

Newsletter of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society

January and February 2008



LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO DEFROST YOUR TOES AND YOUR SPIRITS? WANT TO RECONNECT WITH FELLOW AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS WAITING FOR THE CLOUDS TO CLEAR?

COME TO THE RESCHEDULED HOLIDAY PARTY!

**SATURDAY JAN 19TH 5:30PM
AT THE
MAS OBSERVATORY**

come up. I hope everyone will join me in extending a thank you to these folks for their volunteer help.

With a larger than average snowfall in Dec, we have been keeping the blacktop portion of the driveway at the observatory clear of snow. Some paths to provide access to all of the buildings have also been cleared. The snow blower is kept in the garage at the north end of the driveway.

Keep in mind that the rest rooms and 'dark room' are electrically heated. Keep these doors closed at all times or we may get a very large electric bill. Also, make sure that the office heat is turned off (at the breaker panel) before leaving the property.

Gerry

Observatory News

We had two major projects in 2007. We had a large scale clean up last May getting rid of a large amount of junk that had accumulated in our buildings. We also acquired a 12" LX200 and another CCD imager. A new fliptop observatory was built to house the 10" LX200. Both of these projects were reported in the July issue of this newsletter.

A few people have been helping out with the day-to-day maintenance of the observatory throughout the year. Jill Roberts took care of cutting the grass for most of the summer. Scott Jamieson has been performing service and repairs on the LX200 scopes keeping them up and running. And Henry Gerner has been available to help with any repair projects that have

Presidents Corner. By Steve Diesso

Hi and Happy Holidays to everyone.

Unfortunately the weather has not very astronomy friendly lately. We had to postpone our annual holiday party due to the storm that blanketed the observatory in snow and ice. We are going to try for Saturday January 19th instead.

In my last article a few months ago, I challenged our newer members to join us on a clear Saturday night and do some visual observing at the observatory. Unfortunately, I haven't seen any takers. Over the last few months, whenever there was a clear Saturday night less than five members were there!

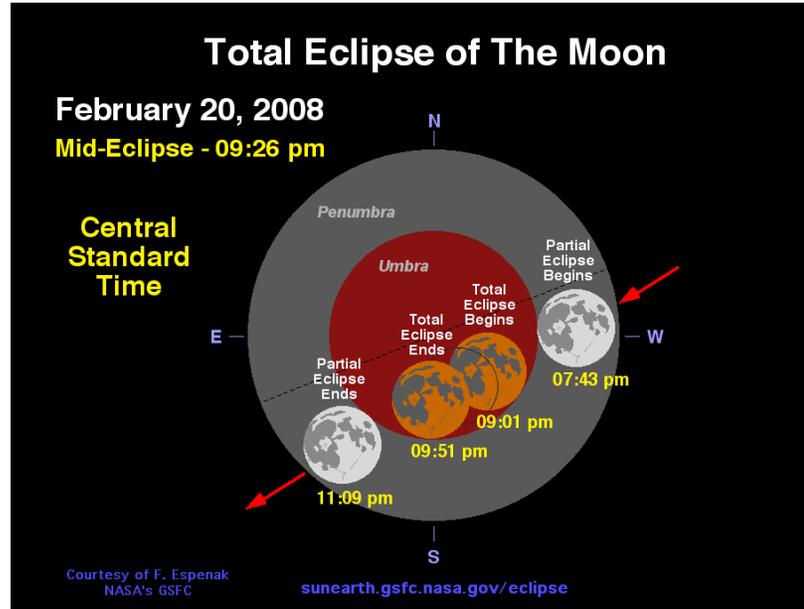


In case you need a sample of what you can see visually through a telescope, take a look at the photo above. This is very similar to what a view through an eyepiece looks like. Can any of our newer members identify the craters in the field? Send me an email at maspresident@milwaukeeastro.org with your guess!

I took this image with an inexpensive web-cam (approx. \$20) though the 10" Newtonian in the Albrecht observatory! The technology available today is quite impressive.

Speaking about the moon, there will be a Total Lunar Eclipse on February 20, 2008. Although it occurs on a Wednesday night, the timing of the eclipse is perfect for the Milwaukee area. The eclipse will start at 7:43PM CST and will end at

11:09PM CST. I have seen a number of total lunar eclipses and they never get old. I saw my first one when I was six years old and it sparked a love of astronomy that still exists today!



Remember, Astronomy does not have to be a solitary hobby. Some of my best astronomy experiences have been spent with fellow amateur astronomers.

I remember spending a terrific evening at the observatory a few years ago just sitting in a chair with a pair of binoculars, chatting with fellow members and just watching a lunar eclipse unfold.

Still hope to see you at the party in January or any clear night!! If you have any questions or need some advice about getting started in Astronomy, please drop me an email.

Clear Skies
Steve!

January Calendar

Jan 19 (Sat) Rescheduled Holiday Party 5:30pm

February Calendar

Feb 15 (Fri) Board Meeting 7:00 pm

Membership Meeting 8:00 pm

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

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society

2008 Public Observing Schedule



April 25	Saturn
May 9	The Moon
August 8	Meteors
August 22	Jupiter
September 5	Double & Multiple Stars
October 3	Galaxies

*Observe The
Wonders Of
The Universe*

www.milwaukeeastro.org

All Public Observing sessions begin at 7:30 PM. A 20-minute presentation about our topic will be repeated throughout the evening. Club members will be available to answer your questions and be your guide to the Universe.

The MAS Observatory is conveniently located in New Berlin Wisconsin.

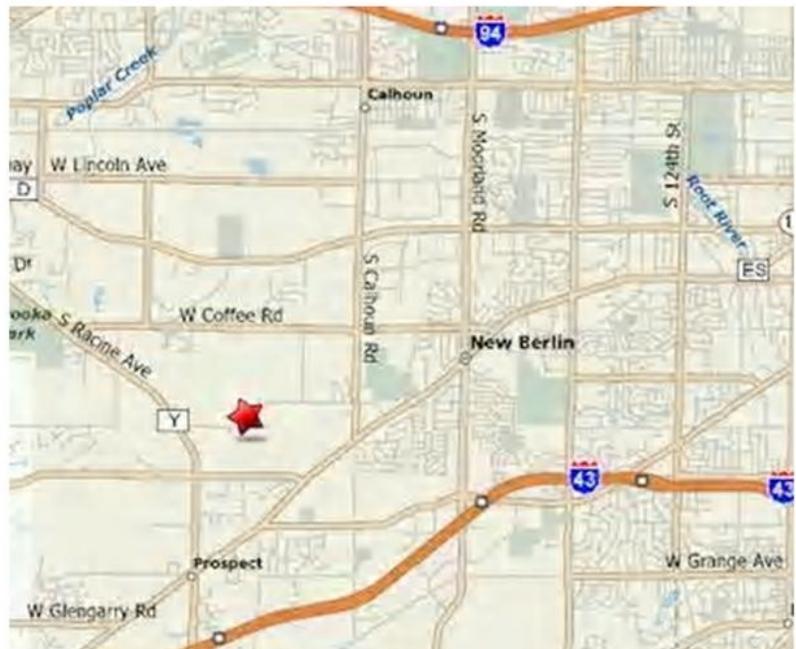
Directions:

Take National Ave. westbound to Observatory Rd. then west again on Observatory.

Or take I-94 to Moorland Rd, go south to National and west on Observatory Rd. There is no interchange at I-94 and Calhoun.

Or take I-43 to Moorland Rd, go north to National and west on Observatory Rd. There is no interchange at I-94 and Calhoun.

Or take Racine Rd east from Waukesha to Observatory and then eastbound on Observatory.



MAS Officers / Staff

President: Steve Diesso (262) 641-0331
Vice President: Rebecca Setzer (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 Setzer (262) 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 to celebrate the New Year?
Check out: 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.

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

February

2 Vern Hoag 262-548-9130
9 Tim Hoff 262-662-2212
16 Scott Jamieson 262-896-0119
23 Lee Keith 414-425-2331

March

1 Scott Laskowski 414-421-3517
8 Bob Manske 608-849-5287
15 Jill Roberts 414-587-9422
22 Terry Ross 262-784-2093

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 Rebecca Sher
1418 Trillium Court
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095

ADDRESS CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

