



CAPE FEAR Skies

Monthly Newsletter

Cape Fear Astronomical Society

Serving Wilmington, NC and Surrounding Areas

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

December 2022

President's Report

by Jon Stewart-Taylor

As December arrives, I want to take a few moments to look back over the past year, and forward to the new one. 2022 has seen a number of milestones.

We returned to public outreach with the State Wide Star Party, the monthly public observing sessions at Carolina Beach State Park, and International Observe the Moon Night. We did a number of "semi-public" events, for example at the Fort Fisher NC National Guard youth event, and with the Wallace Girl Scout troop.

In addition to reaching out to the public, we added some new services for club members. A significant achievement of the club is the completion of the New Astronomer's package, providing items and information to help members who consider themselves New Astronomers to learn and grow in the hobby. We've created Special Interest Groups for members interested in particular aspects of astronomy. We've continued the "hybrid" monthly meetings, "simulcasting" via Zoom in addition to resuming in-person at the campus of UNCW.

Perhaps the single most important achievement for members who observe deep-sky objects is the establishment of the club observatory under 6th magnitude skies at Starfields. There's already room for 12 observers to bring their own equipment. The observatory is also being developed with a long-term plan for permanent on-site club scopes in observatory buildings, including an equatorially mounted driven scope suitable for imaging, and a large (14" or bigger) Dobsonian reflector to make the fainter fuzzies more observable. Other club equipment is stored in a shed, including 8" and 10" Dobsonians.

The pier for the equatorial scope has been installed, and we observed the moon, Jupiter, Saturn, and Alberio using it. Currently a wedge is permanently installed, while a C8 OTA and fork mount are installed for observing and removed for storage in the shed. We will soon have the whole telescope permanently mounted with a weather-proof cover.

I'm looking forward to seeing the club and the services it provides to its members continue to grow over the next year. It will do so under new leadership: Ben Steelman is running (currently unopposed) for President, while I'll be taking over the AVP and reaching out to people to give presentations at the monthly meetings.

I do want to take the opportunity of this last President's Message to thank people who've made some important contributions to the club:

- Outgoing VP Skip Hager, who has also worked on the observatory.
- Karl Adlon, who has not only served as Newsletter Editor, but did a solid term as AVP coordinating presentations, and contributed expertise and labor on scopes and infrastructure at the observatory. And that's not all, as he and Mary Jean will be hosting this year's Holiday Celebration.
- Hank Lyon, who in addition to being ALCOR, has been chairmen of the Observatory Committee, guiding and contributing to the development of the site.
- Buzz Tucker, who continues to build things for the club, including the outhouse, shed ramp and lean-to, and now is working on a new Dobsonian mount for the club's 10".
- Roger Blake, who has been central to the club's Outreach efforts.
- Tom Tucker, who sicced a Really Big Bushog on the thicket to the south of the observatory, and improved the southern horizon immensely.

Thanks to all of you, and to those who I don't have room to squeeze in here, for all you've given to the club.

Calendar

December 2022

Date – Event – Time

- 05 Moon and Uranus; Moon ½ degree from Uranus; 152 degrees from Sun; evening
- 08 Full Moon
- 08 Moon and Mars; Moon ½ degree from Mars; 177 degrees from Sun; midnight
- 08 Mars at opposition

11 ★ Cape Fear Astro Monthly Meeting ★

**CFAS Annual Holiday Celebration
Adlon's Home - Southport
See Separate Article for Details**

- 13 Geminiid Meteor Shower; 13:00 UTC; ZHR 150; 2 days before last quarter Moon
- 16 Last Quarter Moon
- 16 **Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory); 5:00 PM; 3rd Quarter Moon**
- 17 **Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory); 5:00 PM; 3rd Quarter Moon**
- 21 Mercury at easternmost elongation; 20 deg from Sun; evening
- 21 December Solstice. Northern hemisphere winter; 21:48 UTC
- 22 Ursid Meteor Shower; ZHR 10; 1 day before new
- 23 New Moon
- 23 **Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory); 5:00 PM; New Moon**
- 24 Moon; Mercury; and Venus 5 degrees apart; 18 degrees from sun; Evening
- 24 **Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory); 5:00 PM; New Moon**
- 29 Mercury 1.5 degrees from Venus; 17 degrees from Sun; Evening
- 30 First Quarter Moon

2022 Public Events

There are no more Public Events this year.
Thank You! To all who participated!

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Usual meeting dates – watch emails for exceptions

Phenomena:	First Wednesday
Both Eyes:	Second Tuesday
Telescope Usage:	Third Tuesday
New Astronomer:	Third Wednesday
Outreach: Fourth	Tuesday

Astro phenomena from:

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

CFAS Annual Holiday Celebration

by Karl Adlon

It's been a long tradition (please don't ask me how long) for CFAS to hold a Holiday Celebration for Members and their Guests as the December meeting. Here are this year's details:

Date: Sunday, December 11

Time: 4 PM

Location:

**Mary Jean & Karl Adlon's
2829 Pine Forest Drive, Southport**

Like George last year, we live in St James. The entry gate knows about the party. Guests should tell security that they are coming for the Cape Fear Astronomical Society party at 2829 Pine Forest Drive.

Details: We will supply dinnerware, drinks and an entree. Please bring something to share and, if you have something specific you want to eat or drink, bring that too.

RSVP what you will bring to share and number of guests.

I will keep all informed what others are bringing so everyone doesn't bring a salad.

Email: kmja79@yahoo.com

Cell: 309-230-6429 or text or for questions



WELCOME!



Get to Know YOUR Astronomical League



The Astronomical League (Astroleague or AL) is one of the largest amateur astronomical organizations in the world. The organization serves to encourage an interest in astronomy (especially amateur astronomy) and promote the science of astronomy by:

- ✓ fostering astronomical education;
- ✓ providing incentives for astronomical observation and research;
- ✓ assisting communication among amateur astronomical societies.

CFAS is one of over 300 member societies affiliated with the Astroleague. Your membership in CFAS allows you take full advantage of this relationship so periodically review the information below to see how the Astroleague can support your astronomical interests and endeavors.

AL Home Page	www.astroleague.org
AL Observing Programs List	https://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/AlphabeticObservingClubs.html
What's Up Doc? <i>(Monthly Guide for AL Obs Pgms)</i>	http://humbleisd.net/Page/81224
Navigating the December Sky <i>(Handy one page Big Picture guide)</i>	https://www.astroleague.org/files/u220/2022%20December.pdf
Current Astroleague Bylaws <i>(Please see News Bites below)</i>	https://www.astroleague.org/al/bylaws/Z2_2007_Bylaws_and_SR.pdf
Astroleague Store <i>(Still time for Holiday Gift Ideas!)</i>	https://store.astroleague.org/
Current and Past Issues of <i>Reflector Magazine</i>	https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/april-2022-reflector-magazine
CFAS ALCor	Hank Lyon, hlyon8448@gmail.com
AL News Bites and Reminders	Important changes to AL Bylaws pending! Up for our club vote by March 31, 2023 are many changes to the AL Bylaws. These changes will be circulated in a few days via Groups.io so please be on the lookout. In the interim, you may want to review the current Bylaws via the link above. If you've provided a mailing address to CFAS, please remember that your quarterly <i>Reflector</i> magazine will arrive via US Mail unless you specify the digital/email version.

The Astroleague Correspondent (or ALCor) is your link between CFAS and the Astroleague. Don't hesitate to contact your ALCor if you need assistance with anything Astroleague related whether its general information or detailed coordination of observing program completions for certification. Check back here each month to see any new links, postings or reminders.

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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.

CFAS Officers:

President: Jon Stewart-Taylor
 Vice-Pres: Skip Hagers
 Associate VP: Karl Adlon
 Secretary: George Pappayliou
 Treasurer: Ben Steelman
 ALCor: Hank Lyon

Dues: Dues for 2022 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

Contact Us:

You can contact CFAS at info@capefearastro.org
 Our website is <http://www.capefearastro.org/>