



Editor's Note

I would like to thank Jerry Bialozinski for his efforts in putting together the Focal point since the beginning of last year. Jerry will be retiring to Arizona, and we wish him the best. With the change of editors, the contact information for the newsletter has also changed. The new email address is MASFocalPoint@yahoo.com. The other contact information on the last page of this issue has been updated as well.

One of Jerry's comments is that it can be difficult to get material for the newsletter. An opinion that has been echoed by other former editors as well. I would like to encourage you to share with your fellow MAS members by sending me small snippets of your observing and astronomy-related experiences. I'll take cartoons and jokes until public opinion dictates their cancellation. You don't have to write large articles to contribute. One option would be to write a brief introduction of yourself and your observing interests. This is after all *your* newsletter.

I would like to thank Gerry Samolyk for updating the image of the observatory grounds found on the headliner. There have been several new additions on the hill since the last one was taken, so the

difference between this and the one from the last issue is quite striking. It is a tribute to the membership because all of these buildings were built with member-muscle. — *Neil Simmons.*

May Elections

Each May the Milwaukee Astronomical Society elects its officers and part of the board of directors. The positions open every year are for president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. There are also four seats on the board of directors up for election this year. Any regular member can run for any of these positions. This is an opportunity for you as a member to become more involved in the society.

From the society by-laws the following description of responsibilities may be of help in making your decision on whether or not to run:

SECTION 2: PRESIDENT - The duties of the President shall be to preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the members and to have a general supervision of the affairs of the Society.

SECTION 3: VICE-PRESIDENT - The principal duties of the Vice-President shall be to discharge the duties of the President in the event of absence or disability, for any cause whatever, or the latter.

SECTION 4: SECRETARY - The principal duties of the Secretary shall be to countersign all deeds, leases, and conveyances executed by the Corporation, affix the seal of the corporation thereto, and to such other papers as shall be required or directed to be sealed, and to keep a record of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, and the monthly meetings of the members, and to safely and systematically keep all books, papers, records,

Focal Point Publishing Guidelines

The "Focal Point" is published bi-monthly (Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov).

Articles, Announcements, Graphics, Photos, Swap/Sale Ads etc. should be **submitted at least 10 days** prior to the first of the month of the pending issue.

Article inputs are strongly recommended via email in a Text or Word compatible format.

Submit Focal Point inputs to: MASFocalPoint@yahoo.com

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and documents belonging to the Society, or in any wise pertaining to the business thereof.

SECTION 5: TREASURER - The principal duties of the Treasurer shall be to keep and account for all moneys, credits, and property, of any and every nature, of the Society, which shall come into his hands, and keep an accurate of all moneys received and disbursed, and of money and property on hand, and generally of all matters pertaining to this office, as shall be required by the Board of Directors.

I have been asked to chair the nominating committee this year, and as of this writing I have nominations for one board seat and two officers. There is room for some new faces. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact me at: samolyk@ix.netcom.com

You can also call me at 414-529-9051 if you have any questions about any of these positions. — *Gerry Samolyk.*

The President's Log

Many of the topics on my list have been taken up by other people elsewhere in this newsletter. The election is already mentioned by Gerry Samolyk above. The election meeting will be held at the Observatory on May 20th at 8 o'clock. The election process will work as follows: first the Board seats will be filled. The top four candidates will be elected. The Board will then retire and elect the officers. The results of that election will be announced immediately and those people will immediately assume their duties. It's as simple as that.

The purchase of land for a new observatory will not happen in the foreseeable future. The people we were negotiating with decided that they didn't really want to part with any more of their property – they have already over a hundred acres to the DNR. They flirted with the idea of selling to the MAS for a while but decided not to proceed with the deal. It wasn't anything we did or didn't do. So we're back to the beginning on that issue.

A new members' packet, long missing and overdue, will be available by the end of the summer, I promise. Along these lines, I appointed a committee headed by Neil Simmons and including Henry

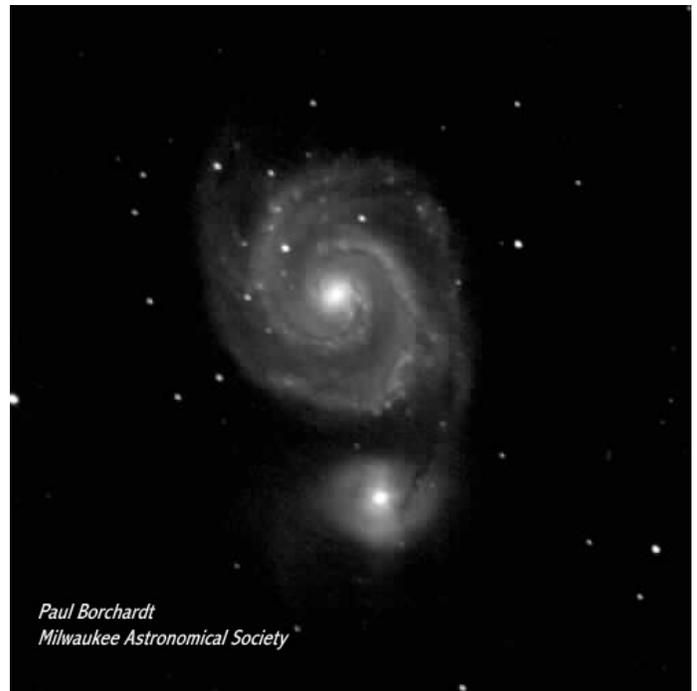
Gerner and Chris Weber to look at a new members' program. I don't know how that will turn out, but I'm excited about its prospects.

Open houses will continue. Your help is needed. All you'll have to do is stand by a telescope, give a little coaching from time to time, and be nice to people. The next one will be on May 13th – subject: the Moon. The presenter has not yet been identified, but I will volunteer for that job and with great grace step aside if someone else wants to do instead – please.

The annual picnic will be held on July 30th. This is a change from the originally scheduled date. The picnic will be held at the observatory and will start around 4:00 PM or so. Vern Hoag will lead the effort and he deserves our gratitude. He always puts on a very excellent picnic.

After the May meeting, Board meetings will continue throughout the summer but the next general membership meeting will not take place until September 16th, again at the observatory at 8:00 PM.

The annual campout will be held on the weekend of Sept 30, Oct 1 and 2. Watch the Focal Point and the website for more information. Final announcements about this will take place at the September meeting. — *Bob Manske.*



New MAS Observing Programs

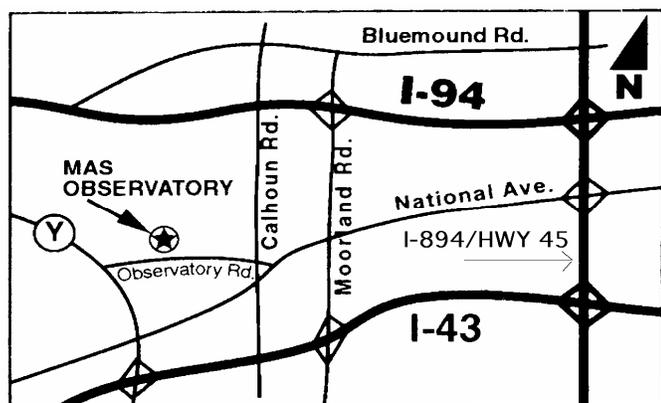
Want a great way to learn the sky and have some fun? The MAS will be starting observing programs. Observing programs can encourage you to observe more by having a goal to accomplish. After completing a program you will receive a certificate and your name will be displayed at the observatory and on the web site. These programs will vary in difficulty from relatively easy to more challenging, but they all can be accomplished, most of them from the observatory.

The following programs will be available by the picnic:

- Messier Program – Observe all the Messier objects.
- Binocular Messier Program – Observe 50 Messier objects with binoculars.
- Double Star Program – Observe 100 double stars.
- Lunar Drawing Program – Draw 50 lunar craters.
- Herschel 400 – Observe 400 Herschel objects.
- CCD Program – CCD images of 100 objects.

If you are interested in any of the programs, please contact me at vern.hoag@bradleycorp.com. — *Vern Hoag*.

MAS Picnic



Don't forget to mark your calendar for the annual MAS picnic on Saturday July 30th. Starting time will be around 4:00 come rain or shine. Grilled food, dessert, soda, and beer will be served, all compliments of the MAS. Door prizes will be given away, but you must be present to win. So, stop out and visit with some old friends and make some new

ones. The solar filter will be set up for viewing the sun and we will be observing fainter stuff later at night. This is a great time to learn to use some of the club's equipment and get some observing in. Hope to see you all out on the hill. — *Vern Hoag*.

Featured Web links

Northern Lights, the newsletter of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League, is now online! Set your web browser to <http://www.npmas.com> and click on the Northern Lights link at the top of the page.

Amateur astronomers are sometimes interested in model rocketry. The wonderfully named Wisconsin Organization Of Spacemodeling Hobbyists (that's right — WOOSH) can be found on the web at <http://www.wooshrocketry.org/>. The organization holds several launch sessions in the Milwaukee area throughout the year.

Meeting Calendar

May 20 Board meeting at the Observatory: 7 pm. General meeting at 8 pm. Election of the Board and Officers take place at the May meeting.

No general meetings during the summer months (June, July, and August.) Board meetings move to 2nd Monday of these months, at the Observatory: 7:30 pm.

July 30 Annual MAS Picnic at the Observatory beginning at 4 pm.

September 16 Board meeting at the Observatory: 7 pm. General meeting at 8 pm. Presentation to be determined.

Picture Credit

The Whirlpool Galaxy (Messier catalog number 51): The realm of the galaxies is near the meridian in the evening this time of year. Paul Borchardt made the image shown on page two with the club's Buckstaff telescope in June of 2000. The equipment he used is available to any member on key-holder nights. See back page for details.

MAS Membership is open to anyone interested in enriching their knowledge of Astronomy and related topics.

Yearly Membership Dues:

Student (under 18) \$16			
Resident		Non-resident	
Individual	\$34	Individual	\$22
Family	\$40	Family	\$26

For more information contact our Membership Chairman: Carlos Garces, 16430 Melody Drive, New Berlin, WI. 53151. Phone: (262) 786-2623 Email: cgarces@wi.rr.com

MAS Officers / Staff

President:	Bob Manske	(608) 849-5287
Vice President:	Steve Diesso	(262) 641-0331
Treasurer:	Chris Weber	(262) 789-7128
Secretary:	Henry Gerner	(414) 774-9194
Observatory Dir:	Gerry Samolyk	(414) 529-9051
Newsletter Ed:	Neil Simmons	(262) 889-2039

MAS Observatory: (262) 542-9071

Visit our website at <http://bb.1asphost.com/milwaukeeastro>

Loaner Telescopes

These telescopes are available to members for local use.

Lee Keith (Franklin)	(414) 425-2331	8" reflector
Scott Jamieson (Waukesha)	(262) 896-0119	8" reflector
Paul Borchardt (MAS site)	(262) 781-0169	6" reflector
Chris Weber (New Berlin)	(262) 789-7128	8" reflector

Saturday Night Key Holder

On Saturday nights the MAS opens its New Berlin facilities to all its members. If interested in using an observatory on the following nights, the following key holders will be on hand. Please contact them in advance to ensure access.

May

7	Dan Koehler	262-662-2987
14	Scott Laskowski	414-421-3517
21	Bob Manske	608-849-5287
28	Gary Parson	262-895-3015

June

4	Terry Ross	262-784-2093
11	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
18	Tom Schmidt-kunz	414-352-1674
25	Lana Silke	262-966-4929

July

2	Neil Simmons	262-889-2039
9	Chris Weber	262-789-7128
16	Dan Yanko	414-453-3382

Open Houses

Our open houses start at 7:30 pm, rain or shine and feature a presentation followed by observing if weather permits.

May 13 — *The Moon*

August 12 — *Perseid Meteors*

September 9 — *Star Clusters*

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society
c/o Neil Simmons
8918 270th Avenue
Salem, Wisconsin 53168

ADDRESS CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't forget to vote! May 20th is the annual election meeting.

