



Issued by the

Milwaukee Astronomical Society

May 1989

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AL '89

This year's Astronomical League national convention will be held in Cheney, Washington. Hosted by the Spokane Astronomical Society, the four busy days will include speakers, papers, activities, and prizes.

For details, contact:
 Gene Dietzen
 P.O. Box 8114
 Spokane, Washington 99203
 (509-928-2313)

May Election Meeting

The evening will be busy! In addition to usual business and a program by Jim Kube, officers and board members will be elected to preside over our Society.

Four board vacancies must be filled. These positions may be filled by elected volunteers, nominees, or consenting volunteers recommended by other members. Board members serve three years. Officers, elected by the board, serve ex-officio and are re-elected annually. They sit with the board.

The board generally meets once a month to discuss your Society's present and future and use of its funds.

Doing the Messier list is a popular, challenging activity. But not all of the M-objects are easy to find or observe. The crowded region in Virgo and Coma, known as the "Realm of the Galaxies" is a real challenge since at least a dozen M-objects occupy this area. It is now visible in the spring sky near 12.5 hours RA and +15 degrees DEC. MAS member Jim Kube will tell you how he went about discovering and distinguishing the numerous galaxies in his talk "Confused and Bewildered - The Virgo Supercluster of Galaxies." If you plan to do the M-list, his talk is a must. And you'll have logged quite a few of the 107 objects.

All members and guests are invited. And you'll not be coerced into a nomination.

WHEN? Friday, May 19, 8:00pm.
 WHERE? The Helen Carey Day Hospital Building
 9201 W. Watertown Plank Road
 The entrance will be open only from 7:30pm to 8:15pm for security reasons.

Calendar

- Saturday, May 13 ----- Astronomy Day.
- Monday, May 15 ----- Board Meeting.
- Friday, May 19 ----- May Election Meeting.
- Saturday, May 20 ----- Full Flower Moon.
- Monday, May 22 ----- Venus and Jupiter very close at eventide.
- Saturday, May 27 ----- Focal Point deadline.
- Mon., May 29 to Sun., June 4 ----- Texas Star Party.
- Wednesday, June 7 ----- First Wednesday at observatory, 7:30pm. All members and their guests welcome.
- July 21, 22, 23 ----- Astronomical League Convention in Spokane, Washington.
- 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 ----- Member's night at the observatory.

Astronomy Day

Astronomy Day will be observed Saturday, May 13. The Milwaukee Astronomical Society will host the general public, rain or shine, at the observatory from 2-11 PM. Programs and viewing through telescopes will be offered.

The observatory is located west of New Berlin on Observatory Road about one mile west of Calhoun Road (KX). Watch for the entrance sign and attendants. Call 542-9071 if you're lost.

Help from members is needed to welcome our many visitors. People will be needed from 2-11 PM to park cars, guide, show, and tell. Please call Frank Roldan at 423-0210.

Wanted

A Clave eyepiece, 10mm and up, premium quality only. Please call Tom Milner 774-9958 or 964-0633 (Milwaukee) anytime on weekends.

For Sale

Celestron C6 reflector, complete with equatorial mount, tripod, clock drive, 9x finder, 9mm Barlow and 26mm eyepieces, and a collapsible field stool. All for \$500. Also for sale are back issues of "Sky & Telescope" and "Astronomy" magazines from 1980-1984, all in excellent condition.

Please call Gordon Birr at 962-2542 (home) or 276-2158 (Milwaukee).

More For Sale

Modified Celestron C-8 for Sale. Super (black) C-8, 4 years old. Tripod, wedge, diagonal, eyepieces.

Star Trap power module (internal battery pack - value \$295).

Tuthill Electronic setting circle (value \$395).

University Optics 8x50 Amici prism finder (upright, correct left to right image), PLUS NEW 2" diagonal.

New University Optics 40mm 2" OD Konig eyepiece.

Tuthill polar-axis finder.

8" solar filter.

Many other features. Prefer to sell as package. Asking \$2100.

For complete details call Mike Wolkomir (414) 871-6202 evenings / weekends. (Milwaukee)

Library News by Sally Waraczynski

Jim and Dorothy Kube have added a new dimension to our library with their donation of a recorded edition of Stephen Hawking's "A Brief History of Time." Michael Jackson (KABC-TV) is the reader on these four cassettes with about six hours total listening time. The Kubes presented their generous gift in a leatherette box complete with covering remarks on the content and use of the tapes. The recordings may be found on the bookshelf next to the print copy of Hawking's book - in the Cosmogony section (QB 981).

Another member of the diligent and talented MAS Mars Patrol has graciously committed some of his work to the archives. Slides donated recently by Lee Keith record two drawings and three dual image photographs of surface markings as they appeared on the planet during the period August 24 to October 20, 1988.

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Just a reminder; books, slides, and other reference materials are available to members on First Wednesday evenings, Saturday evenings by appointment with the key holder or by appointment with the librarian.

Open House 1989

The MAS will again hold its annual "Public Open Houses" at the observatory west of New Berlin, west of Calhoun Road, at 18850 W. Observatory Road. Each evening will feature a different subject complete with talks and viewing. The facilities will be open rain or shine. All "Open Houses" start at 8:00 PM. Admission is free, but a \$1.00 donation per car for parking will be gratefully accepted.

Bring a sweater or jacket and bug repellent.

THE 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.

Observatory News by Gerry Samolyk

RESULTS OF THE APRIL 8 OCCULTATION OF M45 (PLEIADES)

At least this time the weather cooperated with us. Although it snowed both Saturday and Sunday afternoon, the evening in between was perfectly clear. Sixteen observers were on line at the observatory with scopes from 20cm (8") to 44cm (17") diameter.

Although the Moon passed north of the brightest members of the cluster, a total of 319 contacts of 40 stars were recorded. The stars ranged from magnitude 4.2 to 11.5 and this includes the time of two reappearances on the bright limb. Several members made additional timings from home that were not received yet at this time.

A special thanks goes out to two members who made this event a success. Chris Hesseltine, who came out early to set up equipment and keeps our chart recorder working; and Paul Borchardt, who reduced the data. This is the largest number of occultations recorded by the MAS in a single night that I can remember.

MAS 1991 Eclipse Chasers

The MAS 1991 Eclipse Chasers who have not yet decided to join the Twilight Tours expedition to La Paz, Mexico to view the total eclipse of the sun will need to find another agency. Twilight Tours reports no more room. Thirty-eight members are booked, twenty are on the waiting list.

Keyholders

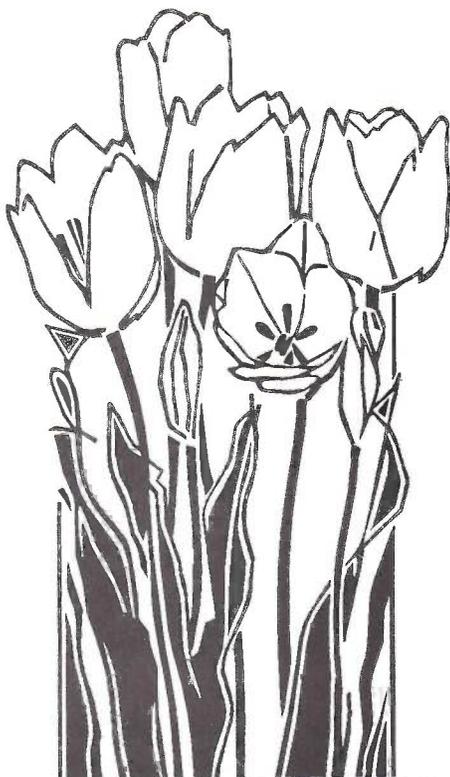
May 13 Greg Cieslak744-5703
May 20 Brian Ganiere272-4649
May 27 Chris Hesseltine482-4515
June 3 Dan Koehler662-2987
June 10 Nick Nichols628-4059
June 17 Lee Keith961-8752
June 24 John Pfannerstill ...475-6494
July 1 Frank Roldan423-0210

Spring Field Trip Kudos!

The attention paid to detail is a good measure of a well organized event.

MAS Program Director Matt McNeeley, Tom Renner, Drs. John Mathis, and A. W. Code and the other people at UW-Madison rate high on the plus side for their courtesies to provide a pleasant day for our large group.

Also include the drivers of the Wisconsin Coach Line busses who got us to Madison and back on schedule.



Become an Active Member by Lee Keith

Need something to take your mind off of mosquitoes this summer? Join an Observing Club, just for fun!

As a reminder to observers, the MAS offers the "Messier Club Observer's Handbook" or the new "Burnham Club Observer's Handbook" if you send a 8.5" x 11" SASE with \$1 postage to:

Lee Keith
MAS Observing Clubs Coordinator
1239B E. Randolph Ct.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

They contain a wealth of information on observing techniques and hints, as well as detailed maps to find the more elusive objects. Best of all, they're FREE!

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 is located on the north side at the home of:

Matt McNeeley
8200 N. Cedarburg Road
Brown Deer
(354-5347)

The south side location of the other is at the home of:

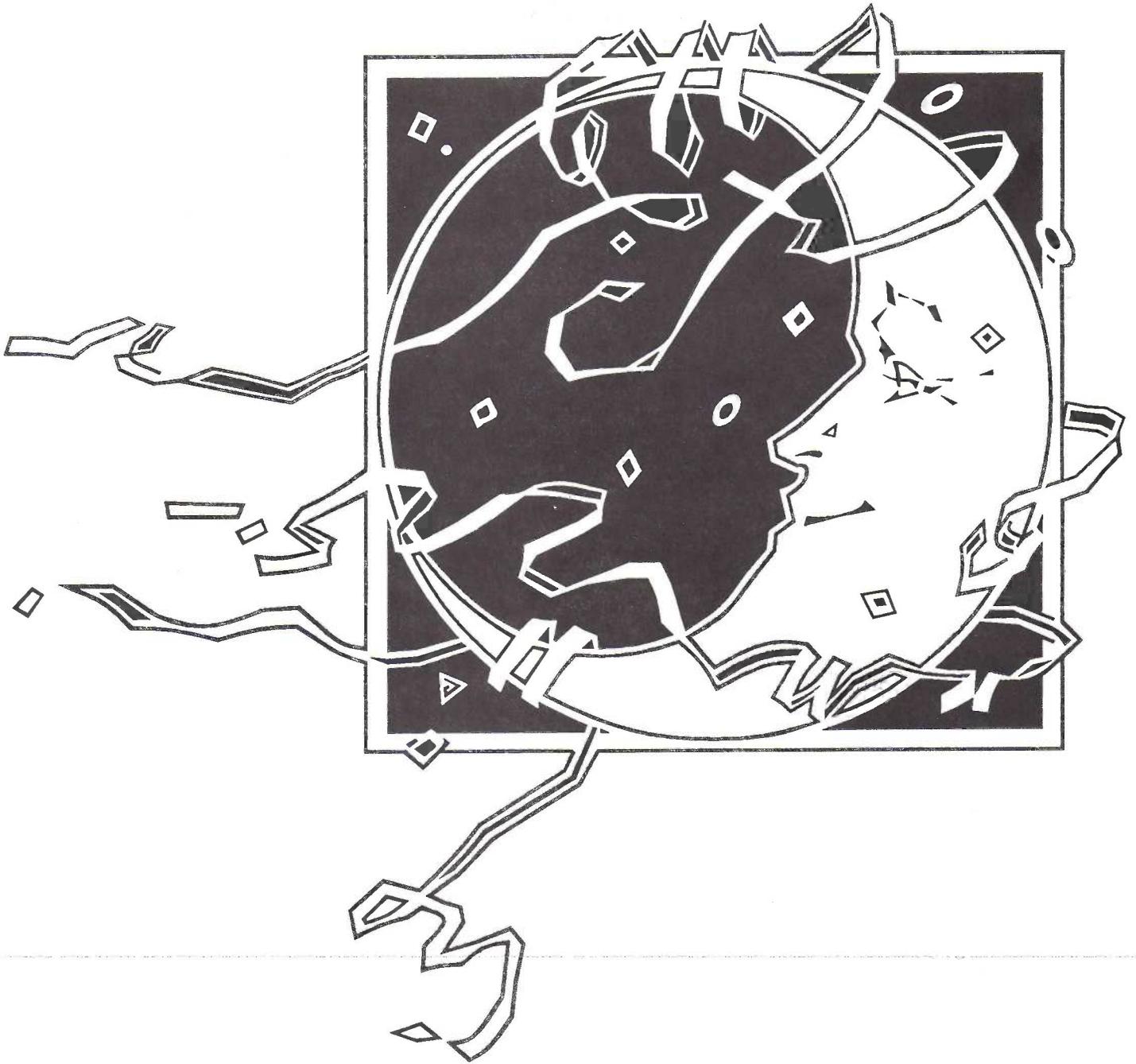
Richard Sterle
8115 W. Waterford Avenue
Greenfield, Wisconsin
(543-7459)

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

Directory

President Dr. Richard Wiesen781-4757
Vice President Mathew McNeeley354-5347
Secretary Ms. Karen Wesener961-8752
Treasurer Dan Koehler662-2987
Observatory Director Gerry Samolyk475-9418
Assist. Observatory Director John Asztalos547-3400
Librarian Mrs. Sally Waraczynski321-0918
Assistant Librarian Mrs. June Regis962-0896
Program Director Mathew McNeeley354-5347
FOCAL POINT Editor LeRoy Simandl933-3052
4201 W. Highland Blvd.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

MAS Observatory 18850 W. Observatory Road542-9071
New Berlin, Wisconsin



Man In The Moon