

FOCAL



POINT

Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : SEPTEMBER, 1985 : -

CALENDAR:

Mon., Sep. 16 - Board meeting at the observatory.
Fri., Sep. 20 - September Program-Meeting, 8 P.M.
Sat., Sep. 21 - MAS Ast. Series class #1, 7 P.M.
Sat., Sep. 28 - Full Harvest Moon
Sat., Sep. 28 - MAS Ast. Series class #2, 7 P.M.
Wed., Oct. 2 - FOCAL POINT deadline.
Sat., Oct. 5 - MAS Ast. Series class #3, 7 P.M.
Sat., Oct. 12 - MAS Ast. Series class #4, 7 P.M.
Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvements.
Sat. Nights - Member's Night at the observatory.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM-MEETING: The first meeting of the season will be held Friday, Sep. 20, 8 P.M. at the observatory, 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin. There is ample parking. Bring your instruments if you like.

President Dan Koehler will be the main speaker. His subject will be "Halley's Comet-Welcome Back!" The talk will be illustrated by Astronomical League slides. Part of the program will be devoted to a discussion, by Brian Cieslak, of the International Halley Watch (IHW) - what it is and what is the Society's role. If you're at all interested in Comet Halley, please attend.

Guests are invited.

DINNER TIME: MAS members and guests may now make reservations for the 17th Annual MAS Dinner-Program Meeting which will take place Friday, October 18 at the Milwaukee Marriott Inn, 375 S. Moorland Rd., Brookfield, just south of the Brookfield Square shopping center. Park free on the well-lit lots.

Full information about the main speaker and his subject will be given in the October Focal Point.

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

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.

There's no reason this shouldn't be a pleasant evening. Fill out the handy form on the insert and send it to Mary Koehler soon!

GOOD NEWS! An improved version of the popular MAS Amateur Astronomer Series will again be offered to MAS members by Lee Keith at the observatory starting in late September. Our new members are especially invited to attend.

New features are workshops following each class which will include demonstrations and hands-on learning, and "advanced" topics presented by Society members who know the topics well. The six classes take place at the observatory on Sat. Nights starting at 7 P.M., workshops at 8:15 P.M.

Here is the schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Workshop</u>
Sept. 21	Neophyte's Guide to Telescopes	How to use the observatory telescopes.
Sept. 28	What's Your Power?	Bring your scope to find your field of view by timing stars.
Oct. 5	Collimation & Cleaning of a Newtonian Telescope	Bring in your Newtonian Telescope mirror for cleaning.
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)

Much or all of this training and information will be useful for observing Comet Halley.

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

MESSIER AND HERSCHEL CLUBS UPDATE (LEE KEITH):

Since I have been appointed the Chairperson of the Messier & Herschel Clubs, I will be doing some new and exciting things. First, I would like all people working on either list to contact me at 961-8752 or 962-2856 for my information only. This is not required to get any certificate, but I would like to be able to tell people how many (and who) are participating.

I have made a "Messier Club Observer's Handbook" available to new observers in the Messier Club. It can be obtained from me at meetings (when I'm there) or by mail by sending an 8 1/2 x 11" SASE envelope with 66 cents postage to Lee Keith, Messier Club Chairperson, 1230 E. Singer Cir. #106, Milwaukee, Wi., 53212. This booklet has everything a new observer would need to know from setting up and getting your "night eyes" to how to find a good observing site to various object finding techniques to specific guidelines on what and how to record an observation! It is a very complete handbook. I even plan on including telescopic finder charts for the harder-to-find Messier objects to make it easier for beginners to find them! Since Herschel Club members will probably know what they're doing, I have not made anything for them.

OBSERVATORY NEWS:

Drywall installation is almost concluded, taping in progress. We must continue all work on this building to clear permit by November.

Work on the drives for the 65cm telescope continues at a good pace. The R A drive is installed but not yet wired up. The Dec drive will follow soon.

The MAS now owns a photo electric photometer. This device electronically measures the brightness of stars and other objects. It can also be used to time occultation events. Although the operation of this device is not very difficult, anyone interested in its use is encouraged to read the manual before using it. For further information contact Gerry Samolyk.

The MAS will participate in the International Halley Comet Watch program. Instrumentation available at the observatory for this program includes a double slide plate holder for photography, a micrometer for direct measurement, and the photometer mentioned above. Observers are encouraged to participate in this project. For further information contact Brian Cieslak (679-9663).

The 1985 Observatory report is due in October. If you have any observations to be included in this report send your totals to Gerry Samolyk, 931 S. 76th St., West Allis, Wi. 53214. In addition to Planetary observations, variable stars, and occultations, early observations of Comet Halley will be of particular interest. Please respond as soon as possible so your observations can be included.

Please call Pres. Dan Koehler at 662-2987 if you have any ideas of how we can inexpensively replace the observatory lawn mower. We need a mower capable of cutting three acres of grass.

We may soon have to resort to a herd of sheep!

NEW NCRAL CHAIRMAN: Frank Roldan has been elected chairman of the North Central Region Astronomical League. As usual, he will perform efficiently.

Frank wants to hear from any member who has ideas, suggestions or complaints about the League.

Write or call him at 3842 W. Park Hill Ave., Milw., Wis. 53208 (344-2354).

UPCOMING GRAZES:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Mag</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>% Sunlight</u>	<u>Cusp Angle</u>
Sept. 11-12	7.7	5:20 A.M.	7	13.0N
Oct. 6- 7	7.5	5:50 A.M.	47	3.5N
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).

YOUR DUES ARE DUE: This month is the first month of the MAS new year. Your membership renewal is most welcome at this time. Take advantage of your Society's many benefits.

A handy remittance form with rates is included with this issue.

COMET HALLEY NEWS: Mag. 12 Halley is now in northern Orion, about 1° N and E of 71 Orionis. Approx. position - 6h 15.4m R.A., +19° 35.9' Dec. It has been seen visually in Aug. by some Lehigh Valley Am. Ast. Soc. members using a 14" Schmidt-Cassegrain. It has a distinct stubby coma.

Practice on Giacobini-Zimmer (see p. 221 of your Sep. 1985 SKY & TELESCOPE).

NEW MEMBERS: As expected, many people join the Milwaukee Astronomical Society at this time of the year owing to the Open House programs, the congenial volunteer help, and the favorable impressions they receive of the many things the Society has to offer.

Let's roll out the red carpet for:

David Balistrari, Dousman; James Biwerski, West Allis; Robert Brandt, New Berlin; M/M Michael Buchanan, Butler; Dr. Stuart Ettli, Wauwatosa; Richard Franckowiak, Greenfield; Henry Gerner Family, Waukesha; Karen & Larry Hamilton, Milwaukee; Paul Hess, Brookfield; Jeffrey Jacobs, Greendale; Tad Johnson, Wauwatosa; Brian Joslin, Shorewood; Dr. Monte Leibman, Hartland; William Lorch, Elm Grove; Nathan Rich, Hales Corners; Richard Schauz, Milwaukee; Todd Stair, Waukesha; Dr. Paul and Ann Stein, Franklin; Richard Sterle Family, Greenfield; Lloyd & William Strauss, Wauwatosa; David Uselmann, New Berlin; Christopher Weiss, West Allis; Anthony Williams, Milwaukee.

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/copy (price subject to change).

Please call Jim Toeller at 352-7144.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Sep. 14	H. Auchter	542-2158	Oct. 5	P. Borchart	445-1181
21	J. Asztalos	258-5626	12	B. Cieslak	679-9663
28	R. Berry	442-4267	19	W. Collins	255-4169

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 with this issue of the FOCAL POINT.

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 - 532-9071

OCTOBER FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MEMORANDUM
MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES ON "MEMBER'S NIGHTS."

1. Members are highly encouraged to use the facilities at the MAS Observatory on Member's Nights (Saturday evenings) throughout the calendar year. Such use is a right of membership with the MAS.
2. Members wishing to use the observatory on a particular Saturday evening WILL CONTACT THE KEYHOLDER BY TELEPHONE NO LATER THAN THE FRIDAY BEFORE THAT SATURDAY EVENING, to schedule observing or instruction time. The member should inform the keyholder of his/her intentions and equipment requirements at that time to avoid conflicts of usage. Members should contact the keyholder as early as possible.
3. Members making appointments in advance to use Observatory equipment through the keyholder on duty that evening WILL HAVE PRIORITY OVER THOSE WHO DO NOT.
4. Members are asked to KEEP APPOINTMENTS AND NOT BURDEN KEYHOLDERS WITH MULTIPLE PHONE CALLS once an appointment is made. If a member must cancel, he/she should do so no later than 6:00 p.m. of the evening of the appointment.
5. If a member is unable to contact the keyholder after several attempts during the week before the Member's Night, he/she should call Jim Toeller (352-7144), leave the message and ask for further instructions.
6. Members failing the above process should at least CALL THE OBSERVATORY (542-9071) BEFORE traveling THERE on a Member's Night to make sure it is staffed that evening. MEMBERS MAY NOT ASSUME THE OBSERVATORY WILL BE STAFFED ON A MEMBER'S NIGHT, ESPECIALLY IF THE KEYHOLDER HAS NOT BEEN NOTIFIED BY PHONE IN ADVANCE. Members who do not call the keyholder or Observatory in advance of arrival do so at their own risk.
7. Members using the MAS Observatory on Member's Nights will follow the instruction and directives of the keyholder while on the observing grounds, and leave the Observatory in good order when finished.
8. Members may schedule additional observing sessions outside of Member's Night dates with a keyholder at mutually agreeable times, subject to equipment availability.

PLEASE KEEP THIS COPY

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

DUES REMITTANCE

SEPTEMBER, 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.