

# FOCAL



# POINT

Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : OCTOBER 1984 : -

## CALENDAR:

Fri., Oct. 19 - MAS Dinner-Meeting

Sun., Oct. 21 - Board of Director's meeting, 7 P.M. at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Dan Koehler, W248-S7040 Sugar Maple Dr., Waukesha (662-2987).

Wed., Oct. 31 - November Focal Point deadline.

Wed., Nov. 7 - First Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. at the observatory. All members welcome.

Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement.

Sat. Nights - Member's night at the observatory.

LAST CALL FOR DINNER: Have an enjoyable evening at the Leilani Restaurant, Friday, October 19. The location is 18605 W. Bluemound Rd., west of Brookfield Square in Brookfield.

The main speaker will be Assoc. Prof. Kenneth Nordsieck of UW-Madison. The title of his talk is "Astronomy From the Shuttle." He will be aboard the Columbia space shuttle as it lifts off March 6, 1986.

Dr. Nordsieck was accepted by Nasa from among three applicants to do "space bound academic research." UWM's Wisconsin Ultraviolet Photo-Polarimetry Experiment was accepted as a project. As an astronomy student at the California Institute of Technology, Dr. Nordsieck invented a visual color polarimeter. During the space mission this device and other instruments, including a spectograph, will be used to study light as well as "odd stars" and Halley's comet.

Event times are:

6 P.M. - Cash bar.

7 P.M. - Dinner.

8 P.M. - Short meeting followed by the main speaker.

There is no charge if you attend only the meeting. Since the dinner deadline is very near, first call Eileen Korenic as soon as possible at 541-3999 and then fill out and mail the form on the last page.

FIRST WEDNESDAY MEETING November 7, 7:30 P.M. at the observatory. Here is an excellent opportunity to learn observing techniques, procedures, become acquainted with eclipsing binary and lunar grazing occultation programs and be introduced to the Messier and Herschel Object observing which will start soon under the direction of Brian Cieslak and John Wiesen. Contact Dan Koehler at 662-2987 for program books. Dan also has membership application forms for the Assoc. of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO) and International Amateur and Professional Photoelectric Photo-Meters (IAPPP) Societies.

Classes in observational astronomy are planned to start in November at the observatory. For further information call Brian Cieslak at 679-9663 or Lee Keith at 962-2856.

DUES ARE DUE! Please remit now so your treasurer can get a final count for ordering Sky & Telescope.

Send your remittance made payable to Mr. James Toeller, 407 W. Mall Rd., Milw., Wis. 53217 (352-7144). A handy form with rates appears on the last page.

NEW MEMBERS: The MAS welcomes Elmer Rohde, Milwaukee; Fred Riemer and wife Lisa, Germantown; Adolf Seidler, Milwaukee; James Welisek, Waukesha; and Henry Witkowski, Milwaukee.

OBSERVATORY NEWS:

IN GENERAL: Gerry Samolyk wants observation totals from September, 1983 through August, 1984 particularly of variable stars, lunar and planetary occultations, planetary reports, comets, etc. Send them to Gerry at 931 S. 76th St., West Allis, Wis. 53214 or call 475-9418. The new asphalt driveway needs sealing soon. Call Dan Koehler at 662-2987. Repair of the Clark refractor is in doubt because the broken objective is 5" in diameter rather than 6". Please be careful with equipment. John Asztalos made a new base for our apogee scope.

26" TELESCOPE UPDATE:

The new telescope is marginally operational and is about 70% complete. Most efforts now will be made to get the building ready for inspection. That means we need YOU! Electrical and carpentry work is in progress. The dome shutter needs some work.

LIBRARY:

The library is being revamped. MAS member Richard Olson donated a fine, new book titled "Exploration of the Universe" by the late George Abell. This is a very good book for the amateur. Thank you, Mr. Olson.

PUT YOUR THINKING CAP ON: A "Name the Observatory" contest is underway to rename the MAS observatory complex or leave the name as is. Members are invited to submit as many names as they like. Send them to Peter Smitka, 15000 W. Cleveland Ave., New Berlin, Wis. 53151.

FOR SALE: AAVSO Variable Star Atlas. In mint condition. Retails for about \$50, will sell for \$35. One hundred and seventy eight charts show deep sky objects to 13th mag. and stars to 9.5 mag. (can be seen with binoculars). Please contact Tom Renner, 4512 Deer Park Dr., Dousman, Wis. (414-392-2799).

FOR SALE: 10" Dobsonian f/7 reflector. Asking \$300. Please call David Harrison at 782-6353.

WANTED: Copies of Astronomy, Sky & Telescope and other types of astronomical magazines to be donated to the MAS for resale to boost the Society treasury. Please call 352-7144.

FOR SALE: 1985 Canadian Handbooks at \$5.50 each. This paperback book is full of information useful to the amateur astronomer. Order between now and November (352-7144).  
- - - - -

FOR SALE: ALCON '84 minutes and proceedings. Twenty copies available at \$4.00 each. Also contains reprints of papers submitted for ALCON '84 (352-7144).  
- - - - -

FOR SALE: You may order Astronomy at \$12/year, Telescope Making at \$6/year (4 issues), Deep Sky, and Odyssey (for children) through the MAS (352-7144).

<u>METEOR SHOWER</u>	<u>PEAK DATE, TIME, AND RADIANT DIR.</u>	<u>MOON AGE</u>	<u>PEAK RATE/HR.</u>
Orionids	Sat., Oct. 20, 4 A.M. - S	26d	10-70
Taurids	Fri., Nov. 9, 12 A.M. - S	16d	5-15

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 from 5 to 10 meteors per hour.

ANY MAS VOLUNTEERS? Citizens for Space Shuttle flights will be sought by NASA for three flights in 1985. NASA will specify what type of person, such as an artist or a writer, they seek for each flight. Only U. S. citizens are eligible. (From Southwest Washington (State) Ast. Soc. "Tell a Scoop.")

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Oct. 13	J. Asztalos	258-5626	Nov. 3	W. Collins	255-4169
20	P. Borchardt	445-1181	10	B. Ganiere	425-1384
27	R. Berry	442-4267	17	G. Hall	786-8579

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 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8 : -

DIRECTORY:

President - Peter Smitka - 785-0926  
Vice President - Eileen Korenic - 541-3999  
Program Chairwoman - Mrs. Virgil Tangney - 327-7976  
Secretary - Brian Ganiere - 425-1384  
Treasurer - James Toeller - 352-7144  
Observatory Director - Gerry Samolyk - 475-9418  
Asst. Obs. Director - John Asztalos - 258-5626  
FOCAL POINT Editor - LeRoy Simandl - 933-3052  
MAS Observatory - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin - 542-9071

NOVEMBER FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1984.

