

# CAPE FEAR



# Skies

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
CAPE FEAR ASTRONOMY CLUB

VOLUME 2 No 4

APRIL 1987

## MEMBERS:

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SUNDAY APRIL 5TH. 7:30 AT MORTON HALL UNC-W CAMPUS

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR TRIP TO CHAPEL HILL ON FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH. THIS TIME AT THE OBSERVATORY IS RESERVED FOR US, SO LET'S HAVE A GOOD TURNOUT FOR THIS TRIP. ENCLOSED IN THIS LETTER YOU WILL FIND TWO MAPS. ONE IS A ROAD MAP OF NORTH CAROLINA, AND THE OTHER IS A MAP OF CHAPEL HILL. THERE ARE SEVERAL ROUTES OUTLINED ON THE ROAD MAP, SO YOU CAN CHOOSE THE BEST ROUTE. THE MAP OF CHAPEL HILL IS HIGHLIGHTED TO SHOW THE ROUTE TO THE PLANETARIUM. THE OBSERVATORY IS IN THE PLANETARIUM. WE WILL BE WATCHING THE FILM BEFORE WE GO TO THE OBSERVATORY, SO YOU'LL NEED TO BE AT THE PLANETARIUM NO LATER THAN 6:30 PM THAT EVENING. YOU SHOULD ALLOW AT LEAST 3 HOURS OF TRAVELING TIME FOR THE TRIP UP THERE. MANY OF THE MEMBERS ARE PLANNING TO STAY OVERNITE IN CHAPEL HILL AND RETURN TO THE PLANETARIUM THE FOLLOWING DAY SO THEY CAN SEE SOME OF THE OTHER SHOWS. PLEASE CONTACT ALAN, PAUL OR RONNIE FOR OTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TRIP. SEVERAL PEOPLE WILL PROBABLY LEAVING TOWN AT THE SAME TIME SO IF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THEM, YOU MAY NOT GET LOST.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN UPDATED COPY OF THE CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER CLUB PAPERS, PLEASE CONTACT PAUL AT THE NEXT MEETING.

DOUG GREENE TOOK SOME NOTES ON THE MARCH 5TH OCCULTATION OF THE PLEIADES BY THE MOON. HE IS VERY INTERESTED IN CONTACTING OTHER MEMBERS WHO ALSO TOOK OBSERVATION NOTES ON THIS EVENT. IF YOU HAVE ANY NOTES OR OTHER INFO ON THIS EVENT PLEASE CALL DOUG AT 799-2255 BEFORE THIS NEXT MEETING. THANKS!!

P.S. DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR CLUB I.D. BADGE TO THE PLANETARIUM. ALOT OF THE MEMBERS ARE GOING TO WEAR THEIR CLUB T-SHIRTS ALSO.

WE ARE PLANNING TO HAVE A CLUB YARD SALE VERY SOON. PAUL IS TRYING TO FIND US A GOOD LOCATION. SO THINK SPRING CLEANING AND DONATE ALL THAT UNWANTED STUFF TO THE CLUB. THE FUNDS WE RAISE WILL GO FOR THE PURCHASE OF HATS, AS WELL AS OTHER CLUB GOODIES.

# THE APRIL SKY CALENDAR

- 1st URANUS STATIONARY IN RIGHT ASCENSION
- 2nd COMET NEUJMIN 2 AT PERIHELION  
MOON 3 DEGREES NORTH OF MARS
- 4th KAPPA SERPENTID METEORS
- 5th DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS. SET YOUR CLOCK FORWARD 1 HOUR
- 6th MOON AT APOGEE. FIRST QUARTER
- 7th DELTA DRACONID METEORS
- 9th NEPTUNE STATIONARY
- 12th VIRGINID METEORS
- 13th MOON AT DESCENDING NODE
- 14th COMET HOWELL AT PERIHELION  
MOON 1.0 DEGREES NORTH OF SPICA. OCCULTATION  
FULL MOON
- 17th GOOD FRIDAY. MOON 0.1 DEGREES NORTH OF ANTARES. OCCULTATION
- 18th MOON 7 DEGREES SOUTH OF SATURN  
MOON 5 DEGREES SOUTH OF URANUS  
MOON AT PERIGEE  
MERCURY AT GREATEST LATITUDE SOUTH OF THE ECLIPTIC PLANE
- 19th EASTER SUNDAY  
SUN ENTERS ARIES  
MOON 6 DEGREES SOUTH OF NEPTUNE  
MERCURY 1.4 DEGREES SOUTH OF JUPITER. THEY ARE ABOUT 17 DEGREES  
FROM THE SUN IN THE MORNING SKY; MAGNITUDES, -0.4 AND -1.6
- 20th LAST QUARTER MOON
- 21st COMET WILSON AT PERIHELION  
MARS 6 DEGREES NORTH OF ALDEBARAN  
VENUS AT APHELION
- 22nd LYRID METEORS
- 25th MOON 0.1 DEGREES NORTH OF VENUS. OCCULTATION
- 26th MOON AT ASCENDING NODE  
MOON PASSES 1.4 DEGREES NORTH OF JUPITER
- 28th NEW MOON
- 29th PLUTO AT OPPOSITION. THIS IS THE MIDDLE OF THE TIME OF THE YEAR  
THAT IS BEST TO OBSERVE THIS ELUSIVE PLANET. IT IS ON THE  
MERIDIAN AT MIDNIGHT, AND MOVES FROM THE MORNING SKY TO THE EVENING  
SKY.

## ORIGINS OF THE CONSTELLATIONS

DRACO THE DRAGON - AMONG THE MONSTERS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS CONSTELLATION IS THE DRAGON SLAIN BY CADMUS, BROTHER OF EUROPA, ON THE SITE THAT WOULD LATER BECOME THE CITY OF THEBES. AFTER CADMUS KILLED THE DRAGON, ATHENA TOLD HIM TO BURY THE TEETH IN THE GROUND. ARMED MEN SPRANG UP FROM THE GROUND. WHEN CADMUS BEGAN TO THROW STONES AT THEM, THEY STARTED TO FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES. ALL BUT FIVE DIED, AND THEY REMAINED TO HELP CADMUS BUILD THE CITY OF THEBES.

EQUULEUS THE LITTLE HORSE - HIS GROUP OF STARS IS ASSOCIATED WITH CELERIS THE BROTHER OF PEGASUS. MERCURY GAVE CELERIS TO THE HERO CASTOR.

ERIDANUS THE RIVER - THE WATERS OF THE ERIDANUS ARE SAID TO STEAM PERPETUALLY AS A RESULT OF PHAETHON'S FIERY FALL INTO IT'S WATERS.

HERCULES - THIS IS THE MOST WELL KNOWN OF ALL THE HEROS OF ANCIENT TIMES. HE PERFORMED THE TWELVE LABORS AS WELL AS OTHER DEEDS. HERCULES ACCIDENTALLY KILLED A YOUNG MAN AND WAS FILL WITH SORROW. HE AND HIS WIFE, DEIANIRA, DECIED TO GO INTO EXILE. WHEN THEY CAME TO A RIVER, HERCULES SWAM AHEAD, LEAVING DEIANIRA IN THE CHARGE OF NESSUS, A CENTAUR WHO OFFERES TO CARRY HER ACROSS THE WATER ON HIS BACK. NESSUS TRIED TO RAPE DEIANIRA WHILS HERCULES WAS GONE. WHEN HE RETURNED, HE SHOT NESSUS WITH A POISONED ARROW. BEFORE NESSUS DIED, HE SUGGESTED TO DEIANIRA THAT SHE KEEP SOME OF HIS BLOOD TO USE AS A LOVE POTION SHOULD SHE NEED TO REVIVE HERCULES' INTEREST IN HER. SOME TIME LATER, DEIANIRA LEARNED THAT HERCULES HAD INTEREST IN ANOTHER WOMAN. DEIANIRA RUBBED SOME OF NESSUS' BLOOD ON HERCULES ROBE. WHEN HERCULES PUT ON THE ROBE, HIS SKIN BEGAN TO BURN. WHEN HE TRIED TO TAKE THE ROBE OFF, HIS SKIN CAME OFF WITH IT. WHEN DEIANIRA LEARNED OF THIS, SHE WAS SO SHAMED THAT SHE HANGED HERSELF. HERCULES BUILT A FUNERAL PYRE THAT ONLY THE COMPASSIONATE PHILOCTETES HAD THE COURAGE TO LIGHT. INSTANTLY, A FLASH OF LIGHTNING WAS SEEN. THE PYRE BURNED OUT COMPLETELY, LEAVING BEHIND NO BONES. IT WAS ASSUMED THAT HERCULES' BODY HAD BEEN CARRIED TO OLYMPUS.

## ASTRONOMICAL GLOSSARY

ABSORPTION NEBULA - A NEBULA SEEN IN SILHOUETTE AS IT ABSORBS LIGHT FROM BEHIND; ALSO CALLED A DARK NEBULA.

BELTS - DARK BANDS IN THE CLOUDS ON GIANT PLANETS SUCH AS JUPITER.

CELESTIAL EQUATOR - THE IMAGINARY CIRCLE THAT LIES ABOVE THE EARTH'S EQUATOR ON THE CELESTIAL SPHERE.

EMISSION LINES - EXTRA RADIATION AT CERTAIN SPECIFIC WAVELENGTHS IN A SPECTRUM, COMPARED WITH NEIGHBORING WAVELENGTHS.

FILAMENT - A DARK REGION SNAKING ACROSS THE SUN; A PROMINENCE SEEN IN PROJECTION AGAINST THE SOLAR DISK.

MERIDIAN - THE GREAT CIRCLE PASSING THROUGH THE CELESTIAL POLES AND YOUR ZENITH.

UNIVERSAL TIME - SOLAR TIME AT THE MERIDIAN OF GREENWICH, ENGLAND.

## THE APRIL SKY CONSTELLATIONS

GEMINI	CANIS MINOR	SEXTANS	CORVUS
CAMELOPARDALIS	LYNX	CANCER	HYDRA
URSA MAJOR	URSA MINOR	CANES VENATICI	LEO MINOR
COMA BERENICES	DRACO	VIRGO	HERCULES

JUST A REMINDER.... THERE IS A PENUMBRAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON ON APRIL 13th. IT WILL BEGIN ABOUT 6:00 EDT PM AND END ABOUT 10:00 PM THE MOON IS FULL ON THIS DATE. SINCE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON APRIL 5th, IT WILL PROBABLY BE TOO LIGHT FOR US TO GET A GOOD LOOK. THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS EVENT IS ONLY 0.8 SO ONLY A TINY PORTION OF THE MOON'S SURFACE WILL BE COVERED. LOOK ANYWAY, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE SOMETHING!!

DON'T FORGET, CHECK YOUR ENCLOSED MAPS FOR THE ROUTE TO CHAPEL HILL AND THE PLANETARIUM. PLEASE CONTACT ALAN, RONNIE, OR PAUL FOR INFO.

PHONE No'S      ALAN    791-7058  
                    PAUL    675-2952  
                    RONNIE 762-1033