

THE FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT
RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

Vol. 29, No. 8 **August 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**;

* * *

It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.”

— Lisa Mantchev, [Eyes Like Stars](#)

* * *

Club Calendar:

FRAC Meeting:

Thursday, August 14, 2025, 7:30 pm on Ellis Rd @ the UGA Gardens in Griffin and on Zoom.

Aaron Calhoun will be bringing this months program feature

Public Observing Events:

The gate is now locked so 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 continue to check your email and the FRAC Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2002160466558902> for news updates.

FRAC Observing Events:

David Stone:

In August, we have several public events and one club event.

8/8/2025 8:15pm — Indian Springs State Park Public Observing Event, Flovilla, GA
(In case of clouds, the event will be held the following evening)

8/15/2025 8:30pm — Fayette County Rec Department Public Observing at Lake Horton (In case of clouds, the event will be held the following evening)

8/22/2025, 8/23//2025 — FRAC observing weekend at JKWMA

Our public event is scheduled for Lake Horton on Friday July 11th and in case the event is

Hopefully, the tides will change for our public events and we will continue to have clear skies for our club events.

* * *

“The stars we are given. The constellations we make. That is to say, stars exist in the cosmos, but constellations are the imaginary lines we draw between them, the readings we give the sky, the stories we tell.”

— Rebecca Solnit, [Storming the Gates of Paradise: Landscapes for Politics](#)

* * *

President's Message:

Wow, what a month again for Astronomy. Last month we had 24 present and 6 on zoom for a total of 30 participating in the monthly meeting. That is actually one half of the total membership involved in a meeting. Many clubs wish that they had halve on the membership involved in their meeting and I want to say WOW and thank you to everyone.

Many things are going on that effects our environment of Astronomy that we read almost daily and so much of it is taken as absolute facts and the news media will grab hold of it and run wild. Did you know and hear that the Earth is getting hotter and hotter? Well it is, one government report even shows the increase over the last 50 years saying that we have gotten 1 degree hotter and the glaciers are melting, but never have I heard on the news that the ice in Antarctica has grown more in the last 2 years than has been noted in the last 50 years, and if you look and read closely in nearly every astronomy book that their information is theory instead of absolute facts.

I assume that everyone that reads this newsletter is aware of the strange weather that has been happening over the past 2 years but even more so this calendar year. Floods, high winds, tornados and earthquakes. In January 2 years ago here in Griffin we actually had 5 tornados on the ground at the same time, it was so unusual that it is still being studied by NOAA. Another interesting fact is that our area is designated as tornado alley not only for Georgia but also for the nation. First thing you are saying is NO WAY, Oklahoma and Texas has more tornados but not according to our government, and you know the government is never wrong. Yes, you can see much larger tornados out west but the ones we have pop up quickly and are very destructive. I do volunteer with our local Emergency Operations Center and get to set in on many of these discussions on preparedness and being aware. So, I am asking you, are you prepared should an emergency arise? Food, water, communications? What will you do for your family should an event happen to you? If you visit Ready.gov there are many items and suggestions listed to make you aware of the ways to be ready. This is NOT a prepper notice, this is just a common sense suggestion for each of you as friends.

Anyway, I have a busy week ahead of me. I'm headed up to Cincinnati to have the honor of seeing one of my granddaughters receive her Doctorate degree.

REMEMBER, this is OUR club, not MY club. Let me know what the membership thinks we need to do.

Alfred

.....
"Before we invented civilization our ancestors lived mainly in the open out under the sky. Before we devised artificial lights and atmospheric pollution and modern forms of nocturnal entertainment we watched the stars. There were practical calendar reasons of course but there was more to it than that. Even today the most jaded city dweller can be unexpectedly moved upon encountering a clear night sky studded with thousands of twinkling stars. When it happens to me after all these years it still takes my breath away."

— Carl Sagan, [Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space](#)

TREVIEW

1. How many constellations are recognized by the IAU?
2. The Egyptians saw the Great Bear's brightest stars formed a _____?
3. The ancient Chinese had how many constellations?
4. Is there a constellation named Toad?
5. What do the Bororo Indians of Brazil call Orion?

FRAC T-Shirts

FRAC T-shirts are still available! They are \$20 at most 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)

* * *

.....

Image by Alan Pryor

NGC 5907

Alan Pryor

Image Captured May, 2024

NGC 5907, the Knife Edge Galaxy, is a great example of an edge on galaxy in the constellation of Draco. It

is best observed in July or August. It is about 46 million light-years away with a magnitude of 10.4 Edge

on galaxies are easier to observe (or photograph) than face on galaxies because the light is concentrated

along a thin line. The photograph shows a dust lane going down the center of the galaxy. A 4 inch or 6

inch scope should reveal this galaxy although 10 inch or bigger scope reveal more detail.

In 1998 a ring structure was discovered that is probably tidal streams of dust stars that were left behind

from some gravitational disturbance. However, it is so faint that I could not detect it.

A full-size image can be seen at [NGC_5907](#)



t

.....

NGC 2175 Photo taken by Eugene Rush
3/21/25

NGC 2175 (The Monkey Head Nebula) is an open cluster embedded in a diffusion nebula in the constellation Orion with a magnitude of 6.8. It is approximately 6,350 light years from the Earth. It was discovered by Giovanni Batista Hodierna before 1654 and independently discovered by Karl Christian Bruhns in 1857.

The image was made using an 8-inch Ritchey- Chretien telescope with a ZWO ASI071MC pro camera with a Svfony dual-band narrow filter.

The image consists of 45, 120-second subs taken from Sharpsburg GA



.....

“Those shining stars, he liked to point out, were one of the special treats for people like us who lived out in the wilderness. Rich city folks, he'd say, lived in fancy apartments, but their air was so polluted they couldn't even see the stars. We'd have to be out of our minds to want to trade places with any of them.”

— Jeannette Walls, [The Glass Castle](#)

.....

Trivia answers

1. 88
2. Beef Shank
3. 259
4. Yes, native American
5. Jabuti (Tortoise)

FRAC at JKWM in July





Please come join us at the monthly JKWM viewing. It's great fellowship and a time to relax, lean back and the skies are the best you will find for darkness for miles around.

Hope to see you there