

New Member Forum

New Member Forums have been put on hold this spring. They will return in May.

Public Nights

The 2007 public observing schedule has been released and is attached to this newsletter. We encourage members to attend. If you want to help out for an evening, we are always looking for members to man the telescopes and play tour guide for the public. You may think you know too little, but you will find that often you have information that members of the public do not. We also encourage members to bring their own telescopes for public viewing. If interested, contact Steve Diesso (262) 641-0331.

March / April Calendar

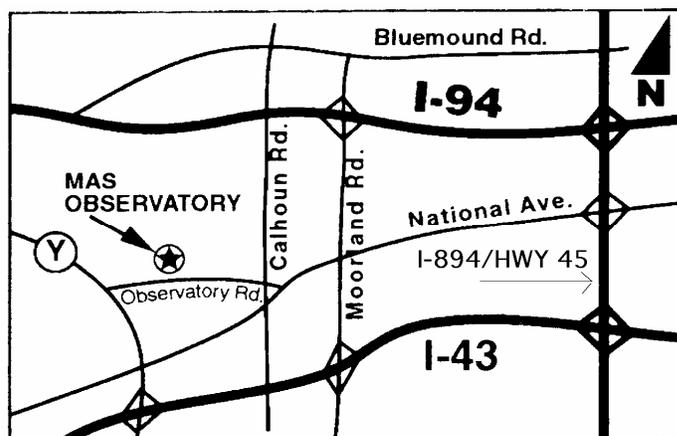
Mar 16 (Fri) - Board Mtg. in Quonset 7:00 pm;
General Mtg. in Quonset 8:00 pm. **Speaker:**
Paul Gruener.

Mar 17 (Fri) - Messier Marathon, Tentatively at
Ottawa Lake, Kettle Moraine. 6:30 pm. **Alter-**
native date Mar 24.

Apr 20 (Fri) - Board Mtg. in Quonset 7:00 pm;
General Mtg. in Quonset 8:00 pm. **Speaker:**
Kip Hoffman.

Apr 27 (Fri) - Public Observing Night 7:30 pm,
Topic: **Exploring the Moon**

*Unless otherwise specified meetings are at the
Observatory. Check the website for up-to-
date information on these meetings and
events.*



Messier Marathon

Each year around the middle of March all 110 objects (or is that 108?) of the Messier List are viewable in one evening. This year the MAS will attempt this feat on March 17 with an alternate date set for the next Saturday should bad weather exist. Tentatively, We are planning to meet at Ottawa Lake park in the Kettle Moraine — not too far from Eagle Wisconsin. If plans pan out, we will have a nice site with a shelter we can use for warming ourselves. For up-to-date information, please visit our website or contact Steve Diesso if you do not have access to the internet.

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**

Election Time is Here Again!

May meetings are reserved for elections at the Milwaukee Astronomical Society. Each year officers and some of the board of directors are elected. The board seats come up for elections in a staggered fashion in the hopes of bringing new people and ideas onto the board. Board members serve a three-year term and may be elected to 2 consecutive terms before having to sit out a year before running again.

First the president appoints a nominating committee to determine which board positions and officer positions are coming vacant and seek out members to fill those positions.

Then at the May meeting the membership elects the board from the slate of nominees presented and those who throw in their hat at the meeting.

After the board is elected they retire to the back office to elect the officers for the next year (We usually provide some talk for the general membership while this goes on.) Officers do NOT have to be members of the board in order to serve.

As of publication, there are 3 vacancies to be filled on the board due to term limitations and the nominating committee has not been selected, so if you are interested in serving, please contact Steve Diesso or our website for getting in touch with the nominating committee.

A snapshot of Venus and Mercury from Silver Lake County Park, Kenosha County proves that the “elusive” planet Mercury can be quite easily seen in dark twilight. Venus is the brighter of the two.



Star Parties

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society provides tours and viewing for groups of people interested in astronomy. Contact Paul Borchardt at (262) 781-0169 for more information about scheduling and fees.

MAS Officers / Staff

President:	Steve Diesso	(262) 641-0331
Vice President:	Dave Weier	(608) 241-1444
Treasurer:	Brian Ganiere	(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:	(not working)	(262) 542-9071

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

Yearly Membership Dues:

Student (under 18)	\$13		
Resident (Milwaukee and adjacent counties resident)		Non-resident	
Individual	\$31	Individual	\$19
Family	\$37	Family	\$23

Members can get subscriptions to *Sky & Telescope* (©) and *Astronomy* (©) at a club discount.

For more information contact: Bob Manske, 404 Prospect Road, Waunakee, WI 53597. Phone: (608) 849 - 5287. Email: manske@tds.net

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.

March

3	Dan Yanko	414-453-3382
10	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169
17	Tim Burrus	262-369-1022
24	Steve Diesso	262-641-0331
31	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745

April

7	Carlos Garces	262-786-2623
14	Henry Gerner	414-774-9194
21	Chris Hesseltine	414-482-4515
28	Vern Hoag	262-548-9130

May

5	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212
12	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119

Loaner Telescopes

These telescopes are available to members for local use.

Scott Jamieson (Waukesha)	(262) 896-0119	8"
Paul Borchardt (MAS site)	(262) 781-0169	6" & 8"

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society
c/o Rebecca Sher
1418 Trillium Court
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095

ADDRESS CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

