

Cape Fear Skies

*The Official Newsletter of the
Cape Fear Astronomical Society
Wilmington, North Carolina*

A Member Society of the Astronomical League

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www.capefearastro.org



*This Month's Meeting –
Sunday, January 6, 2008*

*Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Wilmington*

4313 Lake Avenue

The business meeting of
the Cape Fear Astronomical Society
will begin at 7:00 pm.

The general meeting will begin at 7:45 pm.

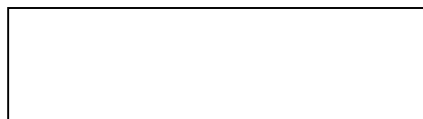
Gastronomy!

Please join us for dinner before the meeting at Szechuan 132
on College, at 5:15pm!



CAPE FEAR SKIES

Acting Editor: Ric Longren
6612 Shire Road
Wilmington, NC 28411



Cape Fear Astronomical Society

Brief meeting prior to Christmas Party

Event Calendar for January 2008

Jan 2	Earth at perihelion, 7 pm, 91.4 million miles
Jan 3	Moon at apogee, 3:05 am, 251,861 miles
Jan 4	Quadrantid meteor shower peaks
Jan 4/5	CFAS Group Viewing Sessions
Jan 6	CFAS November Meeting 7:00 pm
Jan 8	New Moon, 6:37 am
Jan 10	Moon passes 0.4° south of Neptune, 8 pm
Jan 11/12	CFAS Group Viewing Sessions
Jan 12	Moon passes 3° north of Uranus, 8 pm
Jan 15	First quarter Moon, 2:46 pm
Jan 19	Moon at perigee, 3:33 am, 227,689 miles Moon passes 1.1° north of Mars, 7 pm
Jan 21	Mercury at greatest elongation, 19°, midnight
Jan 22	Full Moon, 8:35 am
Jan 25	Moon passes 3° south of Saturn, 1 am
Jan 26	Comet 8P/Tuttle is closest to Sun, midnight
Jan 28	Mercury is stationary, 2 am
Jan 30	Last quarter Moon, 12:03 am Moon at apogee, 11:25 pm, 251,365 miles
Jan 31	Venus is 1° upper right of Jupiter, dawn

All times are EST unless otherwise noted



News Cluster

► The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society is January 6 starting at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wilmington (UUFW for short). The presentation will be "In the Shadow of the Moon".

► Club membership dues are due in January.



News from Our Sister
Society Down Under
Astronomical Society of Albury
- Wodonga

For the latest news from down under, check out our sister society's web site at www.asaw.org.au.

Planets in January 2008

Planet	Nov	Elong.	Mag.	Dia.	Illum.	Dist.
Mercury	1 st	9° Ev	-0.9	4.9"	97%	1.372
	11 th	15° Ev	-0.8	5.5"	88%	1.233
	21 st	19° Ev	-0.7	6.7"	61%	1.004
Venus	31 st	13° Ev	+1.4	9.0"	15%	0.744
	1 st	38° Mo	-4.1	14.5"	76%	0.717
	11 th	36° Mo	-4.0	13.7"	79%	0.793
Mars	21 st	34° Mo	-4.0	13.3"	82%	0.867
	31 st	32° Mo	-3.9	12.5"	84%	0.932
	1 st	169° Ev	-1.5	15.4"	100%	0.607
Jupiter	16 th	150° Ev	-1.1	14.0"	98%	0.671
	31 st	134° Ev	-0.6	12.1"	95%	0.771
	1 st	7° Mo	-1.8	31.7"	100%	6.222
Saturn	31 st	31° Mo	-1.9	32.5"	100%	6.059
	1 st	121° Mo	+0.6	19.1"	100%	8.714
	31 st	153° Mo	+0.4	19.8"	100%	8.383
Uranus	16 th	51° Ev	+5.9	3.4"	100%	20.704
Neptune	16 th	26° Ev	+8.0	2.2"	100%	30.927
Pluto	16 th	26° Mo	+14.0	0.1"	100%	32.282

Elong. – elongation from the Sun: morning (Mo) and evening (Ev)
Dist. – distance from Earth in astronomical units

Astronomers Monitor Asteroid to Pass Near Mars

(<http://neo.jpl.nasa.gov/>)

Updated Dec. 28, 2007 -- Astronomers have identified asteroid 2007 WD 5 in archival imagery. With these new observations, scientists at NASA's Near-Earth Object Program Office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif have refined their trajectory estimates for the asteroid. Based on this latest analysis, the odds for the asteroid impacting Mars on Jan. 30 are now 1-in-25 -- or about 4 percent.

WASHINGTON - Astronomers funded by NASA are monitoring the trajectory of an asteroid estimated to be 50 meters (164 feet) wide that is expected to cross Mars' orbital path early next year. Observations provided by the astronomers and analyzed by NASA's Near-Earth Object Office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., indicate the object may pass within 30,000 miles of Mars at about 6 a.m. EST (3 a.m. PST) on Jan. 30, 2008.

"Right now asteroid 2007 WD5 is about half-way between Earth and Mars and closing the distance at a speed of about 27,900 miles per hour," said Don Yeomans, manager of the Near Earth Object Office at JPL. "Over the next five weeks, we hope to gather more information from observatories so we can further refine the asteroid's trajectory."

Asteroid 2007 WD5 was first discovered on Nov. 20, 2007, by the NASA-funded Catalina Sky Survey and put on a "watch list" because its orbit passes near Earth. Further observations from both the NASA-funded Spacewatch at Kitt Peak, Ariz., and the Magdalena Ridge Observatory in New Mexico gave scientists enough data to determine that the asteroid was not a danger to Earth, but could potentially impact Mars. This makes it a member of an interesting class of small objects that are both near Earth objects and "Mars crossers."

Because of current uncertainties about the asteroid's exact orbit, there is a 1-in-75 chance of 2007 WD5 impacting Mars. If this unlikely event were to occur, it would be somewhere within a broad swath across the planet north of where the Opportunity rover is located.

Such a collision could release about three megatons of energy. Scientists believe an event of comparable magnitude occurred here on Earth in 1908 in Tunguska, Siberia, but no crater was created.

CFAS Membership List 1/1/08

expires:

1	08	cell:686-7919	352-2593	Chris Babson Sam Bissette
2	L		452-9636	Julie Bowen
3	08		350-1968	John Buccini
4	08		792-0902	Susan Buccini
5	08		792-0797	Arita Ann Burleigh
6	08	cell:792-9382	264-8388	Si & Maria Cantwell
7	08		799-9642	Betty A. Christmas
8	08		796-8864	J. Thad Coin
9	08		371-0212	Tony Cortese
10	08		452-0825	David East
11	08	(843)	215-6992	Philip & Mary Kaye Favaro
12	08		392-4442	Bob & Jackie Fetterman
13	11		602-3303	Lewis Gorre
14	08		799-2255	Doug Greene
15	08		763-2529	Jonathan Guetta
16	08	cell:262-6710	846-5421	Luther (Skip) Hager - Secretary
17	L		762-1033	Ronnie Hawes – President
18	08		383-3753	Wayne & Debbi Hayden
19	08	cell:313-2680	520-0689	Terry Herrin - Vice President
20	L	cell:409-1719	798-9563	Alan Hilburn - Assoc. VP
21	L		791-7058	Page Hilburn
22	08		200-9058	Mark & Kristin Hudson
			799-1545	Lee Jackson
23	08	cell:233-9577	686-2773	Tom Jacobs
24	08		392-1295	Rick Jennings
25	08		200-2035	Christa Johnson
26	08	cell:392-9521	471-9520	Billy Kidney
27	08		328-5357	Les and Connie King
28	08		675-2556	Becky & George Lewis
29	08		452-3490	Ric Longren
30	08		798-8269	John McHarry
31	08	(336)	963-1362	Letisha McLaughlin
32	08		278-8973	Bill & Holly Mullin
33	08		686-1585	Mitch Odess
34	L			Debbie Petty
35	08		520-2090	Robert Pool
36	08		278-9646	Hal Schutt & Kathryn Scanlon
37	08		762-6417	Ben Steelman – Treasurer
38	08		791-3438	Paul Walker
39	08		509-0328	Bryan & Kim Weckel
40	08		791-7243	Rich & Barbara Williams

CFAS Web Site - <http://www.capefearastro.org>

(Note: email addresses for member's use only, unless followed by a # symbol)

334 York Court	Wilmington, NC 28411	neochrisrn@aol.com
In Fond Memory		Mail Newsletter to Ruby Bissette
201 Brookview Road	Wilmington, NC 28409	Mail Newsletter (bad address)
118 Braxlo Lane	Wilmington, NC 28409	Mail Newsletter (send to Susan's address)
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P.O. Box 15720	Wilmington, NC 28408	starspotter@earthlink.net
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3408 Upton Court	Wilmington, NC 28409	richwlms1@yahoo.com # kimwlms@aol.com #

40 Members – 5 Lifetime

Newsletter Delivery – 8 mail, 31 email

*Meetings of the CFAS are held on the first Sunday of
The month (if holiday weekend or special event, second Sunday)
at
7:00pm – Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Wilmington*

Group Viewing Sessions 5194

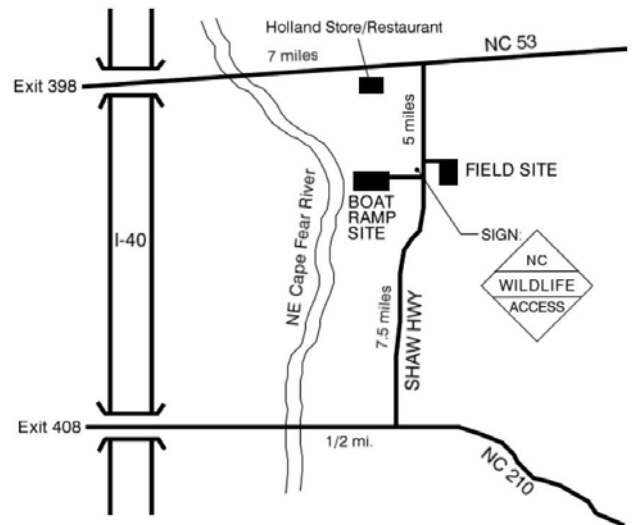
Call Ron Hawes at 762-1033 or check our email list to confirm a formal viewing session. Listed below are moonless nights so you can schedule a good viewing. All group viewing sessions will be at the Holly Shelter boat ramp site, unless otherwise specified. Time: Dusk until ?

Friday, January 4 Saturday, January 5

Friday, January 11 Saturday, January 12

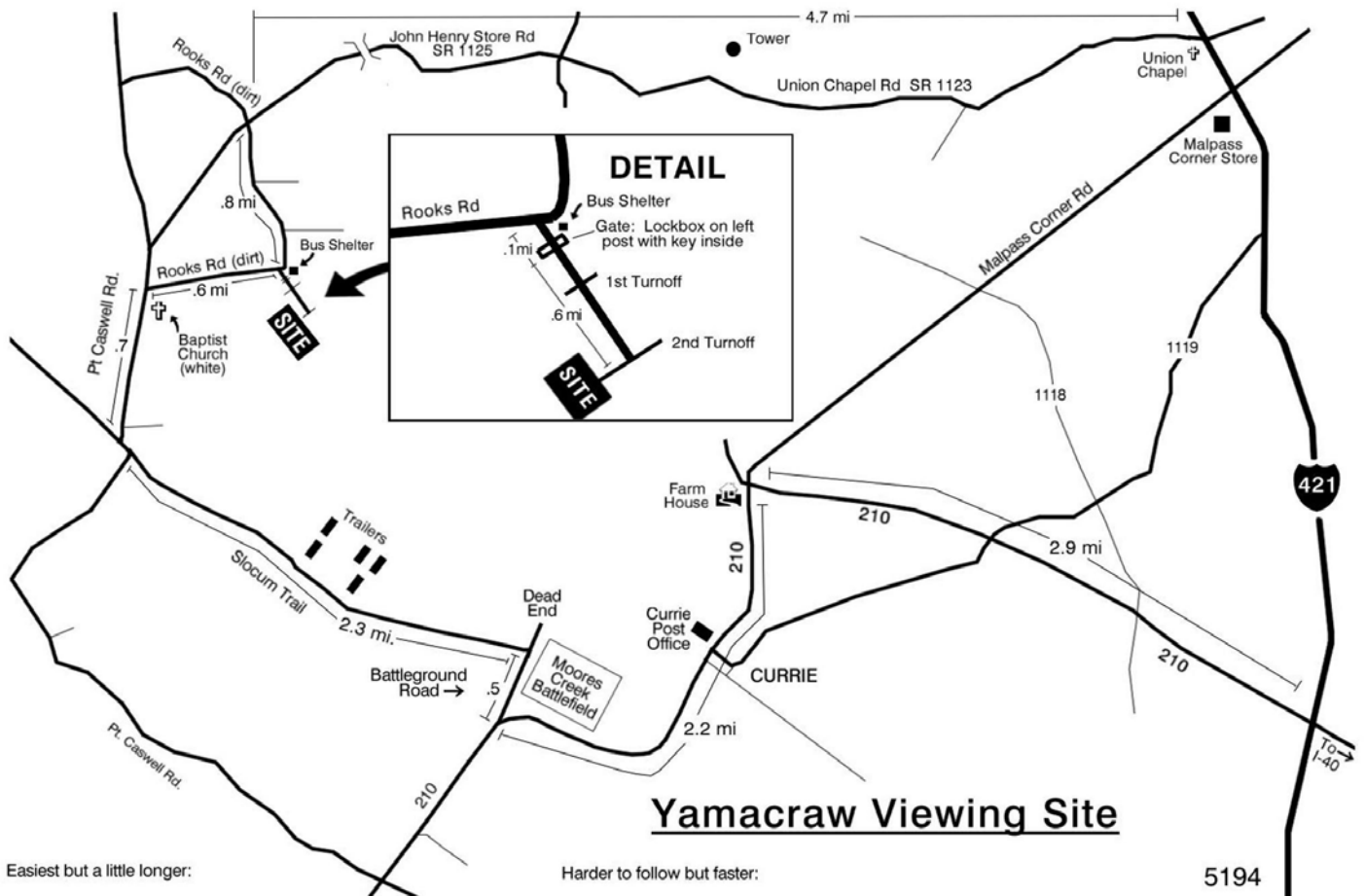
Please be cautious of unusual wildlife behavior while observing. A golf club or stick could be useful to keep nearby.

Holly Shelter Viewing Sites



Field Site Gate Open:
September 1 - February 29 and April 7 - May 14.

Please have your Holly Shelter Permit with you at the site.



Yamacraw Viewing Site

Easiest but a little longer:

Travel 421 north to truck stop.
Go approx. 20.5 miles and turn left onto Union Chapel Road.
Follow for 4.7 miles (becomes John Henry Store Road) and take left onto Rooks Road (dirt).
Follow Rooks Road .8 miles around curve, pass bus shelter and take left onto our site's road.
Travel .1 mile, unlock/relock gate, travel .6 miles, take 2nd right.

Harder to follow but faster:

Travel 421 north to truck stop. Go approx. 17 miles and turn left onto 210.
Follow 210 for 2.9 miles to intersection (stop sign and big white farm house), turn left onto 210 W.
Follow 210 W past Currie Post Office and Battlefield, turn right onto Battleground Rd.
Follow Battleground Rd. .5 miles, take sharp left onto Stocum Rd, follow for 2.3 miles.
Take a right onto Pt. Caswell Rd, follow .7 miles past Church, take right onto Rooks Road (dirt).
Follow Rooks Rd .6 miles, turn right onto our site's road. (If you see the bus shelter, you've gone too far.)
Travel .1 miles, unlock/relock gate, travel .6 miles, take the 2nd road on the right to our site.

5194