



CAPE FEAR Skies



The
Monthly
Newsletter of the
Cape Fear Astronomy Club

Volume 4 No. 4

Wilmington, NC

April 1989

April Meeting Announcement

Sunday
April 2, 1989
7:00 PM
Bryan Auditorium
Morton Hall
UNC-W Campus

The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club will be held on April 2, 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.

Meeting Minutes from March

David Maness, president, called the regular business meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club to order at 7:03 p.m. March 5, 1989 in Bryan Auditorium, Morton Hall, UNCW. Paul Petty called the roll, eighteen were present. Paul Walker read the minutes from February's meeting and it was approved.

Ronnie Hawes gave a treasurer's report. The checking account balance at the beginning of March was \$512.34, and February's total expenditures was \$206.77. The observatory fund was at \$18.01. The report was approved.

Paul Petty reported that in accordance with February's meeting the executive board proposed to

change the name *Cape Fear Astronomy Club* to *Cape Fear Astronomical Society*. David Maness moved to adopt the change including amending the constitution to that extent. Discussion converged on the geographical content, where there was a consensus on the appropriateness of "Cape Fear". The motion was adopted.

David Maness stated thanks to Herman Bryant for his time and expertise in preparing the Hampstead viewing site for electrical connection on March 7. David announced March 18 as a work day to finish the enclosure and to do ground work at the site, and April 8 as an open house at the site with possibly a cookout.

Ronnie Hawes reported that since February's meeting there has been another article in the Wilmington newspaper about a binary pulsar. It is located in Supernova 1987a in the southern hemisphere and is rotating almost two thousand times per second, unlike last month's mere six hundred times per second. Ronnie announced two forthcoming lectures at UNCW by Dr. Arthur Uggren, professor of astronomy and director of the observatory at Wesleyan University, Middle-

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(Meeting Minutes - from Page 1.)

town, Connecticut. April 11 he will speak on astrology and whether it is a science, in Bryan Auditorium, Morton Hall at 8 p.m.; April 12 he will speak on light pollution, in Deloach Hall, room 218, in the middle afternoon. Ronnie said to call the Physics Department for the latter's time.

Martin Best, Observatory Committee chairman, stated that he will be working on letters to corporations and individuals.

David Maness reported that the Pender County administrator has talked about the possibility of land being provided for an observatory site.

David Maness said to contact Tom Jacobs if interested in the Southern Star convention, April 28-30.

Paul Petty called for volunteers for Astronomy Day at Independence Mall, May 6.

Paul Petty announced that Ronnie Hawes had prepared some logo options for members to come up and examine at break.

At 7:47 David Maness moved and it was adopted to adjourn the business meeting.

David Maness presented the evening's program. Those present took a fill-in test while observing various slides on five constellations. David then showed a film entitled *Birth And Death Of A Star*. Just as the narrator was explaining how black holes might help astronomers to see how the universe really is, the bulb burned out. A few visitors were present for the program.

-Paul D. Walker

New Club Officers for 1989

A new year for the Cape Fear Astronomy Club means that new officers have been elected. The following people have been elected to serve as club officers for 1989 term.

President David Maness 206 Pershing Ct. Wilmington, NC 28403 392-5538	Vice-President Paul Petty 110 Linville Dr. Castle Hayne, NC 28429 675-2952
Assoc. Vice-President Andy Johnson 4941 Pleasant Oaks Dr. Wilmington, NC 28403 791-1976	Secretary Paul Walker 4924 Park Ave. Wilmington, NC 28403 791-3438
Treasure Ronnie Hawes 305 N. 21st St. Wilmington, NC 28405 762-1033	Editor Tom Jacobs 820 McMillian Ave. Wilmington, NC 28403 392-4853

Lets wish these new people and the old faces good luck for the comming year.

Welcome New Member

Angie Kelly of Wilmington is our newest member of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club.

Let us all make her welcome as she joins us under the clear night sky.

(Sky Calendar — from Page 3)

8h	Uranus passes 4° north of the Moon.	declination +19°; ZHR = 1; velocity 20 km/sec
20h	Neptune passes 5° north of the Moon	<u>Saturday; 29th</u> 20:46 Moon at last quarter.
23h	Saturn passes 5° north of the Moon.	<u>Sunday; 30th</u> 7:00 Eastern Daylight Time Begins. Set your clock forward 1 hour.
<u>Friday; 28th</u> 6h	Ceres in conjunction with the Sun; moves into the evening sky. It's distance from the Earth is 3.8 au.	
-----	Alpha Bootids meteor radiant 14:30;	

Sky Calendar for April 1989

(All times are Given in UT to convert to EST subtract 5 hours; for EDT subtract 4 hours.)

Saturday: 1st

Tiros 1 launched on this date in 1960. It becomes the first Earth orbiting weather satellite.

Monday: 3rd

The Soviet Luna 10 becomes the first space probe in Lunar orbit on this date in 1966.

Tuesday: 4th

14h Mercury in superior conjunction with the Sun; moves into the evening sky.
23h Venus in superior conjunction with the Sun; moves into the evening sky.

Kappa Serpentiid Meteors. Radiant is right ascension 15:20; declination +18°; ZHR = 1; velocity 45 km/sec.

Wednesday: 5th

0:00 Saturn passes 5° north of the Moon.
2h Juno stationary in right ascension; resumes direct motion.
20h Moon at perigee. Distance from the Earth is 56.0 Earth-radii.

Thursday: 6th

3:33 New Moon. Lunation number 820

The first commercial communications satellite Intelsat 1 is placed in geosynchronous orbit on this day in 1965.

Friday: 7th

First Day of Ramadan
Delta Draconid Meteors. Radiant is right ascension 18:45; declination +68°; ZHR = 1; velocity 27 km/sec.

Sunday: 9th

9h Uranus is stationary in right ascension; begins retrograde motion.
12h Jupiter passes 6° south of the Moon.

Monday: 10th

9h Mars passes 4° south of the Moon.
11:36 Mercury at ascending node

Wednesday: 12th

23:13 Moon at first quarter.

Virginid Meteors.

Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man to orbit the Earth on this date in 1961.

Thursday: 13th

22h Neptune is stationary in right ascension; begins retrograde motion.

A tank aboard Apollo 13 ruptures

Friday: 14th

Saturday: 15th

Monday: 17th

Tuesday: 18th

Thursday: 20th

Friday: 21th

Sunday: 23th

Monday: 24th

Tuesday: 25th

Wednesday: 26th

en route to the Moon on this date in 1970.

Shuttle Columbia lands safely after a 2 day orbital test flight. This completed the first space shuttle mission in 1981.

Regulus passes 0.1° north of the Moon. Occultation.
Mercury at perihelion. Magnitude 1.4; distance from Earth 1.2 au.

Sigma Leonids Meteor radiant is right ascension 13:00; declination -5°; Zhr = 1; velocity 20 km/sec.

Moon at apogee. Distance from the Earth is 63.7 Earth-radii.

First Day of Passover

3:13 "Full Moon called the ""grass"" or ""egg"" Moon."

Lyrids Meteors radiant is right ascension 18:08; declination +32°; ZHR 10 to 15; velocity 47 km/sec. Parent body is believed to be Comet Thatcher last seen in 1861 with a 415 year period. Currently the earliest recorded of all major showers by the Chinese

0h Saturn is stationary in right ascension; begins retrograde motion.

Pi Puppids meteor radiant is right ascension 7:48; declination -45°; ZHR = 23. Parent body is comet Grigg-Skjellerup which passed perihelion in 1987. This maybe a good shower this year but you will have to observe from a location with a low and dark southern horizons.

7h Antares passes 0.5° north of the Moon. Occultation.

Mu Virginids meteor radiant is right ascension 14:44; declination -5°; ZHR = 1; velocity 29 km/sec.

Mercury at it's greatest northern latitude 7°.

Upcoming Events in April 1989

Monthly Meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club
Sunday April 2, 1989; 7:00 PM - Bryan Auditorium; Morton Hall; UNC-W

Club Viewing Session and Open House
April 8, 1989; Dusk until "?" - Hampstead Site

Deadline for the May Newsletter
April 18, 1989

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