

# CAPE FEAR



# Skies

The  
Monthly  
Newsletter of the  
Cape Fear Astronomical Society

Volume 5 No. 3

Wilmington, NC

March 1990

## March Meeting Announcement

Sunday  
March 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 March 4, 1990 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 month's general meeting will be a presentation on Solar Cycles by society member Martin Best.  
Clear Skies!

## Meeting Minutes from February

Sunday February 4, 1990

The meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society was called to order at 7:09pm by Alan Hilburn president.

Martin Best, our new vice-president, reported that Comet Austin was at 7-8th magnitude and may be a good comet to see this April; the society may have a public viewing session on this new comet.

Alan informed the society that due to Andy Johnson's work schedule he will have to resign as associate vice president. Alan asked if anyone would be interested in the office of associate vice president to speak with him.

Wayne, our new treasurer, reported that we have in the checking account \$185.42; in the observatory fund we have \$53.15.

Our annual club exhibit at Independence Mall was dis-

cussed. Alan says he will call the mall office and find out when we can set our Astronomy Day exhibit and will let us know by the next meeting.

We will soon have another yard sale to help raise money for the new t-shirt with the new club logo. There were other ideas discussed on way to raise money. Tom talked about ways to save money on the newsletter; and that postage rates will go up soon.

After a few more members came in, Martin then called the roll.

Alan shared with the club a flyer on the upcoming Texas Star Party in May and then talked on the Astro-Tech Company.

Martin has been observing the Sun lately and has been taking photographs from time to time. He also had a book at the meeting that he says is one of the best books on astrophotography he has seen. You can check this book out of the public library. *The Cambridge Astrophotography Guide* is the name of the book.

There was a report on the club's latest observing session at the Hampstead site. The weather was clear, but on the cool side. Ronnie brought some hot cocoa and Martin had coffee and doughnuts. There were about 10 who came out. Tom shared his sighting of a bright meteor while observing which sort of matched "strange lights in the sky" sighting that appeared in the general media for the next couple of days. The next club viewing sessions will be on February 17th and 24th, both are on Saturday night.

Alan said that we should have some kind of schedule of who would bring some of the refreshments to the meeting. Alan asked for volunteers.

Martin told the club about the lineup of Venus, Mars and Saturn in the sky during the morning of February 21st.

Paul Petty said that he got a phone call from a Bobby Bass

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# Meeting Minutes from January

The president, David Maness, called the regular business meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society to order at 7:07pm January 7, 1990 in Bryan Auditorium, Morton Hall, UNCW. Paul Petty called the roll.

Paul Petty emphasized re-signing up for members to avoid the problems of updates to the Astronomical League.

David Maness directed Paul Walker to read the minutes from the December Meeting. David complemented Sam Bissette for his December contribution of one of his Artist's proof for auctioning.

Paul Petty explained that t-shirts with the new society emblem would necessitate a forty dollar initial cost regardless of whether they have a small emblem or lettering on the front, together with a large emblem on the back. Jane Fountain proposed a vote on the matter, and the results was in favor of lettering on the front.

David Maness mentioned that the constitution does not authorize a nominating committee, and he proposed that new executive committee consider it since the 1990 election ballot listed some officers with one or no nominees. Sam Bissette moved to amend the constitution at the February meeting to authorize a nominating committee, and it carried.

David Maness instructed members to get their 1990 election ballot in the box if they had not yet done so.

Tom Jacobs noted that Comet Austin, 1989c<sub>1</sub>, discovered

only the 6th of last December, is expected to appear at our latitude in February or March at about 3rd or 4th magnitude.

Ronnie Hawes gave a treasurer's report. The checking account balance was at \$148.99 after spending \$79.42 for several past months' newsletters, and the observatory fund contained \$39.72 after paying a power bill. Also, Ronnie related that Southern Star 90 has been announced for April 25-27, but since these dates occur on Wednesday through Friday he reckoned this to be a transposition with May, and the correct dates are probably April 27-29 which comes on Friday through Sunday. (Ed. Note: Southern Star is April 27-29; see announcement below.)

David Maness conveyed a letter of appreciation from the Myrtle Grove Middle School Young Astronauts' club for a program given by the society.

17 members by the December roster were present at the business meeting. It adjourned at 7:32pm.

Ronnie Hawes and Alan Hilburn produced a slide presentation for the evening's program consisting of highlights and memorabilia from the society's history. Afterward David Maness ran a videotape entitled *The Universe: Beyond the Solar System* produced by Encyclopaedia Britannica, summarizing the universe.

David Maness presented Tom Jacobs with a Special Achievement for Club Activities award, and Martin Best with an Astronomical Achievement award for his progress in astrophotography. David expressed that it has been a pleasure serving as president, and then summed up the past year's activities.

David Maness announced the election results. Two names were written in for secretary: Ronnie Hawes, and Paul Walker. Tom Jacobs was re-elected as chief editor. The new treasurer is Wayne Teachey. Andy Johnson was re-elected as associate vice president. The new vice president is Martin Best. Alan Hilburn was chosen to be the new president.

Alan Hilburn complemented the past year's officers. He asked the two write-ins for secretary if one would take the office at least temporarily. Ronnie Hawes agreed to act as secretary. Alan stated he would not run for president next year.

Five visitors attended the program.

— Paul Walker

## Southern Star Astronomical Convention

April 27-29, 1990

Wildacres Retreat

(Located between Spruce Pine and Marion, NC)

The Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club will again host the Southern Star Astronomical Convention. This year the main speakers will include:

Mr. David Levy; comet hunter and author of the book *Observing Variable Stars*; Topic: Comet Hunting: A Personal Perspective.

Dr. Gerrit Verschuur; author and radio astronomer; Topic: Cosmic Magnetism—An adventure in Science: From lodestones to magnetism in the Milky Way and beyond.

Dr. Sheridan Simon; professor of physics at Guilford College; Topic: The Outer Solar System.

Other activities include informal presentations; swap tables; astrophotography contests; equipment displays; and star parties. New for this year will be an equipment contest.

There will also be alternative activities for the non astronomically minded.

For complete information on the convention or registration contact Alan; Ronnie or your Editor.

### (February Meeting Minutes from page 1)

of Fayetteville who was interested in observing double stars. He wanted to know if anybody in our club had informations on three double stars, two in Orion and one in Virgo. Several members said they would try to find the information.

After a break, the main program began at 8:00pm. The program centered on three winter constellations, Orion, Canis Major and Gemini. Alan gave a little history of each constellations. Ronnie reported on the main stars of the constellations. Martin Best, using slides, showed deep sky objects within the three constellations.

There were 13 members present at the meeting.

— Ronnie Hawes



# Sky Calendar for March 1990

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

## Thursday, Mar 01

- 5:16 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:40 Sunrise.
- 18:07 Sunset.
- 19:30 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Friday, Mar 02

- 5:15 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:38 Sunrise.
- 18:08 Sunset.
- 19:30 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Saturday, Mar 03

- 5:14 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:37 Sunrise.
- 18:08 Sunset.
- 19:31 Astronomical twilight ends.
- 21:05 Moon at first quarter.

## Sunday, Mar 04

- 5:13 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:36 Sunrise.
- ±15:00 Ceres passes 1.1° north of the Moon. Occultation.
- 18:09 Sunset.
- 19:32 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Monday, Mar 05

- ±4:00 Jupiter passes 4° south of the Moon.
- 5:11 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:34 Sunrise.
- 18:10 Sunset.
- Active volcanoes discovered on Io by Voyager 1 as it passes Jupiter in 1979.
- 19:33 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Tuesday, Mar 06

- 5:10 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:33 Sunrise.
- 18:11 Sunset.
- 19:34 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Wednesday, Mar 07

- 5:09 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:32 Sunrise.
- 18:12 Sunset.
- 19:35 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Thursday, Mar 08

- 5:07 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:31 Sunrise.
- 18:13 Sunset.
- On this date in 1969 astronauts Jim McDivitt and Rusty Schweickart make first space test flight of the Lunar Module Spider in Earth orbit.
- 19:35 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Friday, Mar 09

- 5:06 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:29 Sunrise.
- 18:13 Sunset.
- 19:36 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Saturday, Mar 10

- 5:05 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:28 Sunrise.
- 18:14 Sunset.
- 19:37 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Sunday, Mar 11

- 5:03 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 5:58 Full Moon called the Lenten Moon. (The Lent Season runs from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday.)
- 6:27 Sunrise.
- 18:15 Sunset.
- 19:38 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Monday, Mar 12

- 5:02 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:25 Sunrise.
- ±9:00 Vesta is in conjunction with the Sun. Moves into the morning sky.

- 18:16 Sunset.
- 19:39 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Tuesday, Mar 13

- 5:01 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:24 Sunrise.
- 18:17 Sunset.
- 19:40 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Wednesday, Mar 14

- 4:59 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:23 Sunrise.
- 18:17 Sunset.
- 19:40 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Thursday, Mar 15

- 4:58 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:21 Sunrise.
- 18:18 Sunset.
- 19:41 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Friday, Mar 16

- ±3:00 Moon at apogee. Distance from the Earth is 63.5 Earth-radii.
- 4:56 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:20 Sunrise.
- ±12:00 Juno is stationary in right ascension; begins retrograde motion.
- 18:19 Sunset.

Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Dave Scott accomplish the first space docking between their Gemini VIII spacecraft and an Agena target vehicle on this date in 1966.

Corona-Australids Meteor Shower. Radiant is Right Ascension 16:20; Declination -48°; Zhr = 5.

Robert Goddard launches the world's first liquid-fueled rocket on this date in 1926.

- 19:42 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Saturday, Mar 17

- 4:55 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:18 Sunrise.
- 18:20 Sunset.
- ±19:00 Antares passes 0.2° north of the Moon. Occultation.
- 19:43 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Sunday, Mar 18

- 4:54 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:17 Sunrise.
- 18:21 Sunset.
- Aleksei Leonov becomes the first man to "walk in space" on this date in 1965.
- 19:44 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Monday, Mar 19

- 4:52 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:16 Sunrise.
- 9:30 Moon at last quarter.
- 18:21 Sunset.
- 19:45 Astronomical twilight ends.
- ±20:00 Mercury is in superior conjunction with the Sun. Moves into the evening sky.

## Tuesday, Mar 20

- 4:51 Astronomical twilight begins.
- ±6:00 Uranus passes 3° north of the Moon.
- 6:14 Sunrise.
- ±15:00 Neptune passes 4° north of the Moon.
- 16:19 March Equinox (Earth at ascending node). Spring begins in the Northern Hemisphere.
- 18:22 Sunset.
- 19:46 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Wednesday, Mar 21

- 4:49 Astronomical twilight begins.

- 6:13 Sunrise.
- ±9:00 Saturn passes 2° north of the Moon.
- 18:23 Sunset.

Camelopardalids Meteor. Radiant is right ascension 7:50; declination +68°; Zhr = 1.

- 19:46 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Thursday, Mar 22

- 4:48 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:12 Sunrise.
- ±13:00 Mars passes 0.2° south of the Moon. Occultation.
- 18:24 Sunset.

March Geminids Meteor. Radiant is right ascension 6:22; declination +23°; Zhr=40.

- 19:47 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Friday, Mar 23

- ±2:00 Venus passes 2° north of the Moon.
- 4:46 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:10 Sunrise.
- 18:25 Sunset.
- Gus Grissom and John Young accomplish the first manned test of the Gemini spacecraft on this date in 1965.
- 19:48 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Saturday, Mar 24

- 4:45 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:09 Sunrise.
- 18:25 Sunset.
- 19:49 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Sunday, Mar 25

- 4:43 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:07 Sunrise.
- 18:26 Sunset.
- 19:50 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Monday, Mar 26

- 4:42 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:06 Sunrise.
- 14:48 New Moon. Lunation number 832.
- 18:27 Sunset.
- 19:51 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Tuesday, Mar 27

- 4:40 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:05 Sunrise.
- 18:28 Sunset.
- 19:52 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Wednesday, Mar 28

- ±3:00 Moon at perigee. Distance from the Earth is 56.6 Earth-radii.
- 4:39 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:03 Sunrise.
- 18:28 Sunset.
- First Day of Ramadan
- 19:53 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Thursday, Mar 29

- 4:37 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:02 Sunrise.
- 18:29 Sunset.
- 19:53 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Friday, Mar 30

- ±2:00 Venus is at it's greatest western elongation 46°.
- 4:36 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 6:01 Sunrise.
- 18:30 Sunset.
- 19:54 Astronomical twilight ends.

## Saturday, Mar 31

- 4:34 Astronomical twilight begins.
- 5:59 Sunrise.
- 18:31 Sunset.
- 19:00 Current Julian date is 244 7981.5
- 19:55 Astronomical twilight ends.

# Upcoming Events for March 1990

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

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

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

**Deadline for the issue of *Cape Fear Skies*.**  
**Tuesday March 20, 1990**

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