

FOCAL



POINT

Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : NOVEMBER 1984 : -

NEW MEETING SITE

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CALENDAR:

- Fri., Nov. 16 - General Program - Meeting. Note new site.
Sat., Nov. 17 - MAS Amateur Ast. Series #1.
Mon., Nov. 19 - Board Meeting 7:30 P.M. at the home of Mr. & Mrs. James Toeller, 407 W. Mall Rd., Glendale (352-7144).
Thu., Nov. 22 - Happy Thanksgiving!
Sat., Dec. 1 - MAS Amateur Ast. Series #2.
Sat., Dec. 8 - MAS Amateur Ast. Series #3.
Wed., Dec. 5 - December Focal Point deadline.
Sat., Dec. 15 - MAS Amateur Ast. Series #4.
Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement.
Sat. Nights - Member's night at the observatory.

DECEMBER PROGRAM MEETING: We're fortunate to have Dr. Paul Rybski of Yerkes Observatory with us again. The title of his talk will be "AMATEUR ASTRONOMY WITH SOLID STATE DETECTORS: HOW TO USE 'SILICON FILM' FOR ASTRO-PHOTOGRAPHY."

Dr. Rybski's talk will follow a short business meeting. Guests are welcome.

NOTE THAT A NEW MEETING SITE HAS BEEN CHOSEN.

WHEN: Friday, November 16, 8 P.M.

WHERE: The CATC Building, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Rd., Wauwatosa, The Center is located at the northwest corner of the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center. Bus #71 stops nearby. It may also be reached by turning off of Hwy. 45 at Exit 40 and heading east.

SOMETHING NEW! Classes in observational astronomy will start in November at the observatory. Called the MAS AMATEUR ASTRONOMER'S SERIES, these informal informational lectures will be given by Lee Keith on six consecutive Saturday nights starting November 17.

Each year about this time some of our members relinquish their membership for one reason or another. Perhaps they're disenchanted or are not aware of the many activities or programs available. They include, with brief descriptions and names of people in charge:

*VARIABLE STARS: Observe starlight fluctuation with instruments ranging from binoculars to large telescopes.

* ECLIPSING BINARIES: Stars with binary systems with orbital planes such that the stars mutually eclipse one another causing light fluctuation that is timed during the period of eclipse.

* STANDARD OCCULTATIONS: Timing the disappearance and reappearance of a star near the edge of the moon. Need a stopwatch and WWV time signals from a short wave radio.

* GRAZING OCCULTATIONS: Timing when a star just "grazes" the moon's disc. Star peek-a-boos as it appears to pass behind the moon's mountains and through its valleys as they pass by.

ASTEROID OCCULTATIONS: Stars occulted by asteroids!

** HALLEY COMET WATCH: Who'll be the first in our Society to see it? Also search for other comets.

*** MESSIER CLUB: You can get an impressive certificate if you observe 70 of the 107 Messier objects. It's fun trying to find those in the Milky Way. Good training for the Herschel object program.

*** HERSCHEL CLUB: Search for approximately 4,000 Herschel objects. Similar to Messier Club.

PHOTOGRAPHY: We have a patrol tracker for mounting cameras and also have a darkroom.

METEOR COUNTS: Merely look in the right direction. Can be done lying in a lawn chair.

OTHER PROGRAMS: Nova searches, planet observing, or doing your thing with your unaided eye, binoculars, or your telescope or your Society's many instruments.

* Gerry Samolyk (475-9418), ** Brian Cieslak (679-9663), *** Dan Koehler (662-2987) and Brian Cieslak

All of the aforementioned is leading up to the fact that your Society has a multitude of programs and opportunities, including Saturday Nights and First Wednesdays, for learning or using observing techniques or generally getting acquainted with instruments and the sky, especially if you are new with little or no experience.

Getting back to the MAS AMATEUR ASTRONOMER'S SERIES, the following programs will be presented in the observatory lecture hall at 7:30 P.M., cloudy or clear, on the following dates, (all Saturdays):

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
The Neophyte's Guide to Telescopes	11/17/84
"What's Your Power?" and other pressing telescopic questions.	12/1/84
Owner's Guide to the Collimation of Cleaning of a Newtonian Telescope.	12/8/84
All the Extras: Telescope Accessories	12/15/84
Reading the Celestial Roadmap	1/5/85
The Small, The Faint & The Diffuse: Locating Celestial Objects.	1/12/85

If you want more information call Lee Keith at 962-2856, 961-8752, or Brian Cieslak at 679-9663. If enough interest is shown in these lectures, the program may be expanded to include many other specific topics. There is no course fee.

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS: Let's welcome Curtis Richards, Wauwatosa; Karen Wesener, Milwaukee; and Michael Wolkomir, M.D., Milwaukee. All will be introduced at the November Program-Meeting.

DON'T READ THIS IF YOU'VE PAID YOUR MAS DUES. Its still not too late, but Treas. Jim Toeller must soon notify Sky & Telescope about subscriptions. You might miss some if you delay too long. A form for your convenience is enclosed.

GOOD NEWS! ALCON '84 Chairman Dan Koehler reported at the October Dinner-Meeting that the national convention was a financial success. Your Society made \$3,000 of which the MAS gets \$1,126. The rest has been allocated to co-hosting Societies. Once more, thanks to Dan and the committee.

COMING GRAZES:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>STAR</u>	<u>MAG.</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Nov. 13-14	1211	6.2	12:20 A.M.	76th St. and 5 Mile Road. Central graze. Call Virgil Tangney (327-7976) by 9 P.M. on the 13th for exact location and go-nogo decision.
Nov. 27			5:30 P.M.	Lake Geneva area. Call Virgil or Gerry Samolyk (475-9418) on this one.
Dec. 1		7.8	7:30 P.M.	Hwy. F north of Tichigan Lake.

Call Virgil prior to all grazes if you're going or for go-nogo decisions.

<u>METEOR SHOWER</u>	<u>PEAK DATE, TIME, AND VIEWING DIR.</u>	<u>MOON AGE</u>	<u>PEAK RATE/HR.</u>
Andromedids	Sun. Nov. 25 - Tue. Nov. 27 10 P.M. - South	3-5d	10

Best viewing is between midnight and dawn. Peak rate may occur a day or two before or after maximum. On any normal night, an observer should see from 5 to 10 meteors per hour.

OBSERVATORY NEWS: John Weisen has been appointed Librarian. Books may be signed out by MAS members.

"NORTHERN LIGHTS," The North Central Region Astronomical League quarterly newsletter will publish its next issue in December.

This informative publication contains newsy astronomical items submitted by our neighboring Societies. Your items are also welcome.

For an annual subscription of four issues, please remit \$2.50 to Mr. James Fox, 14601 55th St., South, Afton, Minn. 55001.

FOR SALE: Twenty copies of ALCON '84 minutes and proceedings at \$4.00 a copy. Also a number of small and large ALCON '84 T-shirts, yellow with black lettering. Good material. \$4.00 each.

FOR SALE: You may order Astronomy at \$12/year, Telescope Making at \$6/year (4 issues), Deep Sky, Odyssey (for children), and Observer's (Canadian) Handbooks at \$6 through the MAS (352-7144).

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Nov. 10	B. Ganiere	425-1384	Dec. 1	D. Koehler	662-2987
17	G. Hall	786-8579	8	J. Pfannerstill	475-6494
24	C. Hesseltine	482-4515	15	F. Roldan	344-2354
			22	T. Schmidtkunz	276-9675

Saturday night is member's night at the observatory. All members are invited to come out to observe, learn how to use the equipment available, or just chat. Call the keyholder the Fri. before his night - cancel Sat. if necessary. Keyholder should report anyway. He will also oversee tours during the week ending with his assigned night. Mr. J. Toeller (352-7144) will act on requests.

- : FULL COLD MOON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 : -

DIRECTORY:

President - Peter Smitka - 785-0926
Vice President - Eileen Korenic - 541-3999
Program Chairwoman - Mrs. Virgil Tangney - 327-7976
Secretary - Brian Ganiere - 425-1384
Treasurer - James Toeller - 352-7144
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