

THE FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT
RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

Vol. 28, No. 8 August 2024

Officers: President, **Sean Neckel**;
Vice President, **Alfred McClure**;
Secretary / ALCOR **Mark Grizzaffi**;
Treasurer, **Mark Sutton**;
Board of Directors: **Aaron Calhoun, Bill Evans,**
and George Ruff; Program/Observing Coordinator:
Dave and Rosanne Stone;
Facebook Coordinator: **Aaron Calhoun**;
Webmaster: **Carmen Simmons**;
Newsletter Editor: **Dawn Chappell**;
NASA Contact: Felix Luciano

* * *

Club Calendar:

FRAC Meeting:

Thursday, August 11, 2023, 7:30pm at the UGA Gardens in Griffin and on Zoom. There will be a telescope demonstration.

Public Observing Events:

We have two public events in August. Our first is at Indian Springs on Friday, August 9th at 8:45pm and in case of clouds then we have a weather make-up date on Saturday, August 10th.

The second event is at Lake Horton on Friday, August 23rd at 8:30pm and in case of clouds we have a weather make-up date on August 24th.

FRAC Observing Events:

Because of the new moon happening so early in the month, we have two club events in August. The first is Friday, August 2nd and Saturday, August 3rd. More than likely, by the time the newsletter is sent out, then this event will have occurred (it has).

The second Joe Kurz event is on Friday, August, 30th and Saturday, August 31st.

The gate is now locked, so please be sure to lock our combination lock on to the other keyed lock on the chain when the last person leaves for the night.

The lock code is 9321.

Please keep checking your email for updates regarding club events.

President's Message:

Hello FRAC Members,

Thank you to everyone who has been participating in our meetings recently. We have been getting some really great ideas for meeting topics, presentations, discussions, and demonstrations. All of these ideas are coming from our membership, which is a great thing.

Keep those ideas coming. Just because you suggest a topic, does not mean you need to be the one to cover it. Ask the club what you want to know and we can make it happen.

Sean

* * *

Club Projects:

Globe at Night

This month's campaign is August 26 to September 4 and will use the constellation [Cygnus](#).

Details of the process are here:

<https://globeatnight.org/6-steps.php>

This will be the second year we are participating in the Globe at Night project. Keep those observations coming, and help us show the effects of increasing light pollution year to year.

FRAC T-Shirts

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

* * *

July Events:

FRAC meeting - July 11, 2023- 7:30pm at the UGA Gardens in Griffin and on Zoom.

13 FRAC members joined us in person at the Gardens: Sean Neckel, George Ruff, Larry and Twila Dove, Wade Simmons, Alfred McClure, Carlos Flores, Dave Stone, Aaron Calhoun, Tom Moore, Katy Nagy, Mark Grizzaffi, and Mark and Terri Sutton.

4 FRAC members attended our monthly meeting on Zoom: John Cruickshank, Chelsea Neckel, Ben Barker, and Alan Pryor.

- Dave and Roseanne received the AL stellar-level outreach award.
- Question about whether FRAC is a 501C organization. It is not.
- Mark S. gave the Treasurer's report.
- Roster is up to date. Mark G. will submit the quarterly roster to the AL.
- George gave a status report on the Solar System model and the design plan. Mary Huff is working on the design but does not want to show us anything until she's done.
- For the meeting presentation, club members showed their favorite astronomy book. The list of those books, and web links where they can be purchased will be included at the end of the newsletter.

FRAC Observings:

On the weekend of July 5th and 6th we had our club observation at Joe Kurz.

Public Observing Events:

In July, we had two public events.

We had a great turn out at Indian Springs on Friday, July 12th. We had around twenty-five guests. We had two club members to share the night sky. They were George Ruff and David Stone.

Lake Horton had their run of bad luck continue and both nights were overcast so the event was canceled.

Welcome New Members!

Liam, Stephanie, and Jason Drum joined the club in July. Welcome to FRAC!!

* * *

Solar System Observing – August 2024

Mercury is now an evening object, but probably not observable.

Venus is close to the sun and not observable.

Earth just keeps on spinnin'.

Mars rises around 2:00am and will be visible until sunrise

Jupiter is visible starting around 2:30am until sunrise.

Saturn rises around 11:00pm and will be visible until dawn.

Uranus rises at 1:25am, and is visible with a telescope.

Neptune rises just after midnight and is visible with a telescope until dawn.

Moon: New: 8/4 FQ: 8/12 Full: 8/19 LQ 8/26

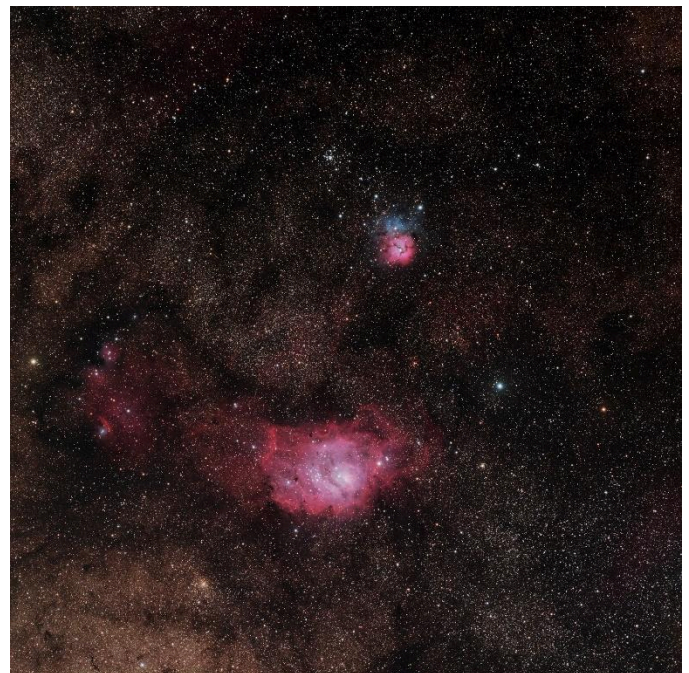
<https://in-the-sky.org/>

* * *

Classifieds:

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

* * *



The Trifid Nebula (top, M20, NGC6514) the Lagoon Nebula (center, Messier 8, NGC 6523) with the Milky Way in the background, courtesy of Alan Pryor



The Trifid Nebula (Messier 20), courtesy of Alan Pryor

The Trifid Nebula is one of the best objects of the summer sky. The Trifid Nebula (Messier 20) is about 6 degrees northwest of Kaus Borealis, the point star in the Tea Kettle of Sagittarius. It is also known as NGC 6514. It was one of my first photographs, but I photographed it again in 2017. When photographed it is one of the prettiest objects around. The red area is an emission nebula. The blue area is a reflection nebula. Then there is the dark nebula in front of it. Plus, you have a nice open star cluster. The Trifid Nebula is between 5200 and 9000 light-years away, and it is pretty bright with a magnitude of 6.3. It is a star forming region. Smaller scopes can reveal it, but bigger is always better.

The Trifid Nebula is surrounded by the rich starfield of the Milky Way, and it is close to the Lagoon Nebula.

A full size image of the Trifid Nebula may be found at [Trifid Nebula](#). A wide angle view showing the Trifid Nebula, the Milky Way background and the Lagoon Nebula can be seen at [Trifid_Wide_Angle](#).

* * *

Books Presented at the July meeting:

[The Zoomable Universe](#) by Caleb Sharp (Sean Neckel)

[Hagerstown Town & Country Almanack](#) (Larry & Twila Dove)

[The Sun Kings](#) by Stuart Clark (Katy Nagy)

[Turn Left at Orion](#) by Guy Consolmagno / Dan M. Davis (Mark Grizzaffi)

[Artificial Light at Night: State of the Science 2024](#)

DarkSky International (Mark & Terri Sutton)

[Backyard Astronomer's Guide](#) by Terence Dickinson, Alan Dyer, et al. (Alfred McClure, George Ruff)

[Pocket Sky Atlas](#) by Roger W Sinnott (Alfred McClure)

[2024 Night Sky Almanac](#) by Nicole Mortillaro, The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Alfred McClure, George Ruff)

[Stargazing with Binoculars, Fourth Edition](#) by Robin Scagell and David Frydman (Alfred McClure)

[Sky Guide, a Field Guide to the Heavens](#) by Chartrand/Wimmer (Alfred McClure)

[The Night Sky Observer's Guide](#) By George Robert Kepple and Glen Sanner (Aaron Calhoun)

[Observer's Handbook 2024](#) by James S. Edgar (editor), The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (George Ruff)

[Astronomical Calendar 2024](#) by Guy Ottewell (George Ruff)

##