



The Newsletter of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society

November-December 2002

Presidents Corner

By Scott Jamieson - MAS President

As many of you may have heard, the land we had located in the Kettle Moraine turned out to not be available despite early encouraging indications. Our search continues, primarily still in the Southern unit of the Kettle Moraine. This is mainly because of information from the DNR that the land around the Southern unit is being developed at a lower rate than the Northern. Since our major reason for this move is to provide a site with the best possible visual observing conditions for the long term future we are still trying to find land as close to the Kettle as possible. It is becoming increasingly apparent that we will have to pay the normal rate for land in this area. It would seem that the land we have would be worth enough to pay for new land, but unfortunately it is worth just enough to pay for the move only. In addition, we can't sell the land until the move is complete and the land is completely cleared of all structures. This will take about 2 years so we cannot use the land to finance the land acquisition. The best estimate for buying an isolated lot of about 4 acres is about \$40k. Therefore the board has taken the following action. The MAS has established the Albrecht Moving Fund, named after the initial contributor, Bill Albrecht. Bill recognizes how bad the conditions are becoming on the hill, and, despite 70 years of tradition at the current site, has donated \$1000 to start the fund. While we don't intend to publish the amounts of further contributions, I must mention that Virgil Tangney made a very nice contribution during the meeting on Friday. Our goal is \$40k over the next year so that we can acquire the land before there is no acceptable land left. If you feel that the club must find a darker site to assure its future and make visual observing a prime activity of the club again, I ask you to make whatever donation you can and help us achieve this goal by contacting your employer, foundations or other organizations that might contribute to our cause. All fund raising ideas are appreciated. Please remember that we are a fully tax exempt educational organization and any donations are

fully deductible on your income tax. For more details on the moving effort, feel free to contact me directly.

The annual Christmas Dinner is now scheduled for December 13th, a Friday night at 7:00 PM. Over the years I have received some complaints over the cost of the dinner compared to the quality of the food. In addition, this time of year everyone is having a party and the parking conditions have been terrible in the last 3 years. Your board has decided to try a new approach to this dinner. We will be having a Pizza party at the MAS, in the Quonset Hut. The Pizza and soft drinks and beer will be supplied at minimum cost estimated at less than \$7 per person. The Hut is at least as large as the rooms we have been getting and who knows, we might even get some observing in if the weather is good. The biggest drawback of the Hut is the possibility that bad weather could make the hill inaccessible. If the weather is bad that night, we will try to re-schedule for the following week. If there is snow on the ground only, the parking lot and trails to the hut will be plowed that day. Come join us for what if sure will be a good time with good friends.

Finally, The dedication for the Z-2 Scope, donated by Ray Zit, took place at the last meeting. Ray was able to make the meeting and was delighted to see several of his old friends there to help honor him. Ray gave a very touching speech on why the MAS was important to him and recognized Gerry Samolyk for his very long contributions to the club.

Note from the Editor

By Gary Parson

Notice to all members it is your responsibility to **inform me of any email address changes.** So please keep me up to date.

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MAS member chosen by British Astronomical Society's picture of the week

By Gary Parson

MAS member Dick Adduci had the honor of being chosen by the British Astronomical Society's picture of the week. Dick had imaged M20 which is a emission-reflection nebula (below) on August 31st 2002 at 10:28 pm with a MX-7C camera. Dick has been a member at the MAS for over 15 years. He has his own observatory near Eagle Wisconsin. It houses a Meade LX200 12in F/10 classic. Dick has



been imaging for the last eight years he started out with a CB245 camera that he built himself. From the CB he went to a ST7 and then the ST7E. The tri-color imaging was a little more time consuming then what he had thought so he sold it and now owns a Starlight Express MX7C one shot camera which he absolutely loves. The camera is guided with Star 2000. If your interested in seeing more of Dick's work he has his own web site, the address is <http://www1.wcf.net/~radduci/eagle/index.html>

Your opinion is needed!!!

By Vern Hoag - MAS Vice President

With the board focusing a lot of time on finding a new darker site and still trying to maintain the current site, we need your help. The board would like the opinion (good or bad) of every member on how they feel about the possibility of moving to a darker

site. When going out to the Kettle Moraine area it's easy to see how the club would benefit, but we also realize that a longer drive will make it more inconvenient.

We know that a number of member's support this effort and a few that don't. We're trying to address every issue and concern by keeping the majority of members happy. With this in mind we would like your opinion. Do you support the club moving to a darker site? Would you use the site more or less? What are your concerns? Would you be willing to help out on the process of moving? Do you have any suggestions that we could use? Your name will be withheld from the board unless you indicate to me to present your name. Feel free to reach me any of the following ways: 262-548-9130 (6:00pm to 9:00pm) or 1505 Morey Lane, Waukesha WI 53188 or vern.hoag@bradleycorp.com.

Welcome New Members

By Carlos Garces

MAS membership chairman

We would like to welcome the following members to our club.

Zbigniew Pianka
New Berlin, WI

Jerry Davis
Bayside WI

Scott Berg and Family
Brookfield, WI

Steven Alexander
Milwaukee, WI

Erich Schmidt
Milwaukee, WI

Fred Young
Racine, WI

Derek Seeber
Wauwatosa WI

Wesley Skeffington
Waukesha, WI

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3 We hope to see all of you out at the hill very soon. Feel free to ask questions. There are a lot of very knowledgeable people in our club that are willing to help you.

Membership renewals are needed

A.S.A.P

By Lee Keith

If you haven't paid your renewal I would advise you to pay them as soon as possible. The magazine subscriptions will be sent in very soon. So if renewals aren't paid you will not receive future issue's of Sky & Telescope and Astronomy.

A follow up to the Sept meeting

By Gerry Samolyk

MAS Observatory Director

At the Sept. meeting, I promised a list of variable stars that are easy to observe. Most of the stars on this list are Mira variables (type M) or semi-regular stars (SR) stars. These are large amplitude red stars. These stars vary slowly so a couple of observations a month can generate a good light curve. When the period is short more frequent observations may be needed.

There are a few dwarf nova on the list, types UG and Z Cam. These stars are normally faint but occasionally will go into outburst. You can observe these stars every night, if you find the star in outburst you might want to make an observation every few hours. The period listed is the average number of days between outbursts.

R CrB is the opposite of a nova. This star is normally at maximum but at times will fade to minimum. There is no way to predict when this will happen so keep an eye on it.

I put 3C273 on the list because this is object is a quasar. This may be the most distant object you will ever see thru a telescope.

Charts for these stars can be found at the AAVSO web site: aavso.org (or use the link on the MAS website).

If

you have any questions contact myself or any of the panel members.

VARIABLE STARS THAT ARE EASY TO OBSERVE

DESIGN. NAME TYPE RANGE(m) PERIOD (d) CHARTS

0017+55 T Cas M <7.9 - 11.9> 445 B, D
 0214-03 Mira M <3.4 - 9.3> 332 A,B
 0215+58 S Per SR 8.4 - 13.2 822 B,D
 0231+33 R Tri M <6.2 - 11.7> 267 A,B,D
 0242+17 T Ari SR <8.3 - 10.9> 317 B,D
 0432+74 X Cam M <8.1 - 12.6> 144 B,D
 0549+20A U Ori M <6.3 - 12.0> 368 A,D,E
 0727+08 S CMi M <7.5 - 12.6> 333 A,B,D
 0749+22 U Gem UG 8.9 - 14.9 105.2 B,C,D,E
 0939+34 R LMi M <7.1 - 12.6> 372 A,B,D
 0942+11 R Leo M <5.8 - 10.0> 310 A,B
 1037+69 R UMa M <7.5 - 13.0> 302 A,B,D
 1151+58 Z UMa SR 6.4 - 9.3 196 A,B
 1224+02 3C 273 AGN 12.3 - 13.0 B,D
 1231+60 T UMa M <7.7 - 12.9> 257 B,D
 1233+07 R Vir M <6.9 - 11.5> 146 B,C,D
 1239+61 S UMa M <7.8 - 11.7> 226 B,C,D
 1246+06 U Vir M <8.2 - 13.1> 207 D
 1344+40 R CVn M <7.7 - 11.9> 329 A,B,D
 1419+54 S Boo M <8.4 - 13.3> 271 B,D
 1425+39 V Boo SR <7.0 - 11.3> 258 B,C,D
 1432+27 R Boo M <7.2 - 12.3> 223 A,B,C,D
 1517+14 S Ser M <8.7 - 13.5> 372 B,D,E
 1517+31 S CrB M <7.3 - 12.9> 360 A,B,D
 1544+28A R CrB RCB 5.9 - 14.4 A,B,C,D, E
 1546+15 R Ser M <6.9 - 13.4> 356 A,B,D
 1621+19 U Her M <7.5 - 12.5> 406 A,B,C,D
 1628+07A SS Her M <9.2 - 12.4> 107 B,D
 1631+37 W Her M <8.3 - 13.5> 280 B,D,E
 1632+66 R Dra M <7.6 - 12.4> 246 A,B,C,D
 1640+25 AH Her Z Cam 10.9 - 14.7 19.8 B,D,E
 1717+23 RS Her M <7.9 - 12.5> 220 B,D
 1805+31 T Her M <8.0 - 12.8> 165 A,B,D
 1909+67 U Dra M <9.5 - 13.8> 316 D
 1927+45 AF Cyg SR 6.2 - 8.0 94 B
 1934+49 R Cyg M <7.5 - 13.9> 426 B,D,E
 1946+32 chi Cyg M <5.2 - 13.4> 408 A,B,D,E
 2016+47 U Cyg M <7.2 - 10.7> 463 A,B,C,D
 2059+23A R Vul M <8.1 - 12.6> 137 B,D
 2108+68 T Cep M <6.0 - 10.3> 388 A,B,C,D
 2138+43 SS Cyg UG 8.2 - 12.3 49.5 B,C,D,E
 2301+10 R Peg M <7.8 - 13.2> 378 A,B,D,E
 2307+59 V Cas M <7.9 - 12.2> 229 A,B,D

<>= average magnitude

AGN = Active Galactic Nucleus

M = Mira; long period variable

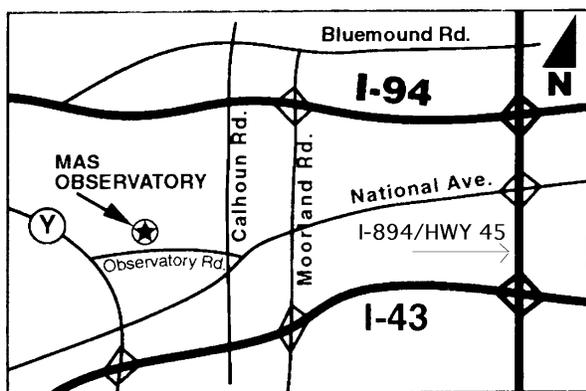
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- 4 RCB = R Coronae Borealis type
 SR = Semi regular
 UG = U Geminorum type cataclysmic
 Z Cam = Z Camelopardalis type cataclysmic

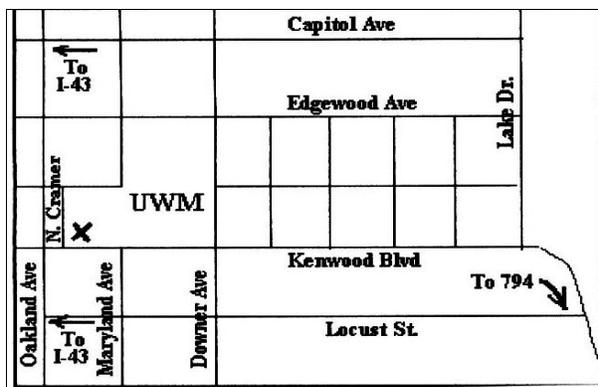
General Meetings

Just a reminder that the November general meetings will be at the observatory on November 15th at 8:00pm. The board meeting will be at 7:00pm.

The January, February, March and April meet-



ing will be at the UWM physics building On the corner of Kenwood and Cramer see map below.



MAS Christmas Party

It was decided at the October board meeting that the MAS Christmas party will be celebrated at the observatory this year. We will be ordering pizza's and enjoying refreshments. It will be on Friday De-

ember 13th at 7:00pm. The cost should be less than \$7.00 a person. If your interested in coming please call Scott Jamieson at 262-896-0119. A head count is



needed to know how many pizza's will need. Come out and join the fun. The night will be filled with good food, interesting talk and if its clear some great early winter observing. Mark it on your calendars now and don't forget to give Scott a call.

How to find it

By Gary Parson

First of all I would like to apologize for the absence of my How to Find it column in the last couple of issues. I was blessed by to much information to put into the Focal Point. So there was no room for my column.

Well the nights are getting colder and colder and that's a sign that all the great objects of winter will be here soon. All objects discussed will be viewing them at 9:00 pm and at a angle of around 20 degrees above the horizon. Thirty degrees and above will give you the best observing but if your like me I view them as soon as I can.

You will be able to see the pleiades which is one of the most beautiful open star clusters as early as October 23rd. Look for it in the ENE Next will come the planet Saturn with its magnificent rings it will be seen around November 20th. Looking pretty much straight East. After Saturn will come the mighty Orion with all its treasures like M42 the Orion nebula. It will be seen around December 15th looking ESE. Then finally the gas giant Jupiter will show up around January 20th. Looking due east.

I hope everyone enjoys these great stars and planets it sure makes the winter go by a little faster if you can have a little fun observing these easy to find objects.

Library News

By Scott Laskowski MAS Librarian and Historian

Please return all borrowed books that have been out for over three months unless the need is dire.

5 We have two new additions to our library. **The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Observers Handbook 2003** will be available at future meetings. This is the best resource amateurs have as an ephemerides for the year. These ephemerides include data by month of the moon, planets, their satellites, asteroids, occultation's, eclipses and their rise and set times. Not just for our solar system it also includes all kinds of star, galaxies with their coordinates and maps. This book is highly recommended by experienced MAS members. Copies will be sold at a substantial discount for our members. If interested contact myself at 414-421-3517. They won't last long.

Hubble Telescope– PC & Mac CD Rom– 1997

The CD Rom contains 200 digital pictures by Finley & Holiday from the space telescope science institute. Hubble space photo's are Donated by **Lee Keith** for our enjoyment and enlightenment.

MAS Observatory Director makes the news

By Gary Parson

It was called “He works night shift at the home of the stars”. What was it? A very nice article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel dated 10/14/03. It explained how Gerry Samolyk was led to nearly every continent to witness for himself the eclipse of the sun. It went on to explain how he and his trusted 5-1/2 telescope had in the last 9 attempts, was very successful in recording data about the eclipses he so loves to chase.

Gerry is a long time MAS member and some people even say he is the life's blood of our club. Congratulations Gerry!! If you would like to read the article in its entirety go to www.jsonline.com and in the search pop in Milwaukee Astronomical Society. **Photo courtesy of The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**



The Z2 scope dedicated in Ray Zit's Name

By Gary Parson



(above left)Ray talked about MAS years ago. (Left) Ray accepting the plaque that will be placed in the Z2 observatory. (Right) Ray looked very pleased in the Zit telescopes new home

On October 18th the Z2 scope was dedicated in Mr. Ray Zit name. Ray a former member of MAS, donated the 14.5 Newtonian scope because he no longer takes part in astronomy. He was one of our former observatory directors. He had the job for three years. Ray even hinted he might rejoin MAS. He gave a great talk to our membership at our general meeting. He commemorated about days past. His new hobby is photography

Mr. Zit we thank you for your generosity and everyone who ever uses your scope will know of your name and how kind you were to our club.

Albrecht Moving Fund Created

By Gary Parson

A fund was created in Bill Albrecht's name. It will be for the cost of moving our club. Bill donated a \$1000.00 a couple of months ago so the club could get started on the search. At the last meeting . Virgil Tangney donated a nice amount. We would like to thank the generosity of both Bill and Virgil. If anyone else would like to donate any size contribution contact MAS president Scott Jamieson. It's totally deductible.

6 MAS Officers/ Staff

President	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119
Vice President	Vern Hoag	262-548-9130
Treasurer	Chris Weber	262-789-7128
Secretary	Henry Gerner	414-362-4441
Observatory Director	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
Assistant Observatory Director	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169
Focal Point	Gary Parson	262-895-3015

Future MAS. Events

Christmas Party December 13th at 7:00pm. The cost will be approximately \$7.00. Call President Scott Jamieson so we can get a head count.

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 Chairman, Carlos Garces, 16430 Melody Drive, New Berlin, WI. 53151. Phone: **262-786-2623**. Email : **cgarces@wi.rr.com**

Focal Point Publishing Guidelines

Focal Point Newsletter is published bi-monthly(Sep,Nov,Jan,Mar, May and 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 email, Mail, or diskette in a text or Word compatible format. Submit FP inputs to:

MAS Focal Point c/o Gary Parson
7521 E Wind Lake Rd
Wind Lake, WI 53185-1513

Keyholders list

October

26 Lee Keith 414-425-2331

November

2 Dan Koehler 262-662-2987
9 Scott Laskowski 414-421-3517
16 Gerry Samolyk 414-529-9051
23 Terry Ross 262-784-2093
30 Gary Parson 262-895-3015

December

7 Tom Schmidtkunz 414-352-1674
14 Neil Simmons 262-889-2039
21 Chris Weber 262-789-7128
28 Dan Yanko 414-453-3382

MAS Open House's

Open houses will resume in spring of 2003

Loaner Telescopes (available to members for local use)

Lee Keith (Franklin) 414-425-2331 8" Dob reflector
Scott Jamieson (Waukesha) 262-896-0119 8" Dob reflector
Paul Borchardt (MAS site) 262-781-0169 6" Dob reflector
Chirs Weber(New Berlin) 262-789-7128 8" Dob reflector

MAS Observatory 262-542-9071

MAS Web Page: www.milwaukeeastro.org

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society

C/O Gary Parson
7521 E Wind Lake Rd
Wind Lake, WI 53185

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**The Next general meeting will be held on November 15th at 8:00pm at the observatory!!*

