

--From the President--
Board Elections

On May 20th, Board Elections will be held for several positions to fill completed terms or openings created by recent resignations. Once constituted, the newly elected Board will elect the officers including: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Terms of office for the Board are three years. Those of the Officers are one year.

The Officers and Board of Directors are responsible for coordinating the calendar of

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Wiesen scope dedication moved to May

--by Matthew McNeely, President

The dedication of the Richard Wiesen Memorial Telescope will take place at the May 20th program meeting. We cordially invite Mrs. Richard Wiesen and members of the Richard Wiesen family to participate in this event.

It is hoped that the dedication and first light will co-incide. The telescope, which is an 18" Obsession Dobsonian built by MAS member Dave Kriege, is nearing completion but the primary mirror, made by Galaxy Optics, will not be delivered in time for the April meeting. It is hoped the mirror will arrive in time for the May dedication, which will happen, regardless. Galaxy Optics, which makes mirrors that many consider the best in the industry, is working hard to keep up with a high demand for their mirrors.

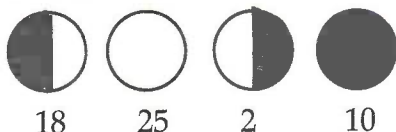
Kriege anticipates delivery by the May date.

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April program

Our speaker for the program meeting on April 15th at the observatory will be Dr. Richard G. Kron, the Director of Yerkes Observatory. Kron is a professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Chicago. Dr. Kron is working at the Enrico Fermi Institute on the "Sloan Digital Sky Survey. The survey is part of the Astrophysical Research Consortium, which runs the 3.5 meter Apache Point Observatory. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.



Calendar of events

April 15, 7:30 pm..... Membership meeting at the observatory
April 16, 2 pm..... Astronomy Day
May 4, 7:30 pm..... First Wednesday meeting at the observatory.
May 6-8..... Greenbush campout
May 10 Annular solar eclipse in Illinois
May 20 Combined Board, Membership meeting and
dedication of the Richard Wiesen telescope.

Saturday Nights—Member night at Observatory—Call key

Greenbush campout set!

The annual spring star party and campout will be at Greenbush again this year on May 6-8. The site is one hour north of Milwaukee, on Kettle Moraine Dr. just south of the Old Wade House State Park, which is on Highway 23. We are tentatively scheduled for sites 5&6. Call Paul Borchardt at 781-0169 for up-to-the minute details and more specific directions. The skies were clear and dark last year. Dress warmly, and bring firewood.

Astronomy Day help needed

April 16 has been designated National Astronomy Day, and the observatory will be open to the public starting at 2 pm for safe solar viewing and observing at night, weather permitting.

Members are needed to help show the public around the facilities, give short talks and to operate telescopes for solar viewing. And how about showing guest Venus in daylight? And we need help showing the night sky wonders and to share enthusiasm for our hobby. Call Lee Keith or Karen Wesener at 425-2331.

Library News

--by Sally Waraczynski

During one of his recent visits with W.W. Morgan down at Yerkes, Tim Burrus was able to secure a reprinted autobiographical sketch of this notable astronomer. Morgan was kind enough to sign the reprint which will be kept in the portfolio containing his "Revised M-K Spectral Atlas". The atlas is in the MAS Historical Collection.

New Books include "From Stone to Star: A View of Modern Geology"- Allegre, 1992. Advances in geochemistry, more specifically in isotopic analysis, have enabled scientists to probe deeper into question like "How old is the earth?" and "How did it form?" Meteorites apparently predate the formation of the planets, but elements of both condensed in the same molecular cloud. This book requires careful reading, especially for the non-chemist, but is worth the effort.

Serious observers among us are probably familiar with the 1982 and earlier Sidgwick man-

uals. "Sky Watchers Handbook"-Muirden, 1993, again covers the various projects where amateur astronomers can make a real contribution to science. Learn how to monitor lunar transient phenomena search for comets, or observe and record the changing faces of the planets. With this update, more attention is given to the electronic developments now available to and practical for amateur use.

The 1994 update to the MAS Library Catalog is now available. Thanks again to the efforts of Tom Renner, members may pursue the contents of our collection from the comfort of their homes. The listings are by Title, Author, and Subject, and the complete catalog costs just \$3.00

Saturday Night keyholders

April 9.....Dan Koehler, 662-2987
April 16.....Jim Kube, 453-8858
April 23.....Scott Lascowski, 421-3517
May 1.....Joh Pfannerstill, 475-6494
May 7.....Terry Ross, 784-2093
May 14.....Gerry Samolyk-529-9051
May 21.....Tom Schmidkuntz, 352-1674

For Sale

Meade 10" f4.5 Newtonian reflector.
Equatorial mount, clock drive, 2" Erfle and adaptor
2.4 inch guide scope
\$500. Call Tom Schmidkuntz and 299-6383 days
352-1674 in the evening.

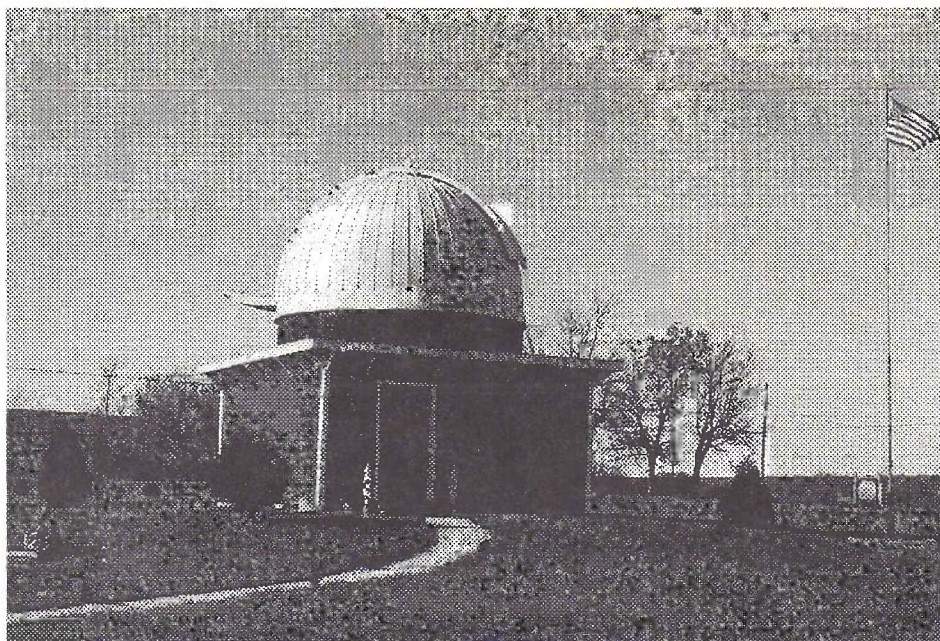
W.J. Nichols observatory will host open house on May 14

On Saturday, May 14th, you will have the opportunity to enter the Universe of the Astronomer as the Nichols Observatory opens its facilities to the public for a free tour and telescope clinic, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and continuing on until midnight. The observatory is located at 3885 Pioneer Rd. in the Town of Richfield.

Daytime Activities

There will be many things to do during the day until the sun goes down. Friends who are involved in solar observing programs will have their telescopes, with specially designed filter, pointed toward the star nearest to the planet earth, the Sun. You will have an opportunity to observe sun spots twice the size of the Earth.

There will be a telescope clinic. Have you been thinking about buying a telescope or building one? Learn about the different types available or how you can build your own. This is where you can see several side by side and make comparisons and ask questions without get-



ting a sales pitch for an answer. If you already own a telescope, bring it along. We'll show you how to take care of it and how to use it so you can join us for the night time observing session.

Night time activities

As the sun sets, activity around the observatory really picks up. The large variety of telescopes will open their eyes to the deepest portions of the universe to look at galaxies far, far away. So far that the light that you'll be seeing through the

eyepiece left its source over 100 million years ago. Some of the telescopes will be looking at things closer to home in our own Milky Way galaxy, such as globular star clusters and planetary nebula, evidence of stars in the final stages of life.

Whether your interest in astronomy is serious or just the casual armchair observer, we will have something for everyone. So come on out and join us at our public open house. If you have any questions or need directions, please call Nich at (414) 628-4059. Hope to see you there!

New astrocamera system introduced.

A new astrocamera system has recently been introduced by Taurus Technologies, Inc., in Woodstown, N.J. For those of us who have struggled with the problems inherent with heavy SLRs, guide scopes, off-axi guiders and dim viewing screens, this system seems to have solutions. The guiding system features a diagonal off-axis barlow, a target aquisition port, and a focusing port. (right) . The focusing eyepiece is held in place by a magnet and is interchangeable with the lightweight camera, which features a manual magnetic shutter. A lever changes the view between aquisition port and camera.



You need to dedicate one eyepiece as the calibrated focusing eyepiece. A calibrating light box comes with the camera system. Once the eyepiece is properly fixed in the magnetic collar, the camera will also be focused properly. The downside to this system is that it only exposes a one-inch circle of film. It requires 3.7 inches of backfocus, something many telescopes don't have. And the camera back, held on by four tiny nylon screws, is difficult to open in the dark. The cost is about \$300 for the system pictured. --Ernie Mastroianni

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activities and events sponsored by MAS as well as managing the budget of the Society. This is a challenging, responsible role to perform and yet one that is rewarding, too.

For more information, please call me or any other officer or Board member. We look forward to hearing from you, whether you choose to run for office or not. Your input and willingness to run for office create the vitality that is at the core of our society. I can be reached evenings at 354-5347.

Tim Burrus steps down

After putting together bringing a number of varied and interesting speakers to talk to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society, Tim Burrus has stepped down as Program Chairman. Burrus worked hard and the high caliber of his programs were enjoyed by many members of this society. Thanks, Tim.

MAS INFORMATION

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