



Skies



The
Monthly
Newsletter of the
Cape Fear Astronomical Society

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Wilmington, NC

December 1989

December Meeting Announcement

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

The Cape Fear Astronomical Society will hold its next meeting on December 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 videotape presentation of the Voyager 2's flyby of the planet Neptune.

Ronnie Hawes, reported that the observatory fund contained \$54.53, and the treasury balance was \$31.98. Paul Petty moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from October's meeting since they are published in *Cape Fear Skies* each month.

Paul Petty observed that it was a good oyster roast last night at the Hampstead viewing site. He said to call Alan Hilburn for information on a yard sale to be at the old Star Way flea market next Saturday morning the 11th.

Paul Petty announced two public comet watch sessions for Comet 89R by the Fort Fisher rocks at 4 a.m. November 18 and 25. Bad weather dates are 24 hours later for each event.

Ronnie Hawes iterated a call for *Astronomy* magazine subscriptions at the club rate.

Paul Petty conducted nominations for the January elections pointing out that they would be allowed also at the December meeting. He conveyed that David Marness is not seeking reelection as president. For president, John Marshall nominated Ronnie Hawes who accepted, and Andy Johnson and Sam Bissette nominated Martin Best who will consider it.

Paul Petty announced he is not seeking reelection as vice president. For vice president, Paul Petty nomi-

(Continues on page 2.)

Meeting Minutes from November

The vice president, Paul Petty, presiding, the president being absent, called the regular business meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society to order at 7:05 p.m. EST November 5, 1989 in Bryan Auditorium, Morton Hall, UNCW. The associate vice president, Andy Johnson, called the roll. The treasurer,

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Sky Calendar – from page 3.

- Christmas Day.
- Tuesday: 26th
 0h Antares passes 0.2° north of the Moon. Occultation.
- Wednesday: 27th
 6h Uranus in conjunction with the Sun; moves into the morning sky. Distance from the Sun is 19.4 au.
 14h Jupiter in opposition with the Sun; moves into the evening sky. The distance from Earth to Jupiter is 4.2 au. Magnitude is -2.7
 23h Venus is stationary in right ascension; begins retrograde motion.
 ----- Johannes Kepler born this day in 1571.
- Thursday: 28th
 3:20 New Moon. Lunation number 829
 ----- Lyncid Meteors. Radiant is located at right ascension 07:15; declination +36°.
- Friday: 29th
 15h Mercury passes 1.7° north of the Moon.
- Saturday: 30th
 9:24 Mercury at ascending node
 10h Venus passes 2° north of the Moon
 16h Mercury is stationary in right ascension.
 23h Mars passes 5° north of Antares.
- Sunday: 31st
 23:59 A leap second will be introduced after the 59th second of this minute to compensate for irregularities in the Earth's rotation. This minute will be 61 seconds long.
 ----- New Years Eve.

Meeting Minutes – from page 1.

nated Martin Best who will consider it, and Sam Bissette nominated John Marshall who accepted.
 For associate vice president, Edwin Johnson nominated Andy Johnson who accepted.
 For secretary, Page Hilburn nominated Martin Best who will consider it.
 For treasurer, Edwin Johnson nominated Page Hilburn who will consider it.
 For chief editor, Paul Petty nominated Tom Jacobs who accepted.
 Sam Bissette complemented Tom Jacobs for a good job as editor.
 Sixteen members were present at the business meeting. It adjourned at 7:30.
 After the break Paul Petty recognized visitors from New York, Southport, and Figure Eight Island. He reopened nominations for treasurer; Ronnie Hawes nominated Wayne Teachey who accepted.
 Johnny Horne, published astrophotographer from Stedman, brought a slide presentation for the evening's program. He showed some favorite pictures he has taken including Halley's Comet, the Bradfield comet, the Ring Nebula, Mars, a solar eclipse, a conjunction of Venus and the crescent moon, and exposures from mile-high Grandfather Mountain. For those who have a 35 mm camera but not about two thousand dollars for a nice telescope, he commends the homemade Trott tracking device. A few more members and six visitors attended the program.

– Paul D. Walker

Local Solar Ephemeris

Sunrise and set tables for the Wilmington, NC area. Also includes the beginning and ending times for Astronomical Twilight. Any discrepancies should be reported to the editor.

Date	Twilight Begin	Sun Rise	Sun Set	Twilight End	Date	Twilight Begin	Sun Rise	Sun Set	Twilight End
Dec 1	5:30	6:59	17:02	18:30	Dec 17	5:41	7:11	17:04	18:34
Dec 2	5:31	7:00	17:02	18:30	Dec 18	5:42	7:12	17:04	18:34
Dec 3	5:32	7:01	17:02	18:31	Dec 19	5:43	7:13	17:05	18:35
Dec 4	5:33	7:02	17:02	18:31	Dec 20	5:43	7:13	17:05	18:35
Dec 5	5:33	7:03	17:02	18:31	Dec 21	5:44	7:14	17:06	18:36
Dec 6	5:34	7:03	17:02	18:31	Dec 22	5:44	7:14	17:06	18:36
Dec 7	5:35	7:04	17:02	18:31	Dec 23	5:45	7:15	17:07	18:37
Dec 8	5:36	7:05	17:02	18:31	Dec 24	5:45	7:15	17:07	18:37
Dec 9	5:36	7:06	17:02	18:31	Dec 25	5:45	7:15	17:08	18:38
Dec 10	5:37	7:07	17:02	18:32	Dec 26	5:46	7:16	17:09	18:38
Dec 11	5:38	7:07	17:02	18:32	Dec 27	5:46	7:16	17:09	18:39
Dec 12	5:38	7:08	17:02	18:32	Dec 28	5:47	7:16	17:10	18:40
Dec 13	5:39	7:09	17:03	18:32	Dec 29	5:47	7:17	17:11	18:40
Dec 14	5:40	7:09	17:03	18:33	Dec 30	5:47	7:17	17:11	18:41
Dec 15	5:40	7:10	17:03	18:33	Dec 31	5:48	7:17	17:12	18:42
Dec 16	5:41	7:11	17:04	18:33					

Sky Calendar for December 1989

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

Friday: 1st

- 5h Neptune passes 4° north of the Moon
- 7h Saturn passes 3° north of the Moon.

Saturday: 2ed

- 8h Venus passes 0.8° south of the Moon. Oc-
cultation.

Sunday: 3rd

- US probe Pioneer 10 becomes the first to
reach Jupiter in 1973.
- First Sunday in Advent

Wednesday: 6th

- 1:26 Moon at first quarter.

Saturday: 9th

- Puppis-Velids Meteors. Radiant is located
at right ascension 09:20; declination -45°.

Sunday: 10th

- 13h Mercury passes 2° south of Uranus.
- 23h Moon at perigee. Distance from the Earth is
56.6 Earth-radii.
- Monocerotid Meteors. Radiant is located at
right ascension 06:50; declination +10°;
medium speed 42km/sec. Derived from
Comet Mellish which last appeared in
1917.
- Chi Orionid Meteors. Radiant is located at
right ascension 05:36; declination +26°;
medium speed 25km/sec; ZHR = 6.

Monday: 11th

- Sigma Hydrid Meteors. Radiant is located
at right ascension 08:32; declination +2°;
fast moving 58km/sec; ZHR = 9.
- Mercury at it's greatest southern latitude 7°.

Tuesday: 12th

- 16:30 Full Moon called the moon before Yule or
the Long Night Moon.
- On this date in 1973 Skylab astronauts stage
the first "strike" in space to protest too
heavy workloads.

Wednesday: 13th

- 20h Jupiter passes 3° south of the Moon.

Thursday: 14th

- 9h Venus at it's greatest brilliancy. Magnitude
-4.7
- Tycho Brahe born this day in 1546.
- Mariner 2 passes within 21,600 miles of
Venus sending back the first close-up imag-
es of the surface on this date in 1962.
- Geminid Meteors. Radiant just North and
West of Castor in Gemini; right ascension
is 7:28; declination +32°; medium speed
35km/sec; ZHR greater than 50. Some fire-
balls and Bolides. Mostly white and yel-
low. Parent body is asteroid 3200 Phaе-

thon.

Friday: 15th

- 4h Mercury passes 3° south of Neptune.
- The first space rendezvous is accomplished
on this date in 1965 by astronauts Wally
Schirra and Tom Stafford. They fly their
Gemini 6a spacecraft within several feet of
the orbiting Gemini 7 spacecraft

Saturday: 16th

- 22h Mercury passes 2° south of Saturn.
- Omicron Piscid Meteors. Radiant is located
at right ascension 01:42; declination +9°;
slow speed 25km/sec; ZHR = 8.

Sunday: 17th

- Orville Wright makes first flight in a "heavi-
er than air" craft in 1903.

Tuesday: 19th

- 23:54 Moon at last quarter.

Wednesday: 20th

- 7h Ceres in opposition with the Sun; moves
into the evening sky. Distance from the
Earth is 1.7 au.
- Delta Arietid Meteors. Radiant is located at
right ascension 03:35; declination +25°;
slow speed 15km/sec.

Thursday: 21th

- 21:22 Winter Solstices. Sun is at it's greatest
southern latitude.
- First manned flight to the moon (Apollo 8)
is launched from Cape Kennedy on this
date in 1968.

Friday: 22th

- 19h Moon at apogee. Distance from the Earth is
63.6 Earth-radii.
- Ursid Meteors. Radiant is located at right
ascension 14:28; declination +78°; medium
speed 33km/sec; ZHR = 9. Some fireballs
mostly faint meteors.

Saturday: 23th

- 8h Mercury at it's greatest eastern elongation
of 20°.
- 23:44 Venus at ascending node.

Sunday: 24th

- The first successful launch of the French
Ariane is made on this date in 1979.
- Astronauts Frank Borman; Jim Lovell and
Bill Anders become the first men to travel
to the Moon on this date in 1968.

Monday: 25th

- 17h Mars passes 5° north of the Moon.
- Isaac Newton born this day in 1643.

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Upcoming Events in December 1989

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Sunday December 3, 1989; 7:00 PM - Bryan Auditorium; Morton Hall; UNCW

Deadline for the January Newsletter
December 15, 1989

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