

Cape Fear Skies

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

A Member Society of the Astronomical League

Volume 2010-4



August 2010

www.capefearastro.org



*This Month's Meeting –
Sunday, August 1, 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.

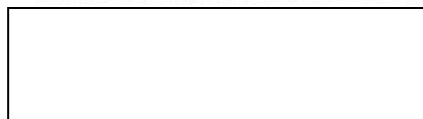
Gastronomy!

Outback Steakhouse, the new Indian restaurant
at 302 S. College Road, Wilmington (5:15pm)



CAPE FEAR SKIES

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161 Arlington Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28401



Cape Fear Astronomical Society

Meeting Minutes by Thad Coin - CFAS Secretary

Cape Fear Astronomical Society Wilmington, NC

The business portion of the CFAS February meeting was commenced by a call to order by President Ronnie Hawes at 19:10 on July 11, 2010 in a classroom of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wilmington (UUFW). Attending were 11 members and 2 guests, Jackie Farrow (new owner of a 6 inch Newtonian interested in club activities) and George Garner (friend of Treasurer, Ben Steelman and member of the Mars Society, who will be presenting the program this evening).

Officer's Reports

Treasurer Ben Steelman reported on the membership list, dues collections, and bills paid.

Old Business

President Ron Hawes reported on a successful, though sparsely attended telescope clinic at the Ingram Planetarium, Sunset Beach, NC. Ron, Skip, Mitch and Doug participated in the afternoon clinic then attended an evening planetarium program. Another clinic and public viewing program was planned for the Fall or Winter. It was noted that the Planetarium has a nice selection of telescopes that may be used.

New Business

Member Tom Jacobs led a discussion surrounding his trivia question published in this month's newsletter: "What is the gegenschein?" The nature of this phenomenon which is German for "counterglow" as back-scatter of sunlight at the anti-solar point in the night sky was discussed and contrasted with Zodiacal light. Gegenschein appears as a hazy patch of light about the size of twice the full moon as opposed to the more expansive Zodiacal light which is often mistaken for light pollution. Tom reported observing gegenschein at the Holly Shelter site in the 1990's.

Member Bob Fetterman complimented the selection of the new Indian restaurant Tandoori Bites where members enjoyed the informal "Gastronomy" gathering earlier this evening.

At 20:00 President Ronnie Hawes adjourned the business portion of the meeting. Treasurer Ben Steelman brought publications of the National Space Society for review at the Break. The Program, packaged by the Mars Society of Robert Zubrin's "Getting to Mars Faster and Cheaper" was supplied by Guest George Garner.

Observing Report

Member Mitch Odess and President Ronnie Hawes reported a rich observing session at Mitch's house the night of July 3,4. An unusual-for-July strong cold front had pushed through the area July 1-2 producing spectacularly clear, dry, and sometimes steady skies only partly washed out by a last-quarter Moon. While Ron, Mitch and Mitch's neighbors enjoyed a whirlwind, partial Messier Marathon and beautiful views of Saturn courtesy of Ron's immense experience and Mitch's go-to mount, Secretary Thad Coin noted the unusual apparition of the Milky Way within Wilmington's suburban skies and 3 consecutive nights of astrophotography in his backyard (processed images to follow later). A nice selection of meteors was reported. There was discussion of ISS sightings.

Next Meeting

The August meeting was planned for 7 PM Sunday, August 1st at the UUFW. "Gastronomy" would convene beforehand at 5:15 PM at the Outback Steak House on College Road. Member Steve Erlewine would bring a Learning Company DVD titled "Understanding the Universe for the program.



News Cluster

► The next meeting of the Cape Fear Astronomical Society is August 1, 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 -- August 2010

- 3 **Last Quarter Moon** at 4:59 UT.
- 7 **Mercury at greatest elongation**, 27° east from Sun (evening sky) at 1h UT. Mag. +0.1.
- 8 **Venus, Mars and Saturn within 4.8° diameter circle** (47° from Sun, evening sky) at 7h UT. Mags. -4.2, +1.5 and +1.1.
- 8 **Venus 2.7° SSW of Saturn** (evening sky) at 11h UT. Mags. -4.2 and +1.1.
- 10 **New Moon** at 3:08 UT. Start of lunation 1084.
- 10 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 18h UT (357,857 km; 33.9'). Perigee is only 15 hours after New Moon so high tides are expected.
- 12 **Moon near Mercury** (27° from Sun, evening sky) at 0h UT. Mag. +0.6.
- 12 **Perseid meteor shower** maximum predicted between 12 Aug 18h UT & 13 Aug 7h UT. An earlier peak is predicted 9-14h UT on 12 Aug. Active from July 17 to August 24. Produces swift, bright meteors (50 to 100 per hour) many with persistent trains. Very favorable this year for this major shower. Skywatchers in North America should observe in the pre-dawn hours of 13 August.
- 13 **Moon near Saturn** (evening sky) at 2h UT. Mag. +1.1.
- 13 **Moon near Venus** (evening sky) at 8h UT. Mag. -4.3.
- 13 **Moon near Mars** (evening sky) at 14h UT. Mag. +1.5.
- 14 **Moon near Spica** (evening sky) at 16h UT.
- 16 **First Quarter Moon** at 18:14 UT.
- 18 **Moon near Antares** (evening sky) at 0h UT.
- 19 **Venus 1.9° SW of Mars** at 5h UT. Mags. -4.3 and +1.5.
- 20 **Venus at greatest elongation**, 46° east from Sun (evening sky) at 4h UT. Mag. -4.3.
- 24 **Full Moon** at 17:05 UT.
- 25 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 6h UT (distance 406,389 km; angular size 29.7').
- 27 **Moon near Jupiter** (morning sky) at 5h UT. Mag. -2.9.
- 31 **Venus, Mars and Spica** within 4.2° diameter circle (47° from Sun, evening sky) at 12h UT. Mags. -4.4, +1.5 and +1.0.

All times Universal Time (UT). USA Eastern Summer Time = UT - 4 hours.

This Months Trivia Questions Submitted by Tom Jacobs

What is the "Name" the closest star to the Earth?

What is the "Name" the galaxy closes to Sol?

What was the "Name" of the galaxy closest to Sol at the start of the current millennium (January 2001)?

What was the "Name" of the galaxy closest to Sol twenty years ago (1990)?

What galaxy was thought to be the closest galaxy to Sol before the discovery of the CMa Dwarf in 2003?

What galaxy was though to be the closest galaxy to Sol before the discovery of the Sig Dwarf Elliptical Galaxy (SigDEG) in 1994?

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

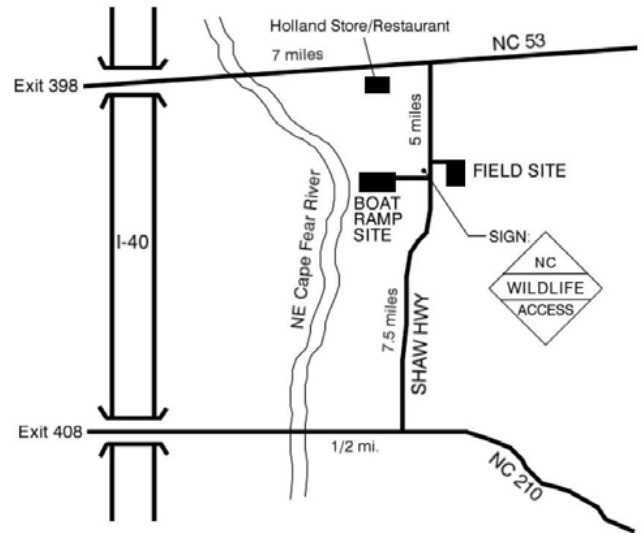
August 10 September 8

October 7 November 6

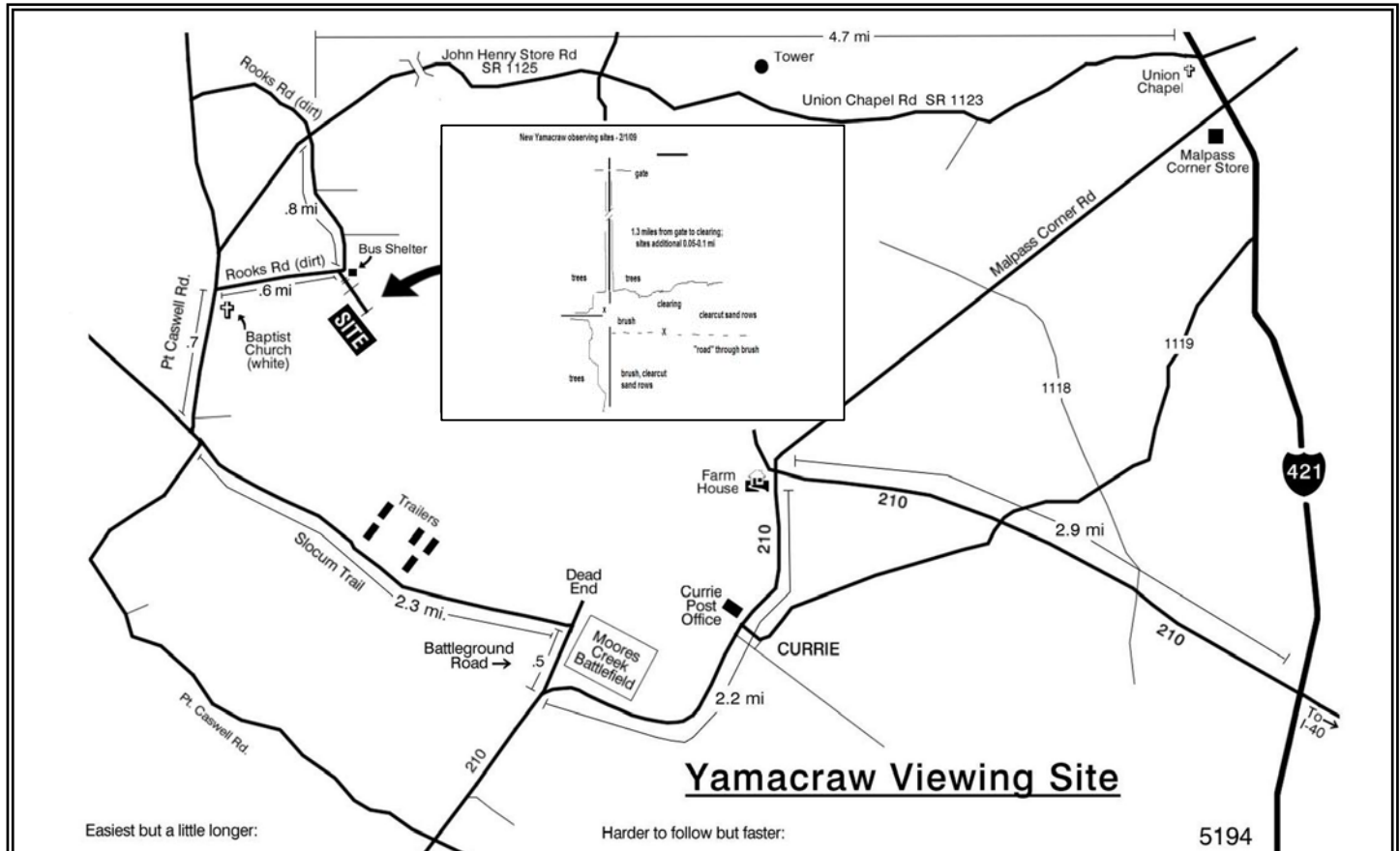
December 5

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.



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