


# FOCAL POINT



Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : NOVEMBER, 1985 : -

**CALENDAR:**

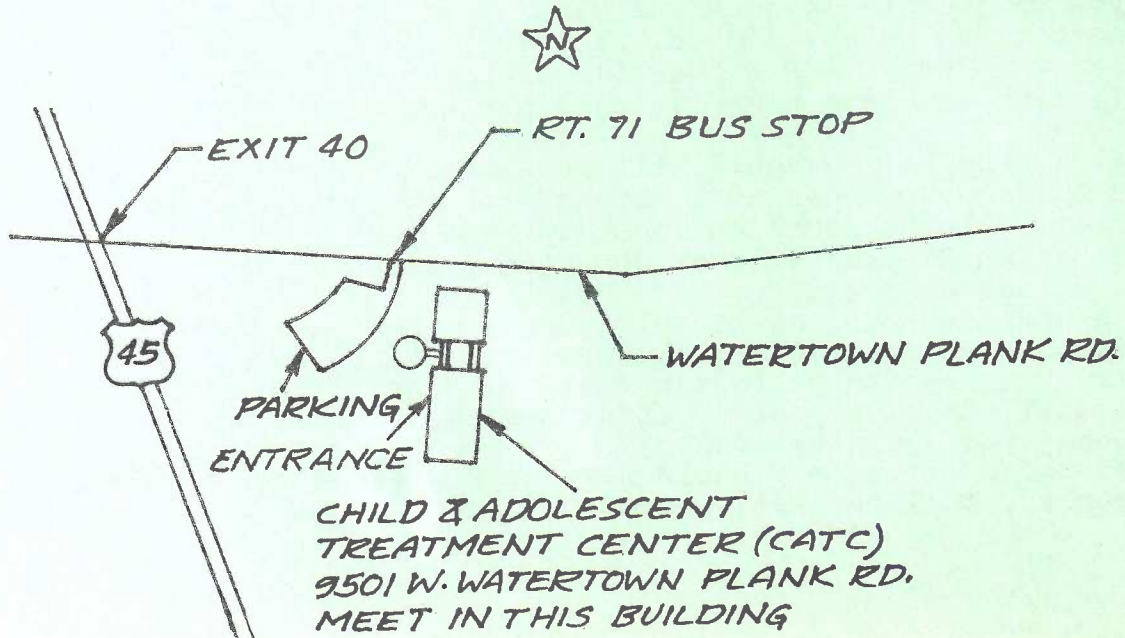
- Sat., Nov. 9 - Amateur Ast. Series Class #2 - Observing planets.
- Fri., Nov. 15 - November Program-Meeting, 8 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 16 - Amateur Ast. Series Class #3 - Observing comets.
- Mon., Nov. 18 - Board meeting.
- Sat., Nov. 23 - Amateur Ast. Series Class #4 - Observing variables.
- Wed., Nov. 27 - Full Beaver Moon.
- Wed., Nov. 27 - Comet Halley closest to earth.
- Thu., Nov. 28 - Give thanks.
- Wed., Dec. 4 - December FOCAL POINT deadline.
- Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement.
- Sat. Nights - Member's Night at the observatory.

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM-MEETING:** Dedicated in 1897, the 40" Yerkes telescope has had much use during its 88 years, and observations made in its earlier years should be of great value now.

Our November meeting will feature Dr. Kyle Cudworth of Yerkes Observatory who, in his topic "Modern Day Use of the Great 40" Refractor At Yerkes," will tell how an 88 year old telescope can do a modern day's work combined with observations made in 1900.

Dr. Cudworth's specialty is studying globular clusters and his talk should be worthwhile. Hear him

Friday, November 15, 8 p.m. in the Child and Adolescent Treatment Center (CATC) auditorium, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa.





MESSIER AND HERSCHEL CLUBS UPDATE (LEE KEITH):

Herschel objects require three areas of learning - the sky, your equipment, and yourself. It requires year 'round observing, dark skies, early rising, and a knowledge of the constellations. Some H objects are 3-4 magnitudes dimmer than M objects. Many require an 8" or larger reflector.

Not all the Herschel objects are dim fuzzies! The following are my favorite Herschel Club objects for fall. Observers with only some experience should be able to see these with little trouble, as the objects are comparable to the Messier list. Note that M33 & M76 are Herschel objects. All observations were made with my 10" f/4.5 at 44x unless specified, which is nearly the same as the Portascopes at the observatory.

So bundle up, head for a dark sky site and feast your eyes on these beauties!! It's well worth the trouble, and you will be started on your Herschel Certificate!

NGC Number	(1950 Coordinates)	R.A.	Dec.	Seeing	Description
7510		23h 09m	+60 18'	Avg.	Small, tightly packed line or arrow of bright stars. Nice!
7662		23h 23m	+42 14'	Good	Round with irregular edges and dark center sensed. Nice! Easily seen at 44x. (267x)
253		00h 45m	-25 34'	Good	Bright, highly elongated streak with sharp edges, brightening towards center. Large!
404		01h 07m	+35 27'	Avg.	Large, bright, slightly oval with bright center. Nice! Beta interferes - must be put out of field for good view. 127x
457		01h 16m	+58 04'	Good	Large loose group of bright stars resembling (the constellation) Aquila. Unusual!
598 M33		01h 31m	+30 24'	Avg.	Large bright with spiral structure obvious. An HII (emission nebula) seen next to field star. Beautiful!
651 M76		01h 39m	+51 19'	Poor	Small, bright, bi-polar, double lobed, like a small M27. No central star seen.

Please welcome a new Messier Club member! His name is Dale Tutkowski and he joins Karen Wesener and Steve Johnson in the growing Messier Club. His certificate will be presented to him at an upcoming MAS meeting.

If you would like to join the Messier or Herschel observing programs, please contact Lee Keith, 1230 E. Singer Cir. #106, Milwaukee 53212; 962-2856 or 961-7852. For a "Messier Club Observer's Handbook" send a 8 1/2 x 11 inch envelope with 66 cents postage to the above address.

COMET HALLEY UPDATE: November will be exciting and eventful! The papers and astronomical magazines will abound with information. SKY & TELESCOPE covers Comet Halley's grand entrance on page 428 of the November issue. MAS member Brian Cieslak will offer a comet observing class Sat. Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. at the observatory.

Get acquainted with Comet Halley on the 14th through the 17th 9 p.m. as it passes 2° (4 moon diameters) south of the Pleiades in Taurus in the eastern sky. It should be in the field of your binoculars. It will appear as a dim, tailless, fuzzy blob, about mag. 7. You'll need a dark sky out of town, preferably in the country.

Comet Halley will be visible naked-eye under ideal conditions in early December, tail and all! Good hunting!



OBSERVATORY REPORT: Good news! According to observatory director Gerry Samolyk, the 26" telescope building will be ready for the New Berlin building inspector by November 20. When the building is done we can pour effort into the telescope. Will you help? Brian Ganiere is our new groundskeeper, replacing Mike Zahorik. Thanks a million Mike for the good job. Brian is using a hand power mower. We've got to get a new or used rider mower. John Asztalos committee is still fighting light pollution. The 10" Portascopes will have finders. Instrumentation for 12" scopes includes hypersensitizing chamber, improved guiding eyepiece system, filar micrometer improvements, and addition of a Starlight 1 Photo Electric photometer, the latter obtained from an Appolo Fund Grant 1984-'85. Observations include 5 lunar occultations, 1 graze (32 contacts), many Venus and Jupiter measurements and timings by Terry Ross and 1,683 variable star observations by Gerry Samolyk. Lee Keith was awarded Herschel Award (certificate no. 20) for observing 400 H objects.

The MAS is not doing nothing!

INFORMATIVE CLASSES CONTINUE: Here is a list of the remaining MAS Amateur Astronomer Series advanced topics.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Nov. 9	Observing the Planets	Terry Ross
Nov. 16	Observing Comets	Brian Cieslak
Nov. 23	Observing Variable Stars	Gerry Samolyk

All classes will be taught Saturday nights in the observatory auditorium, starting at 7 p.m.

Dress warmly since some instruction may take place at the 12½" telescope.

WE'RE PLEASED TO PRESENT new members; Ray Cote, Menomonee Falls; Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Davis, Franklin; Vladimir Karasek, Milwaukee; Patrick Karsten, Milwaukee; John Krueger, Brookfield; Gary May, Milwaukee; Richard Skowronski, Milwaukee; Sally-Jo Trummer, Waukesha.

Everyone will be introduced at the November general meeting.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet Monday, November 18, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Dan Koehler, W248 S7040 Sugar Maple Dr., Waukesha.

THANKS TO longtime MAS member Rev. Milton Lange of Springdale, Arkansas for a generous contribution to the Society.

FOR SALE: Magazine subscriptions, at reduced rates, through your Society. Ideal for Christmas presents.

ASTRONOMY - 12 issues, \$12/yr. (general astronomy).

DEEP SKY - 4 issues, \$7/yr.

TELESCOPE MAKING - 4 issues, \$7/yr.

OBSERVER'S (CANADIAN) HANDBOOK - \$6.50 per copy (annually).

ODYSSEY - 12 issues, \$10.00/yr. (for children).

Please call Jim Toeller at 352-7144.

The Society needs several more subscriptions for ODYSSEY to get the minimum rate from the publisher. Please order now.

FOR SALE: Two eyepiece cases with foam rubber, \$3.00 each; 3 inch reflector telescope with Dobsonian Mount, \$5.00; 40 constellation slides of Northern Hemisphere and five seasonal starmap, \$10.00. Please call Don at 545-2313.



GRAZING OCCULTATION:

<u>NIGHT OF</u>	<u>MAG.</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>% SUNLIGHT</u>	<u>CUSP ANGLE</u>
Dec. 15-16	6.0	7:15 p.m.	35	15.9S

This graze is rated favorable. For details call Virgil Tangney (327-7976).

METEOR SHOWER      PEAK DATE, TIME, AND RADIANT DIR.      MOON AGE      PEAK RATE/HR.

Taurids	Nov. 9, 11 p.m., S	27	5-15
Leonids	Nov. 16, 4 a.m., S	4	5-20
Andromedids	Nov. 25-27 9 p.m., S	13-15	10
Geminids	Dec. 13 1 a.m., S	2	50-80

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

IF YOU'VE PAID YOUR DUES, skip this article. If you haven't, please remit soon. A dues form with membership rates is included with this issue.

"NORTHERN LIGHTS," The North Central Region Astronomical League quarterly which all MAS members now receive will publish its next issue in December.

Publisher James Fox welcomes unusual, informative, newsy, astronomical articles for publication. Send your item to Mr. Fox at 14601 55th St., South, Afton, Minn. 55001.

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE: The MAS officers and directors wish everyone a pleasant holiday.

OOPS! The October FOCAL POINT erred regarding an observatory key rental rate. A building access key rents for \$10.00 rather than \$5.00 as stated.

A \$1.00 key allows entry to the parking lot and grounds, and allows access to a power outlet.

Call Jim Toeller at 352-7144.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Nov. 9	D. Koehler	662-2987	Dec. 7	F. Roldan	344-2354
16	D. Harris	964-1428	14	G. Samolyk	475-9418
23	A. Penikis	354-9708	21	T. Schmidtkunz	784-0253
30	T. Ross	784-2093			

Brian Cieslak (679-9663) is in charge of scheduling special programs and tours at the observatory.

A new procedure regarding responsibilities of Member's Night participants has been adopted by the Board of Directors. All MAS members are urged to read and keep the special insert that was issued with the September FOCAL POINT. Call 933-3052 for a replacement copy.

DIRECTORY:

President - Daniel Koehler - 662-2987  
 Vice President - Dr. Richard Wiesen - 781-4757  
 Prog. Chairperson - Thomas Renner - 1-392-2799  
 Secretary - Brian Ganiere - 258-5626  
 Treasurer - James Toeller - 352-7144  
 Observatory Director - Gerry Samolyk - 475-9418  
 Asst. Obs. Director - John Asztalos - 258-5626  
 FOCAL POINT Editor - LeRoy Simandl - 933-3052  
 MAS Observatory - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin - 542-9071

DECEMBER FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4.

DUES REMITTANCE

NOVEMBER, 1985

Please mark this tear-off and include it with your remittance made payable to Mr. James Toeller, 407 W. Mall Rd., Milw., Wis. 53217 (352-7144).

- \_\_\_\_\_ General Membership @ \$30.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership @ \$30.00 plus \$1.00 for each additional family member.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Resident @ \$20.00.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Junior Member (under 16) @ \$15.00.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to 26" (0.6m) Telescope Completion Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address, Zip, & phone \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for supporting the Milwaukee Astronomical Society.