

# SCAS Coal Sack

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC., MIAMI, FLORIDA

BRINGING ASTRONOMY TO YOU SINCE 1922

JULY / AUGUST 2008

## SUMMER WORKSHOP

SCAS Public Event

-Barb Yager

**SATURDAY, JULY 19th**, SOUTHERN CROSS ASTROS will conduct a free Equipment Workshop, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Bill Sadowski Park SW 176th Street/SW 79th Avenue. Several qualified SCAS Astros will help members and the public correct problems with equipment: adjustment, alignment, collimation, assembly, repair and maintenance in the classroom of Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Center. Our regular public Star Party will follow around 8 pm on the observation deck to arrange and test your telescopes. Convenient parking nearby. B.Y.O.Picnic (outdoors) or snacks, beverages and folding chairs. Dress appropriately in jeans, layered top and use at least 25% DEET repellent. NO LITES, litter, pets or alcohol allowed in the Nature Preserve.



*What Happened?* SCAS member Walter Lukac, NY, at WSP 08.

WEATHER PERMITTING--- a Full MOON and three planets will be visible before 9 pm: MARS & SATURN low in the west--bright golden JUPITER (recently past opposition to the Sun) rising in the southeast--maybe PLUTO 13.9 magn. in the south. Constellations: Scorpius & Sagittarius (center of Milky Way Galaxy) contain a myriad of shimmering star clusters and nebulas in the south; the Summer Triangle and Cygnus the Swan overhead; Big Dipper in the northwest. Colorful double stars may be seen in Cygnus & the Dipper.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9th** will be the next SCAS Summer Workshop at Sadowski Park when a First Quarter MOON will occur. The Park's Summer Camp ends August 15th.

Since FIU has changed to a 4-day week during its Summer Semesters, rooms are being repainted, cleaned and repaired every Friday. Classes are scrunched into Mon.-Thur. until Fall classes begin Monday, August 25th. SCAS public programs are expected to resume Friday, September 19th in the FIU Physics Building, CP-145, SW 109 Avenue/SW 8th Street. SCAS safe solarviewing at MetroZoo 10-Noon Saturdays and SCAS Saturday Nite Live Public Star Parties 8 pm, Sadowski Park, remain on schedule--WEATHER PERMITTING! For sudden updates, changes or cancellations, call SCAS Hotline: 305-661-1375.

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## THE COAL SACK

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Material for the Coal Sack must be submitted to the Editor by the 25th of the month prior to publication.

Please use e-mail when possible.

**Change of Address:** Please notify Managing Editor Barb Yager with change of address or other membership information.

### SOUTHERN CROSS STARGAZER

Check the larger SOUTHERN CROSS STARGAZER in the Sunday Tropical Life section M.  
24th year in the Miami Herald by Barb Yager.

## SCAS PERSONNEL

President	Lester Shalloway, M.D.	439-6711
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Nick Stingone	247-3054
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Tim Khan	301-9946
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Vickie Van Ryn	248-2683
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Librarian	Mohan Sundaram	924-6521
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Membership .	SCAS	661-1375
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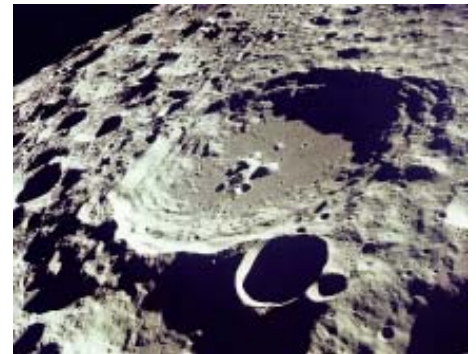
### WINTER STAR PARTY

Founder	Tippy D'Auria	mdauria-r@retiree.mdc.edu
Director	Tim Khan	301-9946
Registrars	Fred & Lucille Heinrich	386-362-5995

## HISTORIC SPACE EVENTS

### JULY

- 4th- 1054 Crab Nebula Supernova was first seen from China.
- 1997 Mars Pathfinder landed on Mars
- 2005 Deep Impact probe smashes into Comet Tempel 1.
- 9th- 1979 Voyager-2 flew past Jupiter
- 2008 Jupiter lies opposite the Sun!
- 14th- 1965 Mariner-4 first flyby of Mars
- 16th- 22nd 1994 Comet Shoemaker-Levy-9 smashed its 24 flaming chunks into Jupiter.
- 17th- 1850 First photo of a star (Vega) was taken.
- 20th- 1969 Apollo-11 brings American astronauts safely to & from the Moon.
- 23rd- 1999 Chandra X-ray Observatory launched
- 28th- 1851 First photo of a total solar eclipse taken.
- 29th- 1958 NASA was founded.



Nasa image: Lunar Farside from Apollo 11

### AUGUST

- 10th- 1990 Magellan radar mapped Venus.
- 11th- 1877 Deimos, moon of Mars discovered.
- 17th- 1877 Phobos, moon of Mars discovered
- 24th- 1989 Voyager-2 flew past Neptune.
- 25th- 1981 Voyager-2 flew past Saturn
- 2003 Spitzer Infra Red Observatory was launched.
- 28th- 1789 Wm.Herschel discovered Enceladus, moon of Saturn.

## CLASSIFIED

LIKE NEW!!! 8" f/4.9 Baytronix (same as Orion) telescope only. Collimating screws seem to be glued from the factory! \$150.00  
EYE-PIECES LIKE NEW!! 3 unnamed Plossl eye-pieces: 10mm, 20mm, 30mm. \$30. ea.

READY TO GO---Celestron 102mm Spotting Scope. Wide view---like new!  
Eye-pieces: 25mm and 10mm; diagonal; 8x20 finderscope.Celestial/terrestrial.ONLY \$175.  
Contact Charlie- 954-816-3654  
cmperillo@bellsouth.net

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to TIPPY D'AURIA, SCAS Winter Star Party founder (1983)! Astronomical League President Terry Mann presented the 2007 Astronomical League Award to TIPPY at the 2008 Winter Star Party for his continuous work in astronomy outreach (he was unable to attend and receive the award at the League's 2007 Conference). A great photo of TIPPY is featured on P.2 of the June AL Reflector magazine. TIPPY is also a founding board member of Astronomy Outreach network and an advisor for the Meade 4M Community. Asteroid 11378 Dauria was named in his honor....BOB TORRES was featured in a Miami Herald photo article P.1 of the Metro section June 4th. BOB has discovered several migrating birds from Europe and other areas flying around the Old Cutler shore. He often is a birding guide for the S. Florida chapter of Tropical Audubon Society....LEE & SYLVIA BALTIN, Key Biscayne, are spending the cool summer at their new condo in New Jersey...DR. MORT CONNOR (retired cardiologist) & charming wife BARBARA (professional musician) enjoy attending the Symphony concerts and plays. Recently MORT entertained dozens of residents in his condo with a superb astronomy program, using his telescope, discussing space exploration and showing the planets in the Spring sky on the waterfront terrace at Williams Island, Aventura. MORT is hoping to initiate a few medical seminars at FIU North Campus...TERRY RIPINGILL rides in the Annual Bicycle Event round trip to the FL Keys to support Muscular Dystrophy. He is training and doing triathlons on Key Biscayne...RIC & GAIL BABCOCK, Salinas, California are planning to run

in two summer marathons: the Sundance Marathon, late July, and the Grizzly Marathon outside Glacier National Park, Montana, in August...MANNY CASTRO returned safe and sound from his long vacation drive to the Utah Mts. He encountered severe storms which shredded his tent, but on rare nights the skies were "awesome"...following their wedding at Signature Gardens June 22nd, PAUL & MARGI BUSCHER cruised to Cozumel, Mexico on their honeymoon...JUDY ELKINS, popular art teacher at Miami Sunset High, was a very proud Mom at her daughter DANIELLE' s Sunset H.S. graduation June 6th held at the University of Miami. She will study art at Miami-Dade Kendall Campus. JUDY's younger daughter CHANTAL played in the school orchestra at her sister's graduation. JUDY was also a chaperone at her daughter's Senior Prom....DR. DON PARKER will lecture at the Annual Astronomical League Convention (ALCON), Des Moines, Iowa later in July. He will be accompanied by TIPPY & PATTY D'AURIA, Ocala and DR. BARB HARRIS, New Smyrna Beach, Florida...ORLANDO CHIRINO, psychology instructor at Keiser College, in Kendall, is co-host on Spanish WQBA-AM Radio 5 hours Saturday midnight-dawn Sunday while they discuss all topics including astronomy and physics. He also participates on WLRN-TV Channel 17 Spanish programs Sunday afternoons...RUSS HARCHA, physics instructor at Miami Killian High School will spend next year at FIU. Following an orientation in Edmonton, Canada, RUSS will teach and supervise the new group of aspiring science instructors in an education course, FIU Dept. of Physics, University Park 2008-2009.

# JULY/AUGUST 2008 ALMANAC HILITES

## JULY-

NEW MOON	Wednesday	2nd	10:19 p.m.
FIRST QTR.	Thursday	10th	12:35 a.m.
FULL MOON	Friday	18th	3:59 a.m.
LAST QTR.	Friday	25th	2:42 p.m.

## MORNING SKIES-

1st- 5:30 a.m. MERCURY reaches highest altitude in the east, near waning MOON.

2nd- Dawn brings the mid-point of 2008.

4th- EARTH at aphelion--farthest from the SUN (94.5 million miles) at 4 a.m.

9th- JUPITER lies opposite the SUN at 4 a.m., 481, 231, 619 miles from EARTH. Brilliant Jupiter, surrounded by its 4 closest Moons, visible all night, sets in SW at dawn.

27th-By 2 a.m., DELTA AQUARID METEORS- minor shower radiates SE at 15 per/hr. About 5 a.m., waning crescent MOON rises in the east above the Pleiades cluster.

The Sagittarian Teapot follows Scorpius into SW.

Bright JUPITER glows near the lid of the Teapot.

Blue NEPTUNE lies on eastern edge of Capricornus in south, followed by blue-green URANUS in Aquarius.

Vega leads the Summer Triangle into NW.

Cygnus the Swan (within the Triangle) becomes the Northern Cross.

The Great Square of Pegasus drifts westward.

The Royal Family in north: King Cepheus, Queen Cassiopeia, Andromeda & Perseus.

Bright Capella guides Auriga, Charioteer higher in NE.

Aries the Ram leads Taurus the Bull, Seven Sisters and Aldebaran in the Hyades cluster higher in the east.

30th-At dawn, Gemini Twins rise above the old MOON in NE.

Orion, Hunter, lies on the eastern horizon.

## EVENING SKIES-

1st- By nightfall, dim MARS floats 3/4 degree above Regulus in Leo in the west.

3rd- At dusk, Saturn glows above Mars and brighter Regulus. Gemini Twins sit on the NW horizon. Young MOON rises briefly left of the Twins.

6th- By nightfall, the young MOON w/Earthshine, float near the celestial lineup.

9th- At sunset, JUPITER rises in SE in Sagittarius, opposite the SUN--brightest and closest to EARTH. (see above).

MARS nudges SATURN, 0.7 degree apart, in westbound Leo the Lion.

12th Bright MOON leads Scorpius across the south.

21st- In twilight, MARS lies at top of lineup--SATURN in middle and Regulus below. Bright VENUS rises briefly on the NW horizon.

30th- Rare celestial lineup low in west: MARS above SATURN; Regulus at bottom; bright VENUS hugs the NW horizon.

The Big Dipper swings into NW.

Arcturus sparkles west of Zenith.

LEO the Lion stalks the western horizon.

Hercules bring Vega & Summer Triangle higher in east. Cygnus soars within the Triangle.

Spica, in Virgo, twinkles in SW.

Scorpius crawls across the south, followed by the Sagittarian Teapot.

The Summer Milky Way (River of Stars) arches from the Teapot to the Triangle.

About midnight, NEPTUNE rises in SE in Capricornus, followed by URANUS in Aquarius.

Pegasus appears on the eastern horizon.

## AUGUST- 2 New Moons

NEW MOON	Friday	1st	6:13 a.m.
FIRST QTR.	Friday	8th	4:20 p.m.
FULL MOON	Sat.	16th	5:16 p.m.
LAST QTR.	Sat.	23rd	7:50 p.m.
NEW MOON	Sat.	30th	3:58 p.m.

## MORNING SKIES-

JUPITER sets in Sagittarius in SW before dawn.

12th- PERSEID METEOR SHOWER intensifies after MOON set at 1:30 a.m. Glittering debris from the tail of Comet Swift-Tuttle may produce over 50 per/hr. in a dark sky before dawn. PERSEIDS may be visible prior and after the peak Tuesday a.m.

15th- NEPTUNE in Capricornus, lies opposite the SUN at 4 a.m. and sets in SW at dawn.

URANUS glows in Aquarius in the south.

1st- Winter constellations fill the eastern skies: Taurus the Bull climbs toward Zenith bringing star clusters Pleiades and Hyades. Gemini Twins rise in NE as Orion reclines on the eastern horizon. Bright Capella guides Auriga, Charioteer, higher in NE.

The Royal Family dominates the north: King Cepheus, Queen Cassiopeia, Andromeda and Perseus. The Great Square of Pegasus drifts westward.

By mid-month brilliant Sirius rises in SE. Procyon sparkles low in the east.

28th-thin crescent MOON rises near Beehive cluster below the Twins in east by dawn.

## EVENING SKIES-

2nd- By nightfall, a celestial cluster shimmers low in the west: MARS climbs up toward Spica in Virgo--SATURN shines above the very young crescent MOON--Regulus in Leo lies between the MOON and bright VENUS.

9th- MERCURY appears on the western horizon above Regulus. Bright JUPITER glows in SE near the Sagittarian Teapot. MOON leads Scorpius across the south.

15th- NEPTUNE rises in SE in Capricornus after sunset and sets in SW at dawn.

18th-MOON near URANUS in SE.

19th-Use binoculars on MERCURY 1 degree from SATURN low in the west.

The Big Dipper lies in NW.

Bright Arcturus sparkles in the west.

Spica, in Virgo, slides lower in SW.

Westbound Hercules leads Vega and the Summer Triangle overhead.

The Great Square of Pegasus clears the eastern horizon.

Late evening, URANUS rises in SE in Aquarius.

Cassiopeia appears in the NNE.

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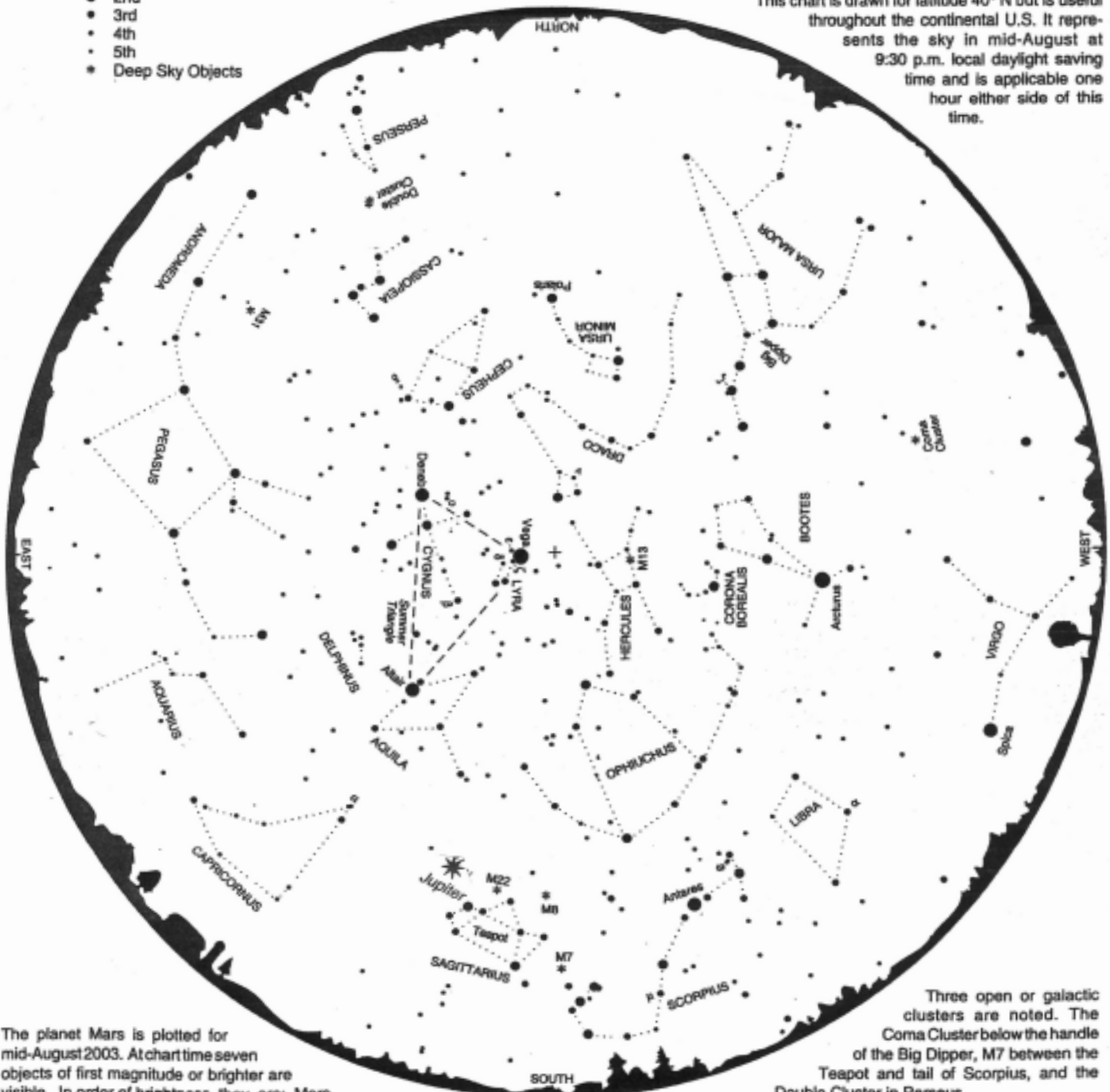
# August Evening Skies

**LEGEND**  
Star Magnitudes

- Zero or brighter
- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- Deep Sky Objects

© 2003 Abrams Planetarium  
Subscription: \$10.00 per year, from *Sky Calendar*,  
Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University,  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1324.

This chart is drawn for latitude 40° N but is useful throughout the continental U.S. It represents the sky in mid-August at 9:30 p.m. local daylight saving time and is applicable one hour either side of this time.



The planet Mars is plotted for mid-August 2003. At chart time seven objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Mars, Arcturus, Vega, Altair, Antares, Spica, and Deneb.

Our usual monthly maps are designed for stargazers just beginning to find their way around the sky. This month's map is useful for serious stargazing from dark locations. It contains many more stars, inclusive to magnitude 4.5, and some fainter stars as needed to complete patterns or assist in locating special objects.

A selection of double stars (labeled with Greek letters) and "deep sky objects" is also plotted. All are visible with modest equipment; most are within the range of the unaided eye or binoculars.

The double stars, in order of decreasing angular separation, are  $\omega$  Sco,  $\zeta$  UMa,  $\delta$  Lyr,  $\alpha$  Cap,  $\mu$  Sco,  $\circ$  Cyg,  $\alpha$  Lib,  $\epsilon$  Lyr,  $\nu$  Dra,  $\zeta$  Lyr, and  $\beta$  Cyg.

Three open or galactic clusters are noted. The Coma Cluster below the handle of the Big Dipper, M7 between the Teapot and tail of Scorpius, and the Double Cluster in Perseus.

Two globular clusters, more compact concentrations of hundreds of thousands of stars, can be found: M13 in Hercules and M22 in Sagittarius.

M8 in Sagittarius is the Lagoon Nebula, a gas and dust cloud from which stars are forming. M31 is the famous Andromeda Galaxy. It is barely visible as a hazy spot to the unaided eye.

## EVENTS

### NATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY-

**Saturday, May 10th-** SCAS members celebrated the annual event along the Florida east coast. At the Miami Science Museum SCAS President Lester Shalloway & Mike Smith attracted lines of visitors for safe solarviewing in front of the Museum. The Lobby was filled with a vast display of SCAS/NASA/IDA exhibits, astrophotos taken by our talented members and live views of actual solar activity on a monitor and tons of interesting information. Barb Yager was assisted by Jose Cardozo, Mohan Sundaram and new member Tom Schepis. In the auditorium, Lester presented a basic astronomy awareness program, showcased SCAS, including problems caused by urban light pollution. Dr. Don Parker, renowned SCAS astronomer, captured the audience with his great knowledge of planetary research and space missions.

The NE Florida Astronomical Society, Jacksonville, held the event at the Florida Community College in Jacksonville, featuring several SCAS speakers: Tippy D'Auria- Volcanoes; Dr. Barbara Harris - Observing Variable Stars; Tippy was the keynote speaker who entertained the SRO audience with his topic: Milky Way. Former SCAS guest speaker Dr. Mike Reynolds presented: Returning To The Moon.

**Saturday May 17th-** the Brevard Astronomical Society in Cocoa celebrated their event at the Brevard Community College with a huge exhibit of telescopes, displays, solar & celestial observing and lectures by Tippy D'Auria and Dr. Don Parker, SCAS guest speaker Russell Romanella, NASA Director of Shuttle Payload and lovely wife Dr. Fiorella Terenzi. Stargazer Jack Horkheimer presented the evening keynote program.

**Friday, 16th-** the group was given a grand VIP tour of the NASA facilities at: Kennedy Space Center which was described as pretty awesome!

**Sunday, 18th-** Thanks to our SCAS members Brett & Colleen Shinn, Biscayne Park, who anchored the large table of SCAS exhibits at the Annual Greynolds

Park Love-In--a gathering of vendors, organizations, with games and programs for kids, concerts, food and old-fashioned fun. About 100 visitors stopped at our SCAS table during the afternoon event.

### FAMILY DAY for MILITARY FAMILIES-

**Sunday June 8th-** SCAS members were invited to participate in the Annual Family Day hosted by the Friends of Military Families at the Keys Gate Country Club, Homestead.

The volunteer group assists families from the Southern Command and Homestead Reserve Base with housing, financial, medical, school and employment problems. SCAS Astros: Steve Van Ryn and Mike Smith held safe solarviewing at the country club entrance while Vickie Van Ryn and Barb Yager staffed the table of SCAS information and a DVD monitor. The building was filled with dozens of military personnel, games for kids, food & music.

### FREE STAR PARTIES-

**Saturday, June 28th-** SCAS members Brett & Colleen scheduled a public Star Party, 8:30 pm, N. Miami--Biscayne Park, NE 9th Court/NE 114th Street.

**Wednesday, July 9th-** Key West Fest at FIU, 8-11 pm, Physics Building CP-145, University Park. FIU astronomers invite you to their Annual Key West Style Star Party with Margaritaville music, fresh Key Lime Pies, non-alcoholic margaritas, astronomy updates, hi-tech telescopes on the new observation deck and fun under the summer stars!

**Saturdays-** SCAS Saturday Nite Live Astro Team, 8 pm, to show 3 evening planets, Moon, and spectacular summer deep sky objects from their popular outdoor SCAS Observation Deck in Bill Sadowski Park, SW 176 St./SW 79 Ave.

# MEMORIES.....

## Winter Star Party 2008



Welcome to Winter Star Party 08! (US 1 FL Keys)



Busy SCAS volunteers at the WSP



Ready for Tropical Winter Skies



SCAS members Judy & Len Espinosa, MI, relaxing at Boondoggle's, FL Keys

## New Mexico Trip



Tim Khan, Vickie & Melissa Van Ryn a frosty morning in NM.



The Van Ryn Family at White Water Canyon, NM.



Gigantic VLA Radio Telescopes, Socorro, NM



HANG ON! Vickie launches Steve down a sandy slope