



Presidents report - January 1999

First Light on the 25 inch Telescope with the re-coated mirrors!

We have finally seen some of the fruits of our efforts! Despite the fact that not all of the re-build on the mirror support system is completed, enough is done to go ahead and install the mirrors and attempt alignment. To make this job as easy as possible, I built a new focuser support platform that is adjustable just like the mirrors on most reflectors. Using the club's Laser alignment tool, Jerry Samolyk and I were able to align the focuser with the center of the secondary. Then, by adjusting the secondary to reflect the beam straight back, the secondary was brought to proper alignment. We then visually aligned the main mirror and turned the scope on the stars. Initial results were not exciting for image quality but very bright compared to before. The air stability was very bad that night, so we waited until a good night a week later for further adjustments. The air was super stable and I aligned the primary using the coma in the stars image as a guide. When this image was close to round, I turned the telescope to Jupiter and saw detail in the bands! The next target was Saturn and for the first time I saw Cassini's division with the 25 inch. With averted vision, signs of the inner ring were also visible. It is clear that it takes a very stable night to get this kind of resolution with such a large telescope, but it's worth the effort. There is still much work to be done on the mirror side supports but the telescope should be functional for general use late this month. The cold has made the work difficult but the images are going to be worth it.

The CCD work continues with both my camera and the clubs. I hope you enjoy the image of Jupiter I took with B-scope (See Page 2)). It was taken with my Cookbook CCD camera but the ST-6 will give similar results if you can catch the few nights of good atmospheric stability.

We also imaged the asteroid VERA as it passed in front of a 13th magnitude star. The ST-6 is so sensitive that we were able to record a new *Continued, next column*

President's Report Contnd

frame every 20 seconds as the images came together. We didn't catch an eclipse because it passed well North of New Berlin, but it was fascinating to watch the two objects converge and then separate. I hope to eventually make a movie of these images(245 total!)

As a final word, I would like to thank everyone who made it to the December meeting/dinner. I think all had a good time. I know I did.

Scott Jamieson, President ,MAS

MAS Meets Friday, January 15, 1999 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. Professor John Friedman of the UWM Physics Dept faculty will give a talk on " Gravitational Collapse and Black Holes" . 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 MAS board meeting will meet at 7:00PM preceeding the regular meeting.

New Meeting Site Notice
The MAS Friday, January 15, 1999
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

New MAS Program Chairman

Long time MAS member, Mary Ann Tangney, has graciously offered to take over the vacant post of Program chairman of our Society. The primary task is to arrange/coordinate speakers and activities for the clubs monthly meetings, Annual banquets et al. The guest speaker for this month, Dr. John Freidman, is the first of MaryAnn's efforts on the club's behalf.

The Tangney family have been stalwarts of MAS with Mary Ann having been a past Secretary, husband Virgil has held various posts as well as being a roll up your sleeves type on various observatory build projects. Daughter Margaret Warner is the club's current Secretary. What a nice way for a family to share their hobby among themselves and with the rest of us!

Mary Ann knows that many of you have Astronomy type contacts and/or good ideas for future programs. She invites any and all suggestions for future speakers (and activities) from MAS members, and will do the follow up contacts, where appropriate.

This task is one of the magnets for member participation in meetings as well as helping to draw potential new Amateur Astronomers as well. On behalf of the Officers and Board, thank you Mary Ann, for taking on this job!

MAS Receives Charitable Gifts

Tom Schmidtkunz, an active member of MAS generously donated \$100 to our Society recently. Tom's employer, Fortis Insurance, matched Tom's gift with an additional \$100 thru a matching gift program.

President Scott Jamieson and the board thank both Tom and Fortis Insurance Foundation for their support in fostering our Astronomy activities. Both parties should take a great deal of satisfaction in knowing their gifts help with our facility renovation program currently under way.

MAS Holiday Party a Fun Event

A really nice contingent of MAS members showed up for the Holiday Fiesta at Los Mariachis Restaurant on Dec. 18th. While there was no jumping on the tables and smashing of gift laden Piniatas, the good fellowship was evident, non-the-less!

The biggest novelty was probably enjoying each others company in a nicely lit dining room instead of under a dark sky (and wondering who belongs to the voice next to you). During a very brief Board meeting, Pres. Scott Jamieson stated the 25" Z scope renovation is virtually complete. Along that line a new set of eyepieces will be acquired for visual work with the Z as well. Digitization of A and B Scopes will be deferred until spring.

Lastly, Mariachis elected to present us with one big tab, instead of billing individually as they did last year. Fortunately, our fearless Observatory Director, Gerry Samolyk, brought his experience in dealing with Astronomical numbers to bear, and somehow came up with a collected total that met the tab plus tip. Thanks Gerry!

Library Additions

This is the second listing of Brian Ganiere's generous donation of books, albeit, not the last.

1. **Cosmic Wormholes; The Search for Interstellar Shortcuts** Paul Halpern - 1992

2. **God and the Astronomers;** Robert Jastrow - 1992

3. **Conversing with the Planets; How Science and Myth Invented the Cosmos;** Anthony Aveni - 1992

4. **Fireside Astronomy; An Anecdotal Tour Through the History and Lore of Astronomy;** Patrick Moore- 1992

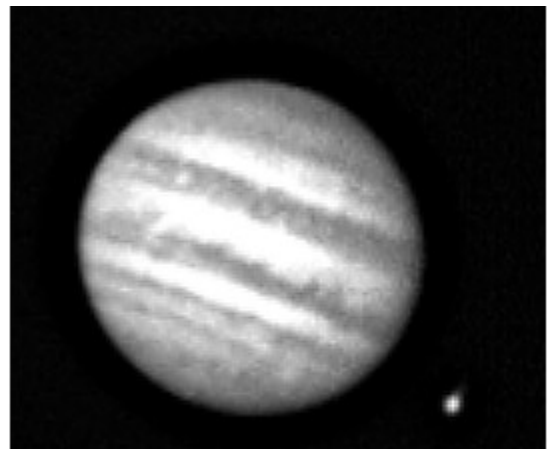
5. **Celestial Delights; The best Astronomical Events Through 2001;** Francis Reddy and Greg Walz-Chojnacki - 1992

Scott Laskowski, MAS Librarian

Muskego High School Group tours MAS

Kevin Rutzen, Science Teacher and a group of interested students from Msukego High toured the MAS Observatory site on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 15th. They had previously toured the Yerkes Observatory at Lake Geneva and filled out an Astronomy Day with a guided tour of MAS with Volunteer Scott Laskowski. Scott mentioned that seemed like a truly interested (and motivated) under Mr. Rutzen's guidance.

We've added the group to our complimentary mailing with the hopes that our activities and meeting programs will encourage them to come back for more. We're glad you came!



Jupiter Image done on the club's 12" B Scope with a home made CCD imager taken by Scott Jamieson. The Imager is the 245 unit described in Richard Berry's CCD Camera Cookbook. For several hundred dollars worth of kit hardware (and sweat equity), you too can professional results like the above image. On the other hand, the club's Santa Barbara unit is also available for use!

MAS Officers/ Staff

President	Scott Jamieson	896-0119
Vice President	Lee Keith	425-2331
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	Rudy Poklar, Editor	786-8931

Future MAS Events

Feb. 19th, March 19, April 16th; We meet at UWM

MAS Membership is open to all with an interest in Astronomy and expanding their knowledge of the Universe. Yearly Membership Dues are: Individual \$28/yr; Family \$32; Non-resident (individual \$18, Family \$22); Student (under 18) \$12. **For more information, contact Membership Chairperson Julie Frey, 11040 W. Meinecke Avenue, Milwaukee WI.**

Focal Point Publishing Guidelines

Focal Point Newsletter is published monthly from Sept through May with a Mid-summer issue in July. Articles, Announcements, Graphics, Photos, Swap/Sale Ads etc should be submitted at least 10 days prior to the first of the month (of the desired issue). Article inputs are preferred via E-Mail, or diskette in a text or Word compatible format, if possible. Submit FP inputs to:

MAS Focal Point c/o Rudy Poklar
12905 W. Crawford Drive

Saturday Keyholders

January

2	Chris Hesseltine	482-4515
9	Vern Hoag	548-9130
16	Tim Hoff	662-2212
23	Scott Jamieson	896-0119
30	Lee Keith	425-2331

February

6	Dan Koehler	662-2987
13	Jim Kube	453-8858
20	Scott Laskowski	421-3517
27	Rudy Poklar	786-8931

**First Saturday Observatory nite meetings will be held in parallel with standard Observatory operations. If members want to be assured of observatory access on a given Saturday nite, they should call the keyholder ahead of time.*

Loaner Telescopes (available to members for local use)

Scott Jamieson (Waukesha)	896-0119	4"	f / 1 5 refractor
Lee Keith (Franklin)	425-2331	8"	Dob reflector
Rich Stearle (Greenfield)	543-7479	8"	Dob reflector

Visit our MAS Website:

<http://members.aol.com/masmemb/index.html>

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society

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Milwaukee, WI. 53210-1208

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** We meet at UWM Kenwood Campus on Jan. 15th, 8:00 PM*

**Featured talk,*

-Gravitational Collapse and Black Holes

