

# FOCAL



# POINT

Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
- : JULY - AUGUST, 1985: -

#### CALENDAR:

Summer Events - See 1985 Calendar of Events with this issue.

Wed., July 31 - Full Sturgeon Moon (Blue Moon).

Fri., Aug. 30 - Full Corn Moon.

Wed., Sep. 4 - September FOCAL POINT deadline.

Board Meetings - At the observatory.

Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement.

Sat. Nights - Members night at the observatory.

ELECTION RESULTS: Members present at the May Election-Meeting elected Lee Keith, Jeannine Nichols, and Dan Koehler to serve as Board Members. The eight Board Members present then recessed to elect Dan Koehler as President, Sharon Mason as Vice President and Program Chairperson, Brian Ganiere as Secretary, and Jim Toeller as Treasurer. Gerry Samolyk and John Asztalos continue as Observatory Director and Asst. Observatory Director respectively.

The outgoing Officers and Board members have done well as evidenced by the continued growth of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society. Many of the present governors also served on or led the ALCON '84 Committee. The result was one of the best run national conventions since the MAS was founded.

ALL M.A.S. MEMBERS ARE INVITED on Saturday, July 20, 1985, to participate in our annual picnic at the New Berlin observatory grounds from 2:30 P.M. till "?". To rekindle interest in our summer family picnic several new things are in store for this year. Free cold beer and soda will be furnished and each member should bring whatever picnic dinner food they so desire. If anyone does not have portable charcoal grill to bring along, there should be an ample supply of grills available.

Upon entering the grounds everyone should report to the information desk or see Nick or Jeannine Nichols to sign up for the door prize drawings. All registered members will receive a ticket to fill out to enter the drawing which will be held at 5:30 P.M. You need not be present to win (but must be present to enter). This year we have many nice gifts donated by several astronomy supporting businesses. The prize list includes:

- . A pair of fine 7x50 power binoculars.
- . \$25.00 gift certificate from American Science Center.
- . Halley's comet chart.
- . Various posters and charts.
- . Free subscriptions to "Astronomy Mag.", "Telescope Making", "Deep Sky Mag.", and "Odyssey Mag."
- . "The Light-Hearted Astronomer" book by Ken Tulton.
- . (2) Astronomical flashlights with red filters.



- 25mm (1-1/4") eyepiece.
- (2) planispheres.
- (2) sky atlases.

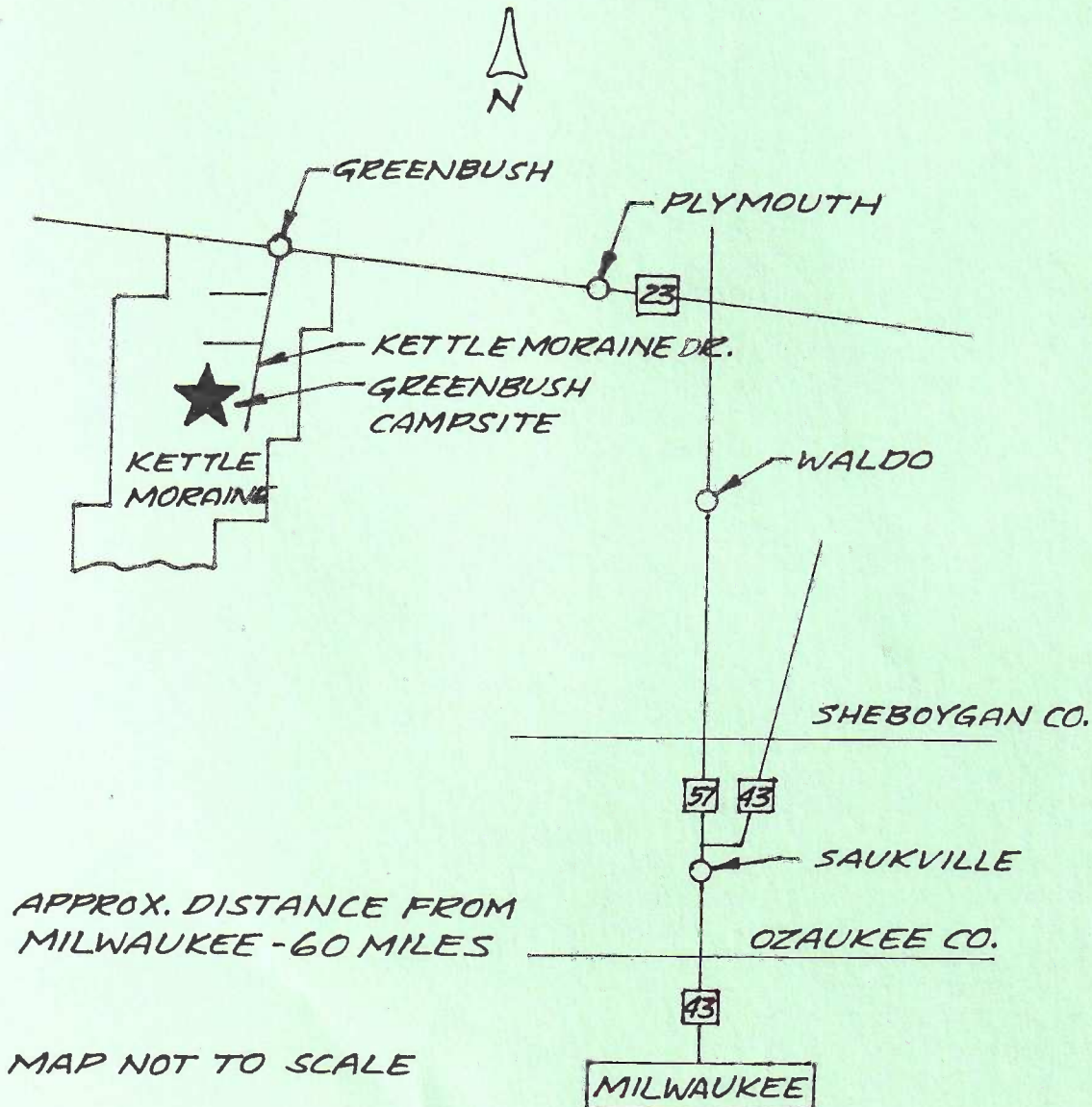
There will be a volleyball set available for those fun loving souls interested, and all are encouraged to bring out their own telescope or telescope projects to share and to show. There will be good weather and clear skies in the evening.

If you have any questions concerning the picnic feel free to call Nick or Jeannine at 542-2055.

ANNUAL STAR PARTY-CAMPOUT:

Have tent and telescope, can travel to the Star Party at the Greenbush group camp site in the northern Kettle Moraine (see map below). The date is Friday through Sunday, August 16-18. The moon will be new, so the sky, if clear, should be marvelous. (Hopefully the mosquitos will show mercy).

Contact John Asztalos for complete information at 258-5626.





HARVEY KUEHN, a longtime member of the Society, is recuperating from a recent illness. We hope he has a speedy recovery.

THANK YOU, DARRELL MOORE, for your very generous contribution to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society. All of the donation will be put to good and proper use.

Darrell is an MAS founder member having joined the Society in 1936.

OBSERVATORY NEWS: Rough wiring in the 26" telescope building is done and approved. Framing for dry walling is next. Building inspectors will soon reinspect. Insulation is also in. Trenching for wiring is in progress. Work on the 26" declination drive will soon be done.

Our lawn mower is gasping and dying. Mike Zahorik has been giving it mother's care for a number of years but our three acres of cutting is a bit too much for it anymore. Has anyone any ideas of how it can be replaced inexpensively? Please call Pres. Dan Koehler at 662-2987.

Anyone who has an observatory key of any type and no longer uses it should turn it in to Jim Toeller.

COMETS:

COMET MACHHOLZ (1985 e). Though past its peak brightness, it should still present interesting viewing through most of July. MAS comet authority John Geraci has provided the following coordinates and magnitudes:

July	5 -	8h	8m,	+22°	4.1 mag.	Gem.
	10 -	9h	12m,	+21°	5.4 mag.	Can.
	15 -	10h	14m,	+19°	6.3 mag.	Leo.
	20 -	11h	12m,	+17°	7.1 mag.	Leo.

COMET HALLEY is still in Taurus, slowly retrograding eastward. Estimated mag. on July 14 is 14, position 5h 45m, +17°, 307 million miles from the sun.

Want to learn comet watching? Call Brian Cieslak at 679-9663. Now's the time.

An excellent Halley's Comet Finder Chart for Aug. 1, 1985-Oct. 31, 1985 is available to MAS members, courtesy of "ASTRONOMY" Magazine. It can be obtained by attending an Open House, buying August "Astronomy" magazine, or writing Richard Berry at Astromedia Corp., Box 92788, 625 E. St. Paul Ave., Milwaukee 53202.

WANTED: Someone to help with a Girl Scout program to teach night sky and telescope use near Beloit. Call Dan Koehler at 414-662-2987.

WANTED: A Society historian to keep track of MAS newsletters, pictures, anything pertaining to our history. It's not a big job, but you must have some file space in your home. Call Bill Konig at 242-2369.

FOR SALE: Since our Portascopes will soon be equipped with 8x50 viewfinders, MAS members can take advantage of the special large quantity price of \$65.00 each. The viewfinders do not have brackets or right angle eye-pieces.

The offer is good no later than Aug. 1, 1985. Please send your remittance of \$65.00 to Nick Nichols, 2125 Kensington Dr. #18, Waukesha, Wis. 53186. (542-2055).



"NORTHERN LIGHTS," the official NCRAL newsletter will again publish in September. The deadline is Aug. 31. Most of its unusual articles are taken from letters from North Central Region Societies.

Subscriptions are \$2.50 per year, post paid, for four quarterly issues. Order from James H. Fox, 14601 55th St. S, Afton, Minnesota 55001. Your unusual articles are also welcome. Mr. Fox will edit if necessary.

YOU NEED NOT PAY MAS DUES until September but Treas. Jim Toeller would appreciate your paying now!

Rates are \$30 for a General Membership, \$30 plus \$1 for each additional family member for a Family Membership, \$20 for Non-Residents, and \$15 for Junior Members (under 16).

Send your remittance made payable to Mr. Jim Toeller, 407 W. Mall Rd., Milw., Wis. 53217 (352-7144).

THIS IS THE FINAL FOCAL POINT for this MAS fiscal year. Publication will resume in September.

The MAS Officers and Board wish everyone a pleasant summer.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Jul. 6	D. Koehler	662-2987	Aug. 17	T. Schmidtkunz	784-0253
13	N. Nichols	542-2055	24	P. Smitka	785-0926
20	J. Pfannerstill	475-6494	31	V. Tangney	327-7976
27	A. Penikis	354-9708	Sep. 7	Dr. R. Wiesen	781-4757
Aug. 3	F. Roldan	344-2354	14	J. Asztalos	258-5626
10	T. Ross	784-2093	21	H. Auchter	542-2158

Saturday night is member's night at the observatory. All members are invited to come out to observe, learn how to use the equipment available, or just chat. Call the keyholder the Fri. before his night - cancel Sat. if necessary. Keyholder should report anyway. He will also oversee tours during the week ending with his assigned night. Mr. J. Toeller (352-7144) will act on requests.

DIRECTORY

President - Daniel Koehler - 662-2987  
Vice President & Prog. Chairperson - Sharon Mason - 476-7513  
Secretary - Brian Ganiere - 258-5626  
Treasurer - James Toeller - 352-7144  
Observatory Director - Gerry Samolyk - 475-9418  
Asst. Obs. Director - John Asztalos - 258-5626  
FOCAL POINT Editor - LeRoy Simandl - 933-3052  
MAS Observatory - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin - 532-9071

SEPTEMBER FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY TO SEPTEMBER 1985

<u>JUN</u>	5	Wed.	Observatory Meeting- 7:30 p.m. at observatory.
	14	Fri.	Public Open House- 8:00 p.m. at observatory. Topic: Galaxies.
	28	Fri.	Public Open House- 8:00 p.m. at observatory. Topic: The Moon.
<u>JUL</u>	3	Wed.	Observatory Meeting- 7:30 p.m. at observatory.
	6	Sat.	Public Display- Brookfield Square 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
	12	Fri.	Public Open House- 8:00 p.m. at observatory. Topic: Star Clusters.
	20	Sat.	Annual Picnic- 2:00 p.m. to ? at observatory. Bring your basket and charcoal grill and join everyone for an old fashioned picnic. The Society will provide soda, beer and door prices. Drawing for door prices will take place at 6:00 p.m.
	26	Fri.	Public Open House-8:00 p.m. at observatory. Topic: The Planets.
<u>UG</u>	7	Wed.	Observatory Meeting- 7:30 p.m. at observatory.
	9	Fri.	Public Open House- 8:00 p.m. at observatory. Topic: The Milky Way.
	16-18	F-S.	Annual Weekend Camping Trip to Kettle Moraine State Park, Greenbush Group Camping Area. Call John Asztalos, 258-5626, for details.
	23	Fri.	Public Open House- 8:00 p.m. at observatory. Topic: General Astronomy.
<u>SEP</u>	4	Wed.	Observatory Meeting- 7:30 p.m. at observatory.
	6	Fri.	Public Open House- 8:00 p.m. at observatory. Topic: Halley's Comet.
	13-15	F-S.	ASTROFEST- Hosted by the Chicago Astronomical Society at Kankakee, Il.
	20	Fri.	Membership Meeting- 8:00 p.m. at Child and Adolescent Treatment Center Auditorium, 9501 West Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa.

For further information on activities, call any of the officers listed in the "Focal Point".

LIST OF KEY HOLDERS AND THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBERS ON OTHER SIDE

KEY HOLDERS

NAME	TELEPHONE NUMBER
John Asztalos	258-5626
Harry Auchter	542-2158
Richard Berry	442-4267
Paul Borchart	445-1181
Brian Cieslak	679-9663
William Collins	255-4169
Brian Ganiere	258-5626
Garth Hall	786-8579
Dwight Harris	964-1428
Chris Hesseltine	482-4515
Dan Koehler	662-2987
Nick Nichols	<del>542-7657</del> 542-2055
Aris Penikis	354-9708
John Pfannerstill	475-6494
Frank Roldan	344-2354
TERRENCE ROSS	784-2093
Gerry Samolyk	475-9418
Tom Schmidtkunz	784-0253
Peter Smitka	785-0926
Virgil Tangney	327-7976
Jim Toeller	352-7144
DR. Richard Wiesen	781-4757