

FOCAL



POINT

Issued by the **Milwaukee Astronomical Society** Sept. 1987

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September Program Meeting

The first meeting of the MAS new year will take place Friday, September 25, at 8:00 P.M. at the New Berlin Observatory. Note that this is a week later than our usual third Friday of the month meeting date. The observatory is located west of New Berlin, on Observatory Road, about one mile west of Calhoun Road (KX). If you need a map, please call 933-3052.

The keynote speaker will be MAS member Lee Keith, who, in his novel talk "The Sky as a Clock:

Telling Time by the Stars" will teach us how to tell time by using the Big Dipper.

Lee is noted for his down-to-earth, hands-on, understandable way of imparting practical astronomy, especially in the use and care of telescopes, and simple methods of locating and observing difficult celestial objects.

It's well worth the pleasant ride to the observatory to hear Lee. A clear sky should allow some observing. Guests are welcome.

Calendar of Events

- Evening of Sept. 12 - 13.....Moon occults Pleiades (M45).
- Friday, Sept. 18 - Sunday, Sept. 20.....AstroFest.
- Wednesday, Sept. 23.....Fall begins at 8:45 A.M. CDT.
- Wednesday, Sept. 23.....October Focal Point deadline.
- Friday, Sept. 25.....September Program Meeting at the observatory, at 8:00P.M.
- Tuesday, Oct. 6.....Full Harvest Moon.
- Evening of Oct. 6 - 7.....Penumbral eclipse of the moon.
- Wednesday, Oct. 7.....First Wednesday, 7:30PM at the observatory.
- Friday, Oct. 16.....MAS Dinner/Meeting.
- Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement. Help wanted. Call 475-9418 or 258-5626.
- Saturday Nights - Member's night at the observatory. See keyholder list.

Observatory News

Another favorable passage of the moon through the Pleiades (M45) will occur on the night of September 12 - 13. Group viewing is planned at the observatory. Gerry Samolyk (475-9418) can fill in prospective observers with the

necessary details for this exciting event.

Teamwork between seventeen observers at the March 4-5 passage resulted in the timing of 31 stars with 156 events being recorded. Please read "Moon, Pleiades and

MAS" by Dick Wiesen and Gerry Samolyk in the August 1987 "Reflector."

Here is a great opportunity to learn occultation timing procedures.

Amateur Astronomer's Series by Lee Keith

These classes are informal, low keyed classes on basic observing techniques and telescope selection, use and maintenance. They will be held at 7:00 PM at the observatory

on the Saturdays listed. If you are a beginner to astronomy or an intermediate observer looking for specific information, these classes are right up your alley. You don't

even have to take notes, as there will be handouts summarizing salient points. After class, stick around for the hands on workshop, described below.

Sept. 26 ----- Reading The Celestial Roadmap

The Small, Faint, & the Diffuse: Finding Celestial Objects

WORKSHOP: Take out Portascopes & find a few Messier objects!

Oct. 3 ----- Neophyte's Guide to Telescopes

All the Extras - Accessories

WORKSHOP: Those Amazing Nebular Filters!

Oct. 10 ----- What's Your Power?

WORKSHOP: Finding the field of view of your eyepieces by timing stars.

Oct. 17 ----- Cleaning & Collimation of a Newtonian Telescope

WORKSHOP: Bring in your dirty telescope mirror for cleaning.

If time permits, there will also be an opportunity for all who attend to be given instructions on the use of the large 12.5" telescope, so you can use this telescope on Saturday member's nights.

As a reminder to summer

observers, the MAS offers the Messier Club Observer's Handbook if you send a 8.5" x 11" SASE with 66 cents postage to:

Lee Keith

Herschel/Messier Club Coordinator

1239B E. Randolph Ct.

Milwaukee, Wis. 53212.

It contains a wealth of information on observing techniques and hints, as well as detailed maps to find the more elusive Messier objects.

Dinner Meeting

Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend the 19th Annual MAS Dinner Meeting.

WHEN: Friday, October 16

WHERE: Boulevard Inn

Sherman Blvd/Lisbon Ave
Milwaukee, Wisc.

The guest speaker will be David Levy, a professional observer at Kitt Peak National Observatory, author, and comet discoverer. His topic: "Some Thoughts on the Discovery of Comets". Full details are contained in the registration form included with the newsletter.

AstroFest 1987

The Chicago Astronomical Society will host the 8th Annual AstroFest from Friday, Sept. 18 through Sunday, Sept. 20.

The event, which features papers, displays, telescopes, vendors, and observing, will take place at Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See about 60 miles south of Chicago. For full particulars write:

ASTROFEST

PO Box 596-R

Tinley Park, Illinois 60477

Chairman: James Hansley

(312) 764-5131

Registrar: John Phelps.

Open House 1987

Public Open House 1987 will be extended to include Friday, October 9. Poor skies and weather denied many visitors of the chance to enjoy our facilities and to observe sky objects through the telescopes.

The final program will be "General Astronomy and Observing." It will begin at 8:00 PM in the lecture hall.

Cloudy or clear, the observatory will be open. The address is 18850 W. Observatory Rd.

New Berlin, Wisc.

Phone 542-9071

New Members

The newest stars in the MAS galaxy are; Gary Beyer, New Berlin; Patrick Beyer, Milwaukee; Tony Flegel, Waukesha; Ronald Kunicki, Milwaukee; Joseph and Julie Laudicina, Staten Island, New York;

John Leekley, Menomonee Falls; James Mayer, Waukesha; Joel and Barbara Myklebust, Brookfield; Eileen Prout and son Joel, Brookfield; John and Lana Silke and daughter Pamela, Hartland; Julie

Woods, Fredonia; Andrew Zadra, son of Nolan and Diantha Zadra, who joined July 16 weighing in at 7 lbs, 2 oz.

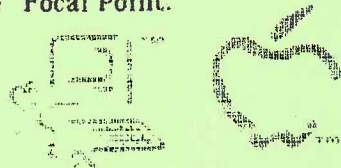
Everyone will be introduced at the September Program Meeting.

Surprised?

The "Focal Point" now has a new format. We hope you like the new look and find it easier to read and more enjoyable.

Your new typographer is MAS member Steve Reich who uses an Apple Macintosh SE computer to design, arrange, and illustrate the newsletter.

In the near future Steve will be capable to use his computer to add black & white photographs to the "Focal Point."



Eclipse of Moon

A penumbral eclipse of the moon will occur beginning at 7:53 PM CDT on October 6, and ending at 12:10 AM CDT on October 7.

The moon will pass through the earth's penumbral shadow causing the southeast portion of the full moon to appear dusty grey.

For Free!

FREE GIFT CERTIFICATE worth \$50 towards purchase of any DigiTrak drive corrector (or power source). Please contact:

Nick Nichols
542-2055

For Sale

17.5 inch Coulter Dobsonian telescope. 5 months old, customized, new design, and weather proofed. Includes 12 x 72mm finder, Talrad finder, dust cover, and bearing system added to mount. Must sell. \$950.

Please contact:

Rick Moskow
691-1088

Library News

Bulging bookshelves! Our catalog of titles has grown astronomically this summer thanks to the following donations:

From Scott Laskowski: Asimov's Guide to Halley's Comet - Asimov 1985
This is a popular level history of comets in general and Halley in particular.

From Barbara Swiontek: Music of the Spheres - Murchie 1967.
The 2 volume set attempts to integrate all that is known (in 1967) about the physical universe in an unusual style that combines facts with philosophy. Drawings by the author complement the text.

The New Astronomy - Henbest & Marten 1983.
Interpreting images made in non-optical wavelengths, often with the aid of computer manipulation, constitutes the "new astronomy." The book begins with an elegant table showing all the types of electromagnetic radiation, the objects which radiate most strongly in those wavelengths, and what kinds of instruments are used as detectors.

From Harry Auchter: A total of 51 books!! Including texts by such authors as Abell, Baker & Frederick, Brandt, Pasachoff, Struve, and others;
365 Starry Nights - Raymo 1982 and
Mercury, the Elusive Planet - Strom 1987.
Mr. Auchter, longtime MAS member and key holder, recently retired from teaching; and the Society can be very proud that he chose our library as a means of keeping this collection of astronomical knowledge in circulation.

From Gerry Samolyk: Meade Star Charts: a Seasonal Guide to the Stars, Planets, and Deep-Space Objects.

Recent Purchases

Thunderstones and Shooting Stars: The Meaning of Meteorites-Dodd 1986
Throughout Earth's history, it has accumulated a layer of meteoritic material about 5 feet thick. Most of it arrives in the form of microscopic grains; but some, if scientists are fortunate enough to find and study the larger pieces, can help unlock the secrets of the beginning of the solar system. Dodd first gives the reader a solid background to the study of "the poor man's space probe" then methodically outlines the progress of meteoritic analysis and gives the chemical evidence to support or refute theories about their origins.

Graze Observer's Handbook, 2nd edition - Povenmire 1979.

The shadow of the moon projected on Earth's surface provides a means of obtaining valuable information about the moon and the objects it occults. Veteran and neophyte observers alike will benefit from the experiences related here. The book covers lunar occultations completely from how to obtain maps and predictions to remembering to bring your tranquilizers. Milwaukee's Portascopes are mentioned.

Members Night Keyholders

Sept. 12	J. Pfannerstill	475-6494
Sept. 19	T. Ross	784-2093
Sept. 26	F. Roldan	423-0210
Oct. 3	G. Samolyk	475-9418
Oct. 10	T. Schmidtkunz	784-0253
Oct. 17	P. Smitka	785-0926

Directory

President	Dan Koehler	662-2987
Vice President	Dr. R. Wiesen	781-4757
Secretary	Ms. K. Wesener	961-8752
Treasurer	J. Toeller	352-7144
Observatory Director	G. Samolyk	475-9418
Asst. Obs. Director	J. Asztalos	258-5626
Special Activities Scheduler	N. Nichols	542-2055
Program Chairman	M. McNeeley	354-5347
FOCAL POINT Editor	L. Simandl	933-3052
	4201 W. Highland Blvd	
	Milwaukee, Wisc. 53208	
MAS Observatory	18850 W. Observatory Rd.	
	New Berlin, Wisc.	
	542-9071	

October FOCAL POINT deadline
Wednesday, September 23, 1987

ANNOUNCING

THE MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

Friday, October 16, 1987

at The Boulevard Inn

(Sherman at Lisbon, Milwaukee, 445-4221)

Cash Bar from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Buffet Dinner from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

includes your choice of:

Roast Beef Sirloin or Sliced Breast of Turkey

Tossed Salad, Potatoe, Vegetable, Bread, Dessert, and Beverage

The Program begins after 8:00 p.m. There will not be a business meeting this year.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. David Levy of Tuscon, Arizona, a professional observer at Kitt Peak National Observatory, author, and comet discoverer. His topic: "Some Thoughts on the Discovery of Comets"

Reservations with payment must be mailed on or before Monday, October 12 to Matt McNeeley, 8200 N. Cedarburg Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53209. Use the form below. Make checks payable to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society. The dinner is open to all members of the Milwaukee, Racine, Wehr, and Neville Public Museum Astronomical Societies and the Northern Cross Science Foundation, their families, and friends.

Name _____ Tel.No. _____

Society Affiliation (check) MAS RAS WAS NPMAS NCSF

No. of Reservations _____ @ \$12.00 each (MAS members only)
_____ @ \$14.00 each (all others)