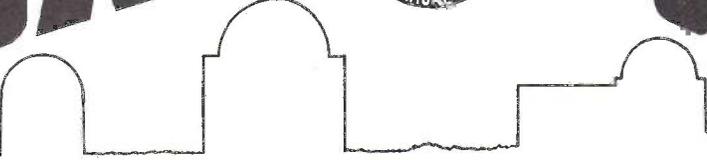


FOCAL POINT



Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- : OCTOBER, 1986 : -

CALENDAR:

- Fri., Oct. 17 - MAS Dinner Meeting at Aliota's on the Blue Mound.
- Fri., Oct. 17 - Full Hunter's Moon.
- Mon., Oct. 20 - Board meeting.
- Wed., Nov. 5 - November "Focal Point" deadline.
- Wed., Nov. 5 - Observatory gathering - 7:30 P.M. All welcome, especially new members.
- Tue., Nov. 11 - Indian Summer begins.
- Fri., Nov. 21 - November Program Meeting, 8 P.M.
- Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement. Help wanted. Call 475-9418 or 258-5626.
- Sat. Nights - Member's night at the observatory. See keyholder list on last page.

LAST CALL FOR DINNER:

- WHEN: Friday, October 17. Cash bar - 5:30 P.M.; dinner - 6:30 P.M.; meeting and main speaker - 8 P.M.
- WHERE: Aliota's on the Blue Mound, 19165 W. Blue Mound Rd., just east of Waukesha. Park free on well-lit lots. We'll all meet in the downstairs dining room.
- There is no charge for attending only the meeting.

Our speaker will be Dr. Paul Sipiery, a planetary geologist at William Rainey Harper College in Palatine, Illinois, where he teaches. Dr. Sipiery recently spent six weeks in Antarctica on a meteorite search expedition. His interesting talk will be based on the details of this research.

Dr. Sipiery will offer small, genuine meteorites for sale at the meeting. Here's a chance to own something unearthly!

Send your reservations now if you plan to attend. The deadline is Friday, October 10. A dinner form is enclosed with this issue.

DON'T READ THIS if you've paid your dues. If you haven't, now would be a good time to return the dues statement you've recently received from Treasurer Jim Toeller. Please make your check payable to the Milwaukee Astronomical Society.

As you complete the statement, consider the reduced periodical subscription rates.

We look forward to your continued MAS membership. Enjoy its many benefits. We're fully equipped for all levels of amateur astronomy.

OBSERVATORY NEWS: The domes are working, but be careful of the B dome. Don't run the shutter all the way up. Do not turn the 26" dome until rollers are improved. Use force gently on all domes. The 12" Armfield and Buckstaff mirrors have been aluminized. Humidity in the Zemlock building is being corrected by weather-stripping and dehumidifying. We need wall washers and painters for repair of some minor damage. Books may be withdrawn from the observatory library through the honor system. Fill out a card and enter the title(s) after your name in the office log. Another senseless break-in. Someone broke into the patrol camera and stole a \$100 finder. Thief no doubt has no use for it. Please check the grounds and all buildings before leaving. If you drive by the observatory, maybe you can stop a moment and look around.

We've received, as gifts, two large mirror grinding machines, a 12" f8 telescope from John Moore and a 10" Cassegrain from the family of the late George Ceolla. Thanks to all donors. Plans are pending for installation and use.

New policies and procedures for Portascope use are now under study by the board and should be in effect early next year.

NEW MEMBERS: Please welcome Dr. Joseph Abler and daughters Deborah and Susan, Brookfield; Barry Brezan, West Allis; Clint Laskowski, Cudahy; Scott Laskowski, Greenfield; Steve Pope and wife Judy, Ellison Bay, Wisconsin; James Regis, wife June, and son Kent, Whitefish Bay; Daniel Reindl, Milwaukee; Carl Winkler, Milwaukee.

OOPS! The "Focal Point" should have introduced new members James and Dorothy Hube as James and Dorothy Kube.

MEET MATT McNEELEY, our new Program Chairman. He is also the observatory grounds caretaker.

OBS. DIR. GERRY SAMOLYK has been named counselor for the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO). He definitely has earned the honor.

OPEN HOUSE RESUME: First of all, hip, hip, hooray! to Frank Roldan for chairing the seven-night public Open House program.

Unfortunately, the many inches of "California Sunshine" and poor skies helped keep the crowds down but a thousand or so folks did enjoy our offerings and add a few dollars to the treasury.

FOR SALE: 135 mm f1.7 and 400 mm f6.3 telephotos for astrophotography. \$89.00 each. Please call Tom Schmidtkunz in the evening at 784-0253.

FOR SALE: Issues of "Sky & Telescope" as far back as the 1960's at 4 for a dollar. Call the observatory, preferably on Saturday mornings. Notify Treas. Jim Toeller about your choices.

MAS caps are also available at \$4.00 each. They're blue and white, visored, and feature our logo. Adjustable to any head size.

FOR FREE! Chairs. All you want, all in good condition. Most are wooden, some are metal folding. Call the observatory, preferably on Saturday mornings.

WANTED: Filled-in surveys. Please return your completed survey to President Dan Koehler as soon as you can.

This is a good way to tell your Society governors what you want from or what you can do for your Society.

The return address is on the form.

FOR OUR YOUNG (OR OTHER) MEMBERS! Here's a little trick for remembering the order of the planets outward from the sun: "Matilda Visits Every Monday, Just Stays Until Noon, Period." The first letters of the nine words are the initials of Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto!

A FEATHER IN OUR CAP! Frank Roldan informs us that the Milwaukee Astronomical Society has, by far, the largest membership (261) in the North Central Region of the Astronomical League (the NCRAL is made up by North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois). The Peoria Astronomical Society (Illinois) is the second largest with a membership of 139. The MAS is the sixth largest society in the Astronomical League.

MEMBERS NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Oct. 11 - R. Berry	442-4267	Nov. 1 - G. Hall	786-8579
18 - P. Borchardt	445-1181	8 - D. Harris	964-1428
25 - W. Collins	255-4169	15 - C. Hesselstine	482-4515

Members wishing to use the observatory on a particular Saturday evening WILL CONTACT THE KEYHOLDER BY TELEPHONE NO LATER THAN THE FRIDAY BEFORE THAT SATURDAY EVENING, to schedule observing or instruction time. The member should inform the keyholder of his/her intentions and equipment requirements at that time to avoid conflicts of usage. Members should contact the keyholder as early as possible.

Please reread your copy of the SOCIETY MEMORANDUM ON "MEMBER'S NIGHTS" RESPONSIBILITIES.

DIRECTORY:

Pres. - D. Koehler, 662-2987	V.P. - Dr. R. Wiesen, 781-4757
Sec. - K. Wesener, 961-8752	Treas. - J. Toeller, 352-7144
Obs. Dir. - G. Samolyk, 475-9418	Asst.Obs.Dir. - J. Asztalos, 258-5626
FOCAL POINT Ed. - L. Simandl, 933-3052	Program Chair-McNeeley, 354-5347
MAS Observatory - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin - 542-9071	

NOVEMBER FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5.