

# FOCAL POINT



Newsletter for the

*Milwaukee Astronomical Society*

March 1991

## From The Editor

March is Messier Month. I marvel that in one long evening, we can see what took Messier years to decipher. As I review my *Messier Album* indoors, I look upon these photos as a 'warm-up' for the outdoor star sessions soon to commence. Although I know I should record my observations, somehow I feel compelled to push on to other domains be they NGC listings or (a more recent interest for me) double stars—the exquisitely beautiful, closely embraced jewels of the night sky. And yet as March arrives, I am strongly drawn to the sky that Messier once gazed upon.

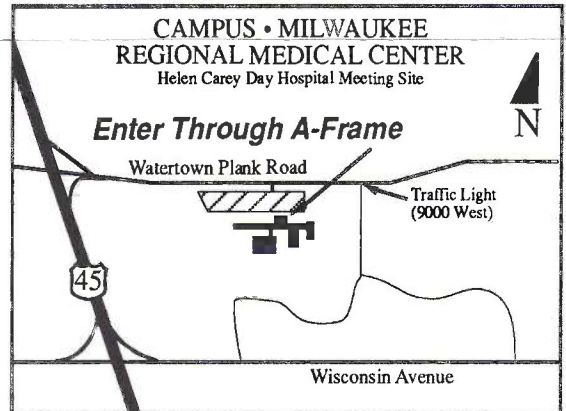
For astronomy out of the cold, enjoy the NCRAL Convention on April 13 in De Pere, WI. Then, two weeks later on April 27, join the MAS field trip to Adler Planetarium.

-Matthew McNeeley

## Program/Meeting

Those of you who attended the MAS spring field trip to the University of Wisconsin-Madison last year will remember how involved the UW is in the space program. Recently the Shuttle carried the Astro-1 Space Telescope, largely developed by the UW. Dr. Chris Anderson, one of the principal investigators in the mission, will join us to share the triumphs and failures, joys and regrets, and of course the results of the experience. Dr. Anderson has visited the MAS in the past and was a popular speaker. His program for the March meeting is titled: "Astro-1 Space Shuttle Observatory" and promises to be both informative and entertaining. I hope to see you there!

-Thomas Renner



## Class Reminder

There is still time to sign up for Adventures in Astronomy offered by the MAS through UW-Waukesha on March 22, April 5, 19, 26 and May 3rd from 7-9:30. See February *Focal Point* for details or call Lee Keith at 961-8752.

## Calendar of Events

- March 11, Monday..... MAS Board Meeting  
7:30pm at Paul Borchardt's house
- March 15, Friday..... 8:00 pm Program-Meeting
- March 16, Saturday .....New Moon
- March 20, Wednesday .....Deadline for next *Focal Point*
- March 30, Thursday .....Full Moon
- April 3, Wednesday ..... First Wednesday Meeting  
7:30 at the Observatory

Saturday Nights—Member night at Observatory—Call key holder

### Saturday Nite Keyholders

- Mar. 9 Chris Hasseltine 482-4515
- Mar. 16 Lee Keith 961-8752
- Mar. 23 Dan Koehler 662-2987
- Mar. 30 John Pfannerstill 475-6494
- Apr. 6 Frank Roldan 608-787-1730



## Library News

New book: The New Solar System, 3rd Edition, edited by J. Kelly Beatty and Andrew Chaikin, 1990. Due to space restrictions, it will be reviewed next month.

Meteorites which have fallen to Earth have provided many clues to scientists studying the chemistry and origin of pieces of our solar system puzzle. Dan Koehler's monograph Looking For Celestial Needles in a Terrestrial Haystack recounts the history of the Trenton (West Bend) meteorite apparently first discovered in the 1680's. MAS members, particularly Rob Reisener, have recently searched for and retrieved additional fragments of the Trenton fall. Dan's paper is located in the vertical file labeled HISTORY-OBSERVATORY PROJECTS.

**Book Offers:** Deep-Sky Name Index 2000.0 - Over 100 pages of name listings include type of object, constellation, synonyms and coordinates. Cross-referenced for easy access. \$16.95 (Foxon-Maddocks Associates).

Quick Reference Guide to Astronomy Magazine, 1973-1990 - an index to articles, features, photos, etc, listed with simplified titles and grouped by subject; cross reference tables and subject definitions for easy location. \$7.00 (special price from Geomages Publishing Co.)

Order from Sally Waraczynski • 3725 S. 71st St. • Milwaukee, WI 53220 • 321-0918  
Make checks out to Sally, or bring cash to the March 15 Program/Meeting.

-Sally Waraczynski

## NCRAL News

The NCRAL Convention will be held on April 13, 1991 at the De Pere, WI Howard Johnson's Hotel just off US Highway 41 and east of the Austin Staubel Airport. Sponsored by the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society, (Green Bay) in celebration of that group's 25th anniversary. The convention begins at 9:00 am, Saturday, with registration at 8:00 am Saturday (early birds can register between 5:00 and 9:00pm on Friday). Questions about the convention and registration forms are available by contacting Dan Koehler at 662-2987.

Reminder—as discussed at the last MAS meeting, nominations are underway for the Regional Award. Contact NCRAL Vice Chairman Marion Bachteil directly with questions or nominations. 1901 South Tenth Street, Burlington, IA 52601 (319) 753-1442. Nominations due by March 14, 1991.

## New Members — And a Big Welcome to:

Bill Bedrosian and Sandy, Chris, Leann and Megan-Wauwatosa  
Ernie Mastroianni -Whitefish Bay  
Nicholas Lajoie (Jr. Member) -Waukesha

What's pink and perfect? The Rosetta Nebula? (Maybe in an Obsession-sized scope). I was thinking of the newest of the new members, Emily Susan Gill, born to Susan and Tom Gill under the full Snow Moon, 2/28/91.

## Looking Ahead (& Up)

Dave Kriege has reserved a group site at Wildcat Mountain State Park for May 10/11, August 9/10 and October 4/5. All members are welcome to attend these observing camping weekends. The site has excellent dark skies and beautiful scenery. Also, horseback riding, canoe rental, Amish shops and hiking make it an ideal family getaway. 3 hour drive from Milwaukee. Call Dave Kriege if interested 1-648-8284.



## MAS INFORMATION

### MAS OFFICERS

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