

CAPE FEAR



Skies

The
Monthly
Newsletter of the
Cape Fear Astronomical Society

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June 1989

June Meeting Announcement

Sunday
June 4, 1989
7:00 PM
Bryan Auditorium
Morton Hall
UNC-W Campus

The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society will be held on June 4, 1989 in the Bryan Auditorium of Morton Hall on the UNC-W Campus. The Business meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

The general meeting will begin at 8:00 PM. The program for the general meeting this month will be a slide presentation from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. The title of the slide presentation is *Tour of the Universe*.

Meeting Minutes from May

David Maness, president, called the regular business meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society to order at 7:12 p.m. May 7, 1989 in Bryan Auditorium, Morton Hall, UNCW. Fourteen members were present; two visitors attended. Tom Jacobs moved to dispense with reading of the minutes from April's meeting and the motion was adopted.

Ronnie Hawes gave a treasurer's report. The checking account balance at the beginning of May was \$33.68, and April's total expenditures was \$259.75. The observatory fund was at \$100.40.

David Maness related there was an article recently in the *Wilmington Morning Star* about the society's planned observatory, and WAAV radio broadcast an interview with Conrad Pope and himself on May 5. He thanked the many members who helped with Astronomy Day, May 6 and 7, at Independence Mall.

David said the Hampstead viewing site's access road has been stabilized, but proceed slowly and centered on the narrow segment marked with reflectors. An executive board meeting is scheduled for May 26 8 p.m. at David's. All committee chairpersons and interested members are invited. July's regular meeting might include discussion with potential contributors to the society's observatory project in lieu of a program.

Alan Hilburn mentioned that he has a variety of society T-shirts for purchase.

David Maness iterated that the treasury is in

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need; contact him if you are interested in selling M&Ms.

Alan Hilburn called for pictures and other material to be included in the scrapbook.

Paul Walker gave a brief program on the spring-time night sky.

Paul Petty reminded members of the public viewing session at the Carolina Beach State Park picnic area May 13 at 8 p.m.. The society will host a lunar and solar public viewing session Saturday June 24 9 a.m. to about noon at the First Baptist Church's activity building on Independence Boulevard. A club picnic and grand opening for the Hampstead viewing site is scheduled for June 10, with observing afterwards.

Ronnie Hawes narrated a slide program on the recent Southern Star convention, which he attended.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m..

-Paul D. Walker

"Danger" Speed Zone

Your president has ask me to remind the membership that the dirt access road to the Hampstead observing site has not been designated as a motor speedway; and should be treated as a no racing zone! Please drive SLOWLY on the road from the highway back to the observing site.

A fast moving car on a dry dirt road kicks dust up into the air. This is hard on the people who are trying to look at the sky. Cars kicking up dust is also hard on the people who live in the neighborhood of the site. Remember we share the access road with the other people who live near the observing site.

Please drive CAREFULLY on the access road.

Get Well Wishes

Let's all wish that member Jane Fountain "Gets Well Soon." Jane has recently returned home from the hospital after undergoing surgery. Let us all wish her a speedy recovery so that she can once again join us under clear skies.

A New Endeavour

President George Bush has chosen the name "Endeavour" as the name for the new Space Shuttle currently under construction to replace the Challenger. Making Endeavour the winning entry in NASA's Orbiter-Naming Contest. The winning entry was submitted by students from both Georgia and Mississippi.

The new Space Shuttle had up to now has been known only as OV-105. Construction of the new Endeavour is scheduled to be completed sometime during 1991. The maiden voyage is currently scheduled for launch from the Kennedy Space Center during March of 1992.

The name Endeavour was chosen by the students as a tribute to Lt. James Cook, an 18th century British explorer, navigator and astronomer. In August 1768 Cook sailed his Endeavour to the South Pacific, around Tahiti, on a mission to observe and record the transit of Venus across the Sun. Measurements of the transit of Venus allowed astronomers to determine the distance from Earth to the Sun. Or to obtain a value for the Astronomical Unit in Earthly (miles) measurements. On June 3, 1769, Cook completed this mission and continued his voyage to explore the southern hemisphere. He discovered and mapped New Zealand and surveyed the eastern coast of Australia and the Great Barrier Reef.

Another noteworthy fact of the maiden voyage of the original Endeavour was the including of scientist as part of the ships company. Cook had astronomers, naturalists and artists aboard to preform the scientific parts of the Endeavour's mission. These "mission specialists" of the crew collected a great deal of scientific data on the plants and animals of the southern hemisphere in addition to the primary mission of recording the transit of Venus.

I hope you can agree that Endeavour is a very fitting name for America's new shuttle. I think that it is the best of all the names that I had heard proposed for the new shuttle.

Sky Calendar for June 1989

(All times are Given in UT to convert to EDT subtract 4 hours.)

Thursday: 1st

5h Moon at perigee. Distance from the Earth is 57.1 Earth-radii.

Friday: 2ed

----- Surveyor 1 makes the first American soft-landing on the Moon. Landing in the Ocean of Storms on this date in 1966.

Saturday: 3rd

19:56 New Moon. Lunation number 822

----- Tau Herculis Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 15:12; declination +40°; speed very slow 15 km/sec. Parent body is Comet Schwassmann-Wachmann 3.

----- On this date in 1965 America's first astronaut to walk in space is Edward H. White spending 20 minutes outside of his Gemini 4 spacecraft.

Monday: 5th

1h Venus passes 3° south of the Moon

2h Mercury stationary in right ascension.

----- Chi Scorpiids Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 16:25; declination -12°; slow moving possible fireballs; ZHR ≤ 5.

Tuesday: 6th

18h Mars passes 1.6° south of the Moon

Wednesday: 7th

0h Mars passes 5° south of Pollux.

Thursday: 8th

----- Librids Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 15:09; declination -28°; speed 16 km/sec; ZHR = 10. This shower has not been seen since 1937.

Friday: 9th

9h Jupiter in conjunction with the Sun; moves into the morning sky. Magnitude -1.9; the distance from Earth to Jupiter is 6.1 au.

14h Regulus passes 0.7° north of the Moon. Occultation.

----- Feast of Weeks

Sunday: 11th

6:59 Moon at first quarter.

Tuesday: 13th

2h Moon at apogee. Distance from the Earth is 63.4 Earth-radii.

----- Theta Ophiuchids Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 17:50; declination -28°; speed 30 km/sec; ZHR = 2.

----- Pioneer 10 becomes the first spacecraft to leave the Solar System as it passes the orbit of Neptune on this date in 1983.

Wednesday: 14th

----- Mars at it's greatest northern latitude 2°.

----- Alpha Scorpiids Meteors. Radiant is located

at right ascension 16:52; declination -22°; Slow moving possible fireballs; ZHR ≤ 5.

Friday: 16th

----- Venus at perihelion. Distance from the Sun is .72 au.

----- The Soviet Union places the first woman in space on this date in 1963.

Saturday: 17th

21h Antares passes 0.4° north of the Moon.

Sunday: 18th

12h Mercury at it's greatest western elongation 23°.

----- Sally Ride becomes the first American woman in space aboard Challenger on this date in 1983.

----- Mercury at it's greatest southern latitude 7°.

----- Comet P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko at perihelion 1.3 au from the Sun

Monday: 19th

6:57 Full Moon called the "rose"; "flower" or "strawberry" Moon.

17h Uranus passes 4° north of the Moon

Tuesday: 20th

7h Saturn passes 4° north of the Moon.

7h Neptune passes 5° north of the Moon.

----- Ophiuchids Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 17:20; declination -23°; ZHR = 8.

Wednesday: 21th

9:53 Summer Solstices. Sun at it's greatest northern latitude.

Friday: 23th

12h Mercury passes 3° north of Aldebaran.

Saturday: 24th

9h Venus passes 5° south of Polux.

16h Saturn passes 0.3° of Neptune.

22h Uranus in opposition with the Sun; moves into the morning sky. Magnitude = 5.6; distance from the Sun is 19.3 au.

Monday: 26th

4h Vesta in opposition with the Sun; moves into the morning sky. Magnitude = 5.3

9:09 Moon at last quarter.

----- Corvids Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 12:48; declination -19°; speed 10 km/sec; ZHR = 10. This shower has not been seen since 1937.

Wednesday: 28th

4h Moon at perigee. Distance from the Earth is 57.8 Earth-radii.

Upcoming Events in June 1989

Monthly Meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club
Sunday June 4, 1989; 7:00 PM - Bryan Auditorium; Morton Hall; UNC-W

Open House at the Hampstead Site
June 10, 1989

Deadline for the March Newsletter
June 19, 1989

Public Viewing Session; Daytime Lunar Viewing.
June 24, 1989; 8:30 until Noon - Place to be announced.

FA

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