



CAPE FEAR

Skies



*The
Monthly
Newsletter of the
Cape Fear Astronomy Club*

Volume 3 No. 3

Wilmington, NC

March 1988

March Meeting

March 6, 1988 6:00 PM
Bryan Auditorium
Morton Hall
UNC-W Campus

The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club will be held on March 6, 1988 in Bryan Auditorium Morton Hall on the UNC-W Campus. The Business meeting will begin at 6:00 PM.

The program for the general meeting will be a presentation on radio astronomy made by club member Sam Bisette.

I hope to see you at the meeting.

Highlights of the February Meeting

February 7, 1988

Alan Hilburn called the February 7th business meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club to order at 6 PM.

Alan stated that the Southern Star Party will be held this year on April 22-24. He plans to attend again this year and will have more information at next months meeting.

A club viewing session is tentatively scheduled for the early morning hours of February 23th at Paul Petty's house at 110 Linville Dr., in Castle Hayne.

A trip to the Morehead Planetarium is being planned for either February the 26th and 27th or March 25th and 26th. If you are interested please contact Alan.

Saturday, February 13th, has been designated as a work day for the club at UNC-W in Bear Hall from 10am until "?". All members are encouraged to attend as activities for the rest of the year will be planned.

Alan also stated a Yard Sale will probably be held in April. He hopes we can hold it in the lot across the street from the National Outlet. Money raised from the yard sale will go in the general treasury for club expenses.

Ronnie Hawes gave the Treasurer's report. As of the start of the February 7th meeting we have 34 paid up members.

On the Sunday afternoon before the club meeting several CFAC members went to the Boys Home at Lake Wachamaw. Alan; Page Hilburn; Paul and Ronnie presented Joshua Buchanan with a Club Mem-

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Subscriptions to New Horizons

The last edition of *New Horizons* stated that your subscription expires with the winter 87/88 edition. It then ask all of it's readers to complete the enclosed renewal form and mail their payment in to avoid missing out on the Spring edition.

This short note is to remind members of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club that the club pays for your subscriptions out of your membership dues. You do not need to worry about missing the Spring editions of *New Horizons* as Ronnie has already sent in the renewal for all paid members of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club.

Morehead Planetarium Trip Continued from page 3.

One for those people who wish to go to Chapel Hill on the 11th of March. Another group on the 18th of March. It is hoped that having two dates will allow more members to attend by providing scheduling flexibility. This would not allow the scheduling of a postponement date but would reduce crowding on the telescope.

Southern Star Astronomical Convention

April 22 thru 24, 1988
Wildacres Retreat
(between Spruce Pine, NC and
Marion, NC)

The Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club has announced that they will be the host for the second Southern Star Astronomical Convention. This event will be held at the Wildacres Retreat located between the towns of Spruce Pine and Marion North Carolina.

The program includes talks by Dr. Fred C Hess; Dennis di Cocco; and Dr. Robert Manning. Also occurring during this convention will be an astrophotography contests and swap tables.

Please contact either Alan Hilburn or Tom Jacobs for more information about: activities; location; or registration.

February Meeting Highlights continued from Page 1.

bership and t-shirt; binoculars; and a subscription to Odyssey magazine. Paul videotaped it and Ronnie took pictures. Alan stated that there was a lot of interest in astronomy and he hopes to have a program there in the near future.

Sam Bisette, a local artist and club member, recently had a showing of his work and several members attended. Sam has made slides and will make them available for showing at a future meeting.

Ronnie reported that some club members have been working on a local sky calendar to be printed in the *Star News*. He will meet with Ben Steelman this week to discuss the format. Ben Steelman was present and was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his help in promoting the club during the past year.

David Maness has been busy as chairman of the Fund Raising Committee. He has been in touch with other groups who have or are building observatories and he is

seeking information on plans and possible funding. Dave has ordered 21 cases of chocolate/almond candy bars. Proceeds from the sale of these candy bars will be placed into the observatory fund. David also has composed a letter to be sent to area school principles offering educational programs geared to specific age groups. The letter requests a \$50 contribution for each program going to the observatory fund.

We continue to seek ways to raise money for the observatory. Your suggestions are welcome and will be considered.

The general meeting started shortly after 7 PM. Johnny Horne showed slides and spoke for about 1.5 hours. The slides included shots of his backyard observatory during and after construction, equipment, and sky shots. It was an excellent program and the members were very impressed.

- Barbara McGowan

Morehead Planetarium Trip

The club is planning to travel up to the Morehead Planetarium during the month of March. Also it is hoped that we can arrange to use the 24 inch telescope located in Chapel Hill later in the night. The trip has been scheduled for Friday March the 11th. In the event of cloudy skies the trip will be rescheduled for the following Friday March 18th.

Final plans for this trip will be arranged during the March meeting. If there is enough interest in this trip it is possible that the club will try to schedule two trips.

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Sky Calendar
Abrams Planetarium
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

Individuals wishing their own personal copies must subscribe directly from the Abrams Planetarium at the above address.

Astronomical Lectures this Month

The Physics Department of UNC-W has again asked the club to announce another guest lecturer coming to Wilmington to speak on an Astronomical topics. The following two items contains the information from the University.

"The Evolution of Life in the Universe"

A lecture by
Yervant Terzian
Professor of Astronomy and Space
Sciences
and
Chairman, Department of
Astronomy
Cornell University
Thursday
March 17, 1988
8:00 PM
Bryan Auditorium
Morton Hall
UNC-W Campus

The structure of the Universe is presented, and the evolution of life on other planets is argued with emphasis on the physical and chemical conditions of the planets around other stars. Unidentified flying objects (UFO's) are debated. Finally, the evolution of life on earth is discussed with emphasis on our future.

"History of Radio Astronomy"

A lecture by
Yervant Terzian
Professor of Astronomy and Space
Sciences
and
Chairman, Department of
Astronomy
Cornell University
Friday
March 18, 1988
4:00 PM
218 DeLoach Hall
UNC-W Campus

A historical account of one of the most exciting and thrilling stories of the discovery of radio waves from the sky. The rapid progression of surprising radio astronomical discoveries of the interstellar cold neutral hydrogen gas, giant radio galaxies and the creation of the Universe.

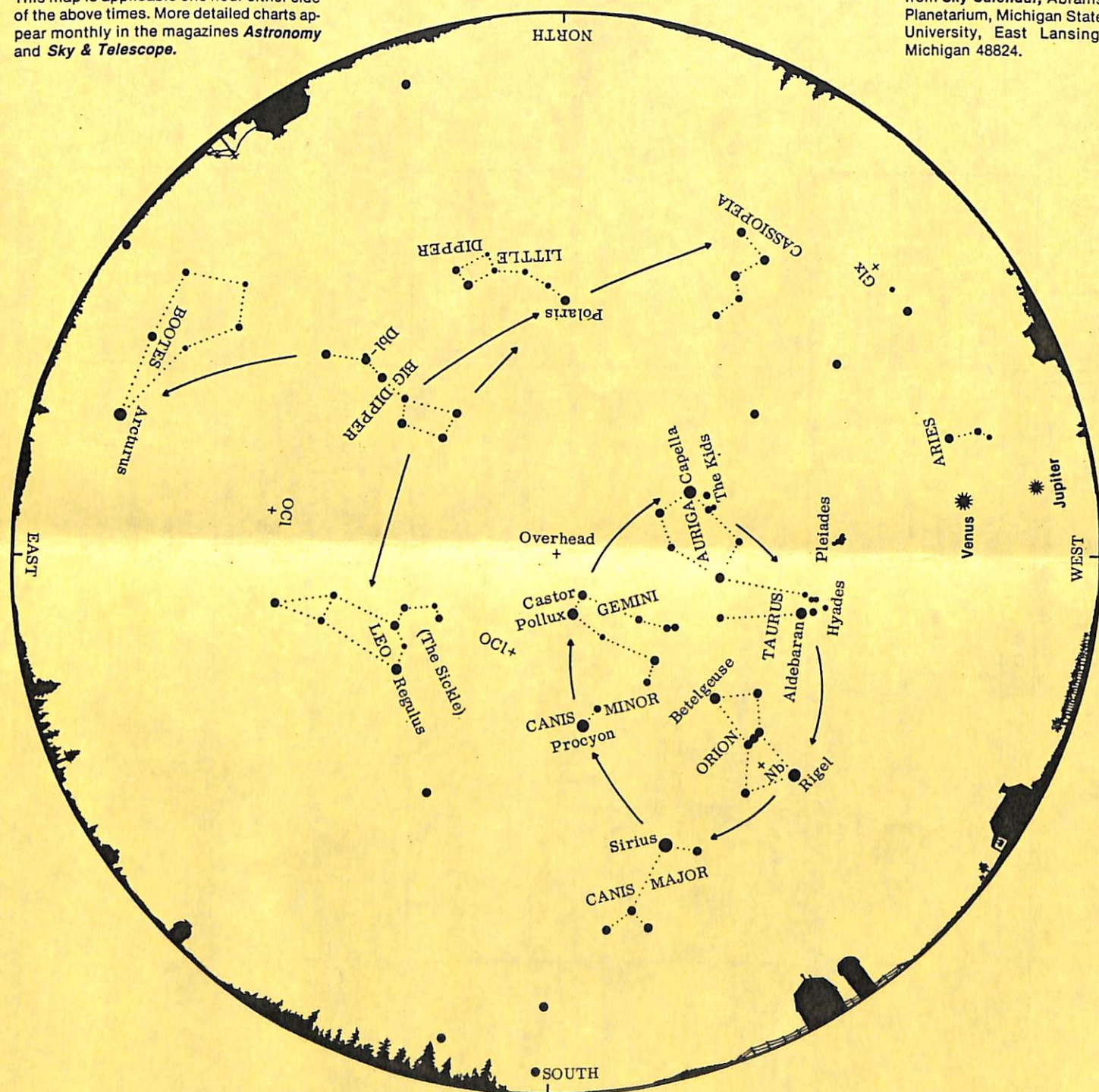
March Evening Skies

This chart is drawn for Latitude 40° North, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local times:

Late February	10 p.m.
Early March	9 p.m.
Late March	8 p.m.

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above times. More detailed charts appear monthly in the magazines *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope*.

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Subscription: \$6.00 per year, from *Sky Calendar*, Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.



The planets Venus and Jupiter are plotted for mid-March 1988. At chart time 11 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Venus, Jupiter, Sirius, Arcturus, Capella, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Pollux, and Regulus. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (Dbl) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper is easily detected. The famous Orion Nebula, a cloud of gas and dust out of which stars are forming, is marked (Nb) in that constellation. The open

or galactic cluster (OC1) known as the "Beehive" can be located between the Gemini twins and Leo. Coma Berenices, "The hair of Berenice," is another open cluster (OC1), between Leo and Boötes. The position of an external star system, called the Andromeda Galaxy after the constellation in which it appears, is also indicated (Glx). Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch

SKY CALENDAR MARCH 1988

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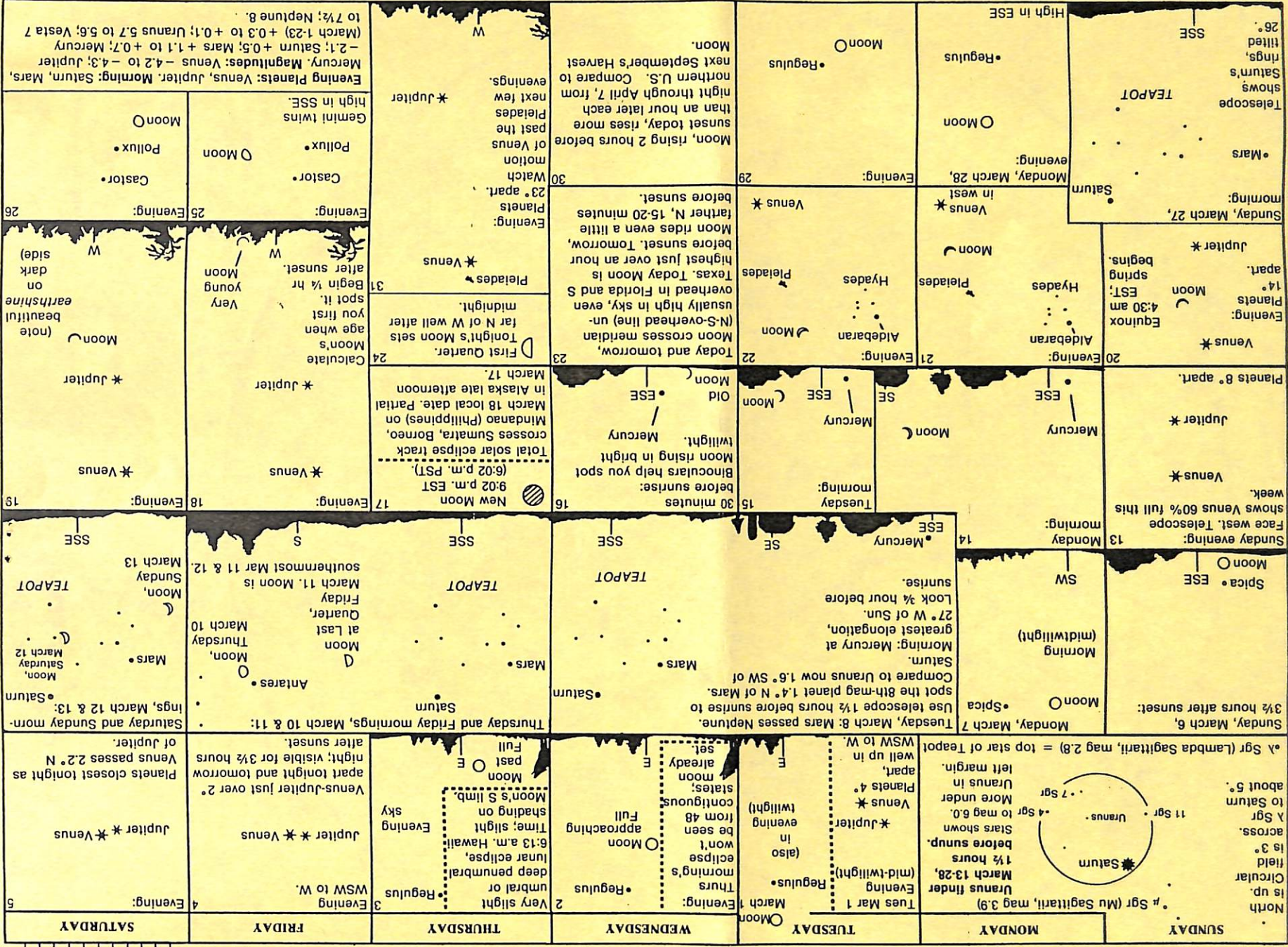
Use this scale to measure angular distances between objects on diagrams below.

0° 10° 20°

CURRENT SKY INFORMATION:

Call (517) 332-STAR

An aid to enjoying the changing sky



Subscription: \$6 per year, starting anytime, from Sky Calendar, Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824. Robert C. Victor, Jenny L. Pon, Robert D. Miller ISSN 0733-6314

Upcoming Events in March

Monthly Meeting of Cape Fear Astronomy Club
March 6, 1988; 6:00 PM - Bryan Auditorium; Morton Hall

Morehead Planetarium Trip
March 11, 1988

Lecture: "The Evolution of Life in the Universe"
March 17, 1988; 8:00 PM - Bryan Auditorium; Morton Hall

Lecture: "History of Radio Astronomy"
March 18, 1988; 4:00 PM - 218 DeLoach Hall

Morehead Planetarium Trip (cloudy date)
March 18, 1988

Deadline to submission for the April Newsletter.
March 19, 1988

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