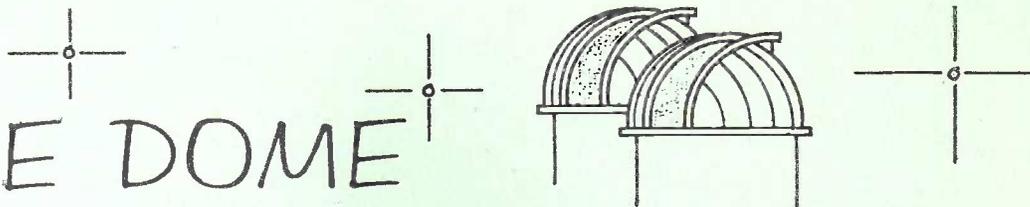


DOUBLE DOME



Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Pres.-F. Roldan 344-2354
V.P.& Co-Prog.Chm.-J.Greenwald 774-8205 Prog.Chm.-P.Smitka 964-5316
Sec. - Mrs. M. Fromm 332-3725 Treas.-J. Toeller 352-7144
Obs.Dir.-G. Samolyk 258-5626 Asst.Obs.Dir.-J.Asztalos 258-5626
Observatory Site - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin

- : FEBRUARY, 1981 : -

NEW MEETING LOCATION!

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FEBRUARY PROGRAM-MEETING: It's amazing that slightly more than 100 fundamental substances singly or in combination, and consisting of atoms of only one kind, constitute all the matter and chemistry in the universe! It is possible to study the chemistry of the stars and the stuff between them by using the spectroscope.

Dr. David Talent, the speaker for February, is a deep space chemist and he will inform you about space chemistry in his slide-illustrated talk "Cosmic Distillery."

Dr. Talent is a research associate at Yerkes specializing in space physics and astronomy. He supplied material for Carl Sagan's "COSMOS" and has done extensive work for NASA and at Cerro-Tololo and Kitt Peak besides teaching astronomy and writing.

Hear him at our NEW MEETING LOCATION Friday, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. Guests are welcome.

We will meet, for February only, at the UWM Union at Kenwood and Maryland, in the music room on the second floor. The Union is about 3 blocks east of the Physics Bldg. Paid parking under the Union and street parking is available.

PLAUDITS TO RAYMOND ZIT! Raymond Zit was awarded a plaque at the January Dinner-Meeting for the time and effort he has given since he became a loyal and dedicated member of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society in 1959.

Many clubs and societies would soon fall apart if it weren't for the dependability of 10 or 20 percent of its membership. Certainly all of our members contribute what they can in time, talent, or treasure but some do an outstanding job.

Congratulations, Raymond!

MR. WALTER SCOTT HOUSTON sent a pleasant letter to your Double-Dome editor recently to say some nice things about the late Ralph Buckstaff and the MAS.

About Mr. Buckstaff, Mr. Houston wrote, "Carl Sagan says we are all star-born because we all carry heavy elements in our body that only could have been made in the explosions of a supernova. For Ralph Buckstaff this is completely appropriate -- the Oshkosh genius was a man star-born from the start."

About your Society, he wrote, "The thing that impresses me most about the Milwaukee Astronomical Society was the way it has managed to persist in high grade amateur astronomical work that is a real contribution to astronomy. It doesn't get wide national publicity but I know of no society that has contributed more solidly over the space of nearly half a century. If an author today wrote a history of American amateur astronomy the MAS would have to be the biggest of the chapters devoted to clubs."

Mr. Houston is a Founder Member of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society. He was present at the first meeting with Founder LaVerne Armfield and Ed. Halbach.

GRAZING OCCULTATIONS: Three will occur in February and March, all nearby.

- 1 - Fri., Feb. 14, 8:12 p.m. 6.7 mag. star, 75% waxing crescent moon, dark limb graze.
- 2 - Mon., Mar. 10, 8:06 p.m. 7.7 mag. star, 18% sunlit moon, waxing crescent, dark limb graze.
- 3 - Sun., Mar. 29, 4:15 a.m., pi Sagittarii, 3.0 mag., 44% sunlit moon, waning, bright limb graze.

Call John Asztalos or Gerry Samolyk at 258-5626 for more information.

Grazing occultations occur when the edge of the moon eclipses a star. At the proper location, an earth-bound observer will see the star play peek-a-boo as it appears and disappears owing to moon mountains and valleys passing between the star and observer. Other nearby observers may see the star occult completely or it may not disappear at all!

This would be a good program for our new or newer observers with telescopes.

NEW MEMBERS: The MAS display booth at the Second Annual Air Show at Brookfield Square last month kindled a lot of interest in your Society. Thanks to the members who managed the booth, we have a lot of new members to add to the roster. Meet: Tom Ajack, Jr., Hales Corners; Gregg Kuehn and wife Kathy, Grafton; George Kutner, Wauwatosa; Gary Robards and wife Kathleen, Mukwonago; Richard Wiesen and son John, Brookfield; George Wucivic, Mukwonago. Everyone will be introduced at the February meeting at the UWM Union.

SOMETHING NEW: A new group called the International Meteor Network has formed for the purpose of communicating between amateur and professional astronomers observing meteors. Benefits include a newsletter, bulletins, and reports about observations and new showers to look for. For more information, or if you want to join, call Gerry Samolyk at 258-5626.

FOR SALE: Six inch f8 Newtonian reflector. Tube is in fair condition, equatorial mount and drive in very good condition. 1/4" and 1/2" focal length eyepieces, 2X-3X Barlow lens. \$200 takes all.

* * *

Quantum 6, rarely used, perfect condition. 20mm eyepiece, dew cap, complete outfit. Price \$2,000. Selling for much less than new price. Please call Mark Adams at 543-1054 between 9-10 p.m.

"NORTHERN LIGHTS," The North Central Region of the Astronomical League newsletter will soon publish its March edition.

This informative quarterly contains a wide variety of astronomical news and features. Subscriptions are \$2.50/year. Remit to Mr. J. H. Fox, 14601 55th St. S, Afton, Minnesota, 55001.

Mr. Fox can use some short astronomical articles. You write, he will edit.

STAFF MEETING: Meet at the observatory Wed., March 4, at 7:30 p.m. If the weather is bad, meet at Gerry Samolyk's home at 411 N. 61st St., Milwaukee. Call 258-5626 to verify the meeting place.

Here's a good opportunity for our new members to get acquainted with each other and their Society, and, if the weather cooperates, with the observatory and its equipment!

THE BOARD WILL MEET Fri., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Dan and Mary Ellen Fromm, 2511 E. Newton (332-3725). Spouses are welcome.

CANADIAN HANDBOOKS are here. If you've ordered a copy, you may pick it up at the February Program-Meeting. If you can't attend, call James Toeller at 352-7144.

OBSERVATORY NEWS: We're not doing nothing! Read this impressive observation summary for 1980:

Occultations: G. Hanson - 31; B. James - 51; V. Tangney - 3 total 85.

Variables: J. Asztalos - 11; G. Hanson - 5,211; C. Hesseltine - 44; R. James - 301; J. Pfannerstill - 12; G. Samolyk - 2,849; T. Renner - 273. Total 8,701.

* * *

Goals for 1981:

- 1) Finish 26" Telescope and building.
- 2) Clean up and repair rest of observatory in time for 1982 Regional Convention.

* * *

Many thanks to M. Zahorik who faithfully mowed the observatory lawn every two weeks, to Pres. F. Roldan for hauling the trash, and to everyone else who lent a hand during the past year.

26" (66cm) NEWS: The building shell and ironwork are done. An 18-foot dome is being checked out and also the feasibility of using fiberglass for dome construction. There's an urgency for mechanical drafters.

The 1982 Convention is a bit over a year away. We'd like to have the 26" operating by then. It's up to you!

On a related note, if you've made a pledge, please honor it when convenient. Your donation to the Fund is welcome at any time! Send it to Treasurer James Toeller, 407 W. Mall Rd., Milwaukee, Wis. 53217.

Special thanks to Mr. Orin Purintun for his generous contribution.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Feb. 14	R. Berry	442-4267	Mar. 7	C. Hesseltine	842-4515
21	W. Collins	255-4169	14	R. James	421-2162
28	G. Hall	786-8579	21	P. Murn	464-1539

Only members and parents of young members working on worthwhile projects may attend on the above nights. Call the keyholder the Fri. before his night - cancel Sat. if necessary. Keyholder should report anyway. He will also oversee tours during the week ending with his assigned night. Mr. J. Toeller (352-7144) will act on requests.

- FULL SNOW MOON WED., FEB. 18 -

LeRoy Simandl, Editor (933-3052)
4201 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

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