


FOCAL POINT



Issued by the
MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : JANUARY 1984 : -

CALENDAR:

- * Fri., Jan. 20 - January Program-Meeting.
- * Fri., Jan. 27 - Board of Directors meeting 7:30 p.m. Location to be announced.
- * Wed., Feb. 1 - ALCON '84 Committee meeting.
- * Sat. Nights - Member's nights at the observatory
- * Please read on for details.

JANUARY PROGRAM-MEETING! In a most unusual and very informal presentation, Keewaydinoquay, an American Indian medicine woman and instructor of ethnobotany at UW-Milwaukee, will inform her audience about the cultural astronomy of the Great Lakes Indians by telling astronomical legends involving stars and by singing Indian songs.

This unique program promises to be quite entertaining and informative because Keewaydinoquay will introduce her listeners to the practice of astronomy as an American Indian and acquaint them with the comparatively new field of archaeoastronomy.

Hear and enjoy her Friday, January 20, at 8 p.m. in room 133 of the UWM Physics Bldg. at the corner of Kenwood and Cramer.

GRAZING OCCULTATIONS that will occur in the near future are tabulated below.

DATE	TIME (CST)	MAG.	CUSP	% SUNLIT	RATING
Jan. 17-18	1:44 A.M.	3.7	-32.2°N	100	Marginal
Feb. 5-6	5:32 P.M.	6.8	16.3°S	21	Favorable
Mar. 12-13	7:53 P.M.	6.3	3.4°S	74	Favorable
Apr. 4-5	6:45 P.M.	8.1	7.1°S	6	Marginal
Apr. 25-26	4:18 A.M.	7.1	4.0°S	20	Favorable

Please call John Asztalos at 258-5626 for detailed information.

Grazing occultations occur when the moon passes so close to a star that the moon "grazes" the star, causing the viewer to see the star disappear behind the moon's mountains and reappear in its valleys.

The observing technique can be quickly learned on site. A 6' or larger reflector or equivalent refractor is preferred for viewing.

NEW MEMBERS: Five new members have been added to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society membership list. What a good way to start the new year! They are: William Johnson and wife Anita, Fox Point; Michael Koscak, Hales Corners; Ralph Sprengel and wife Patricia, Milwaukee. All will be introduced at the January Program-Meeting.

THE ALCON '84 COMMITTEE WILL MEET Wednesday, February 1, 7:30 P.M., in the Carroll College Union, located on the northeast corner of College and East Avenues, Waukesha. The meeting will be held in the first floor lounge.

Planning for ALCON '84 is about half done thanks to the leadership of Chairpersons Dan Koehler and Eileen Korenic and the cooperation of an able committee.

If you are planning to attend the convention please fill in the registration form on the last page of your November REFLECTOR and send it as soon as possible. Take advantage of the special advance registration rates. Convention packets should be ready by the time of the January or February Program-Meetings. They will contain complete information regarding activities, times, and prices. Forms and details may also be obtained by contacting ALCON '84, P. O. Box 275, Mequon, Wi. 53092 (414-242-2369).

ALCON '84 is the 38th annual convention of the Astronomical League, held jointly with the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers. It is a national convention and we expect at least 400 people to meet at Carroll College August 1, 2, 3, 4, 1984. The theme will be "Astronomy-the Amateur Science." Included will be 4 days of papers, well-known speakers, displays, tours, programs at our New Berlin facilities, and, of course, the banquet. Also featured are an astromart sponsored by Astromedia, a telescope making contest, workshops, and astroart and astrophotograph exhibits. Activities and optional tours will be available for those who do not want to partake of all of the above events.

ALCON '84 should be exciting and busy! Sign up soon.

1984 CANADIAN HANDBOOKS ARE HERE! If you've ordered a 1984 Observer's Handbook you may pick it up at the January Program Meeting or at Treasurer Jim Toeller's home at 407 W. Wall Rd., Milwaukee. Please call 352-7144 first.

WORD FROM ED HALBACH: Ed and Jane send greetings from their home in Estes Park, Colorado. In May of 1983 they visited the Scandanavian countries. Several other trips were made during the year visiting members of Ed's and Jane's families.

Ed is continuing his variable star observing and has resumed work on a 16' reflector. He has fine viewing conditions from his mountain top home and clear air. (Your Focal Point editor can count 63 street lights (miniature suns!) from his front yard!)

To inform our newer members, Ed. Halbach is one of the original founders of the MAS and was very active in the Society until he and Jane retired to Colorado.

ALOHA FROM BILL ALBRECHT! Bill and Anne Albrecht, longtime, very active members of the MAS, moved to Pahala, Hawaii, a few years ago. According to Bill, things recently were a bit shaky owing to volcano activity and earthquakes.

However, Bill shrugged this off and continued observing through his telescope, the southern-most telescope in the United States. He records about 400 variables per month, mostly stars in the far southern skies.

Bill and Anne are also active in the Mauna Kea Astronomical Society. The six observatories on Hawaii island are an excellent source of speakers. Bill is also a Founder Member of the MAS.

The Albrecht's conclude their note by saying the weather is too nice. Lack of rain necessitates sprinkling of their fruit, flowers and vegetables!

OBSERVATORY NEWS:

26" TELESCOPE: Work is progressing. Side plates are in production, octagons should be done in mid-February. The whole superstructure is well in hand. Needed are small part makers, drafters, and gear information.

IN GENERAL: Bathrooms and darkrooms need cleanup. The office needs painting. Buildings and telescopes need general cleanup. Work can be done in heated areas. **NOTE! OUR TIME CUBE IS MISSING - PLEASE RETURN IT SOON.** Please call G. Samolyk (475-9418) or J. Asztalos (258-5626).

ATTENTION PLEASE! Please keep the darkroom and bathroom doors closed to prevent freezing and possible damage to the plumbing. Open doors in these rooms would also cause the electric heater to run excessively.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Jan. 14	J. Pfannerstill	475-6494	Feb. 4	G. Samolyk	475-9418
21	F. Roldan	344-2354	11	P. Smitka	964-5316
28	T. Schmidtkunz	276-9675	18	V. Tangney	327-7976

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 WOLF MOON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18 : -

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 - 475-9418
Asst. Obs. Director - John Asztalos - 258-5626
ALCON '84 Chairpersons-Dan Koehler (662-2987), Eileen Korenic (541-3999)
FOCAL POINT Editor - LeRoy Simandl - 933-3052
MAS Observatory - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin - 542-9071

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