

FOCAL POINT



Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : OCTOBER 1983 : -

CALENDAR:

- * Fri., Oct. 21 - Annual Dinner-Meeting, 6 P.M., Tyrolean Towne House.
- * Thu., Oct. 27 - 26" Telescope meeting, 7 P.M.
- Fri., Oct. 28 - Board Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
- Wed., Nov. 2 - First Wednesday Meeting, 7:30 P.M., observatory. ALL members welcome, especially recent joiners.
- * Fri., Nov. 4 - Special Open House, 7 P.M., observatory.
- * Sat. Nights - Member's Nights.
- * Please read on for details.

LAST CALL FOR DINNER! Since the reservation deadline is Oct. 17, MAS members and guests should send their payment as soon as possible to Vice President and Program Chairwoman Eileen Korenic.

The 15th Annual Dinner-Meeting will be held at the Tyrolean Towne House, 1657 S. 108th St., just south of Greenfield Av. and Hwy. 100. The date is Fri., Oct. 21. There is ample free parking.

The main speaker will be Dr. J. Allen Hynek whose talk will be "The Case Against E.T." Dr. Hynek formerly taught at Northwestern University at Evanston, and is now retired. He was a consultant for the major motion picture production "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

Event times are:

6 P.M. - Cash bar in the Rathskeller (lower level).

7 P.M. - Dinner.

8 P.M. - Short meeting followed by Dr. Hynek.

There is no charge if you attend only the meeting.

Lets all get together Fri., Oct. 21 for a pleasant night out. Bring someone with you. Your Society needs a good turnout to make this Dinner a big event. The price is reasonable. You can spend more on a fish fry Here you will get gastronomical delights at a quality restaurant and be treated to an informative talk by a renowned man of science.

Send the handy form on the last page to Eileen now. The food prices are incorrect but you will receive a refund for the difference.

ALCON '84, the national astronomical convention to be hosted by the MAS will convene at Carroll College in Waukesha August 1 through 4, 1984. There are 17 committee members but we can use all the help we can get for registration, star parties, etc. Call Eileen Korenic at 541-3999 or Dan Koehler at 662-2987.

In addition to papers and other highlights, there will be tours of Milwaukee, the Zoo, the Domes, and Yerkes Observatory. Republic Airlines will offer 35% airfare discounts.

SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE: On the evening of Friday, November 4th, starting at 7:00 P.M., the Milwaukee Astronomical Society will be holding a special edition of their public Open House series. With the assistance of the W/K Amateur Radio Club, the Society will be presenting lectures and demonstrations on amateur space communications.

Demonstrations on amateur satellite communications will be given utilizing OSCAR (Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) and the RS Russian communication satellites. Also during the course of the evening attempts will be made to establish contact with Owen Garriott, W5LFL, an amateur radio operator who will be aboard the space shuttle Columbia, which will be orbiting the earth on that evening.

Weather permitting, the telescopes of the observatory will be open for observing.

The observatory is located at 18850 W. Observatory Road, New Berlin. Take Hwy. 15 to the Moorland Rd. exit, go north on Moorland to ES (National Ave.), go west on National to Observatory Rd., go north on Observatory Rd. until you get to the observatory.

A donation of \$1.00 for parking would be greatly appreciated.

DUES REMINDER: If you haven't paid your dues, now is the time! Treasurer Jim Toeller must have them so he can order your Sky & Telescope magazine. Despite the recent dues increase, an MAS membership is still a bargain considering the many things the Society offers.

An MAS membership would make a good Christmas gift.

HARRY PEASE, a longtime member of the MAS, in addition to a very generous money donation, has contributed books, equipment, and a refracting telescope to the Society!

Mr. Pease, now retired, was a science writer for the Milwaukee Journal, a former editor of the Double Dome, and occasionally gave talks at MAS Program-Meetings.

The Society appreciates Mr. Pease's generosity.

NEW MEMBERS: The Milwaukee Astronomical Society is proud to add the following new names to its membership roster: Leo Kohlmann, wife Nancy, son Michael, and daughter Hope, Hartland; Michael Bucholtz, Milwaukee; Dr. John J. Haugh, Milwaukee; Marty Kearn, Jr., Waukesha; Lee Keith (rejoined), Milwaukee; and William Owens, Waukesha.

All will be introduced at the Dinner-Meeting.

OPEN HOUSE RESUME: Open House chairman Frank Roldan reported a total of 956 guests for the seven nights, very good considering that many of the nights were cloudy. The fine lectures and warm welcome extended by the volunteer members not only inspired visitors to join the MAS, but increased Society income by \$624 through parking donations, the piggy bank, and sales of books, coffee, and soda. Thanks, everyone.

HELP WANTED: James Fox, editor of the regional quarterly newsletter "Northern Lights" would like short, newsy astronomical articles for publication particularly from member or neighboring Astronomical League member Societies. If you have a project, observation or item of interest you'd like to share, jot it down and send it to Mr. Fox at 14601 55th St. S, Afton, MN. 55001. Don't worry about the grammar. He will edit and rewrite if necessary.

FOR SALE:

- 1.) Cave mounting for telescopes from 12 to 16 inch dia. with 2 7/16 inch dia. shafts, ballbearings on both axes, and bolted to 1 inch thick steel plate with holes for mounting on concrete pier.
 - 2.) Never used Byers clock drive for above Cave mounting. 9 1/4 inch dia. gear, worm and motor, plus manual slow motion. Asking \$600.00 for mounting and drive together.
 - 3.) 12 1/2 inch dia. Cave Newtonian mirror #M794003, f/4.8. Asking \$150.00.
 - 4.) 16 1/2 inch dia. by 61 1/2 inch long never used Parks fiberglass tube with one aluminum end ring. Asking \$50.00.
 - 5.) 6 inch Criterion Newtonian with mounting. Asking \$100.00.
- Please contact Robert Jones at 2943 N. Hackett Av., Milwaukee, 53211, or call (414) 332-5126.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS for certain magazines can be had by calling Jim Toeller at 352-7144. Current rates are: Astronomy-12 issues for \$12; Telescope Making-\$6/yr; Deep Sky Quarterly-4 issues \$6; Jack & Jill Odyssey-12 issues \$10.

26" TELESCOPE PROGRESS: The 26" Telescope committee will meet Thursday, Oct. 27, 7 P.M. at the home of Gerry Samolyk, 411 N. 61st St., Milwaukee. Anyone with any interest at all should attend.

Unfortunately, work on the project seems somewhat stalled. We urgently need people versed in design and machining, particularly people who have access to big shops or can talk to someone about helping us in this area.

Progress to date includes the final stage of machining the declination shaft, electrical work, near completion of aluminum siding, purchase of light fixtures, painting of the door and window, and a start on the telescope tube.

Please attend the meeting above or call Gerry and ask what you can do. The big 'Scope could be finished in time for the national convention.

OBSERVATORY NEWS! All facilities must be tucked in before ol' man winter visits us. Two urgent items are painting the "A" building and repairing the furnace. Some work on the patrol camera has been done.

Eighty dollars was realized from the sale of some scrap aluminum.

<u>METEOR SHOWERS:</u>	<u>PEAK DATE</u>	<u>MOON AGE</u>	<u>PEAK RATE/HR.</u>
Orionids	Thurs., Oct. 20	14 d	38
Taurids	Wed., Nov. 9	5 d	16

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.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Oct. 8	P. Murn	464-1539	Nov. 5	V. Tangney	327-7976
15	J. Pfannerstill	475-6494	12	B. Cieslak	679-9663
22	F. Roldan	344-2354	19	H. Auchter	542-2158
29	T. Schmidtkunz	276-9675			

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.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Wednesday, November 2. Please notify the editor of items to be included in the November 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
- 26" Telescope Chairman - William Tuerck - 782-2844
- Observatory Director - Gerry Samolyk - 258-5626
- Asst. Obs. Director - John Asztalos - 258-5626
- FOCAL POINT Editor - LeRoy Simandl - 933-3052
- MAS Observatory - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin - 542-9071

DUES REMITTANCE

October, 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.

DINNER REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

_____ Number of reservations

Dinner Choices (number of each)

- _____ Boneless Breast of Chicken served on blended rice garnished with crab apple \$9.00.
- _____ Bavarian Roast Sirloin of Beef served in burgundy wine sauce \$10.25.

Dinners include fruit cup, garden salad, baked potato, rolls, butter, and coffee/tea/milk. Prices include tax and tip. Make check payable to Eileen Korenic.

_____ Amount enclosed. Mail check and reservation form to:
Eileen Korenic, 7623 W. Wilbur Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53220. The deadline for reservations is Oct. 17, 1983.