



Election Results

May's election brought 2 new members to the board of directors. Scott Berg and Kevin McCarthy replace Chris Weber and Bob Manske.

This left the position of president and treasurer open and the board elected, in accordance to MAS bylaws, Paul Borchardt to the presidency and Brian Ganeire to the treasury.

The list of officers that has always been found on the last page of the Focal Point has been updated.

Here we list the full membership of the board of directors with a note to you that you need not be a member of the board to be an officer. This year, however, all officers are also board members.

President	Paul Borchardt	(262) 781-0169
Vice Pres.	Steve Diesso	(262) 641-0331
Treasurer	Brian Ganeire	(414) 961-8745
Secretary	Henry Gerner	(414) 774-9194
Director	Scott Jamieson	(262) 896-0119
Director	Vern Hoag	(262) 548-9130
Director	Tom Schmidtkunz	(414) 352-1674
Director	Neil Simmons	(262) 889-2039
Director	Dave Weier	(608) 241-1444
Director	Scott Berg	(262) 797-8772
Director	Kevin McCarthy	(262) 781-3014

Member Earns National Award

The Astronomical League has awarded this year's Young Astronomer Award to MAS member Christopher Limbach of Colgate, Wisconsin.

Chris has been interested in astronomy since the age of 8 and has actively promoted astronomy in a variety of ways at his high school. While serving as science club president at his high school, he was most active in alerting the student body to

important astronomical events such as the Venus transit, Leonid and Geminid meteor showers, lunar eclipses and the appearance of the comet Macholz in various ways including his column in the school newspapers titled "Astronomer's Notebook."

He has won an all-expenses paid trip to ALCon-Expo 2005 held in Kansas City. In addition, Meade Instruments Corp. has graciously donated one of their fine LX-200 telescopes, valued at over \$3,000 to the first place winner.

Also McDonald's Observatory has donated lifetime passes to the 1st and 2nd place NYAA winners. And finally, all NYAA winners will receive a complimentary membership in the International Dark Sky Association. A League plaque was also presented to Christopher at the Saturday night banquet at AlconExpo 2005.

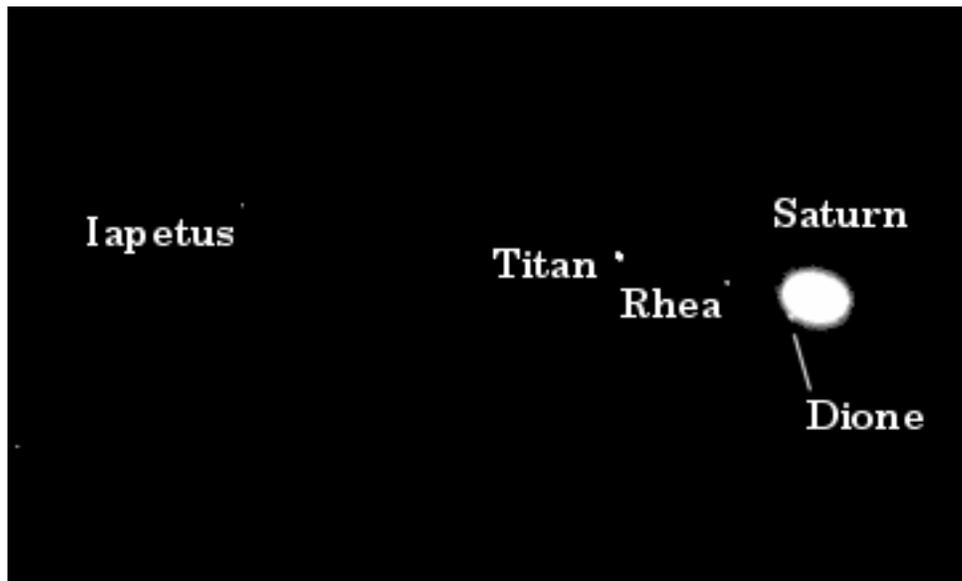
For the national award Christopher submitted two papers "Light Curve Analysis of Eclipsing Binary Star EP Aurigae" which details his study of the eclipsing binary star EP Aurigae. He determined the inclination, mass ratio and the stars' relative radii.

In an accompanying paper entitled "An Approximate Method for Modeling Non-Contact Eclipsing Binary Stars and an Analysis of its Accuracy", Christopher investigates an alternative, although approximate means of modeling a binary star system with photometric data only. — *(information taken from the Astronomical League's press release.)*

Saturn's Western Moons

By Kevin McCarthy.

As a new member to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society, I found trying to see as many of Saturn's moons as possible a challenge. With the recent landing of the Huygens probe on Titan and the orbiting of Cassini around Saturn, this sounded like a fun project. Through the club's 18" Dob, I was able to locate four of the moons pretty easily. Those moons being Titan, Rhea, Tethys and Dione. However I wanted to find more. With the help and encouragement of Jane H. Jones of the Saturn Observation Campaign I was able to locate Iapetus. She wrote an excellent article "East is Least and West is Best", which can be found at www.otastro.org/iapetus/. Iapetus varies in magnitude between 10.1 and 11.9 depending on it's location in its orbit around Saturn.



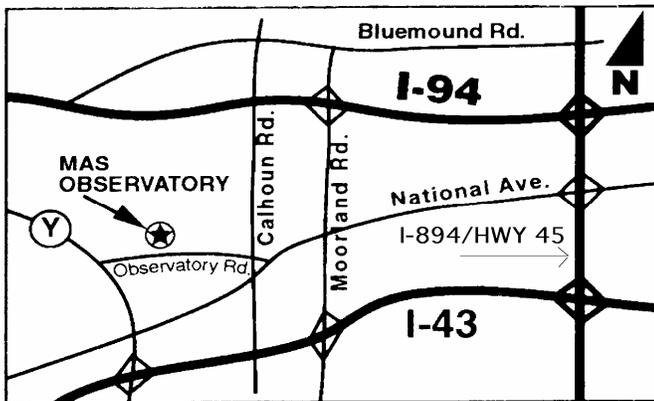
On April 24, 2005 Saturn's three largest moons were all at their western elongation. Originally I was trying to observe Iapetus at its western elongation which happens to be when it is at its brightest. With the help of Jerry Bialozynski I was able to take some images with the club's 12" LX-200, which was my first attempt of CCD imaging. These images show Rhea, Titan and Iapetus forming a straight line to the west of Saturn. Enceladus was also at it's western elongation, but we weren't able to see this 12th magnitude moon due to Saturn's glare.

Twenty days later on May 14, 2005 Iapetus and Titan were both at their superior conjunction with Saturn. Iapetus had completed one quarter of its 79 day orbit while Titan had completed one quarter of it's second 16 day orbit. Unfortunately the May clouds of Milwaukee prevented us from viewing the two moons so close together that they looked like a double star.

With the end of May comes the end of the Saturn viewing season. Hopefully next fall I will be able to add Enceladus, Mimas and maybe even Phoebe to my list of moons. — Kevin McCarthy

MAS Summer Picnic Reminder

Don't forget the annual MAS picnic on Saturday July 30th. Starting time will be around 4:00 come rain or shine. Grilled food, dessert, soda, and beer will be served, all compliments of the MAS. Door prizes will be given away, but you must be present to win. So, stop out and visit with some old friends and make some new ones. The solar filter will be set up for viewing the sun and we will be observing fainter stuff later at night. This is a great time to learn to use some of the club's equipment and get some observing in. Hope to see you all out on the hill. — *Vern Hoag*.



Featured Web Links

One source you might not have considered for your astronomical information is the Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org). This site is a well-spring of any type of knowledge because virtually anyone can contribute their own expertise and see the results the next day. You would think that this openness would invite vandalism, and it does, but it seems to be kept in check, and if you loved flipping through your encyclopedia as a kid, you will love the random page option. Check out these links for starters:

[The Ranger Program](#)
[Orion Nebula](#)
[Cygnus \(Constellation\)](#)

For Sale

Celestron C4.5 reflector is unused with the children out of the house, asking \$75. 262-367-

6079 evenings or at lhender@mcw.edu. — Lisa Henderson.

And Another For Sale

Boyd Observatory, includes a Meade LX-200 computer controlled telescope that comes equipped with many expensive accessories.

Telescope cost \$3,000 new, accessories cost \$1,500, observatory cost \$4100. All items are in excellent condition. Total price \$3,500.

Call to see operation of observatory and telescope. I am located in Williams Bay, (262) 245-0799. — Ron Sehr.

Calendar

No general meetings during the summer months (June, July, and August.) Board meetings move to 2nd Monday of these months, at the Observatory: 7:30 pm.

July 30 Annual MAS Picnic at the Observatory beginning at 4 pm.

August 12 Public Open House at the Observatory: 7:30pm rain or shine. Topic: Perseid meteor shower.

September 16 Board meeting at the Observatory: 7 pm. General meeting at 8 pm. Presentation to be determined.

September 30—October 1 Annual campout at Dan Yanko's place in Rice Lake. Further information in next issue.

Focal Point Publishing Guidelines

The "Focal Point" is published bi-monthly (Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov).

Articles, Announcements, Graphics, Photos, Swap/Sale Ads etc. should be **submitted 10 days prior to the first of the month** of the pending issue.

Article inputs are strongly recommended via email in a Text or Word compatible format.

Submit Focal Point inputs to: MASFocalPoint@yahoo.com

Request for help

As a past and now current member of MAS I would like to seek the help of MAS members for advice and help in equipping, operating and teaching volunteers to equip and operate the observatory at the new Pewaukee Library which is under construction.

Our family has donated the structure, dome and equipment for this very unique location for an observatory. It certainly is not an ideal location with significant light pollution but it is at the main crossroads of the Village of Pewaukee and should be a wonderful asset to the community. Hopefully it will get them interested in pursuing a greater understanding and interest in astronomy. The building is now in the fifth month of construction with the platform for the dome clearly visible. The building will be completed for the opening in September.

The dome is a Sirius fiberglass 12 ft diameter motorized dome that is coming from Australia. The telescope we are considering would be a Meade 12" LX 200 GPS Smart Mount with a remote operating station on the first floor of the library. It will be mounted on an Astro Pier.

My own knowledge is limited and I would like to discuss the choice of equipment and the remote operation of the scope with some of the members who are experts in the field.

I believe the set up would be similar to the LX 200 at the MAS Observatory. We also are looking for volunteers to teach and monitor the facility. It will have a separate entrance to the library and can be open every and any night as desired if there are key holders present.

I can be reached by e-mail at olaf@harken.com or at my office at 262 691

3320 or at home at 262 691 2665. — Olaf Harken

Membership renewal deadline coming soon

September 24 is the latest that members can get their renewals to treasurer Brian Ganiere without delays in subscriptions or this newsletter. You can bring them to the picnic or to the September meeting.

Your story or cartoon here!

- Enquire within.

Editor's notes

I'd like to thank those who have eagerly responded to my request for articles, for sale notices, requests and pictures. This issue is almost too big, but the summer months have no membership meetings (not including the picnic), so a little bit of excess is warranted.

Thanks especially to Kevin McCarthy for relating his project on Saturn's moon Iapetus, and to Henry Gerner for scanning the photograph shown on the next page.

This issue is being sent out later to remind you of the picnic and for me to settle into this enterprise. Printed copies for those without internet access still need to be processed somehow and I am still exploring the best way to do this.

Clear Skies!

Neil Simmons

Library News

Kalmbach's Astronomy 2006 calendars have been ordered by the club and will be available at the picnic. The ordinary price is \$11.99; but as a benefit to MAS members, each calendar is only \$6.00. They include: beautiful photos of all types of celestial objects, and by month, noteworthy events, moon phases, planetary positions, historical information, and holidays. These items make a great gift. Some members inquire too late; so take advantage.

National Geographic Encyclopedia of Space compiled by Linda K. Glover with Andrew Chai-kin, et al, foreword by Buzz Aldrin—2004. This extensive volume is complete with “hard to find in one place” information about general astronomy. It begins with deep space and definitions and the people and instruments involved with understanding the evolution of the stars, galaxies and the universe. It continues with more diagrams, photos, entries and essays about a great manner of topics concerning our solar system. But the main topic of EoS is space travel. Its history is recalled with spaceflight's benefits and future applications: communication, environmental, defense surveillance satellites, etc. Again, beautiful photos, entries concerning definitions, diagrams and maps, essays by experts on a variety of topics. This is the kind of reference book I wish I had as a kid in school.

The publishers of Sky & Telescope have a fairly new magazine called Night Sky. There will be a copy, 7-8/2005, by the magazines in the library if you want to see if you are interested in subscribing (please do not remove magazines from the library). — Scott Laskowski, MAS Librarian

Meteor Observing from L.E. Armfield's backyard, 1934.

Judging by the warm clothing, I think we can be pretty sure that these Milwaukee observers were not out hunting Perseid meteors. More likely they were hunting November's Leonids or December's Geminids. You may find that the large telescope at left looks familiar since it is now housed in the second story dome adjacent to the quonset hut named after it's owner, L.E. Armfield, and is still used on a regular basis today. August 12 is the peak of the Perseid meteor shower, and the MAS will be hosting the public for a slide show and telescope viewing.



Meeting Notes

Meeting minutes are furnished by the MAS Secretary and are published after being approved by the board.

April 15, 2005

Financial Report:

Chris Weber (Treasurer) reported on the current checking account and Albrecht Fund balances.

Checking Account \$3657.18

Albrecht Fund \$5675.33

New Business:

Vern Hoag will head the new MAS observing program on the Messier and Hershel objects along with a Lunar drawing and Double star program.

Neil Simmons, Chris Weber and Henry Gerner were appointed to a committee to look at other programs to help new members.

The board approved a motion by Vern Hoag to increase the allotment for expense to \$500.00 for the MAS picnic.

The motion made by Henry Gerner to move the date for the MAS picnic to August 6th was approved by the board. Where upon an amendment by Henry Gerner to change that date to July 30th was approved when it was noted that date interfered with an activity at Yerkes Observatory that some MAS members were going to.

Chris Weber announced he will not run for reelection as Treasurer.

The board meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM (19:50)

General Membership Meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM (20:05)

by President Bob Manske.

Observatory Director Report: Given by Gerry Samolyk.

The drive for Z scope is working.

The communication chip in the LX200 has failed and needs to be replaced.

The offer for the land that would have been the new observatory site was turned down.

Elections are coming up at the next General Meeting in May. All officer positions are open every year. In addition four seats on the board of directors are open.

Jeff Bass gave a talk on Planetarium technology.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM (21:02)

May 20, 2005

Board Meeting called to order @7:10 PM (19:10) by President Bob Manske.

Officers and Staff that was present:

Gerry Samolyk

Brian Ganiere

Steve Diesso

Neil Simmons

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Vern Hoag
Dave Weier
Paul Borchardt
Tom Schmidtkunz
Henry Gerner

Financial Report:

Henry Gerner for Chris Weber (Treasurer) reported on the current checking account and Albrecht Fund balances.

Checking Account	\$3351.93
Albrect Fund	\$5712.83

Observatory Director Report:

Gerry Samolyk announced the lock on D shed was repaired. The key ring for the observatory is still missing.

New Members:

The new members who were accepted by the board were
Mark Faby of Wauwatosa and Michael Uhlarik of Whitefish Bay.

New Business:

Three General Meeting speakers have been announced.

The Space Place will give a talk.
Paul Borchardt on Digital Imaging.
Tom Schmidtkunz.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:36 P.M. (19:36)

General Meeting called to order at 8:09 P.M.(20:09)

Elections were held.

Voted to the board were:

Scott Berg, Paul Borchardt, Steve Diesso and Kevin McCarthy.

Officers elected were:

Paul Borchardt as President.
Steve Diesso as Vice President.
Brian Ganiere as Treasurer.
Henry Gerner as Secretary.

Tom Schmidtkunz gave the presentation on imaging Auroras.

Meeting Adjourned 9:18 P.M. (21:18)

The board accepted meeting notes on 06-13-2005

MAS Membership is open to anyone interested in enriching their knowledge of Astronomy and related topics.

Yearly Membership Dues:

Student (under 18) \$13

Resident		Non-resident	
Individual	\$31	Individual	\$19
Family	\$37	Family	\$23

For more information contact our Membership Chairman: Carlos Garces, 16430 Melody Drive, New Berlin, WI. 53151. Phone: (262) 786-2623 Email: cgarces@wi.rr.com

MAS Officers / Staff

President:	Paul Borchardt	(262) 781-0169
Vice President:	Steve Diesso	(262) 641-0331
Treasurer:	Brian Ganeire	(414) 961-8745
Secretary:	Henry Gerner	(414) 774-9194
Observatory Dir:	Gerry Samolyk	(414) 529-9051
Newsletter Ed:	Neil Simmons	(262) 889-2039

MAS Observatory: (262) 542-9071

Visit our website at <http://bb.1asphost.com/milwaukeeastro>

Loaner Telescopes

These telescopes are available to members for local use.

Scott Jamieson (Waukesha)	(262) 896-0119	8" reflector
Paul Borchardt (MAS site)	(262) 781-0169	6" reflector
		8" reflector
Chris Weber (New Berlin)	(262) 789-7128	8" reflector

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

2	Neil Simmons	262-889-2039
9	Chris Weber	262-789-7128
16	Dan Yanko	414-453-3382
23	Jerry Bialozynski	262-895-7461
30	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169

August

6	Tim Burrus	262-548-6372
13	Steve Diesso	262-641-0331
20	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745
27	Carlos Garces	262-786-2623

September

3	Henry Gerner	414-774-9194
10	Chris Hesseltine	414-482-4515
17	Vern Hoag	262-548-9130
24	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212

Open Houses

Our open houses start at 7:30 pm, rain or shine and feature a presentation followed by observing if weather permits.

August 12 — Perseid Meteor Shower

September 9 — Star Clusters

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society
c/o Neil Simmons
8918 270th Avenue
Salem, Wisconsin 53168

ADDRESS CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Enjoy the picnic on July 30th at the Observatory: 4 p.m.

