



**From The Editor**

This will be the last issue of the *Focal Point* until the September issue. Also, there are no monthly meetings scheduled for the summer. Hope you can make it to some (or all!) of the many scheduled activities for the MAS this summer.

**MAS FAMILY PICNIC**

**Saturday, July 24 @ 1pm**

Open House Season is almost upon us. There is a good supply of flyers at the Observatory. Get some and get them to friends, neighbors, etc.

Talk to your local library to see if they would allow you to place some on their information racks.

*-Tom Gill*

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**Summer Calendar of Events**

- July 7, Wednesday ..... **First Wednesday Meeting**  
7:30 at the Observatory
- July 12, Monday..... **MAS Board Meeting**  
7:30pm at Observatory
- July 24, Saturday ..... **ANNUAL PICNIC**  
1pm at the Observatory
- July 29-Aug 1..... **National & Regional AL Meeting**  
in Madison-see page 3
- Aug 4, Wednesday..... **First Wednesday Meeting**  
7:30 at the Observatory
- Aug 9, Monday ..... **MAS Board Meeting**  
7:30pm at Observatory
- Aug 13-15, ..... **MAS SUMMER CAMPOUT**  
see page 4
- Aug 20, Friday ..... **Deadline for Sept Focal Point**
- Sept. 1, Wednesday..... **First Wednesday Meeting**  
7:30 at the Observatory
- Sept. 10-12 ..... **ASTROFEST**  
Kankakee, IL
- Sept. 17, Friday ..... **8:00 pm Program-Meeting**  
at the Observatory--also Board Meeting

*Saturday Nights—Member night at Observatory—Call key holder*

**For information on any of the above events, call the MAS president, any board member or *Focal Point* editor.**

**Open House Schedule**

**(8pm at the Observatory—come on out and help!)**

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| July 23—The Moon      | Sept. 3—Pluto   |
| Aug. 6—Meteors        | Sept.—Milky Way |
| Aug 20—Constellations | Oct. 8—Saturn   |



## Library News

Two new observing guides tailored especially to beginners are available in the NEW BOOK box at the MAS Library. One is "The Monthly Sky Guide, 3rd ed." by Ian Ridpath with maps by Wil Tirion. The book begins with basic information, clearly explained. The fist-at-arm's length technique for measuring distance scale is helpfully carried over to each of Tirion's star charts. For each month, one or two of the better known constellations are introduced, and the whole sky is set in perspective on 3-horizon planisphere diagrams. Monthly planetary positions also are given through the year 1997.

"Touring the Universe Through Binoculars" by Philip Harrington covers all the constellations as well as lunar and planetary observing. The premise here, confirmed by most binocular users, is that observing with two eyes enhances resolution and color perception as well as the ability to detect fainter objects. The author lists the brighter objects of interest including many variable and binary stars. Readers should be warned in advance, however, that they'll crave sturdily mounted, 10 x 50 binoculars in short order!

A third new book is "Unusual Telescopes" by Peter Manly. "Unusual" does not mean bizarre except for a few entertaining whimsies like David Levy's beer can telescope. Instead, most of these designs have evolved out of a specific application need or limited material at hand. Manly explains in some detail the principles involved and why some innovations in optical materials or mountings were more successful than others. Of particular interest to MAS members will be the scope-in-the-roof design of former Observatory Director E. A. Halbach.

The last two books were added to our collection courtesy of Tom Gill who took advantage of the special offer from Astronomy Book Club. Many thanks, Tom.

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?? No, I don't mean beings from another planet. I am still looking for an assistant librarian. June Regis is no longer able to devote time to the job. Give me a call for more information.

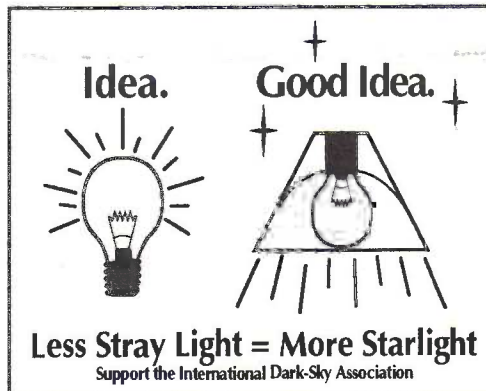
Remember to visit the library whenever you are out at the observatory helping with the maintenance projects or during the Open Houses this summer.

—Sally Waraczynski

## 1-800-C-MORE-STARS

(not the actual phone number)

A bill is under consideration which will DRASTICALLY reduce the amount of light pollution in Wisconsin. There is a toll-free number you can call to register your support of the bill. I don't have all the details but basically it restricts upward shining lights on many commercial buildings, signs, etc. This is almost too good to be true. CALL SOON and be heard! It's busy alot but keep trying! Tell them the bill number (LRB-1084-2) and that you are in favor of it!



# 1-800-362-9472

## Big-Time Thanks!

The MAS is a volunteer organization and can only exist because of the dedication of the members. Mega-thanks to all of the following individuals who have come forth to help keep the society functioning.

## New MAS Treasurer

After 5 years of excellent service, **Dan Koehler** is stepping down as Treasurer. Replacing Dan as of last May is **Marty Brunet**.

Kudos to Dan for a job well done and to Marty for coming forward to fill this important position.

## New Program Director

After many years of providing members with interesting and informative programs, **Tom Renner** is stepping down as Program Director. Taking his place is **Tim Burrus**. Kudos to both!

Tim asked that I relay his request for volunteers to assist on his committee or suggestions for programs. You can reach Tim at 783-6572

## New Membership Chair

New member **Paul Sorenson** (who was a member some years ago) has come forward to fill the vacant position of Membership Committee Chair. Thanks Paul, and welcome back to the MAS!

## Needed: Auditor

Periodically, a check and balance of the MAS books is required. The recent change in Treasurer makes this a good time to perform this task.

If you are a CPA or have the skills to perform an audit on the MAS books, please contact President Richard Wiesen at 781-4757.

# CLIP & SAVE-Special Directory 1993-94

## Board of Directors

Wanda Berner	691-2360	Dorothy Kube	453-8858
Martin Brunet, Jr.	544-1342	Jim Kube	453-8858
Tim Burrus	783-6572	Gerry Samolyk	529-9051
Brian Ganiere	961-8745	Ken Waraczynski	321-0918
Tom Gill	476-6986	Sally Waraczynski	321-0918
		Dr. Richard Wiesen	781-4786

## Officers

President	Dr. Richard Wiesen	781-4786
Vice President	Matthew McNeely	354-5347
Secretary	Dorothy Kube	453-8858
Treasurer	Martin Brunet, Jr.	544-1342
Observatory Director	Gerry Samolyk	529-9051

## Committee Chairmen

Light Pollution	Brian Ganiere	961-8745
Membership	Paul Sorenson	679-4339
Observatory	Jim Kube	453-8858
Outreach	Wanda Berner	691-2360
Picnic	Matthew McNeely	354-5347
Program	Tim Burrus	783-6572
Publicity	-	-

## Other Coordinators

Astronomical League :			
Correspondent	-		
Observing Projects	Lee Keith	425-2331	
Campout Coordinator	Paul Borchardt	781-0169	
Focal Point	Tom Gill	476-6986	
Librarian/Historian	Sally Waraczynski	321-0918	
New Member Contact	Sally Jo Michalko	524-9499	
Open House Coordinator	Lee Keith	425-2331	
Tour Coordinator	Lee Keith	425-2331	

## Saturday Night Keyholders

Jul 3	Tim Burrus	783-6572
10	Greg Cieslak	529-0548
17	Brian Ganiere	961-8745
24	Chris Hesseltine	482-4515
31	Lee Keith	425-2331
Aug 7	Dan Koehler	662-2987
14	Jim Kube	453-8858
21	John Pfannerstill	475-6494
28	Frank Roldan	608-787-1730
Sep 4	Terry Ross	784-2093
11	Tom Schmidtkunz	352-1674

## ALCON '93

The National and Regional Astronomical League meetings will be held in Madison on July 29-31.

The convention will have workshops, area tours, vendor displays, talks and socializing with your fellow astronomers.

Cost is \$45 for all four days, or \$15 for Saturday only. For a registration form, call Tom Gill, 476-6986.

## Phone Tree Update

If you would like to be put on the list(s), call Wanda Berner at 691-2360.

Member	Phone	Observing	Aurora Alert*	Sunspots
Wanda Berner	646-8229 or 691-2360	•	• not after 12**	•
Sally Jo Michalko	524-9499	•	• not after 11	• summer/wknds
Tom Gill	476-6986	•	• not after 12	•
John Bonow	354-1288	•	•	•
Tim Burrus	783-6572	•	• not after 11	•
Tom Schmidtkunz	352-1674 299-6383 (w)	• esp. if out of Milwaukee		
Lee Keith	425-2331	• not after 11	• not after 11	
Karen Wesener	425-2331			•
Debbie Frey	355-3470	•	•	•
Scot Laskowski	421-3517	•	•	•
Jeff Annis	542-0105	•		
Jim & Dorothy Kube	453-8858		• not after 12	
Brian Ganiere	961-8745	•		
Matthew McNeely	354-5347	•		
Mark & Nora Kniskern	744-5735	•	•	
Keith Bodoh	272-2078	•	•	
Charlotte Nelson	466-2081	•	•	
Dan Koehler	662-2987	•	•	
Peter Smitka	785-0926	•		
Alan Dyer	594-3763		•	
Paul Borchardt	781-0169		• not after 10:30**	
Tom Renner	524-0932	•	•	
Chad Andrist	774-0166	•	•	

Person starting calls first person on the list after your name, last person calls first person. If you reach answering machine or another person other than member, leave a message and call next name. Keep calling until you reach a member who can pass on the information.

\*Note: For spectacular aurora, those with a "\*" say OK to call anytime. For others without time limits, please use common sense.



## For Sale

**Meade DS-10 10-inch f/4.5 reflector**, with German equatorial mount, setting circles, AC clock drive, 2-inch focuser, 25mm MA eyepiece. \$725 incl. shipping. Contact Alan Dyer, **ASTRONOMY magazine**, 796-8776, ext. 605.

**Meade Model 826C 8-inch f/6 reflector** with German equatorial mount, setting circles, AC clock drive, 2-inch focuser, 8x50 finderscope, 25mm MA eyepiece. \$625 incl. shipping. Contact Alan Dyer, see above.

**Celestron SP-C6 6-inch f/5 reflector** with Super Polaris equatorial mount, setting circles, slow-motion controls, 6x30 finderscope, 25mm Kellner eyepiece. \$650 incl. shipping. Contact Alan Dyer, see above.

**Parks 6-inch f/8 Precision reflector** on German equatorial mount. Includes 6x30 finderscope and 25mm Kellner eyepiece. Excellent optics. \$600 incl. shipping. Contact Alan Dyer, see above.

**Tasco model 11TR 4.5-inch f/9 reflector** on German equatorial mount with setting circles, slow-motion controls, 5x24 finderscope, two eyepieces. \$250 incl. shipping. Contact Alan Dyer, see above.

**Edmund 6-inch f/6 Newtonian reflector** on German equatorial mount with AC clock drive. Includes 6x30 finder scope. Excellent optics. \$400 incl shipping. Contact Alan Dyer, see above.

**8-inch Celestron C-8** with starbright coatings. Includes HD tripod and wedge, Byers drive, 110v AC or 12v DC, 8x50 finderscope with illuminated reticle, right angle viewer with 26mm, 20mm, 15mm eyepieces, JMI-9v electric focuser, Astromaster guidance computer (8000 object memory), 12v converter/drive corrector and joy stick, dew shield & zapper, declination motor, Telrad, eyepiece rack and counterweights. All for \$1300. Willing to assist new owner is setting up and familiarizing with scope and computer operation. Call J. Kempter, 228-7379.

**Orion alt-az slow motion control.** Fits on camera tripod or any 1/4-20 threaded bolt. Brand new. Cost \$48, sell for \$35. **Prinz Tripod**, medium duty, good for copyscope or small refractor. Tubular legs, opens to 60", \$35. Both items for \$65. Tom Gill, 476-6986

## Summer Campout-Yellowstone Lake State Park

The MAS Summer Campout will be held on August 12-15 at Yellowstone Lake, 45 miles SW of Madison. We have reserved group sites E & F. In addition to observing from the group site, there is an option to observe on a bluff which is located in a nature preserve.

Directions: Take 18 around Madison (south) to 78 South. Stay on 78 to Blanchardville, take county trunk F to North Lake Rd. and that to Lake Rd. Check any Wisconsin map for more details.

If you need more information or plan on coming, please RSVP to **Paul Borchardt**, 781-0169. Daily camper fee and vehicle fee is required. Firewood appreciated.

## MAS INFORMATION

### MAS Officers

President Dr. Richard Wiesen  
781-4786

Vice President Matthew McNeely  
354-5347

Secretary Dorothy Kube  
453-8858

Treasurer Marty Brunet  
544-1342

Obs. Director Gerry Samolyk  
529-9051

Ast. Obs. Director Paul Borchardt  
781-0169

Librarian Mrs. Sally Waraczynski  
321-0918

Program Dir. Tim Burrus  
783-6572

### Focal Point Staff

Editor/Publisher Tom Gill  
1391 N. 72nd Street  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
476-6986

Distribution Matthew McNeely  
354-5347

### MAS Observatory

18850 W. Observatory Rd.  
New Berlin, WI  
542-9071