



MAS members Dave Windorski, Dave Weier and Brian Gagniere (left) and Virgil Tagney and Gerry Samolyk (right) view the history of the MAS decade by decade in the entry of the Cora Zemlock Observatory ("Z-Dome") during the summer picnic. If you have a photo from the MAS' past you would like to have copied for the wall, please contact board mem-

Happy 75th Anniversary

Seventy-five years ago this month a group of astronomy enthusiasts from the Milwaukee area banded together to create an organization to promote the study of astronomy and allied sciences. In those days the Midwest was still in its hey-day of scientific endeavor with The University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory as one of its centers. Spectroscopy and photometry were still in their youth and the much of the night sky remained a mystery. Even then, before the days of computers and off-the-shelf electronic cameras, the amateur astronomer could make a modest contribution to nearly any astronomical study.

On the walls of the Zemlock Observatory entrance hall a new exhibit has been erected to showcase the people, buildings and activities of the MAS through the eight decades of its existence. You will find pictures and correspondence with Otto Struve—who

was installed as the Yerkes' director in the same year as our club's creation — and Harlow Shapley, whose studies moved the center of the universe 10,000 light-years in the direction of Sagittarius. You will find a picture of Ed Halbach from the 1930's and onward as he was instrumental in raising a number of buildings on our campus, and a picture of him just recently at a reunion of Milwaukee variable star observers in Tucson. We hope you attend September's meeting and take in this exhibit as well as a talk by Gerry Samolyk on the first 75 years of the MAS.

The MAS is also proud to present an assortment of MAS apparel available at <http://www.cafepress.com/MilwaukeeAstro> and we hope you join in with the festive diamond jubilee spirit.



Weather dampened Picnic, cancelled Yerkes Star Party

Both summer-time events for the MAS were impacted for the first time in recent memory by rain showers. Although Vern and Peg Hoag and the Kevin McCarthy and his daughter cooked burgers

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and hot dogs under a canopy, and picnicker's clothes were dampened by the sprinkles that started soon after the official start, spirits ran high. By the time twilight set in, a full fledged downpour all but



Kevin McCarthy and daughter help out at the picnic.

signaled the cancellation of the Yerkes Star Party. (No, Neil, that's not a high-speed fan in Z-dome, that's the rain hitting the dome.)

Fewer people showed up for the picnic than in previous years, which meant more food for those who did come. (And good food it was too!)

The raffle was also smaller than in recent years.

"It's getting harder and harder to get people to donate," reports Vern Hoag, the picnic's organizer, "So make sure you send a thank you email or something to those who did give."

As usual there was a mix of prizes for the children and the adults including a couple of subscriptions to Astronomy Magazine wrangled-up by Jill Roberts.

Annual Dues Reminder

Just a gentle reminder that membership renewals are due at the September meeting.

Summer and Fall Campout

In spite of cloudy weather on Saturday, the first MAS campout of the year at Dan Yanko's farm near Rib Lake was a monumental success. Friday, August 10 was clear until 3 o'clock in the morning. The enclosed photos from our yearling member Dave W. show just how wonderful the dark skies are. Sleeping arrangements were made either in tents or Dan's farm-house. Neil Simmons came up after making his own forecast that the skies would clear during the night, but when they did he was too tired to see straight. Variable cloud observing around the campfire was the evening's activity

Even the cloudy weather didn't stop the fun as the area has loads of outdoor activities.



Survivor: Rib Lake. Cast from left to right: Kipp Hoffman, Jill Roberts, Dan Yanko, Amelia Windorski, Lana Silke, and Dave Windorski.

Math Poetry

$$(12 + 144 + 20 + 3 \sqrt{4}) / 7 = 9^2 + 0$$

Twelve, a gross, a score,
and three times the square-root of four,
divide by eleven,
oh no, that's a seven,
is nine squared and not a bit more.

Another kind of Latin?

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

(Translation next month)

Summer and Fall Campout Gallery

Both these pictures were taken by Dave Windorski on the first night of the campout.



M27 was taken with the LX200 using an f3.3 focal reducer. The image is composed of about 30 – one minute frames of color data from a DSI-IIc and about 30 – one minute luminance frames from a DSI-Pro II.



M31 was taken with the Megrez 90mm refractor with an f6.3 focal reducer. About 30 frames of 15sec each of color from the DSI-IIc.

Sept - Oct Calendar

Sept 7 (Fri) - Public Observing Session. 7:30 pm
Topic: **Galaxies.**

Sept 21 (Fri) - Board Mtg. Quonset 7:00 pm
New Member Mtg. Z-Dome 7:30 pm
General Mtg. Quonset 8:00 pm
MAS, the First 75 Years - Gerry Samolyk

Oct 5 (Fri) - Public Observing Session. 7:30 pm
Topic: **Double and Multiple Stars.**

Oct 12-13 (Fri-Sat) - Second MAS Campout.
Rib Lake, WI

Oct 19 (Fri) - Board Mtg. Quonset 7:00 pm
New Member Mtg. Z-Dome 7:30 pm
General Mtg. Quonset 8:00 pm

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

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

MAS Officers / Staff

President: Steve Diesso (262) 641-0331
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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.

September

1	Henry Gerner	414-774-9194
8	Chris Hesseltine	414-482-4515
15	Vern Hoag	262-548-9130
22	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212
29	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119

October

6	Lee Kieth	414-425-2331
13	Dan Koehler	262-662-2987
20	Scott Laskowski	414-421-3517
27	Jill Roberts	414-587-9422

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

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society
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