

# SCAS COAL SACK

EDUCATING SOUTH FLORIDA SINCE 1922

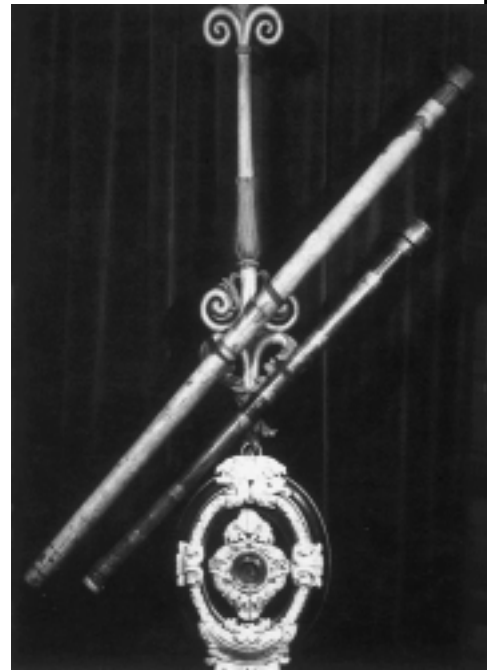
NOVEMBER 2006

## ASTRONOMY CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE RENAISSANCE

### November Public Program

-Barb Yager

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17th, 8 pm, SCAS will again present another premier speaker, a very talented professional musician, instructor and lecturer FRANCISCO MULLER. He hypnotized the audience that packed the FIU Astronomy Center, CP-145, during the FIU Lecture Series. For his finale, his brief vocal rendition with his two portable "symphonic" keyboards filled the large lecture hall with the grand music of Beethoven's 9th Symphony--his intro of the magnificent Ode To Joy was spellbinding! The English translation of the original German lyrics on the big screen will be kept a secret...! I hope many of our SCAS members will enjoy this special uplifting astronomy program. Please join us at 8 pm, Friday, November 17th, FIU Astronomy Center for a true 'Night to Remember' preceding our Holiday Season!



Galileo's telescope

Bring friends to our free SCAS astronomy programs that include

prizes, food buffet, and lively discussions...and a chance to meet our roster of distinguished speakers. Our friendly SCAS Astros will help you get started on the exciting family hobby of astronomy. Use the campus parking lot, SW 109th Avenue/SW 8th Street, opposite the FIU Physics Bldg. at University Park.

SCAS does not schedule a December public program!



FIU WINTER STAR PARTY— Friday, December 1st, 8 pm at the telescope deck near the Physics Bldg., University Park. Celebrate the end of the semester with refreshments, fun under the brilliant winter stars, and view the winter sky in hi-tech FIU telescopes. If weather is bad, entertaining astronomy programs will be held in CP-145.

SCAS Public Program Friday, January 19th: "Killer Asteroids" CP-145, FIU Physics Bldg.

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FOR SCAS/NASA NEWS  
CALL THE 24-HOUR  
HOTLINE:

305 661-1375

OR VISIT THE  
NEW SCAS WEB SITE:

HTTP://WWW.SCAS.ORG

# 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.

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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!

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- Barb Yager

BILL WILLIAMS, M.D. renowned astro-imager, sent his image of green Comet Swan taken October 28th from MM 51 in the Glades just over the Collier County line in the Miccosukee Indian Reservation off Alligator Alley. He claims it is a pretty dark site (used by the Palm Beach Astro Club & SFAAA in Broward) it's still too early in the year as the mosquitoes were quite challenging!...October 27th, FIU astronomy Prof. JAMES R. WEBB presented his popular lecture: "An Evening at The Edge of the Universe" --a tour far out to quasars mixed with galactic music he and Dr. Fiorella Tirenzi previously produced, enjoyed by a large audience at the Florida Institute of Technology, Dept. of Astrophysics/Astronomy, Olin Physical Science Bldg., followed by public observing in their new campus observatory. They present astronomy lec-

tures the 4th Friday evening each month, hosted by Dr. Terry Oswalt, Director of the F.I.T. Space Science Department....former SCAS Board member RIC BABCOCK reports observing many Orionid Meteors while driving to work from Salinas to San Jose, CA Post Office early mornings October 20 and 21st.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

From our total SCAS membership that exceeds 200, the current analysis is:  
Members in the Florida Keys = 10  
Members in Florida not in Miami-Dade County = 19  
Members out of state = 17  
New SCAS members (2006) through Oct 31 = 42  
22 members receive their Coal Sack on PDF  
www.scas.org website.

## CLASSIFIED

### ASTRONOMY CALENDAR SALE

The 2nd order of beautiful Astronomy Magazine calendars just arrived! Please leave your request on the SCAS Hotline: 305-661-1375 ASAP. Hurry supply is limited. Only \$8. !! Combine this perfect Holiday Gift with a SCAS membership to an astronomer of any age!

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

## IN SYMPATHY

-Barb Yager

A call from Don Parker brought shocking news that one of our favorite SCAS speakers had suddenly passed away October 27th, early evening, while setting up his new 10" Dob on his home patio in Ocala, Florida. Jose Olivarez, a soft-spoken gentleman, renowned astronomer, was co-director with astronomer Dr. Mike Reynolds at the state-of-the-art Chabot Space & Science Center, Oakland, California for several years. His planetary presentations for SCAS were brilliant. His lecture of Jupiter two years ago and the re-scheduled Mars lecture last March, with Don, were outstanding SCAS programs that captivated our audiences and revealed his quiet passion for the beauty and mystery of our planetary system. Tippy & Patty D'Auria (now living in Ocala) and Mike & Debbie Reynolds Jacksonville, will attend his service in Ocala Sunday, November 5th, giving assistance to Jose's shy, charming wife Louise.

Don Parker recalls..."It was quite a shock to hear of Jose's passing. He was a fine gentleman. I remember a time several years ago when Jose and Louise came to Miami from Wichita, KS, to visit and observe with Jeff Beish (former SCAS member now living in Lake Placid, FL) and the late Bill Douglass (Past Pres.) and me. SCAS had a meeting that week and we brought Jose along to introduce him to club members. During the meeting, a question about Jupiter came up and Jose was asked his opinion. He reluctantly got up and gave a superb 5-10 minute talk about the question. After the meeting, a number of people came up to me and asked, "Where has this guy been—it was great!" That was typical Jose—a man with encyclopedic knowledge who was able to impart it with great and simple clarity and humility.

Since Jose & Louise had moved to Florida, he had given a number of presentations to SCAS. Despite the fact that he lived some 400 miles north

of Miami, he became a very popular and regular speaker at our club.

Over the years, Jose became a friend to many of us. He was always patient and very considerate—especially in answering my stupid questions about Jupiter! Last year he brought me an astronomy book that he happened across. He remembered that several years ago I had mentioned I had this book when I was a child and he thought I would like a copy! That was typical of Jose's friendship and consideration. He will be missed."

Jose had a wide circle of friends, astronomers and students. He was teaching several classes at the Ocala Science Center and other campuses and had a 40-year association with A.L.P.O. (Assoc. of Lunar & Planetary Observers). A close friend in Ocala, Dr. Howard Eskildsen and his wife met Louise at ER and drove her home to move the Dob indoors. As Louise recalled: "He was doing what he loved to do."

As our SCAS Library becomes updated astronomy books, donated by our talented friend Jose Olivarez, will be added to our collection. His memories and gifts will remain with us.

## NEW MEMBERS

SCAS sends a warm welcome to the following new members: BILLY BENAVIDES, student at Miami Art Institute; ANDRE FERNANDES, student at Miami-Dade College; JAMES McMILLEN, FIU grad student; EMILY & JANET GRAHAM, University of Miami Law School, JOSE CARDOZO, computer tech & IVONNE NAPOLES, security officer; DANIEL & RANDI JONES, TV and computer specialists in Miami-Dade Schools, Homestead; LARRY CONSIDINE, buyer Miami-Dade County, Homestead; and the Arthur Soule Family: wife Maria and son Michael. Arthur, is in the mortgage business and Maria is a medical counselor. We look forward to meeting you all in the near future.

## SPACE NEWS

Project Constellation-

NASA selected Lockheed-Martin Corp. as prime contractor to design, develop and build Orion—America's larger spacecraft, 16.5 ft. diameter, for the next generation of astronauts. The Orion craft is scheduled to launch no later than 2014, and a return to the Moon by 2020. Orion, the primary payload of the Ares1, will carry cargo and 6 astronauts to and from the Int'l Space Station in low-Earth orbits, with a new escape rocket on the Launch Abort System and improved heat shields, parachutes and passive shock absorbers to prevent risks during re-entry.

Details of this intriguing exploration project were discussed at our SCAS public program by our dynamic guest speaker, Russell Romanella, NASA Payload Director, Kennedy Space Center, who captivated a huge audience in the FIU Astronomy Center, Physics Building, Friday October 20th.

# DECEMBER ALMANAC AT A GLANCE

FULL Hunter's MOON Sunday, 5th 7:58 a.m.  
 LAST QTR. MOON Sunday, 12th 12:45 p.m.  
 NEW MOON Monday, 20th 5:18 p.m.  
 FIRST QTR. MOON Tuesday, 28th 1:29 a.m.

Cross Quarter Day, Monday 10/31- mid-point between  
 Autumnal Equinox & Winter Solstice

**MORNING SKIES:**

Blazing winter constellations drift westward, led by the  
 Seven Sisters (Pleiades cluster): Taurus the Bull and  
 Gemini Twins overhead.  
 Procyon, Little Dog, sparkles in the east.  
 Orion, Hunter, in the south followed by blazing blue Sirius  
 in Orion's Big Dog.  
 Silver-ringed SATURN escorts Leo the Lion higher in the  
 east.  
 The Big Dipper hangs in NE.  
 Bright Arcturus sparkles low in NE, beyond the Dipper's  
 handle.  
 8th- MERCURY TRANSITS SUN 2:15-5:30 pm EST.  
 14th- At dawn, MERCURY appears on the eastern horizon  
 in Libra.  
 Corvus the Crow leads Spica, in Virgo, higher in SE.  
 18/19th- LEONID METEOR SHOWER max in the predawn.  
 19th- Dim MARS arrives on the eastern horizon below  
 MERCURY.  
 The waning MOON forms a triangle with the 2 planets  
 25th- As dawn breaks, MERCURY reaches highest altitude.

**EVENING SKIES:**

SATURN rises in the east by midnight early in month.  
 By month's end, the planet will rise soon after 10 p.m.  
 It's icy rings begin to flatten out.  
 The Big Dipper appears on the NE horizon.  
 Descending bright Jupiter hugs the SW horizon.  
 Scorpius slips below the SW horizon.  
 The Sagittarian Teapot 'pours' onto the SW horizon.  
 Blue-green URANUS, in Aquarius, glows high in the SW.  
 Fomalhaut sparkles below URANUS.  
 9/10th- Waning bright MOON rises in NE, near the Gemini  
 Twins.  
 18/19th- LEONID METEOR SHOWER may begin late  
 evening.  
 23rd- At sunset, the young MOON floats across the Teapot  
 in SW.  
 Hercules leads the Summer Triangle lower in the NW.  
 Cygnus, Flying Swan, becomes the Northern Cross within  
 the Triangle.  
 Aries the Ram chases the Winged Horse (Great Square of  
 Pegasus) overhead.  
 Queen Cassiopeia, King Cepheus and daughter Androm-  
 eida reign in the north.  
 The Seven Sisters (Pleiades star cluster) rise higher in the  
 east.  
 Aldebaran sparkles in the Hyades cluster in Taurus the  
 Bull.

Bright Capella guides Auriga, Charioteer, across the  
 NE.

The Gemini Twins, Castor & Pollux, rise in the NE.  
 Procyon, Little Dog, twinkles in the east.

Orion, Hunter reclines on the eastern horizon by mid-  
 evening.

Blazing blue Sirius sparkles in the collar of Orion's  
 Big Dog in SE.

## Moon Set/Rise Table for NOV/DEC

| Date (m/d) | Moon Rise | Moon Set |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| 15/11/2006 | 2:02      | 14:31    |
| 16/11/2006 | 2:52      | 14:58    |
| 17/11/2006 | 3:43      | 15:26    |
| 18/11/2006 | 4:35      | 15:57    |
| 19/11/2006 | 5:29      | 16:31    |
| 20/11/2006 | 6:26      | 17:10    |
| 21/11/2006 | 7:26      | 17:56    |
| 22/11/2006 | 8:26      | 18:48    |
| 23/11/2006 | 9:24      | 19:46    |
| 24/11/2006 | 10:18     | 20:49    |
| 25/11/2006 | 11:06     | 21:53    |
| 26/11/2006 | 11:49     | 22:57    |
| 27/11/2006 | 12:27     | —        |
| 28/11/2006 | 13:03     | 0:00     |
| 29/11/2006 | 13:37     | 1:01     |
| 30/11/2006 | 14:11     | 2:03     |
| 1/12/2006  | 14:48     | 3:07     |
| 2/12/2006  | 15:28     | 4:12     |
| 3/12/2006  | 16:13     | 5:20     |
| 4/12/2006  | 17:05     | 6:29     |
| 5/12/2006  | 18:04     | 7:37     |
| 6/12/2006  | 19:06     | 8:39     |
| 7/12/2006  | 20:09     | 9:33     |
| 8/12/2006  | 21:10     | 10:19    |
| 9/12/2006  | 22:08     | 10:59    |
| 10/12/2006 | 23:02     | 11:33    |
| 11/12/2006 | 23:54     | 12:03    |
| 12/12/2006 | —         | 12:31    |
| 13/12/2006 | 0:45      | 12:58    |
| 14/12/2006 | 1:35      | 13:26    |
| 15/12/2006 | 2:26      | 13:56    |



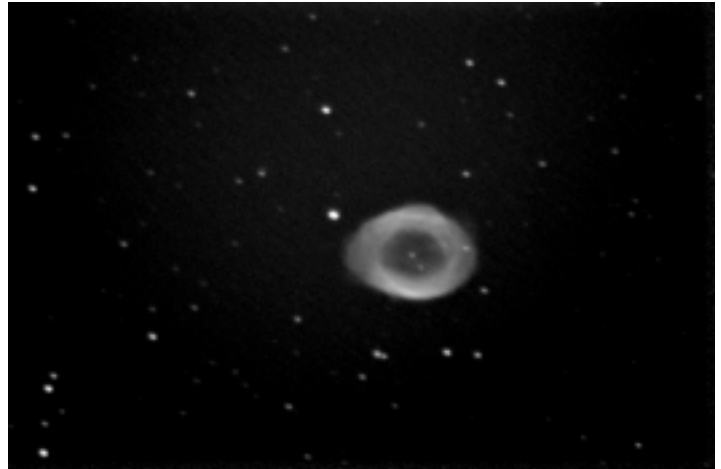
# OCTOBER EVENTS

Fairchild Garden Moonlight Tour-  
 Wednesday, October 4th, our typical transitional weather pattern was in full force with lots of clouds hanging around until the beautiful Harvest Moon rose above the cloud bands and created a beautiful scene in the Fairchild Botanic Tropical Garden. An impressive array of hi-tech SCAS equipment, including our 18" Dob operated by Russ Harcha, was staffed by Jose Argueta, Sergio Figuera, Russ, Ashley Stevens, Nick Stingone, Steve & Vicki Van Ryn, Ken Willis and Barb Yager. Hundreds of excited Fairchild members were delighted with awesome views of the Harvest Moon, Summer Triangle, golden Jupiter low in the southwest, Neptune and Uranus in the southeast, and glittering star clusters.

Harvest Moon Star Party-  
 Friday, 6th, a magnificent sky cleared for the SCAS Harvest Moon Star Party at the Fruit & Spice Park, Homestead. More than 100 visitors descended upon the phalanx of hi-tech SCAS equipment lined up to focus on the celestial wonders scattered across the Autumn sky and huge, rising Harvest Moon. A folk-singer played his guitar by a campfire nearby as visitors surrounded our friendly SCAS Astros, and returned for more, incredible views in equipment by Armon Ahmadi & his Family, Russell Brick, Sergio Figuera, Oliver Gibbs, Mike Smith, Nick Stingone, Steve & Vickie Van Ryn, Ken Willis & Barb Yager. A very nice "thank you" letter was sent by Park Director Chris Rollins with a return invite to SCAS in October 2007!

Orionid MeteorWatch-  
 Saturday, 21st about 100 visitors and families arrived

to our SCAS Orionid MeteorWatch at Sadowski Park by mid evening, and many remained until closing after Midnight. Several Orionids were seen, but it was written that the max had occurred on our East Coast during sunset! SCAS hi-tech equipment focused on beautiful views of the Ring Nebula near Vega and the double stars in Cygnus, M-6 and M-7 above Scorpius and bright Jupiter in the southwest, blue Neptune and



M57; 7x30 secs unguided, by Tim Khan and Steve Van Ryn. Saturday October 21, 2006 Bill Sadowski Park Scope: Celestron 11" SCT Camera: SBIG ST-402ME operating at -5 degrees C

blue-green Uranus in the southeast, and the late-rising galaxy Andromeda in the northeast, thanks to our loyal SCAS Saturday Nite Live Astros. Hallowe'en Metroboo-  
 Our SCAS safe solarviewing portion at the Annual MetroBoo was cancelled due to weather.



Photo(left) by Bill Williams, Oct. 29, Area 51 Collier County, Everglades. 6-inch Astro-Physics refractor at f/6 with the SBIG ST-10 CCD camera guiding on the comet nucleus.

## NASA CALENDAR

- Wednesday, 8th- Mercury Transits the Sun 2:12 p.m. - 6 p.m. EST.
- Monday, 13th- Asteroid Iris 7 at opposition (6.8 magn.) near Pleiades.
- Tuesday, 14th- Kuiper Belt Object 90377 Sedna closest to Earth (87.647 AU)
- Wednesday 15th- 22nd- Chiefland Star Party, near Chiefland, Florida
- Saturday, 18th- Peak of Leonids Meteor Shower--moonless sky.
- Friday, 24th- Asteroid 1996 BQ1 Near-Earth Flyby (0.096 AU).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Barb Yager

Fairchild Garden Moonlight Tour-

Thursday, November 2nd SCAS Astros were cancelled due to bad weather.

Mercury Transit the Sun-

Wednesday, 8th- FIU 302-348-3964 and SCAS Astros will have safe solarviewing 2:15 pm - sunset! at the FIU Telescope Deck near the Physics Building, University Park, SW 109th Ave./SW 8th Street.

Classes will be in session and parking spaces will be very limited. NEVER look directly at the Sun without professional protection.

Blindness may occur quickly.

Annual Fairchild Garden Ramble-

Saturday 11/Sunday 12th-

9-5, friendly SCAS mem-

bers will operate safe

solarviewing and assist

visitors at the large SCAS

tent with astronomy exhib-

its from SCAS/NASA and

Int'l Dark Sky Assoc. --rain

or shine! Bring the family

to enjoy hundreds of

exhibits & sales! Call 305-

667-1651.

Deering Jazz Concert-

Saturday 11th, 7-10 pm, during the popular Jazz

Concert, SCAS Astros will have telescopes arranged

near the lagoon behind the historic Deering Estate at

Cutler, east end of SW 168th St. Call: 305-235-1668.

Leonid MeteorWatch-

Saturday 18th, SCAS Saturday Nite Live Team of Astros will have hi-tech equipment at the observing deck, Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Center, SW 176 St./SW 79 Ave. Public is invited 9 pm-Midnight.

Reports are the Leonid max on our East Coast would occur 18/19th. Call 305-661-1375.

SCAS Star Party at Chekika-

Friday, 24th, 7-10:30 pm, SCAS Astros will have hi-tech equipment arranged in the large parking lot of

Chekika Recreation Area, East Everglades National Park, SW 237th Ave. & east end of SW 168th St. FREE. Public may park near the entrance to the parking lot. Car LIGHTS OFF at end of driveway. Observing area at far end of the parking lot will be reserved for SCAS

Astros only! (SW 184th St. may have construction). By late evening, Saturn may be visible rising in the east. SCAS is

sincerely grateful to the National Park Service for their invitation to return to Chekika to host a

public event. Chekika will

officially open with admission to

the public December 16th. Please keep the parking

lot clean. Call 305-661-1375.

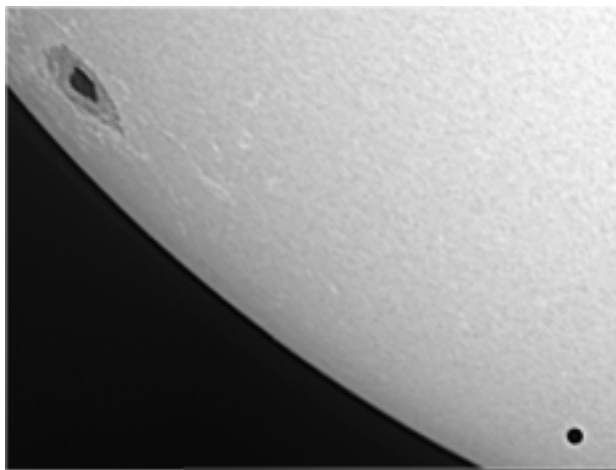


Photo by Don Parker. 16-inch Newtonian stopped down to 6 inches with a Baader filter and a Lumenera Skynyx webcam.

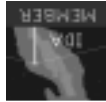
## FLORIDA KEYS ASTRONOMY CLUB

Excerpts from a Sunday, October 29th article in the Florida KeyNotes News (Key West & Florida Keys) and photo by Ron Poller taken 9/30th at the Annual Birding & Wildlife Fest, Curry Hammock State Park. Reporter Ryan McCarthy interviews George Tegzes in his article: LOST IN THE STARS. 'An Island of Darkness'.

George recalled when he and retiree Jim Cooper (now a NC resident) established FKAC in 1996. Their first public meeting was held at Pidgeon Key which attracted about 30 visitors. Although they moved their sessions to Bahia Honda State Park, the FKAC membership remains between 30-40. Regular observations are held in the dark of the Moon and special events (Mercury Transit the Sun Nov. 8th) at Bahia Honda. George emphasizes "the Florida Keys provide 'good seeing' (a steady flow of air from the sea) that reveals amazing detail on planets, stars and deep sky objects ---not possible elsewhere. Also the light pollution is not as invasive, lights from Marathon do create a difference. Bahia Honda is an "Island of Darkness" between Big Pine and Marathon, and views of the brightest section of the Milky Way Galaxy (a starry cloud band composed of several billion worlds) are visible". He recommends a novice not even use a telescope when starting out. FKAC information of meetings, equipment, events call George: 305-872-9848 or gtegzes@bellsouth.net.

SAVE SCAS MONEY! GO PDF

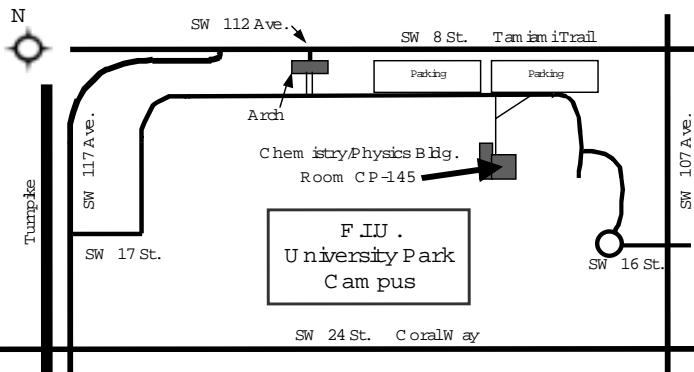
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 The International Dark Sky Association



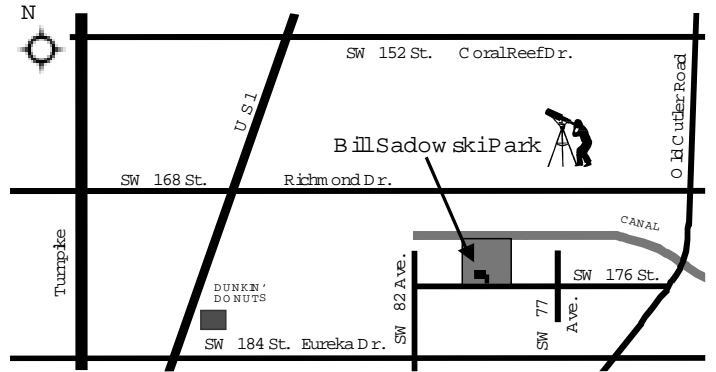
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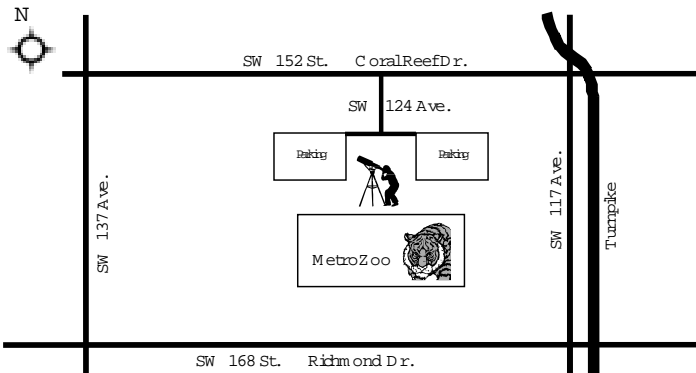
SCAS General Meetings - Third Friday of every Month



SCAS Star Gazing - Every Saturday Night 8-10pm



Saturday Solar Viewing - 10am - 12noon



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