

## President's Message

*by Ben Steelman*

First of all, thanks to everyone who turned out for the **Statewide Star Party**, April 21 at Carolina Beach State Park, and especially those who loaned their telescopes for the "petting zoo." We had terrific turnout from the public -- one ranger estimated that more than 2,000 humans turned out, not counting the dogs -- and I'm sure we'll pick up some club interest.

I was gratified that the visitors were also getting an education on light pollution. We're going to need a lot more support from the public to tackle this problem. Folks who turned out that Saturday learned what we could be losing.

If you enjoyed participating, remember, the next public viewing sessions are April 29 and May 27 at Carolina Beach State Park, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Set up will be a lot easier since we'll be near the visitors' center.

Don't forget, May 14 is Mothers' Day this year -- which means that our next indoor meeting will be at 7 p.m. **May 7** in 212 DeLoach Hall on the UNCW campus. (We'll still have a Zoom component.)

The **May 7 Meeting Presentation** is "Choices, Choices: Image Stabilized Binoculars" by Kathleen Stewart-Taylor. She will discuss choosing between the various sizes, makes and types of image stabilized binoculars for amateur astronomers.

Go ahead and mark your calendars for the **June 11 Meeting Presentation**. AVP Jon Stewart-Taylor has arranged an exciting program titled "Risky Business" by Dr. Barbara Becker, a professor emeritus from the University of California Irvine talking about eclipse expeditions of the 1800s. (Some of them were right hair-raising.)

And keep looking up ...

# Calendar

## May 2023

### Date – Event – Time

05 Eta Aquarids meteor shower; ZHR 50; Full moon

05 Full Moon

**07 ★ Cape Fear Astro Monthly Meeting ★**

**CFAS Monthly Meeting - 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**212 DeLoach Hall; UNCW**

**Also simulcast via Zoom**

12 Last Quarter Moon

**12 Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory);**

**7:00 PM; 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Moon**

**13 Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory);**

**7:00 PM; 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Moon**

15 Venus and Neptune; 12:00 UTC

19 New Moon

**19 Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory);**

**7:00 PM; New Moon**

**20 Club Observing @ Starfields (the Club Observatory);**

**7:00 PM; New Moon**

27 First Quarter Moon

**27 Public Observing; 08:00 PM; Public Observing  
Session; starts at sunset; Carolina Beach State Park**

Astro phenomena from:

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

### 2023 Public Events

Watch this space for 2023 Public Events. If you haven't done one before, perhaps make a New Year resolution to try on – you might like it!

June 24 – CBSP

July 22 – CBSP

August 26 – CBSP

September 23 – CBSP

October 21 - International Observe the Moon Night – Location TBD

October 21 – CBSP

CBSP = Carolina Beach State Park

### 2023 Monthly Meeting Dates

June 11, 2023

July 9, 2023

August 13, 2023

September 10, 2023

October 8, 2023

November 12, 2023

**December 10, 2023 (Date and time may  
change for Holiday Celebration)**

### 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

## Cape Feat Astro at Burgaw “Lunch and Learn”

*by Jon Stewart-Taylor*

Partly because I work for Pender County Public Library, I give a presentation at the Burgaw “Lunch and Learn” for seniors, run by the Burgaw Parks and Recreation department. Lunch was catered by local restaurant MeMa’s, and while they were eating, I gave a brief discussion of what an amateur astronomer is, and does, and then introduced a small petting zoo including a pair of 10 x 50 binoculars, the Sky Scanner 100, and a 70 mm refractor (Celestron StarSense).



As background to the telescopes, I discussed what telescopes do (collect light and make smaller things, big), and why you’d want to favor one aspect of a scope over another (solar system versus deep sky). As usual, my short introduction, eventually became a long introduction, and the a lunch hour soon became a lunch and 15 minutes.

After everyone was done eating, we went outside to do an abbreviated version of the solar system. The model spread along Wilmington Street from the water tower to the community art center. It was just enough space to fit Jupiter. Traffic along that street was actually fairly loud, especially when a log truck went by. We moved the rest of the solar system discussion from Saturn onward back inside.

The 35 seniors present seemed to appreciate the topic and the presentation. I was able to hand out a number of business cards, for the club, and for our “buying a telescope” reference page. We won’t get any young members from that crowd, but we might get a new member or two.

## The East Coast Star Party Restarted in New Location

*by Jon Stewart-Taylor*

A legendary star party had to be discontinued when the location was sold. However, the Back Bay Astronomers are restarting the [East Coast Star Party \(ECSP\)](#) in a new location. This year the ECSP will run from Thursday, September 14 - Sunday, September 17 at it’s new location: [Chippokes State Park](#) in Surry, VA. That’s across the river from Williamsburg, VA.

The old location in Coinjock, NC was difficult to get to, taking about 4 hours much of which was straight out route 17. The new location is about 30 miles further away for us in the lower Cape Fear area, but it takes about the same time to get there as long as the traffic on I95 is favorable.

The observing location looks good, with plenty of space to camp near your scope, and wide horizons. It’s not quite as dark as the old location, reaching between LM 5.5 and 6. But, the ECSP was always more about the company than the observing, and it sounds like they plan to continue that tradition. The infamous cook-out and pot-luck will happen on Saturday.

The Staunton River Star Party is a little bit closer (3 3/4 hours), a little bit darker, a little longer (Monday - Sunday) and a little later: this year it’s October 9 – 15, 2023. So, if you’re that sort of person, you can go to both rather than having to choose.



## 2023 State Wide Star Party

The map at right shows SWSP star party locations.

The following pictures are from the Cap Fear Museum's Flickr album at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/capefearmuseum/albums/72177720307748982/with/52842256912/>



The telescopes are set up and the crowd gathers, waiting for darkness.

Note: Since I didn't take these pictures, I don't know what others were observing.



(Counterclockwise from at Left):

Skip sets up his TeleVue refractor and Revolution R2 imager that will show objects on a screen once it gets dark.

I (Karl) am talking to a visitor with my Meade scope pointed towards Venus. Later I spotted it and showed it until it went behind trees. Then I showed Mizar and Alcor – the middle star in the handle of the Big Dipper.

Tom is kneeling behind his Celestron 10" Dob with StarSense, which uses a cell phone app to point the scope.

Last, a visitor views an object through Steve's Televue refractor.

At least 3 other members were there but escaped the photographer.



## 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.

AstroLeague Home Page	<a href="http://www.astroleague.org">www.astroleague.org</a>
AL Observing Programs List	<a href="https://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/AlphabeticObservingClubs.html">https://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/AlphabeticObservingClubs.html</a>
Navigating the May Night Sky	<a href="https://www.astroleague.org/files/u220/2023 May.pdf">https://www.astroleague.org/files/u220/2023 May.pdf</a>
What's Up, Doc? (Obs Program Guide for May)	<a href="https://www.astroleague.org/files/u220/WhatsUpDoc-5-1-2023 ET.pdf">https://www.astroleague.org/files/u220/WhatsUpDoc-5-1-2023 ET.pdf</a>
Astro Notes (Info and Tools for Amateurs)	<a href="https://www.astroleague.org/al/astrnote/astnotes.html">https://www.astroleague.org/al/astrnote/astnotes.html</a>
ALCon 2023 Speaker Lineup	<a href="https://alcon2023.org/speakers/">https://alcon2023.org/speakers/</a>
Current and Past Issues of Reflector Magazine	<a href="https://www.astroleague.org/reflector">https://www.astroleague.org/reflector</a>
Additional AL News, Information and Reminders	Registration is open for the Astronomical League Convention (ALCon 2023) in Baton Rouge, LA, July 26 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> . Click this <a href="#">link</a> for more information and to register. Happy with your <i>Reflector</i> magazine delivery preferences (digital or snail mail)? If not, please let your ALCor know your preference. Your current CFAS ALCor is Hank Lyon, <a href="mailto:hlyon8448@gmail.com">hlyon8448@gmail.com</a> .

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 each month to see any new links, postings or reminders.**

Copyright © 2023 Cape Fear Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. For permission requests, write to the Society, addressed "Attention: Permissions Coordinator," at the address below.		
<b>CFAS Correspondence:</b> 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 <a href="mailto:kmja79@yahoo.com">kmja79@yahoo.com</a> ).		
<b>Cape Fear Astronomical Society is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.</b>		
<b>CFAS Officers:</b>		<b>Dues:</b> Dues for 2023 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
President:	Ben Steelman	
Vice-Pres:	Brendan O'Byrne	
Associate VP	Jon Stewart-Taylor	
Secretary:	George Pappayliou	<b>Contact Us:</b>
Treasurer:	Bill Cooper	You can contact CFAS at <a href="mailto:info@capefearastro.org">info@capefearastro.org</a>
ALCor	Hank Lyon	Our website is <a href="http://www.capefearastro.org/">http://www.capefearastro.org/</a>