

THE FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT
RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

Vol. 27, No. 6 June 2023

Officers: President, **Sean Neckel**; Vice President, **Aaron Calhoun**; Secretary / ALCOR **Mark Grizzaffi**; Treasurer, **Mark Sutton**; Board of Directors: **Dwight Harness, Felix Luciano, and George Ruff**; Program/Observing Coordinator: **Dave and Rosanne Stone**; 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 8, 2023, 7:30pm at the UGA Gardens in Griffin and on Zoom. We will discuss our Globe at Night updates, and our upcoming observing schedule. Sean will host our 3rd annual Astronomy Trivia Night.

Public Observing Events:

Friday, June 9th we will have a public observing event at Lake Horton in Fayette County with a weather make-up date on Saturday, June 10th.

Friday, June 23rd we will have a public observing event at Indian Springs in Butts County with a weather make-up date on Saturday, June 24th.

FRAC Observing Events:

Friday and Saturday night June 16-17, from sunset until whenever at Joe Kurz Wildlife Management Area.

Remember if you are the last to leave and the gate was locked when you arrived, lock our combination lock to the other lock on the chain when you go.

The lock code is 9321.

Please keep checking your email for updates regarding club events.

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Club Projects:

Starry Skies South

The Starry Skies South meetings have been moved to be at the same time as our club meetings. There is a discussion about having them at a different time so we can participate. Updates will come when we hear more.

Globe at Night

This month's campaign is June 9-18, and will use the constellations [Bootes](#) and [Hercules](#).

Details of the process are here: <https://globeatnight.org/6-steps.php>

FRAC T-Shirts

T-shirts are still available. They are \$20 at all future FRAC gatherings.

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Astronomy Trivia – Lunar Edition:

1. If you dropped a hammer and a feather on the moon at the same time, which would hit the ground first?
2. How much moon rock was brought back to Earth by Apollo astronauts?
3. What is the largest crater on the moon?
4. How many people have walked on the moon?
5. What is the origin of the word 'moon'?

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Previous Meetings/Activities:

May Events:

FRAC Meeting - May 11, 2023 - 7:30pm on Zoom.

- 14 Members attended the meeting on Zoom: Sean and Chelsea Neckel, Carlos Flores, Wade Simmons, Jorge Mayo, Scott

Hasson, Dave and Rosanne Stone, Steve Hollander, Ben Barker, Dave Pendergrast, Adalynn and Brook Helf, and Tom Moore.

- This meeting was very short. Sean and Chelsea were in Colorado and there was not really a program lined up.

Welcome New Members!

FRAC would like to welcome our newest members, the Helf family. Craig, Brooke, Ezra, Merrick, Adalynn, Karis, and Reya joined the club in May. I had the pleasure of meeting Craig and Adalynn at our Indian Springs event in April. Clayton Wilson joined the club in late May and joined us at Indian Springs on May 26th. Welcome to the club!!

FRAC Observings:

Friday and Saturday May 19 and 20 at Joe Kurz were clouded out.

Public Observing Events:

Saturday, May 5, the event at Sprewell Bluff was canceled because of cloudy skies.

Friday May 12 and 13, the event at Lake Horton was canceled because of the weather.

Friday May 26th, public observing event at Indian Springs Park in Thomaston, GA. It was a rare 2023 beautiful night. George Ruff, Wade and Carmen Simmons, Clayton Wilson and Dave and Rosanne Stone were all there and had a great time.

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Solar System Observing - June 2023

Mercury is very close to the sun and not easily observable.

Venus is visible in the evening, starting around 7pm.

Earth is spinning me right 'round baby right 'round. Like a record baby right 'round.

Mars is visible starting around 9:30 pm until just after midnight.

Jupiter is visible in the morning sky around 4:30am until dawn.

Saturn is becoming visible around 2 am until dawn.

Uranus is close to the sun and not observable.

Neptune is visible in a telescope starting around 3am until dawn.

Moon: Full: 6/3 LQ: 6/10 New: 6/18 FQ: 6/26

<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

For Sale:

Losmandy G11 go-to equatorial mount bought 2008 (no scope)

Large reflective cover for daytime use

24/7/365 cover for continuous use

Roller frame for tripod

Large box miscellaneous bits and pieces

\$500 for all.

Joel Simmons

joels551@aol.com

770-570-8868

Solar Finder for Telrad Mounts

If anyone has a Telrad mount on their scope, and would like a 3d printed solar finder, please email me at stneckel@gmail.com . I can print one for you, or if you have a 3D printer, I can send you the files to print for yourself. No charge.

This finder acts like a pinhole camera to help align your scope on the sun. This is ONLY TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A SOLAR FILTER. Never point your scope at the sun without a solar filter. Severe telescope and eye damage WILL OCCUR!



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the constellation of Leo, and they are part of an even larger supercluster of galaxies. The galaxies are: NGC 3193, an elliptical galaxy that is 92 million light-years away; NGC 3190, a spiral galaxy, almost edge-on angle that is about 80 million light-years away; NGC 3187, a barred spiral galaxy with stretched arms and it is 87 million light-years away; and NGC 3185, a barred spiral galaxy, face-on view, and it is about 80 million light-years from Earth.

Hickson 44 is 2 degrees north of the second magnitude star Albieba in Leo. The exposure was 3 hours and 25 minutes with a 14-inch scope.

A full size image can be seen at [Hickson 44](#).

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Trivia Answers:

1. Neither. They would hit at the same time.
2. 380kg, or about 838 lbs.
3. The South Pole-Aitken (SPA) basin is the largest and oldest recognized impact basin on the moon. Its diameter is roughly 2,500 km or 1,550 miles.
4. 12
5. The word moon is derived from the word 'month.'

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Hickson 44 Galaxy Group, Courtesy of Alan Pryor.

This is a photo of the Hickson 44 Galaxy Group. There are 4 big galaxies and 2 fainter galaxies in this group. They are all interacting gravitationally with each other. All of the galaxies are 80 to 92 million light-years from Earth. These galaxies are in