

SCAS COAL SACK

EDUCATING SOUTH FLORIDA SINCE 1922

APRIL 2006

FLORIDA'S NIGHT SKIES April Public Program

-Barb Yager

Have you ever seen celestial photo-imaging that resembles a fine arts painting?

FRIDAY, APRIL 21st, SCAS proudly presents premier speaker and a very talented, new SCAS member BILL WILLIAMS, M.D., Boca Raton presenting: "EXPLORING FLORIDA'S FABULOUS NIGHT SKIES". His passion for Nature (wilderness hiking, scuba diving along coral reefs, or scanning the seasonal skies) is captured in his beautiful celestial images that portray composition and lighting of a fine arts painting. A "celestial artist" BILL uses state-of-the-art technology and webcams, instead of brush and canvas, to paint the subtle beauty that lies above the horizon. He considers deep-sky imaging a challenge like no other and takes advantage of South Florida's steady air and southerly latitudes to capture ancient starlight.

He is building an observatory at the Chiefland Astronomy Village in N. Florida to facilitate his imaging and house his 'astrotoys.'! Recalling the good old days of astronomy yesteryear using cold cameras and gas-hypered film, he realizes this is the very best time to be involved in amateur astronomy.

Photographers, astronomy faculty and students will benefit from our outstanding FREE April 21st public program, 8 pm, hosted by SCAS members in the FIU Astronomy Center, Physics Bldg., CP-145, NE area of University Park. Meet our distinguished speaker BILL WILLIAMS, FIU faculty, SCAS Astros, enjoy our food buffet, lively discussions, and YOU might win a door prize! Park in the large lot at SW 109th Ave./SW 8th Street, directly opposite the FIU Physics Bldg. Accessible to the disabled. Call: 305-661-1375.

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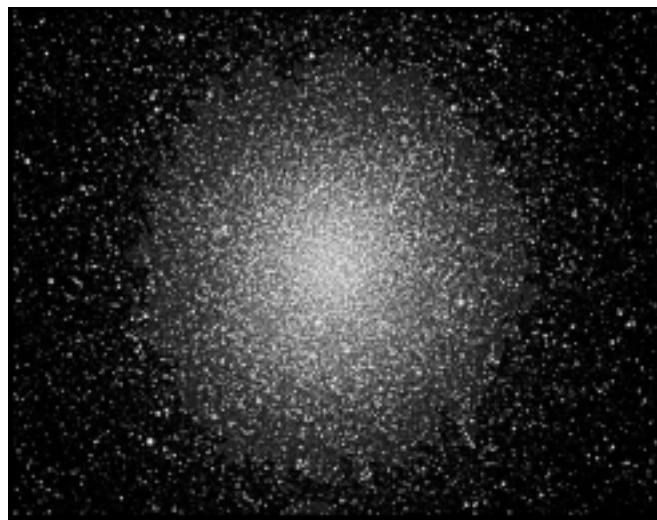
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BILL'S lecture will include discussion of the fantastic level of amateur astronomy activity, unique opportunities and challenges in the state of Florida, and showcase people and places that make astronomy in Florida so special. BILL is a practicing physician at North Broward Medical Center, Deerfield Beach going on 25 years. He is Director of their Medical Lab, Chief Pathologist and physician advisor to the hospital's Comprehensive Cancer Center. Florida has been his home since 1979. At his doorstep are coral reefs aplenty and stars so plentiful and bright that they reflect off the ocean.



Globular Star Cluster Omega Centauri (NGC5139), taken with 6-inch refractor @ f/7, with SBIG SIL-11K CCD camera; 1 hour 45 minute exposure @ -10C through Astrodon RGB filters; Feb 24, 2006 - WSP. Photo by Bill Williams.

FOR SCAS/NASA NEWS
CALL THE 24-HOUR
HOTLINE:
305 661-1375
OR VISIT THE
NEW SCAS WEB SITE:
[HTTP://WWW.SCAS.ORG](http://WWW.SCAS.ORG)

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.

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Check the larger SCAS STARGAZER now in the Thursday Miami Herald's Tropical Life section, by Barb Yager, now in its 22th year!

APPRECIATION

As President of the Southern Cross Astronomical Society of Miami, Florida, I want to thank Orion Telescopes & Binoculars Support Group for going well beyond normal customer support.

Thank You.

Lester Shalloway, M.D.

President, SCAS

CLASSIFIED

NEW WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER

Please visit Coal Sack editor Lisa Merritt's new website, www.pegasuswriter.com, and sign up for our free monthly newsletter for non-profits and fundraising professionals, or browse our ebook selection.

NEW EYE-PIECE SALE! University Optics MK-70, 2" 40mm eye-piece. \$150. Vixen Lanthanum 2" or 1 1/4" 17mm eye-piece, 65 degree field. \$150. Call Chris: 305-776-1559 anytime.

THE ART OF COLLECTING METEORITES, an in-depth 232-pg. entertaining guide-book with color photos and references by astronomer/explorer Kevin Kitchinka who describes this exciting and educational hobby based on his adventures in the Andes and his friendships with renowned scientists and collectors. Only \$10.00 ! Call: 305-661-1375.

SUPER IMAGING OFFER!

Do you have top-quality solar/celestial images & photos? SCAS member LARRY APPLE, President, Associated Photo & Imaging, 19 SW 6th Street (near Miami River) has offered to enlarge your color graphics to any size (including large wall murals) FREE! Pls contact LARRY: larrya@apimaging.com or 305-373-4774/ 305-495-7709 (cel).

Send in your classified ads to PegasusLM@earthlink.net or BarbYager@aol.com

MARCH EVENTS

-Barb Yager

A sincere thanks to the organizations that invite our friendly SCAS Astros to their special events who bring an awareness of our spectacular skies to thousands of kids and adults: Boy Scouts of America, MetroZoo Campout, Aero Modelers of Perrine, Cape Florida State Park staff and South Florida National Parks. And a great round of applause to our loyal SCAS Astros who haul hi-tech equipment from one end of Miami-Dade County to the other!

Tropical Star Party...Re-scheduled-
Friday March 10th on a breezy, partly cloudy evening, dozens of visitors arrived to enjoy spectacular views of Orion's Nebula, Saturn, Mars, star clusters and a bright Moon in the hi-tech equipment arranged by Manny Castro, Sergio Figuera, Russ Harcha, Jim Rose, Nick Stingone, Andres Valencia Family, Steve Van Ryn Family and Barb Yager. The dark sky and sparkling skyline of Coconut Grove and Miami (no mosquitoes) and the peaceful environment make Bill Baggs State Park a very special location.

AMPS-
Saturday 11th, SCAS experts arrived at the flying field for the special day/evening event hosted by the Aero Modelers of Perrine who fly their remote-

controlled aircraft up to great altitudes. AMPS members: Tim Khan, Jim Rose and Herm Perez were joined by Nick Stingone, Lester Shalloway with solar-viewing and Mike Smith. A buffet and Star Party for more than 50 folks continued until late evening.

Boy Scout District Jamboree-
Saturday 18th- several Boy Scout Troops gathered at Camp Everglades for their Annual Family event. This year their theme was Space with rocket-building programs and a Star Party with hi-tech equipment set up by SCAS members: Dave Schaffner, scout counselor, Tim Khan, Jim Rose, Mike Smith, Steve & Vickie Van Ryn for about 100 scouts, families and counselors.

MetroZoo Campout-
Saturday 18th, 150 folks thoroughly enjoyed the SCAS Star Party, the highlight of their Annual Catnap CampOut, deep in the backyard of MetroZoo. SCAS Astros: Manny Castro, Margaret & Kurt Maanchen, Carlos & Michelle Zuniga also had a 'blast' with so many kids who were very well behaved.

A grateful thanks to SCAS Astros who helped me at Sadowski Park, Saturday 18th: Ashley Stevens, Sergio Figuera, Roberto Rodriguez, Ximena Maureira and a few visitors who brought 'scopes. About 100 visitors kept us all pretty busy!

DONORS at WSP 2006 Clubs and Companies

SCAS, host of the popular Annual Winter Star Party, is sincerely grateful for the generous donations that make our world-renowned Winter Star Party so exciting and successful:

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| APM Telescope | JMI | Willmann-Bell Publishers |
| Astronomy Magazine | Lumicon | Robert Reeves- Jim Burnell-R. Scott Ireland |
| Astronomy Shoppe | Meade Instruments Corp. | Wolf Camera |
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| J.J. Biggs | Vernon Scope | |

APRIL ALMANAC AT A GLANCE

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------|--|
| FIRST QTR. | Wednesday, 5 th | 8:01 a.m. | Leo the Lion crawls across the Zenith. |
| FULL Egg MOON | Thursday, 13 th | 12:40 p.m. | Westbound SATURN glows near the Gemini Twins. |
| LAST QTR. | Thursday, 20 th | 11:28 p.m. | The Big Dipper hangs in the NW—its 'bowl' always faces |
| NEW MOON | Thursday, 27 th | 3:44 p.m. | Polaris, North Star. |

Capella guides Auriga, Charioteer, lower in the NW

SUNRISE: 7:00am (mid-month) SUNSET: 7:48pm DST

SOLAR ACTIVITY INCREASES

MORNING SKIES-

Brilliant VENUS rises in Aquarius about 5 a.m. in the SE.
 8th- Turquoise-colored URANUS lies 1/2 degree to the right of VENUS.
 At dawn, tiny MERCURY reaches highest altitude, to lower left of VENUS.
 Golden JUPITER glows in Libra in the west.
 Dim MARS sets soon after midnight.
 SATURN, in Cancer, sets in the west around 3 a.m.
 17th- MOON leads huge Scorpius into the SW.
 19th- MOON floats across the Sagittarian Teapot, in the south.
 24th- The waning MOON meets URANUS & VENUS in the SE.
 26th- As dawn breaks, the MOON glides left of MERCURY. Pegasus, Winged Horse, rises higher in the east.
 Vega, in Lyra the Harp, leads the Summer Triangle onto the Zenith.
 Cygnus, Flying Swan, soars within the Triangle.
 The Big Dipper swings low in the NW.
 Scorpius slinks into the SW, followed by the Sagittarian Teapot.
 Capricornus, Sea Goat, rises high in the SE.
 LYRID METEOR SHOWER- glittering debris from Comet Thatcher, may be visible 16-25th, and hits peak activity in the predawn of the 22nd, possibly 15/hour.

EVENING SKIES-

1st- New crescent MOON glides across the Pleiades (Seven Sisters) star cluster.
 6th- The MOON cruises near SATURN.
 12th- MARS reaches its northernmost point, near Gemini, and sets after midnight.
 13th- Full MOON floats near Spica in Virgo in the east.
 14th- Mid-evening, Moon rises in the east near JUPITER in Libra.
 16th- By midnight, the MOON escorts Scorpius higher in the SE.
 The Seven Sisters lead Taurus the Bull toward the NW horizon.
 Orion, Hunter, stretches across the west in pursuit of the Bull.
 Bright blue Sirius sparkles in the collar of the Orion's Big Dog in the SW.
 Procyon, Little Dog, sparkles between Sirius and SATURN.
 29th- The young MOON rises in the NW, above 2 star clusters: Pleiades & Hyades.

Moon Set/Rise Table for APR / MAY

| Date (m/d) | Moon Rise | Moon Set |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| 15/4/2006 | 21:50 | 7:55 |
| 16/4/2006 | 22:51 | 8:35 |
| 17/4/2006 | 23:53 | 9:21 |
| 18/4/2006 | — | 10:14 |
| 19/4/2006 | 0:53 | 11:15 |
| 20/4/2006 | 1:48 | 12:19 |
| 21/4/2006 | 2:38 | 13:26 |
| 22/4/2006 | 3:22 | 14:32 |
| 23/4/2006 | 4:01 | 15:38 |
| 24/4/2006 | 4:38 | 16:42 |
| 25/4/2006 | 5:13 | 17:47 |
| 26/4/2006 | 5:49 | 18:52 |
| 27/4/2006 | 6:26 | 19:58 |
| 28/4/2006 | 7:07 | 21:05 |
| 29/4/2006 | 7:52 | 22:12 |
| 30/4/2006 | 8:43 | 23:15 |
| 1/5/2006 | 9:39 | — |
| 2/5/2006 | 10:37 | 0:12 |
| 3/5/2006 | 11:36 | 1:03 |
| 4/5/2006 | 12:33 | 1:46 |
| 5/5/2006 | 13:28 | 2:24 |
| 6/5/2006 | 14:21 | 2:57 |
| 7/5/2006 | 15:12 | 3:26 |
| 8/5/2006 | 16:03 | 3:54 |
| 9/5/2006 | 16:54 | 4:22 |
| 10/5/2006 | 17:47 | 4:50 |
| 11/5/2006 | 18:42 | 5:20 |
| 12/5/2006 | 19:41 | 5:54 |
| 13/5/2006 | 20:42 | 6:32 |
| 14/5/2006 | 21:45 | 7:17 |

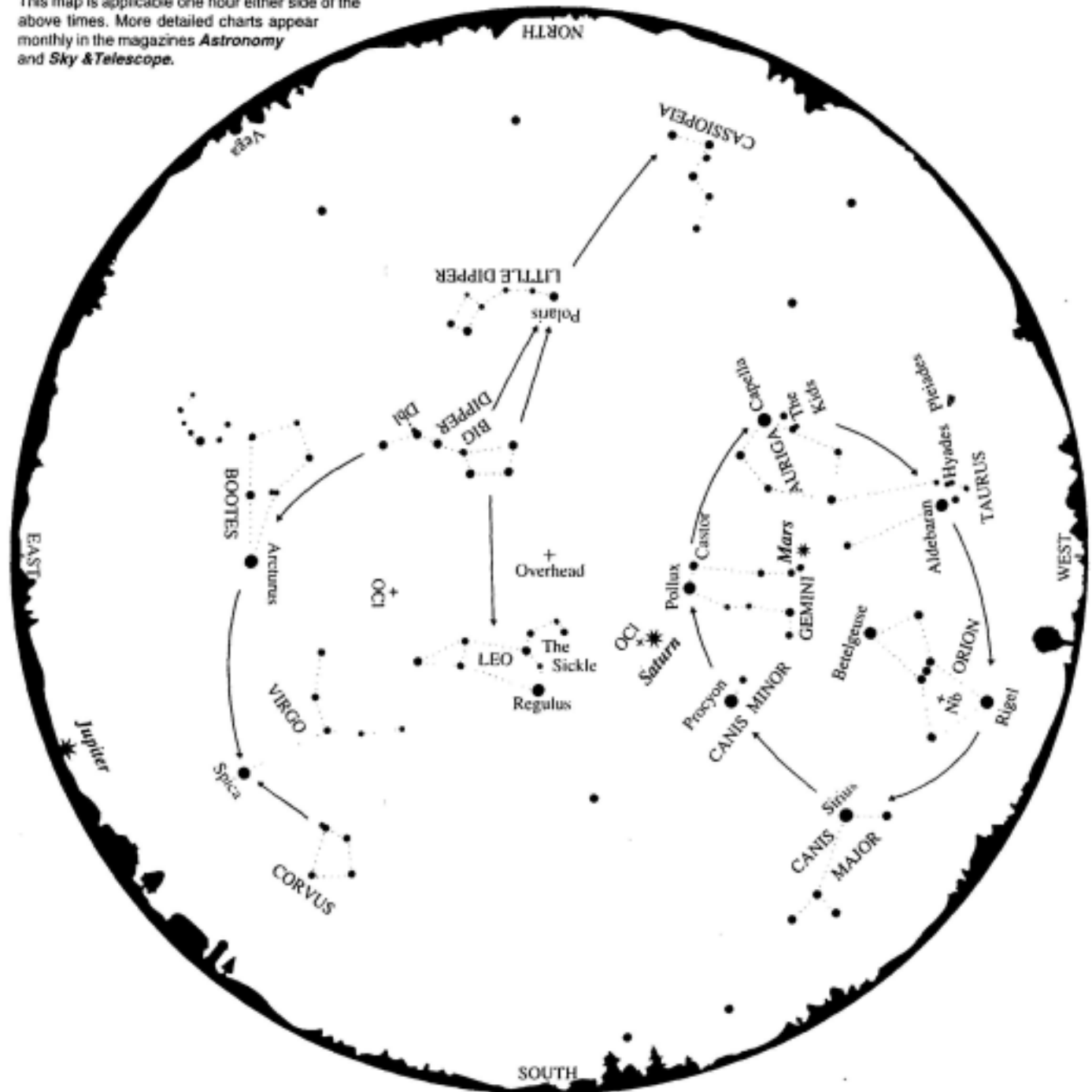
April Evening Skies

This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local standard times:

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Late March | 10 p.m. |
| Early April | 9 p.m. |
| Late April | 8 p.m. |

© 2006 Abrams Planetarium
 Subscription: \$11.00 per year, from *Sky Calendar*,
 Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University,
 East Lansing, MI 48824-1324.

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above times. More detailed charts appear monthly in the magazines *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope*.



The planets Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn are plotted for mid-April 2006. At chart time 14 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Jupiter, Sirius, Arcturus, Vega, Capella, Rigel, Saturn, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Spica, Pollux, Regulus, and Mars. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (Dbl) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper is

easily detected. The famous Orion Nebula, a cloud of gas and dust out of which stars are forming, is marked (Nb) in that constellation. The open or galactic star cluster (OCI) known as the "Beehive" can be located between the Gemini twins and Leo. Coma Berenices, "The Hair of Berenice," is another open cluster (OCI), between Leo and Bootes. Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch

WSP 2006 PICTURES



Keyhole Nebula (NGC 3372) surrounding variable star
Eta - Carina

Taken with 6-inch refractor @ f/7, with SBIG SIL-11K CCD camera; 26 minute exposure @ -10C through Astrodon RGB filters; Feb 24, 2006. Photo by Bill Williams.



Running Man Nebula (NGC 1977) embedded in
molecular cloud - Orion

Taken with 6-inch refractor @ f/7, with SBIG SIL-11K CCD camera; 6 hour exposure @ -10C through Astrodon IRGB filters; Feb 19-20, 2006. Photo by Bill Williams.



Deep Nebulosity of the Sword of Orion

Taken with 6-inch refractor @ f/7, with SBIG SIL-11K CCD camera; 6 hour exposure @ -10C through Astrodon IRGB filters; Feb 19-20, 2006. Photo by Bill Williams.

Night sky above WSP. Photo by Bill Williams.



WSP 2006 PICTURES



Double Team!

M63 (above left) and M81 (above right). These images were first light for Scott Ireland's new Canon digital Rebel XT (Hutech modified). They were taken on Tim Kahn's 8-inch f/9 TEC refractor.



Survivors of the storms! (above)

Girl Scout camp is recovering, thanks to Mother Nature and our dedicated SCAS volunteers (above right).

WSP crowd enjoys the awards ceremony (right). Photos by SCAS member Len Espinosa, photography instructor at E. Lansing Comm. College, MI.



FL KEYS ASTRO CLUB

APRIL 1, 21 & 22, 28 & 29th- Members and the public are invited to meet astronomers from the Florida Keys Astronomy Club in Bahia Honda State Park at dusk, for free evening celestial observing. Bring your telescope or relax and enjoy the spectacular Spring dark skies in FKAC hi-tech equipment. For sudden changes, call FKAC Pres. George Tegzes 305-872-9848 or www.fkac.com. APRIL 8th- EARTH DAY CELEBRATION- Bahia Honda State Park, all day and evening .
FKAC/SCAS volunteers needed for safe solarviewing for morning & afternoon sessions.



This photo is of the Carina and Vela region. I used a 50 mm Super- Takumar at f4 lens on my "frankencamera". I have cut the front end off of a Nikkormat, and added a mount for my very old Pentax lenses. The shot was guided for a 30 minute exposure with my homemade hinge type tracking platform. The film is Fujicolor Superia asa 400. weather for a while in hope of horizon, and last Sunday night it all the way to Cuba. To shield from behind the bridge approach at the state park. It helps to be friends park programs have made them come out to chat early in the night. during the long tracking periods. sures that night. It was cold in the car and turned on the heat problem here since the floods. All photofinishers in Key West are at CVS drugstore and scanned to disk. The problem is the low quality of their scanner. It looks like a digital camera is going to be in my future, but money is very tight. Pentax makes a camera now that can be adapted to my quiver of lenses. I will send you some other shots soon. Thanks for the interest. George Tegzes, FKAC



I had been watching the getting a clear southern blew clear hard from the north the formidable winds, I set up old Bahia Honda bridge in the with the rangers there; our very pro astronomy. They It is nice to have company I was able to get in 8 expo- enough that once I had to get to warm up. There is a new of the professional gone. I got the film processed

SCAS SHINING STARS

-Barb Yager

We honor the continuing community work by our unsung SCAS heroes:
Light Pollution Solution- MICHELLE WISNIEWSKI, Cudjoe Key, is a well-known professional nature photographer, and the President of the Association for Disabled Americans. Although disabled, she has been the "firecracker" igniting the LIGHT POLLUTION problem in the Lower Keys. Thanks to Michelle, (FKAC member) a succession of meetings were held with the Pedestrian Action Committee (PAC) Keys Energy System, City of Key West, George Tegzes President of the Florida Keys Astronomy Club, and others to discuss and finally approve, changing the hurricane-damaged city and highway lighting to the 90-degree cut-off down-shielded fixtures which now extend from Key West to the Seven-Mile Bridge. Last month, Keys Energy reported that more than 600 down-shielded fixtures had been installed of the 800 street lights damaged by Hurricane Wilma, October 2005. This will increase the safety level by night drivers, reduce wild life

casualties, and light intrusion at the SCAS Winter Star Party, Summerland Key, and other regional star parties. Hats off to Michelle and may she score many more "home runs!"

Annual MS Bike Ride- TERRY RIPINGILL hopes to participate in his 6th annual Breakaway To Key Largo 150-mile round trip bike ride to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society on May 6-7th. The ride begins at Miami-Dade College Kendall campus to John Pennekamp Park, including a lap around the Homestead Speedway on the return trip. About 1500 riders participate each year, some honor a friend by wearing their name/photo on the rider's jersey. Although SCAS does not make contributions as a club, SCAS members, friends, could contribute a total of \$300. so Terry can qualify to ride with his team. Go to <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/pledge/index.asp> and mention TERRY's name and riding team name- Cross the Line, and your check to NMSS. Terry sincerely thanks you.

SPACE NEWS

SPRING METEORS-

Welcome to the Spring Meteors as Earth cruises through various tail of comets suspended in space, on our annual trip around the Sun.

LYRID METEOR SHOWER in April. The Lyrids are the oldest 'observed' meteor shower on record...seen in ancient China 2000 years ago. The 'parent' Comet Thatcher, was discovered by A.E. Thatcher, New York, April 1861. Then it brightened to about 2.5 magnitude with a 1 degree tail. Since Comet Thatcher has an elliptical orbit, it returns to our area of the Solar system about every 415 years.

The LYRIDS may be visible from April 16-25th, but their peak of activity occurs in the predawn of Saturday, April 22nd. About 18 meteors may be visible per hour ZHR - 18/hr. (Zenith Hourly Rate). The LYRIDS radiate from the constellation LYRA, near Vega, rising in the NE before dawn. The ZHR depends upon weather conditions and your observing site.

A map of the radiant: <http://www.imo.net/calendar/2006/spring>

ETA AQUARID METEORS in May. The eta AQUARIDS (ETA) may be visible from April 20 until their peak occurs May 6th. Glittering debris from Comet Halley, these fast meteors radiate from the constellation Aquarius rising in the SE after midnight. In early May, the ZHR could reach around 50/hr. this year! <http://www.imo.net/calendar/2005/spring>



COMET 73P/SCHWASSMANN-WACHMANN-3 April 27, 1930, these astronomers discovered the comet from the Hamburg Observatory in Germany, while surveying the sky for minor planets. In three months, the comet brightened from 9.5 to 6.5 magnitude. In 1995, Comet 73P/SW-3 began to break

apart. Late March NASA reported 8 fragments had split from the comet and more may be visible racing by Earth May 12-14th. http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/24mar_73p.htm
<http://skyandtelescope.com> <http://nammeteors.org>
-N. American Meteor Network, NAMN April 2006



SOLAR ACTIVITY INCREASES

SOHO Observatory recently reported that large clusters of sun spots have crossed the visible solar surface, that probably created beautiful Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) shimmering across the skies of Michigan and Wisconsin early April. One group is longer than 10 Earth diameters. This is an interesting occurrence despite the Sun is now in its "quiet phase" of activity. Check: www.Spaceweather.com daily for updates.



NO APRIL FOOL!

After sunset April 1st, the Moon cruised across the Pleiades star cluster. Lester Shalloway captured the event from his Country Walk home.



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

Saturday, April 22nd, SCAS members will participate in Earth Day Celebration at the new, spacious Marjory Stoneman Douglas Environmental Center, Crandon Park, Key Biscayne. Safe solarviewing, exhibits and plenty of astronomy information will be available.

ON CAMPUS

SCAS ASTRONOMY SCHOLARSHIP at FIU

CONGRATULATIONS to SCAS member, GREG AZARNIA!! A Miami native, GREG graduated from S. Miami Senior High and followed his scientific 'dream' to FIU where he has majored in physics his junior and senior years. Last year, GREG served as President of the FIU Society of Physics Students. One of their field trips he scheduled the SPS students to link up with a SCAS Star Party in Everglades National Park. His major interest is in astrophysics (extragalactic astronomy, cosmology, astronomy) with a strong interest in all fields of physics, computer science, neuroscience and biophysics. Eventually he would like to receive his Ph.D in astronomy at FIU and begin his career participating in an international science arena where nations gather to research for common scientific goals: Space Institute or NASA. When not studying for exams, GREG enjoys winter star observing in the Everglades, watching Star Trek and reading scientific journals. He always has a friendly smile and ready to help with FIU programs, and is very productive assisting students with research in astronomy and physics. His strong sense of respect and courtesy, quiet determination combined with his humble, soft-spoken manner and charming good looks will definitely launch him into a successful scientific career—perhaps an assignment to the International Space Station!

Our SCAS Astronomy Scholarship at FIU was established several years ago and is very beneficial to the

lucky student selected by the FIU Scholarship Committee: Dr. Walter Van Hamme, Chairman of the FIU Dept. of Physics, Dr. Caroline Simpson and Dr. James Webb—renowned research astronomers who are SCAS Honorary members.

SCAS is deeply appreciative to the FIU Dept. of Physics faculty for their contributions and participation in our astronomy programs, projects and providing SCAS with a generous and friendly 'home' the past 20 years. SCAS is honored to be associated with FIU, well-known as the "top science research campus of South Florida" and we look forward to working on their new project—the FIU Student Observatory.

DR. JAMES WEBB, renowned FIU research astronomer, reports that recently he presented an astronomy program to the

Brevard Astronomical Society for an audience of about 200. During Spring Break last month, he also lectured to a packed auditorium at his alma mater Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana where he also attended the Directors Meeting of the S.A.R.A. Consortium (6 universities including FIU). Their agenda included establishing an observing site—'S.A.R.A. South'—at the Cerro Tololo InterAmerican Observatory, near La Serena, Chile, for a 24" remote-controlled telescope. 'S.A.R.A. North', a 0.9 meter telescope built by Dr. Webb, is at Kitt Peak National Observatory, Tucson, AZ.



SCAS member Greg Azarnia, FIU senior (center) accepts SCAS Astronomy Scholarship from SCAS Honorary member Dr. Walter van Hamme (left) Chairman of FIU Physics Dept. and SCAS President Dr. Lester Shalloway (right) at FIU March 17th.

FIU SPRING STAR PARTY

—Dr. James R. Webb

Friday, April 14th, 8 pm, FIU Dept. of Physics will host their free Annual Spring Star Party at University Park. Bring friends and classmates to the FIU Telescope Deck, east lawn, near the Physics Building for a Night Under the Stars of fun, music and food! If weather turns cloudy, an astronomy program will be held in CP-145. Park in the large lot, SW 109 Avenue/SW 8th Street, opposite the FIU Physics Bldg. Call FIU: 305-348-3964.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Members on the Move....Supernova astronomer LOU COX is now a year round resident of Ontario, Canada...SCAS Board Members: BORIS ORTIZ recently moved 'north' to Oakland, FL...RIC BABCOCK headed west to transfer to the U.S. Postal Service, Salinas, CA... TIM KHAN went south from E. Kendall to Homestead! A magnificent photo of star trails encircling Polaris appears on p.98 in April Sky & Telescope magazine, taken at an earlier Texas Star Party by BILL WILLIAMS, M.D., renowned astronomer from Boca Raton, FL....ANDRES VALENCIA was invited to present an astronomy program at Miami Senior High March 28th. Using his lap top and video projector, he presented "Celestial Mechanics"—illustrating the ecliptic and motions of the Sun and Moon, including the tides, lunar and agricultural calendars, and light pollution. His 90 minute program ended with a standing ovation by faculty and students. He has been invited to return April 6th when he will lecture: "Loops in the Sky— Motion of the Planets".



Charlie & Rose Perillo attended a family wedding in Manchester, NH March 25th. Enroute from Wakefield, MA (Charlie's hometown) to NH, they found some VT snow! - photo by Charlie Perillo

NEW MEMBERS

SCAS extends a warm welcome to new members: CARLOS ZUNIGA, commercial pilot, and wife MICHELLE...Science Fair Winners: JESSICA BARRETO, N. Miami Beach, ANTONINA KULCHITSKAYA and NATILIE BEIGEL, Aventura...and XIMENA MAUREIRA and son DEIDRICH, Miami. We hope to see you at our future programs and special events



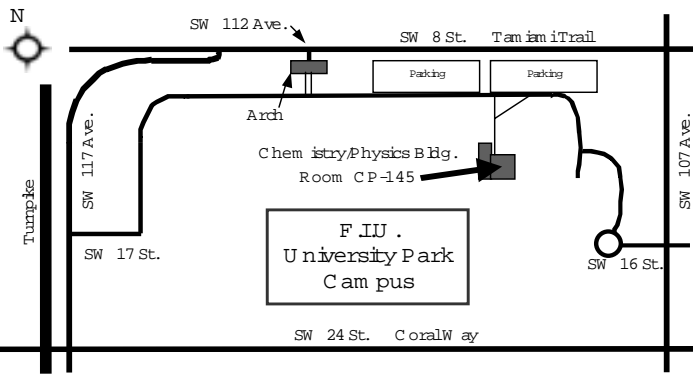
SCAS 1st prize- Jessica Barreto, (left) Mast Academy senior: Lowering Dust Levels on Mars MER Rover. SCAS 2nd prize- Antonina Kulchitskaya, (right) senior at Dr. Michael Krop Senior High: Galaxy/Cluster Analysis. Natalie Beigel, 3rd prize, was unable to attend.

ON A DISTANT CAMPUS

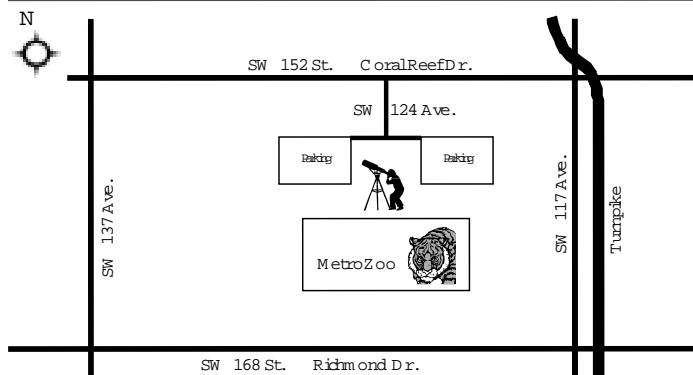
SCAS member LEN ESPINOSA, of Okemos, Michigan has been an adjunct faculty member at the Lansing Community College for more than 20 years, where he teaches Basic & Advanced Camera Operations, and the Introductory Darkroom Course. He states, " We are the #3 photo program in the nation after Rochester Institute of Technology and Brooks Institute of Photography in Los Angeles." LEN always enjoys his week at the Winter Star Party!!

NOAH RASHKIND, Pinecrest, grad student at U. of Florida, is aiming toward his Masters degree in Astronomy at UF next year. He was at Kitt Peak National Observatory last winter and next year he hopes to head down to Chile for their guaranteed 7 nights of observing time on the huge Gemini South telescope. If time allows, he may present a poster at the First Light Science with the GTC—an international science conference, using the Gran Telescopio Canarias (giant telescope established on the Canary Islands) booked at the historic Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables June 28-30th.

SCAS General Meetings - Third Friday of every Month



Saturday Solar Viewing - 10am - 12noon

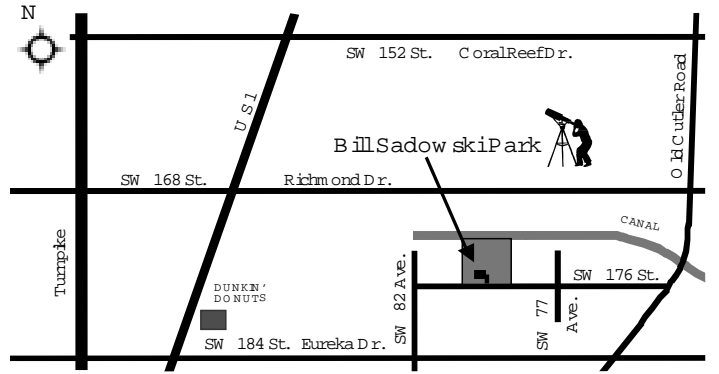


Southern Cross Astronomical Society, Inc.
 c/o 10221 SW 116 Avenue
 Miami, FL 33176
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 Address corrections requested



SCAS is a member of
 The Astronomical League and
 The International Dark Sky Association

SCAS Star Gazing - Every Saturday Night 8-10pm



For SCAS/NASA News Call
 the 24-Hour HOTLINE:

305-661-1375

Or Visit the NEW SCAS website:

<http://www.scas.org>

SCAS annual dues: \$25 adults/\$10 full-time students