

# FOCAL



# POINT

Issued by the  
MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : SEPTEMBER, 1986 : -

## CALENDAR:

- Fri., Sep. 12 - Public Open House - 8 P.M., at observatory.
- Mon., Sep. 15 - Board meeting.
- Thu., Sep. 18 - Full Harvest Moon.
- Fri., Sep. 19 - September Program-Meeting - 8 P.M., AT OBSERVATORY.
- Tue., Sep. 23 - Autumn begins, 2:59 A.M. CDT.
- Wed., Oct. 1 - Observatory Gathering - 7:30 P.M.
- Wed., Oct. 1 - October "FOCAL POINT" deadline.
- Fri., Oct. 3 - Partial eclipse of the sun, 1 P.M. CDT.
- Fri., Sat., Oct. 3, 4 - Greenbush campout.
- Fri., Oct. 17 - MAS Dinner Meeting at Alioto's on the Bluemound.
- Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement. Help wanted.  
Call 475-9418 or 258-5626.
- Sat. Nights - Member's Night at the observatory. See keyholder list on last page.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM-MEETING: The MAS new year starts in September. All members and their guests are invited - urged - to attend the first meeting.

Following a short business meeting, member Lee Keith will tell us a lot of interesting things about the life and times of astronomer William Herschel. (Did you know that planet Uranus was once named Herschel?!)

Lee is a very active MAS member and is particularly noted for his well-attended, oft-repeated observational astronomy classes and equally interesting talks at special and regular MAS functions.

We can seat many people in the observatory lecture hall (we have nice new chairs) so attend the first meeting.

WHEN: Friday, September 19, 8 P.M.

WHERE: The Milwaukee Astronomical Society Observatory at 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin (542-9071).

DINNER TIME: Plan now to attend the 18th Annual MAS Dinner Meeting. Mary Ann Tangney is chairing this year's event and is now accepting reservations.

WHEN: Friday, October 17. Cash bar - 5:30 P.M.; dinner - 6:30 P.M.; meeting and main speaker - 8 P.M.

WHERE: Alioto's on the Bluemound, 19165 W. Bluemound Rd., just east of Waukesha. Park free on well-lit lots. We'll all meet in the downstairs dining room.

There is no charge for attending only the meeting. Full information about the speaker and his subject will be given in the October "FOCAL POINT."

Let's get together for a pleasant evening. Send the form to Mary Ann now!

NEW MEMBERS: Meet and greet Dan Hobbins, Greenfield; Robert Huberty and son Michael, Big Bend; James Hube and wife Dorothy, West Allis; Peter Laes, Waukesha; John Lindner, Pewaukee; Ron Lundgren, Wauwatosa; Renee Manske, Big Bend; Timothy Proksch family, Muskego; Ron Schaefer, Milwaukee. Everyone will be introduced at the September meeting.

FINAL OPEN HOUSE: Our New Berlin facilities will be open to the general public for the last Open House Program on Friday, Sep. 12. An interesting talk featuring telescopes will begin at 8 P.M. in the Quonset Bldg. Skies permitting, visitors may view stars and planets through telescopes. Buildings will be open regardless of the weather. Dress warmly and bring insect repellent.

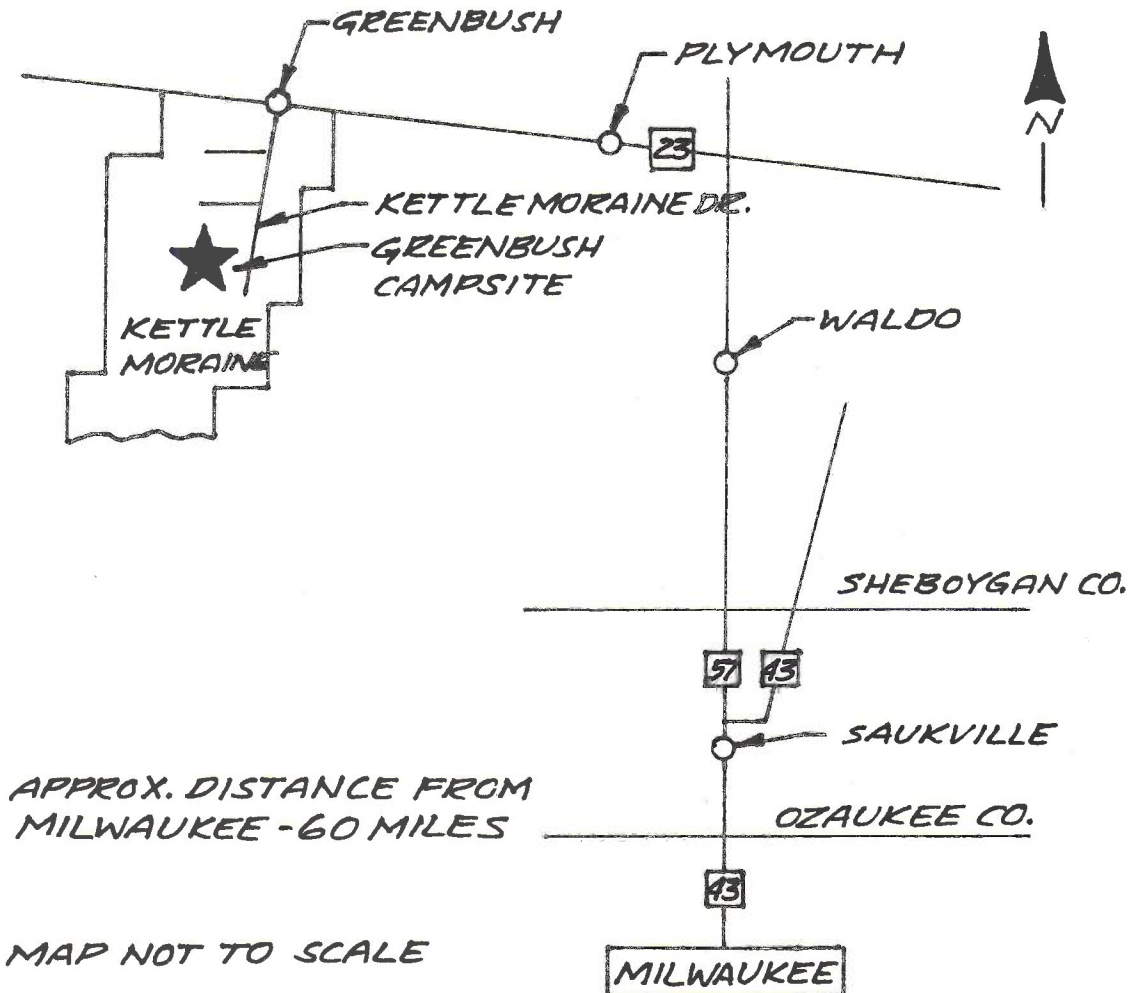
OBSERVATORY NEWS: Now's a good time to begin finishing half-done projects. Rumor has it that ol' man winter is packing bags of bad weather and will head our way to vacation. And there's always house-keeping to do. (Ladies invited.)

The Society owns a new, shiny, John Deere mower ably operated by Matt McNeeley.

STAR-PARTY CAMPOUT: Here's another chance to enjoy both camping and astronomy. Bring your tent and telescope to the Greenbush group camp site in the northern Kettle Moraine State Park (see map below). The date is Friday and Saturday, October 3, 4.

The woods should still be beautiful and early birds can watch a partial eclipse of the sun beginning at 1 P.M. our time.

For full information, call Paul Borchardt at 445-1181.





ARE YOU NEEDY? Astronomically, that is. Well, there's help if you call STAR WATCH at 900-410-STAR! (A call costs 50 cents for the first minute and 35 cents for each additional minute.)

STAR WATCH, a sort of monthly astronomical newsletter inaugurated by the U. S. Naval Observatory in Washington D.C., consists of a recorded message in plain English which tells you information about planet positions, meteor showers, eclipses and other astronomical events of interest to the casual observer.

Information is updated at the beginning of each month and runs for seven consecutive days, so you must call then and take notes.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: An annular-total eclipse of the sun will be visible as a partial eclipse in our area Friday, Oct. 3 starting at 1 P.M. CST. WARNING - do NOT watch by looking at the sun! Poke a pin hole in a piece of cardboard and observe the image cast on another piece of white cardboard with your back towards the sun.

An eclipse is annular-total when the moon does not quite blot out the sun-example: Lay a penny over a nickle.

This eclipse is annular-total for less than one second over a spot in the North Atlantic Ocean!

PICNIC NOTES: About 60 people attended the Annual MAS Membership Picnic on July 19 at the observatory. The chance to relax, chat, and enjoy refreshments was welcome.

A galaxy full of thanks to the many vendors who offered the many fine, useful prizes and to picnic chairman Nick Nichols and his wife Jeannine.

Who should we thank (blame) for the cloudburst complete with hail that plunged down on us? It even blew away a charcoal grill complete with fire.

We tried blaming Nick, but . . . .

FOR SALE: The MAS library at the observatory has many back issues of "Sky & Telescope" magazines at 4 for \$1.00. Here's a good chance to pick up missing issues. Check at the next meeting or call the observatory. Notify treasurer Jim Toeller about your choices.

FOR FREE: Programs in the lecture hall should be more interesting now that we have new, comfortable, plastic chairs. All the old chairs are offered free in any amount to whoever wants them. Call the observatory, preferably on Saturday mornings.

MEMBERS NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Sep. 13 - W. Tuerck	782-2844	Oct. 4 - H. Auchter	542-2158
20 - R. Wiesen	781-4757	11 - R. Berry	442-4267
27 - T. Schmidtkunz	784-0253	18 - P. Borchardt	445-1181

DIRECTORY:

Pres. - D. Koehler, 662-2987      V.P. - Dr. R. Wiesen, 781-4757  
Sec. - K. Wesener, 961-8752      Treas. - J. Toeller, 352-7144  
Obs. Dir. - G. Samolyk, 475-9418      Asst.Obs.Dir. - J. Asztalos, 258-5626  
FOCAL POINT Editor - L. Simandl, 933-3052  
Special Observatory Activities Scheduler - B. Cieslak, 679-9663  
MAS Observatory - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin - 542-9071

OCTOBER FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1.

DINNER RESERVATIONS FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_.

Dinner choices (number of each):

\_\_\_\_\_ Roast Sirloin of Beef - \$10.80.

\_\_\_\_\_ Cornish Game Hen - \$10.80.

Dinners include soup, salad, baked potato, relishes, bread, butter, choice of coffee, tea, or milk, vanilla ice cream desert. Price includes tax and gratuity.

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_. Please make checks payable to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society and send to Mary Ann Tangney, 8034 W. Norwich St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53220 (327-7976). The deadline is Friday, October 10.

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