

# THE FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT  
RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

**Vol. 29, No. 7** **July 2025**

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

\* \* \*

## **Club Calendar:**

### **FRAC Meeting:**

Thursday, July 10, 2025, 7:30 pm on Ellis Rd @ the  
UGA Gardens in Griffin and on Zoom.  
Carlos Flores will be giving a program on AP Photo  
Processing Techniques, using free software.

### **Public Observing Events:**

In July, we have one public event and one club  
event. Our public event is scheduled for Lake  
Horton on Friday, July 11th and in case the event is  
cancelled then the weather makeup date is  
scheduled for Saturday, July 12th. The time will be  
from 9 till 10:30.  
Hopefully, the tides will change for our public  
events and we will continue to have clear skies for  
our club events.

### **FRAC Observing Events:**

Our monthly club event will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup>  
and 26th at Joe Kurz from dusk till whenever.

The gate is now locked and make sure to lock our  
combination lock on to the other keyed lock on the  
chain (NOT INTO THE CHAIN) when the last  
person leaves for the night.

The lock combination is 9321.

Reminder, you must have a hunting or fishing  
license to participate on a WMA and they do check  
from time to time.

Please keep checking your email and the FRAC  
Facebook group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2002160466558902>  
for updates.

## **President's Message:**

June was a very eventful month for me. Besides a  
very wet and cloudy month (I had 15 days in June  
that I reported to NOAA a rain accumulation and  
that does not include cloudy skies). I also had a  
family reunion out in Cassville, Missouri and a high  
school class reunion. GO EAGLES, 1970 Griffin  
High School, last year of the GHS Eagles. The day  
after returning home, my transmission went out, but  
thankfully I was back home.

I was looking at some pictures I had taken last year  
that I had not printed (you noticed I didn't say  
developed) and to my surprise I had captured Ursa  
Major during the total Eclipse last year while in  
New Boston, Texas on the zero line of travel.  
Over the previous meetings, we have discussed  
briefly about how to get new members into the club  
and Introduction Classes into Astronomy. I would  
like to set up an education committee group to  
explore this subject. There were several books  
discussed as possibilities. I would also like to add a  
couple books to that list, "The Astronomy  
Handbook" by Govert Schilling, and the one I am  
really enjoying is, "Astronomy for Dummies" by  
Stephen P. Maran, PHD and Richard Tresch  
Fienberg, PHD, both NASA Medal Recipients.  
Interestingly last week as I was reading in the book  
about Meteors and Comets, lo and behold a  
meteorite strikes a home in Henry County. I  
actually thought that a tremendous thunderstorm  
had come up and the thunder continued on and on,  
but that was a breaking of the sound barrier. And  
then we read where a new comet has been observed.  
Wow, what a time we are living in, reminds me of  
Chicken Little.

One more thing, did everyone read the article in the Reflector Magazine, Library Telescope Program? We can discuss this also at the July meeting. REMEMBER, this is OUR club, not MY club. Let me know what the membership thinks we need to do.

Alfred

\* \* \*

### **FRAC T-Shirts**

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

**Club dues ---- Please turn in ASAP** if you have not already done so. \$15 by cash, check or by Venmo to Mark Sutton. Make check out to Flint River Astronomy Club sent to Mark's address or at the meeting, or pay through Venmo@fracmoney24 (search for a business account)

\* \* \*

Did anyone go and take a look at this FREE book last month?

<https://artcentrics.com/books/>

The book primarily consists of star hop instruction sheets developed by Jim Mazur that were initially made available on his website Skyledge.net. This compilation contains over 170 instruction sheets with over 250 objects. Each sheet contains two star charts; the first chart is used to help orient you to the night sky and immediate area around the target using familiar constellations or asterisms such as the Big Dipper, the Summer Triangle, or the Great Square of Pegasus. The second chart is a detailed road map on how to hop to the highlighted objects. Information on the targeted objects is provided, as well as a small image of the object, when available.

\* \* \*

### **FRAC meeting:**

Last month we had great attendance at the monthly club meeting.

Alfred McClure, George Ruff, Wade & Carmen Simmons, Tom Moore, Larry & Twila Dove, Tom and Brittany Partin, Ronda Dyer, David & Rosanne Stone, Scott Hasson, Brent Summer, Sean Neckel, Ben Barker, Carlos Flores, John Cruickshank, Chris & Brennan Czock, Doyne Tallman, Visitors- Mary Coffey, Ravi Singh.

On Zoom, Mark & Terri Sutton, and Alan Pryor, Michael Stuart, Aaron Calhoun

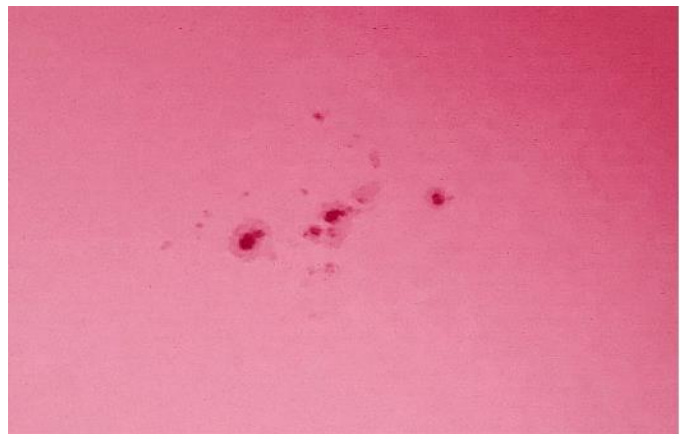
\* \* \*

### **Classifieds:**

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

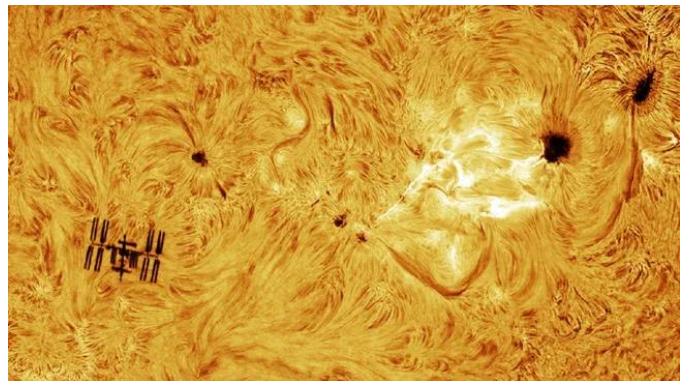
\* \* \*

Our closest star, the Sun. Contributed by member Larry Dove



My first attempt at sunspot imaging. This image of sunspot 4100 was taken with my I-Pad using a Lunt 130mm telescope with a 16mm Nagler eyepiece. This sunspot spit out a corona mass ejection on May 30, creating aurora on June 1-2. The sunspot is classified as an EKC.

Thanks,  
Larry Dove



A flaring sunspot appeared in the background of a recent transit photo; at the exact moment the International Space Station passed in front of the sun. (Image credit: Andrew McCarthy/[@cosmic\\_background](https://twitter.com/cosmic_background))



NGC5466 Photo taken by Alan Pryor  
6/2/2025

NGC 5466 is a faint globular cluster in the constellation of Bootes with a magnitude of 9.2. It is 53,000 light-years from the Earth and appears to be over 12 billion years old. It contains a lot of blue stars. The central core of the cluster is not very dense which gives it a Shapley-Sawyer Concentration Class of XII. XII is the designation of a globular cluster with the loosest structure.

The globular cluster has a very long tidal tail which was discovered in 2006. So, gravitational forces from the Milky Way or other bodies have impacted this cluster. This may explain the loose structure and lack of a dense core.

Notice the small spiral galaxy on the left side of the photo.

The photo was taken with a 14" Planewave Corrected Dall-Kirkham telescope and a Finger Lakes Instruments PL16803 camera cooled to -25 degrees C. There were 8 sets of 3-minute luminance, red, green and blue frames. The exposures were shorter than usual to preserve the color of the stars. Exposures that are too long will wash the colors out to just white.

A full-size photo can be found at [NGC\\_5466](https://www.alanpryor.com/NGC_5466).



We made the trip to Astrocon in Bryce Canyon, Utah. Very informative seminars and discussions of everything astronomical. Stargazing was limited due to wildfires in the area but we had a great time in a beautiful area of the country.  
Larry & Twila

##