

CAPE FEAR



Skies

The
Monthly
Newsletter of the
Cape Fear Astronomical Society

Volume 5 No. 2

Wilmington, NC

February 1990

February Meeting Announcement

Sunday
February 4, 1990
7:00 PM
Bryan Auditorium
Morton Hall
UNCW Campus

The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society will be held on Sunday February 4, 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 this months general meeting will be a presentation on the winter constellations. The program will be presented by Society members: Martin Best; Ronnie Hawes; and Alan Hilburn.

Meeting Minutes from January

Oops!

The meeting minutes from the January 1990 meeting were unavailable for this issue of *Cape Fear Skies*. The March issue of *Cape Fear Skies* will include both the January and the February meeting minutes.

Society Activities for the New Year

Your new Society officers have already met three times this year in an effort to plan our groups activities for the this coming year. This article will give you a quick look at what lies ahead for this year.

General Meeting Programs

Planning of the programs for the general meetings are nearly complete.

This months program will cover the Winter sky constellations. Similar programs for the Spring; Summer; and Fall constellations will follow later in the year. These four programs are intended to raise the basic knowledge and observing skill of our membership.

Other general meeting programs will cover the planets Jupiter and Saturn while they are favorable place for viewing in the evening sky.

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Comet Austin

Those of you who were at the January meeting heard me announce the discovery of comet 1989c₁. Comet Austin was discovered on December 6th by an amateur observer in New Zealand. At the time of discovery comet 1989c₁ was observed to be 11th magnitude. After additional observations had been made over the next several days orbital elements were calculated. This first set of orbital elements resulted in a first magnitude brightness prediction for Comet Austin. The possibility of a first magnitude comet is very exciting and created quite a stir among both amateur and professional astronomers.

The orbital elements have now been updated three times since the discovery of 1989c₁. The latest set of orbital elements indicates that 1989c₁ may still reach naked eye magnitudes sometime in late April or May.

Comet 1989c₁ will be at it's best in the morning sky after perihelion passage on April 9th. I predict that we are going to have many sleepless morning during this spring. A brief ephemeris for comet 1989c₁ follows.

Comet Austin — 1989c₁

Date	R.A.	Decl.	
Feb.	23	1 03.5	-22 45.6
	28	1 09.7	-19 00.2
	5	1 16.0	-14 58.3
	10	1 22.7	-10 37.0
	15	1 29.3	- 5 52.4
Mar.	20	1 35.7	- 0 39.7
	25	1 41.4	+ 5 13.0
	30	1 45.4	+11 36.9
	4	1 45.9	+18 31.1
	9	1 39.6	+25 17.8
	14	1 24.8	+30 43.5
	19	1 03.6	+34 03.3
	24	0 39.5	+35 32.7
	29	0 13.4	+35 39.5
	4	23 44.3	+34 35.7
May	9	23 09.5	+32 09.6
	14	22 25.0	+27 34.8
	19	21 26.3	+19 16.5
	24	20 12.7	+ 5 53.3
	29	18 54.4	- 9 32.2
	3	17 47.3	-21 00.7
June			

Election Results

Elections for 1990 Society officers were held during the January meeting.

The ballots were counted this year by society member Jane Fountain. The results were announced at the start of the general program.

After being elected to the office of President Alan Hilburn ask Ronnie Hawes to serve in the office of Secretary. The positions was still open after the election as nobody had accepted a nomination for the office.

The following people will serve as officers for the Cape Fear Astronomical Society during the 1990 calendar year.

President	Vice-President
Alan Hilburn	Martin Best
929 Arnold Rd.	125 Colchester Pl.
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Please feel free to contact any of the Society's officers with questions or suggestions.

Society Activities – from page 1.

Also since the sunspot cycle will peak during 1990 we are planning a general meeting program to cover Solar activity and safe solar observing.

Observing sessions

This year we plan to have two group observing sessions at the Hampstead site per month (skies permitting). These group observing sessions will be scheduled to occur near New Moon. Also it is planned to review the constellations presented in the general meeting programs.

I think things are shaping up to be a very good year.

Sky Calendar for February 1990

(All times are given in Eastern Time. Times preceded with the "±" symbol are ±30 minutes of the time listed.)

Thursday: Feb 01

5:42 Astronomical twilight begins.
7:08 Sunrise.
17:41 Sunset.
19:06 Astronomical twilight ends.
±22:00 Moon at perigee. Distance from the Earth is 58.0 Earth-radii.

Friday: Feb 02

5:41 Astronomical twilight begins.
7:07 Sunrise.
13:32 Moon at first quarter.
17:42 Sunset.
19:07 Astronomical twilight ends.

Saturday: Feb 03

5:41 Astronomical twilight begins.
7:07 Sunrise.
±10:00 Mercury passes 0.2° north of Saturn
17:43 Sunset.
19:08 Astronomical twilight ends.

Sunday: Feb 04

±1:00 Mercury passes 7° south of Venus
5:40 Astronomical twilight begins.
7:06 Sunrise.
17:44 Sunset.
19:09 Astronomical twilight ends.

Monday: Feb 05

±5:00 Ceres passes 0.3° north of the Moon. Occultation
5:40 Astronomical twilight begins.
7:05 Sunrise.
17:45 Sunset.
19:09 Astronomical twilight ends.
±23:00 Jupiter passes 4° south of the Moon.

Tuesday: Feb 06

±5:00 Ceres is stationary in right ascension begins retrograde motion.
5:39 Astronomical twilight begins.
7:04 Sunrise.
17:45 Sunset.
19:10 Astronomical twilight ends.
Alpha Aurigid Meteors. Peaks during February 6th thru 9th. Slow moving with a Zhr = 12. Radiant is RA = 4:56 Dec = 43.

Wednesday: Feb 07

0:00 Venus passes 7° north of Saturn.
5:38 Astronomical twilight begins.
7:03 Sunrise.
17:46 Sunset.
19:11 Astronomical twilight ends.
±23:00 Venus is stationary in right ascension. Begins retrograde motion.

Thursday: Feb 08

5:37 Astronomical twilight begins.
7:02 Sunrise.
17:47 Sunset.
19:12 Astronomical twilight ends.
Comet P/Tuttle-Giacobini-Kresak at perihelion. Distance from the Sun is 1.07 au.
Theta Centaurid Meteors. Radiant is RA = 14:20, Dec = -44.

Friday: Feb 09

5:37 Astronomical twilight begins.
7:01 Sunrise.
±9:00 Mars passes 0.2° south of Uranus
14:16 Full Moon called the "snow"; "hunger"; or "wolf" Moon.
14:32 Total Eclipse of the Moon. (Not visible from the Wilmington area.)

17:48 Sunset.

19:13 Astronomical twilight ends.

Saturday: Feb 10

5:36 Astronomical twilight begins.
7:01 Sunrise.
17:49 Sunset.
19:14 Astronomical twilight ends.

Sunday: Feb 11

5:35 Astronomical twilight begins.
7:00 Sunrise.
17:50 Sunset.
19:15 Astronomical twilight ends.

Monday: Feb 12

5:34 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:59 Sunrise.
17:51 Sunset.
19:15 Astronomical twilight ends.
Lincoln's Birthday.

Tuesday: Feb 13

5:33 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:58 Sunrise.
17:52 Sunset.
19:16 Astronomical twilight ends.

Wednesday: Feb 14

5:32 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:57 Sunrise.
±12:00 Venus passes 7° north of Saturn.
17:53 Sunset.
19:17 Astronomical twilight ends.

Thursday: Feb 15

5:31 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:56 Sunrise.
17:54 Sunset.
19:18 Astronomical twilight ends.
Galileo born this day in 1564.

Friday: Feb 16

5:30 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:55 Sunrise.
±8:00 Moon at apogee. Distance from the Earth is 63.4 Earth-radii.
17:55 Sunset.
19:19 Astronomical twilight ends.

Saturday: Feb 17

±1:00 Mars passes 1.5° south of Neptune.
5:29 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:54 Sunrise.
13:48 Moon at last quarter.
17:56 Sunset.
19:20 Astronomical twilight ends.

Sunday: Feb 18

5:28 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:52 Sunrise.
±11:00 Antares passes 0.3° north of the Moon Occultation.
17:57 Sunset.
19:20 Astronomical twilight ends.

Monday: Feb 19

5:27 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:51 Sunrise.
17:58 Sunset.
19:21 Astronomical twilight ends.
Jupiter is at it's ascending node
Nicholas Copernicus born this dated in 1473.
Washington's Birthday.

Tuesday: Feb 20

5:26 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:50 Sunrise.
17:59 Sunset.
±19:00 Uranus passes 3° north of the Moon

19:22 Astronomical twilight ends.

Wednesday: Feb 21

±5:00 Neptune passes 4° north of the Moon.
5:25 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:49 Sunrise.
±11:00 Mars passes 2° north of the Moon.
18:00 Sunset.
±19:00 Saturn passes 3° north of the Moon.
19:23 Astronomical twilight ends.
±23:00 Venus passes 8° north of the Moon.

Thursday: Feb 22

5:24 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:48 Sunrise.
±8:00 Venus is at it's greatest brilliancy.
18:01 Sunset.
19:24 Astronomical twilight ends.
±20:00 Pluto is stationary in right ascension. Begins retrograde motion.

Friday: Feb 23

5:23 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:47 Sunrise.
18:01 Sunset.
19:25 Astronomical twilight ends.
±20:00 Mercury passes 2° south of the Moon.

Saturday: Feb 24

5:22 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:46 Sunrise.
±14:00 Jupiter is stationary in right ascension; resumes direct motion across the sky.
18:02 Sunset.
19:25 Astronomical twilight ends.

Sunday: Feb 25

3:54 New Moon. Lunation number 831
5:21 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:44 Sunrise.
18:03 Sunset.
19:26 Astronomical twilight ends.

Monday: Feb 26

5:20 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:43 Sunrise.
18:04 Sunset.
19:27 Astronomical twilight ends.
Delta - Leonid Meteors. ZHR less than or equal to 3. Slow moving, Radiant is RA = 10:36, Dec = 19.

Tuesday: Feb 27

5:19 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:42 Sunrise.
18:05 Sunset.
19:28 Astronomical twilight ends.

Wednesday: Feb 28

±3:00 Moon at perigee. Distance from the Earth is 57.4 Earth-radii.
5:17 Astronomical twilight begins.
6:41 Sunrise.
±12:00 Mars passes 1.0° south of Saturn.
18:06 Sunset.
19:00 Current Julian date is 244 7950.5
19:29 Astronomical twilight ends.
Ash Wednesday

Upcoming Events for February 1990

Monthly Meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society
Sunday February 4, 1990; 7:00 PM - Bryan Auditorium; Morton Hall

Deadline for the March issue of *Cape Fear Skies*.
Friday February 16, 1990

Club Viewing Session
Saturday February 17, 1990; Dusk until "?" - Hampstead Site

Club Viewing Session
Saturday February 24, 1990; Dusk until "?" - Hampstead Site

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