



Central Florida Astronomical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 620907
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Quarterly Astrolog

Volume 36 Issue 4

www.cfas.org

Fourth Quarter 2011

Special Items of Interest

CFAS Meetings:

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

CFAS Board Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month at Dan's Restaurant at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

Observing Sessions and

Dark Sky Observing:

Check the CFAS web site for dates and times of planned events.

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Stars Sparkle at CFAS Holiday Party



The CFAS holiday party was the program for the December meeting and provided the perfect venue for presentation of two recognitions, both for outstanding achievement and success in the outreach program. Francisco Gonzalez (center), newly elected CFAS President presented Tony Urzi, outgoing president (right), with a plaque commemorating the many hours he personally invested in planning and conducting a record number of outreach programs in area schools. Tony in turn, recognized the efforts of Gordon Cain (left) in scheduling and helping with the outreach programs through out the year and presented him with a Night Sky Network award.

The meeting party was held this year at Dan's Restaurant party room. Traditional sub sandwiches were served supplemented with cheese grits, and all kinds of goodies brought by attendees. No one went away hungry.

Bert Burch brought a light bucket and set-up outside the front door providing an observing opportunity for all. The business portion of the meeting allowed for the presentation, discussion and member approval of the 2012 budget. ∞

New Slate of Officers To Lead CFAS In 2012

Dick Feller conducted the closing of nominations and election of officers for 2012 at the October CFAS meeting. Francisco Gonzalez will lead CFAS during 2012 as President filling the position behind Tony Urzi who will continue leading the outreach program. Francisco has been a very active member of CFAS for many years.

He will be assisted by Derek Demeter as the newly elected Vice President. Derek is best known as the Director of the Seminole State College Planetarium, and has led CFAS efforts to support Dark Skies for the last several years.

Ray Jones, was re-elected to the position of Treasurer, which proves to be a demanding job of accounting for all CFAS financial transactions. He furnishes the board of directors with monthly reports as well as overseeing the processing of all income and expense transactions.

Bert Burch was elected to the position of Secretary, a position he accepted an appointment to last year filling a mid-year vacancy.

David Hallemeier was re-elected to the position of Board Member At Large beginning a new 2-year term. Dick Feller will serve another year as Board Member At Large filling a min-term vacancy appointment made by the President.

This completes the officially elected Board of Directors for CFAS. Other board members include the various committee chairs appointed by the President. As the new year begins we can expect some new appointments. If you are interested in serving in any capacity please make yourself known to one of the new board members. It goes without saying that the lifeblood of any organization is in the hands of its members who step up and contribute their time and talent to the leadership demands.

We are very grateful and extend a heartfelt “Thanks” to retiring President Tony Urzi and all the board members and committee chairs who have contributed so much to making CFAS a valuable educational and scientific asset to the Central Florida community through its programs and especially its educational outreach efforts. The number of children and adults touched by the experience to better understand, and actually see, a planet or the moon, or a deep sky nebulae just wouldn’t happen unless CFAS provided the opportunity.

Thanks for 2011, and we look forward to 2012. ∞

Library News

by Dick Feller

The CFAS library has received two new additions. First, we purchased the second (newest) edition of ***Understanding the Universe: An Introduction to Astronomy***, a DVD set of presentations by the well-known astronomer Professor Alex Filippenko of the University of California, Berkeley. The set contains ninety-six, thirty-minute lectures on the latest astronomical scholarship. It is suitable for both the beginner in astronomy as well as the advanced student. We also have the first edition of this lecture series that is about ten years old. Both series were produced as part of **THE GREAT COURSES** from the Teaching Company and make a fine addition to our education materials.

The second great addition to our library was a donation of twenty-six astronomy books by CFAS member Bob Vogel. Some very famous astronomical authors wrote and edited these books and they have fascinating titles. For example: ***Steven Hawking’s Universe... Scientific American Book of the Cosmos... The Florida Night Sky... Telescopes and Techniques, An Introduction to Practical Astronomy... The World Treasury of Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics... Exploring the Moon Through Binoculars and Small Telescopes... The Ultimate Universe... The New Solar System... The Planets... Great Feuds in Science, Ten of the Liveliest Disputes Ever...*** and sixteen more. Please join me in thanking Bob Vogel for this generous donation.

The CFAS library is located in the back portion of Derek Demeter’s office at the Seminole State College Planetarium—where we have our meetings. You are welcome to browse through the materials before or after the meeting, or during the breaks on meeting nights. An updated list of our materials is located on our website. Books, DVDs, and VHS tapes can be checked out for thirty days. If you have any questions about our resources, please call me at (407) 857-3757. I am happily retired so feel free to call any time—until 8:00 PM. Please Note: No tachyons were used in the production of this report. ∞

From The President***Francisco Gonzalez***

I want to start by wishing everybody a happy and prosperous 2012. I also want to thank Tony Urzi for his four years as CFAS president. Great Job Tony!!! During those four years the club Outreach Program took a different dimension due to Tony's efforts. As we begin 2012, I also want to take the time to ask the membership for their support of the new board. We want the membership to get involved in outreach events and increase our General Meeting attendance. Derek Demeter, as Vice president, is in charge of the club programs and he has put forward a very exciting program plan for this year. He got the ideas from a previous survey asking the membership about what they wanted to see and do in our monthly meetings. He is trying to honor the membership wishes. Please take the time to check the program schedule for this year.

To finish, I want to include a brief description of a new and exciting project that we have in mind. Ray Jones, our treasurer, has been working hard trying to figure out how to do this the right way. Please read through it. This year our approved CFAS budget contains the following additional clause: " During 2012 the CFAS board intends to transfer up to \$40,000 of endowment securities into real estate property investment in the Chiefland Astronomy Village. This investment would be used as a Dark Sky Observing site for the membership. This decision is contingent upon all costs being within a revised CFAS budget, and the membership votes to establish a CAV site development fund. "

This is a very important decision for CFAS, and its execution depends upon the response from the CFAS membership. As such it is important that each member understand exactly what is required for us to move forward with this project.

There is a 5-acre plot in the Chiefland Astronomy Village (CAV) that is for sale for \$32,000. This is an undeveloped parcel of land that has been cleared, and planted in grass. If you are not familiar with CAV, then please learn about it from this website: <http://www.tomclarkbooks.com/tomclarkbooks.com/Chiefland.html> . Along with Tom's field , John Novak has started another group called the Chiefland Star Party group. Some CFAS members use both of these sites.

So what is the advantage of having our own site there? There are many advantages if our members will use the site. Access will be 24/7 for members. We can schedule our annual star parties at our convenience. We can establish R/V sites for our member's use, etc.

Why this site? CAV is a permanent astronomy village. There are permanent residences there to protect our interests. The residents are expert amateur astronomers who are very helpful, and who share our interest in maintaining a dark sky. The area has access to many facilities and recreational sites.

Is this a good investment? No one can predict the future, but property in this village was selling for \$30,000 or more for 5 acres five years ago. The dark sky areas are becoming smaller each year, and therefore will become more valuable. CFAS will have to charge modest usage fees to cover expenses, and can also use the property for other revenue generating purposes. These fees will more than cover our interest and dividend losses from our investments used to purchase the property.

What needs to be done to make the land useable for observing? Electric power, water and a septic system need to be established. This will allow for camping on the property. The estimated cost for this is \$12,000. Our endowment funds cannot be used for this. Therefore we will need to raise these funds through donations and fund raising activities.

What is the long -term goal for the site? The establishment of 4 R/V sites, a small club house with sanitary facilities and showers.

So you can see this is a long term, serious project for CFAS. The board is ready to start the process if the membership is behind the effort and can raise the needed funding to establish the minimum facilities to support observing. What is next? CFAS will be putting out a member survey. Based on the results of this survey the project will either go forward or will be cancelled.

When you receive the survey please complete it and submit it promptly. Thank You.

—Francisco Gonzalez

Winter Observing Report

by Ray Jones

With the advent of cooler weather we should be seeing clearer skies. This means it's time to get out the scopes and make sure they are tuned up and ready to go. It is not much fun to get to the observing site and find out the ole scope is not functioning. I set mine up in the living room and run it through its paces. It is amazing how many of those little things are missing or are just hard to find in accessory case!! Both Harmony and Ocala have been in use over the fall season. Len Ward reports the following:

"Hi everybody:

We are well into the winter months where the nights are long and the skies are supposed to be clear. But the weather has not been cooperating. With a little bit of luck these next few months will be better.

Greg Gologowski has indicated that he intends to have the lights turned off for each of the new moon weekends for the rest of the winter and spring.

We have an invite to have a BBQ star party put on by the people at Harmony for us and other astronomy organizations. The time has not been determined. Sounds like a great idea to me."

Vince White reports that attendance is up at the Ocala site, but hopes more will be able to take advantage of the dark skies.

Remember to sign up for the observing email list for each of these sites. By doing so you will be kept fully up on who is observing and when. So far the system has produced extra observing opportunities.

I hope you have read the president's report, and will support the Chiefland site survey. A decision to purchase a dark sky site is a big one, and will take raising considerable funds to make it a reality. Dark sky areas are getting very scarce, and the ability to purchase property in an astronomy village is almost unheard of. Still it is up to the membership to decide and be willing to financially support it.

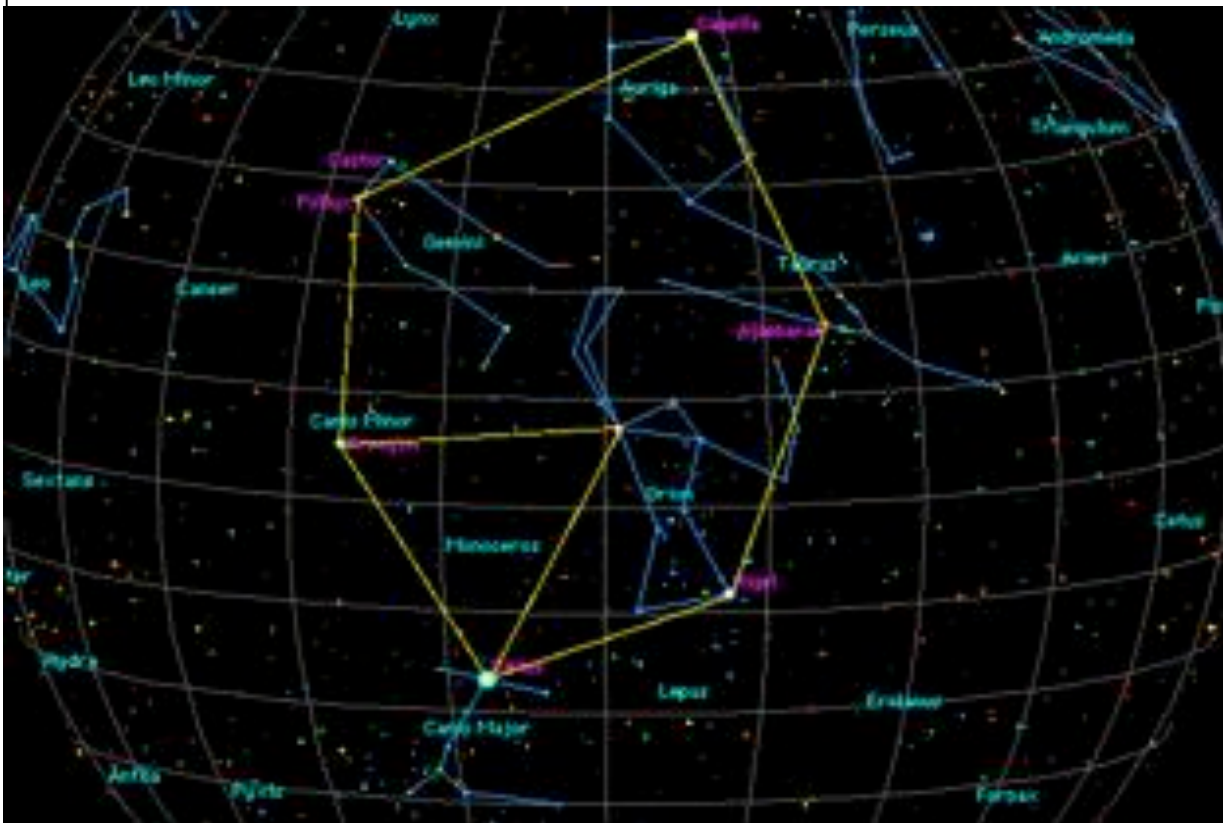
New members please do not forget about our loaner telescopes. They are great scopes and are easy to use. Even from your driveway you can get great images of the moon and the planets. That reminds me of our Messier and Moon certificate programs. Congratulations to Wayne Frey for completing the Messier Program. It took Wayne a year, but only takes a few dark sky sessions to complete. It is time to get your Winter sky objects now.

Several members have discussed the need for a close in site to observe bright objects. They live in an area that is impossible to view even the moon. Beeler Gausz is looking into this and will have more information later this year. Beeler is planning on a first start as a star party in a local park. Stay tuned.

Tony Urzi has a busy outreach year schedule again this year. Please support those near where you live. A small telescope or binoculars on a tripod is all you need for these events. It is a joy to watch folks, young and old, that are looking at the moon or a planet for their first time. Trust me you will enjoy the experience of bringing a little astronomy to the general population.

Don't forget to put our Spring Astrofest on your schedule. The dates are 22- 25 March 2012 at the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. Plan on attending. Clear skies to all,

--Ray Jones



This heavenly hexagon houses the Winter Triangle with the stars Sirius and Procyon forming points in both of these geometric wonders.

The six stars of the Great Winter Hexagon are seen in the map: Sirius, Rigel, Aldebaran, Capella, Pollux and Procyon.

From the Treasurer**Ray Jones**

Happy New Year fellow astronomers!

It's that time of year again. Yep CFAS membership renewals are due this January!

Many thanks to over 50% of the membership who have already renewed for 2012. Even though our expenses have gone up the board also voted not to increase dues. Please renew soon so we can execute our budget, and provide you the programs and the services we all enjoy.

The easiest way to do this is by using Pay Pal. No checks to write. No 44 cent stamps, etc. Do it all on line. No renewal form needed.

Please note any changes to your address, phone number or email address by using the comment box. I'll send you a paid up invoice to confirm the transaction. It couldn't be simpler.

Most members have already used this method and it works great. If you do not have a PAY PAL account establish one at www.PayPal.com or through our website:

http://www.cfas.org/staticpages/index.php?page=CFAS_Application_JS

However if snail mail is your preference mail your check (Made out to CFAS, INC.) to:

Treasurer

P.O. Box 620709 , Oviedo, FL 32762-0907

Lunar Viewing Dates for Moon Certificate Hounds

Especially for those of you who are chasing the list of features to observe for the Moon Certificate, here are the dates through March 2012 when lunar observing is available, weather permitting.

JANUARY 2012	Waxing, First Quarter Moon on the 1 st
	Full Moon on the 9 th .
	Waning, Last Quarter Moon on the 16 th
	New Moon on the 23 rd
	Waxing, First Quarter Moon on the 30 th
FEBRUARY 2012	Full Moon on the 7 th
	Waning, Last Quarter Moon on the 14 th
	New Moon on the 21 st
	Waxing, First Quarter Moon on the 29 th
MARCH 2012	Full Moon on the 8 th
	Waning, Last Quarter Moon on the 14 th
	New Moon on the 22 nd
	Waxing, First Quarter Moon on the 30 th

More Scenes From The CFAS Holiday Party



Mmmmmmm – Good!



Yes! There Is A Santa Clause.



And the 2012 Budget is approved.



You won't believe what this APP does.



Business Session Before Treats



Reaching out to Mr. Outreach

2012 CFAS Officers and Board Members

President: Francisco Gonzalez 407-443-6754
kframil@gmail.com

Vice President: Derek Demeter 321-388-4788
demeterd@seminolestate.edu

Treasurer: Ray Jones 407-221-6779 rayjones@earthlink.net

Secretary: Bert Burch 407-928-9364 BertBurch@hotmail.com

2011 Board Members At Large (BMAL):

David Hallemeyer 407-687-0863 kaaukai@bellsouth.net

Dick Feller 407-857-3757 rwfeller@aol.com

Astrolog Editor: Beeler Gausz 321-229-7547
abgausz@me.com

Dark Sky Advisory Committee: Derek Demeter 321-388-4788
demeterd@seminolestate.edu

Membership: Tom Chitty 407-971-3638 tom.chitty@amd.com

Education & Astronomy Outreach, and NASA Night Sky

Network Coordinator: Tony Urzi
 407-240-2119 TonyU13@earthlink.net

Observing Committee: Ray Jones 407-221-6779
rayjones@earthlink.net

Orlando Science Center Coordinator: Laurence Lurie 407-774-8414 scalarrylurie@embarqmail.com

Programs: Francisco Gonzalez 407-443-6754
kframil@gmail.com

Publicity: Gordon Cain 407-409-8466
skyguy@gordoncain.com

Scientific Activities: Bert Burch 407-928-9364
BertBurch@hotmail.com

Calling All Members For Publicity Help

by Gordon Cain

Your CFAS membership automatically qualifies you as a Publicity Committee Member. One of the best parts is there are no committee meetings to attend!

- Just be sure to talk up CFAS to your neighbors, friends, co-workers, your family, and anyone else you happen to speak to.
- When outside at night and you can see a bright object (sorry, aircraft excluded) in the sky take a minute and point it out to someone: "Wow! Jupiter looks spectacular tonight."
- Committee Member materials are free and plentiful. Just pick up some CFAS business cards at one of the meetings; grab a handful of brochures; get a new bumper sticker.
- Wear your CFAS polo shirt when playing golf, biking, walking, shopping, and not just to meetings.
- Be sure to like CFAS on Facebook.



- Participate in the Moon Observing Certification and involve your neighbors.
- Host a neighborhood sidewalk astronomy event. (It is remarkable how many neighbors walking by will stop and ask a question)
- Share your hobby and be a CFAS Ambassador!

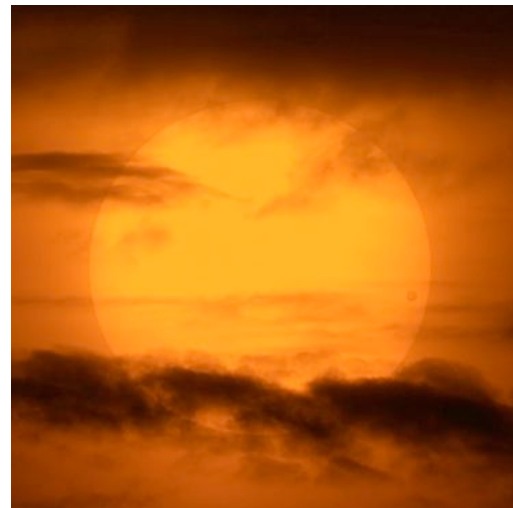
Host a neighborhood sidewalk astronomy event. (It is remarkable how many neighbors walking by will stop and ask a

As you may have read in the meeting announcement e-mailed in January the year 2012 has some great things in store for us. One spectacular event is It will be the last time anyone alive today will be able to witness Venus transit the sun (it will not happen again until 2117). Check the [CFAS Facebook](#) site for more information.

Here is an APOD photo taken in 2004 of how spectacular this is.

Thanks for your help.

– Gordon Cain, Publicity Chairman



CFAS Membership Application and Magazine Subscription

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE (DAY): _____ PHONE (EVENING): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Membership Type	Yearly Dues	Amount You Are Paying
Regular Membership	\$35.00	\$ _____
Patron Membership	\$50.00	\$ _____
Astronomy Magazine Subscription	\$34.00 Annual Subscription	\$ _____

(If renewal include your ID# and expiration date here: _____)

TOTAL REMITTANCE (PLEASE SEND CHECK): \$ _____
(Make checks payable to "CFAS")

Place in sealed envelope and mail to: CFAS
P.O. BOX 620907
OVIEDO, FL 32762-0907

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