



Two Clear Nights for the Campout



The skies at Rib Lake were clear both Friday and Saturday night (October 12 and 13) for those attending the second MAS campout at Dan Yanko's farm. The attending members were Dan Yanko (of course) Lana Silke, myself – Jill Roberts, Kip Hoffman and Dave Windorski. Dan's brother Mike was also staying at the farm. Mike's guitar and harmonica playing really added a nice touch.

The naked eye viewing was great from such a dark site. Lana said "Feeling the thrill of what it must be like to suddenly acquire a telescope of greater aperture!" Isn't that the truth?

Some good views we shared were: M's 1, 2, 11 (Brilliant) M13, (a blaze of glory), M31 incredible size. Some worth staying up for even though it got down to 19 degrees Friday night. Were M57, 77, 81, 82, 103, and 110. Mars was an excellent sight na-

ked eye and the Milky Way was outstanding with a few meteors.

Following is a picture that Dave took of the Helix. The telescope was a William Optics 90mm refractor. Image DSII Monochrome. He took 20 frames @ 2 minutes each. Nice picture Dave! Dave's wow view was the veil using his trusty 26mm Plossl. I saw it too through his telescope. Double wow. It just was there and not hard to find he said.

During the day we went for an 8 mile bike ride and he showed us the sites and landmarks. Dan's hospitality and sharing such a fine weekend with friends was none other than the best. We hope to see you next year, plans are in the works.

Clear Skies,
Jill Roberts

Christmas Party: December 1

Saturday, December 1 will be our annual Christmas Party at the Observatory at 5 PM. Pizza is on the menu, and the movie "October Skies" will be shown.

Another kind of Latin?

O SIBILE DER DEGO
FORTI BUSIS IN ERO
O NOBILE DEMIS TRUX
SI VATIS INEM: CAUS EN DUX

Translation:

Oh, See Billy, there they go
forty busses in a row
Oh, no Billy, them is trucks
see what is in them: cousin Duke

“And here’s where you come in…”

Our guest speaker at the October meeting was Professor Sanjay Limaye from the Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. He is also the Press Officer of the Division of Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society and member of the second New Frontiers mission which is going to Jupiter called Juno. (The first being the mission to Pluto called New Horizons.)

Two interesting things about Juno: One, is that it will be solar powered. The improved capabilities of solar panels and the difficulty finding a radio thermal generator (aka nuclear battery) lead to the decision to go solar for Juno’s power needs.

The second is that there will be limited imaging devices onboard. Juno will be tasked to discover the large scale structure of the interior of Jupiter through the measurements of gravity anomalies, but some of the large structures, like the Great Red Spot just don’t sit still, but wander in latitude.

“This is where you come in,” said Professor Limaye. The more observations of the Red Spot the Juno team gets, the better its position is known. Amateurs have a wonderful capability to gather images and doing the analysis.

Another mission that Sanjay talked about is the Venus Express mission (ESA) launched from Baikonur in November of 2005. Venus Express (or VEX) is tasked to determine the structure and composition of Venus’ atmosphere and how it moves, the nature of its magnetic field, and the nature of the geology and surface properties.

Here’s where amateurs come in again: The markings found in Venus’ atmosphere can be imaged by amateurs with the proper UV filters and can provide the broad view of Venus as VEX swoops down to the 250 — 400 km altitude needed to make fine measurements.

Both missions have websites at UW Madison. Take a peek at <http://juno.wisc.edu> and <http://venus.wisc.edu> for more details including an area for sending in your images!

New Focal Point Editor

With the next issue of the Focal Point, Rebecca Sher will be taking over completely as the editor. Becca has been in a self-imposed internship of sorts over the last year learning the publication management bit-by-bit and helping out as a full time printer and mailer of the hard-copy edition. One reason for this internship is that she and her husband Jeff Setzer spent the better part of the last year planning their wedding (which by the way was the last weekend in October).

I’m curious to see what Becca keeps, tosses and adds to this publication, and with her energy I expect that we may find a lot more pages too. She will—as all club newsletter editors do—need a helping hand from the readers.

Our newsletter really is nothing without input from it’s members. I would like to thank those who have sent me material to include in the Focal point these nearly three years including those materials that were not used. Participation has been lagging of late due in part to my lack of time but I know that Becca will be out there not just asking, not just begging, but embarrassing some into making a regular contribution, right Steve?

Nov—Dec Calendar

Nov 16 (Fri) - Board Mtg. Quonset 7:00 pm
General Mtg. Quonset 8:00 pm

Dec 1 (Sat) - Holiday Party 5:00 pm.

Dec 10 (Mon) - Board Mtg. Quonset 7:00 pm

Unless otherwise specified meetings are at the Observatory. Check our website for up-to-date information on meetings and events.

MAS Officers / Staff

President: Steve Diesso (262) 641-0331
Vice President: Rebecca Sher (262) 707-7478
Treasurer: Brian Ganiere (414) 961-8745
Secretary: Henry Gerner (414) 774-9194
Observatory Dir: Gerry Samolyk (414) 529-9051
Newsletter Ed: Rebecca Sher (263) 707-7478
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: Kevin McCarthy, 4180 Verna Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045. Phone: (262) 781-3014. Email: kmccarthy@hydro-flo.com

MAS Merchandise

Looking for something to wear? Check out:
<http://www.cafepress.com/MilwaukeeAstro>

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.

November

3	Terry Ross	262-784-2093
10	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
17	Tom Schmidtkunz	414-352-1674
24	Neil Simmons	262-889-2039

December

1	Chris Weber	262-789-7128
8	Dan Yanko	414-453-3382
15	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169
22	Tim Burrus	262-369-1022
29	Steve Diesso	262-641-0331

January

5	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745
12	Carlos Garces	262-786-2623
19	Henry Gerner	414-774-9194
26	Chris Hesseltine	414-482-4515

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society
c/o Rebecca Sher
1418 Trillium Court
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095

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