

# SCAS COAL SACK

EDUCATING SOUTH FLORIDA SINCE 1922

AUGUST 2006

## READY FOR ASTRONOMY?

### August Public Program

-Barb Yager

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18th, 8 pm, our long-time friend and popular speaker MIKE PALERMITI renowned astronomer and telescope designer of Jupiter, FL returns by popular request to make sure you all will be READY FOR ASTRONOMY? MIKE just completed a 6-month project designing and building a 20" diam. f/3.5 astrograph now ready for service. He is involved with new government programs designing and building "custom-made one-of-a-kind" imaging systems for various future research work on Earth and in Space!

Despite our soggy summer weather that often cancels celestial observing, MIKE keeps very busy with his consulting work, 3 additional astronomy students who come to his home-based professional observatory

and "telescope farm" in the countryside, and keeping up with orders for his scientific TIE related business.

Come to the FREE SCAS program in the FIU Astronomy Center, CP-145, Physics Bldg. FRIDAY AUGUST 18th, 8 pm, and meet our very energetic and entertaining astronomer MIKE PALERMITI who will have some new items, demos, and crucial instruction for you to get 'launched into astronomy' on a simple and economical basis. Bring friends, questions, equipment and take notes to get READY FOR ASTRONOMY this Fall and Winter with your friendly astronomers from SCAS and FIU. Park in the large campus lot, SW 109th Ave./SW 8th Street, opposite the FIU Chem.-Physics Bldg., NE area of University Park!

Call: 305-661-1375 or access [www.scas.org](http://www.scas.org).

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FOR SCAS/NASA NEWS

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HTTP://WWW.SCAS.ORG

work, 3 additional astronomy students who come to his home-based professional observatory



Dr. Mike Palermi, popular speaker at previous SCAS public programs at FIU.

# The Coal Sack

The Coal Sack is a monthly publication of the Southern Cross Astronomical Society, Inc., Miami, Florida

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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.

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

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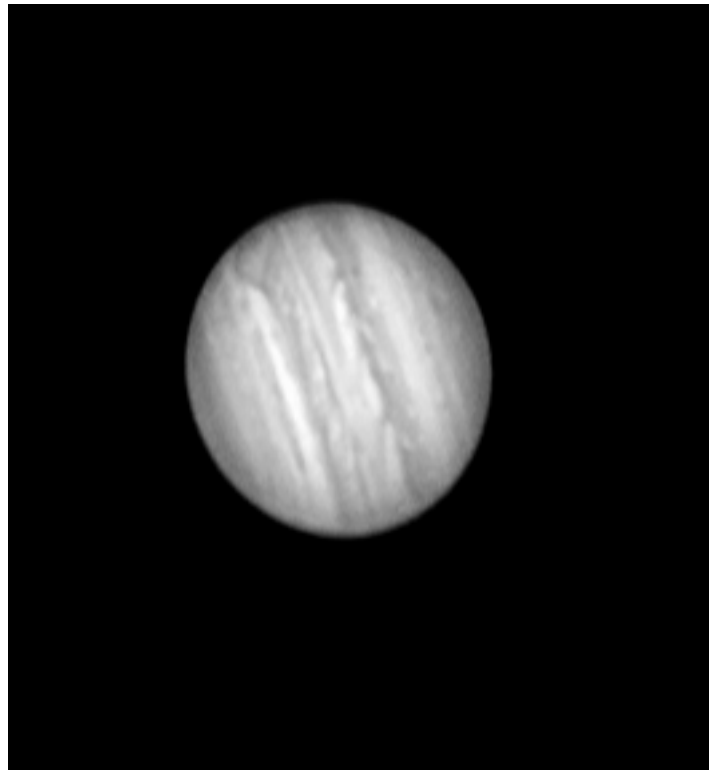
## CLASSIFIED

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  
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Jupiter & the Jovian Moon System (4 satellites closest to the planet) are brilliant in the SW evenings. Photo of Jupiter taken 5/20/06 on Tim Kahn's scope, recorded onto video tape and printed using registax and photoshop. Both by Lester Shalloway. Photo reprinted from June Coal Sack.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

-Barb Yager

Last month, SERGIO FIGUERA "ran with the Bulls" down the village streets of Pamplona, Spain during his grand tour of that country and was interviewed by their local press... ESTIRELLA & CRISTIAN RUIZ are the very proud parents of their 7lb.1oz. son SEBASTIAN, born at Baptist Hospital in Kendall, June 24th...CHARLIE PERILLO emailed wife ROSE is recuperating very well from recent laser surgery that removed bone spurs and vaporized part of a herniated disk relieving nerve pressure in her back.... 7/27th JOSE ARGUETA underwent gall bladder surgery. He expects to return to managing the classy restaurant in the Grove soon...Snowbird JIM ROSE reports that both weather and gas prices in Columbus, OH are lousy....from his student trip last month, GEORGE JEREZ claims the Irish food was fantastic, the people were so nice and the country is very green travelling to Dublin and throughout southern Ireland.

SCAS member Sergio Figuera and friend Ruben Cifuentes at the San Fermin Festival (Running of the Bulls) in Pamplona, Spain. Sergio states: I have been wanting to do it for quite some time and I finally got a chance this year when my friend Ruben Cifuentes (also pictured) suggested that we go to Spain. I then suggested the San Fermin festival and so it happened. At first I was apprehensive about running but when I started to converse with people that had done it already, it all just felt natural. We had an escape plan but that soon fell apart when we saw the bulls coming down the street and an officer at the barricade that I was planning to use as an escape route shouted: "corre, aqui no puedes estar!" (run, you can't be here!). And so the most chaotic minute or so of my life began. In the end though after I saw the bulls passed me by I found myself enjoying an exhilarating moment. I did it!



## OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY

A Southern Cross member for more than a decade, and University of Miami Associate Chair and professor of Dept. of Mathematics since 1972, Dr. Robert L. Kelley passed away Saturday, July 15th from acute leukemia at the UM Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Ctr. in Coral Gables. We affectionately called him "Dr. Bob" although he closely resembled our Santa Claus—a name his students gave him. His dedication to the UM music and visual arts projects, the Math Research Library, Arboretum was well known on campus.

Dr. Kelley was President of the Tropical Audubon Society 1979-1989 and remained active by giving guided bird walks in Cape Florida State Park (prior to Hurricane Andrew), Virginia Key, Everglades National Park, etc. He was an environmental activist, avid conservationist, educator who had a strong impact raising public awareness and fought battles for land acquisition and habitat protection for birds. He was a member of the Native Plant Society, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, the Mayan Society, President Emeritus & Founder of the Miami Blue

Chapter of the N. American Butterfly Assoc., founding member of the Miami Chapter of the Sierra Club, Board member of the Florida National Parks & Monuments Assoc., Land Trust of Miami-Dade County and Citizens for a Better S. Florida.

I met Bob Kelley at the Museum of Science where the group of several Affiliates (scientific organizations) met monthly 1982-1986. Dr. Bob, President of the group comprised of seven Presidents from: Tropical Fruit, Mineralogy, Southern Cross, Mayan Institute, Horticulture, S. Florida Fish & Aquarium, & Tropical Audubon Society. At that time I was Asst. Director of the Museum's Dept. of Membership (5000+) and in 1982 became Secretary of the Presidents Club.

Dr. Bob was a brilliant soul, a compassionate and humble gentleman who was very well known and highly respected in this community. He always stopped to visit awhile at our SCAS exhibit and solarviewing at the Annual Fairchild Ramble. He was missed last year. A Celebration of Life is planned at the Tropical Audubon Society, 5530 Sunset Drive, 3 pm Sunday, August 20th.

# AUGUSTALMANAC AT A GLANCE

FIRST QTR. MOON W ednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> 4:46 a.m.  
 FULL MOON W ednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> 6:54 a.m.  
 LAST QTR. MOON Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> 9:51 p.m.  
 NEW MOON W ednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> 3:10 p.m.  
 FIRST QTR. MOON Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> 6:57 p.m.

SUNRISE: 6:52 a.m. (mid-month) SUNSET: 7:57 p.m.

MORNING SKIES:

2<sup>nd</sup>- At dawn, MERCURY rises directly below VENUS, NE.  
 6<sup>th</sup>- MERCURY at highest altitude.

10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>- Two planets closest-2.2 degrees apart.

11-13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PERSEID METEOR SHOWER Midnight-dawn. Near bright MOON.

Meteors radiate from Perseus rising in the NE after midnight. 50/hr.

11<sup>th</sup>-Blue NEPTUNE opposite the SUN at 1 a.m. & sets at dawn in SW in Capricornus.

Turquoise colored URANUS in Aquarius in the south.

19<sup>th</sup>- SATURN rises in the NE, directly below MERCURY.

21<sup>st</sup>- The two planets dance together below VENUS in Cancer.

22<sup>nd</sup>- Old crescent MOON rises near the 'planetary trio' low in the NE.

25-27<sup>th</sup>- SATURN meets brilliant VENUS.

31<sup>st</sup>- VENUS, Morning Star, glides lower in NE. SATURN moves above VENUS.

The delicate Seven Sisters (Pleiades) lead Taurus the Bull toward the Zenith, above

Aldebaran (red eye of the Bull) winking from the V-shaped Hyades star cluster in ENE.

Bright Capella guides Auriga, Charioteer, higher in NE, followed by the Gemini Twins.

Queen Cassiopeia and daughter Andromeda reign in N.

Aries the Ram chases Pegasus (Winged Horse) westward. Orion, Hunter reclines above the eastern horizon.

The star Procyon, Little Dog, twinkles low in the east.

Blazing blue Sirius, Big Dog, sparkles low in the SE-to herald the Dog Days of Summer!

Vega leads the Summer Triangle & Cygnus (Northern Cross) low in NW.

EVENING SKIES

1<sup>st</sup>- Dim MARS lingers above the star Regulus in Leo the Lion, low in NW. MOON glides below golden JUPITER & Moon System in Libra, SW. Spica in Virgo descends onto the SW horizon.

3<sup>rd</sup>- MOON leads Scorpius into the SW.

4<sup>th</sup>- MOON floats below Antares (red heart) of Scorpius.

5<sup>th</sup>- MOON perches on the 'spout' of the Sagittarian Teapot in south.

11-13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PERSEID METEOR SHOWER occurs late evening radiating from Perseus rising in the NE. About 50/hr. may be visible but bright MOON rises late evening.

11<sup>th</sup>- Dim, blue NEPTUNE opposite the SUN, rises at sunset in SE in Capricornus.

Turquoise-colored URANUS, in Aquarius, appears in SE by mid-evening.

The star Fomalhaut sparkles below URANUS.

15<sup>th</sup>- Last Quarter MOON rises around midnight near the Seven Sisters cluster in NE.

Aries the Ram chases Pegasus (Winged Horse) toward the Zenith.

Mid-evening, Queen Cassiopeia and daughter Andromeda arrive in NE.

Hercules leads Vega & the Summer Triangle overhead.

Cygnus, Flying Swan, soars within the Triangle.

Big Dipper hangs in NW.

Bright Arcturus, Herdsman, sparkles in the west beyond the Dipper's handle.

25<sup>th</sup>- Young MOON rises briefly to left of MARS low in NW.

29<sup>th</sup>- MOON floats below golden JUPITER in SW.

30<sup>th</sup>- MOON leads Scorpius into SW.

31<sup>st</sup>- MOON nudges Antares sparkling in Scorpius.

## Moon Set/Rise Table for AUG / SEP

Date (m/d)	Moon Rise	Moon Set
15/8/2006	—	13:26
16/8/2006	0:19	14:30
17/8/2006	1:06	15:33
18/8/2006	1:58	16:32
19/8/2006	2:53	17:25
20/8/2006	3:52	18:11
21/8/2006	4:50	18:52
22/8/2006	5:47	19:27
23/8/2006	6:42	19:58
24/8/2006	7:35	20:27
25/8/2006	8:26	20:54
26/8/2006	9:16	21:22
27/8/2006	10:06	21:50
28/8/2006	10:58	22:20
29/8/2006	11:52	22:53
30/8/2006	12:49	23:32
31/8/2006	13:48	—
1/9/2006	14:49	0:17
2/9/2006	15:49	1:10
3/9/2006	16:45	2:10
4/9/2006	17:36	3:16
5/9/2006	18:22	4:26
6/9/2006	19:03	5:35
7/9/2006	19:41	6:44
8/9/2006	20:18	7:51
9/9/2006	20:55	8:58
10/9/2006	21:33	10:04
11/9/2006	22:15	11:11
12/9/2006	23:01	12:19
13/9/2006	23:52	13:24
14/9/2006	—	14:26

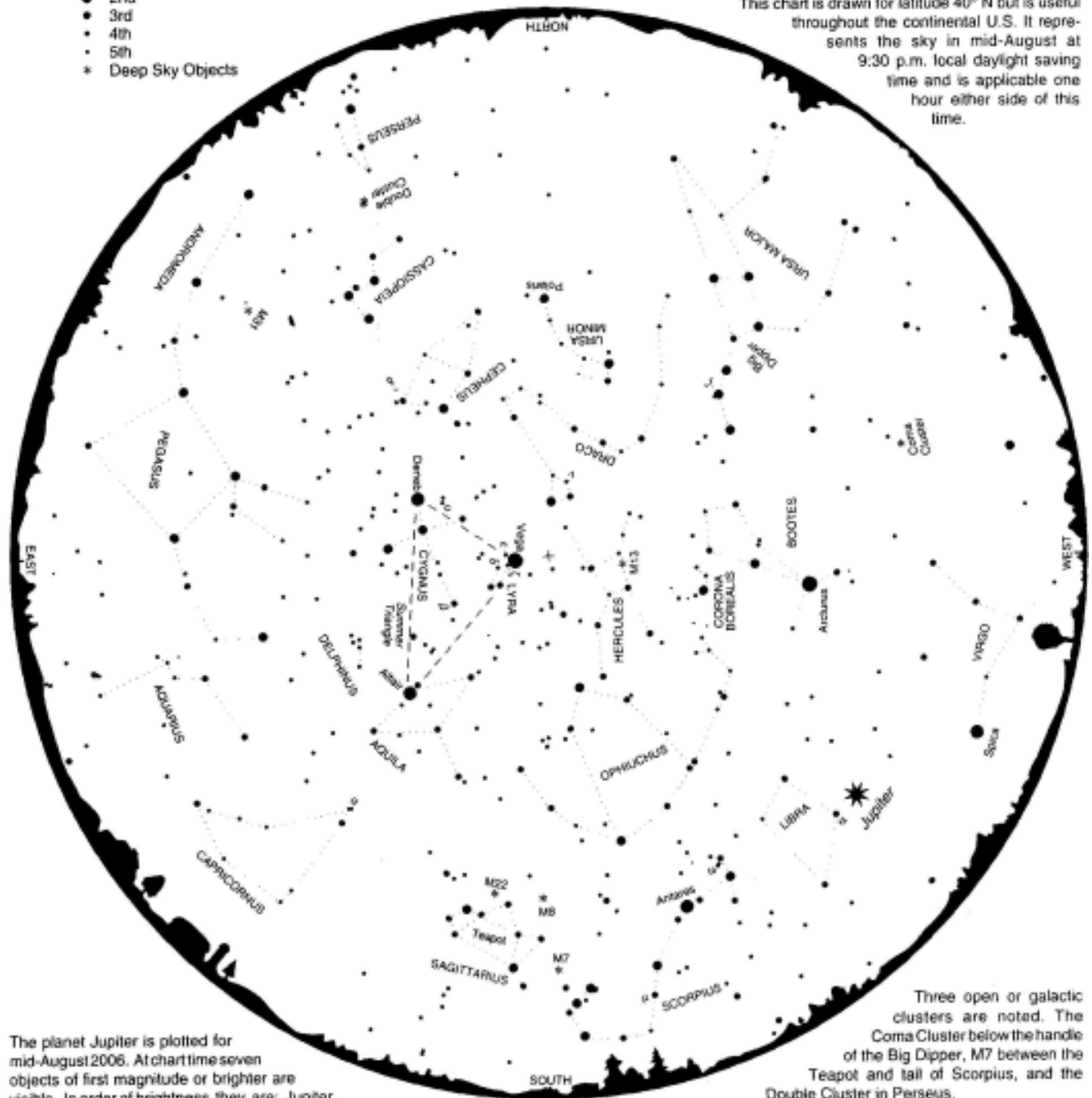
# August Evening Skies

**LEGEND**  
Star Magnitudes

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

© 2006 Abrams Planetarium  
**Subscription: \$11.00 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 Jupiter is plotted for mid-August 2006. At chart time seven objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Jupiter, 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  $\alpha$  Sco,  $\zeta$  UMa,  $\delta$  Lyr,  $\alpha$  Cap,  $\mu$  Sco,  $\sigma$  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.

## ANNUAL PERSEID METEOR WATCH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12th, 9 pm-Midnight, the ANNUAL PERSEID METEOR WATCH & B.Y.O. Picnic will be held at Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Center, SW 176th St./SW 79th Ave. The SCAS Saturday Nite Live Astro Team will have hi-tech equipment arranged on the SCAS Observation Deck to show you beautiful summer skies. FREE. Weather permitting, Perseid Meteors will be visible radiating from Perseus in the NE, but may only reach 30/hr. due to a bright Moon. Bring chairs, blankets, snacks, bug cream and wear jeans. Lights, alcohol, pets, litter and loud noises are prohibited in the serene Nature Preserve. Call: 305-661-1375 or access [www.scas.org](http://www.scas.org)

### In Case You Missed It.....

-Barb Yager

Thursday, July 27th, about 50 citizens attended a Public Meeting hosted by the FDOT (FL Dept. of Transportation) at Archbishop Coleman Carroll H.S. to view the row of graphics that depicts the state's plan to 4-lane Krome Ave. and voice their opinions to the Dept. of Planning, Development & Environment. This was the final public meeting, not advertised well, but a necessary formality to keep things "politically correct"! The next stage -the "design" category could be followed by a gazillion future meetings before construction begins in 2009. Most of the audience participants opposed the 4-laning for various reasons. Did you know:

Krome Ave is not a designated evacuation route. Members from Everglades Bicycle Club prefer to have a bike path on quieter SW 187th Ave instead of atop a 12 ft. high levee along the west side of Krome beside 18-wheelers, sirens and screeching brakes. Native Miccosoukees issue speeding tickets on Krome

Since the year 2000 there have been more than 800 serious accidents on Krome

FDOT believes 65 mph speed limits on Krome will reduce road rage & wrecks!!!

(I don't even want to think about the increase of wildlife roadkill)

FL Highway Patrol does not have a budget to patrol a 4-lane drag strip

This project invites moving the UDB line further west to allow commercial development in the area between the Trail and the Redlands?

The quality and quantity of our water supply would be damaged (S. FL Water Managem't)

Former School Board member Frank Cobo boomed into the microphone " A \$184 million price tag-it's a done deal folks"!

On that note, I'll send in my suggestion to use solar lighting along the 'highway to hell'.

### GIRL SCOUT THANK YOU

July 5, 2006

Dear Tim,

On behalf of the Girl Scout Council of Tropical Florida, Inc., I want to thank the guests who attended the Winter Star Party at Camp Wesunkee for their generous donation of \$2,984. to help towards the storm repairs to Camp Wesunkee. Also, I want to thank the Winter Star Party and Southern Cross Astronomical Society who matched these funds for a total donation of \$5,968.

All who attended the Star Party saw first hand the devastation we incurred at the camp. The cost to repair and restore Camp Wesunkee will be astronomical. Not only did the many guests donate their money to help us, they donated their time and energy prior to the weekend to assist Malcolm and Lisa getting the site ready for the Winter Star Party. We are grateful for your physical and financial donation and we value our friendship with the Southern Cross Astronomical Society.

Sincerely,

Maria D. Tejera  
Chief Executive Officer

(SCAS V. President Tim Khan is Director of the SCAS Winter Star Party)

### SEPTEMBER PREVIEW

1st- SATURN above VENUS in Leo the Lion rising in NE at dawn.

5th- Regulus, in Leo, meets VENUS low in NE.

7th- FULL MOON is closest in 2006 may create very high tides.

22nd- Autumnal Equinox occurs at 9:03 p.m. New MOON occurs at 7:45 a.m.

24th- Tiny MERCURY rises in the west in evening dusk.

## PARKS DEPT. MEETING

-Barb Yager

Thursday evening July 13th Miami-Dade Parks Dept. held a public meeting in the Sadowski Park classroom that was SRO bursting with 100 neighbors, a dozen Parks Dept. personnel and 6 SCAS Astros. Since the acreage between the SCAS telescope deck and the canal had been quietly bulldozed in June, (prior to the telescope reconstruction June 3rd) the Old Cutler neighbors were alarmed at what the Parks Dept. had in mind. A concerned neighbor had distributed and emailed flyers announcing the Meeting. SCAS members had been informed of the Wetlands Restoration Project during a preview held in 2004 that would occur at some undisclosed future date. Now that the Parks Dept. had received their grant, this project was on their agenda....an extension of the Everglades Restoration.

Palmetto Bay Mayor Eugene Flinn reviewed Sadowski Park history and introduced the parks personnel: Parks & Recreation Director Vivian Donnell-Rodriguez, Joe Maguire Director of Natural Areas Management, Martin Helms Director of Mosquito Control, Dallas Hazelton Project Supt. & Barbara Gouldener Manager of Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Ctr.

The power point presentation revealed their plan to allow a 1 acre fresh water pond that would come quite close to our SCAS observing deck (who knows during a major storm) on the south edge and a narrow culvert feeding into the north edge of the pond from the canal. A lengthy and vociferous Q & A period followed the presentation. Finally my suggestion was addressed to the Park Director that:

1. the size of the pond should be reduced to allow green borders for picnic/birdwalk areas.
2. dense trees/foliage need to be planted along the southern edge of the pond to block light intrusion

now pouring onto our observation deck from homes visible along the canal.

3. What "swamp wildlife" would need to be controlled....in addition to mosquitoes???

The Meeting was completed after 10 pm with the promise of future Meetings to follow.

Southern Cross Astros: Ashley Stevens, Margaret Mannchen, Vicki & Steve Van Ryn, Nick Stingone and Barb Yager attended.

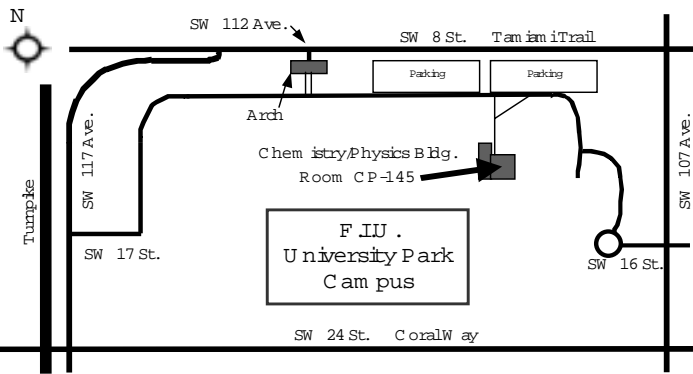


Village of Palmetto Bay Mayor Eugene Flinn presiding at the Miami-Dade Parks Public Meeting, Sadowski Park classroom July 13th.

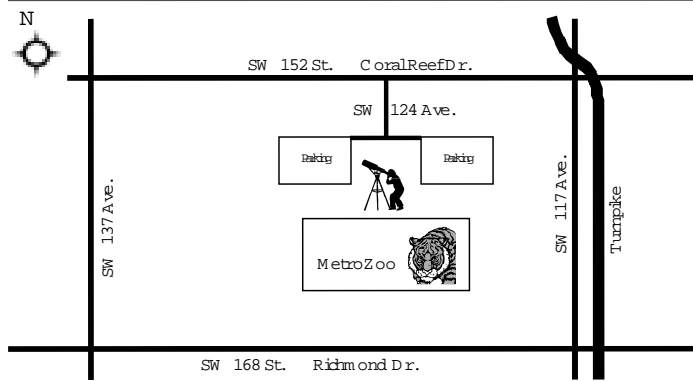
## SADOWSKI PARK UPDATE

The latest update confirms that Miami-Dade Parks crew recently mulched several fallen trees and limbs left from their June bulldozing project of the 1 acre between the SCAS Observation Deck and the canal. The crew expects to have the ground stabilized by August 14th so that it can be mowed! The Village of Palmetto Bay has requested a detailed Wetlands Project viability study be conducted by an independent, qualified specialist. A resolution requesting this study will be introduced at the Village Council Meeting August 7.

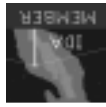
SCAS General Meetings - Third Friday of every Month



Saturday Solar Viewing - 10am - 12noon

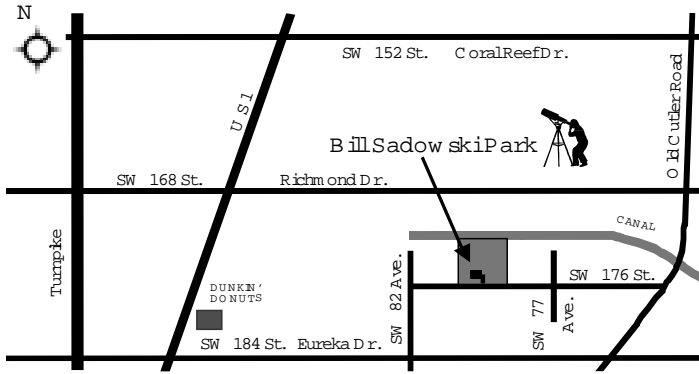


Southern Cross Astronomical Society, Inc.  
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SCAS is a member of  
 The Astronomical League and  
 The International Dark Sky Association

SCAS Star Gazing - Every Saturday Night 8-10pm



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