



June, 2015

Summer Schedule

The next Public Night is scheduled for Saturday, June 20th at 6 PM. The topic will be The Sun with your editor as a speaker. The presentation will explore how the Universe works through life and death of stars. The unusual day was chosen to try to boost the attendance.

From June through August, we are going to have only Board Meetings on every second Monday of the month starting at 7 PM. As usual these Meetings are open for any member who is interested. Regular Membership Meetings will restart in September. The program will be announced in August issue of this newsletter.

The use of the Observatory is not affected by the summer schedule. Saturdays are the designated Member's Nights, but the Observatory might also be open on other nights if announced on the Google group. Stay tuned.

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MAS Picnic

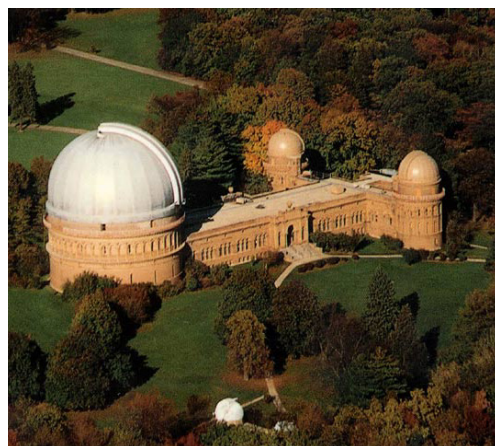


The MAS is organizing the Annual Picnic for members and their guests. It will be held on Saturday, **August 1st, 5:00pm** at the MAS Observatory in New Berlin. We are going to have a **potluck**. Please bring a dish to pass. Beverages and charcoal grills will be provided. We will do solar observing weather permitting. Please join us, and have fun! Bring along your family or friends.

Star Party at Yerkes

The MAS has had a long-standing partnership with the Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics (KICP) to provide and staff telescopes at the star party for the high school students enrolled in their Summer Institute. We bring in our telescopes and our enthusiasm for a private star party in Yerkes back yard. In exchange we get a T-shirt with that year's Summer Institute theme. This year's theme is Mars exploration and engineering. We often gain a tour of the historic 40-inch telescope.

We are looking for volunteers who will be able to bring a telescope (or other observing device) and some enthusiasm for showing off the stars. We start setting up at 7:00 PM so that the kids have a chance to see our telescopes in the daylight. Please email Neil Simmons at neilsimm@gmail.com before June 30 with your shirt size.



Observatory Report

A lot has happened at the observatory since my last report. The spring cleanup on April 18th was a big success to get the observatory ready for the open house season. We noticed the outlet box in the Albrecht Observatory (C Shed) was not working and was subsequently fixed by Scott Jamieson. My thanks to Jeff Kraehnke, Linda Fleischer Dobogai, Joyce Piewitt, Tamas Kriska, Agnes Keszler, Scott Jamieson, Brian Ganiere, and Sue Timlin for participating. Photos of this were published in the Focal Point.

I de-winterized the observatory with the expected warm weather. I replaced all the parts in the toilet in the south restroom so it's now working without leaking.

So far in this year's open house season, we're batting 0.000. This is very irritating because I thought we were very specific after last year that we were only going to schedule open houses on clear nights! ;)

With the board approval last month, we have started the process of taking the Z Scope apart.

We had an extremely successful work party at the observatory on May 2nd. Under the direction of Tamas Kriska, the old roof on the Tool Shed was stripped and a new pad and roof installed. Brian Ganiere had got us another burning permit and spent the day ... burning.

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Treasurer's Report

\$1,547.62	Starting Balance as of 4/15/2015
	Expenditures
\$79.37	WE Energies
\$5.25	PayPal Fees
\$100.00	Dr. Hirsch speaker fee
\$588.14	Z-Scope Project
\$2,009.23	Roofing Projects
-\$2,781.99	TOTAL Expenditures
	Revenue
\$5,000.00	Gene Hanson Donation
150.00	Dr. Thaller returned fee
\$202.00	Membership Dues
\$5,352.00	TOTAL Revenue
\$4,117.63	Ending Balance as of 5/15/2015

Respectfully Submitted,
Dennis Roscoe, Treasurer

Meeting Minutes

Held on May 15th at the MAS Observatory, New Berlin. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by President, Scott Jamieson.

Minutes of the previous meeting, **Treasurer's Report**, **Observatory Director's Report**, and the **Membership Report** were submitted electronically in advance (see this page), therefore were not read.

Election - Dan Yanko's second term in the Board of Directors has expired. The first terms of Mike Smiley and Rob Burgess have also expired. Mike did not run for reelection. Rob accepted the nomination for a second term. Two nominations arrived from the floor: Jeff Kraehnke and Frank Kenney. The nomination was closed. All three candidates were elected to the Board of Directors. Immediately after, the new Board elected the Officers:

President: Scott Jamieson

Vice President: Sue Timlin

Secretary: Agnes Keszler

Treasurer: Dennis Roscoe

At the suggestion of President Scott Jamieson, the Board elected Brian Ganiere as Founding Member based on his long time dedicated work for the MAS.



The Program Gene Hanson gave a presentation about the history of the club covering the time period from its formation in 1932 till the 1970s.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Agnes Keszler, Secretary

Membership Report

Since the April Membership Report Simeon Thiele, Brian Foster and Family, and Herman Restrepo joined the MAS.

We now have 85 members.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tamas Kriska, Committee Chair

Observatory Director's Report

continued from page 2.

He cleared off everything that was still sitting in the parking lot plus disposed of other yard waste.

The Z Scope disassembly headed by Scott Jamieson assisted by Paul Borchardt and with help from others, resulted in the safe removal of the 25 inch mirror. There was a nice write-up with pictures published in the Focal Point. Our thanks to the people who participated: Tamas Kriska, Agnes Keszler, Scott Jamieson, Brian Ganiere, Paul Borchardt, Jeff Kraehnke, Rob Burgess, Frank Kenney, Clark Brizendine, John Hammetter, and Lee Keith.

The Z Dome roof should be done next week around May 18-22.

Website Report: Downloading files from the website is up significantly from last year. The most popular document is the Open House schedule which has already been downloaded over 200 times. We also see the Focal Point being downloaded increasingly over time – now 50-75 times for every issue. And, finally, it is already clear that the posting of the old newsletters was a worthwhile project.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gene Hanson, Observatory Director

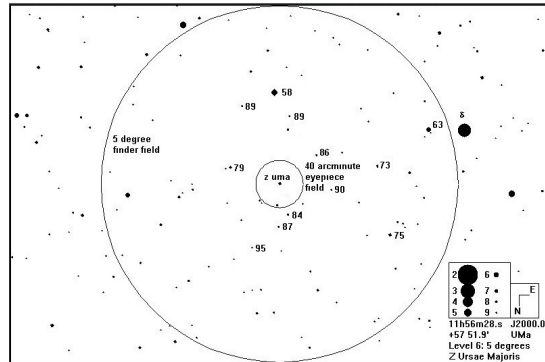
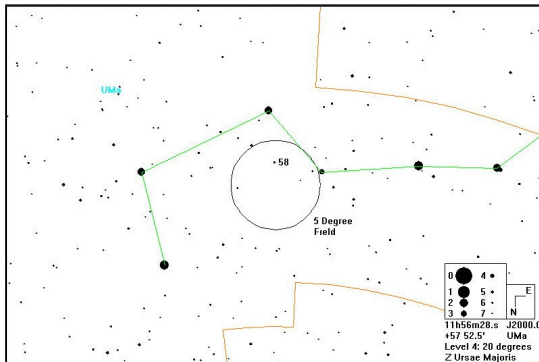
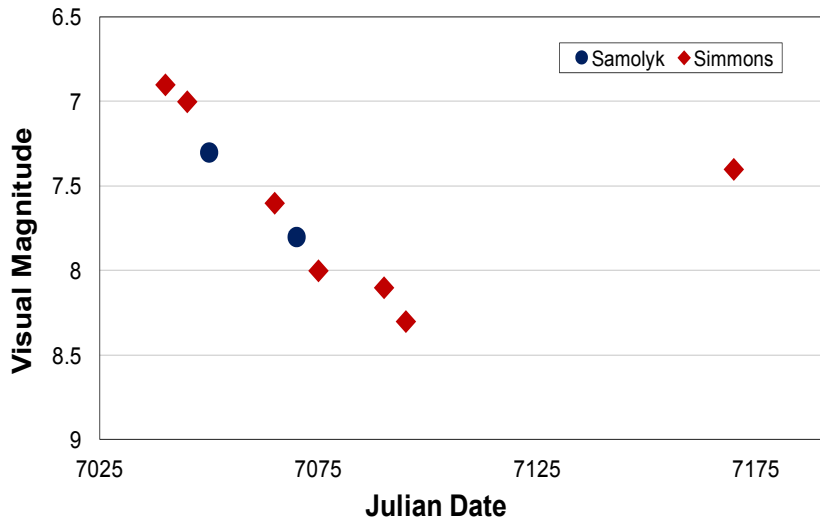
Z UMa Project Update

Z UMa has returned from its minimum to once again be readily viewed in binoculars (see the plot below). We would like to see a lot more data points. The [Z UMa Project](#) is an MAS activity promoting the observation of variable stars, especially those new to the endeavor. You can contact Neil Simmons or Gene Hanson if you're looking for help.

Z UMa is a semi-regular red giant that varies in brightness from about magnitude 6.2 to 9.4. You need observe such stars only about once every ten days or so, but more frequently is okay, especially if you're learning the art of estimating.

The observing technique is simple. When you have found the star, put it out of focus and compare its brightness with the other stars whose magnitudes are printed on the charts. Try to find two comparisons, one brighter and one fainter, and use them to interpolate the magnitude of Z UMa. It's easier to determine the

brightness of smeared images than of point-sources of light. The magnitudes on the chart appear with the decimal point omitted to avoid confusion (it might be mistaken for a star).



In the Astronomical News

This Lonely Galaxy Looks 'Lost In Space' in Hubble Telescope Photo

Poised on the edge of a galactic desert is NGC 6503, a galaxy that appears so alone in the universe that some scientists have called it "lost in space."

The galaxy takes center stage in a new image from the Hubble Space Telescope, which shows NGC 6503 shining in visible and ultraviolet light, with different colors denoting zones of gas and star birth. NASA and the European Space Agency unveiled the image on Wednesday (June 10).

In the image, galaxy NGC 6503 appears to stand alone beside an area dubbed the Local Void, a cosmic dead zone that is at least 150 million light-years across. The galaxy itself is about 18 million light-years from Earth in the constellation Draco.

"The galaxy's odd location on the edge of this never-land led stargazer Stephen James O'Meara to dub it the 'Lost-In-Space galaxy' in his 2007 book, *Hidden Treasures*," NASA wrote in an image description that labeled NGC 6503 "lost in space."

Hubble's image shows a variety of zones within the image, which is about

30,000 light-years across or a third of the size of the Milky Way.

Red patches in the image denote gas, blue contains new stars, and dust lanes (in dark brown) stretch across the lighter arms and center of the galaxy.



The spiral galaxy NGC 6503 is seen in this view of combined images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. The galaxy is 18 million light-years from Earth in the Local Void, a region so sparsely populated by stars and galaxies that scientists billed NGC 6503 as "lost in space." Credit: NASA, ESA, D. Calzetti (University of Massachusetts), H. Ford (Johns Hopkins University), and the Hubble Heritage (STScI/AURA)-ESA/Hubble Collaboration

The images are based on two sets of observations collected by Hubble, first in 2003 (by the Hubble Advanced Camera for Surveys) and then in 2013 (by the Wide Field Camera 3.).

The Hubble Space Telescope is celebrating 25 years of operations this year. It is one of NASA's most famous space telescopes.

Among its many discoveries, the Hubble telescope has helped narrow down the age of the universe and provided more proof that stars form from zones of gas.

One advantage of Hubble's long life is it allows astronomers to revisit images they took before, to see how the zone has changed or evolved. One recent example of this was watching the disintegration of the famous "Pillars of Creation" in the Eagle Nebula, NASA officials wrote.

by Elizabeth Howell, Space.com

Adopt a Telescope Program - Signup Sheet

	Adoptee	Scope	Location
1	Sue Timlin	18" F/4.5 Obsession	Wiesen Observatory
2	Neil Simmons	12.5" F/7.4 Buckstaff	B Dome
3	Russell Chabot	12.5" F/9 Halbach	A Dome (Armfield)
4	Dan Yanko	18" F/4.5 Obsession (Kyle Baron)	Albrecht Observatory
5	Tamas Kriska	14" F/11 Celestron	Z Dome
6	Henry Gerner	12" LX 200	Tangney Observatory
7	Vacant	8"/14" Celestrons	Ray Zit Observatory
8	Vacant	10" LX 200	Jim Toeller Observatory

At Your Service

Officers / Staff

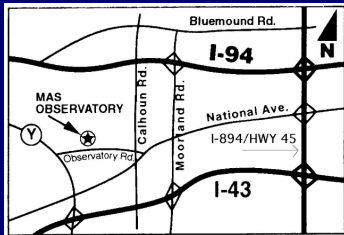
President	Scott Jamieson	262-592-3049
Vice President	Sue Timlin	414-460-4886
Treasurer	Dennis Roscoe	608-206-0909
Secretary	Agnes Keszler	414-581-7031
Observatory Director	Gene Hanson	262-354-0138
Asst. Observatory Director	Jill Roberts	414-587-9422
Newsletter Editor	Tamas Kriska	414-581-3623
Webmaster	Robert Burgess	920-559-7472

Board of Directors

Robert Burgess	920-559-7472
Russell Chabot	414-881-3822
John Hammetter	414-519-1958
Gene Hanson	262-354-0138
Lee Keith	414-425-2331
Frank Kenney	414-510-3507
Agnes Keszler	414-581-7031
Jeff Kraehnke	414-333-4656
Tamas Kriska	414-581-3623
Dennis Roscoe	608-206-0909
Sue Timlin	414-460-4886

June/July Keyholders

6/20	Public Night	
6/27	Tom Schmidtkunz	414-352-1674
7/4	Dan Yanko	262-255-3482
7/11	Russell Chabot	414-881-3822
7/18	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745
7/25	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169



MAS Observatory

18850 Observatory Rd
New Berlin, WI

www.milwaukeeastro.org