

Calendar for Sept / Oct

Sep 15 - 7:00 pm Board Meeting; 7:30 pm New Member Orientation (Z-Dome); 8:00 pm General Meeting at the Observatory. Speaker: Dr. Amy Berger from U.W.– Madison.

Sep 29 - 7:30 pm Public Viewing. Topic: The Moon.

Oct 13 - 7:30 pm Public Viewing. Topic: Galaxies.

Oct 20 - 7:00 pm Board Meeting; 7:30 pm New Member Orientation (Z-Dome); 8:00 pm General Meeting at the Observatory.

Check the website for up-to-date information on these meetings.

Writing Assignment

Did you do anything interesting this summer? Hit a convention or star party, work on a special observing project, or just plain saw something cool? Send me a brief description (at masfocalpoint@yahoo.com) and I will compile what I can into the next issue.

Newsletter mailing list

By the next newsletter inactive members will be dropped from the mailing list. We will be as diligent as possible about dropping only the inactive members, but if you find that November is half-way through and no newsletter is in sight, send an email to me at masfocalpoint@yahoo.com or send a note to the return address on the back page and complain.

Another Successful Star Party at Yerkes

On 8/5/06 many MAS members contributed their time and expertise to teach the "Space Explorers" about telescopes, how to use them and study the night sky. Though it was mostly cloudy, some observers looked at the gibbous Moon, Jupiter and its Galilean satellites.

Even with the poor sky conditions there was a new thrill. The topic for the Summer Institute this year was "Density and Buoyancy," so we had a tethered Hot Air Balloon launch for the "kids," staff, and volunteers. Some MAS people, (I was chicken), had a new experience, lifted off the ground by hot air.

The "Space Explorers" are an organization of students from Chicago that spend a week twice a year at Yerkes to study Astronomy and Astrophysics. The MAS has been helping with these Yerkes Star Parties since 1991. Thank you for all your help from the Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics, University of Chicago at Yerkes Observatory. — Scott Laszkowski.

Annual Campout at Dan Yanko's Farm

Dan and Helen Yanko have opened up their farm in Rib Lake, Wisconsin for the annual MAS campout this **September 22 - 23**. The new moon will be on September 22nd.

There is plenty of room for tents, campers, or for however you want to sleep. There are also a few hotels in the area if you would like to stay there.

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This will not be a 'roughing it' campout like at Greenbush.

The farmhouse has everything you need to make you comfortable, running water, stove, microwave, refrigerator, a stove in the garage to warm up by, and power for telescopes and laptops, etc.

All the lights in the house and garage are outfitted with red bulbs so you can keep your dark eye adaption when going inside the house for a snack or to get something warm to drink.

But best of all, the skies are very dark.

There are also many campgrounds within 5 miles if anyone is interested.

For the daytime, a 30 mile bike trail nearby as well as the Ice Age trail about three miles away if anyone wants to do some hiking. We can also hike around the property since there are 40 plus acres to hike on. There are restaurants in the area or you can



cook out on the grill.

For directions to the farm, see the insert or contact Dan at DanHelenY@aol.com or 262-255-3482.

This is a great opportunity to have some dark skies and have a great weekend of observing.

Editor— Dan Yanko and Vern Hoag provided input for this article.

MAS Library

Remember, the MAS has a large library that members may use. To borrow a book, sign it out on the sheet attached to the clip-board under the "new books" section. The library is

open during meetings and on Saturday nights through the keyholder (see back page). We ask the members to borrow a book for no longer than a month so that others may have a chance to read it.

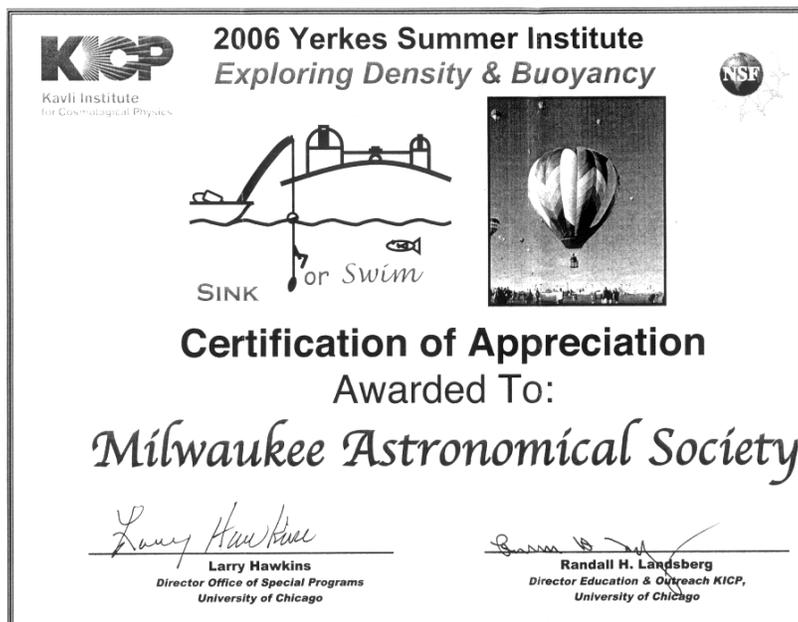


Summer Picnic thanks

Many thanks go to Vern and Dianne Hoag and a cadre of volunteers including Becca Sher, Jeff Setzer, Steve and Margaret Diesso, Chris Weber, and Gerry Samolyk for ensuring that our stomachs were not empty and our throats were not parched as the day was one of the hottest. Many people showed up in spite of the heat, bringing their own tents or canopies.

For Sale

10" Mead LX200 GPS Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope with UHTC and Autostar II hand controller for sale. Includes 8x50 finder scope, lunar planetary imager and autostar software, Parks 2" multi-coated possl 50mm eye piece, Celestron 2" mirror star diagonal, 1/4" Super Plossl eyepiece set including 32mm, 26mm, 16mm, 4mm, 2x Barlow and star diagonal, 10" T.O. solar filter, 4 each 1-1/4" eye piece filters, A.C. adaptor w/25' cord, 1-1/2 years left on original sky assurance warranty and all manuals included. Scope set up and used once, still have original packaging. Call 262-514-2232 for more information or to view. Whole package valued at over \$6000, yours for only \$4000. — Juli Freda, poohser67@yahoo.com



This certificate of appreciation was received by Scott Laskowski after sending me his story. The MAS has done this for many years now, and I think that it is safe to say that this activity is fun for all involved.

— Editor

Directions to the Annual Campout

Yanko Farm
W2119 HWY 102
Rib Lake, WI 54470

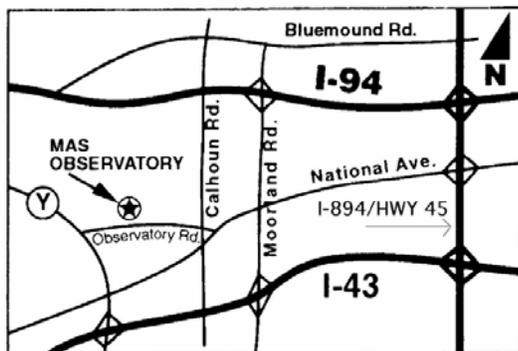
715-427-3012
Dan's cell # 414-331-9647

From Milwaukee
Take Hwy 41/45 North to Hwy 45 (Oshkosh)
Take Hwy 45 North to Hwy 10 West
Take Hwy 10 West to Hwy 51/39 North (Stevens Point)
Take Hwy 39 North to Hwy 64 (Merrill)
Take Hwy 64 West (left) to Hwy 13 (Medford/30 miles)
Take Hwy 13 North (right) to Hwy 102 (about 15 miles)
Take Hwy 102 East (right) to Rib Lake (5 miles)

Take Hwy 102 East past Rib Lake 3 miles to Yanko Farm on bottom of hill past HWY C. It is 3 miles past Rib Lake. There is a green house, black mail-box and Copper creek next to the house.

Local Motels in Rib Lake 3 miles away:
Camp 28 Motel/Restaurant/Bar
750 Hwy 102
715-427-2828

Pete's Rustic Cabins
1230 Hwy 102
715-427-3270



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 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

Star Parties

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society provides tours and viewing for groups of people interested in astronomy. Contact Paul Borchardt at (262) 781-0169 for more information about scheduling and fees.

MAS Officers / Staff

President:	Steve Diesso	(262) 641-0331
Vice President:	Dave Weier	(608) 241-1444
Treasurer:	Brian Ganiere	(414) 961-8745
Secretary:	Henry Gerner	(414) 774-9194
Observatory Dir:	Gerry Samolyk	(414) 529-9051
Newsletter Ed:	Neil Simmons	(262) 889-2039
MAS Observatory:	(not working)	(262) 542-9071

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

Yearly Membership Dues:

Student (under 18)	\$13		
Resident (Milwaukee and adjacent counties resident)		Non-resident	
Individual	\$31	Individual	\$19
Family	\$37	Family	\$23

Members can get subscriptions to *Sky & Telescope* (©) and *Astronomy* (©) at a club discount.

For more information contact: Bob Manske, 404 Prospect Road, Waunakee, WI 53597. Phone: (608) 849 - 5287. Email: manske@tds.net

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.

September

2	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
9	Tom Schmidtkunz	414-352-1674
16	Lana Silke	262-966-4929
23	Terry Ross	262-784-2093
30	Neil Simmons	262-889-2039

October

7	Chris Weber	262-789-7128
14	Dan Yanko	414-453-3382
21	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169
28	Tim Burrus	262-369-1022

November

4	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169
11	Tim Burrus	262-369-1022

Loaner Telescopes

These telescopes are available to members for local use.

Scott Jamieson (Waukesha)	(262) 896-0119	8"
Paul Borchardt (MAS site)	(262) 781-0169	6" & 8"

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

ADDRESS CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

