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January Program-Meeting

Most of us are familiar with certain groups of stars or asterism like the Big Dipper (Ursa Major), the Northern Cross (Cygnus), or the teapot (Sagittarius). The clear, dark skies that must have delighted stargazer in ancient times were filled with points of light. Stars down to fifth magnitude must have been easily discernible so fantasizing animate and inanimate objects must have been easy. And perhaps these observations were used as memory devices.

The January meeting will feature Dr. Laura Barnard whose talk "Stars and Heroes: Ancient Greek Myths About Constellations" will tell us about Greek astronomy and the folklore of constellations.

Dr. Barnard is an instructor in the classics department at UWM and Marquette University. Her talk on the lighter side should provide a pleasant evening for all members and their guests.

WHEN: Friday, January 20, 8:00pm.
WHERE: PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY!

The meeting site has been changed to the Helen Carey Day Hospital Building. It is located about three blocks east of our former CATC site and south of the Watertown Plank Road at 90th Street. There is a traffic light at the intersection - please study the map. Enter through the red doors at the A-frame entrance. Owing to building security, the doors will be open only from 7:30pm to 8:15pm.

New Members

New members to be introduced at the January Program-Meeting will be:
 Donna Abrahamson, New Berlin
 Martin Engseth, Elm Grove
 Francisco & Elcira Munoz, Waukesha
 and
 Jan Schier, Pewaukee.

Correspondence

MAS member Tony Jarozewski would like to correspond with other MAS members by mail on any aspect of astronomy. He will reply to all letters. Please write Tony at 2565 S. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215. Phone (414) 383-6805.

Calendar of Events

- Friday, January 20 ----- January Program-Meeting.
 • • NEW MEETING LOCATION • •
 Be sure to read the "January Program Meeting" article above.
- Friday, January 20 ----- February Focal Point Deadline.
- Saturday, January 21 ----- Full Wolf Moon.
- Monday, January 23 ----- Moon occults Regulus at 10:00pm CST.
- Wednesday, February 1 ----- First Wednesday at observatory, 7:30pm. All members and their guests welcome.
- Thursday, February 2 ----- Groundhog Day. A shadow means 6 more weeks of winter!
- Monday, February 13 ----- Board meeting at 7:30pm. Call Dr. Wiesen for location.
- Friday, February 17 ----- February Program-Meeting.
- Saturdays ----- Observatory maintenance and improvements. Help wanted. Call 547-3400.
- Saturday Nights ----- Member's night at the observatory.

Library News by Sally Waraczynski/June Regis

Try to recall a day of bratwurst and bikini weather. Matt McNeeley and Pete Smitka were calling out the door prize numbers at the annual picnic, and the lady found she had a winner. Very graciously, she elected to donate her prize, a sky atlas, to the MAS library.

Now, in this season of mincemeat and mittens, we are pleased to announce the arrival of our "Uranometria 2000.0, Volume II, the Southern Hemisphere". Many thanks to Florence Simandl.



Two more books have arrived: "The Universe From Your Backyard", David Eicher, 1988 (courtesy Kalmbach Publications and Lee Keith) and "Microcomputers in Astronomy", Ed. Genet, 1983 (donated by Greg Cieslak).

The latter is the predecessor of "Microcomputers in Astronomy II" and is a compilation of papers presented at an earlier Fairborn symposium. Subjects include automated telescope control as well as photometer control and data reduction.

Lee Keith's own review of "The Universe From Your Backyard" appeared in the December "Focal Point".



How lucky can we get! Lee Keith needed some more room on his bookshelves, so in the giving spirit of the season he sent us his overflow. Be sure to stop out at the observatory and browse 'til you find one you like: "Astronomy and the Imagination: A New Approach to Man's Experience of the Stars", "Star Names, Their Lore and Meaning", "X-Ray Astronomy", "The Solar System", and "In the Light of the Sun: From Sunspots to Solar Energy".

"Star Names, Their Lore and Meaning" - a scholarly work which delves into the myths and starry representations of ancient civilizations. Transformed through the centuries by local custom and language, the forms and names of our "modern" constellations have a rich and convoluted history. Interestingly, however, Cygnus apparently was always a bird and a bull lead the zodiacal figures as he plowed the Akkadian "Furrow of Heaven."

"Astronomy and the Imagination" - Observe the universe with the naked, earth-centered eye if you would have a directly personal experience of your place within the whole. The telescope reveals stunning images, but they are suddenly out of context; the details are overwhelming.

"X-Ray Astronomy" - In a clear, narrative style, this intermediate level discussion explains the nature of X-radiation and the history and development of detection techniques. As the authors discuss each type of X-ray source within our galaxy and beyond, it becomes apparent how much new information and understanding already has been derived from studying the high-energy end of the electromagnetic spectrum and how important further investigation will be.

"The Solar System" - an introductory textbook describing the physical characteristics of the sun, moon and planets or planetary systems. Study questions conclude each chapter

"In the Light of the Sun" - Mark Washburn is a science writer who has the ability to transmit information with contagious enthusiasm. You will enjoy learning about the sun as a variable star, its profound influence upon Earth's weather machine, uses for solar energy, and much more.



There is a folder in the vertical file labeled CATALOGS. Feel free to look through the accumulated book lists and equipment brochures. The folder will be cleaned out and updated from time to time. Also in the vertical file, you will find some new material on LIGHT POLLUTION (courtesy Dr. David Crawford) and a copy of "Byte" in the MICROCOMPUTERS folder (courtesy Greg Cieslak). New to the ASTRONOMICAL PHOTOGRAPHY folder are "Astrophotography Basics", Kodak P150 and "Kodak Scientific Imaging Products", L10 (courtesy Dan Koehler).



MAS observers have made some outstanding photographs of Mars during this opposition. Please consider making some copies for our slide collection. Also, if you have data and drawings or photographs of Mars or Jupiter, comets, variable stars, occultations, etc., a few representative samples of your work would be welcome in our Observatory Projects history file. Members planning to embark on their own projects would benefit from seeing what can and has been done. Call the librarian if you want more information on donating material.

It Can Be Done!

Deimos, the outermost moon of Mars, was seen by three members of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomers Society, Inc., Allentown, Pennsylvania, on the evening of September 1-2. Paul Hunsberger, Rae Klahr, and John Fox, using a 12.5" Cassegrain reflector found the 11.5 magnitude moon by placing the image of Mars just outside the field of view of the telescope. Phobos couldn't be seen because it was too close to Mars. The September "Sky & Telescope" verified the sighting.

LVAAS members Bob Mohr and John Malkner, respectively using 8" and 10" Schmidt-Cassegrain reflectors, spotted Clyde Tombaugh's tiny planet Pluto on June 10. Nine other viewers saw the solar system's outermost planet. The sighting was confirmed by noting the dim planet's movement on a successive evening.

A Note From France

Your editor received the following note from Gerry Samolyk who is now residing in Saint-Dizier, France.

"At the October 22 meeting of the American Association of Variable Stars (AAVSO), Ed Halbach received the AAVSO merit award. This is only the 32nd such award issued in the 77 year history of the AAVSO. Ed has been a member of the MAS since the beginning in 1932 and served 30 years as the director of our observatory. Throughout that time Ed was a very active observer of variable stars, occultation, solar eclipses, and just about anything else. We can also thank his hard work for most of the observatory we have today. He now lives in Estes Park, Colorado where he continues to be an active observer. CONGRATULATIONS ED!"

Keyholders

Jan. 14	Gregory Cieslak	744-5703
Jan. 21	Brian Ganiere	272-4649
Jan. 28	Chris Hesseltine	482-4515
Feb. 4	Lee Keith	961-8752
Feb. 11	Dan Koehler	662-2987
Feb. 18	Nick Nichols	628-4059
Feb. 25	John Pfannerstill	475-6494
Mar. 4	Frank Roldan	423-0210

Word From Ed Halbach!

Nineteen eighty-eight has been a good year for Ed and Jane. They started off with a cruise through the Panama Canal and later made trips to Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Virginia visiting children and grandchildren, especially grandchild #12!

Ed continues to spend many nights at the telescope observing variables and spends days working on a new 16" scope. He took time out for a trip to Cambridge, Massachusetts for a variable star observer's meeting where he received the AAVSO Merit Award. (Please see the "A note from France" Item) Ed and Jane are also very active in local activities.

The MAS wishes another good year for this tireless couple.

Congratulations!

The following members have been with the Milwaukee Astronomical Society for many years. All have contributed something towards its advancement.

For the following people, 1989 will mark:

35 Years

Richard Buttke, Aris Penikis, L. Wilson

30 Years

William Collins, LeRoy Simandl, Ray Zit

25 Years

Virgil & Mary Ann Tangney

20 Years

Ronald Janz, Carl Perez-Pena, John Pfannerstill, Thomas Renner, James Toeller

15 Years

Dwight Harris, Keith Taylor, Wesley and Helen Wilberg

10 Years

Gerry Graef, John Marrari, Glenn Oleniczak, Bernard Olson, Orin and Allen Purintun, Manual Roldan, Robert Sharrock, Peter Smitka

For Sale

You can purchase a dandy official MAS sweatshirt(s) from Treasurer Dan Koehler for \$10. The color is blue, the MAS emblem is silk screened in front in white, they're long-sleeved, warm, and American made. Sizes S to XL. To order, call Dan at 662-2987.

MAS caps are also available for \$4.50.

Directory

President	Dr. Richard Wiesen	781-4757
Vice President	Mathew McNeeley	354-5347
Secretary	Ms. Karen Wesener	961-8752
Treasurer	Dan Koehler	662-2987
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HELEN CAREY DAY HOSPITAL MEETING SITE

