

FOCAL



POINT

Issued by the
MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : SUMMER, 1987 : -

CALENDAR: For Milwaukee Astronomical Society events between now and September 30 please refer to the Calendar Of Events included with your May "Focal Point."

PLEASE NOTE: The date for the Greenbush Camping Trip should be August 21 through 23. Also, Lee Keith's phone number should be 961-8752. Please correct your copy.

MAS Calendars Of Events may be obtained by calling 933-3052.

ELECTION RESULTS: Members present at the May Election-Meeting choose Paul Borchardt, Tom Renner, and Virgil Tangney to serve on the board of directors. The board then recessed to elect Dan Koehler, President, Dr. Richard Wiesen, Vice President, Karen Wesener, Secretary, and Jim Toeller, Treasurer. Gerry Samolyk and John Asztalos will continue as Observatory Director and Assistant Observatory Director in that order. Matt McNeeley will continue as Program Chairman and Nick Nichols will serve as Special Observatory Activities Scheduler.

Incumbent board members are Lee Keith, Matt McNeeley, Sally-Jo Michalko, Frank Roldan, and Nicholas and Jeannine Nichols.

Outgoing board members John Asztalos and Pete Smitka have served as board members for eight and six years respectively. Many of the above people have served even longer in addition to volunteering to lend a hand or two on other Society maintenance and social programs.

With people of this caliber the MAS can only look ahead and up. Give them your appreciation and support.

WITH SYMPATHY: The Milwaukee Astronomical Society extends condolences to the family of longtime member Harvey Kuehn. Harvey died May 19 at the age of 77 after a long illness.

Every Society has members who do more than what is expected. Since he and wife Theresa joined the MAS in 1971, both were usually present at Society meetings, Open Houses, or where help was needed.

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society wants to thank the Harvey Kuehn family for suggesting donations to the Society in his name as a living memorial to further the hobby he liked.

HELLO! AND WELCOME! To new members James Boos, Greenfield; Stephen Cole, Brookfield, Darrell Green, Burbank, California; Jerry Kunick, Racine; Rick Moscow, Waukesha; David Saintsing, Milwaukee; William Schrank, Milwaukee; Richard Schwartz, Milwaukee; Jerome Slayter, Greenfield; Peggy Torres and son, Milwaukee.

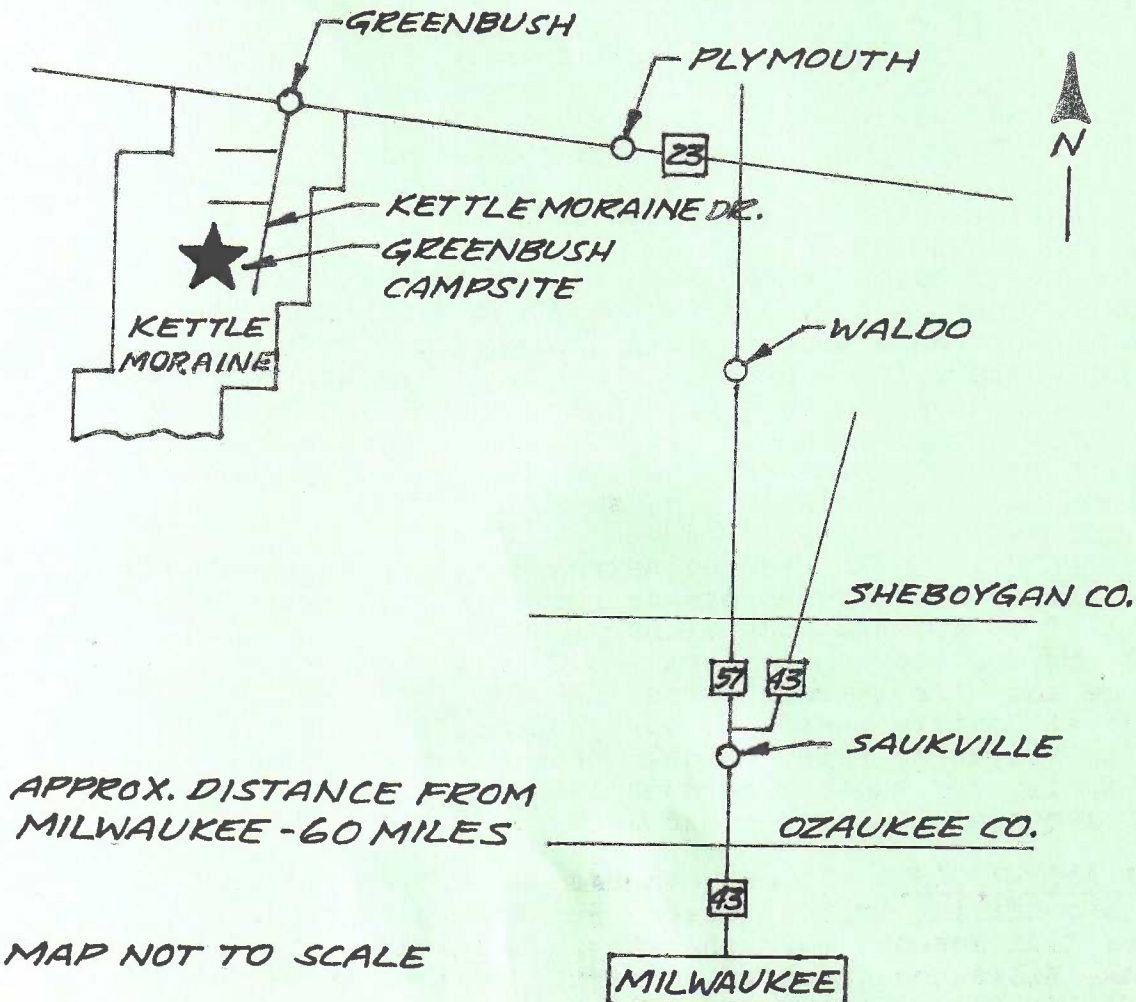
YOU'RE INVITED TO A PICNIC! (By Jeannine Nichols).

All the members of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society and their families are reminded to mark Sat. July 25th on their calendars when we will again be holding our annual M.A.S. membership picnic. The picnic will be from 2:00 P.M. till? There will be free beer and soda provided. Free roast corn will be served from 5 to 7 P.M. Everyone should bring their own favorite picnic food; there should be extra grills and charcoal available if needed. Upon entering the grounds at the M.A.S. observatory, on Observatory Rd. in New Berlin, all card carrying members will be eligible for the door prize drawing and should get their raffle ticket from Nick Nichols. You must be present to enter and to win. The drawing will be held by Nick and Jeannine at 4:30 P.M. sharp. We have a very fine list of door prizes again this year with many more items still coming. Just what are these goodies? Come to the picnic and find out!

Please feel free to bring your telescopes or whatever projects you may be working on. If there should be something you might like to swap, sell or trade, bring it along. Friends are always welcome to come too. Hope to see you all there.

ANNUAL STAR-PARTY CAMPOUT: If you like to camp and observe you can enjoy both! Bring your tent and telescope to the Greenbush camp site in the northern Kettle Moraine State Park. The date is Friday through Sunday, Aug. 21-23. NOTE: THE DATE LISTED IN THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS WAS INCORRECT!

Contact John Asztalos at 258-5626 for full information.



DATES FOR AMATEUR ASTRONOMER'S SERIES CLASSES SET (By Lee Keith)

These classes are informal, low keyed classes on basic observing techniques and telescope selection, use and maintenance. They will be held at 7:00 pm at the Observatory on the Saturdays listed. If you are a beginner to astronomy or an intermediate observer looking for specific info, these classes are right up your alley. You don't even have to take notes, as there will be handouts summarizing salient points. After class, stick around for the hands on workshop, described below.

- Sept. 26 Reading the Celestial Roadmap
 The Small, Faint & the Diffuse: Finding Celestial Objects
 Workshop: Take out Portascopes & find a few Messier Objects!
- Oct. 3 Neophyte's Guide to Telescopes
 All the Extras - Accessories
 Workshop: Those amazing Nebular Filters!
- Oct. 10 What's Your Power?
 Workshop: Finding the field of view of your eyepieces by timing stars.
- Oct. 17 Cleaning & Collimation of a Newtonian Telescope
 Workshop: Bring in your dirty telescope mirror for cleaning!

If time permits, there will also be an opportunity for all who attend to be given instructions on the use of the large 12 1/2" telescope, so you can use this telescope on Saturday member's nights.

As a reminder to summer observers, the MAS offers the Messier Club Observer's Handbook if you send a 8.5" x 11" SASE with 66 cents postage to: Lee Keith, Herschel/Messier Club Coordinator, 1239B E. Randolph Ct., Milwaukee, WI 53212. It contains a wealth of information on observing techniques and hints, as well as detailed maps to find the more elusive Messier objects.

FOR SALE: Eyepieces; 1 Televue Nagler type, 7mm, \$90; 1 Televue widefield, 15mm, \$65; 1 Televue widefield, 19mm, \$70; 1 Televue 24mm, \$80. All are perfect and priced to sell at 55% of retail.

Also offering a Coulter Odyssey 10" Dobsonian without a finder for \$225. Please call Don McLean, 614 15th Place Apt. 10, Kenosha, Wis. 53140 (552-7961).

LOANER 'SCOPES will soon be available to MAS members. Pete Smitka and Jim Toeller are putting the finishing touches on two 8" Dobsonians that will be loaned to members for two weeks without a deposit or rental fee. Renewal will be permitted if there is no waiting list. Two eyepieces will be provided. A signed agreement will need to be filled out for loss or damage.

The telescopes should be available by July 15. One will be stored at Matt McNeeley's home in Brown Deer, the other somewhere on the south side.

Details are forthcoming. Call Dan Koehler at 662-2987.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES will take place at the observatory July 3, 17, 31, Aug. 14, 28, and Sep. 11, all Friday nights, starting at 8 P.M.

Bring a sweater or jacket and mosquito repellent. The Observatory is located at 18850 W. Observatory Road, New Berlin (542-9071).
Members! Call Frank Roldan at 423-0210 if you can help, or just come out.

The planet Saturn, rings and all, will be the star attraction this summer! If you like challenges, look for Uranus and Neptune.

LIBRARY NEWS: Our library was the beneficiary of two lucky draws at the April NCRAL convention. Peter Smitka and Dan Koehler generously surrendered their door prizes:

Until the Sun Dies - Jastrow, 1977. This is the sequel to his Red Giants and White Dwarfs. Sandwiched between thought-provoking chapters on the creation of the universe and speculation on whether we are alone in it, is an anthropological section on the development of intelligent life on earth.

Space, Time, Infinity - Trefil, 1985. Of the "Cosmos" genre, this offers a good historical perspective on the development of astronomy. Dr. Trefil uses many simple analogies to explain cosmic phenomena and does not hesitate to confess that many questions remain unanswered. He also describes some new-technology instruments which will help open the "windows" wider.

We thank long-time MAS member Lewis A. Riley for his donation of several books this spring, including six textbooks in general astronomy and two popular-level cosmogonies by Sir Fred Hoyle. Another, The Size of the Universe by Hargreaves, is a historical treasure having been written before the Palomar era. Space Chemistry by Paul Merrill (1963) can be an introduction to the rationale of spectrum study.

The Scientific Justification for the Mt. Graham Observatory, Volume I. - Univ. of Arizona, March, 1987, was donated by April speaker Dr. Richard Kron. New generation, supersensitive detectors require higher, dryer, darker sites. Vol. I outlines research possibilities, instrument requirements, and how the team arrived at a favorable evaluation of this location for an international observatory.

The following books are recent purchases:

The Cambridge Astronomy Guide - Liller & Mayer, 1986. If you have any inclination to do your astronomy with a camera, start here!

The Cambridge Atlas of Astronomy - Audouze & Israel, 1985. Superbly illustrated with photographs and richly detailed diagrams, it offers a tour of astronomical knowledge to date - and one to be taken at your leisure.

A Complete Manual of Amateur Astronomy - Sherrod, 1981. An authoritative gem that tells what projects you can do and how to go about them from drawing planetary features to meteor observing to photoelectric photometry.

Guide to Observing the Moon - British Astronomical Assn., 1986. The moon is one of the areas where amateurs can still make a scientific contribution. Many aspects of lunar observation are presented to get you started.

Unknown Earth - Corliss, 1980. Explores geological oddities on the home planet.

A Workbook for Astronomy - Waxman, 1984. Provides experiments in celestial mechanics and other observational projects.

* * * JUST ARRIVED: Webb Society Deep-Sky Observer's Handbook Volume 6: Anonymous Galaxies and Volume 7: The Southern Sky * * *

A "vertical" reference file is in place in the observatory office. If you have materials to add to this resource such as pamphlets, photographs, magazine articles, etc.; please give them to me or to June Regis for processing. We are also happy to report that Peter Smitka has donated a small file box, so the card catalog is now available for general use. Regarding books marked with a red dot, we recognize that it is not always convenient or comfortable to do your reading or research at the observatory. If you sign out one of these books, please take only one at a time and make an effort to return it quickly.

REMEMBER BONUS LIBRARY HOURS during the Summer Open Houses... Sally Waraczynski.

METEOR SHOWERS: Two showers will occur this summer that will be worth watching. The Delta Aquarids will peak about Thu., July 30. Look south. Best time at 2 A.M. Expect about 10-35 per hour.

The Perseids will peak between Aug. 11-13. Look north. Best time 4 A.M. Expect about 50-100 per hour.

DUES are now being accepted for the 1987-88 fiscal year. Regular Memberships are \$30/yr., Non-Residents, \$20/yr., Juniors (under 16), \$15/yr., additional family members, \$1/person/yr. Make checks payable to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society and remit to Jim Toeller, 407 W. Mall Rd., Glendale, Wi. 53217.

TEN CANADIAN HANDBOOKS are still waiting for their owners to pick them up. Send \$1.00 to Jim Toeller, 407 W. Mall Rd., Glendale, Wi. for mailing or pick them up at the observatory at a First Wed. Call 352-7144 first.

MEMBERS NIGHT KEYHOLDERS: Please refer to the MAS Calendar Of Events insert mailed with the May "Focal Point." Copies available by calling 933-3052.

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

SEPTEMBER FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2.



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

