

# FOCAL POINT



Newsletter for the *Milwaukee Astronomical Society* February 1991

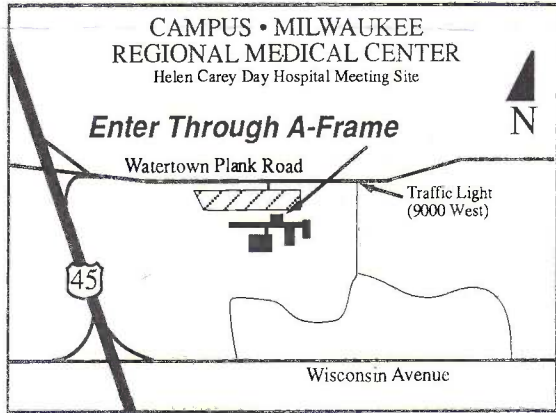
### From The Editor

Highlighted this month is the schedule of programs and events for the coming year. If known they are stated, others that are tentative will be forthcoming. Your input and suggestions are always welcome and appreciated in relation to these and any new proposals. Feel free to call members of the Board to make your wishes known.

*-Matthew McNeeley & Tom Gill*

### Program/Meeting

This month's program will feature a special guest speaker-Mr. John Briggs, a guest conductor of Sky & Telescope's Gleanings for A.T.M.'s. Mr Briggs is currently working at Yerkes Observatory as an observatory engineer, developing special equipment and instrumentation for the observatory. Previously Mr. Briggs was an observer on the 60" telescope of Mt. Wilson Observatory for over a year. While that duty was interesting, Mr.



Briggs most memorable assignment was at the National Observatory at Venuzuela, situated high in the Venezuela Andes Mountains. He will share that experience with us in his presentation titled: "A Venezuelan Mountaintop Observatory". Come prepared for a most enjoyable evening! Doors open 7:30 to 8:5pm only.

*-Thomas Renner*

<b>Inside!</b>	
Library News .....	2
Astronomy Classes .....	2
1991 Calendar of Events .....	2

### Reminder-Ski 'N Stars

Saturday, February 9 is the Ski 'N (Hike) Stars at Pike Lake. See January *Focal Point* for details or call Tim Burris at 783-6572.

<b>Saturday Nite Keyholders</b>	
Feb. 9 Richard Wiesen 781-4757	
Feb. 16 Paul Borchardt 781-0169	
Feb. 23 Greg Cieslak 744-5703	
Mar. 2 Brian Ganiere 961-8745	
Mar. 9 Chris Hasseltine 482-4515	
Mar. 16 Lee Keith 961-8752	
Mar. 23 Dan Koehler 662-2987	

<b>Calendar of Events</b>	
February 14, Thursday .....	New Moon
February 15, Friday .....	8:00 pm Program-Meeting
February 22, Friday .....	Deadline for next <u>Focal Point</u>
February 28, Thursday .....	Full Snow Moon
March 6, Wednesday .....	First Wednesday Meeting 7:30 at the Observatory
March 11, Monday .....	MAS Board Meeting 7:30pm at Paul Borchardt's house
Saturday Nights—Member night at Observatory—Call key holder	

## Library News

This month we are highlighting recent donations from our members:

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** 1990 AstroFest. Over 30 candid portraits of participants and their inventive telescope designs were taken by Sally Jo Michalko. The pictures can be found, along with those from previous years, in an album in the HISTORY file.

**SLIDES:** If you attended the September meeting, you will remember the Observatory facility and equipment review given by Paul Borchardt. If you were not there, or any time you need a refresher, these slides are an excellent guide to what is available for our members' use.

**BOOKS:** Scott Laskowski found himself with a surplus of Rand McNally Astronomical Atlases, and the library now has four of these beautifully illustrated studies. Each covers a single subject-Jupiter, Saturn, the Sun, and the Moon.

**CORRECTION:** In the January issue, lines 6-7 of the Webb Society, Vol. 8: Variable Stars passage should read: ... field guide to 110 variables, most of which are suitable for visual observation. Comparison star values are given with the caution that. . .  
-Sally Waraczynski

## Astronomy Class

What's a Black Hole? How do we know about the stars? How do I observe the constellations? These and many more questions will be answered at the class "Adventures in Astronomy" offered by the MAS through UW-Waukesha. This class is for beginners—only a burning curiosity is required. The dates are March 22, Apr. 5, 19, 26 and May 3rd from 7-9:30pm at the Observatory. Special activities include telling time with the Big Dipper and observing sessions. While there is a fee, MAS members get a substantial discount. For more information call Lee Keith at 961-8752. To register, call Don Bracco at UW-Waukesha at 521-5460.

## Focus on the Programs and Events for 1991

February 15, Friday	Program/Meeting
March 15, Friday	Program/Meeting
April 12-13, Friday-Sat.	NCRAL Convention, Green Bay, WI
April 19, Friday	Program/Meeting
April 20, Saturday	Astronomy Day at the Observatory
May 10-11	Spring Camp-Out
May 17, Friday	Program/Meeting-Election of Officers and members to the Board.
July 19, August 2, 16, 30, September 13, 27, October 11	Open Houses for the Public, held at 8:00pm at the Observatory (every other week)
July 27, Saturday	Annual Picnic at the Observatory
August 9-11	Summer Camp-Out
September 6-7	Astrofest
September 20, Friday	Program/Meeting
October 11-12	Fall Camp-Out
October 18, Friday	Annual Banquet
November 15, Friday	Program/Meeting
December 13, Friday	Program/Meeting



## 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  
529-9051

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

### FOCAL POINT Staff

Matthew McNeeley (Editor)  
8200 N. Cedarburg Road  
Brown Deer, WI 53209  
354-5347

Tom Gill (publisher)  
1391 N. 72nd Street  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
476-6986

### MAS Observatory

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