

FOCAL POINT



Newsletter for the *Milwaukee Astronomical Society* September 1992

From The Editor

As the Summer Triangle gives way to Autumn's Great Square, MAS opens the fall season with a stellar lineup of activities and programs for your enjoyment—Open Houses and the Astrofest and Greenbush campouts—reminders that some of the year's best viewing lies just ahead.

We look forward to seeing you at these and other events throughout the year. We also want to remind you to share your thoughts and insights about some special aspect of observing or astronomy in general. Even if writing is not your thing, we'll gladly work with your ideas, sketchy notes, or verbal comments. The *Focal Point* is your newsletter, we just oversee the information. Come on—we'd love to hear from you.

Reminder: September is membership renewal month so please send in your dues today. Dues renewal information is included in a separate flyer.

-Matthew McNeely & Tom Gill

NCRAL Photo Kudos

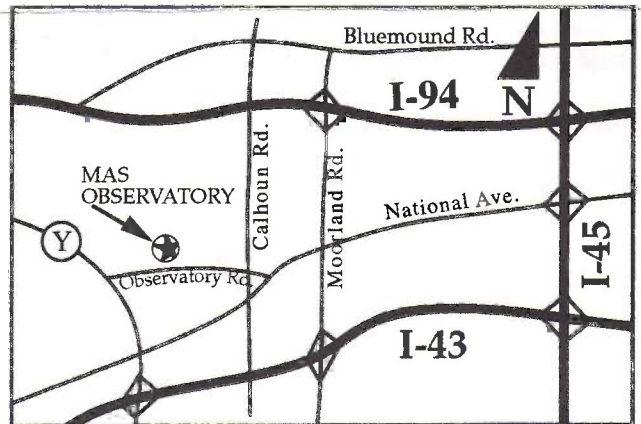
Belated kudos to member Eric Oxendorf for his donation of time and materials in creating the NCRAL group photo.

Eric's name was accidentally omitted from the last *Focal Point*. Thanks Eric!

Program/Meeting

September's Program/Meeting, traditionally held at the Observatory, promises to be a good one. Richard Berry, former editor of *ASTRONOMY* magazine, will give a talk and demonstration on "State of the Art Electronic Astronomy" including CCD and video applications.

For the benefit of our new members, a map is provided. Allow extra time to get to the meeting because of road construction on National Ave. and also Calhoun Rd. The meeting starts at 8pm. Rumor has it that cookies and coffee will be served!



-Tom Renner

Calendar of Events

- September 4, Friday Open House (at the Observatory)
- September 11, Friday **8:00 pm Program-Meeting**
at the Observatory - Board Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- September 18-19 Astrofest (see article)
- September 25, Friday Deadline for next Focal Point
- September 25-26 Greenbush Campout (see article)
- October 2, Friday Open House (at the Observatory)
- October 7, Wednesday First Wednesday Meeting
7:30 at the Observatory
- Saturday Nights—Member night at Observatory—Call key holder

The Pins Are In

The MAS pins are in, as in "in style" and "in the possession" of Sally Waraczynski. The classy 1-inch diameter pins sport the MAS logo in gold, white and dark blue. Get yours for just \$5 at the September or subsequent meetings, or by contacting Sally at 321-0918.

Member Observing Award

Congratulations to member **Richard Adduci**, of Eagle, WI, who has earned an honorary Messier Certificate for observing all 110 Messier objects! Just last year Richard earned the regular Messier Certificate for observing 70 or more objects.

As a reminder to observers, the MAS offers, for deep sky observing, the Messier Club Observer's Handbook, or for double stars, the Burnham Club Observer's Handbook, if you send an 8.5" x 11" SASE with (4) 29 cent stamps to: Lee Keith, MAS Observing Clubs Coordinator, 8150 S. Legend Dr., Franklin, WI 53132-9623. They contain a wealth of info on observing techniques and hints, and detailed maps to find the more elusive objects. Best of all, they're FREE! There is also a Binocular Messier Certificate for observing 50 or more Messier objects with just binoculars.

After observing and recording the objects in the list, you will receive a certificate from the Astronomical League. In addition, there are the Herschel 400 and the new Herschel 800 programs for viewing some the famous astronomer's deep-sky discoveries.

—Lee Keith

Astronomical Software

The MAS has a substantial library of public domain/shareware astronomical software for IBM-PC and compatibles. Titles are too numerous to list, so for more information, contact Lee Keith at 425-2331

For Sale

A complete set of ASTRONOMY magazines from 1974 to present, most in original mailing sleeves and cardboard display boxes. Included is an index. Make offer. I would be open to donating them to a worthwhile organization or public entity if they would have them. Any ideas, call Lee Keith at 425-2331.

Vernonswscope 94mm f/7 apochromatic refractor with alt-az mount, wood tripod, adjustable lens cell, solar filter, 32mm Erfle e.p., white tube and case (for tube assembly); \$1200. Contact Alan Dyer at 796-8776 (W) or 594-3763 (H).

Pre-Astrofest bargains, all quality and all like new. Televue Widefield, 19mm, \$75; University Optics 6.5mm, \$45 and 3.2mm, \$65; Parks 2" light pollution filter, \$50. Call Matthew McNeely at 354-5347 if interested.

Member Packet

Now available! The MAS "Member Packet" contains information on every aspect of our society. See our new mascot (name withheld until the Sept. Meeting) and read 13 pages of text and graphics and several stand-alone documents. Distributed free to new members and also available to other members at cost (estimate is \$4 ea.). The first printing is just 50 packets, so if interested, please call Sally Waraczynski at 321-0918.

Groceries = Cash for MAS

Some local grocery chains offer a program whereby non-profit organizations receive 1% of tape totals.

We've already applied for participation in the CUB food stores program. Please start saving your receipts from any CUB food store you shop. We will also apply with Pick 'n Save stores as soon as we determine the 3 stores used most by MAS members. There will be a collection box at the observatory; receipts can be brought to meetings or mail them to project coordinator Karen Wessener, 8150 S. Legend Dr., Franklin, WI 53132-9623.

Watch the *Focal Point* for more information.

Saturday Nite Keyholders

Sept. 5	Ken Waraczynski	321-0918
Sept. 12	Richard Wiesen	781-4757
Sept. 19	Wanda Berner	646-8229
Sept. 26	Paul Borchardt	781-0169
Oct. 3	Marty Brunet	544-1342
Oct. 10	Greg Cieslak	529-0548
Oct. 17	Brian Ganiere	961-8745

Fall Campouts/Star Parties

ASTROFEST—September 18-19 in Kankakee, IL (40 mi. SW of Chicago). Over 500 amateurs are expected to attend and there will be nearly as many astronomical instruments. For more info, ask either editor (we're multi-year veterans!). Previous attenders receive registration materials automatically, others should contact: ASTROFEST, PO Box 596, Tinley Park, IL 60477, or call Alan Birkner at 708-966-6214

GREENBUSH: The Winged Horse—Our Fall Campout will take place at Greenbush on Friday-Saturday September 25-26 at Greenbush campsite #5-6. A waning Moon will allow the Great Square to dominate and delight us along with other autumnal acquaintances. Bring your tent, telescope, and firewood. Please call Paul Borchardt in advance if you plan to attend. Campers must pay \$2 per day plus vehicle registration (\$3.50 per day or \$14 for an annual sticker). For more information call Paul at 781-0169.

New Members-Welcome!

Joel Harris, Burbank, CA
Thomas M. Krajenska, Pamela & Katie, Milwaukee
Doug Spankowski, Milwaukee
A. Javier & Nancy Trevino, Milwaukee
Brent Williams, Michael, Joyce & Stacy, Milwaukee

Officer information not included in this issue due to space restrictions. If you want to contact an officer, see a past issue or call Tom Gill at 476-6986.