

Cape Fear Skies

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

A Member Society of the Astronomical League

Volume 23 no. 3



March 2008

www.capefearastro.org



*This Month's Meeting –
Sunday, March 2, 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.

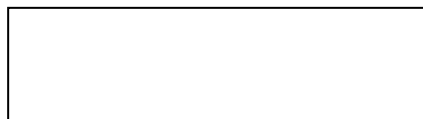
Gastronomy!

Please join us for dinner before the meeting at Mia Tai on
Oleander, at 5:15pm!



CAPE FEAR SKIES

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



Cape Fear Astronomical Society

Meeting minutes provided by Secretary Skip Hager

CFAS Minutes for Feb 3 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by the Society President Ronnie Hawes.

Ben Steelman provided the Treasurers report by indicating the club was still solvent. He had the following disbursements to make and asked for approval to make them: Ric Longren, \$151.08, for 2007 newsletter expenses, Bob Fetterman, \$51.84 for ID badge holders and lanyards and Rich Williams, \$27.00 for web domain name charges. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously to authorize payment.

There were no minutes to report from the January meetings as the hard drive of the Sec's. computer lost its magic smoke and all that it contained. (Next time the hand written notes will be retained until the next meeting.)

Old Business

This year, 2008, is a significant year in the history of the CFAS, in March we will be 25 years old. In late January the executive committee met to discuss ideas for celebrating this event. A number of ideas were discussed and a few tentatively settled on. Among the ideas put forward were: A telescope clinic, possibly at Ft. Fisher or with the Cape Fear Museum, a public viewing session at Ft. Fisher either as part of a clinic or some other celestial event, out of town guest speakers for an all day presentation/event (some suggested speakers / presenters include Conrad Pope, Johnny Horn, and Dr. Brian Davis from UNCW), cook out / viewing session at one of our sites, a field trip to an observatory, and CD/DVD scrapbook of the first 25 years. If you have any other ideas, please make them known. It is a special year and the participation of all will make it one to remember.

New Business

25th Anniversary Update.

Allen Hilburn reported that he had been in touch with Conrad Pope and Johnny Horn and that they both would be happy to be apart of this years calibration. This is looking like an all day event, probably for a Saturday in the spring or summer.

Ronnie Hawes spoke to Steve Clemmons about a presentation at one of our meetings. Steve has said yes to any Sunday. A suggested date of April 6th has been put forward.

Other items are still pending, anyone want to volunteer for organizing the cookout?

As March is the actual anniversary month, cake and coffee will be served at the March meeting during the break between the business meeting and the evening's entertainment. Ben Steelman will be doing the presentation.

Ronnie is still trying to set up the telescope clinic with the Cape Fear Museum.

Other Stuff

Rich Williams passed out the new name tags and holders to those present at the meeting. If you missed out, pick yours up at the March meeting.

Ronnie said he had missed a call from Clint North. He suspects it is about the rental fee for the Yamacraw Site. It

is about that time of year. In the past the fee has been \$100.00 a year. A motion was made and passed that if this is the subject of the call, he is authorized to pay that amount for the site.

Viewing Reports

Thad Coin and Mitch Odess spent an evening at Holly Shelter working on their astrophotography and managed to snag Canopus visually. Not an easy task from these latitudes. It is pretty close to the horizon. A clear view of the southern horizon (like over the ocean) might reward you, essentially below and slightly to the right of Sirius.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. The evening's presentation was "The Discovery of Pulsars" by Tom Jacobs.

Event Calendar for March 2008

Feb 29 CFAS Group Viewing Sessions

Mar 1

Mar 2 CFAS March Meeting 7:00 pm

Mar 3 Mercury at greatest western elongation, 6 am

Mar 7 New Moon, 12:14 pm

Mar 7/8 CFAS Group Viewing Sessions

Mar 8 Uranus in conjunction with Sun, 3 pm

Mar 9 Daylight savings time begins, 2 am

Mar 10 Moon at perigee, 5:39 pm, 227,607 miles

Mar 14 First quarter Moon, 6:46 am

Moon passes 1.7° north of Mars, 11 pm

Mar 16 Moon passes 1.6° north of Mars, 3 am

Mar 20 Vernal equinox, 1:48 am

Mar 21 Easter

Full Moon, 2:40 pm

Mar 23 Mercury passes 1° south of Venus, 6 am

Mar 26 Moon at apogee, 4:13 pm, 251,713 miles

Mar 29 Last quarter Moon, 5:47 pm

All times are EST unless otherwise noted



News Cluster

► The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society is March 2 starting at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wilmington (UUFW for short). The program for the evening is "Astronomy and the Islamic world or Why do we call it Betelgeuse?" by Ben Steelman.

► To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of club, cake and coffee will be served between the business meeting and the presentation.

► Club membership dues are due and must be paid by March to remain a member in good standing.



Please Welcome to CFAS:

Tom & Geraldine Metzger
 5136 Oak Bluff Lane
 Wilmington, NC 28409
 (910) 452-2347



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 March 2008						
Planet	Nov	Elong.	Mag.	Dia.	Illum.	Dist.
Mercury	1 st	27 ^o Mo	+0.1	7.4"	53%	0.911
	11 th	26 ^o Mo	+0.0	6.4"	68%	1.057
	21 st	22 ^o Mo	-0.2	5.7"	78%	1.182
Venus	31 st	16 ^o Mo	-0.6	5.3"	88%	1.280
	1 st	26 ^o Mo	-3.9	11.3"	90%	1.482
	11 th	23 ^o Mo	-3.8	10.9"	92%	1.527
Mars	21 st	21 ^o Mo	-3.8	10.6"	94%	1.567
	31 st	18 ^o Mo	-3.8	10.4"	95%	1.604
	1 st	108 ^o Ev	+0.2	9.1"	91%	1.034
Jupiter	16 th	98 ^o Ev	+0.5	7.9"	90%	1.180
	31 st	90 ^o Ev	+0.8	7.0"	90%	1.328
	1 st	55 ^o Mo	-2.0	34.4"	99%	5.728
Saturn	31 st	81 ^o Mo	-2.1	37.3"	99%	5.283
	1 st	174 ^o Ev	+0.2	20.0"	100%	8.297
Uranus	31 st	142 ^o Ev	+0.4	19.6"	100%	8.483
	16 th	7 ^o Mo	+5.9	3.3"	100%	20.084
Neptune	16 th	33 ^o Mo	+8.0	2.2"	100%	30.827
Pluto	16 th	85 ^o Mo	+14.0	0.1"	100%	31.507

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

Picture Gallery



Start of Eclipse – R Longren



Almost Mid Eclipse – R Longren



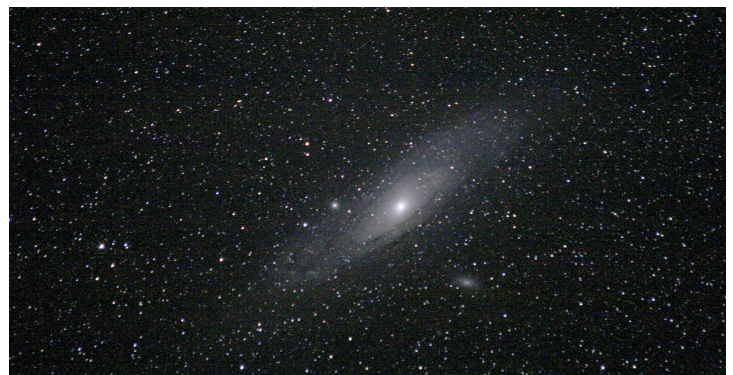
Total Eclipse - R Longren



Almost Full Eclipse – B Kidney



Full Eclipse – B Kidney



M31 – B Kidney

*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

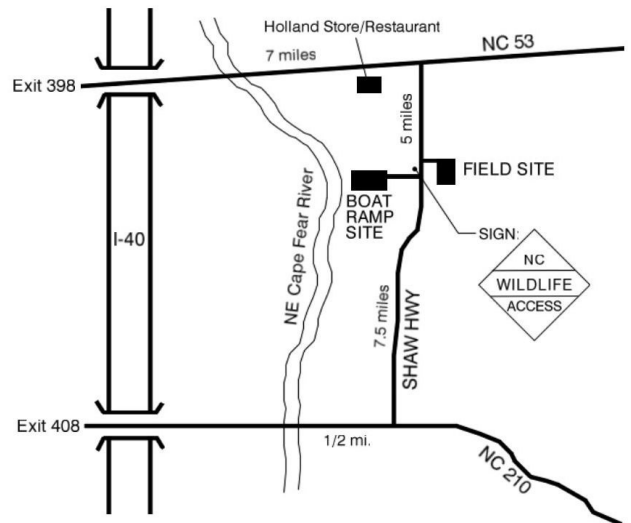
Call Ron Hawes at 762-1033 or check our email list to confirm a formal viewing session. Listed below are moonless nights so you can schedule a good viewing. All group viewing sessions will be at the Holly Shelter boat ramp site, unless otherwise specified. Time: Dusk until ?

Friday, February 29 Saturday, March 1

Friday, March 7 Saturday, March 8

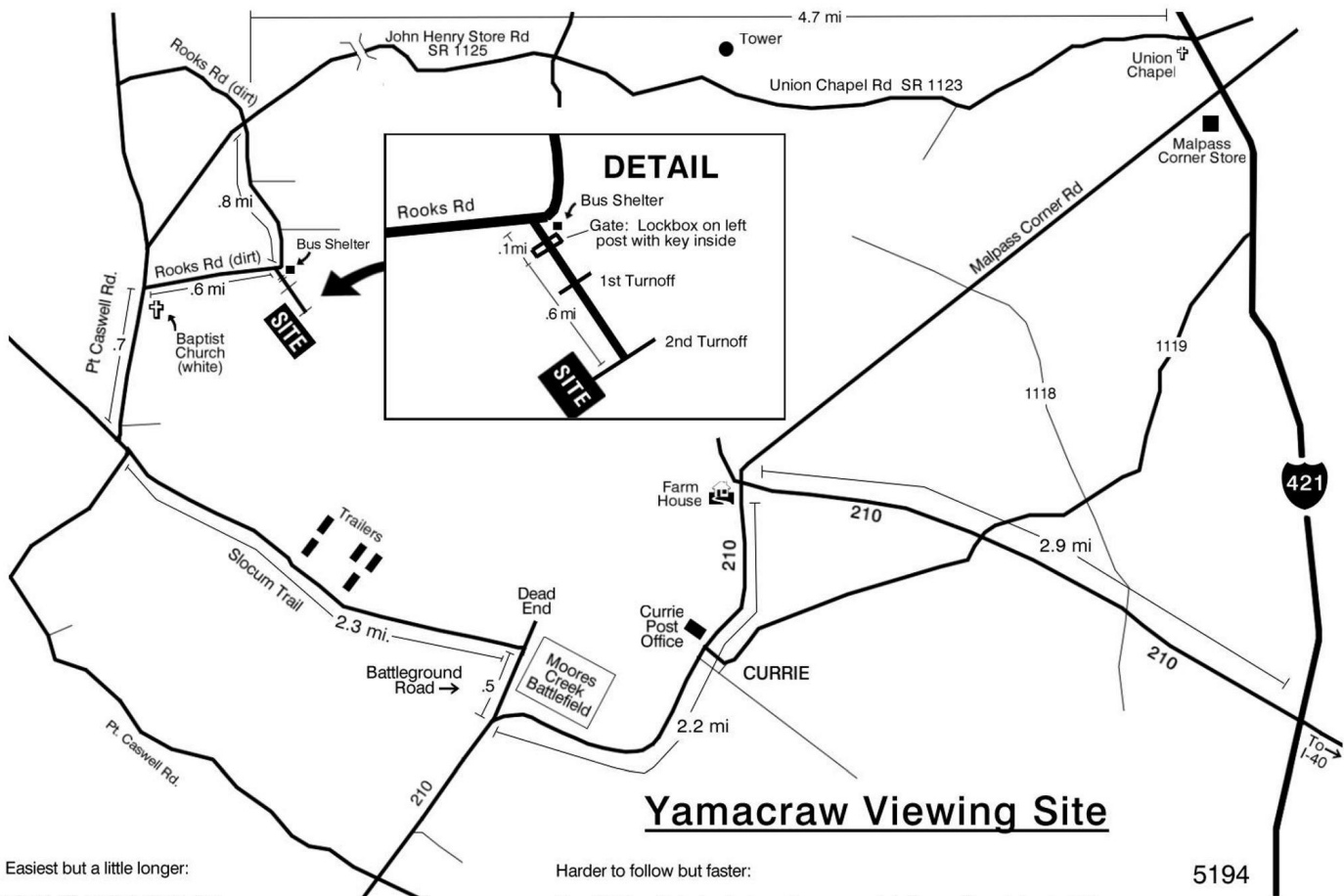
Please be cautious of unusual wildlife behavior while observing. A golf club or stick could be useful to keep nearby.

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 Slocum 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