



The Newsletter of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society

January 1998

MAS Christmas Party was great fun!!

Hey Gang! If you weren't at Los Mariachis Restaurant on Wednesday evening Dec. 17 with your fellow MAS compadres,.... you blew it! 25 to 30 MAS members & friends turned out to enjoy some of the finest Mexican food around. Couple that with the relaxed good fellowship and the exchange of astronomical tales (we amateurs think on a big scale) it just wound up being a fun evening. Mariachis gave us our own room coupled with outstanding food and service to help our holiday celebration. Unlike some restaurants , they flexibly billed us as singles ,doubles , families etc.

taking the curse out of some poor chap trying to collect from the collective lot for a horrendous single tab..More importantly, the relaxed environment combined with the holiday spirit simply gave us a chance to enjoy each others company. Sally Jo Michalko brought along name tags for us to wear..so you didn't have to sweat remembering someone you might have met in the dark of an observatory nite. For others , the name tags provided an added element of assurance that they would always be able to identify who they are by simply reading their own nametags in the mirror (amateurs are used to looking at inverted or mirror images anyway).

Among the celebrants, were the Keiths, Borchardt, Michalko, Kubes, Warazinskis, Poklar, Laskowski, Frey, Strouds, Marinelli, Tangneys, Warners, Silke, Ganiere, Yanko et al .I've violated my own rule of listing attendees because I know I'm missing several people, ...my apologies.

First Wednesday meeting , Jan. 7, 1998, 7:30PM

Weather permitting, the First Wednesday meeting will be held by the Observatory Director, Gerry Samolyk, at the club's Observatory site. Format for the meeting is an open question & answer type forum. Upcoming Observing events such as grazes, occultations are also reviewed for member consideration and participation.

MAS Meets Friday, January 16, 1998 at UWM at 8:00 pm

The regular monthly membership meeting will be held at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee in Room 133 of the Physics building of the Kenwood Campus at 8:00 PM. A speaker is planned but info did not reach the editor in time

***This may be your last Focal Point!
If you haven't rejoined MAS by the next issue, your off the mailing list! Don't lose touch...we want you back!***

for inclusion in this issue. Priority emphasis for this issue was to assure adequate direction to the new site got out to the members on a timely basis. A full campus map, showing the meeting site (as well as city inset maps) and recommended parking area(s), are all shown on Page 3. Please save this issue (or at least page 3) for future reference, since the Editor does not plan to run the campus layout every issue.

Some comments on accessing this site.On the lower right hand corner of page three are directions for getting to UWM from any part of town. For most of our members, the so called "scenic Route" is the fastest way. This route says to take I-43 or I-94 from any direction to the downtown area, pick up 794 eastbound to N. Lake drive, go north until Lake drive veers away from the lake and you come to a stoplight at the top of a hill. Go straight from the stoplight, and you'll be on Kenwood going westbound, just a few blocks from UWM. Taking I-43 to Locust, then eastbound on Locust to the campus area, seems to be the most time consuming because of congested streets and lots of traffic lights.

Try to use the marked, above ground ,parking lots (see page 3) rather than the parking under the Student Union. Its a long walk to Kenwood & Cramer.

The Board meeting will precede the regular meeting at 7:00PM .All board members are requested to attend.

Eds Note:

Non-board members may want to consider taking in the 7:00PM to 8:00PM planetarium show at the Olsen Planetarium just a short way down the hall from our meeting room (Rm 133).

Regular Meeting Site Notice
The MAS Friday, January 16, 1998 Meeting will be held in Room 133 of the Physics Building of the UWM Kenwood Campus
See detailed maps on page 3 as well as comments on this page

FROM THE PRESIDENT: "The Winds of Change"

Now that the holidays are becoming a distant memory and the cold days (and nights) are settling in, thoughts are turning to plans for the new year. For me, the coming year will be different than all others. Our daughter, Celeste, is almost 2 now and is walking and talking with increasing skill. As you may suspect, she knows many astronomical objects by name!

My wife, Karen, told me of a recent incident whereby she was putting Celeste down for a nap in the late morning. As we always do before putting her down for a nap or at night, we read her a book or two, say "goodnight" to Pooh (as in 'Winnie') and give her a pacifier. Karen then put her in her crib but Celeste protested. She began crying strenuously even to tears. Celeste kept saying "oop-ter, oop-ter, oop-ter"! Karen is good at translating what she says, but even Karen couldn't tell what she wanted. So she took Celeste out of her crib and put her on the floor. She immediately went over to the bedroom window and with tears still running down her cheeks, pointed out the window. Karen then realized that Celeste was saying "Jupiter!" When we put Celeste down at night we always say goodnight to all the visible planets and the Moon. Jupiter has been visible out her window for so long that Celeste has remembered the planets! She knows the Moon, too!

Would you blame me if I want to spend more time with our "little astronomer?" To do this I need to step down as MAS president. I have served the MAS energetically for the past three years through several crises including 2 treasurers, 2 Focal Point editors and a secretary. I have served as interim treasurer twice and survived the recent controversy over staying in the Astronomical League. My terms have not been dull!

But now that things are relatively calm, I feel it is a good time to step aside and let another member lead the Society into the next Millennium. (Sorry, I had to use that cliché) For those who may wish to consider the position, there are no qualifications other than being a member of the MAS and there are only two presidential duties. First, the president presides over the membership and Board of Directors meetings. He or she gets to pound a gavel (as loud as you want!) at the beginning and end of each meeting!

The other duty is a little more challenging. It is to oversee the general affairs of the Society. The president needs to have some knowledge of the activities of the Society and a rapport with the other officers, Board of Directors and members. It helps to have some leadership qualities, but is not required. The president position tends to have a higher public profile since it is usually the president that is called on to represent the Society to the public and the media, if necessary. You tend to get some phone calls for information on joining, activities and public outreach. It only gets bad when a comet flies by or there is some other well publicized astronomical event.

If you would like to run for president or any other officer or the Board of Directors, please contact me at 425-2331 so I can put you on the list.

Continued next Column

From the Prez Continued

Being more active in the Society can be a fun and rewarding experience. Don't be afraid if you are not as good as President Clinton at giving speeches.

Lee Keith, President, MAS

Eds Note: Lee Keith is giving plenty of notice to the club before the May MAS election . If you have any interest in becoming club president, now is the time to start thinking about it.

New Library Acquisitions

1. **Isaac Asimov's Library of the Universe, Isaac Asimov:1988- 1989.**Tim Hoff donated 24 of 33 volumes of this encyclopedia for young people, (or not quite that old).The topics range from: astronomical myth , space flight and the understanding of the solar system; to the evolution of stars- birth, death and resulting recycling of matter that may affect life; of course, concluding with the "Cosmological Question."

2. **The CCD Camera Cookbook: Build Your Own Astronomical CCD Camera With This Step by Step Recipe, Richard Berry, Veikko Kanto, John Munger-1993.**MAS member Scott Jamieson was a legend in William's Bay as the guy who took pictures of Comet Hale-Bopp and displayed them every few seconds with his "electronic gizmo". Scott also obtained exceptional images of the Orion Nebula and various deep sky objects with the public at MAS Open Houses. Scott used this book as a basis for building one of the two CCD imagers detailed in this book. His excellent CCD imager is a testimonial to this book.

- Scott Laskowski, Librarian, 421-3517

Eds Note: Scott Laskowski oversees one of the finest amateur collection of Astronomy books around. Besides donated books ,like Tim Hoff's. He spends several hundred dollars a year of MAS funds in acquiring new books (like the CCD cookbook) for member use. If you haven't dug around in the library yet , your missing an excellent, free MAS resource (which your dues help pay for).

DON'T KNOW A BLACK HOLE FROM A HOLE IN THE GROUND?

Learn all about the science of Astronomy and what's happening in the sky from a non-credit course given by UW-Waukesha. Topics include: earth centered astronomy including moon, sun & stars; the solar system, structure of our home galaxy, nebulae, star clusters, other galaxies, galactic clusters, quasars, and the ultimate fate of the universe. Special activities include telling time with the Big Dipper and observing sessions at the MAS observatory. The classes run for 7 Monday evenings from March through May and costs \$70. For more information or to enroll, call Don Bracco at UW-Waukesha at 521-5460 or get an enrollment form at any membership meeting.

New Members- Welcome!

MAS welcomes the following new members. New members , please join us ,if you can, at our January Meeting at UWM.

Michael Arnov of Fox Point

Robert Naeye of Waukesha

David Potter with Jennifer of Milwaukee

James Regis with June & Kent of Whitefish Bay

- Julie Frey, Membership Chairperson

MAS Officers/ Staff

President Lee Keith 425-2331
Vice President Scott Jamieson 896-0119
Treasurer Dan Yanko 453-3382
Secretary Margaret Warner 327-7427
Observatory Director
Gerry Samolyk 529-9051
Assistant Observatory Director
Paul Borchardt 781-0169

Focal Point

Editor Rudy Poklar 786-8931
Email: rudyp70855@aol.com
Distribution Margaret Warner

Future MAS Events

February 20 Monthly meeting ay UWM
March ? Annual MAS Awards Banquet-
Date & place to be announced.
April 18 Monthly meeting at UWM
May16 Election of Officers , Meet at MAS
Observatory (to be confirmed)
Spring, Summer, Fall- Schedule of Star Parties
and club outings to be announced..

Keyholders

January

3 Vern Hoag 548-9130
10 Tim Hoff 662-2212
17 Scott Jamieson 896-0119
24 Lee Keith 425-2331
31 Dan Koehler 662-2987

February

7 Jim Kube 453-8858
14 Scott Laskowski 421-3517
21 Rudy Poklar 786-8931
28 Terry Ross 784-2083

March

7 Gerry Samolyk 529-9051
14 Tom Schmidtkunz 352-1674
21 Ken Waraczynski 321-0918
28 Wanda Burner 691-2360

Loaner Telescopes (available to members for local use)

Scott Jamieson (Waukesha) 896-0119 4" f / 15 refractor
Lee Keith (Franklin) 425-2331 8" Dob reflector
Rich Stearle (Greenfield) 543-7479 8" Dob reflector

WANTED: Telescope in the 4-6" range for a 10 yr. old.
Willing to pay around \$150. Please call Chuck Yerkes at 332
-9120 if you have a small telescope for sale.

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society
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Wauwatosa, WI. 53226-1247

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