



UPDATE ON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY IN FLORIDA March Public Program

FRIDAY, MARCH 16th, 8 pm, DR. BILL WILLIAMS, SCAS member and renowned astro-imager of Boca Raton, will present his UPDATE of AMATEUR ASTRONOMY in FLORIDA, FIU Astronomy Center, CP-145, Physics Bldg., University Park. His entertaining FREE SCAS program will include: latest astronomy projects, research, new observatories, Florida Star Parties, people and places, plus his spectacular astro-images (resemble those taken by the Hubble)! A great opportunity for novice and veteran astronomers to learn what is available throughout Florida to inspire the "hungry astro", always searching to.....

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

celestial images that reveal lighting and composition resembling 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 horizons in southern latitudes, capturing ancient starlight in the steady atmosphere above South Florida. Photographers, astronomers of all ages, faculty and students will benefit from this exciting UPDATE of AMATEUR ASTRONOMY in FLORIDA, hosted by Southern Cross Astros in the FIU Physics Bldg., CP-145, NE area of University Park, SW 109th Avenue and SW 8th Street. Enjoy a food buffet, prizes, discussions with the Top Guns in Astronomy. Call: 305-661-1375 or www.scas.org.

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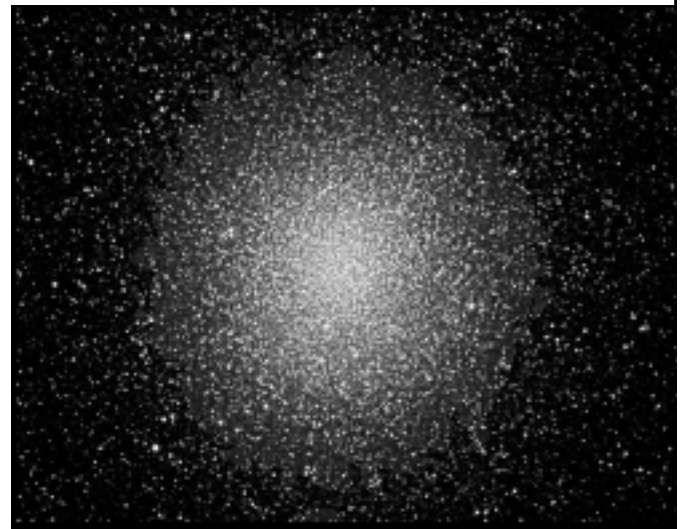
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BILL WILLIAMS, a physician and administrator at North Broward Medical Center, Deerfield Beach for about 25 years, has become highly recognized for his astro-imaging. His awesome photos of Comet Swan, Milky Way, etc., have appeared on Spaceweather.com and in national astronomy magazines. During his rare spare time, he works on his small observatory in the Chiefland Astronomy Village in NW Florida with the help of his two sons during their college breaks. BILL's passion for nature is captured in his awesome



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

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HOTLINE:
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OR VISIT THE
NEW SCAS WEB SITE:
[HTTP://WWW.SCAS.ORG](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 Sunday Miami Herald's Tropical Life section, by Barb Yager, now in its 23rd year!

March 20- VERNAL EQUINOX occurs 8:07 pm EDT, when northbound Sun crosses the Equator. Spring begins in N. hemisphere. Sun rises due east and sets due west. Drivers use caution on east-west roads.

CLASSIFIED

NEW SUPER SALE!

20" f/5 custom-built Dob with lots of bells and whistles, including **SOLD** **SOLD** **SOLD** its own enclosed utility trailer. \$10,000. obo. **SOLD** on display and can be picked up at the Winter Star Party. Contact Charles Perillo for details, photos or to check it out. cmperillo@bellsouth.net 954-816-3654.

10 ft/ DOME FOR SALE

A 10 ft. Technical Innovations fiberglass dome in excellent condition with **SOLD** **SOLD** **SOLD** motors, control system, computer with Sky6 and Linn control software included. Base ring to mount onto any flat surface. (about \$10,000. new) **SOLD** **SOLD** ONLY \$2500. mikepalermiti@bellsouth.net

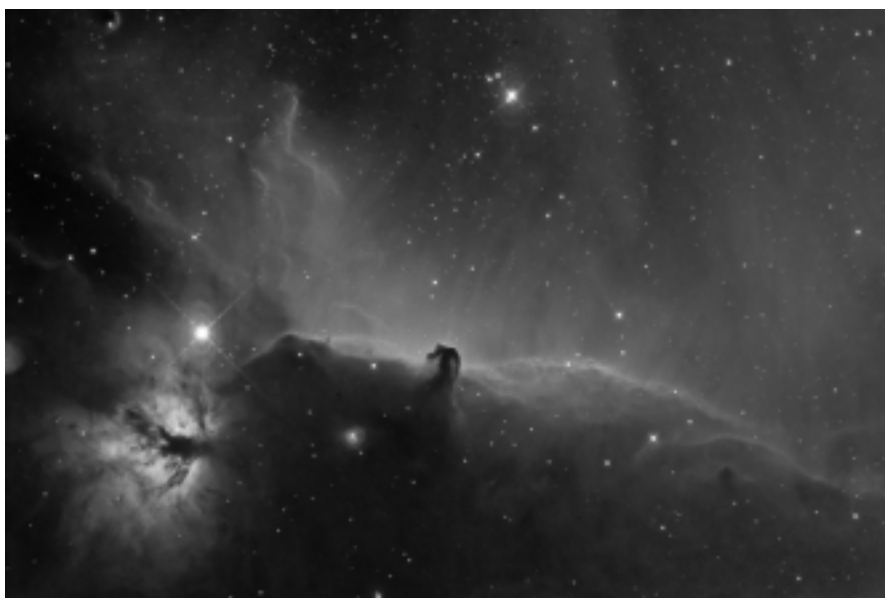
THE ART OF COLLECTING METEORITES

A fantastic chronology based on true adventures by author Kevin Kuchinka, Ft. Myers, FL. His travels, friendships and search for specific rare meteorites in South America, advice for collecting and preserving the precious items and fraud prevention with dealers is crucial information to a meteorite hunter/collector. For only \$10. the 200 pg. journal contains ___ color photos to help you, or a friend, begin a new hobby. Great gift suggestion! Order now: SCAS Hotline: 305-661-1375.

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

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Members On The Move...sad to learn more SCAS members are leaving town: HARRY PICKERING, retired Coral Gables Police Officer and Messier Marathon winner, will be heading to N. Florida in the near future. CRISTIAN RUIZ & wife ESTRELLA, Ph.D in Chemistry, and youngsters, recently moved to the Bay area of San Francisco, where she will work for Chevron Oil Co...Former SCAS Historian RIC BABCOCK & wife GAIL (ran in the Miami Marathon 1/28/07) reside in Salinas, CA. Former SCAS Treasurer BORIS ORTIZ & wife Martine now live in Orlando, FL and WSP Founder/former SCAS Board members TIPPY & PATTY D'AURIA moved to Ocala, FL last Fall and the MARK GOLDSMITH FAMILY moved to St. Augustine last summer....Happy WSP attendees: ANDRES VALENCIA, Key Biscayne, enjoyed lectures by Dan Falk and Wil Tirion, visited with four Dutch astronomers, Mike Reynolds and Scott Roberts and two Mexican friends...LEN ESPINOSA, MI, was thrilled to win a 66mm tele-photo lens/telescope with a 388mm focal length at the WSP--perfect for his new camera and small Takahashi tracking mount...Past Pres. DUKE DAYTON reports he and wife LINDA are fine. They have rental property near their home which he is renovating in his spare time. He teaches astronomy at Utah Valley University where they recently received a hi-tech digital projector for the school's planetarium. He and colleague Karl had planned a student star party but were "snowed out".



NEW MEMBERS

Southern Cross extends a warm welcome to our new members: TONI DEVESON, web developer, husband BILL, engineer and son DAN; CARLOS ESPINA, Belen 6th grader and SCAS prize winner, Miami-Dade Science & Engineering Fair 2007; MICHAEL McGAULEY, Professor Miami-Dade College & wife SYLVIA, a realtor; and FIU student JESSICA TALLEDA, all of Miami. We hope to meet you soon at our SCAS events.

MEMBER PHOTOS

Photos by Don Parker. The Horsehead Nebula (above) and M42 (right) were taken from his house on Jan 14 and 15 respectively. He used a 4.25-inch f-4 Newtonian astrograph made for him by Sheldon Faworski. The mount was a Paramount ME and the camera was an SBIG ST-10XE. Both were shot through a hydrogen-alpha filter. Total exposure for the Horsehead was 70 minutes, and 62 minutes for the Orion Nebula.



MARCH ALMANAC AT A GLANCE

FULL LENTEN MOON Saturday, 3rd 6:17 pm
Moonrise at 6:20 pm in total eclipse. Totality complete 8:12 pm

LAST QTR. MOON Sunday, 11th 11:54 pm

NEW MOON Sunday, 18th 10:43 pm

FIRST QTR. MOON Sunday, 25th 2:16 pm

Daylight Saving Time begins Sat., March 10th 2 am

MORNING SKIES: Jupiter, Mars, Mercury and Saturn are visible.

Golden Jupiter rises soon after Midnight in Ophiuchus. Jupiter lies to the upper left of bright Antares (red heart) in huge Scorpius.

They cruise across the south at dawn.

Pluto, 14th magnitude, lies to the upper left of Jupiter. Dim Mars and Neptune, in Capricornus, remain low in SE. They follow the Sagittarian Teapot.

Saturn, in Leo, sets in the west before dawn.

Uranus moves behind the Sun, not visible this month.

6th- About 45 minutes before Sunup, Mercury appears on SE horizon.

11th- Waning Moon in Scorpius, below red Antares and golden Jupiter.

13th- Moon lies in the Sagittarian Teapot in SE.

16th- Before Sunrise, the Moon rises between Mars (right) and Mercury (left).

21st- Mercury reaches highest altitude in SE.

25th- Mars rises 1 degree below Neptune in SE.

Corvus the Crow leads Spica, Virgo the Spring Maiden, into SW. Libra moves into the SW.

Scorpius crawls across the south. Sagittarius lies in the SE. Capricornus rises in the SE. In the NE, Vega brings the Summer Triangle toward the Zenith.

Bright Arcturus, Herdsman, sparkles overhead.

Big Dipper swings into the NW. The Little Dipper's handle is 'attached' to Polaris, North Star.

EVENING SKIES:

Brilliant Venus, Evening Star, climbs from Pisces into Aries the Ram in the west and sets mid-evening.

Silver-ringed Saturn drifts higher in the east, in Leo the Lion. The two planets will meet end of June.

20-21st- The young Moon climbs near Venus. Spectacular in binoculars!

22nd- The Moon floats below the Seven Sisters (Pleiades star cluster).

26th- The Moon lies near the Beehive cluster in Cancer, below the Gemini Twins.

28th- The Moon meets Saturn in Leo.

The Great Square of Pegasus dips below the western horizon. Aries the Ram descends lower in the west. Cassiopeia and Andromeda drift low into NW.

The westbound Seven Sisters lead Taurus the Bull, Aldebaran in the V-shaped Hyades cluster, Gemini Twins, Orion the Hunter and his Big Dog (south), Procyon, Little Dog (overhead), and bright Capella in Auriga, Charioteer, in the north.

Leo the Lion climbs higher in the east.

The Big Dipper clears the NE horizon.

Mid-evening: bright Arcturus, Herdsman, rises in NE. Spica, in Virgo, rises in SE.

Moon Set/Rise Table for MAR/APR

Date (m/d)	Moon Rise	Moon Set
15/3/2007	4:05	14:58
16/3/2007	4:47	16:05
17/3/2007	5:27	17:12
18/3/2007	6:04	18:18
19/3/2007	6:40	19:25
20/3/2007	7:18	20:33
21/3/2007	7:58	21:42
22/3/2007	8:42	22:51
23/3/2007	9:31	23:59
24/3/2007	10:26	---
25/3/2007	11:26	1:02
26/3/2007	12:27	1:58
27/3/2007	13:28	2:46
28/3/2007	14:26	3:27
29/3/2007	15:22	4:03
30/3/2007	16:15	4:35
31/3/2007	17:07	5:03
1/4/2007	18:57	6:31
2/4/2007	19:48	6:58
3/4/2007	20:39	7:27
4/4/2007	21:33	7:57
5/4/2007	22:28	8:31
6/4/2007	23:25	9:09
7/4/2007	---	9:53
8/4/2007	0:22	10:42
9/4/2007	1:17	11:38
10/4/2007	2:09	12:38
11/4/2007	2:57	13:41
12/4/2007	3:40	14:45
13/4/2007	4:19	15:50
14/4/2007	4:56	16:54

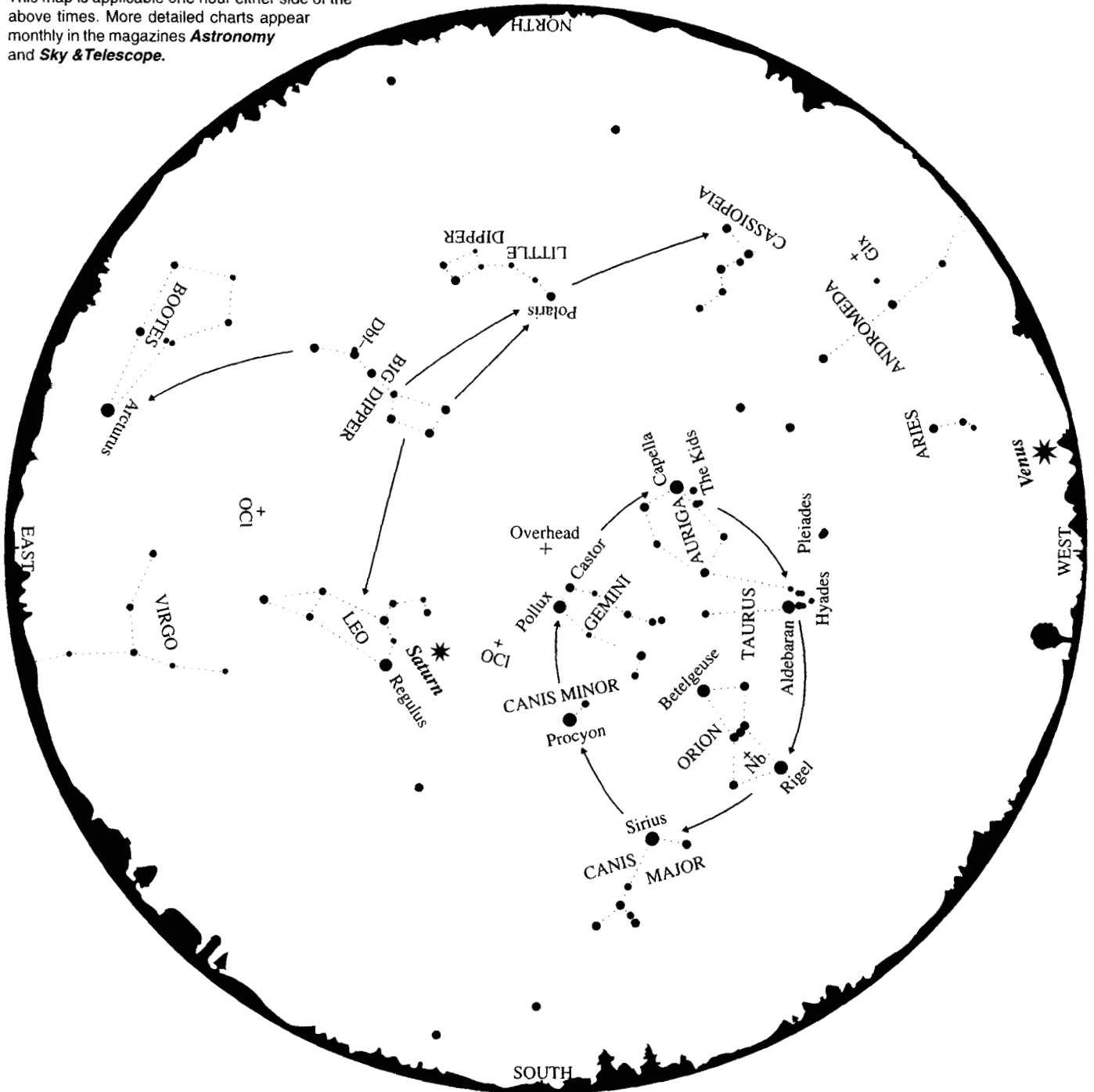
March Evening Skies

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 February	10 p.m.
Early March	9 p.m.
Late March	8 p.m.

© 2007 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 Venus and Saturn are plotted for mid-March 2007. At chart time 11 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Venus, Sirius, Arcturus, Saturn, Capella, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Pollux, and Regulus. 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. The position of an external star system, called the Andromeda Galaxy after the constellation in which it appears, is also indicated (Glx). Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- Barb Yager

WOW---SCAS and AMPS clubs appeared as a cover photo, and p.3 article in Neighbors Miami Herald, Thursday March 8, 2007 featuring the SCAS public Star Party for the Total Lunar Eclipse, hosted by members of AMPS (AeroModelers of Perrine) at their green, spacious Flying Field, SW 168 St., 2 1/2 miles west of Krome Ave. AMPS Pres. Tom Caldwell served delicious hamburgers, hot dogs, sodas to more than 100 visitors, (including our Science Fair Winner Carlos Espina and parents--former SCAS members Dave & Lil Smalley now residing in Costa Rica, model pilots and SCAS astronomers. The eclipsed Moon floated out of a fog bank of low clouds, about

15 degrees above the dark eastern horizon, as a sliver of bright Moonlight appeared on the left edge creating a dramatic contrast. About 7:45 pm, the ISS (Int'l Space Station) cruised NW to SW to the delight of kids and first-time observers who were told 3 astronauts were having a great "eclipse ride"! More than 20 hi-tech SCAS telescopes were lined up after SCAS members Tim Khan, Herm Perez and pilots finished flying their remote-controlled planes and helicopters by sunset. Our sincere thanks to the AMPS members for their great invitation, to Herald photographer Peter Andrew Bosch and reporter Jose Pagliery for an excellent review of our SCAS Lunar Eclipse-Star Party.



SCAS STAR PARTY - LUNAR ECLIPSE at the AMPS Flying Field Saturday, March 3, 07. Family Event co-hosted by the AeroModelers of Perrine and Southern Cross Astros. L-R: Judy Elkins (on phone), friends of Andre & Nicole Fernandez, Andre Fernandez (SCAS shirt), Oliver Gibbs, HSTD Air Base, Nick Stingone, Bette & Andres Valencia (rear), Vickie Van Ryn (front), Steve Van Ryn, Tim's 8" Monster Scope, Sergio Figuera, Armon Ahmadi, Armon's sister (front), Tim Khan, Jose Cardozo, Barb Yager, Manny Castro, Carlos Espina (Belen 6th grade SCAS Science Fair winner), Neal (AMPS member) and Mr. Espina. SCAS Astros: Chad Cantrell, Editor Lisa Merritt, Herm Perez, Jim Rose, SCAS President Lester Shalloway, M.D. and Mike Smith were off camera arranging equipment. - photo by Sergio Figuera.

Photo, right, by Harry Pickering, who "was clouded out in north Miami-Dade for the first 45 minutes, and then shot these through light clouds, a little murky. Nikon D40 digital camera with a 300mm zoom lense at F8 for 1/200 sec at 800 ISO. Scope at 39X."



FEBRUARY EVENTS

GULLIVER ACADEMY-

The Star Party segment of the Annual Astronomy Night at Gulliver Academy, February 7th, became totally clouded out as soon as several SCAS Astros arrived in their parking lot. The night skies prior to and after that date were mostly clear!!

VALENTINE NIGHT JAZZ CONCERT-

Although most of our SCAS Astros were at our Annual SCAS Winter Star Party in the FL Keys, Ken Willis, Paul Buscher & Margi, Nick Stingone joined Barb Yager at the historic Deering Estate to set up hi-tech equipment by the lagoon. Clear skies showcased the sparkling winter constellations and silver-ringed Saturn. Brilliant Venus had set in twilight.

2,200 excited visitors came through the Deering attendance gate and covered the huge spacious lawn (from the stage near the Stone House to the land spits bordering the Lagoon). Against a background of pastel sunset, softly lighted interior of the Stone House, music lovers huddled around candle-lit low tables, on blankets and lounge chairs across the expanse of lawn....we were surrounded! Thanks to the Deering staff for their invitation, SCAS assisted dozens of visitors and enjoyed the very successful and picturesque event.

UPCOMING FREE EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 16th, 8 pm, SCAS PUBLIC PROGRAM: UPDATE OF AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS in FLORIDA--a collection of astronomy categories of interest available to all amateur astronomers combined with awesome deep sky photos by Dr. Bill Williams.
(see page 1.)

SATURDAY, 17th - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY will hold its popular sale and related plant events at Bill Sadowski Park & Nature Center, SW 176 St./SW 79th Avenue. Weather permitting, SCAS will provide SAFE SOLARVIEWING on their telescope deck.

SATURDAY, 31st- EVERGLADES NAT'L PARK hosts WALK IN THE PARK, 10 am-3 pm Big Cypress Preserve, Tamiami Trail, Collier County. Weather permitting, SCAS will have SAFE SOLARVIEWING near the Visitors Center. Make reservations for bus transportation. Special environmental exhibits, music and food will be included.

OFF CAMPUS

-Dr. J. R. Webb, FIU

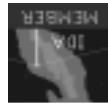
DR. JIM WEBB, FIU research astronomer, is not only a popular professor but also a busy and talented musician. In between teaching astronomy and keeping up with his research, here are some highlights of his recent adventures....

"One of my previous astronomy students now works at the "Loop Road Educational Center" and invited me to meet 25 Rangers from Everglades National Park and give them a crash course in observational astronomy. They found an old Celestron which was missing some spare parts. I used some FIU spare parts to refurbish their scope and taught them how to use it. The evening sky was partly cloudy but everyone had a great time.....

Residents of the Miami Rescue Shelter attended last two FIU public events as a "field trip". I received 5 brief letters of thanks for making their lives more interesting, thinking about Black Holes!....In mid-February I premiered my "In Progress" show at Bradley Observatory & Planetarium--a beautiful little place on top of a hill on the Agnes Scott College campus in Decatur, Georgia. The old building was recently refurbished to the tune of \$1 million dollars! A 30" telescope sits in a dome on top of a 40-seat planetarium with a state-of-the-art computerized lecture hall and offices for the astronomy faculty. A custom-designed tile plaza in front where Celestron telescopes are set up for astronomy labs. February 16th I gave my lecture: "The Edge of Physics--Time Travel & Quantum Teleportation" well attended by an SRO audience and the university president. At 9:30 we retired to the Planetarium for my "Out in Space" program. As the lights slowly dimmed, my arrangement of Theme from Cosmos for classical guitar is heard--stars come out on the ceiling, then a slide appears: "Out In Space" --followed by a blank slide while classical guitar plays the Theme for Space Odyssey 2001 and slides appear featuring solar eclipses, astronauts on the Moon and Space Walkers. Next slide: "Across the Universe" with a film clip "Through the Galaxy" as the classical guitar played "Across the Universe" by the Beatles. Tom and I did "Rocket Man" with the lyrics on the ceiling. Finally we did "Third Stone from the Sun", "The Astronomy Love Song", "Black Hole Song", "The Galaxy Song", "I Can't Believe They Pay Me For This" and finally did "Here comes The Sun" as the room light came up to resemble a Sunrise. Pretty effective....February 28th I gave a lecture "Naked Eye Astronomy" to the Coral Park High School Astronomy Club....during Spring Break, I will attend the S.A.R.A. Board Meeting, Valparaiso, Indiana, and give a seminar and public lecture at Anderson University followed by a seminar at Butler University in Indianapolis."

SAVE SCAS MONEY! GO PDF

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The Astronomical League and
The International Dark Sky Association

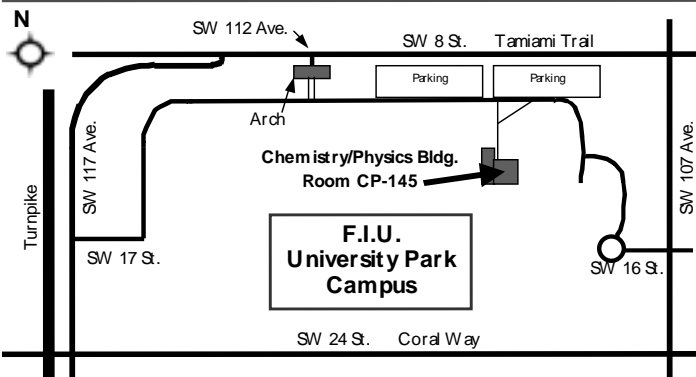


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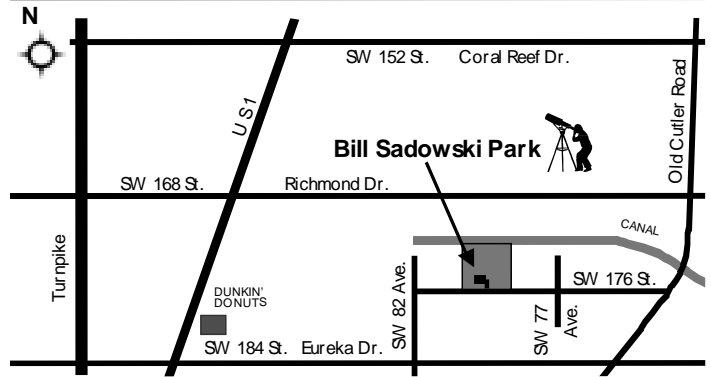
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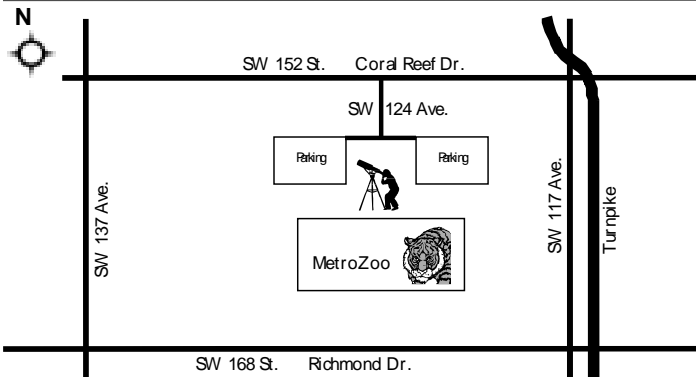
SCAS General Meetings - Third Friday of every Month



SCAS Star Gazing - Every Saturday Night 8-10pm



Saturday Solar Viewing - 10am - 12noon



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