

FOCAL



POINT

Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : January 1985 : -

CALENDAR:

Sat., Jan. 12 - MAS Amateur Ast. Series #6.

Fri., Jan. 18 - General Program-Meeting, 8 P.M.

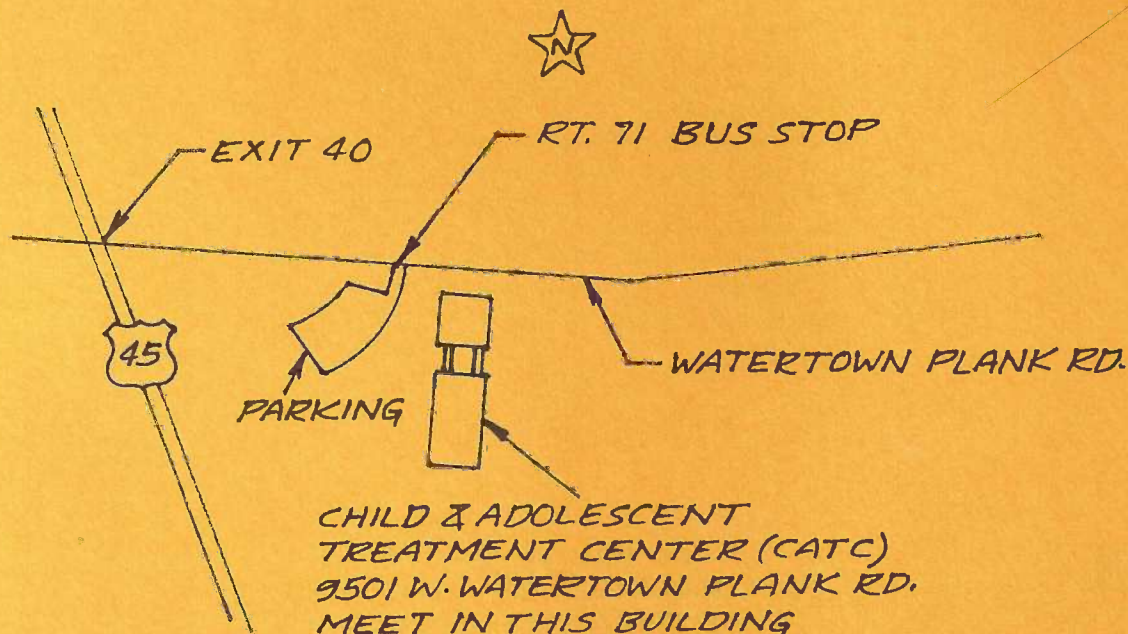
Wed., Jan. 30 - Focal Point Deadline.

Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement.

Sat. Nights - Members night at the observatory.

JANUARY PROGRAM-MEETING: This month's program will feature talks by MAS members Brian Cieslak and Lee Keith.

The meeting will take place January 18, 8 P.M. in the Child and Adolescent Treatment Center Auditorium, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa. The map below shows the location. Guests are welcome.



GREETINGS FROM THE HALBACHS: Ed and Jane vacationed in New Zealand over Christmas. Both keep very busy living their retirements to the fullest.

Ed has acquired a computer to handle his observing data and for preparing his monthly AAVSO reports.

We wish Ed clear skies, and the best to both.

SERIES A SUCCESS: The observational astronomy classes entitled "The MAS Amateur Astronomer's Series," presented by Lee Keith, were so well received that they will be repeated in spring due to popular request. The final classes of the series entitled "The Small, the Faint, and the Diffuse: Locating Celestial Objects" will be presented Saturday, January 12, 7:30 PM at the observatory. Previous programs covered selection, use, and care of telescopes, accessories, and reading the celestial road map. They were geared for members with little or no experience, and required no admission fee.

To make the future series even more popular and interesting, Lee is calling for MAS members who have expertise in a particular field of amateur astronomy to share this know-how by leading a class. Suggested topics include solar system objects, photography, eclipses, variable and double stars, near and deep sky observing, comets, telescope making, or anything else the amateur should know. The classes should be on an introductory level.

Lee wants MAS people to be involved. Sharing your knowledge is a good way. Call him at 962-2856, 961-8752, or write to 1230 E. Singer Circle. Apt. 106, Milwaukee 53212.

Here is a way to receive by giving.

INVOLVEMENT: Here is some food for thought submitted by MAS President Peter Smitka.

INVOLVEMENT

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed,
Or are you just content that your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings, and mingle with the flock,
Or do you usually stay at home, and criticize and knock?
Do you take an active part, to help the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be the kind who just belongs?
Do you ever work on committees, to see there is no trick,
Or leave the work to just a few and gripe about the clique?
So come to meetings ofeten, and help with hands and heart.
Don't just be a member, but take an active part.
Think this over, friend . . . you know right from wrong.
Are you an ACTIVE member, or do you just belong?

Author Unknown

NEW MEMBERS recently added to the MAS roster are Robert Hartl, New Berlin; Linda Hense, New Berlin, and Michael Nielsen, Pewaukee.

We hope they attend the January Program-Meeting so we can meet them and say hello!

THANKS to MAS member Jim Greenwald for another sizeable monetary donation to the Society. Every dollar will be used where it will do the most good.

On a related note, photographs of the new 26" telescope and a letter will be sent to all major contributors to the Telescope Fund.

The MAS Officers and Directors appreciate ALL of the contributions of funds and efforts received to date.

GRAZES: Interested MAS members are invited to join expeditions to observe the following grazing occultations:

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>MAG.</u> | <u>% SUNLIT</u> | <u>CUSP ANGLE</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 3/0-1 | 12:18 | 6.3 | 62 | 3.8°N |
| 3/25-26 | 7:04 | 6.4 | 17 | 2.6°S |
| 4/22-23 | 8:02 | 4.5 | 7 | 4.3°N |
| 4/29-30 | 10:46 | 7.7 | 71 | 9.5°N |

More information will follow.

A graze occurs when the Moon passes a star so closely that the star intermittently disappears and reappears as the Moon's mountains and valleys pass by.

WANTED: A Time Cube in good condition. Please call Nick Nichols at 542-2055.

GENERAL OBSERVATORY NEWS: Once again, please keep the toilet and darkroom doors closed! Not only can the toilets freeze, but your MAS electric bill will double. When securing the parking lot chains, slip the end chain link through a chain link and then affix the lock through the end link so that the strain is on the chain link and not on the lock shank. Be sure the keyhole faces down so that rain and snow cannot enter and freeze.

26" TELESCOPE UPDATE: Dome is almost completely waterproofed. Don't drive shutter all the way up or it will bind. Working on belt drive. Don't use 'scope manually if drive is assembled.

MAS LIBRARY EXPANDS: Owing to Librarian John Wiesen's application for MAS membership in the Astronomy Book Club, the MAS library will receive the "Burnham Celestial Handbook" volumes. We also have added the first sixteen issues of "Telescope Making." If anyone wants to donate issues 17 through 20, please send them to Treas. Jim Toeller. Members may sign out MAS library books. The library is located at the observatory.

COMET HALLEY NEWS: Comet Halley will cross Jupiter's orbit Jan. 10, Mars' orbit Nov. 29, and Earth's orbit Jan. 1, 1986. It's getting much brighter, and amateur instruments should see it in early 1985.

Comet Halley may have an irregular surface owing to an irregular shape or light and dark patches according to Caltech and MIT viewers. It also may be rotating. It has a reddish hue, and, at present, no coma.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------|--------|--------------|----------|
| Jan. 12 | V. Tangney | 327-7976 | Feb. 2 | P. Borchardt | 445-1181 |
| 19 | H. Auchter | 542-2158 | 9 | R. Berry | 442-4267 |
| 26 | J. Asztalos | 258-5626 | 16 | 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 SNOW MOON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 : -

FEBRUARY FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1985

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
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