

FOCAL



POINT

Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : MAY, 1985 : -

CALENDAR:

Sat., May 4 - MAS Ast. Series #6.
Sat., May 4 - Full Flower Moon.
Fri., May 17 - May Election-Meeting. Board meets after the election.
Wed., May 29 - Light Pollution meeting.
Thu., May 30 - Horwitz Planetarium Program, Waukesha.
Sun., Jun. 2 - Full Strawberry Moon.
Fri., Jun. 7 - Olsen Planetarium Program, Milwaukee.
Wed., Jun. 12 - June FOCAL POINT deadline.
Sat., Jul. 20 - MAS Annual Picnic.
Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement.
Sat. Nights - Members night at the observatory.

MAY ELECTION-MEETING: This important meeting is devoted mainly to election of Officers and Board Members who will direct your Society. A short, interesting program will be presented during the remaining time.

If you have something to present or slides to show please notify Program Chairwoman Mary Anne Tangney at 327-7976.

Since the terms of Board members Brian Cieslak, Harvey Herman, Dan Koehler, and Virgil Tangney will expire, four people will be needed to fill their posts. They may be re-elected or replaced by nominees, volunteers, or recommended members who have agreed to run.

Board terms run three years with a two-term limit. Officers serve one year with unlimited re-election.

You may volunteer to be an Officer. Officers are chosen by the board.

Governors of the MAS must be serious, devoted people since their decisions affect what must be done, how and where donations and dues are spent.

Let's have more than the forty or so people that attended the April meeting. Do your bit for the MAS by choosing qualified leaders.

WHEN: Friday, May 17, 8 P.M.

WHERE: CATC Auditorium, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Rd., Wauwatosa.
Enter at south door on the west side of the building.
No. 71 bus stops at the parking lot entrance.

NATIONAL CONVENTION: 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 for details.

Tucson is considered the astronomical capital of the world.

OPEN HOUSE: With this month's FOCAL POINT is the Public Open House program for this summer. Each year the Milwaukee Astronomical Society hosts this program as a service to the general public. With good weather and viewing, we can expect hundreds of people to attend and enjoy our facilities. And many of these visitors eventually become members.

To assure our visitors a good time and to make things run smoothly, we'll need members to volunteer to operate telescopes (yours or ours), guide, attend parking lots, or spell other workers. The jobs are not unpleasant and you'll meet many nice people of all ages. Sign up at the May meeting or call Open House Chairman Frank Roldan (344-2354). You may specify your job preference.

Guests and volunteers should bring a sweater or jacket and their favorite mosquito repellent.

The observatory is located west of New Berlin at 18850 W. Observatory Rd., 1 mile west of the Calhoun (KX) Rd.

TIME FOR FINALS: Part six of the MAS Amateur Astronomers Series will be presented Saturday, May 4, at the observatory at 7:30 P.M.

Entitled "The Small, the Faint, and the Diffuse: Locating Celestial Objects," this will be the last subject of a popular repeat astronomy course ably taught by member Lee Keith.

Another program called "Reading the Celestial Roadmap: Part 2" will be presented at two locations. On Thursday, May 30, 7:30 P.M., it will be presented in Waukesha in the Horwitz Planetarium located in the Lynd Holm Bldg. (521-8858) at 222 Maple Ave. (1 block north of College Ave. and 3-4 blocks west of Carroll College). It will again be presented in Milwaukee Friday, June 7, 7:30 P.M., in the Olsen Planetarium located in the UWM Physics Building at the corner of Kenwood and Cramer.

Lee Keith will oversee both planetarium presentations. There is no charge for MAS members. Bring a planisphere or star atlas and a red flashlight.

LIGHT POLLUTION MEETING: Anyone concerned even a little about light pollution should attend the meeting at the home of Asst. Obs. Director John Asztalos Wednesday, May 29 at 8 P.M. John resides at 411 N. 61st St., Milwaukee (258-5626).

John has been working for many years to cut light pollution in the vicinity of the observatory. His small committee has recently managed to shield three bright nearby lights, and is working on others. Our neighbors have been for the most part cooperative. Thanks. Some bright lighting is required by law. And future building in the area won't make the problem smaller.

Often more interest in the problem by more people can get results.

NEW MEMBERS: The welcome mat is out for Todd Badura of Waukesha and Larry M. Browning, Ph.D., of Milwaukee. Both will be introduced at the May meeting.

The April FOCAL POINT should have introduced Wayne Schaubbe as Wayne Schrubbe.

WANTED: Ten-inch or larger newtonian telescope. Please call Nolan Zadra at 962-3021 after 6 P.M.

FOR SALE: Eight-inch Celestron telescope with wedge, tripod, DC drive and other useful accessories. Asking \$800. Please contact Dwight Harris at 964-1428.

OBSERVATORY NEWS: Again, here's a reminder there's work to be done. We need volunteers who want to see the observatory looking neat. Half the task will be done just by putting things back in their proper places and cleaning up before you leave. And please close the washroom doors. Also check all buildings when you're ready to lock up. Don't drive on the grass.

The 26" 'scope building needs to be cleaned up before the electrician begins wiring.

The "B"-dome shutter sticks at the top. Don't run it all the way up. About 300 pine trees have been planted.

Call Gerry (475-9418) or John (258-5626) if you can lend a hand (preferably both). Ladies welcome. Bring some tools and/or cleaning equipment.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Nick Nichols is chairing the annual MAS family picnic and has chosen Saturday, July 20 as the picnic date.

You bring your favorite food and goodies, the Society will provide free beer, soda pop, and whatever generous people bring out to share with others.

Nick is also planning a drawing for door prizes. If someone brings equipment, there'll be games. The weather will be perfect.

Another purpose for the picnic will be to take some time to thank the 26" Telescope and ALCON '84 committees for their monumental efforts.

Plan to come out July 20. Participation in past MAS picnics has been dwindling. And bring your telescopes if you like.

"NORTHERN LIGHTS" will go to press in June. May 30 is the deadline.

NORTHERN LIGHTS is the official North Central Region of the Astronomical League newsletter. Its 4-6 pages contains news and worthwhile out-of-the-ordinary articles. Subscriptions are \$2.50 per year post paid for four issues.

Address your inquiries to James H. Fox, 14601 55th St. S, Afton, Mn. 55001. He also welcomes short astronomical articles and will edit if necessary.

COMET NEWS: Comet Halley's speed is slowly increasing but it is still far out and very faint.

It is now in Taurus approximately due east of star Aldebaran, continuing very slowly eastward in retrograde. Its position is approx. 5h15m R.A., and +17.5° Dec. Mag. is +16-17.

Brian Cieslak (679-9663) is MAS International Halley Watch coordinator. The purpose of IHW is to observe the comet visually or photographically as it approaches the Sun and recedes. If you'd like a copy of the program call 933-3052.

You'll acquire good comet-seeking and general observing training from this activity.

AS A NEW MEMBER you should receive the following publications:

- 1 - FOCAL POINT newsletter each month except July and August.
- 2 - SKY & TELESCOPE magazine every month.
- 3 - THE REFLECTOR newsletter quarterly.

As a new member it may be a short time before you receive all of these publications. If you don't, please call Jim Toeller at 352-7144.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

May	4	H. Auchter	542-2158	Jun.	1	J. Asztalos	258-5626
	11	B. Cieslak	679-9663		8	B. Ganiere	425-1384
	18	W. Collins	255-4169		15	G. Hall	786-8579
	25	P. Borchardt	445-1181		22	C. Hesselstine	482-4515

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.

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

JUNE FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12



Milwaukee Astronomical Society

Open House 1985

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society will hold "Public Open Houses" at its observatory, located at 18850 W. Observatory Road, in the City of New Berlin (SEE MAP ON BACK). A short talk will be given several times during the evening, and everyone will be able to observe many celestial objects through our telescopes. "Open Houses" start at 8:00 p.m. on the following evenings:

June 14 galaxies

Many of the distant objects outside our solar system can only be seen through telescopes like the ones at our observatory. Join us in examining these wonders of the Universe. We will also study some of the constellations.

June 28 the moon

The moon, just passed first quarter, will be the feature object for this evening. The formation of craters, mountains, and other features of our natural satellite will be explained.

July 12 star clusters

Star clusters are "small" groups of stars which are found in certain areas of our galaxy. What types of stars make up clusters? Come tonight, find out and look at some of them!

July 26 the planets

The solar system is our astronomical neighborhood. Recently, some of the planets have been visited by unmanned spacecrafts. See pictures taken during these missions and observe some of the planets through our telescopes.

August 9 the milky way

The Milky Way is that band of dim light that stretches across our night sky. It is also the name we have given to our galaxy. Tonight we will talk about and look at parts of our home galaxy.

August 23 general astronomy

Where are we in our galaxy? Come visit us this evening and find out how the Earth is related to our solar system, our galaxy, and the rest of the Universe.

September 6 halley's comet

Last seen in 1910 Halley's Comet returns for its once-every-76-years date with our sun. The talk will cover the theories about the origin and make-up of comets and an overview of the 1985-1986 Halley's Comet reappearance.

\$1.00 donations for parking will be greatly appreciated.

BRING A SWEATER OR JACKET.....THE MOSQUITOS BITE AND IT IS ALWAYS COOL!!!