



# CAPE FEAR

# Skies



The  
Monthly  
Newsletter of the  
Cape Fear Astronomy Club

Volume 4 No. 1

Wilmington, NC

January 1989

## JANUARY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Sunday  
January 8, 1989  
7:00 PM  
Bryan Auditorium  
Morton Hall  
UNC-W Campus

The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club will be held on January 8, 1989 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.

## A LETTER FROM DAVID MANESS

December 4, 1988

Members of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club:

I feel honored to have been nominated for President of your organization. However there are some things you should know before you vote for me as your President.

I am (not necessarily in this order) a husband; father; self-employed business man; struggling business

man I might add; P. T. O. president; and Amateur Astronomer. So, the amount of time I could give the club would be limited. Tonight for example, I am obligated to hear my children sing in the Christmas Program at church. Their will be other times when I will not be able to attend club functions. During those times I would rely on other club officers and members for support.

On the up side I would like to see the business meetings shorter; the programs more interesting; informative; and educational. I would like to see a major observatory built in the Wilmington area. I would like to see those interested in astrophotography come together and share knowledge and ideas; and those just interested in looking at the stars should have the opportunity of going to a safe and secure place to pursue their hobby. I would like to see the club find more professional way of raising funds, grants, and donations. For those more sociable I would like to see the club have more social events, public viewing sessions, pub-

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# SKY CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 1989

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

<u>1st</u> 5:00	Happy New Year. Earth at perihelion. Distance from the Sun is .983 a.u. Spica passes 2° west of the Moon.	<u>19th</u> -----	Sun enters Capricornus.
<u>4th</u> -----	Quadrantid Meteors. Radiant in N. E. Bootes. Zhr = 110. The Moon will be out of the way this year. Let's make an effort to see this shower this year.	<u>21st</u> 21:33	Full Moon. Called Old Moon or Moon after Yule.
<u>5th</u>	Venus passes 10° east of the Moon.	<u>23rd</u>	Moon passes 1° north of Regulus. Occultation.
<u>7th</u> 19:22 -----	New Moon. Lunation number is 817. Galileo discovers Jupiter's moons Io, Europa, and Callisto in the year 1610.	<u>24th</u>	Mercury at inferior conjunction.
<u>8th</u> -----	Mercury at it's greatest eastern elongation. The planet will be 19° above the horizon at Sunset.	<u>27th</u> 0h -----	Moon at Apogee. Distance from Earth is 63.5 Earth radii. Fire aboard Apollo 1 kills astronauts Grissom, White, and Chaffee during a training exercise in 1967.
<u>10th</u> 23h	Moon at perigee. Distance from the Earth is 57.4 Earth-Radii.	<u>28th</u> -----	Moon passes 3° north of Spica. Explosion of space shuttle Challenger kills astronauts Jarvis, McAuliffe, McNair, Onizuka, Resnik, Scobee and Smith shortly after takeoff in 1986.
<u>11th</u> -----	William Hershal discovers the moons of Uranus; "Titania" and "Oberon" in 1787.	<u>30th</u> 2:02	Moon at last quarter.
<u>13th</u> -----	Galileo discovers the moon Ganymede of Jupiter in 1610.	<u>31st</u> -----	Explorer 1 becomes the first American satellite to be launched in 1958.
<u>14th</u> 13.58	Moon at first quarter. Mars passes 4° south of the Moon.		
<u>16th</u> -----	The Moon passes thru the Pleades. Saturn passes 0.6° north of Venus. Delta Cancri Meteors. Radiant west of Praespe. Zhr = 3		
<u>18th</u> -----	Comet Berenicid Meteors. Radiant from right ascension 12:30 declination +19°. Zhr = 1		

(A Letter from David Maness - From page 1)

lic school education, camping star gaze parties, picnics and such. And most important, more member participation to see these things happen.

I request that this letter be placed in the January Newsletter and provisions be made for those unable to attend the meeting an opportunity to cast their ballot, and a questionnaire to determine your particular interest.

If you agree with any of the policies I have mentioned let's move forward to insure that the club will be what each of use wants it to be.

Sincerely,  
David T. Maness



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR 1989 ELECTION

Page 3 of this newsletter is your official ballot for the 1989 election of club officers.

Please mark your choice for each office in the space provided. You may write-in any club member for any office in the space provided if you wish.

Bring your ballot to the January meeting. A box will be provided for you to drop your marked ballot into. The constitution of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club does not allow for absentee voting. You must bring your ballot to the January meeting to vote for the new club officers.

## JANUARY IS THE MONTH FOR 1989 ANNUAL DUES

Once again January has returned and it is time to pay you annual 1989 dues.

Please renew your membership in the Cape Fear Astronomy Club as soon as possible. The Astronomy League has requested a current copy of our membership list. Our ALCOR will be sending this information in after January 24th. If you have not renewed your Cape Fear Astronomy Club membership by this date you may be left out of League mailings during this winter.

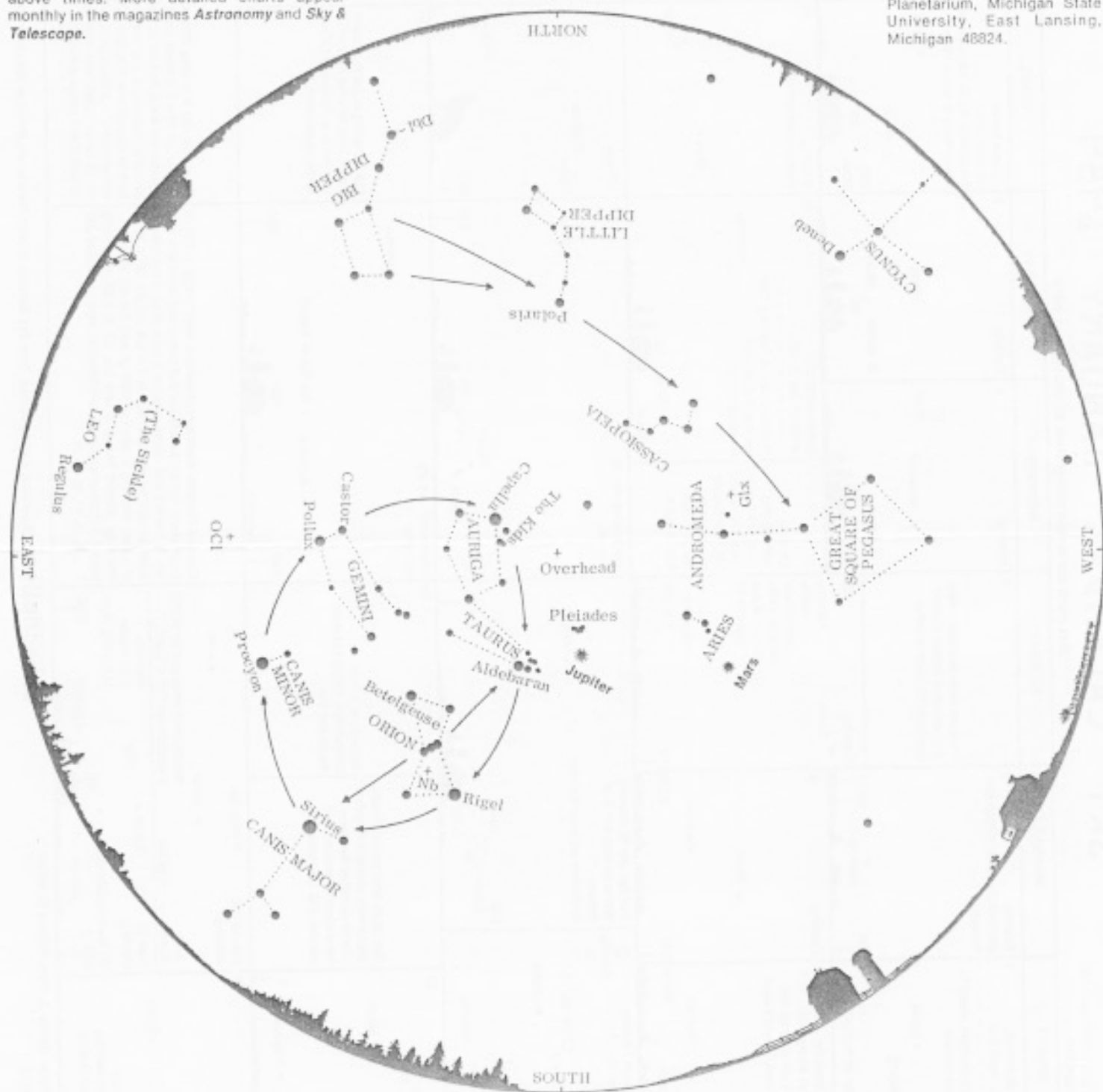
# January Evening Skies

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 standard times:

Late December	10 p.m.
Early January	9 p.m.
Late January	8 p.m.
Early February	7 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 Jupiter and Mars are plotted for mid-January 1989. At chart time 11 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Jupiter, Sirius, Capella, Rigel, Mars, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Pollux, Deneb, 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 star cluster (OCI) known as the "Beehive" can be located between the Gemini twins and Leo. 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

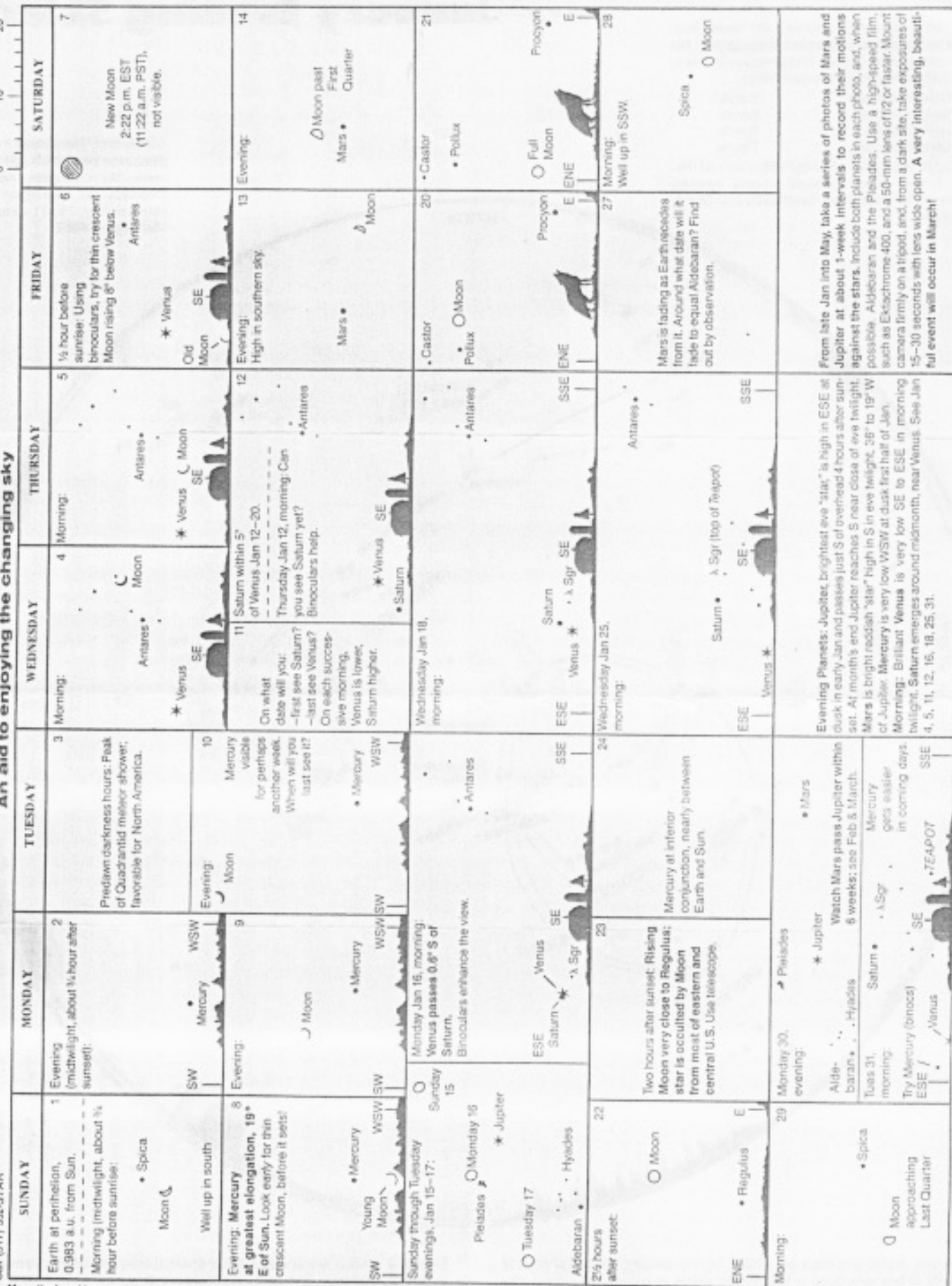
# SKY CALENDAR JANUARY 1989

An aid to enjoying the changing sky

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



CURRENT SKY INFORMATION:  
Call (517) 332-STAR



**Magnitudes:** Venus -3.9; Jupiter -2.7 to -2.5; Mercury Jan 1 -0.7; Jan 13 0.0; Jan 17 +1.2; Jan 31 2; Mars 0.0 to +0.5; Saturn +0.5. **Motions:** Sun goes 22° E, crossing from Sagittarius into Capricorn Jan 19. Mercury on Jan 1 is 17° E of Sun in eve sky. See Jan 2, 8-10, 24, 31. Mercury falls back to 14° E of Sun by Jan 17, and is in morning sky, 14° W of Sun, on Jan 31. Venus goes 39° E, from Ophiuchus into Sagittarius; but Venus moves into twilight, its elongation closing from 23° W of Sun on Jan 1 to 16° W of Sun on Jan 31. On Jan 16 Venus passes 0.6° S of Saturn while they are 19° W of Sun. Mars goes 17° E, from Pisces into Aries. Jupiter, ending retrograde, moves W

this month. On Jan 20 it is 6° SW of the Pleiades and resumes eastward motion. Saturn emerges from Sun's glare into morning sky. It is 15° W of Sun on Jan 12, increasing to 33° W of Sun on Jan 31; see diagrams. Telescope: Jupiter at midmonth appears 44" (arcseconds) across, large enough to easily resolve its disk with 7-power binoculars. Venus' nearly full disk shrinks from 11" to 10". Mars also continues shrinking, from 9.5" on Jan 1 to 7.4" on Jan 31, less than one-third its apparent size at closest approach last September. In early Jan, Mars reaches minimum phase, 68%. Saturn's ring system at month's end extends 35" and is tilted 25.6° from edge-on.

From late Jan into May, take a series of photos of Mars and Jupiter at about 1-week intervals to record their motions against the stars. Include both planets in each photo, and, when possible, Aldebaran and the Pleiades. Use a high-speed film, such as Ektachrome 400, and a 50-mm lens of f/2 or faster. Mount camera firmly on a tripod, and, from a dark site, take exposures of 15-30 seconds with lens wide open. A very interesting, beautiful event will occur in March!

Evening Planets: Jupiter, brightest eve "star" is high in ESE at dusk in early Jan and passes just S of overhead 4 hours after sunset. At month's end Jupiter reaches S near close of eve twilight. Mars is bright reddish "star" high in S in eve twilight, 26° to 19° W of Jupiter. Mercury is very low WSW at dusk first half of Jan. Morning: Brilliant Venus is very low SE to ESE in morning twilight. Saturn emerges around midmonth, near Venus. See Jan 4, 5, 11, 12, 16, 18, 25, 31.

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

# A QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEMBERS OF THE CAPE FEAR ASTRONOMY CLUB

I hope that you will take a little time and answer the following questions about you and the Cape Fear Astronomy Club. The information gathered from this questionnaire will be use to try to refocus the direction and topics for the general meetings. Please bring this completed questionnaire to the January meeting.

If you will not be able to make the January meeting please return this questionnaire with you dues renewal for 1989. Also, please check the label on your newsletter and mark any corrections to your address next to the mailing label.

1. Do you own a Telescope?

Yes \_\_\_

No \_\_\_

If yes please describe what kind.

2. Why did you join the Cape Fear Astronomy club?

- a. To Learn more about Astronomy?
- b. To Learn about Astrophotography?
- c. To share my hobby with others?
- d. Others, Please describe.

3. Would you like to see the club have more social events? Like Cookout; Stargaze parties.

Yes \_\_\_

No \_\_\_

4. If you do not own a telescope, are you aware that the club has two telescopes available for any club member to use?

Yes \_\_\_

No \_\_\_

5. Have you or do you intend to make use of the enclosed viewing site near Hampstead?

Yes \_\_\_

No \_\_\_

6. Would you be more likley to attend the monthly meetings if the programs were more educational and informative?

Yes \_\_\_

No \_\_\_

7. Is the Time and Place of the monthly meeting convenient for you?

Yes \_\_\_

No \_\_\_

If no what would be a better time or place?

8. Would you be interested in serving on any of the following committees?

- a. Observatory.
- b. Social Functions.
- c. Public Displays.
- d. Newsletter.
- e. Fund raising.

9. Would you be willing to provide refreshments at the monthly meeting one time during the comming year?

Yes \_\_\_

No \_\_\_

10. How can the Cape Fear Astronomy Club best serve your needs?

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY 1989

Monthly Meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club  
January 8, 1989; 7:00 PM - Bryan Auditorium; Morton Hall

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