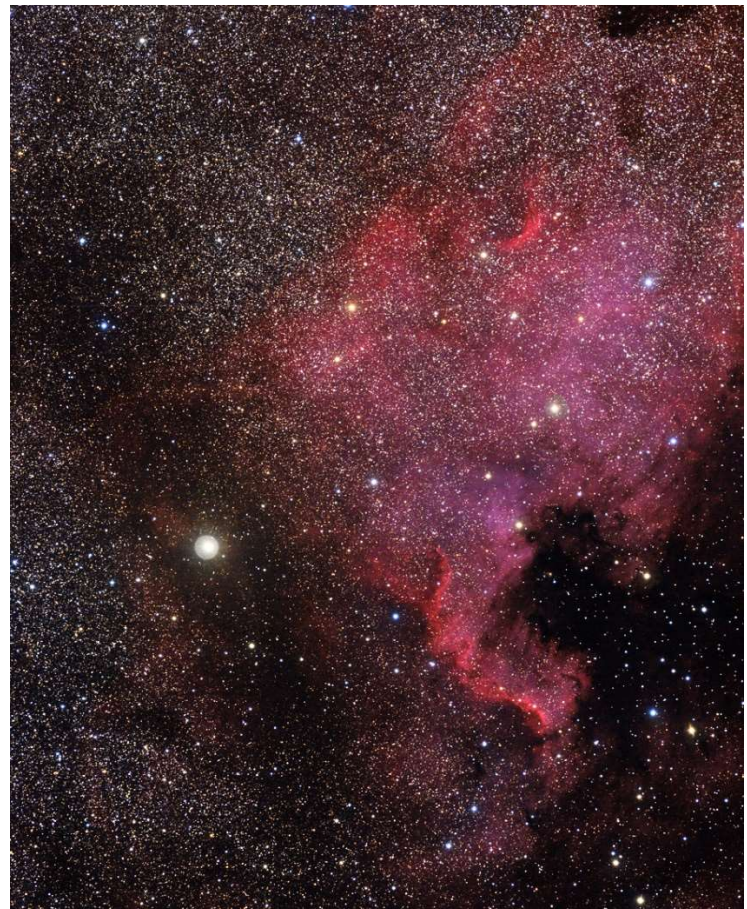
<https://in-the-sky.org/>

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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 7000, The North American Nebula, Courtesy of Alan Pryor

The NGC 7000 is also known as the North America Nebula and Caldwell 20. It is a large, but faint emission nebula in the constellation of Cygnus. To see any detail, you would need about a 10-inch scope at low power with an OIII or UHC filter. To find it look at Deneb in Cygnus then scan about 3 degrees to the east. You will not be able to get all of it in the field of view, but you can scan around it. It really does have the shape of the North American continent. In the photo you see Mexico in the lower middle. The Gulf of Mexico is to the right followed by Florida near the right edge. NGC 7000 is thought to be around 2500 light-years away with a width that varies from 90 to 140 light-years.

A full size photo can be found at [NGC 7000](#).

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Trivia Answers:

1. Rigel - *usually*. Betelgeuse, which is a variable star, can sometimes be brighter.
2. Jupiter's moon Ganymede is both the largest and most massive in the solar system.
3. Utopia Planitia on Mars has an estimated diameter of 3300km.
4. Canopus. Although it is a southern hemisphere star, it can be seen from our observing site at Joe

Kurz during Winter and early Spring, low on the horizon.

5. Pluto is the largest (by diameter), while Eris is the most massive.

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