

**Milwaukee  
Astronomical  
Society**

18850 Observatory Rd  
New Berlin, WI  
Phone: 262-542-9071



Focal Point

January 2010

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**Clear Skies!**



**New Board Member Appointed**



"I have found the experienced members of the society to be very knowledgeable and helpful. If you show an interest you will get more help and information than you can imagine. This has been fun! What a wonderful group of people!" Russell Chabot

Come meet Russell at the Membership meeting.

Meet Russell Chabot and his wife, Ann. Russell was appointed to fill the director slot left vacant last year.

Russell became a member of MAS last spring. He has been retired for about 6 years now and when he joined MAS he was looking for something to do. "I have been interested in astronomy since I was in high school back in the 1950s." he says, "and I have read Astronomy Magazine' & 'Sky & Telescope' for at least 30 years now and I have been reading astronomy & physics books for at least that long."

"A friend of mine ground his own mirror & made a telescope while we were in high school. I also took an astronomy course at UWM while there in the 1960s. However I have done practically no observing at all. So as far as MAS is con-

cerned I am a beginner. I am just starting to use the Albrecht 10" dob Scope to learn how to find my way around the sky."

At this point, Russell's main interest is to get others, especially young, people interested in science, if not in astronomy in particular, as well as to be able to find his way around the sky. So far he has been bringing some of his grandchildren to the public outreach programs. "I have found the experienced members of the society to be very knowledgeable and helpful. If you show an interest you will get more help and information than you can imagine. This has been fun! What a wonderful group of people!

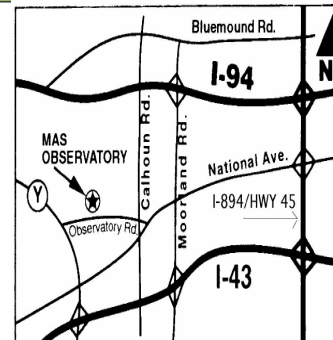
I am looking forward to many more fun adventures with MAS.

**Saturday Night Viewing Is Just for You**

The MAS Observatory located at 18850 Observatory Road in New Berlin is open for Members only on Saturday nights throughout the year. Enjoy this opportunity to use the telescopes available at the observatory and take advantage of the knowledge and expertise of our key

holders. These cold clear nights during the winter months offer great viewing of the stars with little interference.

Please contact the appropriate key holder several days in advance of the night you wish to visit. See the list of key holders on page 2.



**Save The Date**

**Jan. 15th**

Board Meeting  
General Meeting

**Feb. 19th**

Board Meeting  
General Meeting

**March 19th**

Board Meeting  
General Meeting

Save the third Friday night of every month for the meetings.

We're on the web:

<http://www.milwaukeeastro.org>

**Meet the Board**

**Officers / Staff**

President	Neil Simmons	262-889-2039
Vice President	Tim Burrus	262-369-1022
Secretary	Henry Gemer	414-774-9194
Treasurer	Dan Yanko	262-255-3482
Observatory Director	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
Asst. Observatory Director	Henry Gemer	414-774-9194
Editor	Virgil Tangney	941-961-4932

**Board of Directors**

Tim Burrus	262-369-1022
Russell Chabot	414-559-3502
Henry Gemer	414-774-9194
Al Hovey	262-524-5510
Kip Hoffman	920-980-0670
Jill Roberts	414-587-9422
Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
Lana Silke	262-966-4929
Neil Simmons	262-889-2039
Virgil Tangney	941-961-4932
Dan Yanko	262-255-3482

For additional information regarding the Board or Staff please visit the MAS website at:  
[www.milwaukeeastro.org](http://www.milwaukeeastro.org)

**January / February Key Holders**

**January Key Holders**

1/2/10	Lee Keith	414-425-2331
1/9/10	Scott Laskowski	414-421-3517
1/16/10	Bob Manske	608-849-5287
1/23/10	Jill Roberts	414-587-9422
1/30/10	Terry Ross	262-784-2093

Please cut these out and keep them for reference

**February Key Holders**

2/06/10	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
2/13/10	Tom Schmidt-kunz	414-352-1674
2/20/10	Neil Simmons	262-899-2039
2/27/10	Dan Yanko	262-255-3482

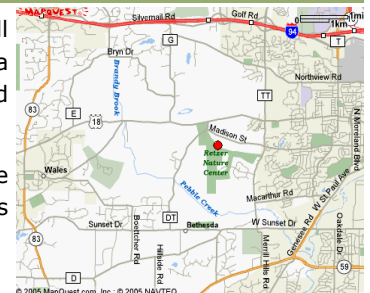
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**January Board Meeting / Telescope Clinic**

The next board meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM on January 15th, 2009 at the new **Charles Z. Horowitz Planetarium** located at the **Retzger Nature Center**, S14 W28167 Madison Street in Waukesha.

The general meeting will follow at 8:00 PM with a telescope clinic presented by Mr. Gerry Samolyk.

This meeting is open to the public so bring your friends and family.



### New Editors, New Life

Veteran Board Member, Virgil Tangney and his wife, Merri have recently signed up for the adventure of a lifetime. The two were married this past December 4th here in New Berlin and have since moved their winter home to Sarasota, Florida.

Virgil has been a member of the MAS since 1964 and has served several

terms on the Board of Directors.

Virgil and Merri are the current editors of the MAS newsletter and look forward to serving with fresh enthusiasm and perspectives.

They can be reached by phone at 941-961-4932 or email at [masfocalpoint@milwaukeeastro.org](mailto:masfocalpoint@milwaukeeastro.org)



### What's New?

Well, a couple of things. Have you been to a planetarium recently? We would like to hear about it. Have you been to the Observatory lately? We would like to hear about your experience there too. Especially from the youth. One of the main goals of the MAS is to impart the love of astronomy to the youth of our communities. Beginning in

February we will feature your stories along with a special section just for you. We encourage you to submit your work to the editors at [masfocalpoint@milwaukeeastro.org](mailto:masfocalpoint@milwaukeeastro.org)

Please send your work via email (preferred) or a disc in a text or Microsoft Word compatible format.

All entries will be acknowledged.



### Show Your Pride

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society possesses a fine observatory and has an active observing program. It sponsors special projects to introduce members to various aspects of astronomy and special events which cover one-time observing opportu-

nities. Activities include variable star observing, eclipsing binaries, RR Lyraes, Asteroid Occultations, Lunar Grazes, and much, much more. The club actively promotes hands-on astronomy and public outreach. Cafepress offers a wide variety of apparel, but-

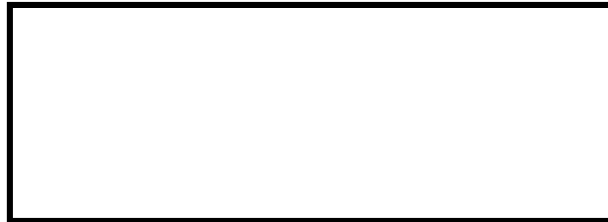
tons and useful items. Use this material to introduce others to MAS.

Visit their website at [www.cafepress.com](http://www.cafepress.com) and show your pride.

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.”  
Psalm 19:1



The Milwaukee Astronomical Society  
18850 Observatory Road  
New Berlin, WI 53151



2009  
Christmas Memories

A graphic illustration of holly leaves and red berries with a gold ribbon, centered on a white background.

Pictures Courtesy of Dan Yanko



Wishing all of our  
members the  
Happiest of New  
Years

