

## Remembrance and Dedication

*Note: The following remarks were made by Milwaukee Astronomical Society president Matthew McNeely at the May 20th dedication of the Richard Wiesen*

*Memorial Telescope*

Tonight is a special night in the history of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society. For it is both a night of remembrance as we honor the memory of our friend Richard, as well as a night of celebration as we dedicate the Richard Wiesen Memorial Telescope.

Two weeks ago at Green Bush I had the occasion to enjoy the sky's delight with members of our Society. Informally and unofficially, "first light" was at hand as Obsession owner and member Dave Kreige steered from one galaxy group to another - reaching out to new

--see REMEMBRANCE, page 2

## Annual Picnic

The annual Milwaukee Astronomical Society Picnic will be held July 23 from 2 p.m. on at the observatory. Beer and Soda will be provided. Call Virgil Tangney, at 327-7976.

## Summer campout

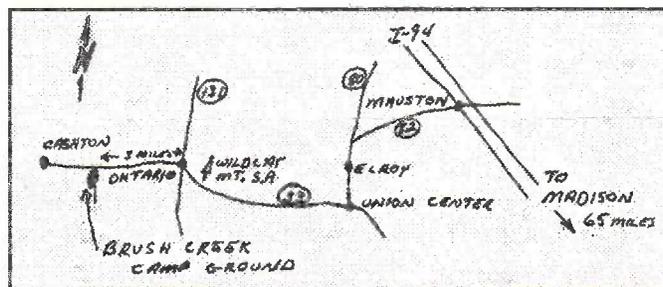
The summer outing will be held August 5 through August 7 this year. This is a Friday to Sunday night event located at Brush Creek campground near Wildcat Mountain State Park. in western Wisconsin. This is a private campground and we will have a group site on a hilltop away from most other campers.

Camping fees are \$6.25 per person or \$12.50 per family per day.

Available on the grounds are flush toilets, hot showers, a laundromat, store snack bar and swimming.

Brush Creek is located three miles west of Ontario on Highway 33 . This is

about a 3 to 3 1/2 hour drive from Milwaukee. For more information, call Paul Borchardt at 781-0169. Hope to see you there.



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## Jupiter comet encounter

Telescope time for the Shoemaker-Levy 9 collision with Jupiter is filling up. Contact Observatory Director Gerry Samolyk if you are interested in observing through MAS scopes. The observatory is open only to members for these not the public for these events. Check Sky and Telescope July issue for favorable times of impacts.

## Dues Reminder

It's getting to be that time of year again. Dues should be in by September 1. Dues forms will be sent out soon.

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## The MAS perspective on the May 10 eclipse

A rare combination of near-perfect weather conditions and a major astronomical event coincided on May 10 over the midwestern U.S. Nearly everyone who wanted to view the annular eclipse (or its associated partial eclipse for those outside the track of annularity) were able to do so. The beautiful spring-time weather, which had proved elusive in the weeks preceding the eclipse, was brought about by an immense high pressure system centered over Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Clouds produced by upper air instability over southern Michigan, northern Indiana, and northern Ohio during the early morning of eclipse day dissipated by 9:00 a.m., assuring that the event would be easily seen from eastern Oklahoma

through the northern New England states and Canada. The M.A.S. had a contingent of observers spread along the path of annularity in at least three states and north Africa. **Virgil and Mary Ann Tangney**, their daughter **Margaret Warner**, and her son **David** and daughter **Catherine Warner** viewed the eclipse from a park in Springfield, IL, as did **Brian and Cheryl Awe**. **Dave Eicher** had one of the more interesting observing perspectives: from the southeast corner of Lincoln's tomb in Springfield. **Ken and Sally Waraczynski**, **Scott and Mary Ann Laskowski**, **Nolan and Diantha Zadra**, and members of the Wehr Astronomical Society saw the eclipse from Moraine View State Park near Bloomington, IL. **Gerry Samolyk and Marty Brunet** watched the event

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### *-REMEMBRANCE, from page*

domains of excitement and wonderment. And yet, there was a void too! Not in the sky, but in our hearts. I was personally reminded and saddened to realize that for me last year's Green Bush was the last time I saw Richard. On that occasion, Saturday's social interaction would be my last with him; but I - like you - have many fond memories of him on a myriad of occasions gathered over the years.

I first met Dick eight years ago when I joined M.A.S. From the first moment, I enjoyed his lively conversation, warmth and wit. In the ensuing years, I came to know a man completely committed to serving our Society, and the public as well. Always eager to share, open houses gave Dick the opportunity to display his love of the night sky. And this he did for all, focusing his trusty C-8 at the many sky delights he so enjoyed. How many people got hooked on astronomy from this act of sharing? Who can say? But I know I did! Thank you Richard, more intense observing was reserved for our campouts; you knew you had arrived when you saw Dick alongside his DOB readying it for the night's viewing. More viewing at AstroFest and you could be assured of lively banter as "Doc" narrated his trip down including remarks concerning the weekend's agenda.

And so our memories, both individual and collective, reminded us that Richard's leadership, personality,

and presence his congeniality and collegiality, enriched each of us. Yes, we do miss him, but his many good deeds now form a permanent part of the M.A. S. legacy and will live on.

To give this remembrance a tangible form, the Board of Directors felt that a large Dobsonian that could serve our members and the public took would best honor his memory. As he reached out to us, so too, will this telescope - in his name - reach out to others. We thank the Richard Wiesen family and especially Mrs. Richard Wiesen, for their generous donation to our Society which allowed us to even contemplate this specific memorial. We are appreciative that Dave Kreige could meet our requirements. Our acquisition of an Obsession telescope assures us with confidence that we have secured the world's very best - one that we can be proud to display and use in our many viewing programs. More importantly, this instrument is a fitting tribute to Richard's memory.

So therefore, as President of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society, and at the behest of the Board of Directors, and on behalf of our members, I publicly announce that the newly acquired dobsonian telescope shall tonight - and forevermore, be officially designated as the "Richard Wiesen Memorial Telescope."

*--Matthew McNeely*

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## Library News

*The following reviews of a recent acquisition is by  
Assistant Librarian,  
Mary Ann Tangney:*

Visit to a Small Universe, by Virginia Trimble (1992)

This compilation of thirty six previously published articles, papers and essays is one of a series called "Masters of Modern Physics". It presents the ideas and works of physicist Virginia Trimble, written alone or on collabora-

tions. Each is arbitrarily selected to reflect her point of view and each stands alone. The range is great, going from the purely scientific "Relativistic Astrophysics" and "The Crab Nebula and Pulsars" to the philosophical and religious "It's a nice planet to Visit But I Wouldn't Want to Live There" and "Masada, Suicide and Halakhah." Interesting but not everyone's cup of tea.

*Note: A review of this book appeared in "Sky & Telescope", Feb. '94*

## Board Elections

At the May Program Meeting the following were elected to three year terms. **Martin Brunet, Mary Ann Tangney and Virgil Tangney.** **Scott Jamieson** was elected to fill an unexpired term for one year.

Officers elected were: **Mary Ann Tangney - Secretary; Martin Brunet - Treasurer; James Kube - Vice President; and**

## Thank you

Thank you to Dorothy Kube and Wanda Berner for all their hard work, energy and enthusiasm these past several years. Dorothy with her trusty pen as Secretary and Wanda with the Messier Marathon provided creative ideas and just plain fun for our members at so many events.

### Matthew McNeely- President.

Congratulations to those newly elected and good luck to them and the entire Board in the upcoming year. Society members are encouraged to call and share their interests and concerns. Your input is crucial to any decisions made by the Board.

--Matthew McNeely

Certainly, their contributions as Board members are too numerous to list here, so we thank them for their fine efforts. Stepping down from the board simply means "refocusing" their energies in the service of our members.

Thanks again.

--Matthew McNeely

## For Sale

Optics and components to build 15" f4/5 Dobs (I bought too many). Great opportunity to build you own scope at a 20% savings. I have three sets of the following:

15" f4.5 Galaxy primary mirrors, brand new and still on the shelf at Galaxy awaiting coatings. All are 2" thick precision annealed with premium diffraction limited figures. Your choice of coatings.

89% reflectivity QSP standard aluminum--\$1050

96% reflectivity QSP enhanced Britestar--\$1290

2.6" Galaxy secondary mirrors 1/10 wave, precision annealed. All coated with QSP Endurobrite 98% reflectivity. Interferogram included--\$195.

Obsession 9 point stainless cells with 12 volt fan--\$185

Novak spider and secondary holders--\$48

2" JMI NGT-3 focusers--\$115

**Selling at dealer cost. Everything is brand new and available immediately. Shipping included in price. Same optics and components used in my Obsession series.**

David Kriege  
Obsession Telescopes  
P.O. Box 804  
Lake Mills, Wis. 53551  
414-648-2328

.....  
Classic 6" Criterion Dynascope, clock drive and extras--\$350

10" Meade Premier Schmidt Cass, with electronic setting circles--\$1650.

Call Bernie Olson, at 367-6714.

## So you want to be famous?

Earn your Messier, Herschel or Burnham Club Certificates and be famous! The Messier Club is a set of 107 of the best deep-sky objects in the sky, while the Herschel Club requires you to observe 400 much more challenging objects and the Burnham club consists of 87 multiple stars that can be seen with the smallest of telescopes. To help you in this quest for fame, the MAS has observing club booklets that are available for both the Messier and Burnham clubs. Just send an 8.5 by 11 inch envelope with enough postage for 4 ounces to Lee Keith, MAS Observing Clubs Coordinator, 8150 S. Legend Dr., Franklin, Wis., 53132-9623.

## Grocery Receipts

If you shop at any CUB food store or at one of the PICK & SAVES listed below, please save the receipts for the MAS. We receive 1% of the tape total on these receipts. Remember to ask for the WE CARE sticker at PICK & SAVE. We have been collecting the receipts from these stores for many months now. To date we have received about \$15 from the CUB organization. While this may not sound like much, remember we are a non-profit group, any income we can obtain from any source is welcome. PICK & SAVE requires that we have \$5000 in receipts before submitting and we are well on our way. As the word has gotten out, we have received more and more receipts. Thanks to those of you who have been contributing. You may drop the receipts at the Observatory, mail them to me at the address below, or bring them to a meeting. If your friends, neighbors and family use these stores, ask them to save the receipts, too. PICK & SAVE stores: Tri-City at 6312 S. 27th St.; 124th and Capitol, 68th and State St. Send to Karen Wesener, 8150 Legend Dr., Franklin, Wis. 53132.

**We Need Open House Help!** --As a result of some good publicity in local newspapers, the Open House on May 27 was attended by more than 300 people. A record 4 programs were given, but there were only 5 people available with a telescope, It was a clear night! Where are all our dedicated members? I am repeating by eternal call for members to help out on Open House nights, to direct people from the parking lot, to help with sales, to operate telescopes, (your own or ours) and talk with visitors. Open house dates are on the cover of this newsletter.

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## Program director needed

The position of Program Director is currently open. The role of program director is to arrange speakers for our Program Meetings and organize the Autumn Banquet in October. If interested, please call Matthew McNeely. Candidates for the position need approval of the Board.

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### ECLIPSE, from page 2

from Lake of the Woods County Park near Champaign-Urbana, IL. Wanda Berner and Pete Smitka traveled to Weldon Springs State Park near Clinton, IL where they observed the eclipse. This site was chosen by members of NEWSTAR also.

Lee Keith and Karen Wesener, along with a friend from Naperville, IL, shared the event at Kankakee River State Park near the annual site of astrofest, just west of Kankakee, IL. Coincidentally, this same site was chosen by Tom Renner, who viewed the event with MATC astronomy teacher Jim Mahal and 20-25 of his students. The MATC group drew a "light curve" of the eclipse's progression.

Frank and Martha Roldan observed the eclipse from Fort Wayne, IN. Dan Koehler viewed it from Ottawa Park in Toledo, OH, slightly northeast of the University of Toledo and very near the prime observing site of Wauseon, OH where maximum duration (6m 13.5s) of annularity and obscuration (89.0%) occurred.

M.A.S. member Joel Harris of Burbank, CA and two companions traveled to the Atlas Mountains in central Morocco (the end of the path of annularity) and successfully viewed the setting sun in annular eclipse as it sank in the Atlantic Ocean. Joel and a group of eclipse chasers from the Orange County (CA) Astronomers were denied a similar view over the Pacific Ocean at the end of the January 4, 1992 annular eclipse, the last one visible in the continental U.S. They attempted to make the observation from the west side of Catalina Island but were foiled 45 minutes prior to the event by clouds and fog.

Many members stayed in the Milwaukee area to view the 85% partial eclipse. They included Matthew McNeely, Jim and Dorothy Kube, Paul Borchardt, Tom Gill (who conducted an impromptu observing session at his son's elementary school), Sally Michalko (who viewed the event with fellow teachers at her elementary school in Waukesha during lunch), and Mary Koehler (who assisted the staff and elderly residents at the Fairview Group Home in Brookfield in safely viewing the eclipse).

My apologies to anyone not mentioned above who observed the eclipse. The oversight is not intentional.

While most M.A.S. members were content to watch the moon gradually occult the sun's disc and then appear to float against the backdrop of the "ring of fire", some members did take measurements of contact timings, air temperature changes, and the changes in light levels.

Many photographs were taken with various camera set-ups, and Wanda Berner made a very nice video of the eclipse. Some of the results were shown and discussed briefly at the May membership meeting at the Observatory. If there is sufficient interest I would be happy to organize a more formal program including everyone's results and experiences with this unique celestial event for a future meeting.

—Dan Koehler

### MAS Computer group meeting:

The next meeting of the MAS Computer Group will be held at 7 pm on Aug. 21, at Lee Keith's home, at 8150 S. Legend Dr. in Franklin

### MAS Officers

President	Matthew McNeely 354-5347
Vice President	Jim Kube 453-8858
Secretary	Mary Ann Tangney 327-7976
Treasurer	Marty Brunet 544-1342
Obs. Director	Gerry Samolyk 529-9051
Ast. Obs. Director	Paul Borchardt 781-0169
Librarian	Sally Waraczynski 321-0918
Ast. Librarian	Mary Ann Tangney 327-7976
New Member Contact	Sally Jo Michalko 524-9499

### Focal Point

Editor	Ernie Mastroianni 5821 N. Santa Monica Blvd 964-5821, all day Weds & Thurs
Distribution	Charlotte Nelson 466-2081

MAS Observatory  
18850 W. Observatory Rd.  
New Berlin, WI  
542-9071

### Keyholders

July 16, Greg Cieslak	529-0548
July 23 Brian Ganiere,	961-8745
July 30 Chris Hesseltine,	482-4515
Aug 6, Lee Keith,	425-2331
Aug 13, Dan Koehler,	662-2987
Aug 20, Jim Kube,	453-8858
Aug 27, Scott Lascowski,	421-3517
Sept 3, Joun Pfannerstill,	475-6494