

Cape Fear Skies

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

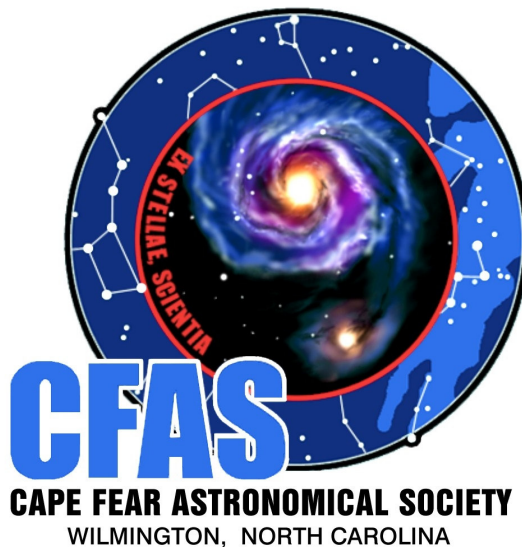
A Member Society of the Astronomical League

Volume 23 no. 5



May 2008

www.capefearastro.org



*This Month's Meeting –
Sunday, May 4, 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.

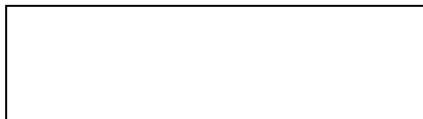
Gastronomy!

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



CAPE FEAR SKIES

Acting Editor: Ric Longren
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Wilmington, NC 28411



Cape Fear Astronomical Society

Meeting minutes provided by Thad Coin for Skip Hager

CFAS Minutes for April 6 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 PM by the Society President Ron Hawes. There were approximately 16 members and 2 guests in attendance. The meeting was held under the entryway of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church as the key was temporarily unavailable.

Officer Reports

Ben Steelman – Treasurer

Provided the Treasurers report by indicating the club was still solvent. The club's checking account balance is approximately \$1,900 with deposits pending.

Ric Longren – Newsletter Editor

Indicated the need for an updated membership list.

Old Business

Club Shirts - Jonathon Guetta announced that club T- and sweatshirts could now be ordered. Multiple orders were placed with Jonathan that evening and he invited others to order email. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the club purchase a 10 T shirts of (5 large and 5 XL) for future use at the club's discretion. Available sizes were to be clarified by Jonathan.

New Business

Boy Scout Meetings - President Ron Hawes reported successful presentations to the Boy Scouts at Camp McNeal by himself, Jonathon Guetta and others. Approximately 40-50 Scouts were present for a variety of topics including a solar system tour and constellations. The program was well received by the Scouts. Additional events were planned.

Cape Fear Museum - President Ron Hawes announced receipt of a letter from the director of the Cape Fear Museum outlining an upcoming program titled "Cape Fear Skies" (not to be confused with the CFAS Newsletter of the same name!). Participation of club members in a Telescope Clinic is requested by the museum. Details, such as the exact date and time, were to be clarified by Ron and brought to the next meeting or posted.

Our Sister Society – Club member Thad Coin reported contact with the Secretary of our Sister Society in Australia, the Astronomical Society of Albury – Wodonga (ASAW), due to participation in an Australian on-line amateur astronomy forum "Ice In Space." Their Secretary, Petra de Ruyter, noted that they had lost contact with us and very much wanted re-establish a regular interchange.

An interesting discussion regarding the history of association of the two Societies and methods of contact ensued. It was agreed that Thad would return the greetings and best wishes and establish guidelines in the exchange of club newsletters and contact. As our newsletter may contain personal contact information, it would be provided privately to ASAW for private use by their members. Also to be noted: the best method for ASAW members to contact us is via the email address published on our website: info@capefearastro.org.

Invitation to Cookout – Member Becky Lewis invited club members to a cook-out at her family's farm on April 19. Details are to be posted on the list server.

Viewing Reports

Member Thad Coin gave an addendum to the report of the last Yamacraw session (see March newsletter). The impressive largest of globular clusters, Omega Centauri, was glimpsed through binoculars about 3 degrees above the Southern horizon treetops at 4am (after telescopes had been packed up!). This should be a worthy target for the Yamacraw site or possibly beach sites over the next few months. Tom Jacobs brought up some recently published science regarding the cluster: a mid-sized black hole of about 40,000 solar masses lurks at its center.

The business meeting was adjourned. The evening's presentation by Steve Clemmons (who attended Gastronomy and the business meeting) was rescheduled due to lack of access to the meeting room. Members thanked Steve for his effort and appreciated his gracious offer to reschedule.

Event Calendar for April 2008

| | |
|------------------|--|
| May 3 | Saturn is stationary, 9 am |
| May 2/3 | CFAS Group Viewing Sessions |
| May 4 | CFAS April Meeting 7:00 pm |
| May 5 | New Moon, 8:18 am Moon at perigee, 11:18 pm, 222,309 miles Eta Aquarid meteor shower peaks |
| May 9 | Jupiter is stationary, 11 am |
| May 10 | Moon passes 0.2° north of Mars, 10 am |
| May 11 | First quarter Moon, 11:47 pm |
| May 12 | Moon passes 3° south of Saturn, 8 pm Mars is at aphelion, 10 pm, 159.4 million miles |
| May 13 | Mercury at greatest eastern elongation, 12 am |
| May 19 | Full Moon, 10:11 pm |
| May 20 | Moon at apogee, 10:27 am, 252,527 miles |
| May 24 | Moon passes 2° south of Jupiter, 7 am |
| May 26 | Moon passes 0.6° north of Neptune, 11 pm |
| May 27 | Last quarter Moon, 10:57 pm |
| May 28 | Moon passes 4° north of Uranus, 5 am |
| May 30/31 | CFAS Group Viewing Sessions |

All times are EDT unless otherwise noted



News Cluster

► The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society is May 4 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. (This is a reschedule of last month's speaker).



Please Welcome to CFAS:
Rob Allnut & Tim Peterman

| Planets in May 2008 | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| Planet | Nov | Elong. | Mag. | Dia. | Illum. | Dist. |
| Mercury | 1 st | 16° Ev | -0.9 | 5.9" | 75% | 1.131 |
| | 11 th | 21° Ev | 0.0 | 7.4" | 45% | 0.904 |
| | 21 st | 20° Ev | +1.3 | 9.5" | 21% | 0.706 |
| Venus | 31 st | 11° Ev | +3.8 | 11.6" | 5% | 0.579 |
| | 1 st | 11° Mo | -3.9 | 9.9" | 98% | 1.692 |
| | 11 th | 8° Mo | -3.9 | 9.7" | 99% | 1.711 |
| Mars | 21 st | 5° Mo | -3.9 | 9.7" | 100% | 1.725 |
| | 31 st | 3° Mo | -3.9 | 9.6" | 100% | 1.733 |
| | 1 st | 74° Ev | +1.2 | 5.8" | 91% | 1.625 |
| Jupiter | 16 th | 68° Ev | +1.4 | 5.3" | 91% | 1.759 |
| | 31 st | 62° Ev | +1.5 | 5.0" | 92% | 1.885 |
| | 1 st | 109° Mo | -2.4 | 41.1" | 99% | 4.791 |
| Saturn | 31 st | 138° Mo | -2.6 | 44.9" | 100% | 4.392 |
| | 1 st | 111° Ev | +0.5 | 18.7" | 100% | 8.895 |
| Uranus | 31 st | 82° Ev | +0.7 | 17.7" | 100% | 9.386 |
| | 16 th | 64° Mo | +5.9 | 3.4" | 100% | 20.527 |
| Neptune | 16 th | 91° Mo | +7.9 | 2.3" | 100% | 30.000 |
| Pluto | 16 th | 144° Mo | +13.9 | 0.1" | 100% | 31.635 |

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

Picture Gallery



March Full Moon by Jonathon Guetta



M101 Whirlpool Galaxy by Billy Kidney



M13 Hercules Cluster by Billy 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

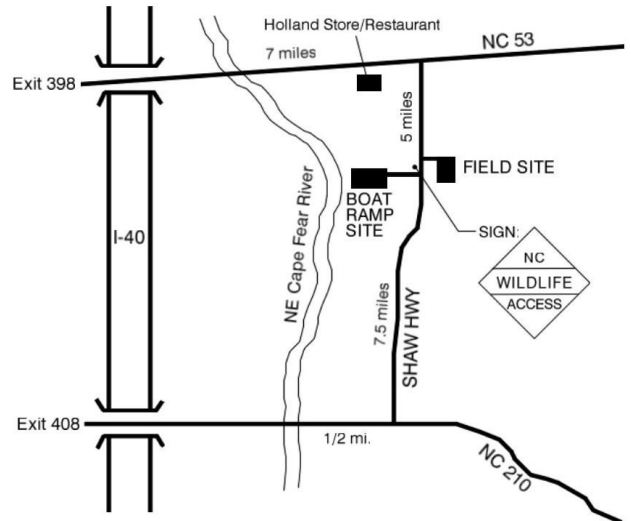
Call Ron Hawes at 762-1033 or check our email list to confirm a formal viewing session. Listed below are moonless nights so you can schedule a good viewing. All group viewing sessions will be at the Holly Shelter boat ramp site, unless otherwise specified. Time: Dusk until ?

Friday, May 2 Saturday, May 3

Friday, May 30 Saturday, May 31

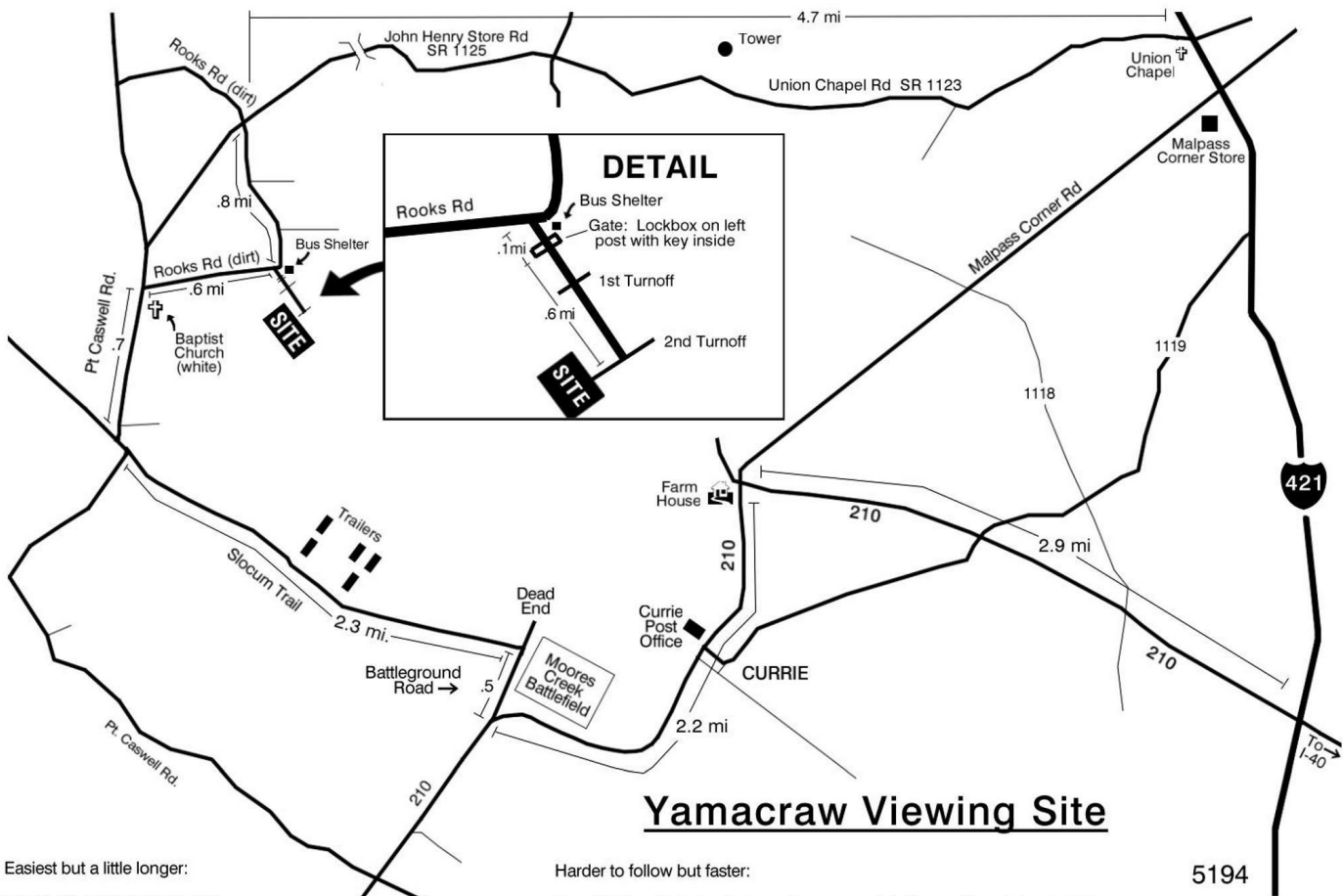
Please be cautious of unusual wildlife behavior while observing. A golf club or stick could be useful to keep nearby.

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.

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