

# 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. 4



April 2008

[www.capefearastro.org](http://www.capefearastro.org)



*This Month's Meeting –  
Sunday, April 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.

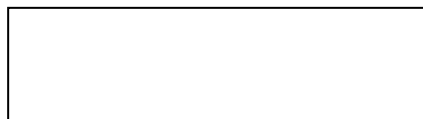
## *Gastronomy!*

Please join us for dinner before the meeting at Two Guys Grill  
on College, at 5:15pm!



### **CAPE FEAR SKIES**

Acting Editor: Ric Longren  
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Wilmington, NC 28411



# Cape Fear Astronomical Society

Meeting minutes provided by Ric Longren for Skip Hager

## CFAS Minutes for March 3 2008

The 25<sup>th</sup> club anniversary meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by the Society President Ron Hawes. There were approximately 25 members and 4 guests in attendance.

### Officer Reports

#### Ron Hawes – President

Ron described how the club got started 25 years ago. He mentioned that member name tags are now available for members attending the club meetings, idea presented by Bob Fetterman.

#### Terry Herrin – Vice President

Reiterated club membership dues are due no later than March in order to remain in the club.

#### Alan Hilburn – Associate Vice President

Alan passed around a copy of the first club newsletter dated July 1986. It was also mentioned that Ron started his astronomy hobby Jan 23 1960. Alan discussed some of the coming events for this anniversary year: Dr Brain Davis to set up a program, Saturday meeting at the Horn observatory, planetarium tour for one meeting, and Steve Clements for the April 6<sup>th</sup> club meeting. Steve is a retired engineer with North American and was on the scene of the Apollo fire. Alan mentioned that Anniversary Cake (from Apple Annie's) and coffee would be served after the business meeting.

#### Ben Steelman – Treasurer

Provided the Treasurers report by indicating the club was still solvent. He mentioned the dues were coming in.

### Old Business

Club Shirts - Jonathon Guetta updated the club on the status of the club t shirts. Jonathon has found a company that will place the detailed logo on t-shirts for ~\$20/shirt and sweat shirts for ~\$25/shirt. The set up fee is \$120. The club members gave him the go ahead to proceed.

### New Business

Boy Scout Meetings - Jonathon Guetta asked for volunteers to present an astronomy program to the Boy Scouts at their Friday camp meetings over a 4 week period starting March 14. There will be about 100-200 scouts attending. Ron volunteered his services and asked anybody interested to contact him.

Mailing List File Size Limit – The current limit for attaching files on the email server is 40kb. Those that like to send out astro-pictures would like the limit bumped up. It was suggested that 100 kb would be a good compromise for those that don't want to download large files. After some discussion, Terry Herrin suggested and motioned that the limit be increased to 250 kb. The motion was seconded and carried. Terry also told the club that members could submit large files for inclusion on the web for a set time period.

Southern Star in April – Tom Jacobs reminded the club about the Southern Star Astronomy Convention to be held April 25 – 27 2008. He mentioned there are limited accommodations (~115 lodgers) and limited attendance. You must be registered to attend. Only 25 offsite participants are allowed.

Program for May – Ron announced he will giving the May program entitled "The Atom and You"

Astromicroscopy – Jonathon Guetta suggested a program examining Sam Bissette's astromicroscopy slides. He said the slides were donated to UNCW and could be borrowed. He volunteered to bring in the slides and a couple of microscopes.

### Other Stuff

Letisha McLaughlin, the club's former Secretary (and a good one at that), attended the meeting. Letisha is currently a graduate student at NC State. She returned the club's archived minutes to be turned over to the new secretary, Skip Hager. (Good luck in your studies and your future endeavors).

A poll was taken of club members who witnessed the eclipse of the Moon. About half of those present saw the eclipse. No one waited up for the end.

### Viewing Reports

Thad Coin, Billy Kidney and Ric Longren spent an evening at the Yamacraw site. Thad was trying out his recently purchased Celestron C11 SCT and Losmondy G11 mount. Visibility was poor till about midnight. General viewing included Saturn, Mars, Ring Nebula and numerous star clusters. Billy worked on his astrophotography.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM immediately followed by a cake and coffee reception (see Photo Gallery) celebrating the club's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Special thanks to Alan for making the cake arrangements and Mitch Odess and Tom Jacobs for arranging the refreshments. The evening's presentation was "Astronomy and the Islamic World or Why do we call it Betelgeuse?" by Ben Steelman.

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## Event Calendar for April 2008

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Apr 2	Moon passes 0.002° north of Neptune, 5am
<b>Apr 4/5</b>	<b>CFAS Group Viewing Sessions</b>
Apr 5	New Moon, 12:14 pm
<b>Apr 6</b>	<b>CFAS April Meeting 7:00 pm</b>
Apr 7	Moon at perigee, 3:30 pm, 224,365 miles
Apr 8	Moon passes through Pleiades star cluster
Apr 14	First quarter Moon, 2:32 pm
	Moon passes 1.2° north of Mars, 2 am
Apr 16	Mercury in superior conjunction, 3 am
Apr 20	Full Moon, 6:25 am
Apr 22	Lyrid meteor shower peaks
Apr 23	Moon at apogee, 5:34 pm, 252,241 miles
Apr 25-27	Southern Star Astronomy Convention
Apr 27	Moon passes 3° south of Jupiter, 1 am
Apr 28	Last quarter Moon, 10:12 am
<b>May 2/3</b>	<b>CFAS Group Viewing Sessions</b>

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All times are EDT unless otherwise noted



► The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society is April 6 starting at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wilmington (UUFW for short). The speaker for the evening is Steve Clemmons. Steve is a retired engineer with North American and was on the scene of the Apollo fire.

► The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Southern Star Astronomy Convention will meet April 25 -27 in the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is hosted by the Charlotte Amateur Astronomy Club. Attendance and lodging is limited. For more info and registration information visit [www.charlotteastronomers.org/southernstar](http://www.charlotteastronomers.org/southernstar)



Club Officers

Planets in April 2008						
Planet	Nov	Elong.	Mag.	Dia.	Illum.	Dist.
Mercury	1 <sup>st</sup>	15 <sup>o</sup> Mo	-0.6	5.2"	89%	1.228
	11 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>o</sup> Mo	-1.5	5.0"	98%	1.338
	21 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>o</sup> Ev	-1.8	5.2"	98%	1.298
Venus	30 <sup>st</sup>	15 <sup>o</sup> Ev	-1.0	5.8"	78%	1.152
	1 <sup>st</sup>	18 <sup>o</sup> Mo	-3.8	10.4"	95%	1.608
	11 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>o</sup> Mo	-3.8	10.2"	96%	1.640
Mars	21 <sup>st</sup>	13 <sup>o</sup> Mo	-3.8	10.0"	97%	1.669
	30 <sup>st</sup>	11 <sup>o</sup> Mo	-3.9	9.9"	98%	1.690
	1 <sup>st</sup>	89 <sup>o</sup> Ev	+0.8	7.0"	90%	1.338
Jupiter	16 <sup>th</sup>	81 <sup>o</sup> Ev	+1.0	6.3"	90%	1.484
	30 <sup>st</sup>	75 <sup>o</sup> Ev	+1.2	5.8"	91%	1.616
	1 <sup>st</sup>	82 <sup>o</sup> Mo	-2.2	37.4"	99%	5.267
Saturn	30 <sup>st</sup>	108 <sup>o</sup> Mo	-2.4	41.0"	99%	4.807
	1 <sup>st</sup>	141 <sup>o</sup> Ev	+0.4	19.6"	100%	8.494
Uranus	30 <sup>st</sup>	112 <sup>o</sup> Ev	+0.5	18.7"	100%	8.879
	16 <sup>th</sup>	36 <sup>o</sup> Mo	+5.9	3.4"	100%	20.904
Neptune	16 <sup>th</sup>	63 <sup>o</sup> Mo	+7.9	2.2"	100%	30.489
Pluto	16 <sup>th</sup>	115 <sup>o</sup> Mo	+13.9	0.1"	100%	31.008

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

### Picture Gallery



CFAS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake



Ron cuts the cake



Club members enjoying cake and refreshments

*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**

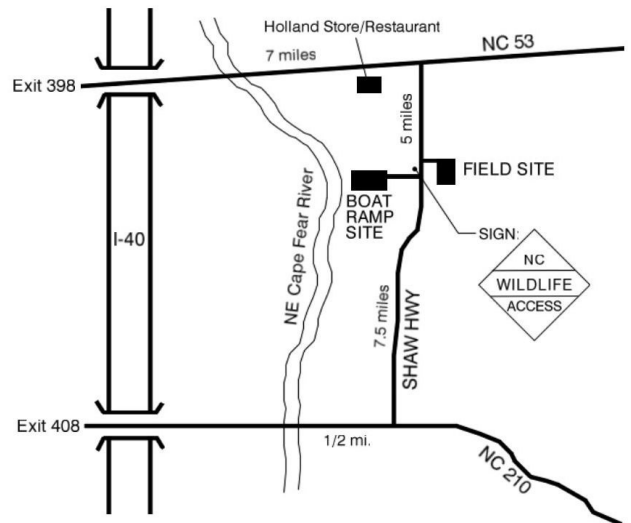
Call Ron Hawes at 762-1033 or check our email list to confirm a formal viewing session. Listed below are moonless nights so you can schedule a good viewing. All group viewing sessions will be at the Holly Shelter boat ramp site, unless otherwise specified. Time: Dusk until ?

Friday, April 4      Saturday, April 5

Friday, May 2      Saturday, May 3

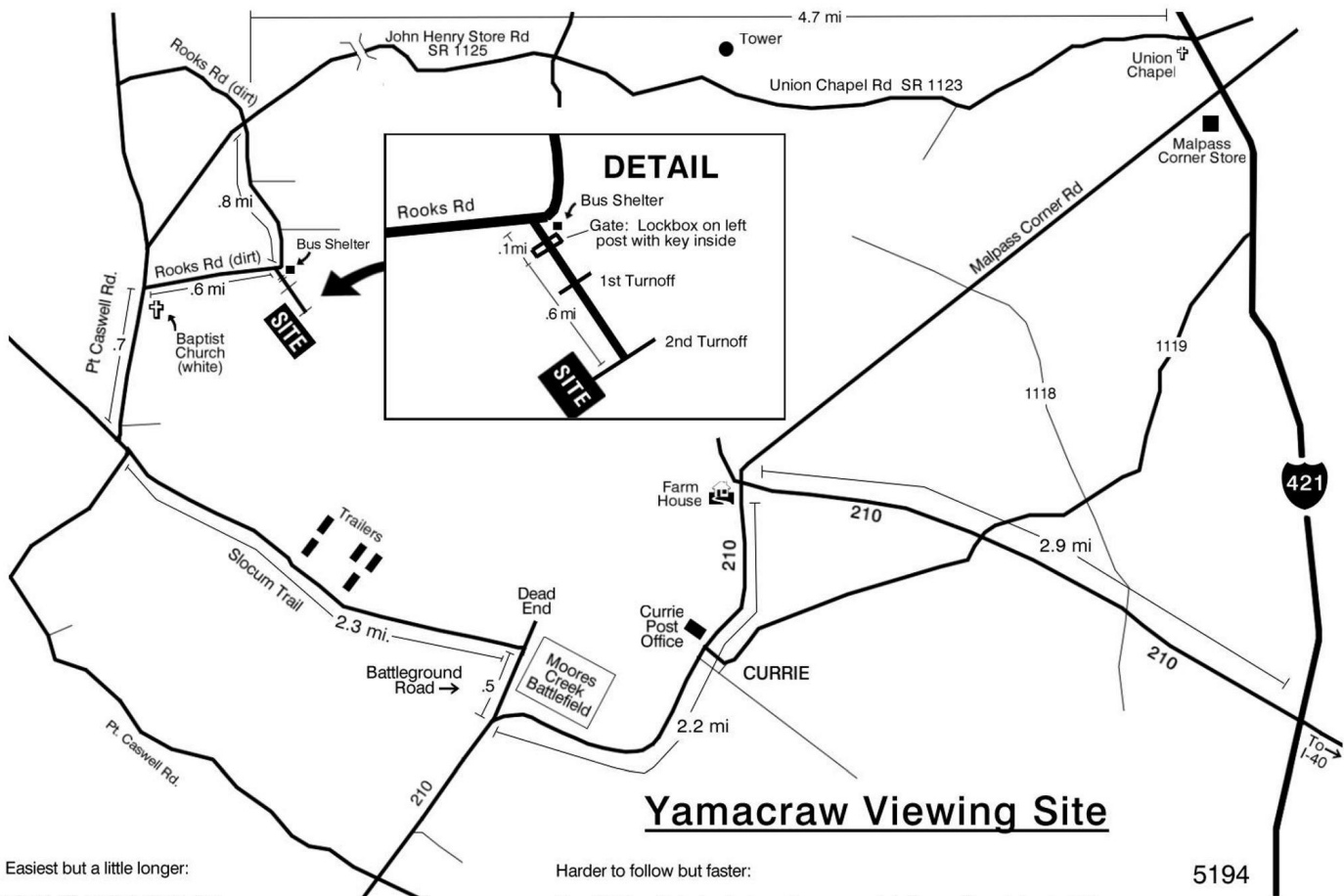
*Please be cautious of unusual wildlife behavior while observing. A golf club or stick could be useful to keep nearby.*

**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