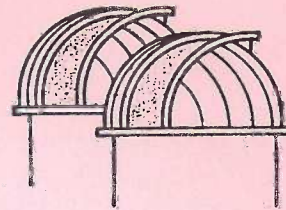


# DOUBLE DOME



Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Obs.Dir.-R.Zit 342-4037(after 5 p.m.) Asst.Obs.Dir.-J.Asztalos 547-3400

- MARCH 1980 -

## MARCH PROGRAM - MEETING

WHEN: Friday, March 21, 8 p.m.  
WHERE: UWM Physics-Olsen Planetarium Bldg.  
corner of Kenwood & Cramer, Room 133.

How can we determine the age of the universe? We've been here such a short time, comparatively. As a mayfly flits about the forest during the few, short hours of its life, how can it possibly be aware, even if super-intelligent, of the age of the trees and grass and rocks it sees?

Did the universe start suddenly sixteen billion years ago (if this figure is right), does it oscillate, has it always existed? How can we tell? There are ways; study changes in distant star clusters, binaries, galaxies; study leftover radiation; extrapolate to determine the unknown from the known.

Dr. Robert Schommer is co-discoverer of evidence that the age of the universe is half of what is presently believed. He will tell you why at the March meeting in his talk "Clusters or Galaxies - the Age of the Universe."

Dr. Schommer is a professional astronomer at Yerkes and has done considerable work with the 200" Hale telescope at Mt. Palomar.

NCRAL CONVENTION: The 1980 North Central Region Astronomical League convention, hosted by the Sheboygan Astronomical Society, will take place Sat., May 10, at the Sheboygan Center of UW. The April Double-Dome should have complete details. In the meantime, start your papers, plan to attend.

MAY ELECTION MEETING: It will soon be time to elect or re-elect the officers and board members who govern the Milwaukee Astronomical Society. Eligible for these positions are incumbents, volunteers, nominees, or recommended members. All of the latter who accept should prepare a brief qualification resume.

If you'd like to volunteer or know of a good prospect, please call any of the officers listed at the top of page 1. Two or more people for each vacancy is preferable. Officers are elected by the board, but the candidate need not be a board member. Any qualified MAS member may run for office.

A THING TO COME! Halley's comet, one of Neptune's family of nine comets, will reappear to earthly viewers about 1985 as it swings around the sun on its  $75\frac{1}{2}$  year journey. With present technical knowledge it would be possible to send an unmanned probe to greet it and, without a doubt, bring back a lot of information.

Write Senators Proxmire or Nelson now expressing your support for this plan. Address correspondence to:

Senator William Proxmire  
5241 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510  
Milwaukee Home Office (414) 272-0388

or

Senator Gaylord Nelson  
221 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510  
Milwaukee Home Office (414) 291-3965

26" (66cm) TELESCOPE PROGRESS REPORT: As of March 8, the Fund has \$9,718. New Berlin City Hall has approved the building permit and we must make a legitimate start in construction within three months.

THE BOARD WILL MEET at the home of MAS president Frank Roldan, 3842 W. Park Hill Av., Fri., March 28, 7:30 p.m. Wives are welcome.

POSSIBLE GRAZE: Thursday, April 17. Occultation of theta 1 Tauri, 4th magnitude. Approximately 26 miles to site near West Bend. Please call Observatory Director Raymond Zit at 344-4037 (after 5 p.m.).

THE APRIL STAFF MEETING will be unusual. Attendees will meet on the evening of Wed., April 2 at MAS Program Chairman Tom Renner's Kettle Moraine Observatory. This private installation, built by Mr. Renner, is located west of Waukesha, near Dousman. If you plan to go, call Raymond Zit now for the location meeting time, and other details. Carpools could be formed.

WANTED: A January, 1979 copy of the Sky and Telescope magazine. Please call Edmund Stark at 453-5816.

FOR SALE: Robert Little dual-purpose-instrument. 135mm lens, adjustable from f1.8 to f22. Eyepiece assembly, case, dewcap, and mounting hardware included. With a 3" objective, it has useful photographic and visual applications. Call Thomas Schmidtkunz, 1902 Miller Street, Apt C, West Bend, Wis. 53095 - 933-3551 ext 391 (8a.m.-5p.m.) or 1-338-2757.

OBSERVATORY NOTES: Please make certain that the darkroom and both restroom doors are closed at all times. The heaters run if they are open. Our January electric bill was high to say the least. Check everything when you come out and when you leave. Then check again!

A senseless act of vandalism resulted in a broken glass block in a restroom. Make sure people know you're out there. If you're driving past, perhaps stop for a minute and look around. Some of our members live near the observatory. Perhaps they can keep an eye on it when possible. If you see anything amiss, call the New Berlin police (782-6640) and notify Observatory Directors Raymond Zit (342-4037) or J. Asztalos (547-3400) immediately. If it appears someone is around maybe the undesirables will stay away.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS

Mar. 15	D. Harris	964-1428	Apr. 5	P. Murn	464-1539
	22 C. Hesselstine	842-4515		12 J. Pfannerstill	258-3409
	29 R. James	421-2162		19 F. Roldan	344-2354

Only members and parents of young members working on worthwhile projects may attend on the above nights. Call the keyholder the Fri. before his night - cancel Sat. if necessary. Keyholder should report anyway. He will also oversee tours during the week ending with his assigned night. Mr. J. Toeller (352-7144) will act on requests.

- FULL WORM MOON (BLUE MOON) MON., MARCH 31 -

LeRoy Simandl, editor (933-3052)  
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