

# FOCAL POINT



Issued by the  
MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
- : APRIL, 1985 : -

## CALENDAR:

- Sat., Apr. 13 - MAS Ast. Series #3, 7:30 P.M.
- Fri., Apr. 19 - April Program-Meeting, 8 P.M.
- Sat., Apr. 20 - NCRAL 39th Annual Convention, Batavia, Ill.
- Sat., Apr. 20 - MAS Ast. Series #4, 7:30 P.M.
- Wed., Apr. 24 - FOCAL POINT deadline. PLEASE NOTE EARLY DATE.
- Sat., Apr. 27 - Astronomy Day.
- Wed., May 1 - MAS Ast. Series #5, 7:30 P.M.
- Sat., May 4 - MAS Ast. Series #6, 7:30 P.M.
- Sat., May 4 - Full Flower Moon.
- Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement.
- Sat. Nights - Members night at the observatory.

APRIL PROGRAM-MEETING: The basic telescope types are the refractor and the reflector. Add variations in optical systems, mounts, drives, and supports and the options are bewildering.

But the amateur observer's purse narrows the field and, fortunately, many good offers are available today. And it's possible for many amateurs to make their own instruments by making parts or assembling bought items.

Recently, an MAS member requested a program on the topic of telescope making. As a result, longtime MAS member Aris Penikis will be present at our next general meeting to give a presentation which includes types of telescopes and mounts as well as optical properties necessary to provide a good image.

Members and guests are welcome to hear Aris Friday, April 19, 8 P.M., at our new meeting place in the CATC Auditorium, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa. The center may be reached by No. 71 bus, and there is ample, well-lit parking available.

NEW MEMBER Wayne Schaubbe of Wauwatosa will be introduced at the April General Program-Meeting.

MAY ELECTION MEETING: May General-Meeting time is mostly used for the election of MAS Officers and Board Members. Generally, the terms of three or more Board Members expire. They may be re-elected or replaced by nominees, volunteers, or recommended members. If you recommend someone, be certain he or she is aware of it.

Directors serve three-year terms with a two-term limit. Officers serve for one year with unlimited re-election.

OPEN HOUSE: Once again the MAS will sponsor a series of public Open Houses at the New Berlin observatory. They will occur during the summer months beginning in June. We need volunteers to operate 'scopes, guide, attend the parking areas, and spell other volunteers.

We also need speakers to give short, 15 minute talks on star clusters, planets, and the Milky Way. The talks should be understandable by all age groups. Audio-visual equipment is available. You may use your slides or ours.

Sign up at the general meetings or call Open House Chairman Frank Roldan at 344-2354. You may choose which nights or task(s) you'd prefer.

The Open House schedule will appear in or with the May FOCAL POINT.

ASTRONOMY DAY will be observed Saturday, April 27. The purpose of the day is to promote astronomy and provide information, resources, and encouragement in all facets of astronomy.

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society will observe the day with a special Open House program at the New Berlin Observatory and at the Lake Park Golf Course in Milwaukee. The public as well as MAS members are welcome at both places from 7 to 11 P.M.

The New Berlin site is located on Observatory Road, 1 mile west of Calhoun Rd. (KX). Enter Lake Park at Newberry Blvd. (1 block south of Locust St.) and North Lake Drive.

Volunteers with 'scopes are needed at both sites. Volunteers to help with parking and in general are needed at New Berlin.

Please call Frank Roldan at 344-2354 for details.

CLASS IS IN SESSION! The MAS Amateur Astronomer's Series classes are now in session. All classes begin at 7:30 P.M. in our New Berlin observatory auditorium and are under the direction of member Lee Kieth.

Although the program is already under way, you may still join the remaining classes. There is no registration or charge.

Programs remaining are:

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Owner's Guide to the Collimation of Cleaning of a Newtonian Telescope.	Sat., 4/13
All the Extras: Telescope Accessories	Sat., 4/20
Reading the Celestial Roadmap	Wed., 5/1
The Small, The Faint & The Diffuse: Locating Celestial Objects	Sat., 5/4

OBSERVATORY NEWS: Obs. Director Gerry Samolyk and Assistant John Asztalos will be needing volunteers on Saturdays for observatory clean-up, fix-up. If some other day of the week suits you better, call one or the other of the aforementioned and maybe something can be worked out. Bring some tools and cleaning equipment. If you come out please don't drive on the grass - stay on the road or your car may sink out of sight. Also, the grass will be rooted up. Some of our grant money will be used to buy a photometer, a device used for measuring luminous intensity or brightness of celestial objects.

<u>METEOR SHOWERS</u>	<u>PEAK DATE, TIME, AND VIEWING DIR.</u>	<u>MOON AGE</u>	<u>PEAK RATE/HR.</u>
Lyrids	Sun., Apr. 21, 3 A.M., S	1d	10-15
Eta Aquarids	Sat., May 4, 3 A.M., SE	14d	10-40

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.

CONVENTIONS:

REGIONAL: 39th Annual NCRAL Convention, Sat., April 20, at Fermilab near Batavia, Illinois. Daylong program featuring papers, tour of particle accelerator, astrophotography contest, swap meet, door prizes, banquet, and a star party. Full details are available from Frank Roldan (344-2354). However, time is short for registration. Frank will take riders if space is available.

NATIONAL: Tucson '85, Astronomical League National Convention, Tucson, Arizona, June 17 through 22. Write Joe Stanley, University Conference Dept., Univ. of Arizona, 1717 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719.

Tucson is considered the astronomical capital of the world.

WANTED: Eight-or ten-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain reflecting telescope with drive, mount, and tripod. Will consider 10" or other Newtonian f6 or higher if portable by car. Please call Nolan Zadra at 962-3021 after 6 P.M.

GRAZES: Two expeditions remain for April. Interested MAS members are invited to participate.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MAG.</u>	<u>% SUNLIT</u>	<u>CUSP ANGLE</u>
4/22-23	8:02	4.5	7	4.30° N
4/29-30	10:46	4.7	71	9.50° N

Call Gerry Samolyk at 475-9418 or Virgil Tangney at 327-7976 for details.

COMET NEWS: Comet Halley is approximately due east of star Aldebaran and entering Taurus, heading northeastward from its stationary position. Located at 5 hours R.A., and +17° Decl., Approx. 16(?) mag. with a growing tail. Now between orbit of Jupiter and the Asteroids.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Apr. 13	T. Schmidtkunz	276-9675	May 4	H. Auchter	542-2158
20	P. Smitka	785-0926	11	J. Asztalos	258-5626
27	V. Tangney	327-7976	18	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.

THE FOCAL POINT DEADLINE WILL BE A WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL. Your FOCAL POINT editor must have articles for the May issue by Wednesday, April 24.

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