



CAPE FEAR

Skies



*The
Monthly
Newsletter of the
Cape Fear Astronomy Club*

Volume 3 No. 12

Wilmington, NC

December 1988

December Meeting Announcement

Sunday
December 4, 1988
7:00 PM
Bryan Auditorium
Morton Hall
UNC-W Campus

The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club will be held on December 4, 1988 in the Bryan Auditorium of Morton Hall on the UNC-W Campus. The Business meeting will begin at 7:00 PM EST.

The general meeting will begin at 8:00 PM. The topic for this month's general meeting will be a talk on how to select a telescope. This talk will be given by club member Ronnie Hawes.

I hope that we will be seeing you at this meeting.

November Meeting Minutes

October 30, 1988

The November meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club was called to order by President Alan Hilburn at 7:08 PM.

After welcoming those members who were

present; Alan then read a letter from Club Secretary Barbara McGowan.

Barbara's letter stated that many activities were competing for her time. She also stated that her free time is being overwhelmed. This lack of free time is forcing her to cutback on some of her commitments. With this Barbara then announced her resignation from the office of club secretary.

Alan then asked if anyone present would like to finish Barbara's unexpired term as club secretary. Nobody present volunteered for the office.

Ronnie Hawes gave the treasures report. The club collected \$130.07 from the booth at the county fair. There is \$173.62 in the club's general fund and \$664.80 in the Observatory fund. The drawing for the telescope being raffled will be held at the December 4th Club meeting.

Alan then turned to the subject of the upcoming club elections and nominations for club officers for the

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year 1989.

Alan stated that both he and Paul Petty feel that they have spent enough time in the offices of President and Vice President. And that the time has come for some other club member to occupy these two top offices. Both expressed a willingness to help whoever may follow them in the two important club positions.

Alan then asked if anyone wished to make a nomination for club officers for the year 1989. Alan said that nominations could be made up through and during the December meeting.

Sam Bissette nominated David Maness for the office of president and David accepted the nomination.

Kevin Dunay and Jane Fountain both declined nominations for the office of club president. Paul Walker asked for time to consider before accepted or declining a nomination for a club office for next year.

Both Rose Dunay and Jane Fountain declined nominations for the office of secretary.

Ronnie Hawes accepted a nomination for another term in the office of club treasurer.

Tom Jacobs accepted a nomination for another term in the office of newsletter editor.

Alan asked if anyone wished to make a nomination for any of the club awards. None were made.

Kevin Dunay gave a short report about activity at the club's observatory site.

The business meeting ended at 7:50 PM. The program for the general meeting was a new radio production of Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds" broadcast.

- Tom Jacobs

Nominations for 1988 Club Awards

As we come to the end of another year there are two things that the members of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club must think about. The first thing is the election of club officers for next year. The second is if there is anyone who the club should recognize for their contributions to the club or to astronomy in general.

The Cape Fear Astronomy Club has several awards that it can present each year to recognize those people who have made major contributions.

Listed below are the different awards that can be given by the Cape Fear Astronomy Club. If there is someone who you think is deserving of one of the awards please contact Jane Fountain, the chairperson of the nominating committee, before the end of the December general club meeting.

The Bob Cook Outstanding Achievement Award for Club Activities.

The Bob Cook Outstanding Achievement Award for Astronomical Activities.

The Cape Fear Astronomy Club's Special Achievement Award for Club Activities.

The Cape Fear Astronomy Club's Special Achievement Award for Astronomical Activities.

The Cape Fear Astronomy Club's Halley Award.

In addition to these 5 awards the club can also award as many *Certificates of Appreciation* as it wishes to anyone that the club feels are deserving of recognition for their contributions to the club or the club's activities.

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25th

- 22h Comet du Toit at perihelion.
- Christmas Day.
- Isaac Newton born this day in 1643.

26th

- 12h Saturn in conjunction with the Sun passes into the morning sky.

27th

- 20h Regulus passes 0.2° south of the Moon.
- Johannes Kepler born this day in 1571.

28th

- 9h Moon at descending node.
- Lyncid Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 07:15; declination +36°.

30th

- 4h Moon at apogee distance is 63.4 Earth-radii.

31st

- 4:57 Moon at last quarter.
- 9h Neptune in conjunction with the Sun passes into the morning sky.
- New Years Eve.

Sky Calendar for December 1988

(All times are Given in UT to convert to EST subtract 5 hours.)

- 1st
 6:49 Moon at last quarter.
 7h Moon at descending node.
 9h Mercury in superior conjunction with the Sun moves into the evening sky.
- 2nd
 6h Moon at apogee distance is 63.4 Earth-radii.
- 3rd
 ----- US probe Pioneer 10 becomes the first to reach Jupiter in 1973.
- 4th
 4h Mercury at aphelion .47 a.u. from the Sun.
- 7th
 0h Venus passes 7° north of the Moon.
- 9th
 5:36 New Moon. Lunation number 816
 ----- Puppis-Velids Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 09:20; declination -45°.
- 10th
 20h Neptune passes 5° north of the Moon.
 ----- Monocerotid Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 06:50; declination +10°; medium speed 42km/sec. Derived from Comet Mellish which last appeared in 1917.
 ----- Chi Orionid Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 05:36; declination +26°; medium speed 25km/sec; ZHR = 6.
- 11th
 20h Mars at ascending node.
 ----- Sigma Hydrid Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 08:32; declination +2°; fast moving 58km/sec; ZHR = 9.
- 12th
 ----- Geminid Meteors. Radiant just North and West of Castor in Gemini; right ascension is 7:28; declination +32°; medium speed 35km/sec; ZHR greater than 50. Some fireballs and Bolides. Mostly white and yellow. Best before midnight. Parent body is asteroid 1983TB now named 3200 Phaethon.
 ----- On this date in 1973 Skylab astronauts stage the first "strike" in space to protest too heavy workloads.
- 14th
 ----- Tycho Brahe born this day in 1546.
 ----- Mariner 2 passes within 21,600 miles of Venus sending back the first close-up images of the surface on this date in 1962.
- 15th
 1h Moon at ascending node.
 ----- The first space rendezvous is accomplished on this date in 1965 by astronauts Wally Schirra and Tom Stafford. They fly their Gemini 6a spacecraft within several feet of the orbiting Gemini 7 spacecraft.
- 16th
 4h Moon at perigee distance is 58.1 Earth-radii.
 5:40 Moon at first quarter.
 ----- Omicron Piscid Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 01:42; declination +9°; slow speed 25km/sec; ZHR = 8.
- 17th
 16h Mars passes 3° south of the Moon.
 21h The Sun enters the constellation of Sagittarius.
 ----- Orville Wright makes first flight in a heavier than aircraft in 1903.
- 20th
 9h Mercury passes 3° south of Neptune magnitudes 0.8 and 8.0 respectively.
 20h Jupiter passes 6° south of the Moon.
 ----- Delta Arietid Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 03:35; declination +25°; slow speed 15km/sec.
- 21st
 15:28 Solstice - Winter begins.
 ----- First manned flight to the moon (Apollo 8) is launched from Cape Kennedy on this date in 1968.
- 22nd
 20h Uranus in conjunction with the Sun passes into the morning sky.
 ----- Ursid Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 14:28; declination +78°; medium speed 33km/sec; ZHR = 9. Some fireballs mostly faint meteors.
- 23rd
 5:29 Full Moon called the moon before Yule or the long night moon.
- 24th
 18h Venus passes 6° north of Antares.
 ----- Mercury at greatest southern latitude -7°. Astronauts Frank Borman; Jim Lovell and Bill Anders become the first men to travel to the Moon on this date in 1968.
 ----- The first successful launch of the French Ariane is made on this date in 1979.

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Upcoming Events for December 1988

Monthly Meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club
Sunday December 4, 1988; 7:00 PM - Bryan Auditorium; Morton Hall; UNC-W

Club Viewing Session
December 10, 1988; Dusk until "?" - Hampstead Site

Club Viewing Session- Geminid Meteor Shower
December 12, 1988; Dusk until "?" - Hampstead Site

Deadline for submissions for the January Newsletter
December 13, 1988

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