



Focal Point



October, 2013

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Membership Meeting on Friday, October 18th

The next membership meeting will be on Friday, October 18th at the MAS Observatory, at 8:00 PM.

Sui Ann Mao, PhD an NRAO Jansky postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Astronomy, University of Wisconsin Madison, will be our speaker. Her topic will be magnetic fields in the Milky Way and Magellanic Clouds as studied by radio telescopes.



MAS Membership Renewal

This year the Membership Renewal Notices were sent out via email. Most of the members responded in a timely manner and sent back their Renewal Forms. Thank you for your support!

If you would like to renew now the Membership Renewal Form is available on the last page of this newsletter.

Kelly Senior Center Star Party

On October 9th, as part of public outreach the MAS organized a star party by request of Kelly Senior Center. Sue Timlin volunteered to coordinate with the staff people from the center. A total of 30 persons attended the event. Lee Keith gave a presentation. After the talk he brought the audience outside and kept them mesmerized by pointing out various stars, constellations, asterisms, and other celestial objects and telling stories and facts about them. The seniors were amazed by the Moon when seen in the

telescopes. The bonus was that Venus was high enough in the sky to show it as well. The telescopes started dewing up, and the only other object shown was the Andromeda Galaxy. However, some of the folks also looked at Mizar, the Pleiades, and the Coat Hangar asterism through binoculars. The evening ended about 9:00-9:30, and we heard that everyone really enjoyed the event. A HUGE Thank You to all the MAS members (Sue Timlin, Lee Keith, Russell Chabot, Frank Evans, and Shaun Blackmore) who volunteered.

Treasurer's Report

The WE Energies bill for the previous month was \$61.55.

The income from Public Night donations was \$75.00.

Currently the checking account balance is at \$3991. The Albrecht fund balance 8214.64. The Endowment Found is at \$86303.23.

Respectfully Submitted,
Russell Chabot, Treasurer

Public Nights

2013 Public Observing Nights	
May 10	Inner Planets
June 7	Our Energetic Sun
August 9	Meteor Showers
September 6	Deep Sky Objects
September 27	Constellation Culture
October 11	The Moon

The last two Public Nights of the season were held on September 27th and October 11th. Sue Timlin and Celeste Keith gave talks about Constellations and The Moon, respectively. Both events resulted in a great turnout. On both nights skies were clear so the guests have a chance to see the Moon and some deep sky objects as well as were given a tour of Z-dome, where they were updated on a status of Z-scope project.

Thanks to all MAS members who participated and helped organizing the Public Nights.

Meeting Minutes

Held on September 20th at the MAS Observatory, New Berlin.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by President, Scott Jamieson.

Minutes of the February 15th General Meeting, was read and approved.

The **Treasurer's Report** was read by Treasurer, Russell Chabot. Copy attached.

Observatory Director's Report - was submitted by Gene Hanson, Observatory Director and read by the President. Soon new keys will be issued as requested. The position of Assistant Observatory Director is open.

Membership Committee - four new members were voted in by the Board.

Old Business - a dangerous hornet nest was removed. Update on the Z-scope project: the right ascension drive is now able to handle the friction. Next step will be fixing the declination drive.

There was no **New Business**

The Program Michael Bakich, Senior Editor of the Astronomy Magazine gave a talk about the upcoming comet ISON.



The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Agnes Keszler, Secretary

Member's Astrophoto

My First Astrophoto: Open Cluster M11



This photo is my first array into the world of astrophotography. I am excited that my first one came out so well! As I am still learning the night sky (and my camera at that). I am surprised that the image stacking was so good to me. I joined MAS because I've always had an interest and amazement of things outside of our world - this club will help me gain a deep knowledge and understanding into our universe. I've had a blast these past weeks learning the telescopes, the night sky, and meeting other members.

This image of M11 is a stack of 30 second exposures at ISO 800. I used the B-scope with my Sony NEX 5n mirrorless digital camera at prime focus. I stacked the frames using Deep Sky Stacker and used Photoshop and Aperture as my editing programs.

by Christopher Guest

In the Astronomical News

Amateur Astronomer Captures Amazing Photo of Iconic 'Pillars Of Creation'

An amateur astronomer has captured an eye-catching view of one of the most famed cosmic sights: the so-called "Pillars of Creation" of the Eagle Nebula.



Terry Hancock took this image of the Pillars Of Creation located within the Eagle Nebula (Messier 16 or NGC 6611) in late August and early September from DownUnder Observatory in Fremont, Mich. He used a QHY9 monochrome CCD camera with Astronomy Technologies Astro-Tech 12" f/8 Ritchey-Chrétien astrograph optics in RGB and H-Alpha. The total exposure time was 5 hours. Credit: [Terry Hancock](#)

Astrophotographer Terry Hancock sent SPACE.com his new view of the iconic "Pillars of Creation" structure, which is located in the Eagle Nebula. It is the same region immortalized by dazzling images from the Hubble Space Telescope.

Located 6,500 light-years away from Earth in the constellation Serpens, the Eagle Nebula (Messier 16 or NGC 6611) is a stellar nursery comprising interstellar gas and dust. Astronomers believe the aptly named columns featured in this image may have been blasted out of existence thousands of years ago.

Astrophotographers, stargazers and astronomers will be able to view these celestial pillars for at least another few hundred years because light takes roughly 6,500 years to reach Earth and telescopes today reveal the region as it existed long ago, according to European Space Agency officials.

Hancock took this image in late August and early September from DownUnder Observatory in Fremont, Michigan. He used a QHY9 monochrome CCD camera with Astronomy Technologies Astro-Tech 12" f/8 Ritchey-Chrétien astrograph optics in RGB and H-Alpha. The total exposure time was five hours.

To see more amazing night sky photos submitted by SPACE.com readers, visit our [astrophotography archive](#).

by Nina Sen, SPACE.com

Adopt a Telescope Program - Signup Sheet

	Adoptee	Scope	Location
1	Sue Timlin	18" F/4.5 Obsession	Wiesen Observatory
2	Neil Simmons	12.5" F/7.4 Buckstaff	B Dome
3	Russell Chabot	12.5" F/9 Halbach	A Dome (Armfield)
4	Dan Yanko	18" F/4.5 Obsession (Kyle)	Albrecht Observatory
5	Tamas Kriska	25" F/15 Zemlock	Z Dome
6	Henry Gerner	12" LX 200	Tangney Observatory
7	Jeffrey Fillian	14" Z-Two scope	Ray Zit Observatory
8	Vacant	10" LX 200	Jim Toeller Observatory

At Your Service

Officers / Staff

President	Scott Jamieson	262-592-3049
Vice President	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745
Treasurer	Russell Chabot	414-881-3822
Secretary	Agnes Keszler	414-581-7031
Observatory Director	Gene Hanson	262-354-0138
Asst. Observatory Director	Vacant	
Newsletter Editor	Tamas Kriska	414-581-3623
Webmaster	Robert Burgess	920-559-7472

Board of Directors

Robert Burgess	920-559-7472
Russell Chabot	414-881-3822
John Hammetter	414-519-1958
Gene Hanson	262-354-0138
Lee Keith	414-425-2331
Agnes Keszler	414-581-7031
Tamas Kriska	414-581-3623
Neil Simmons	262-889-2039
Michael Smiley	262-825-3981
Sue Timlin	414-460-4886
Dan Yanko	262-255-3482

September/October Key Holders

10/19	Russell Chabot	414-881-3822
10/26	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745
11/2	Henry Gerner	414-774-9194
11/9	Jill Roberts	414-587-9422
11/16	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212
11/23	Scott Jamieson	262-592-3049



MAS Observatory

18850 Observatory Rd
New Berlin, WI

www.milwaukeeastro.org

MAS Membership Renewal Form



Please return this form with your payment. We encourage you to join our online community at the **Milwaukee Astronomical Society Google Group**. Please visit our website at www.milwaukeeastro.org

Add my email to the MAS Google Group: YES _____ NO _____

Name:

Address:

City, State Zip:

Phone:

E-mail Address:

Membership (select one of the following)

- _____ \$46.00 - Resident Individual
- _____ \$52.00 - Resident Family
- _____ \$23.00 - Resident Student
- _____ \$28.00 - Non Resident Individual
- _____ \$32.00 - Non Resident Family
- _____ \$20.00 - Non Resident Student

A resident is defined as a person who lives in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, or Washington counties. Non-residents are all other locations. Keyholders must pay resident dues.

Subscriptions

- _____ \$33.00 - Sky and Telescope magazine subscription
- _____ \$34.00 - Astronomy magazine subscription

\$ _____ Total due.

Make checks payable to **The Milwaukee Astronomical Society.**

Please complete and mail form with payment to:

Tamas Kriska
923 Currie Place
Wauwatosa, WI 53213