

MAS has new president

Steve Diesso has been elected by the board of directors to finish the term of Paul Borchardt who resigned this fall. This leaves a vacancy for the vice-president until the annual elections in May. Those interested in filling this position should contact Steve. The pay is lousy, but a good time is had by all.

Changes to the newsletter

The newsletter editor is going to spend some time performing some of the tasks normally done by the long vacant role of program director with help from Paul Greuner and Scott Jamieson and anyone else who would like to help. As a result the newsletter may be leaner due to time constraints. Still, I seek article and picture submissions from the membership

Calendar for January/February

January 20 - Monthly meeting: 7pm Board, 8pm Membership. Presentation by Steve Diesso and others who were at the MAS camp out this fall. Location to be determined.

February 17 - Monthly meeting. Location to be determined.

Check the website for up-to-date information on these meetings.

Telescope for sale

It is a Meade model 4500 4.5" reflector on an equatorial mount. Also some accessory lenses, etc. All used very little and in like new condition. I am willing to negotiate on the price. Please pass the word. My phone number is: 414-327-2344. — David Engelmann: dandkengelmann@earthlink.net

EB Times of Minimum On Line

All time of minimum of eclipsing binary stars pub-

lished by the AAVSO are now available on line. Over the past 30 years or so, MAS members have made a substantial contribution to this database. For each star an observed-minus-calculated, or O-C, plot is displayed with some user-defined settings. A text file containing all published times of minimum for each star is also available. See the link at: <http://www.aavso.org/observing/programs/eb/ebtom.shtml>

Welcome our new members!

Eric Hall and Family of Kenosha

Charles Smith and Jane Weyer-Smith of Waukesha

Jill Roberts of New Berlin

Josh Gozdziński of Spooner

Cherie Scott of Greenfield

An astronomical Job at Astro-physics

Astro-physics of Rockford is seeking an individual with excellent mechanical skills and a desire to craft top-of-the-line astronomy equipment. A love of astronomy, astronomical equipment and knowledge of the underlying principles of telescope function and operation are essential. The successful candidate must demonstrate mechanical aptitude, knowledge of basic mechanical principles and use of hand tools. Concentration and attention to detail are critical. Excellent interpersonal skills are essential in our team-oriented environment. Experience with computers, manual lathes, mills and drill presses is useful, but not required. This is a new position created as a result of our 2005 expansion.

For more information contact:

Astro-Physics, Inc
11250 Forest Hills Road
Machesney Park, IL 61115
Fax: 815-282-9847
employment@astro-physics.com

MAS Library News

Scott Laskowski reports these new editions to our library housed in the first floor of the Z-dome. The library is open to members when meetings are held at the observatory and on Saturdays through the key holder. Signing out items is mandatory. The loan period is one month so that others have a chance to check out popular items. Contact Scott with any questions you may have regarding our library.

1. Stargazer: The Life and Times of the Telescope by Fred Watson–2004. The telescope is sometimes used as an icon for human intellect unraveling the mysteries of the universe. It has only been around for about 400 years but during that time our understanding of our place in the universe has grown exponentially. All is due to the evolution of this technological wonder from Galileo’s refractor to the Hubble Space Telescope. “Stargazer” is the history of the development of types of telescopes and the people involved in these engineering advances but is stronger on past history than modern technology.

2. The Violent Universe: Joyrides Through the X-ray Cosmos by Kimberly Weaver–2005. Visual wavelengths only make up a small part of the electromagnetic spectrum. New X-ray images, such as by the Chandra Space Telescope, can see through dust to the center of our Milky Way home galaxy revealing high energy sources. S-rays show the presence of black holes from supernovae and other galaxy catastrophic events. X-rays reveal another EM wavelength to compare to the beautiful photos in visible light in this book. Also, X-rays are compared with the serious scientific work done across the whole EM for research.

3. Infinite Worlds: An Illustrated Voyage to Planets Beyond Our Sun by Ray Villard & Lynette R. Cook-2005. In the past dozen years the MAS has been lectured by “Space Artists” a couple times with original paintings on display. With IW science and art combine beauty in paintings with knowledge of the cosmos. Sometimes license is taken in accuracy for the impact of effect with surrealistic images. IW, beside the art, has a narrative that explains scientific concepts for the reader, but SETI and our future colonizing other planets seems more of a fantasy, if not pure fiction.

4. Empire Of the Stars: Obsession, Friendship, and Betrayal in the Quest for Black Holes by Arthur I. Miller-2005. Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, his

friends called him Chandra, won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1983, belatedly, for some of the work in mathematics he did on his ocean journey from India to Britain in 1930. He described the evolution of stars and their final fate as white dwarfs, neutron stars, or black holes, depending on their initial mass. There was a falling out with Eddington in Britain on Chandra’s revolutionary theories. Moving to the U.S., Chandra distinguished himself as a world class Astrophysicist and culminated his career at Yerkes Observatory, University of Chicago, spending many years right in good old WI.

2005-2006 MAS Membership List

Members will receive a copy of our membership list with this issue of the *Focal Point*. It is the intention of the Board of Directors for releasing this list is to provide a way of connecting our members together for their personal interest in this hobby, and it should be used as such.

2006 Public Nights schedule

Included in this mailing is a copy of the public observing schedule for 2006. Members are encouraged to help out by being tour guides at the ‘scopes.

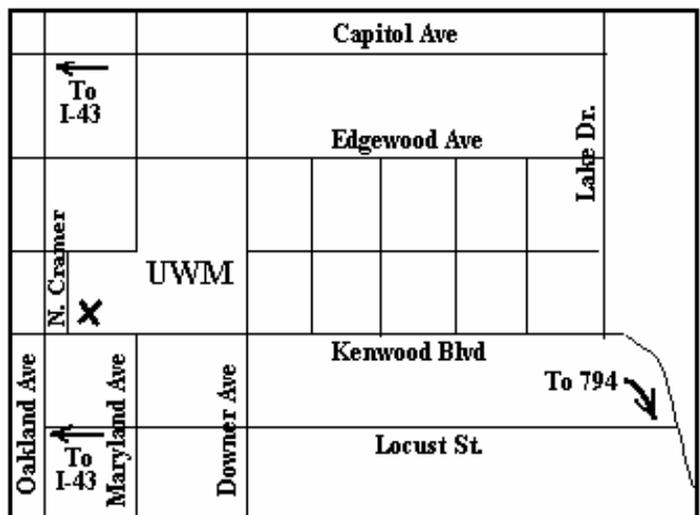
Focal Point Publishing Guidelines

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



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: vacant
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: (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		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.

January

7	Tim Burrus	262-369-1022
14	Steve Diesso	262-641-0331
21	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745
28	Carlos Garces	262-786-2623

February

4	Henry Gerner	414-774-9194
11	Chris Hesseltine	414-482-4515
18	Vern Hoag	262-548-9130
25	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212

March

4	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119
11	Lee Kieth	414-425-2331

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"
Chris Weber (New Berlin)	(262) 789-7128	8"

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

ADDRESS CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

