

The Newsletter of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society

Mid-Summer 2001

**May Election Results**

This year saw new blood infused into the MAS Board to replace three outgoing directors who had served the max allowable two consecutive three year terms. A new fourth board member resulted in filling a previously resigned position that expired in 2001. The new Directors are listed below with terms expiring in 2004. The outgoing directors, Virgil Tagney, Scott Laskowski and Rudy Poklar were thanked by President Jamieson for their service as directors. The only new officer is Henry Gerner who accepted the the previously resigned position of Secretary. The Directors and Officers for the 2001/2002 year are as follows.

<u>Director</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Vern Hoag		2002
Dan Yanko	Treasurer	2002
Chris Weber		2002
Paul Borchardt		2002
Carlos Garces		2003
Tammy Lemanski		2003
Tom Pelnar		2003
Henry Gerner	Secretary	2004
Gary Parsons		2004
Tom Schmidtkunz		2004
Neil Simmons		2004

Ex Officio

Scott Jamieson	President	
Lee Keith	Vice President	
Gerry Samolyk	Observ. Dir	2004

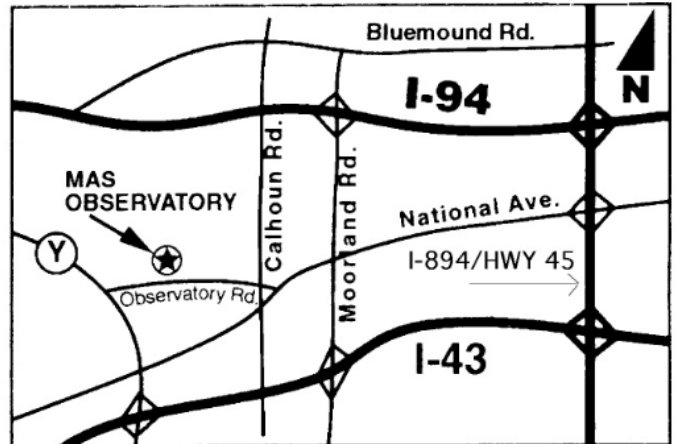
Founder Members

- Ed Halbach(1964)
- Bill Albrecht (1978)
- Milton Lange (1986)

**MAS Annual Campout at Kettle Moriane, Greenbush on Sept, 14, 15.** This is another MAS fun occasion, with lots of scopes, yarn swapping, hiking et al. Paul Borchardt moved the date back from the usual October time in hope of getting a little better weather. Watch the September issue of the Focal Point for details.

**MAS Meeting Schedule**

We have monthly member meetings, the third Friday, from Sept. thru May. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Sept. 21 at the observatory



**Annual Picnic at the Observatory, Mid-afternoon, Saturday, July 21.**

Once again, we gather for renewing friendships, swapping yarns, fun & games, great door prizes, and cuisine prepared by MAS's premiere chefs (and Mother Sentry).

Last year, our chefs, in an effort to comply with FDA standards, had certainly put all meats in the well done category, with some brats and burgers approaching New Orleans style "blackened" fare. We have been assured the food, this year, will be well done but with a juicer standard applied.

Several of the Astronomy scope and accessory manufacturers have been very generous donors in the past and just showing up for a shot at the door prizes was worth the effort.

This is also a family occasion with plenty of lawn games for the kids as well as adults.

Additionally, both The LX-200 Building and C-scope building will be dedicated in honor of some very special members (see Presidents message, next page). Those with a sense of MAS history will certainly want to attend.

Lastly, as dusk sets in, the scopes are opened up. There will be opportunity for informal training on some of the newer scopes including the new remotely operated LX-200.

This should be a great picnic ...don't miss it!

**A brief Board of Directors meeting will be held at the start of the picnic in lieu of the regular July Board meeting**

## President's Message

As many of you know, the MAS hosted the American Association of Variable Star Observers and we had a great time. It was fun to listen and learn from the dedicated members of this group, which is composed of both amateurs and professional astronomers. I have just started actually observing variable stars and must admit that it makes stars a lot more interesting. My sincere thanks to all MAS members that participated in this experience, including the diner at Yerkes observatory, and helped make this event a great success. We have received a very nice letter from the AAVSO thanking us for our efforts.

The LX200 is now installed in the flip top observatory just South of Z-dome and it is working beautifully. My thanks to member Paul Borchart for building the new equatorial wedge used to polar align the LX200. The ST9 with color wheel is mounted on the LX200. A computer in the lower floor of Z-dome controls both the telescope and the camera. most dedicated meWe have already taken many images with this setup and many have commented on how easy it is to use. It's fun to take an image of one object then switch to GUIDE7, an excellent planetarium program, to select the next target. A few clicks of the pointer command the LX200 to go to the new target in seconds. My favorite image so far is a composite of 20 images of the asteroid 1999KW4 that show its' rapid movement across the sky. The image is 20 minutes of arc square and the asteroid moves half way across the field in 40 minutes! This image, and many more excellent images taken from the MAS site, is also on our website. Take a look! Don't forget the picnic on the July 21st at 3 PM till ?. We will be demonstrating and all of the equipment and, if the weather cooperates, will spend the evening teaching anyone who would like to learn how to use the cameras and LX200.

Finally, there will be dedication of both the LX200 building and C-scope building during the picnic. The people being honored will be a surprise so come and join in this recognition of some of our members.

*Scott Jamieson, MAS President*

## New Member Welcome

We welcome the following new members.

**John Pfannerstill**, West Allis, WI

**Jack Jorgensen**, Greenfield, WI

**Deane Jaeger**, Delafield, WI

Please feel free to join us at the picnic, observing sessions, and/ our regular meetings starting in September.

Old members , please do take the time to meet these people and make them feel at home.

*Carlos Garces, New Member Chairman*

## 90th AAVSO Spring session a success

The response of MAS members to the AAVSO meeting in May was outstanding. Scott Jamieson, Virgil Tangney, Henry Gerner, Neil Simmons, Chris Hesseltine, Dave Weier, Scott Laskowski, Rudy Poklar, Mark Bauernfeind, Gene Hanson, and lest I forget, Sue Manske, thanks to all of you from Gerry and myself. You all really knocked the socks off of the AAVSO, which is no small feat ( pun accidental, but then I decided to keep it).

The American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) has been in business since 1911, carefully maintaining a huge database and ever-growing database of more than ten million observations, mostly by amateurs, of variable stars. This data is disseminated upon request, and they get plenty of them from the professional community, every year.

The last time the AAVSO met in Wisconsin was in Milwaukee in 1982. Gerry Samolyk and Gene Hanson handled that one by themselves, and as a result didn't get to participate in the meeting very much. This time, thanks to the great help we got in Madison, at the tail gate party at Yerkes, and at the Observatory, Gerry got to enjoy the meeting.

I fear I'm going to forget something or someone or their contribution. If I do, forgive me. It doesn't mean that it was unappreciated or unnoticed.

Virgil and Henry showed up at Yerkes to cook. Great job! Brats and burgers bathed in a little beer sizzling on the grill. Sue rushed down the interstate with a car full of potato salad, cole slaw, dessert, soft drinks, and all the other food she'd worked so hard to procure, answering a phone call from Neil inquiring as to her whereabouts (Janesville, heading west). She made it in time. No worries. Chris offered his company's huge grill, we didn't need it, but we're thankful, nevertheless. Scott J., Neil, and Dave helped guide the masses (about 70 people), helped clean up afterwards. We left Yerkes pristine, as we found it. . Mark brought Diane who took the photos of the whole group perched on the outside south stairs at Yerkes looking over the spacious back lawn. Scott L. gave the tour, showed the people the great white whale rising above its deep blue pedestal. Rudy and Gene and many others showed up at the Observatory on the Sunday following, acted as guides and fonts of information about the site and its history. Gerry coordinated the Yerkes experience and organized the help from MAS. He also recruited the Kirk Terrell, a professional astronomer, to give what turned out to be an excellent work shop on eclipsing binaries. The tent, the tour bus, and hotel were my responsibilities.

This was really a great experience. I'm gushing because I'm overwhelmed and deeply grateful. Gerry and I have received thanks and kudos from headquarters and other attendees of the meeting and so much of those kind statements are due to everyone who helped.

As for the meeting itself, I'll say only this. Rudy Poklar attended the Saturday session, and came away very impressed with the quality of papers presented and the caliber of the attendees. It was gratifying to hear this response from a first time attendee.

*Bob Manske*



**MAS members at the 90th AAVSO side trip to Yerkes Observatory.** From left to right, Virgil Tagney, Neil Simmons, Scott Jamieson, Henry Gerner, Chris Hesseltine, Bob Manske, Dave Weier, And Gene Hanson. A nice MAS turnout. Additional members turned up in Madison on Saturday.



**Multiple exposure CCD image of 1999KW Near earth asteroid taken by Scott Jamieson.** The photo is a composite of 20 successive images taken 2 minutes apart. This particular asteroid passed within three million miles of earth.

**MAS Officers/ Staff**

President	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119
Vice President	Lee Keith	414-425-2331
Treasurer	Dan Yanko	414-453-3382
Secretary	Henry Gerner	414-362-4441
Observatory Director	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
Assistant Observatory Director	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169
Focal Point	Rudy Poklar, Editor	262-786-8931

**Future MAS Events**

Sept. 14, 15 MAS Campout at Greenbush

**Saturday Keyholders**

**July**

7	Wanda Burner	262-646-8229
14	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169
21	Tim Burrus	262-783-6572
28	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745

**August**

4	Chris Hesseltine	414-482-4515
11	Brian Garness	262-538-3888
18	Carlos Garces	262-786-2623
25	Vern Hoag	262-548-9130

**Sept**

1	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212
8	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119
15	Lee Kieth	414-425-2331
22	Dan Koehler	262-662-2987
29	Scott Laskowski	414-421-3517

**Loaner Telescopes** (available to members for local use)  
 Lee Keith (Franklin) 414-425-2331 8" Dob reflector  
 Scott Jamieson (Waukesha) 262-896-0119 8" Dob reflector  
 Paul Borchardt (MAS site) 262-781-0169 6" Dob reflector

**MAS Membership** is open to all with an interest in Astronomy and expanding their knowledge of the Universe. Yearly Membership Dues are: Individual \$28/yr.; Family \$32; Non-resident (individual \$18, Family \$22); Student (under 18) \$12. For more information, contact Membership Chairman, Carlos Garces,

**Focal Point Publishing Guidelines**

Focal Point Newsletter is published bi-monthly (Sep Nov Jan Mar May) with a Mid-summer issue in July. Articles, Announcements, Graphics, Photos, Swap/Sale Ads etc. should be submitted at least 10 days prior to the first of the month (of the desired issue). Article inputs are preferred via E-Mail, or diskette in a text or Word compatible format, if possible. Submit FP inputs to:

MAS Focal Point c/o Rudy Poklar  
 12905 W. Crawford Drive

**MAS Observatory** 262-542-9071

**MAS Web Page: [www.milwaukeeastro.org](http://www.milwaukeeastro.org)**  
*New and timely, Check it out*

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- \*MAS Annual Picnic & Observatory Dedications, Saturday July 21, Afternoon
- \* MAS Annual Campout at Kettle Moraine, Greenbush, Sept. 14, 15
- \* Monthly meetings resume Sept 21.

