

CAPE FEAR



Skies

The
Monthly
Newsletter of the
Cape Fear Astronomy Club

Volume 4 No. 7

Wilmington, NC

July 1989

July Meeting Announcement

Sunday
July 9, 1989
7:00 PM
Bryan Auditorium
Morton Hall
UNC-W Campus

The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society will be held on Sunday July 9, 1989 in the Bryan Auditorium of Morton Hall on the UNC-W Campus. Please note that this is the second Sunday in July instead of the first. The Business meeting will begin at 7:00 PM EST.

The general meeting will begin at 8:00 PM. As a tribute to the 20th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Lunar landing the program for the general meeting will be a NASA film titled "America in Space The First Twenty -Five years". The film has a running time of 50 minutes.

I hope to see you all at the meeting.

Meeting Minutes from June

David Maness, president, called the regular business meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society to order at 7:03 p.m. June 4, 1989 in Bryan Auditorium, Morton Hall, UNCW. Fourteen members

were present. Reading of the minutes from May's meeting was dispensed with. The treasurer, Ronnie Hawes, reported that the checking account balance was \$40.49, and May's expenditures totaled \$109.29. The observatory fund contained \$91.04.

Ronnie Hawes conducted Astronomical League elections. The society voted for Merry Wooten for executive secretary and Harriet Miller for secretary, and in favor of two constitutional amendments.

Paul Walker told about his inquiry into the Cape Fear Community Foundation, a local intermediary for financial contributions, and how the society could pursue a grant for its planned observatory.

Sam Bissette summarized the complexities and cost of acquiring Federal tax-exempt status but expressed that it is needed for letters to potential contributors.

David Maness noted that the club picnic and grand opening of the Hampstead viewing site is planned for Saturday June 10 at 6 p.m.. Ronnie Hawes added that there would be a viewing session afterward if clear.

(Continues on page 2.)

Inside This Issue

- July Meeting Announcement.....1
- Meeting Minutes from June.....1
- Observatory Access Again.....2
- Sky Calendar for July.....3
- Welcome New Members.....2
- Upcoming Events for July.....4

Meeting Minutes (from page 1)

David Maness announced that the discussion with potential contributors to the observatory project has been rescheduled from July to September's regular meeting.

Alan Hilburn discussed various astronomy mail he has received lately. Also he has club-logo T-shirts selling at \$3. Paul Walker asked if the society should delay ordering new-logo T-shirts due to the treasury's condition. Sam Bissette proposed that new-logo T-shirts could be produced on a self-supporting basis when enough members have prepaid.

Alan Hilburn announced a possible yard sale on Saturday June 17 at the Star Way Drive In Theatre.

Ronnie Hawes conveyed that Bob Melvin wrote him offering a slide presentation on his more recent trip to Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona. Mr. Melvin presented the club's program January 1988. Ronnie said he will invite him to speak at the August or October meeting.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:45. During the break Mary Sljaka became a member.

After the break David Maness pointed out several options for group outings: Morehead Planetarium

and the associated observatory, Johnny Horne's observatory in Stedman, and the Roper Mountain observatory.

Sam Bissette said the owner of Tarheel Photo has a used eight-inch telescope for sale.

Five visitors attended the evening's program. A quiz about astronomical observation was handed out. Ronnie Hawes administered a slide presentation, "A Tour of the Universe", featuring outstanding photography of nebulas and star clusters. The slide set was ordered from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and was tape-narrated by Ken Murphy of WECT-TV news.

While checking the quiz results there arose rather a ruckus over the moon's orbit. Sam Bissette moved and there was detectable sentiment that Alan Hilburn and Ronnie Hawes, the foremost parties, present a report next time on the daily alteration of lunar traversal.

-Paul D. Walker

Observatory Access Again

Members of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society will find stapled inside of this month's newsletter two address labels. Printed on these labels are the combinations for both the observatory door and the electric service box.

The label for the electric box is the one that has been marked with a highlighter. Please be careful not to get the two locks switched when you are finished using the observing site.

Club members are free to use the Hampstead site whenever they wish. That is why we are including the combinations in this newsletter. We continue to ask that the last person to leave the site makes sure that the electrical service has been switched off; and that both locks are in place when you leave.

So far the membership has done a good job of keeping the observing site locked. Let's keep this record going.

There are many places where you can stick these labels with the combinations. Some of the places that have been suggested as good places to keep these labels are the following.

Attached to the sunvisor of your car.

Attached to the base of your telescope.

Welcome New Member

Please join me in extending a warm welcome our newest member Mary T. Sljaka of Wilmington.

May we all enjoy clear skies and pleasant seeing.

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 the labels to anything at the site. If you find either of the combinations attached to anything at the site tear it down and throw it away when you get home.

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

Sky Calendar for July 1989

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

Saturday: 1st

- 21h Mercury passes 6° south of the Moon.
- 23h Jupiter passes 5° south of the Moon.

Sunday: 2nd

- 13h Saturn in opposition with the Sun; moves into the morning sky. Magnitude = 0.0; distance from the Sun is 10.0 au.
- 17h Mercury passes 0.6° south of Jupiter.
- 23h Neptune in opposition with the Sun; moves into the morning sky. Magnitude = 7.9; distance from the Sun is 29.2 au.

Monday: 3rd

- 4:59 New Moon. Lunation number 823

Tuesday: 4th

- 12h Earth at aphelion; distance from Sun to Earth is 1.0167228 au.

Wednesday: 5th

- 4h Venus passes 0.1° south of the Moon. Occultation.
- 12h Mars passes 0.09° south of the Moon.

Thursday: 6th

- 23h Regulus passes 0.9° south of the Moon Occultation.

Friday: 7th

- 10:52 Mercury at ascending node
- 23:59 Venus at it's greatest northern latitude 3° .

Saturday: 8th

- Capricornids Meteors. Radiant is right ascension 20:22; declination -10° ; ZHR = 7; Slow moving; Yellow in color many Fireballs possible.

Monday: 10th

- 21h Moon at apogee. Distance from the Earth is 63.4 Earth-radii.
- "The first "live via satellite" television broadcast is made between Europe and the United States on this date in 1962 using the Telstar 1."

Tuesday: 11th

- 0:19 Moon at first quarter.

Wednesday: 12th

- 12h Venus passes 0.5° north of Mars.
- Mercury at perihelion. Magnitude 1.7; distance from Earth 1.3 au.

Friday: 14th

- Phoenicids Meteors. Radiant is right ascension 2:04; declination -48° . This stream has not been sited visually.
- Mariner 4 sends the first close-up images of the Martian surface on this date in 1965.

Saturday: 15th

- 5h Antares passes 0.5° north of the Moon. Occultation.

Sunday: 16th

- 23h Uranus passes 4° north of the Moon.
- Omicron Draconids. Radiant is right ascension 18:04; declination 59° ; Parent body Comet Metcalf (1919).
- Alpha Lyrids. Radiant is right ascension 18:40; declination 38° .

Monday: 17th

- 12h Saturn passes 4° north of the Moon.
- 14h Neptune passes 5° north of the Moon.
- 8h Mercury in superior conjunction with the Sun; moves into the evening sky.
- 17:42 "Full Moon called the "thunder" or "hay" Moon."

Thursday: 20th

- Viking 1 transmits the first images from the Martian surface on this date in 1976.
- Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first men to walk on the surface of the moon on this date in 1969.

Saturday: 22th

- Mercury at it's greatest northern latitude 7° .
- Mars at aphelion. Magnitude 1.8; distance from Earth is 2.6 au.

Sunday: 23th

- 7h Moon at perigee. Distance from the Earth is 57.8 Earth-radii.
- 11h Venus passes 1.2° north of Regulus.

Tuesday: 25th

- 13:31 Moon at last quarter.

Wednesday: 26th

- 6:52 Occultation between asteroid 192 Nausikaa and the star SAO 75764; right ascension 3:07.2 declination $21^\circ 33'$ (J1950) Magnitudes of 11.4 and 8.6 respectively. This will be visible from the Wilmington area. The time given is for the estimated midpoint of the occultation.

Friday: 28th

- 11h Pluto is stationary in right ascension; begins retrograde motion.

Saturday: 29th

- 16h Jupiter passes 5° south of the Moon.
- Delta Aquarids. Radiant is right ascension 22:36; declination -17° ; speed medium; ZHR = 10 to 35

Monday: 31th

- Astronauts Dave Scott and Jim Irwin are the first to use the Moon Buggy in exploring the Moon on this date in 1971.

Upcoming Events in July 1989

Monthly Meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomy Club
Sunday July 9, 1989; 7:00 PM - Bryan Auditorium; Morton Hall; UNC-W

Deadline for the August Newsletter
July 19, 1989

Tom Jacobs - Editor
c/o Cape Fear Skies
110 Linville Dr.
Castle Hayne, NC 28429



Alan Hilburn
929 Arnold Rd.
Wilmington, N.C. 28403