



Membership Update

Up to now, the renewal response has been absolutely fantastic! The early mailing and specified deadlines really paid off. Before August was over, I had 44 renewals returned. The first batch of forms was delivered to Dan Yanko shortly after the last August Open House. As of the writing of this article, 80 forms have been returned. I appreciate your quick reply and your patience with the slightly new form format.

The magazine subscription orders were mailed to each of the publishers shortly after the September membership meeting. If your order came after the meeting date, then it will have to wait until I send the second batch in November which will include orders from new members. The order for the RASC and Ottewell books was also sent the same week. Since we order a fixed amount, your early order is not so important – it just guarantees that you will receive a book. I will keep tabs with all of the publishers to be sure that they deliver upon our payment.

The response to the survey is also very good. Some marked x's or 0's instead of the specified range, making tabulation a little more difficult, but overall, the results are statistically significant. The results will be published in December to give everyone a chance to turn in their surveys. The written portion of the survey received a significant enough response that I will look for a way to provide a summary of your comments. If you can't wait, the preliminary graphical results of the activities and dues amount will be available at the next meetings.

New Members

Make sure you give a warm welcome to the following new members who recently joined us:

Joseph A Milalovich of Milwaukee, WI

Tony Buchta of Milwaukee, WI

Richard J Bruening with Diane, Sarah and Raquel, New Berlin, WI

Raymond F Jurevicius with Ann, Jaclyn, Christine, and Becky of New Berlin, WI

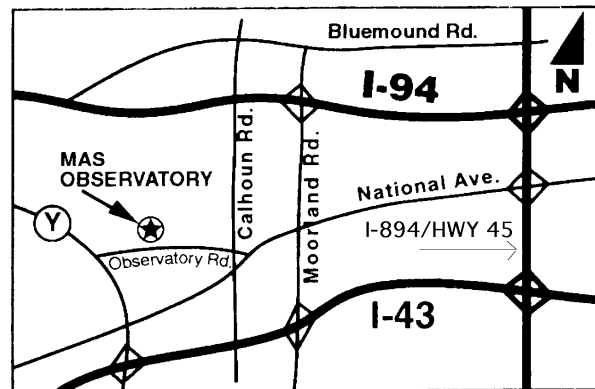
Beth Klameru of Milwaukee, WI

Marcella Kearns with Wade, Sharon, Trevor, and Cesia of New Berlin, WI

Kurt Huebner with Susan of Mukwonago, WI

New members, join us if you can, at the Oct.17, meeting...good way to start!

Julie Frey, Membership Chairperson



Next Member Meeting Oct. 17, at 8:00pm

Mark your calendars for the upcoming meeting at the club observatory (Location shown on the above map). The program will feature an excellent talk by **Robert Naeye, associate Editor of Astronomy magazine**. Bob has written a new book, **Thru the Eyes of the Hubble: The Birth, Life and Death of Stars** and will be discussing this topic of evolving Stars using the latest images from the Hubble Space Telescope. He has spoken to the society before concerning extra solar Planets (last Spring). Its sure to be a visually as well as intellectually stimulating program. Put this down as a don't miss on your calendar! For more details on the book (and another opportunity to hear this talk), see **Visit the Stars** article on page 3 in this issue.

The board meeting will precede the the general membership meeting at 7:00PM.

Other MAS October Events

***1st Wednesday Meeting, Oct 1, 7:30PM**

A monthly informal get together with Observatory director, Gerry Samolyk, to discuss forthcoming club observing events and/or work on observatory projects. All welcome.

***MAS Autumn Campout, Oct.3rd & 4th**

This is a fun weekend sponsored by MAS for all members and friends. Several of the club's Portascopes and the Doc Weissen 18" Dobsonian will be brought on-site as well as members own scopes to cover all contingencies. **For more info, Call Paul Borchardt 781-0169 or Dan Yanko 453-3382.**

From the President

"The Great Astronomical League Debate"

Your Board of Directors is in the midst of a controversy over the question is whether to remain a member of the Astronomical League, a national non-profit federation of amateur astronomical societies. The purpose of the League is fourfold:

- *To promote the science of astronomy
- *To encourage and coordinate activities of amateur astronomical societies
- *To foster observational and computational work and craftsmanship opportunities in the various fields of astronomy
- *To provide a medium of correlating amateur activities with professional research

Besides the Reflector magazine which everyone receives each quarter, the League sponsors over a dozen observing activities ranging from the popular Messier club to double stars, Herschel I and II, CCD, Lunar, Meteor and Southern Skies clubs. Many of them have binocular versions. All require you to record the observations and then award you with a certificate and handsome pin. It also offers awards to young astronomers as well as accomplished ones, which foster our hobby and give it some well deserved publicity. The League offers many other services, too numerous to mention here.

The initial question was one of money, since League dues, what each member club pays to the League, went up from \$2 to \$3 per society member. For the MAS, this adds up to nearly \$600. While it is a substantial chunk of cash, we can afford this expense since all the members pay their League dues with their MAS dues. To put this expense in some perspective, the MAS pays \$1400 per year for insurance which we may never see any benefit from (I hope!).

However, this is not just a question of money. It seems to be more a question of individual choice. Some people felt that each member should be given the choice to be in the League rather than requiring all members belong. It is felt that many people do not benefit much from membership in the League. They say that each club could allow each member to join the League separately from their membership in their respective local society.

So the ultimate question is simply this: Should the Board of Directors require members to pay \$3 for League dues for something they may not want or use?

The MAS is one of the founding astronomy societies of the Astronomical League when it was formed by a confederation of scattered astronomy clubs 50 years ago this year. I have NEVER heard a complaint about our membership in the League, on financial or any other grounds. Ever! At the membership meeting on Sept. 19th, my impression from MAS members, old and new, was that \$3 is nothing and that it was not a financial burden. Given a preference, many would like to see it go to the MAS, but were not adamant about it, a key point. It did not mean that they were against sending money to the League.

I feel that our membership in the Astronomical League should be seen as more than just a \$600 expense. The benefit of having the League transcends the financial. It is the national organization that binds amateur astronomy together. It gives our hobby substance, bulk and importance.

Cont'd in next column

President cont'd

Through the Reflector magazine, regional and national conventions it allows amateur astronomers to come together and share experiences. (For me, I also found out that I was not the only one that wanted to go out to a dark place and observe for most of the night!) The astronomical League validates our hobby and shows that we are not a bunch of nutty people!

We are not talking about taxing people against their will here. If someone believes that our dues are not worth what they get, they will not join. Dues is a discretionary recreational expense and I can't believe that \$3 is going to break anyone for a worthwhile cause as the League. Whether you believe you get your \$3 worth from the League or not, I'm sure you recognize the value of a national amateur astronomy organization.

As mentioned before, the MAS was one of the founding societies of the Astronomical League 50 years ago. Its first President was a Founding Member and past President of the MAS! That living legend of the League and MAS, Ed Halbach, gave me the honor of corresponding to me on this subject. I would like to close with an excerpt from that letter pertinent to this topic:

"It has come to my attention that the MAS is either considering or has dropped affiliation with the Astronomical League. Is it financial or is it principal? Financially I understand that the MAS has generous funds to cover the minimal membership dues requested by the League. If there is disagreement with the activities of the League, I as the first President of the League need to know the reasons."

Lee Keith, President MAS

Yerkes Centennial Celebration

Nearly 2000 people participated on the weekend of September 6th & 7th. There was public viewing with the Yerkes Observatory main instruments, including the 40" Refractor. Amateur astronomers were present from many local clubs. These clubs included: Milwaukee, Wehr, Sheboygan, Madison & Racine. Many brought telescopes. All entertained and informed the public with knowledge of the Universe while sharing views of Jupiter, Saturn, and many deep sky objects.

Most people have never seen these objects thru a telescope. It is important that we have "outreach programs", open houses and star parties to educate the public on important issues concerning the future of Astronomy.

Scott Laskowski

MAS Star Party a Whopper!

The September 12 public star party experienced a very high public turnout (475 plus) with automobiles overflowing the normal lower level areas and up onto the hillside periphery of the observatory sites. The focus of the party was "Jupiter and its moons.". Jupiter, as well as Saturn and the Moon cooperated by being clearly visible with eyepopping telescopic views to the uninitiated. The talk on Jupiter had to be given to full house groups three times(via Lee Keith). Numerous members lugged their scopes out and/or manned several club portascopes(as well as B & Z observatories) for mostly planetary and lunar observing under a bright moonlit night. Thanks to all who helped man the star party and bringing a small piece of the cosmos to the public.

Visit The Stars

Astronomy magazine Associate Editor Robert Naeye (noy-ah) will host a fascinating slide show and author signing based on his new book, *Through the Eyes of Hubble: The Birth, Life and Violent Death of Stars*. This exciting presentation will explore the life cycle of stars. The event, which is open to all those interested in space exploration and the Hubble Telescope, will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 1997 at 7:00pm at the Harry W. Swartz Bookshop located at 17145 W. Bluemound Rd. Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005.

This book takes readers on a fantastic voyage through the universe to experience the violent life cycle of the stars. With stunning photographs from the Hubble Space Telescope and easy to follow text, it unlocks the mysteries of the birth, life and death of stars. Readers travel on an interstellar journey to nurseries where new stars are born, trace the life of a star, and see the dramatic aftermath of exploded stars. Astonishing images of stellar nurseries, spectacular jets, protoplanetary disks, exploding stars, and the shrouds of dead stars, capture these momentous celestial events in stunning detail. This remarkable book also features seven original, never-before-published paintings from internationally-renowned space artist Michael Carroll.

Robert Naeye of Waukesha, WI is the Associate Editor of Astronomy magazine, a monthly publication with a circulation of 170,000 readers. Astronomy is full of breathtaking photos, thrilling graphics, and jargon-free articles to provide the latest in astronomical news.

Cont'd next column

Visit The Stars Cont'd

Kalmbach Publishing Co. is the publisher of Astronomy magazine as well as thirteen additional hobby related magazines, over 200 books and a host of other quality products. Kalmbach's main offices are located at 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI, with satellite offices in Skyesville, MD, Holland, MI and Chantilly, VA.

Editors Note: News release received from Theresa Brazale, Astronomy magazine.

Astrofest 97

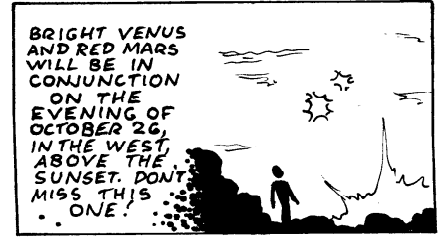
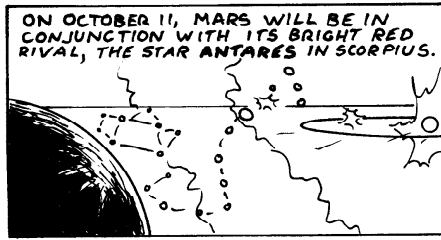
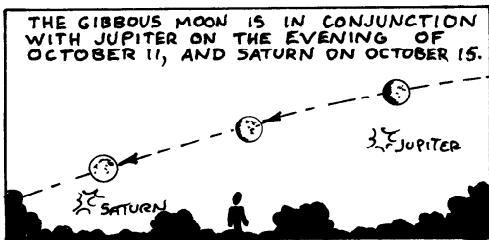
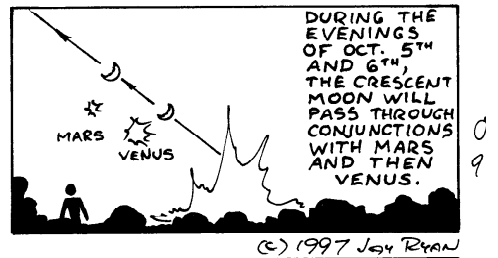
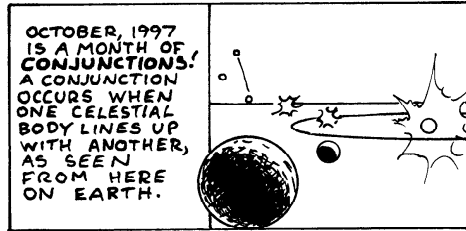
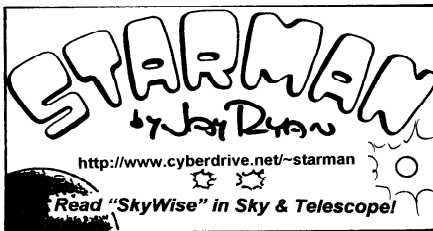
Astrofest 97 is an annual Chicago Astronomical Society sponsored campout held the 5th, 6th and 7th of Sept. in a 4H campsite north of Kankakee, IL. This year was the biggest ever with 950 attending as of Saturday afternoon. The fest features nightly star parties, daytime astronomy lectures, a flea market for assorted telescopes & accessories, and a large collection of home made telescopes that's a brain pickers paradise for an aspiring telescope builder. Saturday's talks included: what Hubble Space scope has told us, the effort involved in developing the Millenium Star Atlas, and numerous "how to" type lectures. Five MAS members were in attendance, down from the usual 10 to 20. Three noted members are shown in the photo montage below

For Sale

Edmund Scientific Astroscan 2001, Newtonian reflector telescope, four & one half inch mirror, 28 mm eyepiece and manuals. Excellent condition. \$225. George Kutner, 785-9310



Astrofest 97 MAS members from left to right: Dan Koehler working at the Astronomy Magazine booth, Peter Smitka (MAG1 instruments) and Dave Kreige (Obsession Telescopes) working but having fun.



MAS Officers/ Staff

President	Lee Keith	425-2331
Vice President	Scott Jamieson	896-0119
Treasurer	Dan Yanko	453-3382
Secretary	Margaret Warner	327-7427
Observatory Director	Gerry Samolyk	529-9051
Assistant Observatory Director	Paul Borchardt	781-0169

Focal Point

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	Email: rudyp70855@aol.com	
Distribution	Margaret Warner	

Keyholders

October

4	Jim Kube	453-8858
11	Scott Laskowski	421-3517
18	Terry Ross	784-2083
25	Tom Schmittkunz	352-1674

Loaner Telescopes (available to members for local use)

Scott Jamieson (Waukesha)	896-0119	4"	f / 15 refractor
Lee Keith (Franklin)	425-2331	8"	Dob reflector
Rich Stearle (Greenfield)	543-7479	8"	Dob reflector

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society

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