



Issued by the

Milwaukee Astronomical Society

Summer 1989

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Meteors

Delta Aquarids - July 30. Peak at 2:00am CDT. Rate of 10-35/hr. Look south

Perseids - August 11-13. Peak at 4:00am CDT. Rate of 50-100/hr. Look north.

Surprise!

We were surprised at the May meeting by a visit from MAS Founder Member Bill Albrecht.

Bill joined in 1935 and is our most distant member. He and his wife, Anne, reside near Pahala, Hawaii.

Election Results

Ballots cast at the May Election re-elected Mathew McNeeley and Frank Roldan to another term as board members. Brian Ganiere and Peter Smitka replaced Sally-Jo Michalko and Dr. Richard Wiesen. Michael Wolkomir replaced Virgil Tangney for the remaining year of Virgil's term.

The roster of Society officers remains as shown in the Focal Point directory.

The current list of board members includes; John Asztalos, Paul Borchardt, Lee Keith, Mathew McNeeley, Brian Ganiere, Nick and Jeanine Nichols, Tom Renner, Frank Roldan, Dr. Michael Wolkomir, and Peter Smitka.

Your Society has good leadership. This has been a tradition since the MAS was founded nearly sixty years ago. Support your board and officers with your help and suggestions.

New Members

New members added to the MAS roster are **David Eicher**, Brookfield; **Gary Ertel**, wife **Judy**, and son **Jim**, Brookfield; **Ronald Horst**, Sullivan; **Robert Kasten**, wife **Lesli**, and son **James**, Waukesha; **Jeffrey Moll**, Pewaukee; **Richard Monsoor**, **Gloria**, **Vicki**, and **Mark**, New Berlin; **Anthony Palm**, Milwaukee.

Calendar

- Monday, June 19 ----- Full Strawberry Moon.
- Wednesday, Jun 21 ----- Summer begins at 4:53AM CDT.
- Saturday, June 24 ----- Saturn and Neptune close after dark, Uranus nearby.
- Sunday, July 2 ----- Saturn brightest.
- Wednesday, July 5 ----- First Wednesday meeting at the observatory, 7:30PM.
- Tuesday, July 18 ----- Full Buck Moon.
- Thursday, July 20 ----- Armstrong & Aldrin Moonwalk - 1969.
- July 21 - 23 ----- Astronomical League National Convention.
- Saturday, July 29 ----- MAS Annual Family Picnic.
- Wednesday, August 2 ----- First Wednesday meeting at the observatory, 7:30PM.
- Friday, August 4 ----- September "Focal Point" deadline.
- Wednesday, August 16 ----- Full Sturgeon Moon. Total lunar eclipse.
- September 8 - 10 ----- Astrofest.
- Friday, September 22 ----- September Program-Meeting.

Saturdays ----- Observatory maintenance and improvements. Help wanted. Call Gerry Samolyk at 475-9418, John Asztalos at 547-3400, or observatory at 542-9071.

Saturday Nights ----- Members night at the observatory.

For Sale

MAS Garments. Sweatshirts (royal blue with large white MAS logo) \$10.00. Golf shirts (white with small MAS logo) \$9.00. T-shirts (royal blue or white with large or small MAS logo) \$6.50. All garments are 50/50 blend. Sizes S-M-L-XL. All prices include Wisconsin state tax. Add \$2.00 for shipping or pick them up at an MAS meeting or at Tom Gill's (Chest Works) home at 1391 N. 72nd Street, Wauwatosa, 53213 (476-6986). Call before home pick-up.

More For Sale

Meade DS-10 10" f4.5 reflecting telescope. Excellent condition. Included is a 2" deluxe focuser with 1.25" adapter, 8x50 finder, tracking motor, new 2.6 secondary mirror, and pedestal. Mirror has two tiny chips at edge, painted flat black with no effect on performance. Asking \$250 plus shipping for entire unit.

Please contact Jeff Stephen, 1329 Mt. Zion, Janesville, Wisconsin 53545 (608-752-2991).

Good Show - Good Seats!

A total eclipse of the moon will occur on the evening of Wednesday, August 16. Totality begins at 9:20pm CDT and ends at 10:56pm CDT. It will be the longest total lunar eclipse since 1982. Its color may range from reddish-brown to black depending on Earth's atmosphere.

Dues Will Be Due!

Dues will be due by September 1, the start of the 1989-1990 MAS fiscal year. Treasurer Dan Koehler will be happy to accept payment now. Payment is required by September 30 to remain a member in good standing.

MEMBERSHIP RATES:

- \$40.00 - Regular members (age 16 and over).
- \$40.00 - "Family Plan" members plus \$1.00 for each additional family member.
- \$25.00 - Juniors (under 16 years as of September 1 of the current year).
- \$30.00 - Non-Residents.

Coming Events

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE NATIONAL CONVENTION on July 21, 22, 23 at Cheney, Washington (20 miles southwest of Spokane). For more information call or write;

Gene Dietzen
P.O. Box 8114
Spokane, Washington 99203
Phone (509) 928-2313

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ASTROFEST. September 8, 9, 10. Sponsored by the Chicago Astronomical Society at Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See, 60 miles south of Chicago. Those who prefer to eat their meals with the Milwaukee group rather than purchase meal tickets should call Frank Roldan (423-0210) or Jim Toeller (352-7144). For more Astrofest info write:

Astrofest
P.O. Box 596C
Kinney Park, Illinois 60477

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GREENBUSH CAMPOUT. Greenbush campers may again join Star Party campout at Greenbush Kettle Moraine campsite #6. When? Friday through Sunday, August 4-6. The moon will be a waxing crescent, so enjoy a dark, hopefully clear, sky and see some stars. Bring your tent, telescope, warm clothes, and firewood. Please call a week ahead of time if you are going. Campers must pay \$3.50 plus \$2.00/day/person. For more Greenbush Campout info call:

John Asztalos
774-5418

Book Review by Ned Guyette

A MANUAL OF ADVANCED CELESTIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Written by: Brad D. Wallis and Robert W. Provin
Published by: Cambridge University Press
Donated by: Ned Guyette

Brad Wallis and Robert Provin have established a benchmark for astrophotographers with the publication of "A MANUAL OF ADVANCED CELESTIAL PHOTOGRAPHY." This handsomely produced volume provides the reader with a well organized, thorough treatment on all aspects of astrophotography.

We are first presented with a brief history of the subject together with a sample of some stunning historic images taken as early as 1883. The text then evolves into a discussion on the mechanics of astrophotography - optical systems, mountings, polar alignment, guiding, focusing and other related topics.

We are next treated to a complete and somewhat technical discussion of sensitometry. Both black & white, and color emulsions are reviewed, as well as their applications to celestial photography. The authors describe both elementary and advanced darkroom methods as well as various methods in current use to boost sensitivity of films - gas hypersensitizing, cold cameras, pre-exposure and others. There are sample images to illustrate different emulsions as well as the various printing techniques described in the text.

The reader is then provided with a general discussion of narrow and wide field deep sky photography, as well a lunar and planetary photography.

The book finishes with a selection of astrophotos by well known astrophotographers and a discussion of their methods.

Contrary to the title, there is a great deal of information to benefit the novice and intermediate astrophotographer.

Annual Family Picnic

MAS members and their families are invited to enjoy the Annual Family Picnic on Saturday, July 29, at the observatory. Come out at 2:00pm and stay until "??". The Society will furnish ice cold beer and soda to wash down the goodies the members will bring or cook on their grills. And if you bring equipment, we can play volley ball, bocci, or whatever, If you have something astronomical to sell or swap, bring it along. And bring your 'scope or use Society instruments. The moon will be past last quarter and you may spot some Delta Aquarid meteors if you look south. Or just relax in the country air and don't do anything. There will be no rain! Here's a good chance for newer members to meet and get better acquainted with one another and your MAS facilities.

At present there is no chairperson. Call Dan Koehler at 662- 2987 for more details.

Northern Lights

"Northern Lights", the North Central Region quarterly newsletter will soon publish its July edition.

Editor Ray Wendt can use your unusual newsy astronomical items, event account, book reports, or items not found in the usual astronomy publications. Send them to:

Ray Wendt
4834 N. 70th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53218

"Northern Lights" is sent free to MAS members. Subscriptions are \$2.50 per year for four quarterly issues.

Keyholders

June 24	John Pfannerstill	475-6494
July 1	Frank Roldan	423-0210
8	Terry Ross	784-2093
15	Gerry Samolyk	475-9418
25	Tom Schmidtkunz ..	784-0253
29	Peter Smitka	785-0926
Aug. 5	Virgil Tangney	327-7976
12	Jim Toeller	352-7144
19	Richard Wiesen	781-4757
26	John Asztalos	547-3400
Sept. 2	Paul Borchardt	781-0169

An Amateur Astronomer's Wife

I wake up with a start in the dead of the night,
I know something is wrong, and I turn on the light,
The place on the pillow beside me is bare,
My husband is missing, he's gone. Who knows where?
Perhaps he's recounting his variable stars,
Or seeing invisible markings on Mars.
The the moon is high up, and the Earth's lights are dim,
Is he perched upon Plato's precipitous rim?
Oh, what is this thing that's come into our life?
There once was a time when my husband was mine,
Now he's way out in space where the galaxies shine,
And he spends all his time with his old telescope,
While I lie here alone, and I shiver and mope.
By dawn he'll be back; as he grabs a few winks
He'll be dreaming of Venus, and Lepus and Lynx.
And when he's awakened by coffee's sharp smell,
His eyelids will droop; he'll be grouchy as well.
Oh, pity poor me, an astronomer's wife.

by
Mrs. Hedi E. Lattey

Frank Roldan Wins Region Award

The North Central Region of the Astronomical League, chaired by Dan Koehler, presented a Region Award' certificate to MAS member Frank Roldan. The engraved plaque was presented at a special ceremony at the banquet concluding the 1989 NCRAL Convention at Rockford, Illinois.

Ever since Frank joined the Milwaukee Astronomical Society in 1975, he has given much time and effort to the advancement of our Society and astronomy in general. He has unreluctantly served as president and vice president, served many terms as a board member, worked on the 26" telescope since its inception, and has chaired many Open House programs. Frank also served several terms as Astronomical League Chairman and is a charter member of the Wehr Astronomical Society. He also coordinates the standard occultation program at the observatory.

During a standing ovation at the May meeting, Frank proudly showed his hard-earned Special Award plaque. And he accepted another three-year term as an MAS board member. And he'll take charge of the Open House program again this year.

Saturn Occultation

At a little before 12:30AM on the morning of July 3, Saturn will begin to occult the 5.8 magnitude star, 28 Sagittarii. There is going to be a coordinated viewing of the event by MAS. If you wish to participate in this viewing, be at the MAS observatory by 11:00PM on July 2. This will allow for setting up scopes and organizing the observers. If you have them, you should bring a tape recorder, telescope (preferably an f/10 equatorial mount), and high-power eyepieces (~200-250X). You should also bring something to keep you comfortable (sweater, jacket, hot coffee) as the event will last about 4 hours from beginning to end.

The planetary occultation of a star of this magnitude is rare. The last visible Saturn occultation in the U.S. occurred in 1984. This occultation will give MAS members an opportunity to contribute valuable information on this rare event to the astronomical community.

For more information, please contact Dan Koehler (662-2987).

Loaner Scopes

Two 8" Dobsonian "APOLLO" telescopes are available to MAS members for general use away from the observatory. They will accept either 1.25" or 2" eyepieces. One scope is located on the north side of Milwaukee and the other on the south side of Milwaukee.

No deposit is required, but an agreement to cover loss or damage must be signed. The loan is from 14-31 days with an extension period.

(North Side Location)
Matt McNeeley
8200 N. Cedarburg Road
Brown Deer, Wisconsin
Phone 354-5347

(South Side Location)
Richard Sterle
8115 W. Waterford Avenue
Greenfield, Wisconsin
Phone 543-7459

Planet Search

by Tony E. Jarozewski

Scientists predict that our sun will go nova in about 5 billion years, and it will take the Earth with it. It is my opinion that every aspect of astronomy is important. Our objective is to discover another planet either in our solar system or among the billions of stars out in space. For starters, there are plus or minus 89 yellow G-type stars to research. To accomplish this, we must know such things as distance of our sun to earth, trigonometrical parallax, properties of the stars, etc, and compare this information to finding another planet with the exact characteristics of our planet.

What I propose is that we split up into groups of two and every member pick and aspect of astronomy they prefer such as; calculating distances of stars, photographing stars, etc. We could combine our information at our next star party and deduce the best possible search for a planet.

P.S. Since all the star fields are not visible from one location, I suggest we make this a nationwide participation. Our main base could be our own MAS where we could compute all the information.

Open House 1989

The general public will be able to personally view many wonders in the sky at our "Public Open Houses."

The MAS observatory west of New Berlin at 18850 W. Observatory Road will feature a different topic each night with talks and actual viewing through professional telescopes. The observatory will be open regardless of the weather. All programs begin at 8:00PM. Admission is free, but a \$2.00 donation per car for parking will be cheerfully accepted.

Bring a sweater or jacket and bug repellent.

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE - (All Friday Nights):

July 14 - Saturn
July 28 - Meteors
August 11 - The Moon
August 25 - Constellations
September 15 - Telescopes
September 29 - The Milky Way
October 13 - Double Stars

Attention, MAS members! Our Open Houses have been attracting large crowds, especially on clear nights. On occasion, we had four or five people trying to serve five hundred guests. Many left in dismay because of long lines at a few 'scopes!

We need lots of help - a dozen volunteers at least at each event. Traffic control in the parking lots is important especially when people exit; a dozen 'scopes need attendants; crowd control for public safety is a must, especially with little kids dashing about in the dark. We need helpers to spell helpers. And we want to offer our guests short lines and unhurried views through many 'scopes. There will be an easy job for everyone. Despite our high-tech age, most guests are still awe-struck when they see Saturn, an "M" object, or even just a star through a real telescope with their own eye. You'll meet a lot of pleasant people, many of whom eventually become members. And bring your personal 'scope. The smaller 'scopes sometimes impress our visitors more than the big ones.

Call chair Frank Roldan now at 423-0210. Pick your time and date. Hours are from 7:00PM to about 10:00PM.

Last Focal Point

The "Focal Point" will resume publication near the end of August. Best wishes for a safe, enjoyable summer. The next General Meeting will take place Friday, September 22. The September "Focal Point" deadline will be August 4.

Directory

President	Dr. Richard Wiesen	781-4757
Vice President	Mathew McNeeley	354-5347
Secretary	Ms. Karen Wesener	961-8752
Treasurer	Dan Koehler	662-2987
Observatory Director	Gerry Samolyk	475-9418
Assist. Observatory Director	John Asztalos	547-3400
Librarian	Mrs. Sally Waraczynski	321-0918
Assistant Librarian	Mrs. June Regis	962-0896
Program Director	Mathew McNeeley	354-5347
FOCAL POINT Editor	LeRoy Simandl	933-3052
	4201 W. Highland Blvd. Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208	
MAS Observatory	18850 W. Observatory Road	542-9071
	New Berlin, Wisconsin	