



May, 2015

## May 15<sup>th</sup>: Election Meeting at the Observatory

The MAS's Election Meeting will be on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM. Three Board of Director's terms are expiring. Two current Directors are eligible for re-election.

After the Board election, the Directors will elect Officers for the coming year (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary). One does not have to be a Director to serve as an Officer. If you are interested in serving a three year term on the Board or a year as an Officer, please contact any MAS Officer/Director or just come to the Meeting.

The General Membership Meeting will be preceded by a Board Meeting from 7:00 PM, open for anybody who is interested.



### Inside this issue:

May Election Meeting	1
Summer Schedule	1
Observatory Director Report	2
Minutes	2
Membership	2
Treasurer Report	2
Cleanup	3
Public Nights	3
Work Party	4
Milton Lange	5
In the News	6
Adopt a Scope	7
Officers/Staff	7
Keyholders	7

### The History of MAS

Following the election Gene Hanson, Observatory Director will present a talk about the history of the Club based on many little known facts that he has collected



over the years. He will touch all the major milestones in the development of the Observatory as well as legacy of our famous former members. The talk will include the story of the Soviet Sputnik part that crashed in Wisconsin and how its replica ended up in our possession.

### Summer Schedule

Meetings are back to the Observatory. Following the May Election Meeting, 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.

However, two Public Nights are scheduled for Saturday, June 20 and Friday, August 21. Also, we are going to have our annual summer picnic in July (date to be announced later). 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.

## Observatory Report

With spring we have to organize our regular spring clean up and get ready for our first public night which is on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The south restroom toilet is leaking a little water when flushed and it's obvious the parts inside are pretty corroded so simply need replacing.

I was contacted by the New Berlin Historical Landmark chair and thought we might be a good candidate to have our site registered with the City of New Berlin as an historical landmark. After I informed her that our site goes back to 1936, she definitely knows we'd be accepted. The question becomes simply do we want to be listed as an historical landmark? On its surface it seems like there are both pluses and minuses. Therefore, I'd like to have this discussed before the board. One thing she was very clear about is that this does not limit what we can do with our property.

The big news, however, is the plans for Z Dome which was reported in the April Focal Point so no need to repeat that here.

### Website Report :

Nothing to report of significance.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gene Hanson, Observatory Director

## Treasurer's Report

<b>\$1,975.54</b>	<b>Starting Balance as of 3/27/2015</b>
	<b>Expenditures</b>
\$105.67	WE Energies
\$466.75	Foremost Insurance
\$7.50	New Berlin water
-\$579.92	TOTAL Expenditures
	<b>Revenue</b>
\$100.00	Calendar sale
\$52.00	Membership Dues
\$152.00	TOTAL Revenue
<b>\$1,547.62</b>	<b>Ending Balance as of 4/15/2015</b>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dennis Roscoe, Treasurer

## Meeting Minutes

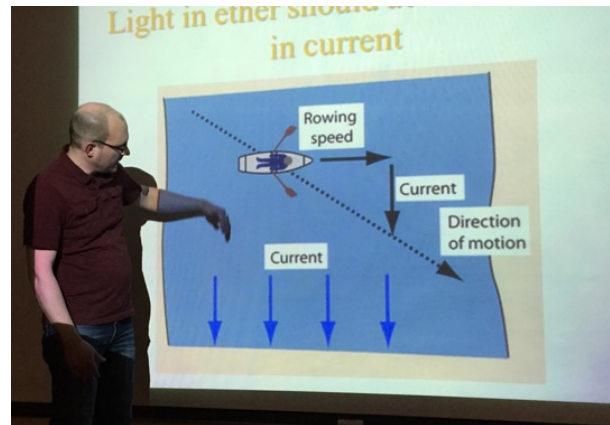
**Held** on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Retzer Nature Center, Waukesha. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by President, Scott Jamieson.

**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.

**Old Business** - Scott gave a budget estimate for the Z-dome project. The Board approved \$15,000 to buy a 14" Celestron EdgeHD telescope with accessories and a HyperStar with narrowband filters be installed on the AP GTO 900 mount and put on the fork in the Z dome. The old 14" Celestron scope will be converted to F/2 HyperStar to buy with narrowband filters and put on a new CGEM DX mount in a roll off shed. Gene Hanson donated \$5000 to the project.

**New Business** - Michelle Thaller has offered her talk stipend to cover the membership fee of 3 young new applicants.

**The Program** Bill Hirsch, a lecturer at the Physics Department at Marquette University gave a presentation entitled "100 Years of Einstein's General Relativity".



The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Agnes Keszler, Secretary

## Membership Report

Since the February Membership Report Brian and Mary Sue Kelley and Clark Brizendine joined the MAS.

We now have 80 MAS members.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tamas Kriska, Committee Chair



## Spring Cleanup



This year we organized the spring cleanup work party on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> with the goal to prepare the Observatory for the Public Night season. Nine members participated.

Thanks for your help!



## Public Nights

The first two Public Nights of the season were held in rain, consequently with very low attendance. Lee Keith (left) and Scott Berg (right) gave talks to small but enthusiastic crowds.

The third Open House is scheduled for Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. The topic will be The Sun with your editor as a speaker. The unusual day was chosen to try to boost the attendance.





## Work Party

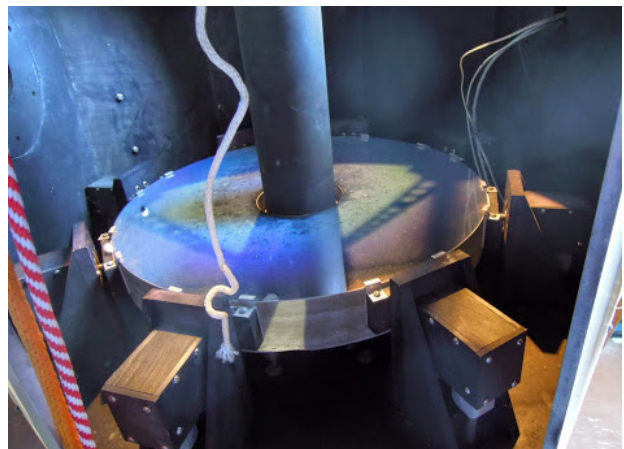
On the weekend of May 2-3 there was a huge work party. The biggest project was the re-roofing of the shed behind the Z-dome. It



At the same time, next door, the Z-scope conversion work has begun. The 25 inch heavy mirror was successfully removed from the telescope.



took two days to finish it. The building was emptied, thoroughly cleaned and a huge pile of junk that has accumulated over the years was discarded.



Last but not least the lawn was moved and piles of dry branches were burnt.

Twelve members participated, a big thank you for everybody.

## Congratulation

### Father Milton Lange – 75 Years in MAS!

Incredibly, 2015 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> year that Father Milton Lange (pronounced Lang-ee) has been a member. He joined the MAS as a college student back in 1940 and has been a member ever since. To give you an idea of how long ago that was, the MAS was only 8 years old and our observatory in New Berlin was just 4 years old (see the front page).

Father Lange was born in 1919 in Milwaukee and will turn 96 on July 1<sup>st</sup>. His interest in science and astronomy in particular dated back to his earliest years. He attended UW on a draft deferment and graduated in 1943 with a chemical engineering degree. He then was assigned to the Pine Bluff Arsenal where he helped in the manufacture of mustard gas. After the war he worked for the Cotton Belt Railroad. He then decided on the clergy and was accepted at St. John Seminary in Little Rock in 1952, at age 32. While in the seminary, he taught math and science courses at Catholic High School which continued until 1966 when he was assigned his first church, St.



Jude Parish in Jacksonville, Arkansas. Eventually, he went to St. Raphael in Springdale until he retired in 1996. He



still lives there and occasionally is called upon to do masses.

But through the years Father Lange kept his membership in the MAS and has made many generous contributions over the years, something that continues to this day! In recognition of this, in 1988 he was honored by given Founder Member status.

Though Father Lange is currently both our oldest member in terms of age and length of membership, he has a few more years to catch Ed Halbach who lived until age 101 and was a member for 79 years. And he's still behind Bill Albrecht at 76 years.

The photos are courtesy of St. Paul Catholic Church in Arkansas.

by Gene Hanson



## In the Astronomical News

### Biggest Void in Universe May Explain Cosmic Cold Spot

It has been called a bruise on the sky – a curious cold spot in the afterglow of the big bang that has sparked wild cosmic theories attributing it to a run-in with another universe or a wrinkle in space-time.

Now it seems the answer may be a little more mundane: the biggest known hole in the universe. The cold spot appears in maps of the cosmic microwave background (CMB), the earliest light emitted in the universe. Temperature variations in the light show up as a mottled pattern in the maps, which can be explained if quantum fluctuations at the universe's birth were stretched out by a brief but spectacular cosmic growth spurt known as inflation.

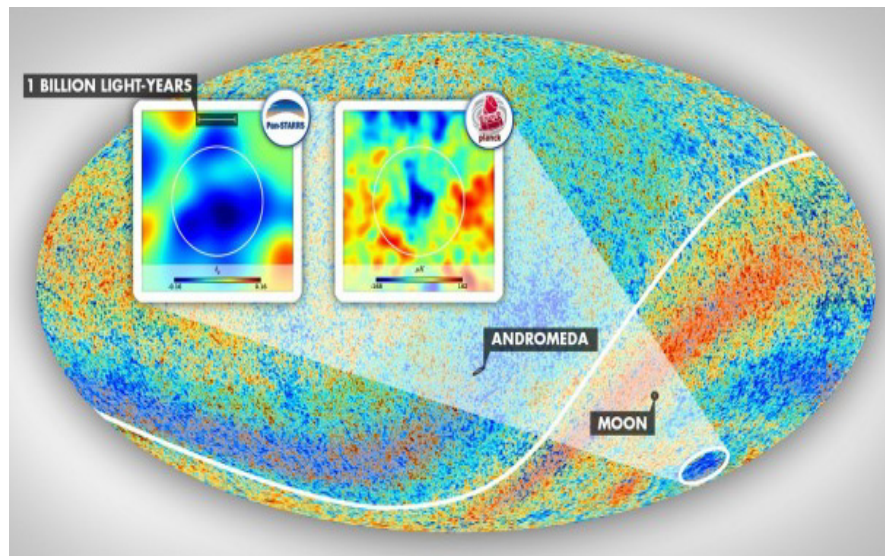
But some features in the maps don't fit into the leading models of inflation. For example, the relatively even pattern of the CMB is marred by an unusually large cold region. Scientists have struggled to explain it, suggesting a number of ideas that require exotic physics or even evidence for a multiverse.

A much simpler explanation is that the cold spot is caused by a giant void in the universe. The cosmos consists of a web of bright galaxies and clusters surrounded by dark pockets that contain little matter. Radiation loses energy when it crosses these empty regions, so a large void could cause a cold spot in our CMB maps. But most surveys haven't looked at a wide enough region of the

sky to be able to find such a void relatively close to Earth. One study that claimed to have discovered one in 2007 was later disputed.

István Szapudi at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu and his colleagues analyzed an all-sky survey made by NASA's WISE satellite to conduct their own hunt for a giant void. In May, they reported finding one about 2.8

billion light years away, in the direction of the cold spot. It stretches some 1.8 billion light years across, making it about twice the size of the previous largest known void, says Szapudi.



The Cold Spot area resides in the constellation Eridanus in the southern galactic hemisphere. The insets show the environment of this anomalous patch of the sky. Photo: ESA Planck Collaboration

Now the team has studied the properties of the so-called supervoid, including its alignment with the cold spot and its apparent depth. A number of techniques all yielded similar results, which the team says bolsters the case linking the void to the cold spot. "This would be the simplest explanation requiring no exotic physics," says Szapudi. He adds that similarly simple causes may lie at the heart of other CMB mysteries, such as temperature differences that seem to be aligned along a preferred direction, dubbed the "axis of evil".

Dragan Huterer at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor questioned the 2007 claim, but he thinks Szapudi's team makes a good case for their void. "This is a very exciting finding," he says.

by Maggie McKee at NewScientist.com

## Adopt a Telescope Program - Signup Sheet

	<b>Adoptee</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>1</b>	Sue Timlin	18" F/4.5 Obsession	Wiesen Observatory
<b>2</b>	Neil Simmons	12.5" F/7.4 Buckstaff	B Dome
<b>3</b>	Russell Chabot	12.5" F/9 Halbach	A Dome (Armfield)
<b>4</b>	Dan Yanko	18" F/4.5 Obsession (Kyle Baron)	Albrecht Observatory
<b>5</b>	Tamas Kriska	25" F/3.4 Zemlock	Z Dome
<b>6</b>	Henry Gerner	12" LX 200	Tangney Observatory
<b>7</b>	Vacant	8"/14" Celestrons	Ray Zit Observatory
<b>8</b>	Vacant	10" LX 200	Jim Toeller Observatory

### At Your Service

#### Officers / Staff

President	Scott Jamieson	262-592-3049
Vice President	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745
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
Agnes Keszler	414-581-7031
Tamas Kriska	414-581-3623
Dennis Roscoe	608-206-0909
Michael Smiley	262-825-3981
Sue Timlin	414-460-4886
Dan Yanko	262-255-3482

#### May/June Keyholders

5/16	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212
5/23	Tamas Kriska	414-581-3623
5/30	Henry Gerner	414-774-9194
6/6	Lee Keith	414-425-2331
6/13	Mike Smiley	262-825-3981
6/20	Tom Schmidtkunz	414-352-1674



### MAS Observatory

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New Berlin, WI

[www.milwaukeeastro.org](http://www.milwaukeeastro.org)