

# FOCAL POINT



Newsletter for the *Milwaukee Astronomical Society* November 1992

## From The Editor

Mid-Autumn. Soon, cool, frosty nights with snowflakes abounding. On upcoming clear, cool nights the arms of Andromeda reach out, inviting and reminding us that the Pleiades, Crab Nebula, Orion Nebula, and countless other sky delights await our gazes. Let us, in this season of Thanks, ever be grateful for a cosmos to contemplate and friends to share it with.

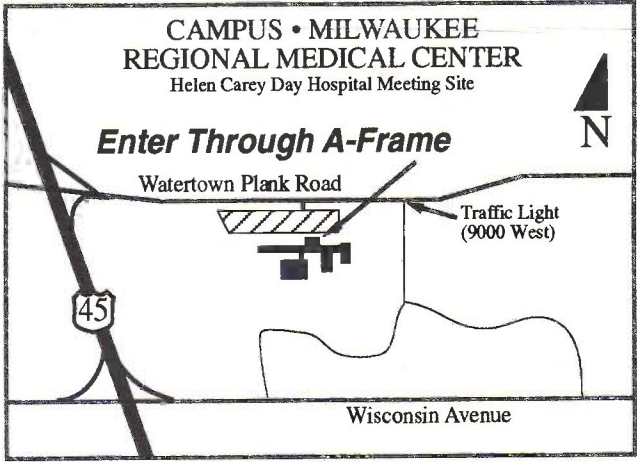
This fall, a different sort of star party awaits your participation. The Messier Search and Chili Dump should provide some fun, camaraderie and practical observing experience for all who attend. See article for details.

*-Matthew McNeely & Tom Gill*

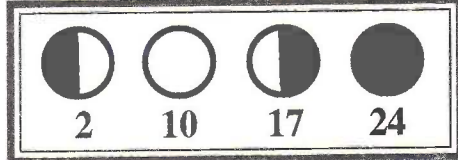
## Program/Meeting

For our November Program/Meeting, we will once again return to the Helen Carey Day Hospital meeting site (see map).

After the mgeneral meeting, the speaker will be Dr. John Mathis from UW-Madison who will speak to us on "Alchemy of the Stars." Dr. Mathis has spoken to MAS members on several occasions and is always an entertaining and enlightening speaker. Program is geared for all ages and skill levels. Meeting starts at 8:00pm.



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Calendar of Events	
November 20, Friday .....	8:00 pm Program-Meeting
November 21, Saturday .....	Messier Search & Chili Dump
November 27, Friday .....	Deadline for next <u>Focal Point</u>
December 2, Wednesday .....	First Wednesday Meeting 7:30 at the Observatory
December 11, Friday .....	8:00 pm Program-Meeting MAS Board Meeting 7:30 pm
Saturday Nights—Member night at Observatory—Call key holder	

## Library News

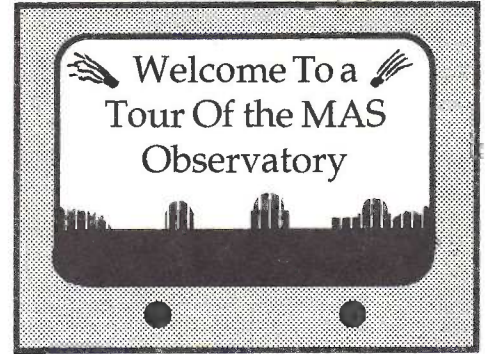
By the time you read this, the contents of the NEW BOOK BOX at the observatory will have been put into the enclosed bookshelves for winter. All this means, of course, is that you will have to expend a little more energy to find what's new and of particular interest. That is what the CARD CATALOG is all about— helping you find what's available in our library.

There are now two drawers for the Card Catalog; one is an alphabetical listing of titles and authors. Titles are filed without regard to first words like "The" and "AA." For example: "The Comet is Coming" will be found under "C." Look in this file, too, to find what we might have by your favorite author; Goldsmith, Donald or Jastrow, Robert, etc. The Subject file, also alphabetical, will guide you to all that we might have by about BLACK HOLES, IMAGING SYSTEMS IN ASTRONOMY, or STARS, VARIABLE, etc. Of course, you can do much of the searching in the comfort of your home with one of the printed catalogs produced by Tom Renner— most recently updated 3/92, and available from the librarian for a modest fee.

Once you have found what you want in the Card Catalog, look at the "address code" in the upper left corner of the card. Our books are shelved in alphabetical-numerical sequence just like any other library. QB books precede QC books; 51 precedes 51.3; B488 precedes C488; B488s precedes B488t; 1979 precedes 1985. The only tricky part is that some books are too tall for the upper shelves, so a second sorting had to be done for the lower shelves.

QB  
63  
P833y  
1991

This is the "address code" for Michael Porcellino's book "A Young Astronomer's Guide."



## MAS Equipment Tour

It was damp! It was chilly! It was daylight!? It was exciting?? What did you miss!?

The tour of the MAS equipment of October 10th was interesting although not as well attended as we had hoped. Five people turned out to learn from Paul Borchardt what equipment the MAS has available for its members. It was exciting to learn all about the large telescopes and things like the patrol camera and dollar keys.

Now we have five more members who can now make full use of their observatory. Wanda Berner taped the tour and if you are interested in seeing it there is a copy at the observatory which you can watch in the Z-building on the TV that Marty Brunet donated. We will also have a copy that can be checked out of the library and taken home. The VHS tape is 2 hrs long and is an amateur production, but it will help acquaint you with everything.

The tape would be helpful to watch before using the large telescopes. Remember that anyone can ask to be a keyholder, but you must first show that you have a working knowledge of the observatory.

If you would like to have your own private tour, remember that every Saturday night the keyholder will gladly show you anything you need to know. All you have to do is call them in advance and tell them that you will be there for sure.

—Sally Waraczynski

—Wanda Berner

## What's New:

Thanks to Barb Swiontek for another generous multiple donation: Black Holes and the Universe, Novikov; Comet and The Cosmic Connection by Sagan; The Comet is Coming and Violent Universe by Calder; Echoes of the Ancient Skies, Krupp; The Edge of Infinity, Davies; How to Use an Astronomical Telescope, Muirden; Nemesis: The Death Star and Supernova by Goldsmith; 100 Billion Suns, Kuppenhahn; Planets and Moons, Kaufmann; Red Giants and White Dwarfs (rev. ed.), Jastrow; The Red Limit, Ferris; and The Restless Universe, Born. Sagan's The Dragons of Eden and Trefil's Meditations at 10,00 Feet will be offered for sale at some future date with permission from Barb.

Purchased by trade and minimal cash from Knollwood Books of Oregon, WI: Uranus: The Planet, Rings and Satellites by Ellis Miner— post-Voyager science.

Sally Jo Michalko's Photographs from 1991 Astrofest are now in an album (3rd in a series) at the observatory. Thanks, Sally, for continuing your faithful documentation of the event.

## Messier Search & Chili Dump

What is a Chili Dump? How do I start (or finish) my Messier list? Find the answer to these and other questions on November 21st at dusk at the Observatory.

We are having a winter star party to help us all get going on our observing lists. Lee Keith will have the Messier information and logs available at the November meeting so you can get ready to Observe on the 21st. Dan Koehler has volunteered to help people get started finding objects.

This party is a "go" RAIN OR STAR SHINE! The Chili Dump is on even if we can't see a star in the sky. Bring a batch of chili that will feed the people that you have with you. Also, bring your own bowl, spoon and coffee cup. We will dump everyone's chili into a large pot and keep it simmering all evening. Toppings will be provided. Coffee and hot chocolate will be steaming.

In the auditorium we will have a continual slide show going and in the office we will be playing a tape of the last three Astrofests and a visit to Yerkes. In the Z-building, a video tape of the MAS Equipment Tour will be shown. And if you have something like a new scope, eyepiece or gee-whizmo to "show-and-tell," bring it along! There will be food and fun and information no matter what is going on outside.

RSVP's would be helpful in planning the amount of toppings. If you know you can come, please call Wanda Berner by Nov. 20 at 691-2360 or 646-8229 and leave a message on the machine. Hope to see many of you there!

-Wanda Berner

## Phone Tree Update

The phone tree is finally in place. The list is short. If you forgot to sign up for impromptu observing or to be told if there is an aurora going on it's not too late to get on the list. We envision this as a dynamic and ever-growing list. Remember that if you are not on the list and you hear that a group of people were out observing and discovered a new comet, don't feel bad because you weren't invited. You are signing your own permanent invitation if you send your form to: Wanda Berner, 1307 E. Devonshire Rd. Delafield, WI 53018.

## Quilt Raffle Winner

First, a big thank-you to Wanda Berner for donating her time and talent in creating the beautiful quilt that was put up for raffle this year. Tickets were sold at open houses, meetings and the NCRAL convention and the club raised \$60.50. When it was all said and done, the lucky winner was Ruth Schultz of Milwaukee.

Perhaps you have a talent or the inclination to donate something with an astronomical motif so that we can continue this activity next year?

## Saturday Nite Keyholders

Nov. 7	Dan Koehler	662-2987
Nov. 14	Jim Kube	453-8858
Nov. 21	John Pfannerstill	475-6494
Nov. 28	Frank Roldan	608-787-1730
Dec. 5	Terry Ross	784-2093
Dec. 12	Gerry Samolyk	529-9051
Dec. 19	T. Schmidt-kunz	784-0253
Dec. 26	Peter Smitka	785-0926

## MAS Clothing

Member Tom Gill also operates a home business, Chest Works, and prints MAS logo clothing including the new MAX APERTURE design which was shown in the last Focal Point.

T-shirts	\$7.50
Sweat shirts	\$11.00
Nylon Jackets	\$28.00
Quilted Jackets	\$34.00
(for jacket back print, add \$5)	

## For Sale

Equatorial mount for a small telescope—deluxe hardwood tripod is adjustable up to 60" tall. Same set-up as advertised in Orion's Fall Catalog (Pg. 44). New, \$199.00, mine which is like new will cost you \$100.00. Matthew McNeely at 354-5347 if interested.

## MAS Pins

Yes, we still have pins! Bring \$5 to the November meeting and you will go home sporting a classy 1-inch logo pin! Don't be the last one to get pinned!

## Special Directory (From MAS Member Packet)

The following MAS members are willing to share their time and expertise with other members. If you have a special interest to share with others, contact Sally Waraczynski. This list will be updated annually.

<b>Astrophotography</b>	
Paul Borchardt	781-0169
Brian Ganiere (B&W printing)	961-8745
Dan Koehler	662-2987
<b>Binoculars, viewing &amp; selection</b>	
Tom Gill	476-6986
<b>CCD</b>	
John Briggs	414-245-5555 (Yerkes)
<b>Computer Networking</b>	
Dan Koehler	662-2987
Dr. Richard Wiesen	781-4786
<b>Electronic Controls</b>	
Gregg Cieslak	529-0548
<b>Observing Aids</b>	
Tim Burrus (the "Well-Equipped Astronomer")	783-6572
<b>Photolelectric Photometry</b>	
Brian Ganiere	961-8745
Tom Renner	524-0932
<b>Telescope</b>	
Buying and using	
Alan Dyer	796-8776 (Kalmbach)
Design & Maintenance	
Peter Smitka	785-0926
Mirrors (testing)	
Jim Toeller	352-7144
Refurbishing (esp. refractors)	
John Briggs	414-245-5555 (Yerkes)

There are many other members with special interests who would also be happy to help you. The best way to meet them is to attend MAS meetings and events!

## Your Help Needed in CIS

*Excerpted from the Astronomy Network News.*

You may have seen this request in *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope* but it merits repeating here. The American Astronomical Society (AAS) is requesting aid to support individual astronomers in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the former Soviet Union.

Contributing as little as \$10 or \$25 can help keep a professional astronomer from being forced to leave the science and perhaps the country.

The funds drive is planned to be a one or two year effort which will keep vital research projects—and hopes—alive. Your generosity can make a world of difference to a deserving fellow astronomer. Send contribution checks to: AAS Executive Office, 2000 Florida Ave. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009.



## MAS INFORMATION

### MAS OFFICERS

President	Dr. Richard Wiesen 781-4786
Vice President	Matthew McNeely 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
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