

FOCAL POINT



Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : FEBRUARY, 1987 : -

CALENDAR:

- Mon., Feb. 16 - Board meeting (N. Nichols).
Wed., Feb. 18 - Moon occults Spica approx. 6 AM CST.
Fri., Feb. 20 - February Program-Meeting, 8 PM, at CATC.
Wed., Mar. 4 - First Wednesday, 7:30 PM at the observatory. All members welcome.
Wed., Mar. 11 - March FOCAL POINT deadline.
Sun., Mar. 15 - Full Worm Moon.
Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement. Help wanted. Call 475-9418 or 258-5626.
Sat. Nights - Members night at the observatory. See keyholder list on page 3.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM-MEETING: In continuing to provide us with new and unusual programs, program chairman Mathew McNeeley will introduce guest speaker Dr. Danny Riley of the Medical College of Wisconsin at the next general meeting. Dr. Riley, well-accredited as a professor of anatomy and cellular biology, will relate to us what was learned from the space program in his talk "Space Medicine."

Dr. Riley's work for NASA began in 1978 when he first submitted his proposal for a space shuttle experiment. He was retained by NASA as a consultant on nerve and muscle wasting and helped design feasible objectives and model formats for shuttle experiments.

This should be an out-of-the-ordinary program worth hearing. Guests welcome.

WHEN: Friday, February 20, 8 PM.

WHERE: The comfortable Child and Adolescent Treatment Center auditorium, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Rd., Wauwatosa. The Rt. 71 bus stops nearby. There is ample free, well-lit, parking.

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS are Sean Flannick, New Berlin; Ronald Fowler, wife Sherri, daughters Schanna and Sharla, Fort Atkinson; Carl Staples and wife Helen, Waukesha.

THANKS to principal John Roever of Wauwatosa West High School for inviting MAS members and guests to the school's splendid planetarium, and to MAS member Gary Sampson for narrating the "Southern Hemisphere Skies" program, featuring the Spitz A-4 projector.

Perhaps someday the MAS will build its own planetarium!?

OBSERVATORY NEWS: A favorable passage of the moon through the Pleiades (M45) will occur on the night of March 4-5. Group viewing is being planned at the observatory. Gerry Samolyk (475-9418) can fill observers in on individual star occultations and other details. Should be a good show.

Dr. Wiesen, Meteor Club chairman (781-4757) is looking for meteor watchers. You can earn a certificate(s) for your efforts.

Make some video tapes of astronomical subjects for the MAS library, Beta or VHS. Your tape will be replaced. Sally Waraczynski (321-0918) is our librarian.

THE SCALE OF 1-10 should be extended to rate the fascinating "Planet Earth" series now airing Monday nights on Channel 10 at 7 PM.

On a level with Dr. Sagan's "Cosmos," these programs explore and explain not only the nature of what makes up our planet and the sun, but offer some new looks at some of the worlds near us.

Some of the programs have been shown but the remainder of the series is well worth watching.

GASP! The Lehigh Valley Amateur Ast. Soc. has started a fund drive to build a 40-inch reflector of compound design along with an observatory at its Pulpit Rock observatory near Allentown, PA. The Society already has a completed 20-inch reflector.

The open tubed, equatorially mounted 'scope will weigh about 2 tons and be housed in a 28-foot square building capped by a 24-foot dome.

Ralph Schlegel who is spearheading the project estimates five years to completion.

The MAS also labored along this bumpy road but eventually our 26-inch saw first light! We send LVAAS our best wishes for early completion.

FOR SALE: Celestron Super Polaris C8 STARBRITE Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Included are a hand held computer, all photo accessories, three 2" eyepieces (13mm and 55mm Plossls, 35mm Konig), an 1¼" super wide 4.8mm Nagler eyepiece, and a Celestron illuminated reticle with moveable crosshairs.

Also included: A precision mount, an off-axis guider, an 11x80 spotter scope, an Olympus OM-1 50mm camera with screen, and a 70 year old 4x5 camera (film available).

Price for all of the above equipment plus two padded carrying cases - \$1500.00.

Please contact Mr. Dan Wolk at 5343 N. 37th Street, Milwaukee, 53209 or call 463-7798.

LIBRARY NOTES: Several new books have been added to the observatory library. Some books, magazines, atlases, and charts may be checked out, others are for reference at the library only. Sign out material using the note pad on the book shelf door. DO NOT USE THE LOG BOOK FOR SIGNOUT. Members have access to the library on Saturday nights by appointment with the keyholder or during First Wednesday gatherings. If you have any library material at home borrowed before the present note pad system, please notify Sally Waraczynski at 321-0918 in order to complete our inventory.

"NORTHERN LIGHTS," the NCRAL newsletter all MAS members receive, has March 1 as its deadline for the March issue.

The publication not only is looking for newsworthy astronomical items but also for a new editor!

If you can help in either case, please contact Mr. J. H. Fox, 14601 55th Street South, Afton, MN 55001.

MEMBERS NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Feb. 14 - Dr. R. Wiesen	781-4757	Mar. 7 - P. Borchardt	445-1181
21 - J. Asztalos	258-5626	14 - W. Collins	255-4169
28 - H. Auchter	542-2158	21 - G. Hall	786-8579

DIRECTORY:

Pres. - D. Koehler, 662-2987	V. P. - Dr. R. Wiesen, 781-4757
Sec. - Ms. K. Wesener, 961-8752	Treas. - J. Toeller, 352-7144
Obs. Dir. - G. Samolyk, 475-9418	Asst.Obs.Dir. - J.Asztalos, 258-5626
Special Obs. Activities Scheduler - N. Nichols, 542-2055	
Program Chairman - M. McNeeley, 354-5347	
FOCAL POINT Ed.-L. Simandl, 4201 W. Highland Blvd.,Mil.,53208,933-3052	
MAS Observatory - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin - 542-9071	

ALL SORTS OF THINGS AND WEATHER MUST BE TAKEN IN TOGETHER,
TO MAKE UP A YEAR AND A SPHERE. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

MARCH FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11.

JOIN US FOR THE MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY'S SPRING FIELD TRIP!!

WHAT? VISIT CHICAGO'S ADLER PLANETARIUM EXHIBITS AND SKY SHOW, FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY, OR SHEDD AQUARIUM. THE TRIP IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MILWAUKEE, WEHR, AND NEVILLE MUSEUM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

WHEN? SATURDAY MARCH 28, 1987.

COST? \$9.25 PER PERSON, INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION BY WISCONSIN COACH LINES BUS AND A TICKET TO THE PLANETARIUM'S SKY SHOW "YOU IN THE UNIVERSE" (OUR GROUP WILL HAVE A SPECIAL PRIVATE SHOW).

TIME? BUSES LEAVE MILWAUKEE FROM THE COLLEGE AVE. "PARK-RIDE" LOT (JUST OFF I-94 EAST 2 MILES SOUTH OF THE I-94/894 JUNCTION NEAR THE AIRPORT) AT 8:05 A.M. SHARP, AND RETURN THERE BY 7:30 P.M. OUR GROUP WILL ARRIVE IN CHICAGO AT THE PLANETARIUM BY 10:00 A.M. THE SKY SHOW IS AT 12:00 NOON. THE OTHER MUSEUM TOURS TAKE PLACE AFTER 1:15 P.M UNTIL 5:00 P.M. WE DEPART CHICAGO ABOUT 5:15 P.M. TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL OTHER MUSEUM TOURS IF DESIRED. SEE ITINERARY WHICH FOLLOWS FOR EXACT DETAILS.

RESERVATION DEADLINE? RESERVATION AND PAYMENT FORM (ENCLOSED) MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 14, 1987 (FOR MAS MEMEBERS) OR BY MARCH 7, 1987 FOR MEMBERS OF OTHER PARTICIPATING GROUPS TO INSURE ACCOMODATION.

MEALS? THE MAS WILL NOT PROVIDE ANY FOOD OR BEVERAGES ON THE BUSES, HOWEVER FOOD AND/OR DRINKS (BOTTLES OR CANS ONLY, INCLUDING ALCOHOL) ARE ALLOWED WHILE IN TRANSIT. YOU MAY EAT ON YOUR OWN AT THE PLANETARIUM'S SNACK BAR, THE FIELD MUSEUM'S MACDONALD'S, OR BRING YOUR OWN "BROWN BAG".

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DAN KOEHLER AT 414-662-2987 WEEKDAYS AFTER 6:00 P.M. OR ANYTIME ON WEEKENDS.

ITINERARY FOR THE MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL
SOCIETY'S SPRING FIELD TRIP
MARCH 28, 1987

- 7:45 - 8:05 A.M. *BOARD BUSES AT COLLEGE AVE. PARK-RIDE LOT*
- 8:05 - 10:00 A.M. *TRAVEL TO CHICAGO*
- 10:00 - 12:00 P.M. *TOUR ADLER PLANETARIUM AND LUNCH*
- 12:00 - 1:00 P.M. *ADLER SKY SHOW "YOU IN THE UNIVERSE"*
- 1:15 P.M. *1 BUS LEAVES PLANETARIUM FOR MUSEUM OF
SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY, AND ARRIVES ABOUT
1:30 P.M. IT DEPARTS (TO REJOIN THE GROUP
AT THE FIELD MUSEUM) AT 4:45 P.M.*
- 1:15 P.M. *1 BUS LEAVES PLANETARIUM FOR A STOP AT THE
SHEDD AQUARIUM, THEN TRAVELS ON TO THE
FIELD MUSEUM.*
- ***YOU MAY STAY AT THE PLANETARIUM FOR AS LONG AS YOU WISH
(IT CLOSES AT 5:00 P.M.) HOWEVER YOU MUST REJOIN THE GROUP
FOR THE RETURN TRIP TO MILWAUKEE BY 5:00 P.M. AT THE FIELD
MUSEUM****
- 5:00 P.M *THE FIELD MUSEUM AND SHEDD AQUARIUM
CLOSE.*
- 5:00 - 5:15 P.M. *GROUP REASSEMBLES FOR DEPARTURE.*
- 5:15 - 7:15 P.M. *RETURN TRIP TO MILWAUKEE.*

MUSEUM ADMISSION PRICES

Museum of Science and Industry: General Admission is FREE, special exhibits of the coal mine, submarine, and space program are \$1.50/Adult and \$1.25/Child 6-17.

Field Museum of Natural History: \$2.00/Adult, \$1.00/Child 6-17, \$1.00/Student, \$.50/Seniors (65+), Teachers are FREE, Maximum Family Charge is \$4.00 for Parents and Children under 18.

Shedd Aquarium: \$2.00/Adult, \$1.00/Child 6-17, \$.50/Seniors (65+). Main Tank Feedings are at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
SPRING FIELD TRIP
RESERVATION AND PAYMENT FORM

**NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT
IS MARCH 14, 1987 FOR MEMBERS OF THE MAS, AND
MARCH 7, 1987 FOR ALL OTHERS.**

I WISH TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE 1987 MAS SPRING FIELD TRIP TO CHICAGO ON MARCH 28, 1987. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE \$9.25 COST INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION AND A PLANETARIUM TICKET ONLY, PER PERSON. ALL OTHER ADMISSION COSTS (FOR THE FIELD MUSEUM, MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY, AND SHEDD AQUARIUM) ARE PAYABLE "AT-THE-DOOR" THE DAY OF THE TRIP.

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR SOCIETY AFFILIATION (CHECK) MAS WAS NPMAS

YOUR HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER _____-_____

THE NAMES OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS AND/OR FRIENDS JOINING US:

The number of persons listed on this form who will attend each of the following optional tours after the Adler Planetarium:

FIELD MUSEUM MUSEUM OF SCI/IND SHEDD AQUAR.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS YOU ARE MAKING = _____

TOTAL DUE THE MILW. AST. SOC. (NO. ABOVE X \$9.25.) =\$_____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, AND MAIL TO:

Daniel L. Koehler, President
The Milwaukee Astronomical Society
W248 S7040 Sugar Maple Drive
Waukesha, WI 53186