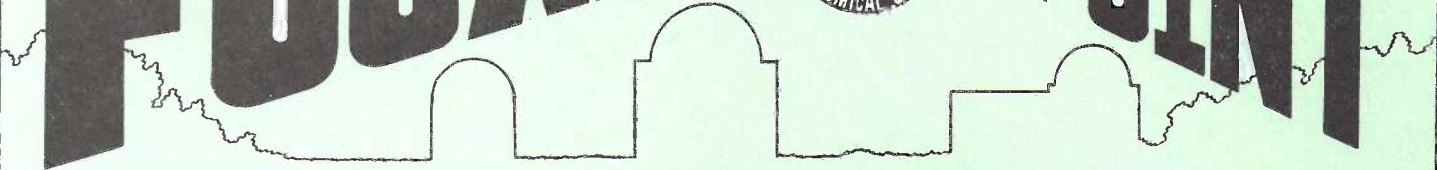



FOCAL POINT



Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : NOVEMBER 1983 : -

CALENDAR:

- * Mon., Nov. 14 - Alcon '84 committee meeting.
- * Fri., Nov. 18 - November Program-Meeting.
- Fri., Nov. 25 - Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- * Thu., Dec. 1 - 26" Telescope Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wed., Dec. 7 - First Wednesday Meeting, 7:30 p.m. observatory. Last one of the season. ALL members welcome. Observe, chat, learn!
- * Sat. nights - Members nights.
- * Please read on for details.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM-MEETING: An astounding number of nebulas of many types are scattered throughout the universe. Many provide fascinating views through small or large telescopes.

Attendees of the November Program-Meeting will be pleased to hear Dr. Edward Churchwell tell about one in particular in his talk "A NEW LOOK AT THE OMEGA NEBULA."

Dr. Churchwell has done research at the Max Planck Institute in Germany and is now on the faculty at UWMadison.

Members and guests are welcome to

MEET - Friday, November 18, 8 p.m.

AT - the UWM Physics Bldg., room 133, located at the corner of Kenwood and Cramer.

MAS HOSTS RADIO "HAMS": A large group of amateur radio enthusiasts or "hams" met Friday night, November 4, at the MAS observatory near New Berlin. They met not only to tell about their hobby but to become acquainted with ours.

Barbara Regent (N9DIJ) gave a clear, short talk about amateur radio communication. She told about the pleasure of talking to people all over the world, amateur radio use during times of natural and man-made devastation, and how satellites are used in radio transmission.

A short video tape followed featuring Dr. Owen Garriot (W5LFL) who will be aboard the STS-9 Space Shuttle Columbia soon to be launched. Hams will have an opportunity to work with a real, live, ham in space!

While some hams displayed and operated their equipment, others viewed choice objects in a cloudless sky through our telescopes.

We hope they visit us again.

IF YOU'VE PAID YOUR DUE\$, you need not read this item. If you haven't paid, try to do so in the near future so that Treas. Jim Toeller can reorder your Sky & Telescope magazine by the end of this month. Delayed payment might result in missed issues. If you plan to drop, alas, please notify Jim soon.

A handy membership renewal form appears on the last page of this newsletter.

ALCON '84 committee members will meet Monday, November 14, 7:30 p.m. in the Carroll College Student Union on the northeast corner of College and East Avenues in Waukesha. The meeting room is on the lower level.

The committee can use all the help it can get for hosting the 1984 national convention. Call Eileen Korenic at 541-3999 or Dan Koehler at 662-2987 for complete information. There are many subcommittees that could use your help. There are a thousand and one details that need attention. A lot of diligent people will make the job easy, even fun.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS! The Milwaukee Astronomical Society will add the following names to its roster: Gordon Birr, Milwaukee; Richard Goldberg and wife Alice, Glendale; John Stoekl, wife Peggy, and daughter Jeny, Milwaukee.

All will be introduced at the November Program-Meeting.

1984 CANADIAN HANDBOOKS may be ordered now from Treas. Jim Toeller. Send your \$5.00 remittance to Jim at 407 W. Mall Rd., Milwaukee, Wis. 53217 (352-7144). You will be notified as soon as they arrive.

The Canadian Handbook is an approximately 175 page soft cover pocket size publication filled with the latest data on planet positions, stars, nebulas, and much other handy information of value to amateur and professional observers.

THANKS to Mr. P. Scott Muehlmeier for the very generous donation to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society.

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE: The Officers and the Board of Directors wish everyone a pleasant Thanksgiving holiday and offer their sympathy to anyone on a diet!

OBSERVATORY NEWS:

26" TELESCOPE PROGRESS: The 26" Telescope committee will meet Thursday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m., at the home of Jerry Samolyk, 411 N. 61st St., Milwaukee. Anyone else interested in the project is invited to attend.

Work at the observatory may slow down a bit during the winter but planning, designing, and parts fabrication will continue as fast as possible. Machinists are urgently needed. Please call 258-5626.

IN GENERAL: The main building heating plant is repaired. Grass seed planted around the new building is sprouting. Leonard Bruno has donated a computer. Some paint priming has been done, but a lot of cosmetic work must be done before the ALCON '84 meeting next August.

METEOR SHOWERS:

| | PEAK DATE | MOON AGE | PEAK RATE/HR. |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Leonids | Wed., Nov. 16 5 a.m. | 12 d | 15 |
| Andromedids | Fri., Nov. 25-Sun., Nov. 27 | 21 d-23 d | 10 |

Best viewing is between midnight and dawn. Peak rate may occur a day or two before or after maximum. On any normal night, an observer should see between 5 and 10 meteors per hour.

"NORTHERN LIGHTS," The North Central Region Astronomical League quarterly newsletter, will be issued in December.

The well written publication contains news of other NCRAL Societies and articles of general interest to anyone interested in astronomy.

Annual subscriptions are \$2.50 for the four editions. A sample copy will be on display at the next Program-Meeting.

Remit to Mr. James Fox, 14601 55th St. S., Afton, Minnesota, 55001.

If you're a subscriber or not, Mr. Fox will welcome your article(s) about things astronomical whether it pertains to an observing technique, telescope construction or use, a gadget you made or bought, or something of interest to someone else. He also welcomes news from other astronomical societies.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------|--------|--------------|----------|
| Nov. 12 | B. Cieslak | 679-9663 | Dec. 3 | P. Borchardt | 445-1181 |
| 19 | H. Auchter | 542-2158 | 10 | R. Berry | 442-4267 |
| 26 | J. Asztalos | 258-5626 | 17 | W. Collins | 255-4169 |

Saturday night is member's night at the observatory. All members are invited to come out to observe, learn how to use the equipment available, or just chat. 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 BEAVER MOON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1983 : -

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Wednesday, November 30. Please notify the editor of items to be included in the December issue by this date.

DIRECTORY:

- President - Peter Smitka - 785-0926
- Vice President & Program Chairwoman - Eileen Korenic - 541-3999
- Secretary - Brian Ganiere - 425-1384
- Treasurer - James Toeller - 352-7144
- Observatory Director - Gerry Samolyk - 258-5626
- Asst. Obs. Director - John Asztalos - 258-5626
- ALCON '84 Chairpersons-Eileen Korenic (541-3999), Dan Koehler (662-2987)
- FOCAL POINT Editor - LeRoy Simandl - 933-3052
- MAS Observatory - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin - 542-9071

DUES REMITTANCE

November, 1983

Please mark this tear-off and include it with your remittance made payable to Mr. James Toeller, 407 W. Mall Rd., Milw., Wis. 53217 (352-7144).

- _____ General Membership @ \$30.00.
- _____ Family Membership @ \$30.00 plus \$1.00 for each additional family member.
- _____ Non-Resident @ \$20.00.
- _____ Junior Member (under 16) @ \$15.00.
- _____ Donation to 26" (0.6m) Telescope Completion Fund

Name _____

Address, zip, & phone _____

Thank you for supporting the Milwaukee Astronomical Society.