

CAPE FEAR



Skies

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE
CAPE FEAR ASTRONOMY CLUB

VOLUME 2, No 6

JUNE 1987

MEMBERS:

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JUNE 7th, 7:30PM AT MORTON HALL. THIS MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, SO BRING YOUR FRIENDS. WE PLAN TO HAVE AN OBSERVING SESSION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING TO VIEW SATURN. IT WILL BE AT OPPOSITION ON THE 9th. ALTHOUGH THE MOON WILL BE IN THE SKY, ALMOST FULL, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET A PRETTY GOOD VIEW, SO PLAN TO SPEND A FEW EXTRA MINUTES AFTER THE MEETING FOR THIS. WE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST 2 TELESCOPES SET UP.

WE WILL ALSO PRESENT A SLIDE SHOW AT THIS MEETING. THESE WILL BE SLIDES WE GOT FROM THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC. THEY ARE ON DEEP-SKY OBJECTS. THEY SHOULD BE PRETTY INTERESTING.

ALAN WILL GIVE A SHORT LECTURE ON "SMOKING AND NIGHT VISION" AT THIS MEETING. THAT PROMISES TO BE OF INTEREST ALSO.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR CLUB. THEY ARE

MARTIN BEST	JIM AND MARGARET BAILEY	CONRAD POPE
EDWIN WALKER	MARVIN ARNOLD	SAMUEL BISSETTE
DAVID MANESS	BARBARA MCGOWAN	MICHAEL REASON

WELCOME TO CAPE FEAR SKIES!! WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU.

GREAT NEWS! WE RAISED \$162.00 FROM OUR YARD SALE ON THE 16th OF MAY. THIS MONEY WILL GO TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF COLORED SCREENS TO HAVE OUR CLUB EMBLEM IN COLOR ON OUR T-SHIRTS. WE WILL BE ORDERING THESE SHIRTS SOON, SO BE THINKING ABOUT GETTING A COUPLE. THEY'RE GOING TO LOOK GREAT.

WE WILL ALSO BE ORDERING HATS SOON. HOPEFULLY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET OUR EMBLEM ON THE HATS IN COLOR.

JUNE SKY CALENDAR.

- 4th MOON AT FIRST QUARTER.
- 5th SCORPIID METEORS
- 7th MERCURY AT GREATEST ELONGATION
MOON PASSES 0.4 DEGREES NORTH OF SPICA. OCCULTATION
- 9th SATURN AT OPPOSITION.
- 11th SAGITTARIID METEORS.
QUASI-CONJUNCTION OF MERCURY AND MARS
MOON PASSES 0.2 DEGREES NORTH OF ANTARES, OCCULTATION
MOON PASSES 6 DEGREES SOUTH OF SATURN
FULL MOON
- 12th MOON PASSES 5 DEGREES SOUTH OF URANUS
MOON PASSES 6 DEGREES SOUTH OF NEPTUNE
- 13th MOON AT PERIGEE
- 16th URANUS AT OPPOSITION
- 18th LAST QUARTER MOON
- 19th MOON AT ASCENDING NODE
VENUS 5 DEGREES NORTH OF ALDEBARAN
- 20th MOON PASSES 3 DEGREES NORTH OF JUPITER
ASTEROID CERES AT OPPOSITION
MERCURY STATIONARY
- 21st SUN ENTERS GEMINI. SUMMER SOLSTICE 6:11 PM
- 24th MOON PASSES 5 DEGREES NORTH OF VENUS
- 26th NEW MOON
- 27th MARS 6 DEGREES SOUTH OF POLLUX
MOON PASSES 4 DEGREES NORTH OF MARS
- 28th MOON AT APOGEE
NEPTUNE AT OPPOSITION.
- 30th JUNE DRACONID METEORS.

THE JUNE SKY

BOOTES	HERCULES	CORONA BOREALIS	LYRA
SERPENS CAPUT	OPHIHUCUS	DRACO	VIRGO
CEPHEUS	URSA MAJOR	URSA MINOR	CYGNUS

ORIGINS OF THE CONSTELLATIONS

OPHIUCHUS THE SERPENT BEARER - THIS CONSTELLATION IS OFTEN IDENTIFIED WITH ASCLEPIUS, THE FIRST PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE ARGONAUTS ON THEIR VOYAGE. HE WAS SO SUCCESSFUL IN CURING THE ILL, THAT PLUTO, GOD OF THE UNDERWORLD, BEGAN WORRYING THAT THE POPULATION OF HIS KINGDOM WOULD DECLINE. HE CONVINCED ZEUS TO STRIKE THE PHYSICIAN DOWN WITH A THUNDERBOLT AND PLACE HIM IN THE SKY WHERE HE COULD DO LITTLE TO KEEP MORTALS FROM DYING AND GOING TO THE UNDERWORLD. EVER SINCE THEN, THE SNAKE AND THE STAFF OF ASCLEPIUS HAVE BEEN THE SYMBOL OF MEDICINE. THE SNAKE REPRESENTS THE RENEWAL OF LIFE BY THE PERIODIC SHEDDING OF IT'S OLD SKIN FOR NEW SKIN UNDERNEATH.

ORION THE HUNTER - WHEN ORION MET ARTEMIS, GODESS OF THE HUNT AND OF THE MOON, HER BROTHER APOLLO FEARED FOR HER VIRGINITY AND SENT SCORPIUS TO ATTACK HIM. ORION LEAPED INTO THE SEA TO ESCAPE THE SCORPION. APOLLO THEN TRICKED ARTEMIS INTO SHOOTING AT A DARK SPOT IN THE WAVES WHICH WAS ACTUALLY ORION. ARTEMIS REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND SEARCHED FOR ASCLEPIUS, THE PHYSICIAN, TO HEAL HIM. ALAS, ASCLEPIUS HAD BEEN KILLED BY ZEUS THUNDERBOLT AND COULD NOT HELP ORION. ARTEMIS THEN PLACED ORION IN THE HEAVENS TO PURSUE THE SCORPION FOREVER AS REVENGE. THAT IS THE REASON WHY ORION AND SCORPIUS ARE ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE SKY.

PEGASUS THE WINGED HORSE - THIS IS THE HORSE THAT SPRUNG UP FROM THE BLOOD OF MEDUSA AFTER PERSEUS KILLED HER. PEGASUS WAS TAMED BY BELLEROPHON, WHOSE SUCCESS AGAINST MONSTERS AND ENEMIES HAD GONE TO HIS HEAD. BELLEROPHON TRIED TO RIDE PEGASUS UP TO OLYMPUS. THE GODS WERE OFFENDED BY THIS ACTION, SO ZEUS SENT A GADFLY TO STING PEGASUS. PEGASUS REARED IN PAIN, CAUSING BELLEROPHON TO TOPPLE OFF. BELLEROPHON WAS LAMED AND BLINDED, BUT PEGASUS CONTINUED TO CLIMB TO OLYMPUS AND EARNED A PLACE AMONG THE STARS.

PERSEUS THE GLADIATOR - ARMED WITH A POLISHED SHIELD GIVEN TO HIM BY ATHENA, PERSEUS KILLED MEDUSA, THE ONLY ONE OF THE GORGONS WHO WAS MORTAL THOSE WHO LOOKED UPON HER FACE WERE TURNED TO STONE WHERE THEY STOOD. USING THE POLISHED SHIELD AS A MIRROR, PERSEUS CUT OFF HER HEAD. THE HEAD OF MEDUSA HELPED PERSEUS OVERCOME MANY ENEMIES AND WIN MANY BATTLES

ASTRONOMICAL GLOSSARY

ANALEMMA - THE FIGURE 8 REPRESENTING THE EQUATION OF TIME AND THE VARIATION OF THE SUN'S ALTITUDE IN THE SKY DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR.

EQUATION OF TIME - THE VARIATION OF LOCAL APPARENT SOLAR TIME MINUS LOCAL MEAN SOLAR TIME OVER THE YEAR.

MEAN SOLAR TIME - TIME KEPT BY A FICTITIOUS "MEAN" SUN THAT TRAVELS AT A STEADY RATE ACROSS THE SKY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

ASTRONOMICAL GLOSSARY (CONT'D)

RADIANT - THE LOCATION ON THE CELESTIAL SPHERE FROM WHICH METEORS IN A GIVE SHOWER APPEAR TO COME FROM (OR RADIATE) BECAUSE OF PERSPECTIVE.

STREAMERS - LARGE-SCALE STRUCTURES IN THE SUN'S CORONA, USUALLY NEAR THE SOLAR EQUATOR, SHAPED BY THE SUN'S MAGNETIC FIELD.

SYNODIC - RELATED TO THE ALIGNMENT OF THREE BODIES, OFTEN THE EARTH, SUN AND A THIRD BODY, SUCH AS A MOON OR PLANET.

SPECIAL REPORT

SELECTED BRIGHT PLANETARY NEBULAE

NGC #	NAME	R.A.	DEC	MAG
7293	HELIX NEBULA	22h 29m 38s	-20d 50' 09"	6.5
6853	DUMBELL NEBULA	19h 59m 36s	22d 43' 15"	7.6
3132	EIGHT-BURST NEBULA	10h 07m 01s	-40d 25' 41"	8.2
2392	ESKIMO NEBULA	07h 29m 10s	20d 54' 43"	8.3
7009	SATURN NEBULA	21h 04m 11s	-11d 22' 48"	8.4
246	UN-NAMED NEBULA	00h 47m 03s	-11d 52' 22"	8.5
6543	CAT'S EYE NEBULA	17h 58m 33s	66d 37' 59"	8.8
6826	BLINKING NEBULA	19h 44m 48s	50d 31' 31"	8.8

FOR YOUR INFORMATION..... TO CONVERT UNIVERSAL TIME TO EASTERN TIME, SUBTRACT 4 HOURS (FOR STANDARD TIME) OR 3 HOURS (FOR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME).

DID YOU KNOW?..... SATURN'S RINGS ARE AT THEIR MAXIMUM TILT TOWARDS THE EARTH THIS YEAR. THIS CYCLE HAPPENS EVERY 30 YEARS. THE RINGS WILL APPEAR EDGE-ON IN 1995 AND BE ALMOST INVISIBLE FROM EARTH.

