

THE FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT
RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

Vol. 26, No. 11 **November 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**

* * *

Club Calendar:

FRAC Meeting: Thursday, November 10, 2022, 7:30pm at the UGA Gardens in Griffin and on Zoom. FRAC will be having its second **ASTRONOMY TRIVIA NIGHT!** Come ready to show your fellow club members how much you've learned about the universe, and win valuable prizes!

* * *

New Members:

Welcome to our newest FRAC members, Brian Kennedy, and David and Theresa Julien. Hope to see you all in the near future!

* * *

Public Observing Events:

Saturday, November 19, 6:30pm, Joe Kurz WMA

Observing event for the Classical Conversations Homeschool Group from Sharpsburg, GA. We will host a homeschool group that is learning about astronomy. They plan to make it an early evening, so stick around after for a bonus observing night.

FRAC Observing Events: LONG WEEKEND!!

In a FRAC first, we have scheduled a long weekend for club observing. Wednesday through Saturday nights, November 23-26 from sunset until whenever at Joe Kurz Wildlife Management Area. If the skies are clear and you need to shake off that tryptophan coma, join us on Thanksgiving weekend. Feel free to bring your leftovers for a snack. Just don't get gravy on your eyepieces.

Please keep checking your email for updates regarding club events.

* * *

President's Message:

Hello FRAC Members,

At the most recent club observing one of our members, Alfred McClure, borrowed a club telescope to use. The club has several scopes, so if you find yourself in need of an instrument and would like to adopt one of them medium to long term, let me know. The best way to decide what kind of scope you like is to test drive one before you buy.

Thanks,
Sean

* * *

Club Projects: Starry Skies South

Our contacts with the National Park Service missed our last meeting. They will join us at a future meeting to discuss how we can help their efforts to designate a pair of sites as urban dark sky sites.

These locations are the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park and Andersonville National Historic Site.

Here is the Zoom meeting link for this Thursday, November 3rd.

<https://uab.zoom.us/my/frizzle>

FRAC T-Shirts

T-shirts are still available. They are \$20 at all future FRAC gatherings. They look great and really stand out in a crowd.

* * *

Astronomy Trivia:

Match the moon with the planet

Earth	Oberon
Mars	Styx
Jupiter	Triton
Saturn	Phobos
Uranus	Amalthea
Neptune	Hyperion
Pluto	Luna

* * *

Previous Meetings/Activities:

October Events:

FRAC Meeting - October 13, 2022 - 7:30pm at the UGA Gardens and on Zoom.

- 13 members joined the meeting in person at the UGA Gardens: Sean Neckel, Scott Hasson, Aaron Calhoun, John Cruickshank, Dave and Rosanne Stone, Richard Thomas, Bill Evans, Alfred McClure, Tom Moore, Mark and Terri Sutton. 5 Members joined on Zoom, Alan Pryor, Carlos Flores, Wade Simmons, Chelsea Neckel, and Nelson Stephenson.
- Dave Stone, Rosanne Stone, and Wade Simmons received their AL Basic Outreach Awards. Congratulations!
- We discussed planning a club outing to Brasstown Bald or the UNG Planetarium. Bring ideas for other outings to the November meeting to discuss and plan.

FRAC Observings:

Friday October 23 was a cold, but perfectly clear night. 6 members were there: Wade Simmons, Sean Neckel, Alfred McClure, Carlos Flores, and Dwight Harness.

Saturday October 24 was slightly warmer, but with partly to mostly cloudy skies. 3 members were present, Aaron Calhoun, Wade Simmons, and Sean Neckel.

Both nights, the Chinese Space Station, Tiangong passed overhead. It was not quite as bright as the ISS, but still very prominent in the sky.

Public Observing Events:

Monday October 3, Library Astronomy Program at Fortson Library Hampton, GA

Alan Pryor gave a presentation on astrophotography to a group of students and their parents over zoom, and Sean Neckel took them outside afterwards to see Saturn and Jupiter.

Friday October 7, Fayette County Rec Department Stargazing at Lake Horton Fayetteville, GA

7 members were present: Richard Thomas, Sean and Chelsea Neckel, Dave and Rosanne Stone, Wade Simmons, and Bill Honea. Skies were clear, and the 90 or so guests enjoyed some perfect views of Jupiter, Saturn, Andromeda, and the Hercules Cluster.

Saturday October 8, Space Explorer Day at Fernbank Museum of Natural History Atlanta, GA

Space Explorer Day at Fernbank was a great success for FRAC. There were an estimated 1500 guests that attended the event. Sean Neckel, Wade Simmons, and Bill Honea, along with a dozen or so members from the Georgia Tech Astronomy Club held a solar observing in the Dinosaur Plaza. Alan Pryor and Carlos Flores each gave presentations on astrophotography and astronomy, and George Ruff gave guided walking tours of our scale solar system model.

Saturday October 15, Astronomy in the Park at High Falls State Park Jackson, GA

The skies were perfect again at High Falls State Park. Sean and Chelsea Neckel, Aaron Calhoun, Dave and Rosanne Stone, Wade Simmons, John Cruickshank, and Ben, Steve, and Mercy Barker hosted more than 50 campers and guests. Former club member Truman Boyle participated with us as well. The highlight of the night was seeing Jupiter's Great Red Spot.

* * *

Solar System Observing – November 2022

Mercury is about 4° from the sun, and not visible.

Venus is separated from the sun by about 2°, and not observable.

Earth has a lot of space junk in its trunk.

Mars is approaching opposition, visible starting around 10pm until dawn.

Jupiter is just past opposition, visible from 7pm until 4am.

Saturn is visible around 7:15pm and sets just after midnight.

Uranus is visible with a telescope at around 9pm.

Neptune is visible in a telescope starting around 7:45pm until 2:30am.

Moon: FQ: 11/1 Full: 11/8 LQ:11/16 New: 11/23
FQ: 11/30

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

* * *

Classifieds:

For Sale:

Orion Skyquest XT8 Dobsonian

Moonlite 2 speed focuser (1.25" and 2" eyepieces)

Telrad and 9X50 finder scope

Collimating cap

Orion Collimating Eyepiece

Tectron sight tube

Orion LaserMate Collimator

Farpoint counterweight bag

Homemade base

Located in Jonesboro

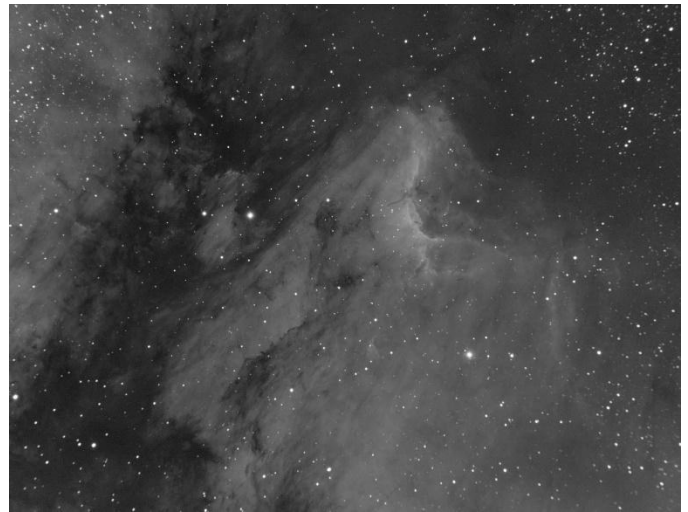
Asking for \$300.00 cash or certified check.

Contact Felix Luciano

montb02@yahoo.com

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

* * *



IC5070, The Pelican Nebula, Courtesy of Felix Luciano

Details:

Telescope: AP92mm FL 612mm

Camera/Filters: ST8300M @ -10C, FW5, Baader
36mm LRGB & Ha 7nm filter

Guider: OAG8300, ST-i guider

Exposures:

Ha: 21 subs X 600 sec

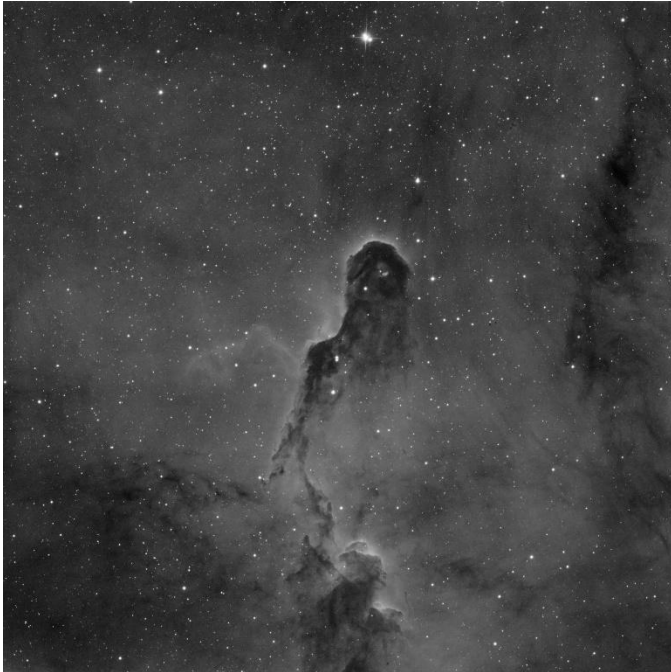
NOTE: Meridian Delay function, 5E

From Wikipedia:

The Pelican Nebula (also known as IC 5070 and IC 5067) is an H II region associated with the North America Nebula in the constellation Cygnus. The gaseous contortions of this emission nebula bear a resemblance to a pelican, giving rise to its name. The Pelican Nebula is located nearby first magnitude star Deneb, and is divided from its more prominent neighbor, the North America Nebula, by a foreground molecular cloud filled with dark dust. Both are part of the larger H II region of Westerhout 40.

The Pelican is much studied because it has a particularly active mix of star formation and evolving gas clouds. The light from young energetic stars is slowly transforming cold gas to hot and causing an ionization front gradually to advance outward. Particularly dense filaments of cold gas are seen to still remain, and among these are found two jets emitted from the Herbig–Haro object 555. Millions of years from now this nebula might no longer be known as the Pelican, as the balance and

placement of stars and gas will leave something that appears completely different.



The Elephant Trunk Nebula, Courtesy of Alan Pryor

The Elephant Trunk Nebula is part of IC 1396 in the constellation of Cepheus. It is about 2,400 light-years away. An 8/10-inch telescope should reveal some of the nebulosity with an ultra-high contrast filter. A 12/14 inch telescope should reveal more detail with the use of an O III filter. It is actually a dark nebula that forms the elephant truck. It is thought to be a star forming region with some stars less than 100,000 years old. It is almost 6 degrees southeast of Alderamin which is a bright southern star in Cepheus. This photo was taken with an Ha filter.

A full size image can be found at [Elephant Trunk](#)

* * *

Trivia Answers:

Earth	Luna
Mars	Phobos
Jupiter	Amalthea
Saturn	Hyperion
Uranus	Oberon
Neptune	Triton
Pluto	Styx

##