



Issued by the

*Milwaukee Astronomical Society*

October 1987

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**New Members**

The newest members of the MAS family are: Kerwin Bartow, Greendale; Henry Bell, daughter Mary Kate, sons Sam and Andrew, Wauwatosa; Mary and Lois Falk, Cudahy; will be introduced at the November Program-Meeting.

**Meteor Showers**

**Orionids** - October 20.  
 Peak at 3 A.M. Rate of 10-70 per hour.  
**Taurids** - November 9.  
 Peak at 11 P.M. Rate of 5-15 per hour.  
 Look south for both showers.

**19th Annual MAS Dinner**

You're invited to join the other members and guests at the 19th Annual MAS Dinner. Chairman Matt McNeeley is still accepting reservations, but the reservation form must be mailed with payment on or before Monday, October 12.

**TIME:** Friday, October 16. Cash bar from 6 - 7 P.M. Buffet dinner from 7 - 8 P.M. Program at 8P.M. There will be no meeting.

**PLACE:** Boulevard Inn, Sherman at Lisbon, Milwaukee, 445-4221. Ample free, well-lit parking.

**SPEAKER:** Mr. David Levy of Tucson, Arizona, a professional observer at Kitt Peak National Observatory. His topic will be "Some Thoughts on the Discovery of Comets."

Mr. Levy is also a prolific, well-known author and has written several astronomical books and articles for "Sky & Telescope", "Deep Sky", and "Astronomy" magazines. He is also a member of ALPO.

Mr. Levy will also lead a seminar-workshop at the observatory on Saturday, October 17 at 7:30P.M. The topic will be announced. There is no charge.

**Calendar of Events**

- Friday, October 16 - MAS Annual Dinner.
- Friday & Saturday, October 23, 24 - Greenbush Star Party.
- Wednesday, October 28 - "Focal Point" deadline.
- Wednesday, November 4 - First Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. at the observatory.
- Thursday, November 5 - Full Beaver Moon.
- Wednesday, November 11 - Indian Summer begins.
- Friday, November 20 - November Program-Meeting 8:00 P.M. at the CATC.
- Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvements. Help wanted. Call 475-9418 or 258-5626.
- Saturday Nights - Member's night at the observatory. See keyholder list.

## Congratulations

Sally Waraczynski and Lee Keith have both been awarded Messier Award Certificates for viewing the complete 107 Messier object list. Sally went a step further than most Messier object observers by making sketches as she found them!

If you are interested in searching for Messier or Herschel objects, contact Messier/Herschel club chairman Lee Keith at 961-8752. For a "Messier Club Observer's Handbook," send an 8.5" x 11" self addressed, stamped envelope with 66 cents postage to:

Lee Keith  
1230 E. Singer Circle #106  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

All you need to know is in this booklet.

## More Congratulations!

In recognition of its "cloning" classes for making Dobsonian telescopes, the Milwaukee Astronomical Society received its second award from Astrofest in the category of educational merit for this activity.

Displayed at Astrofest were 2 eight inch and 1 six inch Newtonian / Dobsonian telescopes.

Last winter, Peter Smitka led a class of telescope makers in which a dozen of these instruments were produced.

## Occultation Log

The 11 observers viewing the passage of the moon through the Pleiades (M45) recorded 99 observed contacts and reappearances of 24 stars. The faintest star observed was magnitude 10.7

## Dues Are Due!

We're sure you want to continue receiving the many privileges and benefits of belonging to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society. Please send your dues now to:

Treas. Jim Toeller  
407 W. Mall Road  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217  
(352-7144)

Make your check payable to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society and also return the dues notice form you received.

By the way, ignore notices from "Sky & Telescope." Do not send them to Jim.

## Something For Comet Seekers by Dr. R. Wiesen

This is a position ephemeris for Comet Bradfield 1987s, computed from the elements in DL 4, file 1987s, as uploaded by the good folks at Odyssey Magazine and precessed by Paul Burke of Compuserve Astroform to Epoch 2000. The ALT-AZ values are calculated for 88.14° West Longitude and 43.1° North Latitude.

DATE	R.A.	DEC.	@ 1800 H			@ 1900 H	
			AZ.	ALT.	Tmag.	AZ.	ALT.
11-07	17:51.548	2:29	242.4	29.5	5.05	254.5	19.3
11-14	18:21.592	6:02	244.6	32.6	4.95	256.8	22.2
11-21	18:55.272	9:50	246.5	36.3	4.94	258.8	25.8
11-28	19:33.448	13:45	247.5	40.9	5.02	260.1	30.4
12-05	20:16.641	17:34	247.4	46.4	5.19	260.3	35.9
12-12	21:04.483	20:59	246.1	50.2	5.43	259.9	41.6
12-19	21:55.227	23:38	242.8	57.8	5.76	257.9	47.4
12-26	22:45.949	25:20	237.5	62.7	6.21	254.8	52.6

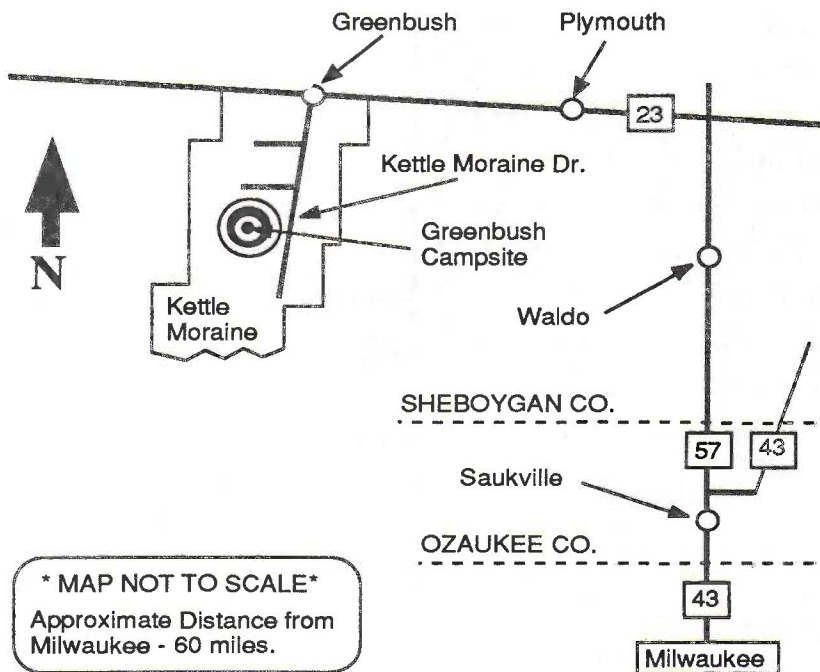
Note this comet will move very slowly in Azimuth, while climbing to the North, this year. Full Moons occur on 11-5-87 and 12-5-87. New Moons occur on 11-21-87 and 12-20-87.

People attending the September Program-Meeting enjoyed an excellent view of Comet Bradfield in an unusually clear, crisp, southwest sky.

## Greenbush Rerun

The scenery and moonless skies should be great for another Star-Party campout at Greenbush. Bring your tent, telescope, warm clothes, and some firewood to group site #6 in the Greenbush camp site in Northern Kettle Moraine State Park. The date is Friday and Saturday, October 23 & 24.

Call Paul Borchardt at 781-0169 for full details.



## Library News

Sally Waraczynski and June Regis are in charge. Most books may be checked out for home use. On the signout pad, enter your name and titles of the literature that you're taking. Return red-dotted books as soon as possible. Sky atlases and certain other items will remain in the reference-only library. Bound volumes of "Astronomy", "Sky & Telescope", and other periodicals are also available. Slides may eventually become part of the library for slide-illustrated talks.

## Observatory News

Director Gerry Samolyk and Asst. Director John Asztalos would like to see a large turnout of volunteers at the observatory on Sunday, October 11.

The buildings and grounds should get a general clean-up, a dab or two of paint, and some winterizing before the ol' boy with the icicles gets here.

Call Gerry at 475-9418 or John at 258-5626 for details. Bring cleaning equipment and tools you might need.

A good turnout and a few hours should take care of most of the work.

## Sweatshirt Sale

Cold weather is coming, so order your sweatshirts now. Sizes small through X-large are available. They are blue in color, long-sleeved, and have the Milwaukee Astronomical Society logo silk screened in front. Price is \$10.00. Call Jim Toeller at 352-7144.

## Loaner Scopes

2 loaner "APPOLLO" scopes, 8" Dobsonians, are available for general use away from the observatory. One will be located on the north side of town at the home of:

Matt McNeeley  
8200 N. Cedarburg Rd.  
Brown Deer (354-5307)

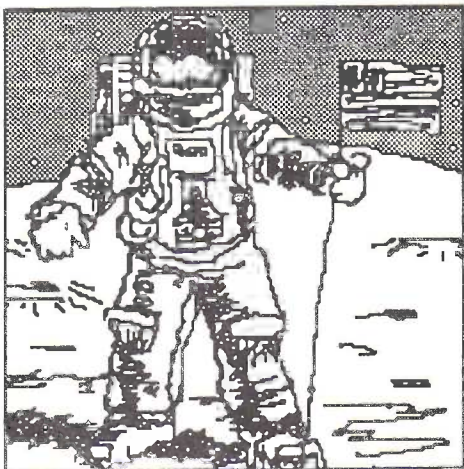
the other will be located at the home of:

Richard Sterle  
8115 W. Waterford Ave.  
Greenfield (543-7459)

Until a 1.25" adapter is available, 2" eyepieces are required.

No deposit or rental fee need be paid, but an agreement covering loss or damage payment must be signed.

The loan period is from 14 - 21 days with an extension possible.



## Amateur Astronomer Series

The 2 remaining classes and workshops of this informative series by Lee Keith will be presented at the observatory at 7:00 P.M. on the Saturdays listed.

October 10 - **What's Your Power?**

WORKSHOP: Finding the field of view of your eyepieces by timing stars.

October 17 - **Cleaning & Collimation of a Newtonian Telescope**

WORKSHOP: Bring in your dirty telescope mirror for cleaning.

## What is ARC '87?

The Twin City Amateur Astronomers of Bloomington-Normal will host an Astronomy Rendezvous and Conference on the campus of Illinois State University, October 23 through 25, 1987. This three-day event is designed to be a source of fun, information, and inspiration for amateur astronomers throughout the state of Illinois and the adjoining areas.

Tentatively, the activities will begin Friday evening with an informal slide presentation by amateur astronomers and a special showing in the ISU Planetarium. All day Saturday, amateur astronomers will gather for talks, telescope displays, standing displays, computer demonstrations, planetarium presentations, a laboratory exercise, a flea market, a round table discussion, door prizes, and an address by a noted physicist / astronomer. There will be no formal activities on Sunday.

Following the close of activities Friday and Saturday evenings, amateurs will be invited and encouraged to set up telescopes for all-night observing at a dark site outside Bloomington-Normal. Observers will have a chance to view through the TCAA's 16" telescope to be set up at Comlara Park.

For information contact:

Carl J. Wenning, Chairman, A.R.C. '87  
Physics Department Planetarium  
Illinois State University  
Normal, Illinois 61761-6901

## Members Night Keyholders

Oct. 10	T. Schmidtkunz	784-0253	Nov. 7	R. Wiesen	781-4757
Oct. 17	P. Smitka	785-0926	Nov. 14	J. Asztalos	258-5626
Oct. 24	V. Tangney	327-7976	Nov. 21	H. Auchter	542-2158
Oct. 31	W. Tuerck	782-2844			

## Directory

President .....	Dan Koehler .....	662-2987
Vice President .....	Dr. R. Wiesen .....	781-4757
Secretary .....	Ms. K. Wesener .....	961-8752
Treasurer .....	J. Toeller .....	352-7144
Observatory Director .....	G. Samolyk .....	475-9418
Assistant Observatory Director .....	J. Asztalos .....	258-5626
Special Activities Scheduler .....	N. Nichols .....	542-2055
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FOCAL POINT Editor .....	L. Simandl .....	933-3052

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542-9071