



CAPE FEAR

Skies



The
Monthly
Newsletter of the
Cape Fear Astronomy Club

Volume 4 No. 2

Wilmington, NC

February 1989

February Meeting Announcement

Sunday
February 5, 1989
7:00 PM
Bryan Auditorium
Morton Hall
UNC-W Campus

The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club will be held on Sunday February 5, 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. The program for the general meeting will be a film about the planet Earth. After the film presentation there will be a demonstration of the cleaning of the primary mirror of an eight inch reflector telescope.

I hope to see you at this meeting.

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Observatory Access

Stapled inside of this months newsletter there is an address label. Printed on this label is the combination for the padlock on the Hampstead site door.

Starting in February we want to keep the door locked. Club members are still free to use the Hampstead site whenever they wish. That is why we are including the combination in the newsletter. We are asking that you make sure that the last person to leave the site makes sure that the door is locked when you leave.

People let's make a special effort on this and keep the door locked when the site is not in use.

You need to stick this label someplace where it will be handy when you want to use the Hampstead site.

There are many places where you can stick this label with the combination. Some of the places that have been suggested as good places to keep this label are the following.

- Attached to the sunvisor of your car.
- Attached to the base of your telescope.
- Pasted into the cover of your star atlas or any book that you take with you when you go looking at the sky.
- Stuck inside your wallet.

I am sure that some of you can think up other good places to keep this information.

But, what ever you do, DO NOT attach one of the labels to anything at the site. If you find the combination attached to anything at the site tear it down and throw it away when you get home.

We have a very nice site to observing the sky let us us it and protect it at well.

A letter from the President

Astronomy Club Members,

In a recent questionnaire answered by many of you, there was a strong indication that the membership wanted to see a more informed and educational program. In reply to your wishes, we will be presenting a comprehensive study of our universe, beginning with planet Earth and reaching to the boundaries of the known universe. The business portion of our meetings should last no longer than 30 minutes and the program will last approximately 45 minutes. We will see videos, films, and slides, and hear speakers. In addition, various hands-on sessions will be offered after the pro-

grams are adjourned, for those interested in staying.

As we move further into the new year, camping trips, star-gaze parties, and possible a Christmas party at the year's end. Also, to fulfill the majority's wishes, we will begin our meetings at 7 P.M year-round.

It is our sincere wish that each and every member have an enjoyable and informative experience every time we meet. Your participation and suggestions are always welcome and appreciated.

Sincerely,
David T. Maness

A Farewell Letter from Alan Hilburn

January 8, 1989

My Fellow Members it has been my pleasure to serve as your president for these last three year.

I hope I have been able to serve our club with leadership, honor, and pride.

I feel my place in history in this club came at the right time, with the coming of Halley's comet.

My predecessor Bob Cook was our first president and founder without his enthusiasm and willingness to take on responsibility we probably would not be here today. If it were not for Bob and Betty. Betty was our first secretary-treasury.

The time was right for Wilmington to have such a club. As we all know anyone who has knowledge of astronomy has advantage over everyone else. This is a romantic and mysterious science but, also highly interesting.

Not only does astronomy deal with our Solar System and universe but, natural phenomenon that occurs in the skies of Earth.

I urge your to learn as much as you can to enlighten you to our beautiful universe.

Some of this knowledge will come from this club and it's new education program that set to start next month and some on your own.

For I have seen some fantastic sights this last 23 years of astronomy which I would not take anything for replacing that.

You ask; was it worth all the trouble? The answer is YES!

Now as I leave this office of president my live long dreams had come true.

First when I was young boy of 15 years old and realized then the need for astronomy club in wilming-ton I wanted so much to start a club with the person who got me started in all this Ronnie Hawes but, we could not find that special group of people who make clubs like our today.

But now have found them and again our thanks to Bob and Betty for our creation.

Second I was bless with leading this great club into still waters after finding so many great and wonderful people.

Now it is time for the captain to give up his command to another captain who has showed extraordinary leadership and loyalty to the club and a man of our times.

I urge each and everyone of you to support David and all the elected officers for 1989 with 110% support.

Clear skies and keep looking up.
Thank you.
Alan P. Hilburn

Sky Calendar for February 1989

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

Wednesday: 1st

3h Mercury passes 4° north of Venus
11h Antares passes 0.7° north of the Moon. Occultation.

Friday: 3rd

6h Uranus passes 4° north of the Moon.
15h Saturn passes 5° north of the Moon
18h Neptune passes 5° north of the Moon.

Saturday: 4th

18h Mercury passes 6° north of the Moon.
----- Comet P/d'Arrest at perihelion 1.3 au from the Sun

Sunday: 5th

14h Mercury stationary in right ascension.

Monday: 6th

7:37 New Moon. Lunation number 818
----- Alpha Aurigid Meteors. Peaks during February 6th thru 9th. Slow moving with a Zhr = 12. Radiant is right ascension = 4:56; declination = 43°.

Tuesday: 7th

22h Moon at perigee. Distance from the Earth is 56.6 Earth-radii.

Wednesday: 8th

----- Theta Centaurid Meteors. Radiant is right ascension = 14:20; declination = -44°
----- Ash Wednesday

Sunday: 12th

7h Mars passes 4° south of the Moon.
23:15 Moon at first quarter.

Monday: 13th

7h Jupiter passes 6° south of the Moon.

Wednesday: 15th

----- Galileo born this day in 1564.

Saturday: 18th

16h Mercury at it's greatest western elongation 26°.

Sunday: 19th

19:42 Mercury at descending node.
----- Nicholas Copernicus born this dated in 1473.

Monday: 20th

11h Regulus passes 0.02° south of the Moon. Occultation.
12h Pluto stationary in right ascension; resumes direct motion.
15:32 "Full Moon called the ""snow""; ""hunger""; or ""wolf"" Moon."
15:35 Total Eclipse of the Moon. (Not visible from the Wilmington area.)

Tuesday: 21th

2h Juno in opposition with the Sun; moves into the morning sky. Distance from Earth is 1.6 au; Magnitude 8.6

Thursday: 23th

14h Moon at apogee. Distance from the Earth is 63.6 Earth-radii.
----- Venus at aphelion. Magnitude -3.9; distance from the Sun is .73 au.

Saturday: 25th

22h Pallas in conjunction with the Sun; move into the evening sky.

Sunday: 26th

----- "Delta - Leonid Meteors. ZHR less than or equal to 3. Slow moving, Radiant is right ascension = 10:36; declination = 19°

Tuesday: 28th

19h Antares passes 0.7° north of the Moon. Occultation.
20:08 Moon at last quarter.
----- Comet P/Perrine-Mrkos at perihelion 1.3 au from the Sun

Upcoming Events in February 1989

Monthly Meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club
Sunday February 5, 1989; 7:00 PM - Bryan Auditorium; Morton Hall; UNC-W

Deadline for the March Newsletter
Wednesday February 15, 1989

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