

THE FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT
RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

Vol. 28, No. 10 **October 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**

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Club Calendar:

FRAC Meeting:

Thursday, October 10, 2024, 7:30pm at the UGA Gardens in Griffin and on Zoom. Carlos Flores, Larry Dove, and Wade Simmons will demonstrate their photographic telescopes.

Public Observing Events:

We have one public observing event scheduled for October 18th at Indian Springs from 6:45-9:30 with a weather make-up date scheduled for Saturday, October 19th, in case Friday gets canceled.

FRAC Observing Events:

Our next club observation will be October 4th and 5th at Joe Kurz. In November, our club observing dates will be 11/1 and 11/2.

The gate is now open, so please be sure to leave the gate as you find it 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,

I've started a new job recently, and will be spending a lot of time in Minnesota over the next few months. I just wanted to thank Alfred McClure for running our monthly meetings while I'm out of town.

THANKS ALFRED!

Sean

Club Projects:

Globe at Night

This month's campaign is October 24 through November 2 and will use the constellations [Cygnus](#) and [Pegasus](#).

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.

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September Events:

FRAC meeting September 12, 2024 at 7:30pm at the UGA Gardens in Griffin and on Zoom. 14 FRAC members joined us in person at the Gardens: Alfred McClure, Carlos Flores, Dave and Rosanne Stone, Don Clemons, George Ruff, Jan Lamoreaux, Cheryl Baumgartner, Scott Harris, Aaron Calhoun, Carmen and Wade Simmons, Brennan Czock, Ben Barker, Ronda Dyer, and Mercy Barker.

8 FRAC members attended our monthly meeting on Zoom: Alan Pryor, Dave Mandell, Chelsea Neckel, Sean Neckel, John Cruickshank, Tymia Taylor, Clayton Wilson, and Scott Hasson

- Alfred McClure is filling in for Sean while he is out of town.
- Alfred suggested planning for a holiday meeting. Will discuss at the next meeting.
- Aaron donated his 10" DOB to the club.
- George discussed the possibility of obtaining sponsors for SS model signs. Cost for signs start at \$300 each.
- Aaron gave a presentation on Messier objects viewable in the Fall season.
- R. Scott Harris gave a presentation on the Georgia crater near Woodbury and evidence that it is much larger than originally thought.
- Sean will get with Ben to discuss linking members to GroupMe.

FRAC Observings:

There was no scheduled club observing event in September.

Public Observing Events:

In September, we had two public events scheduled but both were cancelled due to weather.

Welcome New Members!

Tymia Taylor and Annie Dorman joined the club in September. Welcome to FRAC!!

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Solar System Observing – October 2024

Mercury is close to the sun and not observable.

Venus is visible around 7:30pm until it sets just before 9pm.

Earth is a bit soggy in places.

Mars rises around 1am and will be visible until sunrise.

Jupiter is visible starting at midnight until sunrise.

Saturn rises around 8:00pm and will be visible until 4am.

Uranus rises at 11:30pm, and is visible with a telescope.

Neptune rises around 9pm and is visible with a telescope until 5am.

Moon: New: 10/2 FQ: 10/10 Full: 10/17 LQ 10/24

<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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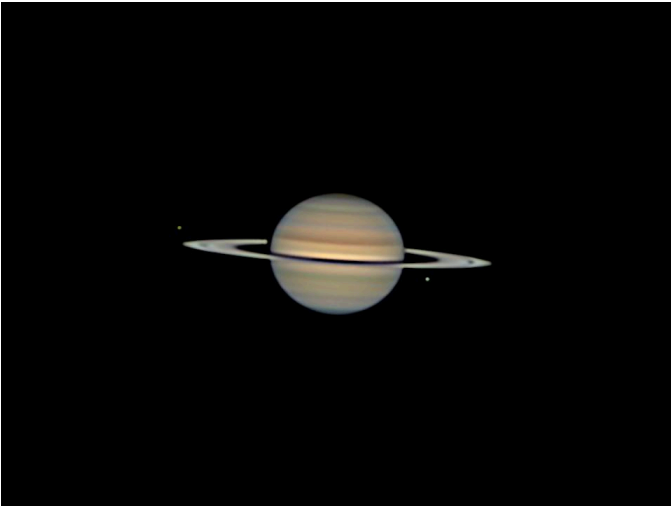


NGC7009 The Saturn Nebula, Courtesy of Alan Pryor. Image taken in 2014.

The Saturn Nebula is a planetary nebula in Aquarius. It is also known as NGC 7009 or Caldwell 55. It is located about halfway between Sadalsuud in Aquarius and Algedi in Capricornus. It is a good target in October, and in October of 2024 it will be about 10 degrees west of the planet Saturn.

The nebula displays a teal green color that is characteristic of the Oxygen-2 emission wavelength. The central star has a surface temperature of about 100,000 degrees F. It has a complex structure, but the most notable features are the handles that radiate out and give the appearance of Saturn when the rings are edge-on. At the end of the handles are some red areas which are probably associated with excited hydrogen atoms. With a magnitude of 8 you should see the green oval and possibly the handles while using an 8-inch scope. Its distance is not known. Estimates range from 1,400 to 5,200 light-years.

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Saturn at oppositions courtesy of Clayton Wilson

“This image of Saturn was captured shortly after it’s opposition on September 8th, when it was closest to Earth and at its brightest for the year. Two moons are visible, Enceladus to the left and Tethys to the right. The rings appear to change tilt over time, offering a different perspective of the planet throughout Saturn’s orbital period. In 2025, the Earth will pass through Saturn’s ring plane. During this time, the rings will appear edge-on and almost disappear from view, as they are incredibly thin compared to their vast width.”

This image was captured using a Celestron C11, a 2x Powermate, ZWO ADC and an ASI585MC color camera. The image is composed of a single, 2-minute high-speed video consisting of 8500 frames. The seeing was very good that night so the best 75% of the video’s frames were stacked and sharpened and further processed in Pixinsight.”