



Monthly Newsletter
Cape Fear Astronomical Society
Serving Wilmington, NC and Surrounding Areas

CAPE FEAR *Skies*

November 2024

Cape Fear Astronomical Society is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

President's Message

by Ben Steelman

Just a reminder:

Nominations for officers will again be open at the November meeting.

Voting will take place at the December Christmas party.

Keep Looking Up!

HELP!

The position of Vice President is Open.

The rest of this article is personal opinion and personal.

We are all getting older and some of us are already there. I don't have the stamina nor the tolerance for adversity I used to have. I might do a little yard work and, after a much shorter while than in the past, I have to take a long break.

If the club does not get some new members to take Officer positions, it grows old and stale and can lose members for that reason.

If you think the club is run by the "Old Guard", this is your opportunity. It's also your opportunity if you think it's time for you to give back. Really, with Jon taking care of Outreach and finding Presentations for Meetings, Vice President is the easiest job – chairing a Meeting when the President is unable and I don't know when the last time that was.

Please seriously consider it!



Calendar

The full club calendar is available at <https://www.capefearastro.org/calendar.htm>

November 6

Monthly SIG (Special Interest Group) via Zoom

November 10

★ Cape Fear Astro Monthly Meeting ★

GAStronomy Meeting - 5 PM

(Dinner, prior to the Monthly Meeting)

McAlister's Deli

740 South College Road

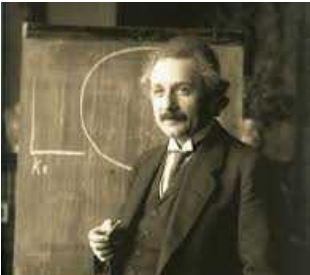
Wilmington, NC 28403

CFAS Monthly Meeting

7:00pm – 9:00pm - 212 DeLoach Hall; UNCW

Roger Blake will present "Relativity (No-Math version)"

Also simulcast via Zoom



November Meeting Presentation

Roger Blake will present "Relativity (No-Math version)", an introduction to Relativity without math.

Lots Going On Here

Karl,

I went last weekend to the Crystal Coast Astronomical club's outing to the Cape Lookout Lighthouse for a presentation. This is a pic I took of the Milky Way and the Lighthouse. The comet is in the picture in the left corner above Venus. If you can do your magic on it <Done!>, you can use it in your newsletter. I know it's not as good as the other pictures club members take, but maybe you can present it as an amateur's. Anyway, I had a wonderful time, clear skies, nice breeze, and warm temperatures

Becky



Becky,

I like it, with the lighthouse sharp and clear and the comet easy to see.

I think you should be happy with it!

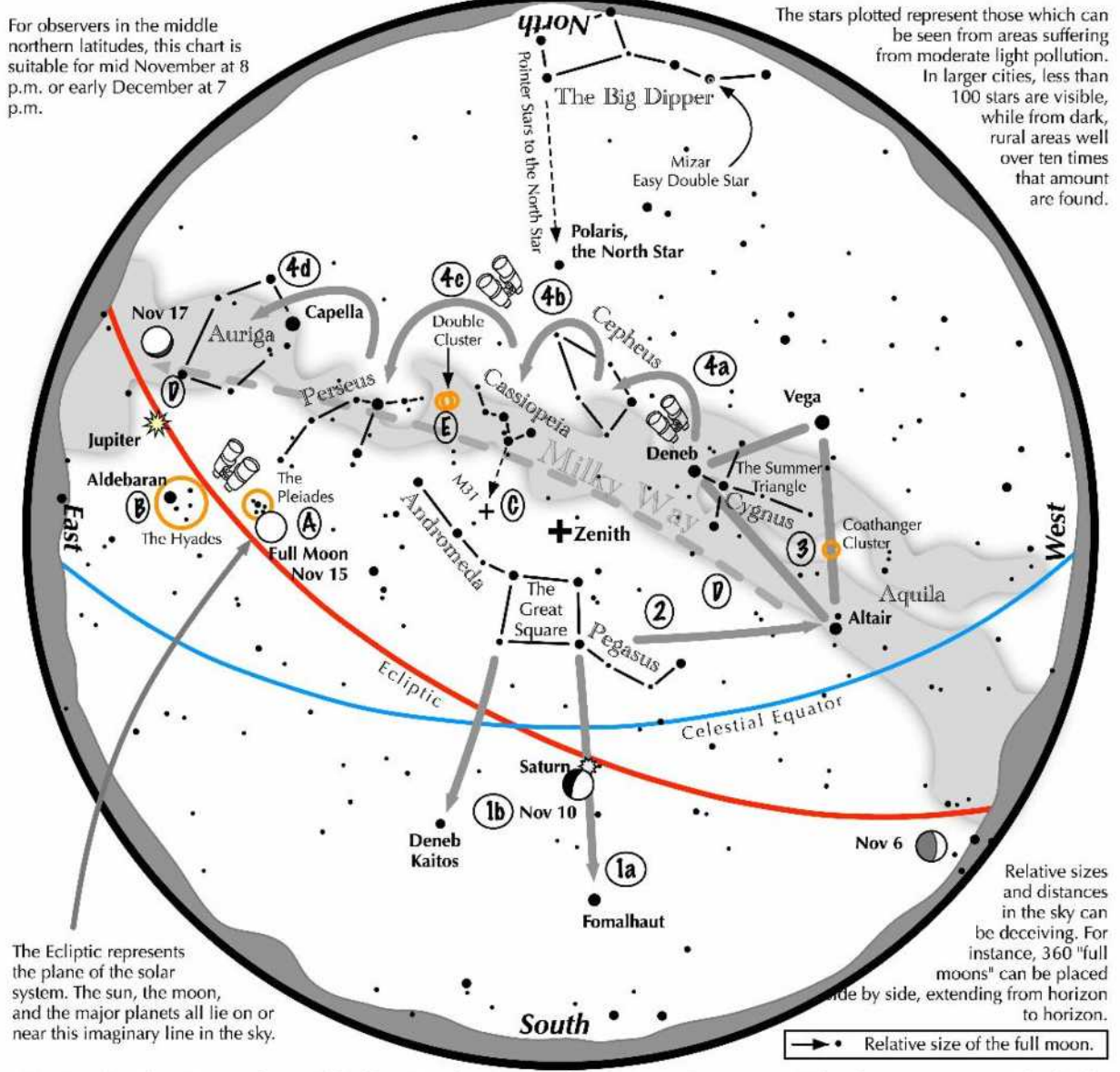
Thanks for letting us see it,

Karl

Navigating the November Night Sky

For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart is suitable for mid November at 8 p.m. or early December at 7 p.m.

The stars plotted represent those which can be seen from areas suffering from moderate light pollution. In larger cities, less than 100 stars are visible, while from dark, rural areas well over ten times that amount are found.



The Ecliptic represents the plane of the solar system. The sun, the moon, and the major planets all lie on or near this imaginary line in the sky.

→ • Relative size of the full moon.

Relative sizes and distances in the sky can be deceiving. For instance, 360 "full moons" can be placed side by side, extending from horizon to horizon.

Navigating the November night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Face south. Almost overhead lies the "Great Square" with four stars about the same brightness as those of the Big Dipper. Extend a line southward following the Square's two westernmost stars. The line strikes Fomalhaut, the brightest star in the south. A line extending southward from the two easternmost stars, passes Deneb Kaitos, the second brightest star in the south.
- 2 Draw a line westward following the southern edge of the Square until it strikes Altair, part of the "Summer Triangle."
- 3 Locate Vega and Deneb, the other two stars of the Summer Triangle. Vega is its brightest member, while Deneb sits in the middle of the Milky Way.
- 4 Jump along the Milky Way from Deneb to Cepheus, which resembles the outline of a house. Continue jumping to the "W" of Cassiopeia, then to Perseus, and finally to Auriga with its bright star Capella.

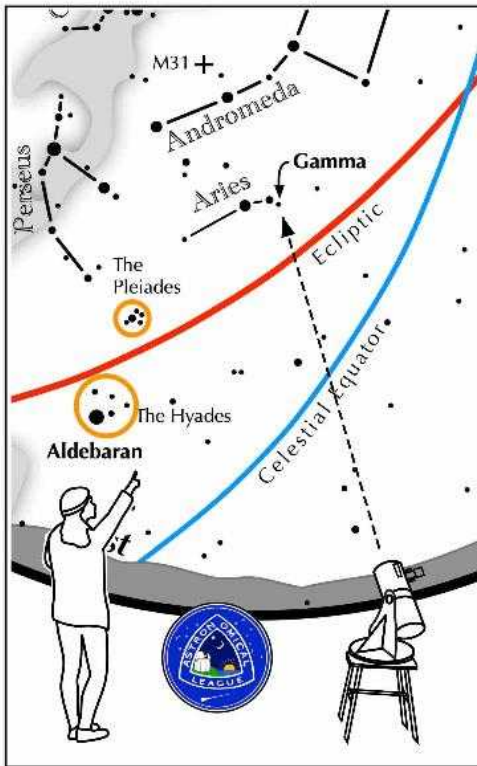
Binocular Highlights

A and B: Examine the stars of the Pleiades and Hyades, two naked eye star clusters. **C:** The three westernmost stars of Cassiopeia's "W" point south to M31, the Andromeda Galaxy, a "fuzzy" oval. **D:** Sweep along the Milky Way from Altair, past Deneb, through Cepheus, Cassiopeia and Perseus, then to Auriga for many intriguing star clusters and nebulous areas. **E:** The Double Cluster.



Astronomical League www.astroleague.org/outreach; duplication is allowed and encouraged for all free distribution.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE Double Star Activity



Other Suns: Gamma Arietis

How to find Gamma Arietis on a November evening

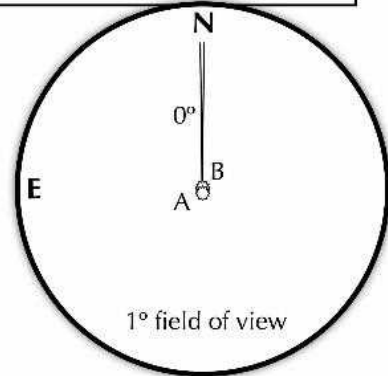
Face east. Locate the Pleiades. Aries lies to its upper right about the same distance that it is from the Hyades. Gamma is a dim star at the end of the string of stars that form Aries.

Suggested magnification: >50x
Suggested aperture: >2 inches

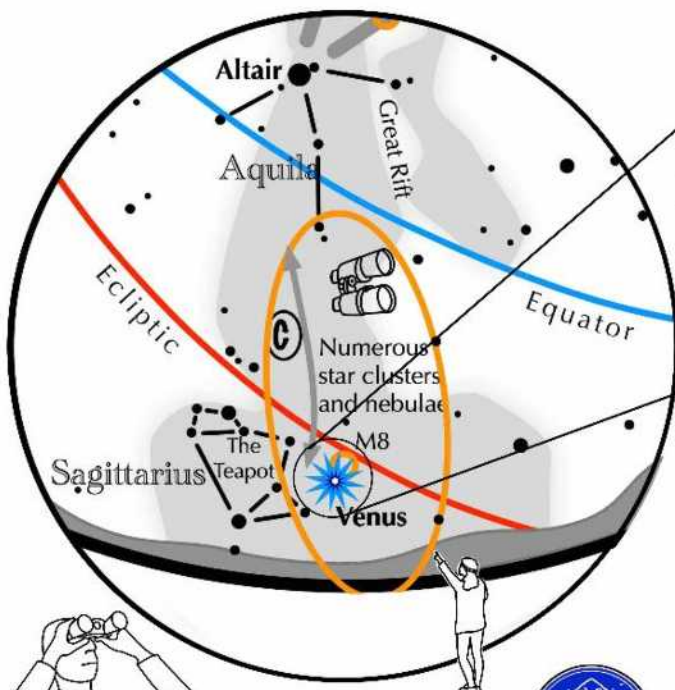
Gamma Arietis

A-B separation: 7.5 sec
A magnitude: 4.5
B magnitude: 4.6
Position Angle: 0°
A & B colors:
white, white

Also known as the "Ram's Eyes."



If you can observe only one evening celestial event this month, consider this one:



View through 10x50 binoculars

Venus reveals celestial treasures

Look to the south-southwest 75-90 minutes after sunset.

- On November 11 & 12, look for Venus low in the south-southwest. It will be the brightest object in the area.
- Use binoculars to view Venus. To its immediate upper right, subtly glows a nebulous star cluster, M8, nicknamed "the Lagoon Nebula" (4100 L-Y distant).
- To the upper right of M8 dimly glows another star forming nebula and cluster, M20, called "the Trifid Nebula" (5200 L-Y distant).

South-southwest
75 minutes after sunset
on Nov. 11 & 12.



Get to Know YOUR Astronomical League



The Astronomical League (Astroleague or AL) is one of the largest amateur astronomical organizations in the world. The organization serves to encourage an interest in astronomy (especially amateur astronomy) and promote the science of astronomy by:

- ✓ fostering astronomical education;
- ✓ providing incentives for astronomical observation and research;
- ✓ assisting communication among amateur astronomical societies.



CFAS is one of over 300 member societies affiliated with the Astroleague. Your membership in CFAS allows you take full advantage of this relationship so periodically review the information below to see how the Astroleague can support your astronomical interests and endeavors.

Astroleague Home Page	www.astroleague.org
About the Astroleague	https://www.astroleague.org/about-us/
AL Observing Programs <i>(Alphabetical Listing)</i>	https://www.astroleague.org/alphabeticobserving/
Night Sky Tools	https://www.astroleague.org/navigating-the-night-sky-guides/
Astroleague Store	https://store.astroleague.org/
Current and Past Issues of <i>Reflector Magazine</i>	https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/
Additional AL News, Information and Reminders	<p>Click HERE for the Astroleague News Page and be sure to check the Astroleague Home Page weekly for new and important posts.</p> <p>Contact Hank Lyon, hlyon8448@gmail.com, for any changes to your Reflector delivery preferences (US Mail, Email or Both).</p>

The Astroleague Correspondent (or ALCor) is your link between CFAS and the Astroleague. Don't hesitate to contact your ALCor if you need assistance with anything Astroleague related whether its general information or detailed coordination of observing program completions for certification. Check back each month to see any new links, postings or reminders.

Copyright © 2024 Cape Fear Astronomical Society. All rights reserved. For permission requests, write to the Society, addressed "Attention: Permissions Coordinator," at the address below.

CFAS Correspondence:

Please contact the society at: CFAS, P.O. Box 7685, Wilmington, NC 28406

Members are welcome and encouraged to submit articles or other input for "CAPE FEAR SKIES". Submit any and all interesting items for publication to Karl Adlon, Editor (email kmja79@yahoo.com).

Cape Fear Astronomical Society is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

CFAS Officers:

President: Ben Steelman
 Vice-Pres: Karl Adlon
 Associate VP: Jon Stewart-Taylor
 Secretary: George Pappayliou
 Treasurer: Bill Cooper
 ALCor: Hank Lyon

Dues: Dues for 2024 are \$25 for Individual and \$32 for Family Membership. Students dues are \$5 per year.

Mail to: CFAS, P.O. Box 7685, Wilmington, NC 28406

Contact Us:

You can contact CFAS at info@capefearastro.org

Our website is <http://www.capefearastro.org/>