



**From The Editor**

Completing our first year as *Focal Point* editor/publisher, Tom and I thank the membership for their continued support. We appreciate the news, articles and input that you provided us.

This newsletter reflects your interests and concerns about the direction and focus of our Society. Have a good summer and we look forward to seeing you at open houses!

- Matthew McNeeley

**Last Focal Point 'til Sept.**

The *Focal Point* will resume publication near the end of August. Best wishes for a safe, enjoyable summer. The next General meeting will take place Friday September 28. Deadline for September *Focal Point* is August 24th.

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**Summer  
Calendar of Events**

- July 7, Saturday ..... Full Black Moon
- July 11, Wednesday ..... First Wednesday Meeting  
7:30 at the Observatory
- July 21, Saturday ..... MAS Family Picnic  
At the Observatory
- July 31-August 4 ..... Astronomical League  
National Convention-St. Louis
- August 1, Wednesday ..... First Wednesday Meeting  
7:30 at the Observatory
- August 6, Saturday ..... Full Sturgeon Moon
- August 16-18 ..... Greenbush Campout
- August 24, Friday ..... Deadline for Sept. *Focal Point*
- September 5, Wednesday ..... First Wednesday Meeting  
7:30 at the Observatory
- September 14-16 ..... ASTROFEST
- September 28, Friday ..... 8:00 pm Program-Meeting  
At the Observatory

Saturdays—Observatory maintenance and improvements

Saturday Nights—Member night at Observatory—Call key holder

## Library News

Something for everyone this time – serious researcher to neophyte.

NGC 2000.0, centennial edition, is Sinnott's updated version of J.L.E. Dreyer's classic catalog of star clusters and nebulae.

Let your fingers do the walking through Judith Lola Bausch's Sky & Telescope Cumulative Index 1941-1985. This long-needed directory will make it much easier to locate that article on (you name it!).

Gerry Samolyk donated the 1976 supplement to the General Catalog of Variable Stars, 3rd edition (Kukarkin, et al.). The complete set, Vol I, II, III and four supplements, is now available at the Observatory.

Stretch out in the shade and enjoy Starlight Nights, Leslie Peltier's autobiographical "adventures of a stargazer"; then rise up, inspired. Harlow Shapely called him the world's greatest non-professional astronomer. Another biography, donated by Tom Milner, is about Albert Einstein and is written by Abraham Pais. The title is 'Subtle is the Lord. . .', and it includes technical treatment of theoretical physics along with the strictly biographical material. Tom has added a few of his own thoughts on the book's endpapers.

A parting gift from John Asztalos is Povenmire's Fireballs, Meteors & Meteorites. In his usual reader-friendly style, the author shares his considerable experience in observing and photographing these phenomena.

Just starting out and wish you had a competent tour guide? We now have on hand Tapes of the Night Sky from Astronomical Society of the Pacific. These two cassettes and handbook will lead you through four seasons of basic constellation study. Please don't keep them out all year though!

Good news for ATM's. Jim Toeller has donated many back issues of Telescope Making magazine, from Vol. 1 - 16. We'll get that collection completed yet. Still looking for Vol. 6, 17-25, 27 and 28.

Finally, we have Photographs from Astrofest, 1989, donated by Sally Jo Michalko. There is a nice group shot of MAS participants which, along with the others, may be found in the brown album at the back of the upper HISTORY file drawer.

- Sally Waraczynski

Check the NEW BOOKS box when you're at the Observatory for Open Houses, work parties, or Saturday night viewing. Some other items are sure to find their way out there before the summer is over.

## Award Winning Book on Hand

A book in our library at the Observatory, Through the Telescope by Mike Porcellino has won an Honorable Mention from the New York Academy of Sciences' 18th Annual Children's Science Book Award Program (Older Category). Congratulations to Mike, who is a member of the Chicago Astronomical Society.

The Academy was founded in 1817, has a membership of 42,000 international scientists including Professor Phillip Morrison ("Ring of Truth", "Ascent of Man" on PBS).

## Greenbush - Milky Way

Greenbush Campers are meeting Thursday through Saturday, August 16-18, at the Star Party/Campout at Greenbush Kettle Moraine, campsite #5 & 6. A waning Moon will allow the overhead Milky Way to come shining through. Bring your tent, telescope and firewood. Please call 1 week in advance if attending. Campers must pay \$2.00/day/person plus vehicle registration (\$3.50 per day or \$14 annual sticker). For more info, contact Paul Borchardt, 781-0169.

## Astrofest!

September 14 - 16. Camp Shaw-Wa-Nas-See, Kankakee, IL. Sponsored by Chicago Astronomical Society. We usually have 20 or so MAS members and that many scopes as well. Join in the fun! Contact:

Astrofest  
PO Box 596-A  
Tinley Park, IL 60477

## Loaner Scopes

For your summer observing sessions, don't forget about the two 8" Dobsonian "loaner scopes". Available to all MAS members, the scopes accept 1.25" or 2" eyepieces.

No deposit is required, but an agreement must be signed to cover accidental loss or damage. The loan period is from 14 - 31 days with an extension period possible.

### North Side Location

Matthew McNeeley  
8200 N. Cedarburg Road  
Brown Deer, WI  
354-5347

### South Side Location

Richard Sterle  
8115 W. Waterford Avenue  
Greenfield, WI  
543-7459

## Observing Club

Pass those warm summer nights by joining an Observing Club. It's a great way to spend an evening. The MAS offers two helpful guides: for deep sky observing, the Messier Club Observer's Handbook or for double stars, Burnham Club Observer's Handbook. Just sent an 8.5" x 11" SASE with \$1 postage affixed to: Lee Keith, MAS Observing Clubs Coordinator, 1239B E. Randolph Ct., Milwaukee, WI 53212. They contain a wealth of information, hints and detailed maps to help find the more elusive objects. And best of all, they're FREE! After observing and recording the objects in the list, you will receive a certificate from the Astronomical League.

## Telescope Building Class

Peter Smitka will again offer a telescope making class in the winter of '90-'91 if there is enough interest. For details, contact him at 785-0926.

## Kudos for Karen

The Board and members thank Karen Wesner (Keith) for her three years service as secretary. Karen's diligent work on the MAS policy statements is especially appreciated.

## New Members

The following new members were recently announced by the MAS Board:

**Daniel R. Reindl and Family**  
- Beth, Neal and Nicole  
- Milwaukee

**Leo Kohlmann Reason  
and Claire, Hope and Mike.**  
- Milwaukee

**Richard E. Friedman**  
- Chicago

Welcome! When you see these members at meetings and other MAS functions, introduce yourself and make them feel a part of the group

## For Sale

Novak 2" hexagonal focuser with 1.25" adapter, \$45.00. Call Rick Moskow at 691-1088.

32 mm Televue Plossl \$60.00. Call Matthew McNeeley at 354-5347.

## Fast Film Available

2415 Tech Pan film now available! Hypered, 36 exp. \$7.25 ea or will hyper your own. For details: Paul Borchardt 781-0169

## Coming Events

Astronomical League National Convention on July 31 - August 4, 1990, on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis.

For more information, refer to the May Reflector, or write to: Stephen Best, 6943 Amherst, St. Louis, MO 63130.

## Yip-Ee-Yi-Yoo!

Texas Star Party, May 1990: Peter Smitka was awarded a certificate of merit for telescope design for his new 18.5" Dobsonian. Are we surprised?

Congratulations Pete!

## Standing Ovation

Leroy Simandl was presented with his plaque at the May meeting in appreciation of his twenty years of service to the Society as Newsletter Editor.

Thanks Leroy, and Florence too.

## Saturday Nite Keyholders

June 30	Peter Smitka 785-0926
July 7	Virgil Tangney 327-7976
July 14	James Toeller 352-7144
July 21	Richard Wiesen 781-4786
July 28	Paul Borchardt 781-0169
August 4	Greg Cieslak 744-5703
August 11	Brian Ganiere 272-4649
August 18	Chris Hesselstine 482-4515
August 25	Lee Keith 961-8752
September 1	Dan Koehler 662-2987
September 8	John Pfannerstill 475-6494
September 15	Terry Ross 784-2093

## Dues Coming Due

Renewal form in September Focal Point and opportunity to order magazines, calenders, etc.

- \$40 - Regular members (16 and over)
- \$40 - Family Plan (members plus \$1 ea. additional person)
- \$25 - Juniors (under 16 as of September 1, 1990)
- \$30 - Non Residents

## 1990 Open House Schedule

Here is an abridged 1990 Open house schedule. Support the club by helping out with crowd control, MAS Bookstore, parking, and just mingling with the public answering questions. Contact Lee Keith (the chairperson of summer Open Houses) at 961-8752. All open houses begin at 8:00 pm and are held rain or (star) shine. Encourage your friends to attend.

We still need a speaker for the October 5th Saturn Talk.

If you have any extra open house schedules, please bring them back to the Observatory ASAP.

July 13	Space Exploration
July 27	The Moon
August 10	Perseid Meteor Shower
August 24	Observing with Binoculars
September 7	Constellations
September 21	Uranus Neptune and Pluto
October 5	Ringed Planet Saturn

## Have 'Scope Will Travel (to Waukesha)

The Retzer Nature Center in Waukesha is having an astronomical class this summer, and has asked MAS members to attend, for free, to bring their telescopes for public viewing after the indoor program. Date is Friday, August 3, with a rain date of August 25. The indoor program begins at 8:30pm, the viewing begins at 9:30-10:30. Call Lee Keith @ 961-8752 for more information.

## May Election Results

Re-elected: Paul Borchardt and Tom Renner. Elected were: James Kube and Sally Waraczynski. Wanda Berner replaced John Asztalos for the remainder of his term.

The Board elected Dorothy Kube as Secretary. The current Board members include: Wanda Berner, Paul Borchardt, Brian Ganiere, Lee Keith, James Kube, Matthew McNeeley, Jeanine Nichols, Tom Renner, Peter Smitka, James Toeller and Sally Waraczynski.

## Clean up Days - Help Wanted!

Saturdays are the day for Observatory maintenance and improvements. Help Wanted! Call Gerry Samolyk at 475-9418, Paul Borchardt at 781-0169, or the Observatory at 542-9071.



## MAS INFORMATION

### MAS OFFICERS

President Dr. Richard Wiesen  
781-4786

Vice President Matthew McNeeley  
354-5347

Secretary Dorothy Kube  
453-8858

Treasurer Dan Koehler  
662-2987

Obs. Director Gerry Samolyk  
475-9418

Ast. Obs. Director Paul Borchardt  
781-0169

Librarian Mrs. Sally Waraczynski  
321-0918

Assist. Librarian Mrs. June Regis  
962-0896

Program Dir. Tom Renner  
392-2799

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354-5347

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Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
476-6986

### MAS Observatory

18850 W. Observatory Rd.  
New Berlin, WI  
542-9071