



"Two possibilities exist: either we are alone in the Universe or we are not. Both are equally terrifying." — Arthur C. Clarke

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President's Message

by Karl Adlon

I have lots of reasons (please don't call them excuses) for this being a rather short message: a trip to Ohio; a trip to Georgia; working and fixing things around the house; another MGB problem needing a fix; a new monitor for my computer; repair on a bathroom fan; photography work for one club and website work for another; and there's probably more that I've forgotten about.

I hope you haven't forgotten my Save the Date message. If you have, here is a reminder:

EVENT: Observe the Venus & Jupiter close conjunction, with Mercury nearby.

DATE: Monday, **June 8**

LOCATION: Starfields - with clear skies I hope! Tuesday, June 9 if clouds on the 8th.

RECOMMENDED TIMES:

7:30 PM - if this is your first time and you'll get a guided tour of the facility.

8:30 PM - sunset will have been about 15 minutes earlier

Do you have a favorite star and why? That thought occurred to me the other day as I was reading a book on stars and I came up with an answer: Albireo! I've seen it many times and I've shown it to hundreds of people. I've seen it through many telescopes and through different eyepieces. All give a good view and though some are better than others, I don't know why. The contrasting colors of the two stars is quite striking and surprises many people. This is especially one of the things you need to see for your self – I've never seen a picture of the two stars that do the system justice. We can have a look at it on **June 8** and compare the views through the different telescopes and eyepieces available that night. If you have one, consider bringing it that night.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

JUNE

05 Club Observing @ Starfields – 7:00 PM (last quarter Moon)

06 Club Observing @ Starfields – 7:00 PM (last quarter Moon)

08 Last Quarter Moon

08 Observe the Venus & Jupiter close conjunction, with Mercury nearby – see President's Message

12 Club Observing @ Starfields – 7:00 PM (New Moon)

13 Club Observing @ Starfields – 7:00 PM (New Moon)

Sunday, June 14 – Flag Day!



Gastronomy - Noodles and Company, 351 S. College Rd..

Menu: <https://www.noodles.com/location/university-commons-wilmington/menu>

Cape Fear Astro Monthly Meeting - 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Room 212 - DeLoach Hall; UNCW

Program: "What should I use to see that?", presented by Jon Stewart-Taylor

Also simulcast via Zoom

15 New Moon

20 Public Observing - 8 PM to 10 PM - Public Observing Session; starts at sunset; Carolina Beach State Park

21 First Quarter Moon

21 June Solstice - 02:40 UTC - Northern Summer Solstice

26 Club Observing @ Starfields - 05:30 PM - Full Moon Planets

27 Club Observing @ Starfields - 05:30 PM - Full Moon Planets

28 Sunday – Kure Beach Air Force Rec Center - 9 PM

29 Full Moon

2026 Monthly Meeting Dates

June 14th

July 12th

August 9th

September 13th

October 11th

November 8th

December 13th

2026 Public Observing Events

June 20 – CBSP

June 28, Sunday -Blakeslee AFRA,
Kure Beach, NC

July 18 – CBSP

June 25 - Blakeslee AFRA, Kure
Beach, NC

Aug 22 – CBSP

Sep 19 – CBSP

Oct 17 - CBSP

Blakeslee Air Force Recreation Area Outreach Events

Sunday, June 28 - The National Guard Teen Group

Saturday, July 25 – A Blakeslee Event

Time: Both events start at 9 PM. Come early enough to set up.

Address: 108 River Front Dr., Kure Beach. Sometimes GPS gives 108 Riverfront Rd. The best viewing location for telescope purposes is in one of our open field areas that has decreased street lighting.

Event Info:

June 28th- The National Guard Teen Group typically has 20-25 teens age 12-17 with 2-5 Staff members attending each program.

July 25th- Blakeslee does not currently know the number of attendees, yet it has been well attended when we have facilitated in year's past with at least 10+ people.

Both event attendees have other programs prior to 9 PM.

In case of rain, they have an indoor space. They require bringing a laptop & HDMI cord at minimum to be able to connect to the TV screen we have in the room. We could bring a scope or two inside and talk about telescope.

We will talk a bit more about these at the upcoming meeting.

Report on the May Public Observing Session

by Jon Stewart-Taylor

The weather on the day of the scheduled May public observing session was not promising. The forecast was even less so. Still, as the time to leave drew near, it wasn't actually raining, and if it isn't raining, I go to Carolina Beach State Park to share astronomy with the public on the Saturday closest to the first quarter moon.

Why the first quarter, rather than darker phases when the deep-sky stuff shows up better? Because of the likelihood of the very kind of weather which was forecast. Usually the moon at least will sometimes be visible through the clouds.

I like to try to get there well before sunset to set up the model solar system, the telescope, some handouts, and perhaps some books. Three adults arrived not long after I started, looking for the astronomy event. After chatting for a bit, I went back to setting up the solar system, and we started the tour at the sun. Two more adults arrived about the time we reached the earth, and 5 was the total attendance for the evening. Since we had fewer people, and no young children, we could take a bit more time and go into questions in more depth.

After we finished the tour, I found the moon in the Skyscanner, and everyone had a turn looking. We spent some time discussing the scope, and what kind of scopes were good for which objects. Someone asked about astrophotography, and I discussed the difference between old-style and smart-telescope methods. I handed out the usual business cards, and several people expressed interest in joining the club.

We ended up looking at the (very cloudy) moon and discussing astronomy and the club until the park closed at ten pm. I was amazed the session lasted so long with such dreadful weather. I guess the people who came out in spite of the conditions were highly motivated. That was reflected in the fact that two days later we'd received e-mails from a couple of them asking for applications and if they could come to the next meeting, and the member-only observing session.

I guess that proves public sessions are worth holding, even under less than ideal conditions.

Presentation Coordinator's Report

by Jon Stewart-Taylor

Our June presentation will be "What should I use to see that?", presented by Jon Stewart-Taylor. It will cover a wide range of astronomical targets, and what you should expect to see using various optics to observe them. Targets include the moon, sun, planets, and deep-sky objects. Optics include unaided-eyes, binoculars, and various types of telescopes.

For July, we're receive "Observing the Moon for Beginners" by Larry McHenry - An introduction to our nearest neighbor. The Moon is one of the favorite objects of stargazers.

It is one of the brightest, easiest, and closest celestial objects to find. We'll learn about the Moon's phases and what features you can see with binoculars or a small telescope, along with lunar mythology from around the world.

We still need presentations for August - November. If you have a presentation in you, or you know someone who would be willing to do one for us, please let me know so we can get it scheduled.

As previously mentioned, the December meeting will be our annual holiday celebration, held at Jon and Kathleen's house in Burgaw. If weather permits, we can include some observing from the yard, though the sky conditions aren't great in town.

June 8

by Karl Adlon

One more time: **Observe the Venus & Jupiter close conjunction, with Mercury nearby. Gather at Starfields.**

See the page after next for the Astronomical League's flyer for the conjunction.

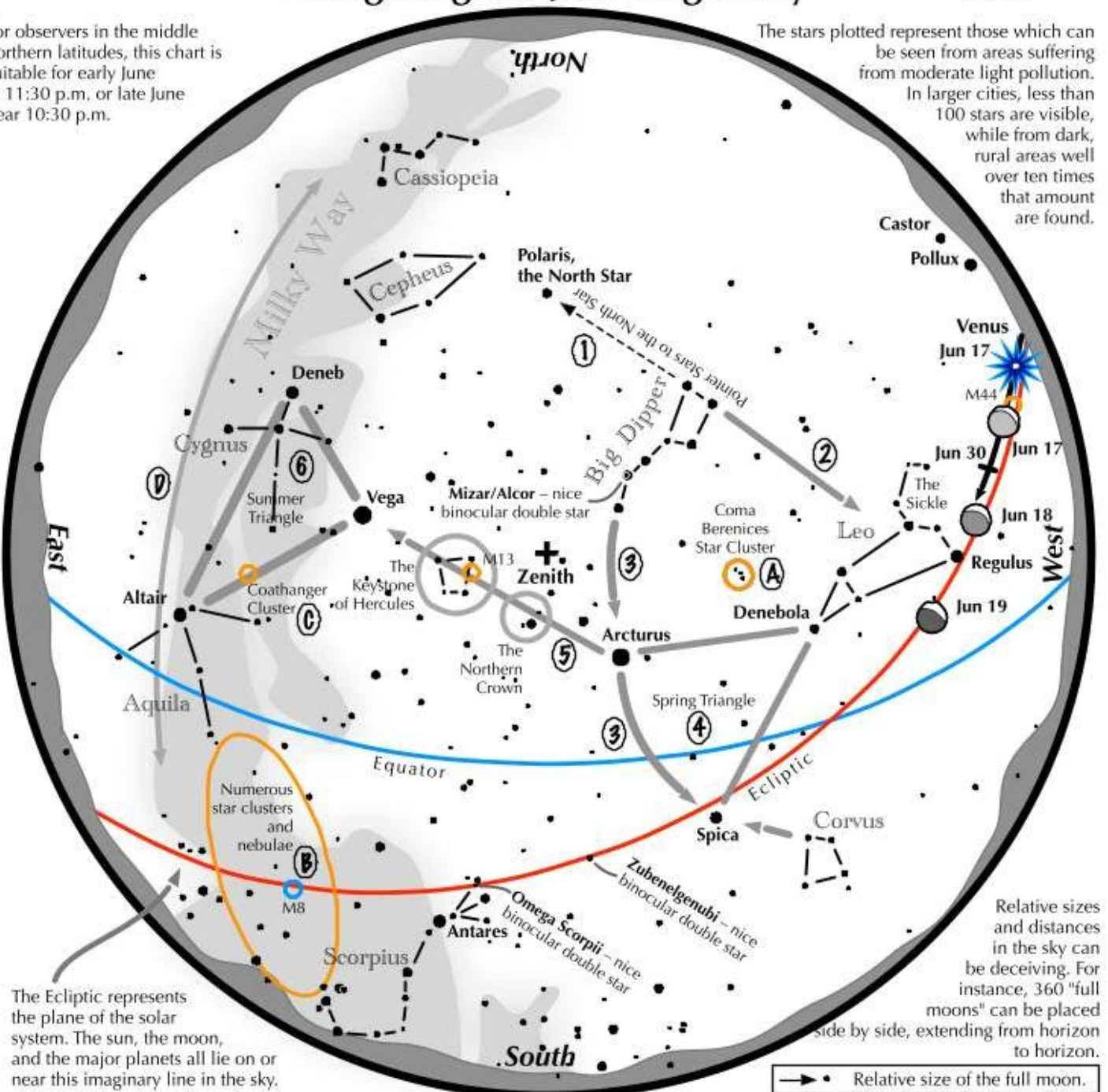
If you can't come to Starfields, find a low horizon in the west and have a look. The 8th and 9th are best but it's OK for about a week before and after. This is also a good time to find Mercury, especially if you haven't checked it off your list.

Navigating the June Night Sky

2026

For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart is suitable for early June at 11:30 p.m. or late June near 10:30 p.m.

The stars plotted represent those which can be seen from areas suffering from moderate light pollution. In larger cities, less than 100 stars are visible, while from dark, rural areas well over ten times that amount are found.



The Ecliptic represents the plane of the solar system. The sun, the moon, and the major planets all lie on or near this imaginary line in the sky.

Relative sizes and distances in the sky can be deceiving. For instance, 360 "full moons" can be placed side by side, extending from horizon to horizon.

→ • Relative size of the full moon.

Navigating the June night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Extend a line north from the two stars at the tip of the Big Dipper's bowl. It passes by Polaris, the North Star.
- 2 Draw another line in the opposite direction. It strikes the constellation Leo high in the west.
- 3 Follow the arc of the Dipper's handle. It first intersects Arcturus, the brightest star in the June evening sky, then Spica.
- 4 Arcturus, Spica, and Denebola form the Spring Triangle, a large equilateral triangle.
- 5 To the northeast of Arcturus shines another star of the same brightness, Vega. Draw a line from Arcturus to Vega. It first meets "The Northern Crown," then the "Keystone of Hercules." A dark sky is needed to see these two dim stellar configurations.
- 6 High in the east are the three bright stars of the Summer Triangle: Vega, Altair, and Deneb.

Binocular Highlights

- A: Between Denebola and the tip of the Big Dipper's handle, lie the stars of the Coma Berenices Star Cluster.
- B: Between the bright stars of Antares and Altair, hides an area containing many star clusters and nebulae.
- C: 40% of the way between Altair and Vega, twinkles the "Coathanger," a group of stars outlining a coathanger.
- D: Sweep along the Milky Way for an astounding number of faint glows and dark bays.



Regulus



Jupiter

Pollux

Castor

Venus



Capella

Procyon

Mercury

West

Northwest

**If you can see only one celestial event this June,
see this one.**

Brilliant Venus passes bright Jupiter

Look to the west-northwest 60 minutes after sunset in early June as the Venus/Jupiter gap narrows.

- On June 8, brilliant, unmistakable Venus lies slightly below and right of the lesser Jupiter.
- The next evening finds Venus having moved slightly above Jupiter.
- Then on succeeding evenings, Venus pulls above Jupiter, while the mighty planet drops toward the horizon.
- Enhance the view by using binoculars.
- All the while, the much dimmer Mercury lies close to the horizon in the bright twilight.

End your day with this enchanting meet-up!



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 AL links below to see how the Astroleague can support your astronomical interests and endeavors.

Astroleague Home Page	www.astroleague.org
Astroleague YouTube Channel	https://www.youtube.com/channel/...
AL Observing Programs (Alphabetical Listing)	https://www.astroleague.org/alphabeticobserving/
Night Sky Tools	https://www.astroleague.org/navigating-the-night-sky-guides/
Remembering Al Nagler	https://www.astroleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Nagler.pdf
Current and Past Issues of Reflector Magazine	https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/
AL Related News, Information and Reminders	Information: Click HERE for the Astroleague News Page and be sure to check the Astroleague Home Page weekly for new and important posts. REMINDER - Beware of Fraudulent Emails appearing to originate from the AL. Click HERE for more information. Contact the CFAS ALCOR for any changes to your Reflector delivery preferences (US Mail, Email or Both).

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CFAS Correspondence:

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

***Cape Fear Astronomical Society is a tax-exempt organization under
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CFAS Officers:

President:	Karl Adlon
Vice-Pres:	Damain Smith
Associate VP	Alan Hilburn
Secretary:	Jon Stewart-Taylor
Treasurer:	Ben Steelman
ALCor	Ben Steelman

Dues: Dues for 2026 are \$25 for Individual and \$32 for Family Membership. Students dues are \$7 per year.

Mail to: CFAS, P.O. Box 7685, Wilmington, NC 28406
Or you can pay electronically by following this link: <https://www.capefearastro.org/payment.htm>

Contact Us:

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