

# FOCAL POINT



Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : OCTOBER, 1985 : -

## CALENDAR:

- Sat., Oct. 12 - Amateur Ast. Series class #4 - Accessories.
- Mon., Oct. 14 - Board meeting.
- Fri., Oct. 18 - Annual Dinner Meeting.
- Sat., Oct. 19 - Amateur Ast. Series class #5 - Reading the sky.
- Sat., Oct. 26 - Amateur Ast. Series class #6 - Finding celestial objects.
- Mon., Oct. 28 - Full Hunter's Moon.
- Wed., Oct. 30 - Focal Point Deadline
- Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement.
- Sat. Nights - Member's Night at the observatory.

LAST CALL FOR DINNER: You may still make reservations for the 17th Annual Dinner Meeting. It will be held Friday, October 18, at the Milwaukee Marriott Inn, 375 S. Moorland Rd., Brookfield, just south of the Brookfield Square shopping center. Park free on well-lit lots.

Have you ever wondered what it takes to put together those well organized and written astronomy magazines that come to us each month? This month at the annual MAS BANQUET we will learn about all the hard work and planning required to publish a popular, internationally circulated magazine. Richard Berry, editor of ASTRONOMY Magazine (and MAS member) will take us behind the scenes to share with us the month's long process of planning, writing, organizing, editing, printing and other details that go into each issue of the magazine. Richard will illustrate his talk with color slides so we can see the many interesting steps and people that make the hard work come together as a beautiful, well written issue every month.

Don't miss this informative and interesting program! Join us at the October Banquet Meeting at the Marriott!

Gerry Samolyk needs input for a dinner report. Please inform him of any grazes, occultations, eclipsing binaries, or other observations you have made. Call 475-9418.

Event times are: 6-7 P.M., cash bar; 7-8 P.M., dinner time; 8 P.M., short meeting followed by the main speaker Richard Berry.

There is no charge for attending only the meeting. Diners will receive a colored card at the door to assure speedy serving of their dinner choice. Fill out the handy form on the insert and send it to Mary Koehler by October 14!

OBSERVATORY NEWS: URGENT! THE 26" BUILDING MUST BE READY FOR APPROVAL BY THE NEW BERLIN BUILDING INSPECTOR BY NOVEMBER 20! Plastering, drywalling, painting, carpentry, electrical work, and cleaning up must be done by then. Anyone, experienced or not, should call Gerry (475-9418) or John (258-5626) now. Work on the 26" right ascension is nearly done, tracking is good, declination drive is not complete. Limit switches haven't been installed yet so be careful. Our new photometer for the 12" 'scope works fine. Bugging the membership for suggestions for a replacement rider mower will continue.

INFORMATIVE CLASSES CONTINUE: You may still attend and enjoy the remaining classes of the MAS Amateur Astronomer Series. They are held Saturday nights at the observatory starting at 7 P.M. Lee Keith is the instructor.

Lee is doing a terrific job teaching this series. He presents only practical, non-technical, information of value to the amateur. All members would greatly benefit from these classes, especially our new members. There are plenty of seats in the heated classroom.

Here are the remaining classes:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Class</u>   | <u>Workshop</u>  |
|-------------|--|--|
| Oct. 12     | All the Extras - Accessories                                   | - Effects of Nebular Filters.  |
| Oct. 19     | Reading the Celestial Roadmap                                  | - Bring your equatorially mounted scope to be polar aligned.   |
| Oct. 26     | The Small, the Faint & the Diffuse - Finding Celestial Objects | - Find objects by star hopping, right angle sweep, direct indexing and computed alt/az. Bring your telescope and find a few objects you've never seen before!! |

ADVANCED TOPICS ----

Nov. 2 Astrophotography (John Asztalos)  
Nov. 9 Observing the Planets (Terry Ross)  
Nov. 16 Observing Comets (Brian Cieslak)  
Nov. 23 Observing Variable Stars (Gerry Samolyk)

Be prepared for observing Comet Halley!

Questions? Call Lee Keith at 961-8752 or 962-2856.

DUES will be accepted at your earliest convenience by Treas. Jim Toeller. A dues form with rates is included with this issue.

OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY: Thanks to Frank Roldan and good volunteer help, this summer's seven Open House programs provided enjoyable evenings to well over 2,000 visitors and added close to \$1,000 to your MAS treasury!

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS are Frank and wife Elizabeth Kilsdonk of Hales Corners; Brad Lemnig, Wauwatosa; and Steven Reich, Hartland.

Over thirty new members were introduced at the last general meeting. Very few were in attendance. New members need not feel apprehensive about being introduced. There is no initiation nor will you be embarrassed.

ANOTHER BENEFIT of your MAS membership begins this month. All members will now receive a copy of the quarterly "Northern Lights."

"Northern Lights" is the official North Central Region of the Astronomical League newsletter.

Publisher James Fox invites you to submit short astronomical articles.

SPECIAL MERITS: The Milwaukee Astronomical Society is the sum of the efforts of its members. The time, treasure, and talent of all members is really appreciated. But the extra effort by the following people should get special recognition:

- Gerry Samolyk & John Asztalos for observatory work and maintenance, especially on the 26" Zemlock telescope project.
- Nick Nichols and wife Jeanine for the greatest picnic in years.
- Lee Keith for his Amateur Astronomer Series classes. Incidentally, Lee has observed 399 Herschel objects.

Mutual thanks between Mrs. Stachowicz, Cub Scout Pack 140 of Cleveland Heights Elementary School of New Berlin, and the MAS for the 300 trees recently planted at the observatory.

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED:

AUDITOR: Someone not a board member to audit the Society's books for the last two years. All necessary data will be supplied. Call Treas. Jim Toeller at 352-7144.

GRAZE PROGRAM DIRECTOR: To take charge of grazing occultation programs. Call Gerry Samolyk at 475-9418.

SOCIETY HISTORIAN: To keep track of MAS pictures, newsletters, articles, etc. Not a big job but requires some file space. Call Dan Koehler at 662-2987 or Bill Konig at 242-2369.

BOARD MEMBERS: Would you like to serve on the MAS Board of Directors? Directors meet monthly. Three positions will be filled at the May election. Call Dan Koehler at 662-2987. Incidentally, MAS members may sit in on board meetings, but may not vote.

COMET HALLEY NEWS: Mag. 10 Halley is now accelerating from Orion's club westward into Taurus. Approx. position Oct. 15 - RA 6h 3m, Dec. 20<sup>o</sup>40'. See your Oct. 1985 "Sky & Telescope", p. 325 for details.

MAS members Dr. Wiesen, Lee Keith, and a half dozen others have already seen the comet as a very faint smudge.

UPCOMING GRAZES:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Mag</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>% Sunlight</u> | <u>Cusp Angle</u> |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Nov. 4- 5   | 6.8        | 10:30 P.M.  | 56                | 7.7N              |
| Dec. 15-16  | 6.0        | 7:15 P.M.   | 35                | 15.9S             |

All of these grazes are rated favorable. For further information contact Virgil Tangney (327-7976).

| <u>METEOR SHOWER</u>                           | <u>PEAK DATE, TIME, AND RADIANT DIR.</u> | <u>MOON AGE</u> | <u>PEAK RATE/HR.</u> |
|--|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| Orionids                                       | Oct. 20, 3 A.M. S                        | 7               | 10-70                |
| (Orionids are associated with Halley's Comet). |  |                 |                      |
| Taurids  | Nov. 9, 11 P.M. S                        | 27              | 5-15                 |

Best viewing is between midnight and dawn. Peak rate may occur several days before or after maximum. On any normal night, an observer should see from 5 to 10 meteors per hour.

KEYS TO THE OBSERVATORY may be rented by MAS members.

A \$1.00 key will allow entry to the parking lot and grounds and allow access to an electrical outlet.

A \$5.00 key, which will allow access to buildings, is issued under certain conditions and obligates the renter to be a Saturday night keyholder. Issuance requires approval by the board.

Your rental money is returned when the key is relinquished.  
Call J. Toeller at 352-7144.

FOR SALE: Magazine subscriptions, at a reduced rate, through your Society.

ASTRONOMY - 12 issues, \$12/yr.

DEEP SKY - 4 issues, \$7/yr.

TELESCOPE MAKING - 4 issues, \$7/yr.

OBSERVER'S (CANADIAN) HANDBOOK - \$6.50 per copy.

Please call Jim Toeller at 352-7144.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

|         |            |          |        |            |          |
|---------|------------|----------|--------|------------|----------|
| Oct. 12 | B. Cieslak | 679-9663 | Nov. 2 | D. Harris  | 964-1428 |
| 19      | W. Collins | 255-4169 | 9      | D. Koehler | 662-2987 |
| 26      | G. Hall    | 786-8579 | 16     | N. Nichols | 542-2055 |

Brian Cieslak will replace Jim Toeller as overseer of scheduling special programs and tours at the observatory.

A new procedure regarding responsibilities of Member's Night participants has been adopted by the Board of Directors. All MAS members are urged to read and keep the special insert that was issued with the September FOCAL POINT. Call 933-3052 for a replacement copy.

DIRECTORY:

President - Daniel Koehler - 662-2987

Vice President - Dr. Richard Wiesen - 781-4757

Prog. Chairperson - Thomas Renner - 1-392-2799

Secretary - Brian Ganiere - 258-5626

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 30.

DINNER RESERVATIONS FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of reservations.

Dinner choices (number of each):

\_\_\_\_\_ Roast Sirloin of Beef \$15.54  
\_\_\_\_\_ Honey Baked Chicken (1/2) \$12.60

Both dinners include fresh fruit, tossed garden salad with choice of dressing, twice baked potatoe, vegetable medley of carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, beverage, bread, and chocolate mousse dessert. Prices include tax and gratuity.

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_. Please make check payable to Mary Koehler. Mail check and reservations form to Mary Koehler, W248 S7040 Sugar Maple Dr., Waukesha, Wi. 53186. The reservation deadline is Monday, October 14.

Phone 414-662-2987

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DUES REMITTANCE

OCTOBER, 1985

Please mark this tear-off and include it with your remittance made payable to Mr. James Toeller, 407 W. Mall Rd., Milw., Wis. 53217 (352-7144).

\_\_\_\_\_ General Membership @ \$30.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership @ \$30.00 plus \$1.00 for each additional family member.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Resident @ \$20.00.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Junior Member (under 16) @ \$15.00.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to 26" (0.6m) Telescope Completion Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address, Zip, & phone \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for supporting the Milwaukee Astronomical Society.