

President's Report

by Jon Stewart-Taylor

The first in-person meeting of Cape Fear Astron in over a year (and the corresponding gAstronomy session) went very well. The Zoom "simulcast" needed improvement, but at least verified the basic idea will work. Presentations were made, business was conducted, and it felt like a normal club meeting. It was wonderful.

I hope that we can continue this level of normality. Unfortunately, the "Delta" COVID variant is spreading rapidly among unvaccinated people. In North Carolina, the number of vaccinated people is growing too slowly to stop the spread of the virus. Even fully-vaccinated people can catch and spread the virus though they are protected from the worst effects of the disease. Even fully vaccinated people should observe cautions as a courtesy to our friends and neighbors.

The good news is that outdoor activities remain pretty safe. Although our meetings on the campus of UNCW are subject to change at the needs of the school, our observing sessions at Starfields are very safe, and are planned to continue through the summer and fall. I strongly encourage everyone who can to attend at least one session. It's hard to get darker skies within several hours drive, and you can check out the club scopes.

We're very happy that thanks to Skip, Karl, and Jeff, our classic orange-tube C8 is back in business. We plan to get it set up at the scheduled observings sessions (weather permitting) and have it available for members to use visually or for imaging sessions.

The Perseid meteor shower is the 11/12th of August, and the moon is in a favorable phase during the peak. We plan to hold an all-night session at Starfields (weather permitting). The peak is best after midnight, so if you can, please plan to join us.

Our public sessions are currently scheduled through at least October. International Observe the Moon Night is in October, and the "fall version" of Astronomy Day is lurking as well. Let us know if you have any ideas for commemorating these events.

Calendar

August 2021

Date – Event – Time

02 Saturn at opposition

06 Club Observing at Starfields; Shiloh Road Ivanhoe NC; 08:00 PM

07 Club Observing at Starfields; Shiloh Road Ivanhoe NC; 08:00 PM

08 New Moon

★ 08 Cape Fear Astro Monthly Meeting ★ ★ ★ ★

GAstronomy Meeting - 5:00pm – 6:45pm
 (Dinner, prior to the Monthly Meeting)

J. Michael's Philly Deli in Hanover Center, located at 3501 Oleander Drive in Wilmington.

CFAS Monthly Meeting - 7:00pm – 9:30pm
212 DeLoach Hall, UNCW Campus

12 Perseid Meteor Shower; ZHR 110; peak Aug 12 6h; 3 days before first Quarter

14 Public Observing; 7:20-10:30 PM; Carolina Beach State Park

15 First Quarter Moon

19 Mercury – Mars Conjunction; Mercury 0.8 degrees from Mars; 16 deg from sun in evening sky

20 Jupiter at opposition

22 Full Moon

27 Club Observing – Location TBD; 08:30 PM

28 Club Observing – Location TBD; 08:30 PM

30 Last Quarter Moon

Astro phenomena from
<https://www.universalworkshop.com/astronomical-calendar-any-year/>

Editor: Besides the above scheduled observing (weather permitting), impromptu observing can happen at any time. (Did you know I went to the School of Redundancy School?)

Scopes News

by Karl Adlon

C8 Ready for Use

Several years ago, a vintage C8 with a non-functional clutch on the drive base was donated to CFAS. When it was mentioned during a meeting that this was now in the new shed, Jeff Gerken donated a newer C8 mount minus the OTA (optical tube assembly).

On June 22, Jon, Skip and I met at Starfields. We removed the OTA from the old mount and installed it on the newer mount. A picture of the now functional telescope, with Skip ready to attach the aperture cover, is shown at right. Batteries are installed in the mount and eyepieces are in the shed. An able-bodied person can carry the scope out of the shed and it is ready for use!



Vintage C8 Non-functional Clutch Fixed

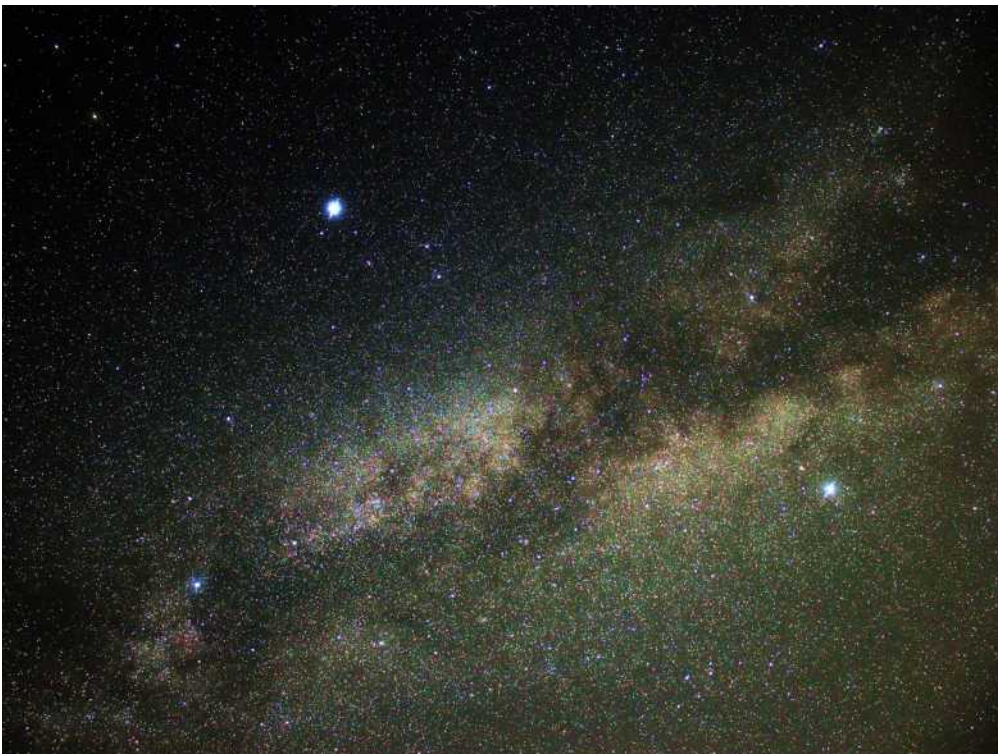
Shown at left is the disassembled mount which is missing the clutch material between the gear and the brake on the right side. I pushed a piece of tubing over the brake finger, drilled a small hole and wired the tubing to the finger as shown at right.

Between the forks I added an oak board with a hole and 1/4-20 threaded knob. This will allow a camera or small scope (an 80mm shown in photo at right) to be mounted for tracked observing or imaging.



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Milky Way Imaging July 29



Becky, Linda, Skip and I did some imaging on the 29th and Jon did some visual work with the donated XT8. At left is my image of the Summer Triangle with the Milky Way and the Cygnus Rift – a stack of 11 45 sec exposures. About 10:30 skies improved and some of our frustrations went away.

Astronomical League Update
by Hank Lyon
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www.astroleague.org

Less than three weeks to go... The virtual 2021 Astronomical League Convention agenda has been posted. Although the AL notes it may be subject to change, below is a summary of the session talks and the schedule. Sessions start in the afternoon each day and continue through evening. Speakers generally follow shortly after each session begins. All times below are EDT.

Thursday, August 19, Session Times and Speakers

- (1) 3:00 VLA Tour – Summer Ash
- (2) 4:45 The Cosmic Web – Dr. Richard Gott
- (3) 8:00 Galaxies – David Eicher
- (4) 9:45 Chasing the Northern Lights – Alan Dyer

Friday, August 20, Session Times and Speakers

- (5) 3:00 Back to the Future: Lunar Exploration – Dr. Caitlin Ahrens
- (6) 4:45 “Slooh” – Paul Cox
- (7) 8:00 IOTA “Near Earth Asteroid Occultations” – Dr. David Dunham
- (8) 9:45 Rising Stars: The Next Generation of Amateur Astronomers – Conal Richards

Saturday, August 21, Session Times and Speakers

- (9) 3:00 The Discovery of Pulsars in Context – Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell (Keynote)
- (10) 4:45 Perseverance Team Presentation – Dr. Larry Crumpler
- (11) 8:00 Darkness in Distress – Kelly Beatty
- (12) 9:45 Dr. Chris Gainor (Keynote)

All sessions are free and have door prizes. Eligibility for door prizes requires registration at the ALCON 2021 Virtual website: <https://www.alconvirtual.org> . You can also check for any changes to the session lineup at the same location. Each virtual session will be held via the Astronomical League YouTube Channel and Zoom. Access details will be provided via CFAS email distribution so be on the lookout.

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Editor’s Note: Used in this Newsletter, “Cape Fear Astronomical Society” may be abbreviated “CFAS” or “CFAstro”.

CFAS Correspondence:

Please contact the society at: CFAS, P.O. Box 7685, Wilmington, NC 28406

Members are welcome and encouraged to submit articles or other input for “CAPE FEAR SKIES”. Submit any and all interesting items for publication to Karl Adlon, Editor (email kmja79@yahoo.com).

Cape Fear Astronomical Society is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

<p>CFAS Officers:</p> <p>President: Jon Stewart-Taylor</p> <p>Vice-Pres: Skip Hagers</p> <p>Associate VP: George Pappayliou</p> <p>Secretary: Bill Cooper</p> <p>Treasurer: Ben Steelman</p> <p>ALCor: Hank Lyon</p>	<p>Dues:</p> <p>Dues for 2021 are \$25 for Individual and \$32 for Family Membership. Students dues are \$5 per year. Mail to :CFAS, P.O. Box 7685, Wilmington, NC 28406</p> <p>Contact Us:</p> <p>You can contact CFAS at info@capefearastro.org</p> <p>Our website is http://www.capefearastro.org/</p>
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