

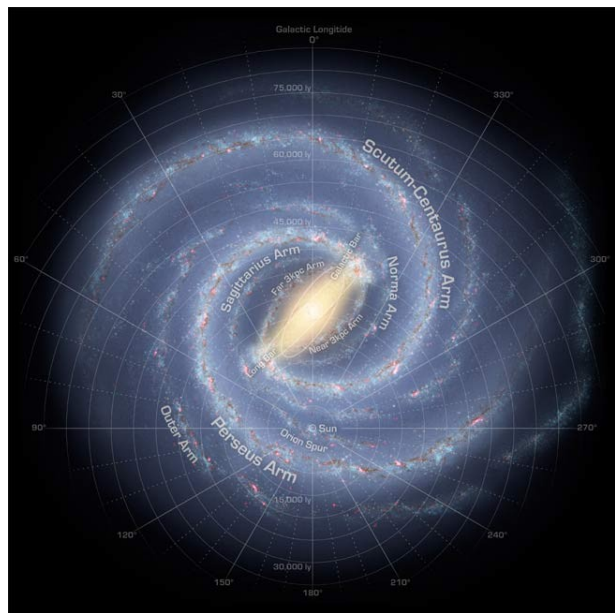
June 3, 2008 - ST. LOUIS — For decades, astronomers have pictured our galaxy as sporting four major, spiral arms, however new images effectively sever two appendages, revealing the Milky Way has just two major arms.

"We're not proposing that they change the positions of the arms," said Robert Benjamin of the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. "What we're proposing is a change in the emphasis of the arms." Benjamin will present his team's results today here at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society (AAS).

<http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/080603-aas-spiral-arms.html>

Hi Everyone,

The article that appeared on Space.com and other news organizations should not have come as a surprise to members of the MAS who attended the March 2008 general meeting. Prof. Bob Benjamin gave us a preview of his June presentation to the AAS. It was exciting to see some of the data that Prof. Benjamin compiled and how he used it to derive the appearance of the Milky Way Galaxy. Having the opportunity to be introduced to that data is just one of the benefits of being a member of an astronomy club.



I'd like to address some of the questions I have been hearing from some members over the past few years. Probably the most asked question is why we continue to have meetings at the observatory especially during the winter months. There are a few reasons for this but the primary reason is money. A few years ago we researched the possibility of meeting at local high schools. We wanted to use it as a tool to recruit

younger members and to provide a more comfortable setting for our members. Unfortunately all the local school boards now require a maintenance fee for all groups using school facilities. The board at that time was very surprised to hear of that requirement and the cost would have negatively affected our funds. So we decided to continue meeting at the observatory. We will consider meeting at other locations with two conditions. First, it would have to be free so we can still remain fiscally sound, and second, that it is NOT a church or other religious organization. We are a scientific organization and I do not think it will be wise to take the chance of offending anyone's beliefs. If anyone knows of a location that meet these requirements please let me know via email at maspresident@milwaukeeastro.org.

Another issue that has been raised over the last few years is the use of technology that the MAS has been using especially the use of CCD imaging. If you have been reading Astronomy and Sky and Telescope magazines the cost of CCD imaging, Astronomy Software and GOTO technology has reached levels that are affordable to the general population. Many amateur astronomers are taking advantage of these advancements and the MAS is no exception. Many members think that CCD imaging is the only type of astronomy we do at the observatory but this is a misconception. We have only two telescopes (the 10 and 12 inch LX200's) dedicated to CCD imaging. The camera on the 12" Newtonian in B-Dome is removable, allowing the telescope to be used visually. All the other telescopes (the 12" Armfield, 10" Albrecht, 18" Wiesen, 14" Zit, and 25" Zemlock) are designated as visual use telescopes.

I have written about this before, but it puzzles me why these telescopes go unused on a clear night. All these telescopes are fantastic instruments that provide terrific views of astronomical objects. I am aware that the amount of ambient light at the observatory has made deep sky observing very difficult but there are many other objects to observe. Lunar, Planetary, Double-stars and the Brighter Messier Objects are within easy grasp of these telescopes, even from the light polluted skies of New Berlin. I enjoy CCD imaging, but if it is a clear evening, I always use the 10" Albrecht Newtonian to do some visual observing as well.

Remember, there are a lot of events schedule for July and August beginning with the picnic on July 26! Join us for a great afternoon and get reacquainted with each other and the observatory!

Clear Skies!
Steve

9 Metis – HIP 14764

2008 sep 12 6^h20^m–7^h00^mUT

Planet :

V. mag. = 9.90 Diam. = 183.7 km = 0.17" S
 μ = 13.84"/h π = 5.93" Ref. = EG2005

Star : **SAO 093320** Source cat. HIP

α = 3^h10^m38.812^s δ = +11°52'21.22"

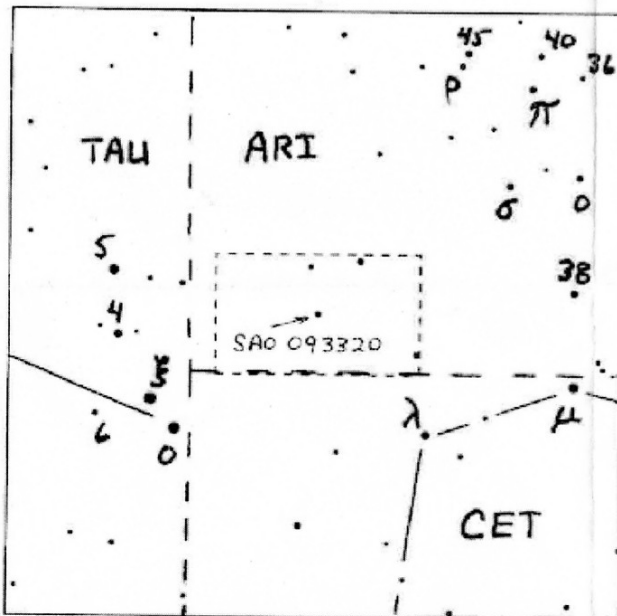
V. mag. = 5.96 **B9** Ph. mag. =

Δm = 4.0

Max. dur. = 44.4s

Sun : 121°

Moon : 96° , 90%



A Spectacular Occultation in September By Gerry Samolyk

Normally, a bright asteroid is not a desirable candidate for an occultation however, when the target star is 6 magnitude, a 10 magnitude asteroid will look faint by comparison. Even the bright moon will not prevent this event from being visible in a small telescope. The wide path will make an occultation observable for all of southern and most of central Wisconsin.

To observe this event all you need is a small telescope, tape recorder, and a shortwave radio that can receive WWV time signals (5, 10, or 15 MHz). These radios are available at Radio Shack. Simply record the time signal on the tape and make a sound to mark the time that the star dims and returns to normal brightness. The brightness will drop 4 magnitudes so there will be no doubt.

You may also consider using a video recorder (with the time signals on the sound track). Some camcorders may

be able to record the star. You can try it out in the weeks before the event.

If enough people observe this occultation from different locations, we will be able to get an accurate picture of the size and shape of the asteroid. Let me know if you plan to observe this event and from what location. I will probably go mobile and fill a gap between observers.

For those of you who have never seen an asteroid occult a star, you may never get an easier event to observe. Keep an eye on the MAS website for updates and better charts.

The details are:

Date: Sept 12 (Friday morning)
 Time: 6:29 UT or 1:29 AM CDT
 Star mag: 5.96 V
 Asteroid mag: 9.9 V

Mary Ann Tangney

Our long time member, Mary Ann Tangney, passed away at the end of June.

Virgil and MaryAnn joined the MAS back in 1964. They both quickly became active in the society. MaryAnn served numerous terms on the board of directors and served as the MAS secretary for many years. She played an active role in running our club for a long time.

In addition to the meetings, Mary Ann was also active in our public nights and participated in most of our group observing projects at the observatory. She also joined us on many grazing occultation expeditions traveling around Wisconsin and northern Illinois chasing Moon shadows.

Health issues prevented Mary Ann from participating in the activities of the society in recent years; however she continued to have a strong interest in the society and the observatory and asked about both whenever I saw her. She was a good friend to several generations of MAS members.

July Calendar

Jul 26 (Sat) MAS Annual Picnic
Arrive 4:00 pm Dinner at 5:00 pm

August Calendar

Aug 8 (Fri) Public Observing Night 7:30 pm
Aug 11 (Mon) Board Meeting 7:30 pm
Aug 22 (Fri) Public Observing Night 7:30 pm
Aug 23 (Sat) Public Outreach/Fundraiser Brat Fry
New Berlin Wal-Mart

September Calendar

Sep 5 (Fri) Public Observing Night 7:30pm
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 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	\$36	Individual	\$23
Family	\$42	Family	\$27

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

MAS Merchandise

Don't feel left out at the picnic, get your MAS gear now!
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.

July

19 Scott Laskowski 414-421-3517
26 Bob Manske 608-849-5287

August

2 Jill Roberts 414-587-9422
9 Terry Ross 262-784-2093
16 Gerry Samolyk 414-529-9051
23 Tom Schmidtkunz 414-352-1674
30 Neil Simmons 262-889-2039

September

6 Chris Weber 262-789-7128
13 Dan Yanko 262-255-3482
20 Scott Laskowski 414-
27 Bob Manske 608-

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"