

CAPE FEAR



Skies

The
Monthly
Newsletter of the
Cape Fear Astronomical Society

Volume 4 No. 9

Wilmington, NC

September 1989

September Meeting Announcement

Sunday
September 3, 1989; 7:00 PM
Bryan Auditorium
Morton Hall
UNCW Campus

The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society will be held on September 3, 1989 in the Bryan Auditorium of Morton Hall on the UNCW 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 presentation on astrophotography by club member Sam Bissette.

Meeting Minutes from August

The vice president, Paul Petty, presiding, the president being absent, called the regular meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society to order at 7:01 p.m. August 6, 1989 in Bryan Auditorium, Morton Hall, UNCW. Andy Johnson called the roll. Tom Jacobs moved to dispense with the reading of the min-

utes from July's meeting and it was approved. The treasurer, Ronnie Hawes, reported that the checking account balance was \$23.48, July's expenditures totaled \$24.76, and the last light bill amounted to \$12.44. The observatory fund contained \$70.59.

Alan Hilburn mentioned that the Perseids Meteors will peak August 12, and gave a handout and some tips for enhanced observing and photography. Take a chair or ground cover; "you want to get really comfortable". Slide film shows the colors better. Expose frames a maximum of about 5 or 10 minutes each, but advance the film soon after catching a meteor. Paul Petty encouraged a good turnout for the meteor watch.

Ronnie Hawes told about the public viewing session for the total lunar eclipse 8 p.m. August 16 at the Fort Fisher Museum. It will be the first total eclipse for this part of North America since 1982 and the last for a few years. WECT-TV is planning to have a crew at the session for a live shot on the 11 p.m. news.

Paul Petty noted that NASA will be producing

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Meeting Minutes - (from page 1)

numerous satellite feeds receivable by home dishes during Voyager 2's encounter with Neptune. Alan Hilburn added that UNCW's Dr. Brian Davis is making preparations for such viewing on campus August 24 and 25. Call the school's library or student union for details.

Paul Petty said the visit to the Chapel Hill observatory and planetarium has been rescheduled for the September 29 open house of the 24-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain. Contact him or Ronnie Hawes if interested in going Friday and coming back Saturday.

Paul Petty iterated that he is preparing a trip to the Kennedy Space Center for the October 12 or 13 launch of the space shuttle carrying the Galileo probe. He plans to be there from the 11th through the 21st, and he can accommodate five others at a Daytona condominium he has for most of that period.

Sam Bissette related the weeds are becoming a

problem at the Hampstead viewing site road, but added that the road was "dry as bone" after some recent rains.

Paul Petty noted that September's meeting will be on the 10th due to the holiday.

Ronnie Hawes reported that Alan Hilburn and he are scheduled for an interview on WECT-TV's noon-time news August 15.

Sixteen members were present at the business meeting. It adjourned at approximately 7:45.

During the break Shirley Ballou became a member.

For the evening's program a guest speaker, Mr. Bob Melvin, presented a slide show with commentary on his continuing work at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona. This was a sequel to the program he gave at the club's January 1988 meeting.

Ronnie Hawes noted that the next opportunity for a group viewing session is the 25th or 26th of this month.

Pul D. Walker

Local Solar Ephemeris

Below you will find a table containing the predicted times of sunrise and sunset as calculated for the Wilmington area. Also included in the table are the beginning and ending times for astronomical twilight.

The table below was created using a program written by your editor. And your editor wishes to ask for your help. I think the program used to calculate this local ephemeris is correct. If anyone should find a discrepancies in this ephemeris (or in the ones to follow in the future) please bring these discrepancies to my attention.

Date	Twilight Begin	Sun Rise	Sun Set	Twilight End
Sep 1	5:17	6:44	19:39	21:05
Sep 2	5:18	6:45	19:37	21:04
Sep 3	5:18	6:45	19:36	21:02
Sep 4	5:19	6:46	19:35	21:01
Sep 5	5:20	6:47	19:33	20:59
Sep 6	5:21	6:47	19:32	20:58
Sep 7	5:22	6:48	19:31	20:56
Sep 8	5:23	6:49	19:29	20:54
Sep 9	5:24	6:50	19:28	20:53
Sep 10	5:25	6:50	19:27	20:51
Sep 11	5:26	6:51	19:25	20:50
Sep 12	5:26	6:52	19:24	20:48
Sep 13	5:27	6:52	19:22	20:47
Sep 14	5:28	6:53	19:21	20:45
Sep 15	5:29	6:54	19:20	20:44

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the newest members of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society. Our new members are Rhett Bennett and Shirley Ballou. Both live in Wilmington.

Date	Twilight Begin	Sun Rise	Sun Set	Twilight End
Sep 16	5:30	6:54	19:18	20:42
Sep 17	5:31	6:55	19:17	20:41
Sep 18	5:31	6:56	19:15	20:39
Sep 19	5:32	6:57	19:14	20:37
Sep 20	5:33	6:57	19:12	20:36
Sep 21	5:34	6:58	19:11	20:34
Sep 22	5:35	6:59	19:10	20:33
Sep 23	5:35	6:59	19:08	20:31
Sep 24	5:36	7:00	19:07	20:30
Sep 25	5:37	7:01	19:05	20:28
Sep 26	5:38	7:01	19:04	20:27
Sep 27	5:39	7:02	19:03	20:26
Sep 28	5:39	7:03	19:01	20:24
Sep 29	5:40	7:04	19:00	20:23
Sep 30	5:41	7:04	18:58	20:21

Sky Calendar for September 1989

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

Friday: 1st

- 20:17 Venus at descending node.
----- Pioneer 11 becomes the first space probe to Saturn on this date in 1979.

Saturday: 2nd

- 16h Mercury passes 0.6° north of the Moon. Occultation.

Sunday: 3rd

- 21h Venus passes 5° north of the Moon.

Monday: 4th

- 8h Moon at apogee. Distance from the Earth is 63.6 Earth-radii.

Tuesday: 5th

- Pluto at perihelion. Distance from the Sun is 29.7 au.

Wednesday: 6th

- 13h Venus passes 1.9° north of Spica.
----- Lyncids Meteor: Radiant is located at right ascension 6:40; declination $+58^\circ$; ZHR = 1 or 2.

Thursday: 7th

- 22h Antares passes 0.6° north of the Moon.
----- Epsilon Perseids Meteor: Radiant is located at right Ascension 4:08; declination $+37^\circ$; ZHR < 10.

Friday: 8th

- 9:49 Moon at first quarter.

Saturday: 9th

- 16h Uranus passes 4° north of the Moon.
----- Piscids Meteors: radiant is located at right ascension 0:36; declination $+7^\circ$; ZHR = 10.

Sunday: 10th

- 1h Uranus is stationary in right ascension; resumes direct motion.
2h Saturn passes 4° north of the Moon.
7h Neptune passes 5° north of the Moon.

Monday: 11th

- 5h Saturn is stationary in right ascension; resumes direct motion.
14h Mercury is stationary in right ascension.
----- "The International Comet Explorer ICE-1, becomes the first space probe to reach a comet on this date in 1985."

Thursday: 14th

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

Friday: 15th

- 11:51 "Full Moon called the ""harvest"" Moon."

Saturday: 16th

- 15h Moon at perigee. Distance from the Earth is 56.3 Earth-radii.

Thursday: 21th

- 5h Neptune is stationary in right ascension; resumes direct motion.
----- Piscids Meteors: Radiant is located at right ascension 0:24; declination 0° ; ZHR = 5.
----- Kappa Aquarids Meteors: Radiant is located at right ascension 22:25; declination -5° ; Slow speed.

Friday: 22th

- 2:10 Moon at last quarter.
19h Jupiter passes 4° south of the Moon.

Saturday: 23th

- 1:20 September Equinox (Earth at descending node). Fall begins in the Northern Hemisphere.
----- Alpha Aurigids Meteors: Radiant is located at right ascension 4:56; declination $+42^\circ$

Sunday: 24th

- 22h Mercury in inferior conjunction with the Sun; moves into the morning sky.
----- Comet P/Gunn at perihelion 2.5 au from the Sun.

Tuesday: 26th

- 21h Regulus passes 1.0° north of the Moon. Occultation.

Thursday: 28th

- Comet P/Brorsen-Metcalf at perihelion 0.5 au from the Sun.

Friday: 29th

- 19h Mars in conjunction with the Sun; enters evening sky. Magnitude 1.7; distance from Earth 2.6 au.
21:47 New Moon. Lunation number 826

Saturday: 30th

- 13h Pallas in opposition with the Sun; moves into the morning sky.
----- Rosh Hashanah

Upcoming Events in September 1989

Monthly Meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society
Sunday September 3, 1989; 7:00 PM - Bryan Auditorium; Morton Hall; UNCW

Deadline for the October Newsletter
Wednesday September 20, 1989

Trip the the Moorehead Planetarium and Chapel Hill Observatory
Friday September 29, 1989

Group Viewing Session
Saturday September 30, 1989; Dusk until "?" - Hampstead Site

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