

# Cape Fear Skies

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

*A Member Society of the Astronomical League*

Volume (# pending) ★ June 2010

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



*This Month's Meeting –  
Sunday, June 6, 2010*

*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.

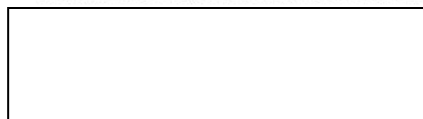
## *Gastronomy!*

Szechuan 132, 419 S. College Rd., Wilmington (5:15pm)



### **CAPE FEAR SKIES**

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# Cape Fear Astronomical Society

## Meeting Minutes by Thad Coin - CFAS Secretary

### Cape Fear Astronomical Society Wilmington, NC

#### Minutes for the May 2010 CFAS Meeting

The business portion of the CFAS February meeting was commenced by a call to order by President Ronnie Hawes at 19:03 on May 2, 2010 in Dobkin Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wilmington (UUFW). Attending were 10 members.

#### Officer's Reports

Treasurer Ben Steelman reported on the membership list, dues collections, Sky and Telescope subscription status and the updating of our Officer roster with the Astronomical League.

Secretary Thad Coin reports continued communication with the Petra De Ruyter, Secretary of our sister society, the Astronomical Society of Albury-Wodonga in Australia. On April 19 Petra noted that their club's web manager found that our website was offline. Member Rich Williams reiterated the old business that our domain name, capefearastro.org, has been up for renewal. As the web hosting company requires payment by credit card, Thad offered to accomplish this. Ben would issue reimbursement checks for this year's registration to Thad and last year's to Rich.

#### Old Business

President Ron Hawes reported on further discussions with the Director of the Ingram Planetarium, Sunset Beach, NC, to plan some sort of combined program with our club. The Director is enthusiastic about the collaboration. After a long discussion regarding the format, it was decided that Ron would propose a telescope clinic to be conducted by club members at the Planetarium from about 1-4 PM on June 26. The clinic would adjourn early enough for participants to attend the last planetarium program of the day. It is expected that another event for public observing, would be planned for the winter at the Planetarium to take advantage of the earlier sunset.

Member Tom Jacobs reported that the club banner has been found! It had been carefully packed and stored in a very safe place at his home.

#### New Business

President Ron Hawes reported on request from an official of the Girl Scout Camp Pretty Pond (near Boiling Springs Lakes, NC), Elizabeth Daly. Ms. Daly has requested a presentation to be made by Club Members to the Girl Scout campers and Staff. This is expected to be an indoor

program on Saturday, May 29. Ron will present and invited other members to participate.

Treasurer Ben Steelman reports the Grace United Methodist Church will have an event called the "Galactic Blast" in June or July. Club member participation was discussed. Ben would bring more details to the June meeting or post them to the list-server.

Secretary Thad Coin offered that the last group photo was somewhat dated. Plans for a new Club photo would be made for our best attended event, the Christmas Social.

#### Observing Report

Member Mitch Odess reported spectacular views of the last Shuttle launch (Discovery, STS-131; launch 6:21AM EDT, 4/4/10) through his large binoculars (Garrett® 100mm F/5.3 45° Mk II Binocular). Mitch noted details of the main engine exhaust and that he could actually recognize detail on the orbiter itself. Thad Coin reported capturing video of the exhaust plume as the shuttle proceeded East to Northeast of Wilmington just before sunrise. Other members recalled viewing and video capture of numerous past launches. Member Alan Hilburn had lost count of his many shuttle launch observations. Tom Jacobs had captured a 5-6 minute video of one launch and Thad Coin reports recording solid-fuel booster separation in 2006.

Thad Coin reported a chance view of a small fireball meteor through his North-facing kitchen window at dusk about a week ago. Ron Hawes recalled a similar home-window sighting of a meteor a number of years ago.

#### Next Meeting

Plans were made for the June Meeting to be held again in Dobkin Hall of the UUFW at 7PM, Sunday June 6. Gastronomy will be held at 5:15PM the same day at Szechuan 132, 419 S. College Rd., Wilmington.

At 20:20 President Ronnie Hawes adjourned the business portion of the meeting. There was no program but members spent some time discussing observing techniques, equipment, literature and resources.



News Cluster

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► The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society is June 6, 2010 starting at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wilmington (UUFW for short).



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](http://www.asaw.org.au).

#### Sky Calendar -- June 2010

- 3 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 17h UT (distance 404,266 km; angular size 29.4').
- 4 **Last Quarter Moon** at 22:13 UT.
- 6 **Moon near Jupiter** (morning sky) at 4h UT. Mag. -2.3.
- 7 **Mars 0.8° NNE from Regulus** (74° from Sun, evening sky) at 6h UT. Mags. +1.2 and +1.3.
- 8 **Jupiter 0.44° SSE from Uranus** (77° from Sun, morning sky) at 8h UT. Mags. -2.3 and +5.9.
- 10 **Mercury 5.9° SSE of the Pleiades** (19° from Sun, morning sky) at 16h UT. Mag. -0.4.
- 10 **Moon near Pleiades** (morning sky) at 23h UT.
- 11 **Moon near Mercury** (morning sky) at 1h UT.
- 12 **New Moon** at 11:15 UT. Start of lunation 1082.
- 15 **Moon near Venus** (evening sky) at 4h UT. Mag. -4.0.
- 15 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 15h UT (365,931 km; 32.7').
- 15 **Moon near Beehive cluster (M44)** (evening sky) at 17h UT.
- 17 **Moon near Regulus** (evening sky) at 4h UT.
- 17 **Moon near Mars** (evening sky) at 15h UT. Mag. +1.3.
- 19 **First Quarter Moon** at 4:29 UT.
- 20 **Venus 0.7° from Beehive cluster (M44)** (evening sky) at 20h UT. Mag. -4.0.
- 21 **Moon near Spica** (evening sky) at 1h UT.
- 21 **June solstice** at 11:29 UT. The time when the Sun reaches the point farthest north of the celestial equator marking the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and winter in the Southern Hemisphere.
- 24 **Moon near Antares** (evening sky) at 12h UT.
- 26 **Full Moon** at 11:30 UT.
- 26 **Partial Eclipse of the Moon** from 10:17 to 13:00 UT, mid-eclipse at 11:38 UT. Visible from the Americas, the Pacific and eastern Asia.

28 **Mercury at superior conjunction** with the Sun at 12h UT. The planet passes into the evening sky.

All times Universal Time (UT). USA Eastern Standard Time = UT - 5 hours.

#### This Months Trivia Questions

1. What does the constellation of Puppis represent?
2. What is the name for the extremely bright and energetic objects seen in the distant universe?
3. What is Ceres classified as?
4. What are the four main types of galaxies?
5. What is the name of the largest gap in Saturn's rings?

Answers to be discussed openly at the next meeting and published in the next newsletter.

I would like club members to submit trivia questions to me at: [jguetta@ec.rr.com](mailto:jguetta@ec.rr.com)

CFAS Membership List

TO BE UPDATED SOON

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 ?

2010

June 12 July 11

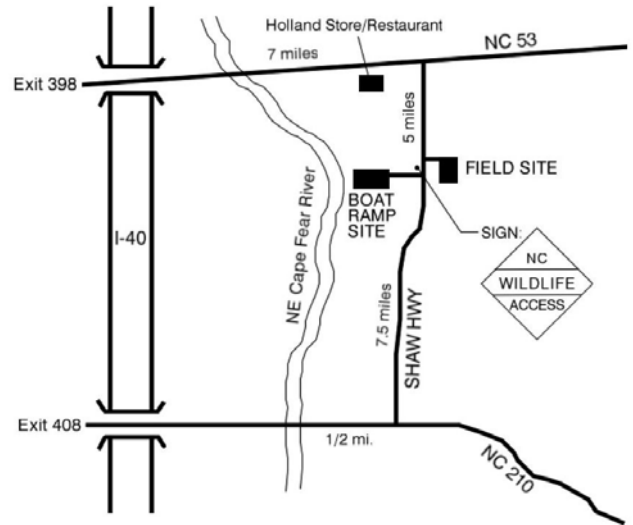
August 10 September 8

October 7 November 6

December 5

Please be cautious of unusual wildlife behavior while observing. A golf

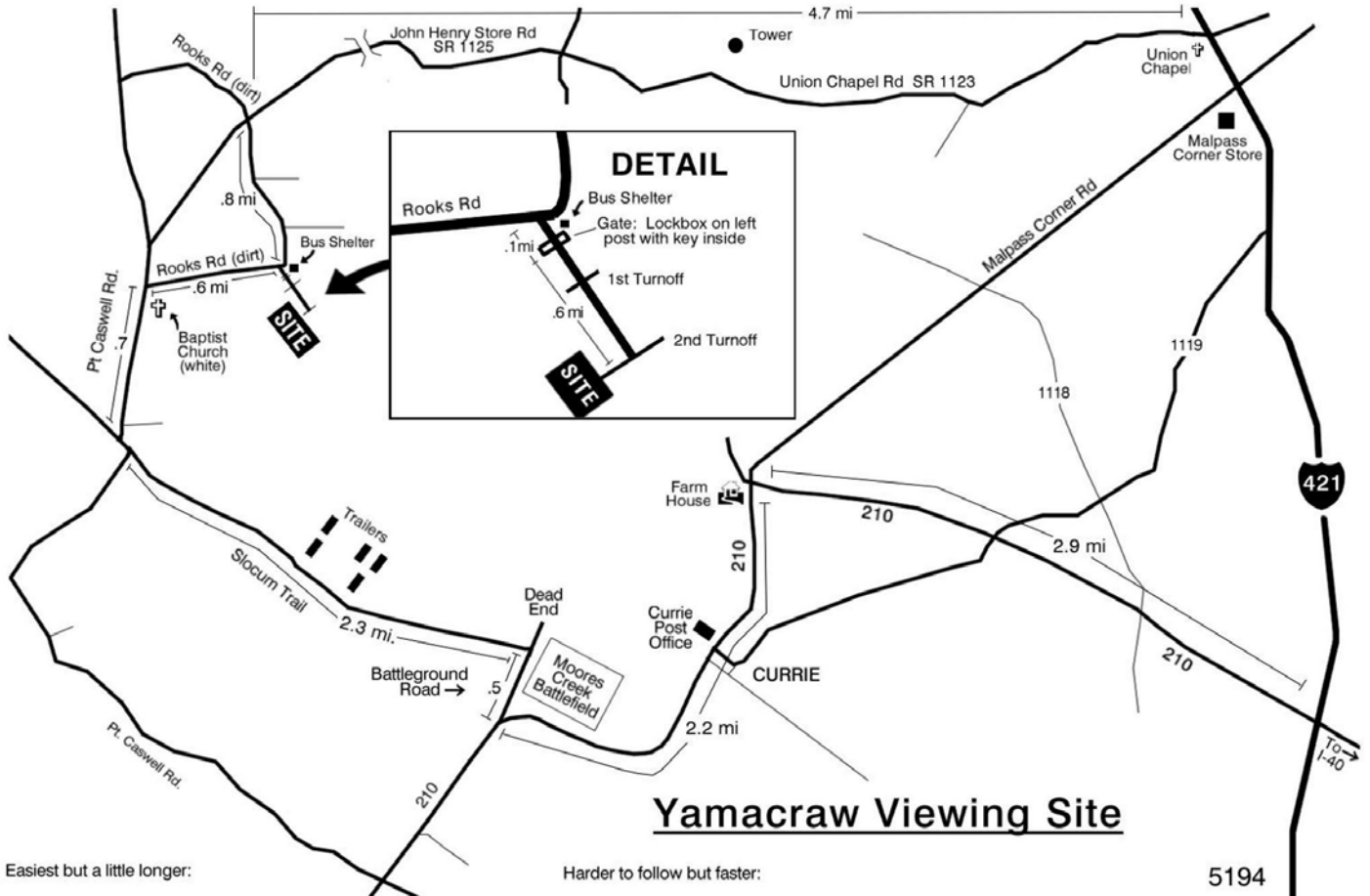
**Holly Shelter Viewing Sites**



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**

5194

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 Battleground, 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.