

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.

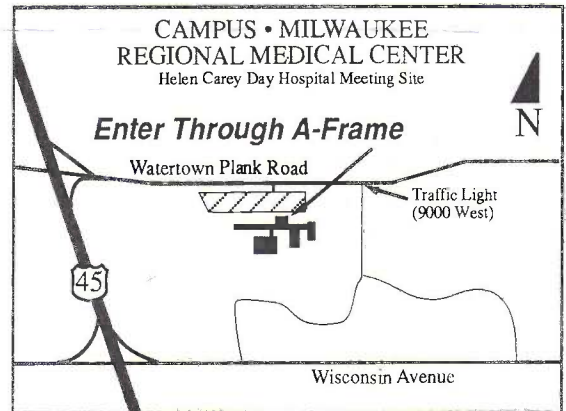
-Matthew McNeeley & Tom Gill

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



Inside!

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Saturday Nite Keyholders

| | | |
|---------|------------------|----------|
| 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 |

Calendar of Events

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 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

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.

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 |

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