

FOCAL POINT



Issued by the
MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : APRIL, 1987 : -

CALENDAR:

- Mon., Apr. 13 - Full Pink Moon. Penumbral eclipse starts 7:20 PM, ends 11:18 PM CDST.
- Fri., Apr. 17 - April Program-Meeting, 8 PM at the CATC.
- Mon., Apr. 20 - Board Meeting.
- Wed., Apr. 29 - May "Focal Point" deadline.
- Wed., May 6 - First Wednesday, 7:30 PM, at the observatory. Everyone is welcome.
- Sat., May 9 - Astronomy Day.
- Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement. Help wanted. Call 475-9418 or 258-5626.
- Sat. Nights - Members night at the observatory. See keyholder list on page 3.

APRIL PROGRAM-MEETING: Hardly anyone interested in astronomy has not asked these questions: "Why build more and larger land-based telescopes? Won't murky skies, light pollution, and space-'scopes make them obsolete?"

This month's speaker, Dr. Richard Crown of Yerkes Observatory, will answer these questions and more in his talk, "Very Large Telescopes; Projects and Prospects." He will describe next generation ten to fifteen meter (390" to 585")!! telescopes, how they will compete with orbiting space telescopes, and, in general, what the next generation of telescopes will be like in size and purpose. Sounds good! Attend, bring a friend.

WHEN? Friday, April 17, 8 PM.
WHERE? At the Child and Adolescent Treatment Center (CATC) auditorium, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa. The Rt. 71 bus stops nearby. There is ample parking on well-lit lots.

OBSERVATORY NEWS: The main task now is to get the buildings cleaned up and the grounds in order to accommodate the many groups of people who will enjoy our facilities for public and special events. Please call 475-9418 or 258-5626.

Until the observatory grounds dry out, please park south of the upper parking lot chain. Stay on the roads if you must drive to the buildings.

CANDIDATES NEEDED: The May meeting will be mainly devoted to the election of MAS officers and board members. These people will govern your society for the following year. They will make many decisions. They will determine how to budget its finances.

All MAS members in good standing are eligible. Vacancies are filled by elected volunteers, nominees, or recommended consenting volunteers.

Board terms run three years with a two-term limit. Officers serve one year with unlimited re-election. The board usually meets once a month.

You'll be serving one of the finest astronomical societies in the country.

OPEN HOUSE 1987: The Milwaukee Astronomical Society will again offer open house programs to the public during the summer. They will take place bi-weekly at the New Berlin Observatory beginning at 8 PM.

The programs, chaired by Frank Roldan, offer a short slide or film illustrated talk followed by viewing of interesting sky objects, weather permitting. However, cloudy or clear, the observatory will be open. The flyer included with this issue shows dates, themes, location of the MAS observatory, and how to get there. Please save it.

Frank needs speakers for each open house as well as a lot of volunteers to operate 'scopes, guide, direct traffic, run the bookstore. All of these tasks are rather pleasant. Call Frank at 423-0210 and tell him what you'll do and when.

ASTRONOMY SERIES CLASSES PLANNED: Lee Keith will again present his very informative Amateur Astronomer's Series this spring if there is enough interest. The six-weeks of hands-on, practical workshops teach care and use of telescopes including use of setting circles, and various techniques to find objects in the sky.

These classes are of great value to our newer members. There is no charge.

Call Lee at 961-8752 for more information as soon as possible.

NEW BOOKS recently added to the MAS library are "Tirion Sky Atlas 2000.0;" "Guide to the Stars: Exploring the Sky with Binoculars" (L. Peltier); "Space Travel: A History" (W. Von Braun); "Astronomical Calendar 1987" (G. Ottenwell); "Thursday's Universe" (M. Bartusiak); "Webb Society Deep-Sky Observer's Handbook, Vol. 1 - Double Stars (1986)."

Books may be checked out Saturday nights by appointment with the keyholder or during First Wednesday gatherings.

MAY 9TH IS ASTRONOMY DAY. Our New Berlin facilities will be open to the public from early afternoon through the evening. The activities will be similar to those for Open House 1987, so volunteers will be needed for the same types of tasks. Please call Frank at 423-0210.

HELP IS WANTED for part of the day to assist at the MAS public display at the Brookfield Square Mall Saturday, June 27, from 9 AM to 5 PM. Call Frank Roldan at 423-0210.

A REMINDER: The North Central Region Astronomical League Regional Convention will be held Saturday, April 25, at Case High School on the west side of Racine, Wisconsin.

Full information is available from the registrar Elsie Howard, 1505 Windsor Way #3, Racine, Wisconsin, 53406.

THANKS to MAS president Dan Koehler and others who assisted him in putting together the Spring Field Trip to Chicago, March 28.

The pleasantries afforded by the Sky Show and Planetarium at Adler, the optional side trips to the Shedd Aquarium, the Field and Science and Industry Museums, plus excellent bus service, added up to a satisfying, busy day.

MEMBERS NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Apr. 11 - D. Koehler	662-2987	May 2 - J. Pfannerstill	475-6494
18 - N. Nichols	542-2055	9 - F. Roldan	423-0210
25 - A. Penikis	354-9708	16 - T. Ross	784-2093

DIRECTORY:

Pres. - D. Koehler, 662-2987	V. P. - Dr. R. Wiesen, 781-4757
Sec. - Ms. K. Wesener, 961-8752	Treas. - J. Toeller, 352-7144
Obs. Dir. - G. Samolyk, 475-9418	Asst.Obs.Dir. - J.Asztalos, 258-5626
Special Obs. Activities Scheduler - N. Nichols, 542-2055	
Program Chairman - M. McNeeley, 354-5347	
FOCAL POINT Ed.-L. Simandl, 4201 W. Highland Blvd.,Mil.,53208,933-3052	
MAS Observatory - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin - 542-9071	

MAY FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29.



MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

OPEN HOUSE 1987

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society will hold "Public Open Houses" at its observatory, located on West Observatory Road, just west of Calhoun 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 19 SATURN

The planet Saturn is the telescopic showpiece this evening. During 1987 its ring system will be at its maximum inclination to us on Earth, giving us a breathtaking view! Pictures taken by the Voyager spacecraft will be shown.

JULY 3 THE MOON

The Moon, one day before 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 17 GALAXIES

Galaxies are distant star systems that can only be seen through larger telescopes, like the ones at our observatory. Join us in examining these wonders of the Universe. We will also study some of the constellations.

JULY 31 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 14 METEORS

As the Earth revolves around the Sun, it comes across the remnants of comets. These small pieces of rock and dust enter our atmosphere and burn up, giving off light. Attend this lecture and learn about the current Perseid meteor shower.

AUGUST 28 STARS

What are stars and how do they form? Are there different types? Do they really have different colors? For the answer to these and many other questions about these "diamonds in the sky", see us this evening!

SEPT. 11 TELESCOPES

Telescopes are our eyes to the Universe. This evening we will discuss various types of telescopes, how they work, and their different uses.

\$1.00 donations for parking will be greatly appreciated.

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

CAN'T FIND US?

CALL 542-9071

