

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Middle Georgia Astronomical Society (MGAS) in conjunction with the Museum of Arts and Sciences is to promote the interest in astronomy in the middle Georgia area. This is done through monthly meetings with guest speakers and presentations, special events, star parties and observation nights. The study of astronomy enriches our culture by increasing the understanding of our universe. By presenting astronomical programs and events to the public, the Middle Georgia Astronomical Society and the Museum of Arts and Sciences provide opportunities for learning about and enjoying the wonders of stars, nebulae, planets, galaxies and much more.



## MEMBERSHIP

The only requirements to become a member of the society is an interest in astronomy and payment of a small annual dues. You do not need to know anything about the subject nor do you need to own a telescope. So if you have a love of science and would like to learn about or share your knowledge of astronomy come and visit us at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Macon. We're looking forward to meeting you.



## KIDS & ASTRONOMY

Children have wonderful imaginations and astronomy can be one of the most exciting ways to encourage them to put their imaginations to use. Children enjoy learning about astronomy. It is fun for them and inexpensive too. You don't need a telescope to look at the stars. You can use binoculars or just your eyes. So grab a blanket, some snacks and head for a dark spot to enjoy an evening with your child.



Children are welcome to attend our events. There are also many astronomy sites on the internet just for kids. Come and explore!

## EVENTS

The Middle Georgia Astronomical Society has meetings once a month on the second Saturday. Meetings begin at 10 AM in the planetarium of the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Macon, Georgia. There is no admission fee to attend these meetings and visitors are welcome. On the same Saturday, the museum observatory is open from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM for solar observing using special filters.



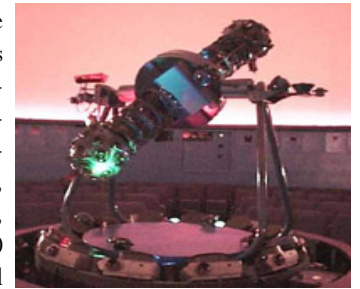
Night observing events are sponsored by the Middle Georgia Astronomical Society on various evenings around middle Georgia. Contact a member or visit the society's web page for information.

<http://www.mgas.org>

## MUSEUM OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Mark Smith Planetarium was first opened in 1965. It has a 40-foot-diameter dome, 118 comfortable tilting seats, surround-sound stereo, and an electronically-automated image projection system. Various special effects can depict meteor showers, auroras, nebulae, alien atmospheres, and more. With Internet connection, satellite TV hook-up, and laserdisc/DVD video capability, virtually any image can be projected onto the dome; from movies, to live NASA-TV, online streaming video, and digital slideshow presentations.

The centerpiece of the Planetarium is the Minolta MS-10 star projector, which depicts the sun, moon, planets, and up to 4,000 other celestial



objects. Even experienced stargazers will be impressed with such subtle details as the colors of certain bright stars, the cloudlike band of our Milky Way, and the indistinct "puffs" of neighboring galaxies. With the Planetarium's "time-travel" capability, you can journey to see the skies over any part of Earth, at any time period in human history. Public shows are presented every day.

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