

Cape Fear Skies

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

A Member Society of the Astronomical League

Volume 2010-3



July 2010

www.capefearastro.org



*This Month's Meeting –
Sunday, July 11, 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.

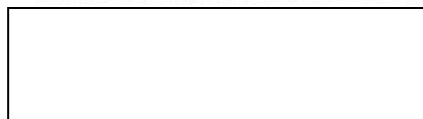
Gastronomy!

Tandoori Bites, the new Indian restaurant
at 1620 S. College Road, Wilmington (5:15pm)



CAPE FEAR SKIES

Editor: Jonathan Guetta
161 Arlington Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28401



Cape Fear Astronomical Society

Meeting Minutes by Ben Steelman - Treasurer

Cape Fear Astronomical Society Wilmington, NC

The Cape Fear Astronomical Society convened for its regular meeting at 7:20 p.m. Sunday, June 6, 2010, at the Wilmington Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, with President Ronnie Hawes presiding.

Ronnie announced that, because of the Independence Day holiday, the next regular meeting would be held on Sunday, July 11.

Ronnie noted that 19 members attended the "Gastronomy" session before the meeting at Szechuan 132. Eventually, the group decided to hold June's Gastronomy at Tandoori Bites, the new Indian restaurant at 1620 S. College Road (the old Wendy's location, not far from the UU Fellowship).

Treasurer Ben Steelman reported the Society was in the black, and that a \$15 check had been cut to Secretary Thad Coin to reimburse him for Internet-related expenses. Ben reported that Astronomical League dues were due June 30. The Society had previously decided, to control costs, to pay for AL membership for the officers. Since the bulletin editor job is vacant, this meant that 2010 dues would be \$47.50. The payment was approved unanimously on a motion by Tom Jacobs.

Ben also noted that the Society had received its Astronomical League ballot -- not a very interesting race, since Carroll Lorg was running unopposed for president and John Jardine Goss, unopposed for vice president.

Jon Guetta apologized for computer problems but said the June newsletter had finally just gone out.

Ronnie reported that he had been in touch with the staff at the Ingram Planetarium in Sunset Beach and had arranged for the Society to hold a daytime telescope clinic there from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 26. As in the past, members of the public would be encouraged to bring their 'scopes, and Society members would advise them and help them with adjustments/instructions/repairs. Society members would be able to catch the planetarium's 5 p.m. show. Ronnie called for volunteers to help with this project.

Rick Jennings brought in a copy of UNCW Arts & Sciences magazine which included a profile of former CFAS secretary Letitia McLaughlin. Letitia, a UNCW alumna, is now a graduate student at N.C. State University, and the magazine reported on her ongoing two-year project to analyze X-ray emissions from a supernova remnant thought to be some 33,000 light-years away.

Tom Jacobs presented the program: an old-school slide show (with real slides) on his trip to Tucson for a Smithsonian "New Astronomies" seminar back in the '90s. This segment focused on his tour of the Seward Mirror Laboratory at the University of Arizona, which was experimenting with rotating kilns to produce parabolic mirrors.

Observing Report

No report

Next Meeting

Plans were made for the July Meeting to be held again in Dobkin Hall of the UUFW at 7PM, Sunday July 11, 2010. Gastronomy will be held at 5:15PM the same day at Tandoori Bites. 1620 College Rd. Wilmington.



News Cluster

► The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society is July 11, 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.

Sky Calendar -- July 2010

- 1 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 10h UT (distance 405,036 km; angular size 29.8').
- 3 **Moon near Jupiter** (morning sky) at 20h UT. Mag. -2.5.
- 4 **Last Quarter Moon** at 14:35 UT.
- 6 **Earth at Aphelion** (farthest from Sun) at 11h UT. The Sun- Earth distance is 1.01670 a.u. or about 152.1 million km.
- 8 **Moon near Pleiades** (morning sky) at 6h UT.
- 9 **Moon near Aldebaran** (morning sky) at 2h UT.
- 10 **Venus 1.0° NNE of Regulus** (evening sky) at 12h UT. Mags. -4.1 and 1.4.
- 11 **Total Solar Eclipse** visible from South Pacific Ocean. Path of totality includes parts of the Cook Islands, Tahiti, Tuamotu Archipelago, Easter Island, and southern Chile and Argentina. Greatest totality (5m 20s) occurs in open ocean at 19:34 UT.
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- 11 **New Moon** at 19:40 UT. Start of lunation 1083.
- 13 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 11h UT (361,115 km; 32.1').
- 14 **Moon near Regulus** (evening sky) at 13h UT.
- 14 **Moon near Venus** (evening sky) at 22h UT. Mag. -4.1.
- 16 **Moon near Mars** (evening sky) at 0h UT. Mag. +1.4.
- 16 **Moon near Saturn** (evening sky) at 14h UT. Mag. +1.1.
- 18 **Moon near Spica** (evening sky) at 6h UT.
- 18 **First Quarter Moon** at 10:11 UT.
- 21 **Moon near Antares** (evening sky) at 20h UT.
- 26 **Full Moon** at 1:37 UT.
- 27 **Mercury 0.3° SSW of Regulus** (25° from Sun, evening sky) at 22h UT. Mags. +0.1 and +1.3.
- 29 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 0h UT (distance 405,955 km; angular size 29.3').
- 31 **Moon near Jupiter** (morning sky) at 2h UT. Mag. -2.7.
- 31 **Mars 1.8° SSW of Saturn** (evening sky) at 6h UT. Mags. +1.5 and +1.1.

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

This Months Trivia Questions Submitted by Tom Jacobs

What is the gegenschein?

Has the gegenschein appeared on stage with "Fozzie Bear" ?

Should you expect to find the gegenschein drooling under your bed?

Which is easier to see: the gegenschein; the Loch Ness monster; or the Abominable Snowman.

If someone claims to have seen the gegenschein, dare you believe them?

Would you expect to see the gegenschein after the "Witching Hour"?

If you were going to lead a gegenschein hunt, what conditions will be required for a successful hunt?

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

*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*

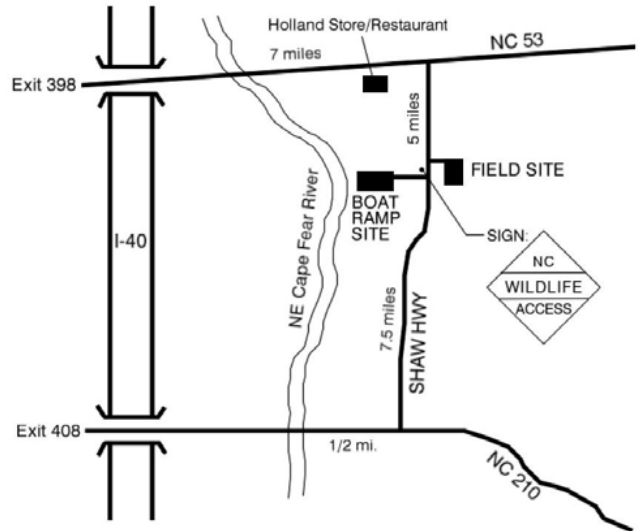
Group Viewing Sessions 5194

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 ?

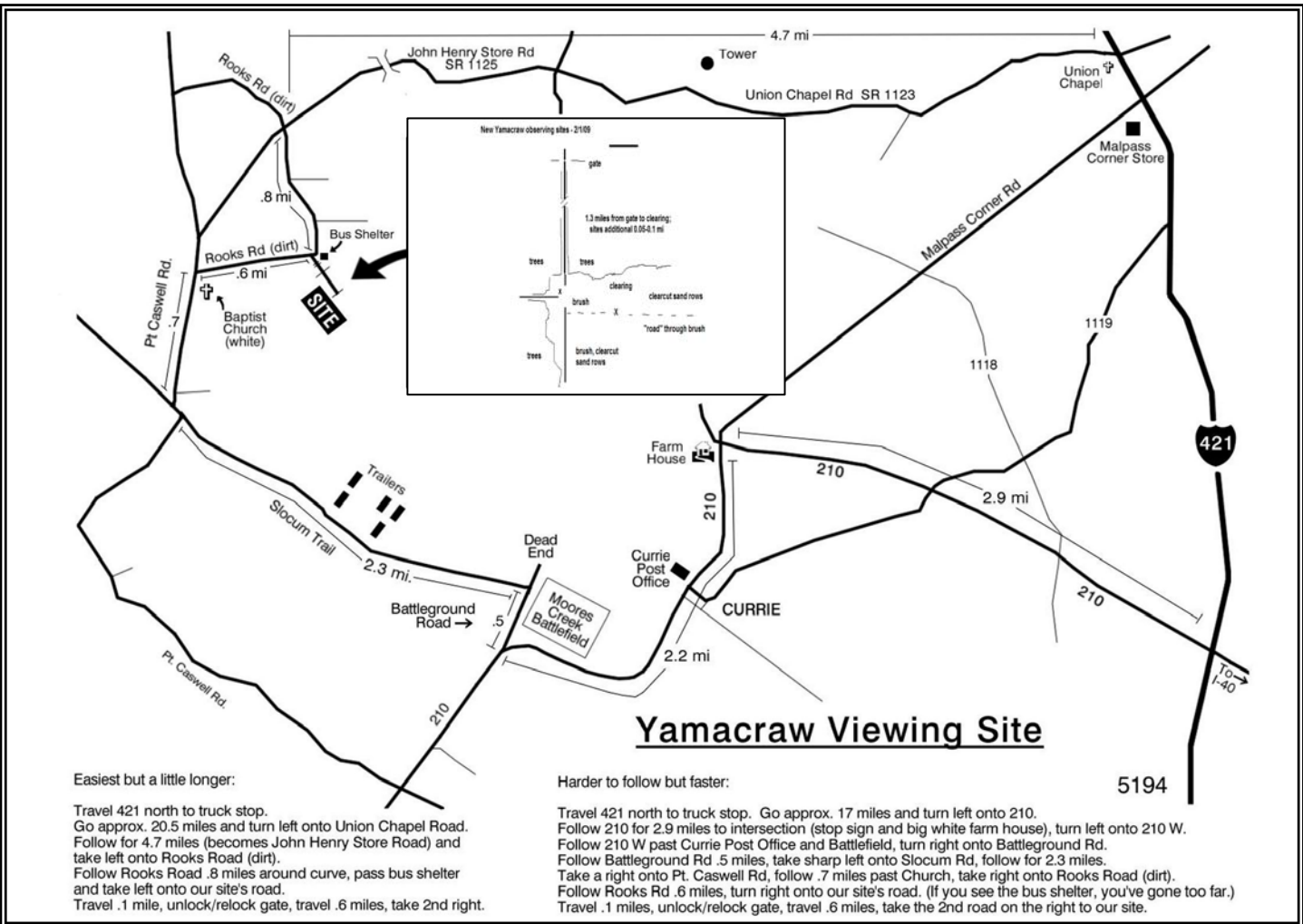
2010
June 12 July 11
August 10 September 8
October 7 November 6
December 5

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.



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.