

Newsletter for the

Milwaukee Astronomical Society

October 1989

October Dinner-Meeting

Please refer to the notice included with this month's "FOCAL POINT" for full details. Make your reservations soon!

What Is First Wednesday?

The first Wednesday night of every month, except January and February, is set aside at the New Berlin observatory to offer MAS members and guests an opportunity to get acquainted with the facilities, equipment, and other members.

"How do I buy or build a telescope?" "How do I use setting circles?" "What is a filar micrometer?" "What is star hopping and how is it done?" "How is astrophotography done?" "What is there to see in the sky?" There are people present to directly answer your question(s) or they can tell you how or where to find the answer(s). And we now have a super library thanks to Sally Waraczynski and June Regis.

First Wednesday is a great chance to use one or more of your many MAS benefits. It's especially beneficial to our newer members who have questions but are hesitant to ask them. Our more astronomically experienced members and guests are urged to come out and try to answer them, or pass along some of their expertise to get newer members started.

Meteor Showers

DRACONIDS

October 9. Peak at 9:00 pm CDT. Rate of 10/hr. Look to northwest for radiant.

ORIONIDS

October 20. Peak at 4:00 am CDT. Rate of 10-70/hr. Look south for radiant.

TAURIDS

November 9. Peak at midnight CDT. Rate of 5-15/hr. Look south for radiant.

Join an Observing Club!

by Lee Keith

Get too dark too early for baseball this fall? Join an Observing Club, just for fun!

As a reminder to observers, the MAS offers the *Messier Club Observer's Handbook* or the *New Burnham Club Observer's Handbook* if you send an 8.5" x 11" SASE with \$1 postage to:

Lee Keith
MAS Observing Clubs Coordinator
1239B E. Randolph Court
Milwaukee, WI 53212

They contain a wealth of information on observing techniques and hints, as well as detailed maps to find the more elusive objects. Best of all, they're FREE!

MESSIER PINS

As of 1/1/89, all new Messier Club members that have an Honorary Messier Certificate (107 objects) will receive a 1 inch diameter Messier Pin with their certificate.

Members receiving their Honorary certificates before then can purchase a Messier Club pin through the MAS. To order, send a check or money order for \$2 made out to Kathy Machin. Send it to Lee Keith, MAS Observing Clubs Coordinator, 1239B E. Randolph Court, Milwaukee, WI 53212, before November 1, 1989.

For Sale or Trade

Celestron C8 reflecting telescope in excellent condition. Offer includes a Beyer worm clock drive, mount with latitude adjustment wedge, 8x50 right angle finder scope, 26mm Plossl for \$2300 new, will sell for \$1750 or offer, or trade for an IBM compatible personal computer.

Please call Ron Lundgren at 5487 W. Elliot Circle, Milwaukee, WI 53208 or phone 771-8634 after 5:00pm.

New FOCAL POINT Editors!

Beginning with the November, 1989 issue, Tom Gill and Program Chairman, Matt McNeeley will be publishing the "FOCAL POINT" newsletter.

Both Tom and Matt are quite experienced in this type of work and will publish an enjoyable newsletter that will keep you well informed.

Items to be included in future issues of the "FOCAL POINT" should be sent on or before the deadline to:

Mathew McNeeley
8200 North Cedarburg Road
Brown Deer, WI 53209
(414) 354-5347

or
Tom Gill
1391 North 72nd Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 476-6986

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**M.A.S.
INFORMATION
CORNER**

MAS OFFICERS

- President** Dr. Richard Wiesen
781-4757
- Vice President** Mathew McNeeley
354-5347
- Secretary** Ms. Karen Wesener
961-8752
- Treasurer** Dan Koehler
662-2987
- Observatory Director** Gerry Samolyk
475-9418
- Assist. Obs. Director** John Aszalos
774-5418
- Librarian** Mrs. Sally Waraczynski
321-0918
- Assist. Librarian** Mrs. June Regis
962-0896
- Program Director** Mathew McNeeley
354-5347

FOCAL POINT Editors LeRoy Simandl
4201 W. Highland Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
933-3052

Tom Gills
1391 N. 72nd Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
476-6986

Mathew McNeeley
8200 N. Cedarburg Road
Brown Deer, WI 53209

MAS Observatory
18850 W. Observatory Road
New Berlin, WI
542-9071



**EVENTS CALENDAR
for
October/ November**

Wednesday, October 4 - First Wednesday at the observatory, 7:30pm. All members and their guests welcome.

Monday, October 9 - Board meeting.

Saturday, October 14 - Full Hunter's Moon.

Friday, October 20 - Annual Dinner-Meeting at the Boulevard Inn. Please see enclosed flyer for details.

Friday, October 20 - November FOCAL POINT deadline.

Sunday, October 29 - Daylight Savings Time ends. Set clocks back 1 hour.

Saturday, November 11 - Indian Summer begins.

Monday, November 13 - Board Meeting.

Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvements. Help wanted. Call 475-9418 or 774-5418.

Saturday Nights - Member's night at the observatory.

New Members

Recently added to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society roster are:

James P. Grant, Meghan, and Peter
New Berlin

John J. Haugh, M.D.
Shorewood

Robert H. Johnson and Gloria
Muskego

Steve Johnson, Mike, Alice, and Beth
Waukesha

Anthony C. Palm
Milwaukee

Nancy Rockwell
West Allis

Brian Sellung
Waukesha

David Strom
Milwaukee

Carl Watry, Steven, Dan and Mark
Milwaukee

Brian Zeiler
Glendale



**KEYHOLDERS
for
SATURDAY NIGHTS**

- September 30Dan Koehler
662-2987
- October 7.....Lee Keith
961-8752
- October 14Nick Nichols
628-4059
- October 21John Pfannerstill
475-6494
- October 28Frank Roldan
423-0210
- November 4.....Terry Ross
784-2093
- November 11Gerry Samolyk
475-9418
- November 18Tom Schmidtkunz
784-0253
- November 25Peter Smitka
785-0926
- December 2.....Virgil Tangney
327-7976

Dues Are Due!

Please return the Membership Renewal Form, included with your September Focal Point, with your remittance if you haven't done so. Payment is normally required by the end of September so that your "Sky & Telescope", "Reflector", and "Northern Lights" subscriptions can continue without interruption. And you might want to take advantage of the reduced subscription prices on the many other publications listed. The "RASC Handbook" should be ordered before the end of October. They will be available for pick-up at the December and January General Program-Meetings. You may request a mailed copy for \$1.00 extra.

Pay your dues now to ensure receiving the many benefits you Society offers; top speakers at the program-meetings, use of the New Berlin Facilities, library, and equipment, several publications, and opportunities to become part of a lot of different observing programs offered and led by knowledgeable, experienced people.

DUES RATES:

- Regular Membership-----\$40/year.
- Non-residents -----\$30/year.
(outside Milwaukee / Waukesha/ Ozaukee / Washington counties)
- Juniors -----\$15/year.
(under 18 or full time students under the age of 22)
- Additional family members -\$1/person/year
(not available to juniors)



Library News

by Sally Waraczynski

Tom Milner has donated two more beautifully illustrated

books:

"The Grand Tour"

Ron Miller, William K. Hartmann, 1981.

Through their breathtaking artwork, the authors let us set foot upon over 25 of the worlds of the solar system ranging in size from Jupiter to a sun-grazing comet. The depictions of fantastic landforms and views into the space beyond the horizons are solidly based in astronomical fact. Each stop on the tour is described as thoroughly as is known in terms of composition, topography, orbital peculiarities, etc. Miller and Hartmann are travel agents extraordinaire!

"To the Edge of the Universe: the Exploration of Outer Space with N.A.S.A." 1986

Kevin Krisciunas introduces this colorful picture story with a nod to historical astronomy, deep space wonders viewed by Earth-bound telescopes, and the Apollo missions. The orbiting observatories and planetary exploration missions are the focus here. From the Explorer series through Voyager at Uranus, the projects are outlined, the spacecraft depicted, and page after page of images from space are brilliantly reproduced.

Our set of northern hemisphere constellation slides is pretty well complete now thanks to Dale Tutkowski who graciously allowed us to copy many from his fine collection. Also recently added is a group of slides useful for explaining orbital planes, the celestial sphere and coordinate systems. These graphics are from illustrations in Ottewell's "Astronomical Companion" and are indexed under Cosmogony/Cosmology.

Open House 1989

Two programs remain in our 1989 Open House series: September 29 (The Milky Way) and October 13 (Double Stars).

All Open Houses take place at the MAS observatory located at 18850 W. Observatory Road, New Berlin, one mile west of Calhoun Road (KX) on Observatory Road. Call 542-9071 if you're lost.

Programs start at 8:00pm. The general public is invited. A \$2.00 donation for parking will be appreciated. Bring a sweater or jacket and insect repellent for your comfort.

We still need volunteer help for crowd control, guiding, traffic, and 'scope operation. Usually there's barely enough help. Call on the Open House night to see if there is enough. The turnout of visitors varies considerably depending on the sky condition and weather.

Loaner Scopes

Two 8" Dobsonian "APOLLO" telescopes are available to MAS members for general use away from the observatory. They will accept either 1.25" or 2" eyepieces. One scope is located on the north side of Milwaukee and the other on the south side of Milwaukee.

No deposit is required, but an agreement to cover loss or damage must be signed. The loan is from 14-31 days with an extension period.

(North Side Location)

Matt McNeeley
8200 N. Cedarburg Road
Brown Deer, Wisconsin
Phone 354-5347

(South Side Location)

Richard Sterle
8115 W. Waterford Avenue
Greenfield, Wisconsin
Phone 543-7459

ASTROFEST or Bust (a Gut)

by Tom Gills

It had to happen sometime. Astrofest #10 tested the theory that states you can have fun at a star party even without stars. Nearly 30 MAS members got skunked by the weather on September 8-10, but still came home tired and satisfied. The field was soft and muddy, and if not for a warm and windy Saturday it may have rivaled the famed *Aquafest* of years past. At least it wasn't another *Astropest* (but you had to be cautious around the supernova sized spiders).

Check these facts: 40% more members stayed up 60% longer and laughed 25% harder than ever before. Cabins 9 and 10 became our hangout. By day, Frank Roldan and Jim Toeller put together a great feast, including a Spanish meal with ethnic background music. At night, the camaraderie of the group came shining through. Old jokes, new jokes, and a few groaners kept us up and laughing (but the adjacent cabin must have had something against monkey jokes). Occasionally, when the clouds grew thin, we glimpsed a fuzzy first quarter moon. Better moon views were witnessed outside cabin 10 during a lull in the festivities.

Though no starlight was gathered, the telescope field was exciting as usual. Notable were: a \$20,000 fully enclosed sit-down turret scope; 16" battleship scope (made by Messier List contact Kathy Machin and her husband); 17" binoculars; and dozens of Newtonians and Dobsonians in various configurations. Camp Kriege sported 3 *big guns* under a bright tent and attracted a good crowd all day long.

MAS brought home the gold in the form of 3 awards: Dan Koehler for his outstanding 9 Days of Mars photographs, Rick Moscow for his ingenious keep-two-eyes-open Telrad/finder set-up, and Peter Smitka for design excellence in a 10" Dobsonian. Damp but undaunted, we look forward to next year!

For Sale

A Celestron Powerstar 3, 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector telescope, ten months old, mint condition. Offer includes mount, case, eyepiece dew shield, camera adapter, auxiliary 12 volt power supply, and two eyepieces. Priced at \$1200.

Please call Ned Guyette at 374-7182 (Milwaukee).



Happy
Halloween

MAS Observation Summary September 1988 - August 1989

by Gerry Samolyk

LUNAR ECLIPSE

This summer we observed our first Lunar Eclipse since 1982. The observatory was well to wall people as members and non-members came out to see this event. In addition to the many photos that were taken, and occultations that were observed, the following observers made 73 timings of crater contacts with the umbra.:

J. PFANNERSTILL - 26

G. SAMOLYK - 32

S. WARACZYNSKI - 15

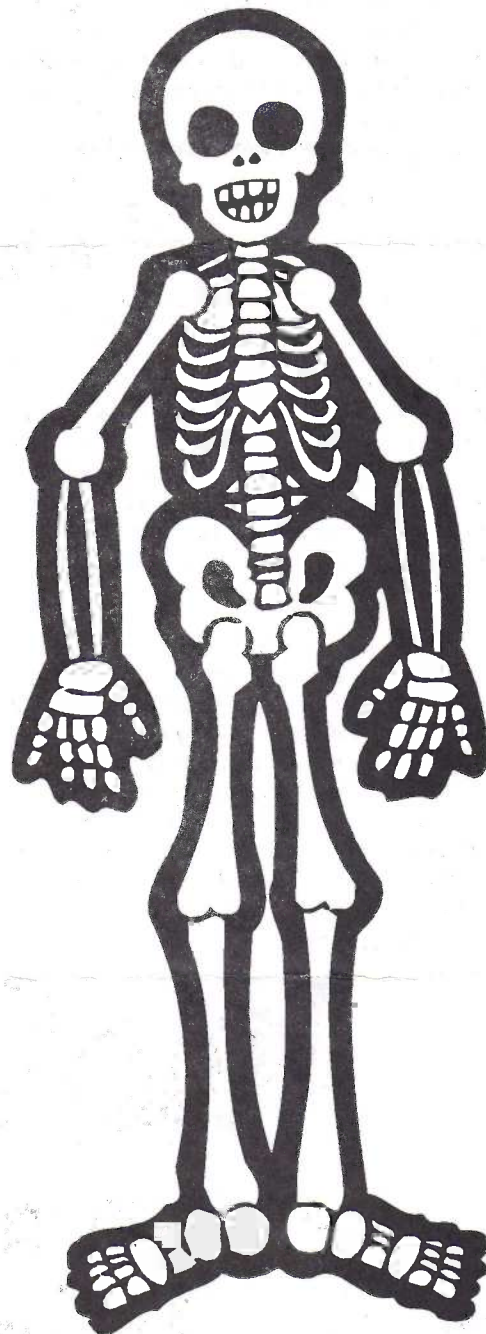
LUNAR OCCULTATIONS

Two passages of the Moon through the Pleiades provided most of our observations this year. The events observed during the lunar eclipse are of very high value since very few events are seen at the full phase.

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>M45</u>	<u>LUNAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
C. Andrist		9		9
J. Asztalos		16		16
P. Borchardt	9	37		46
B. Ganiere			4	4
N. Guyette		8		8
P. Hess		21		21
C. Hesseltine		34	2	36
L. Keith		14		14
D. Koehler		30		30
S. Laskowski		12		12
J. Pfannerstill			6	6
T. Renner		19		19
F. Roldan	13	24		37
G. Samolyk	1	38	16	55
L. Silke	1	13		14
P. Smitka		37		37
V. Tangney		28		28
K. Waraczynski		28	1	29
S. Waraczynski	18	38	9	65
R. Wiesen		14		14
M. Wolkomir		13		13
TOTALS	42	433	38	513

In addition one graze from last summer was reported. A total of 37 contacts were recorded by the following observers:

J. Asztalos
 P. Borchardt
 B. Ganiere
 C. Hesseltine
 J. Toeller
 S. Waraczynski
 and
 R. Wiesen.



You are cordially invited to attend . . .

**The Milwaukee Astronomical Society's
1989 Annual Dinner Meeting**

**Friday, October 20, 1989
The Boulevard Inn
Sherman Blvd. at Lisbon Ave.
Milwaukee**

Cocktails: 6:00 p.m. (cash bar)

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Program: 8:30 p.m.

Note: See reverse side for program details

Buffet Menu:

Sliced Roast Beef Sirloin

Sliced Breast of Turkey

Tossed House Salad

Parsley Potatoe

Fresh Vegetable Medley

Carrot Cake

Cost: Fourteen dollars per person, including tax and gratuity

Reservations required

**Send a check or money order made payable to The Milwaukee Astronomical Society on or
before Monday, October 16 to:**

Matthew McNeeley

8200 North Cedarburg Road

Brown Deer, Wisconsin 53209

414-354-5347

The evening's program will feature Dr. Donald C. Parker, speaking on behalf of The Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers. Dr. Parker's talk, entitled "A Summary of Findings from the Mars Watch 1988", will highlight the observations compiled world-wide during Mars' close approach to Earth last summer and fall.

Dr. Parker is a practicing physician with a life-long interest in astronomy. He began systematic lunar and planetary observing in the early 1950's. After completing his medical training, he became an active contributor to The Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers and has, since 1986, served as co-Recorder of the Mars Section. He has authored or co-authored 48 scientific papers dealing with solar system astronomy, astrophotography, and deep-diving physiology. He has been named in two International Astronomical Union telegrams as a discoverer of new features on Mars and Jupiter. Parker has taken thousands of photos of the planets, many of which have appeared in scientific journals and magazines. The November, 1986 issue of *Sky and Telescope* magazine wrote: "Using a 12-1/2-inch f/6.5 Newtonian reflector at his home in Coral Gables, Florida, Parker often obtains images that equal the best made by professional astronomers using much larger telescopes at mountaintop observatories." Since 1980, he has been an active contributor to Lowell Observatory's International Planetary Patrol. In 1986 he went to Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory to photograph Mars for Lowell Observatory, the University of Missouri at St. Louis and the National Geographic Society. During the same year he received A.L.P.O.'s prestigious Walter H. Haas Award for his contributions to planetary photography. Parker is one of three co-authors of the book Introduction to Observing And Photographing The Solar System (1988, Willmann-Bell), from which this synopsis of his work has been taken.

Dr. Parker will lead a seminar in solar system observing and photographic techniques for all interested individuals on Saturday evening, October 21, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee Astronomical Society Observatory, 18850 West-Observatory Road, New Berlin. We hope you will join us for one or both of these special events.