



The Newsletter of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society

Nov-Dec 2003

Presidents Corner

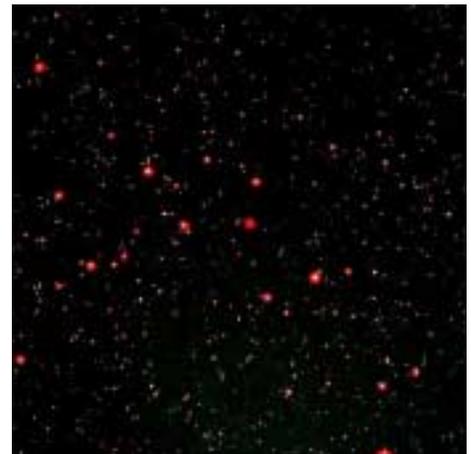
By Scott Jamieson

As reported elsewhere, Gary Parson is retiring as Focal Point editor after a two year, 12 issue record. As president of your club, I am very grateful for those of you that contribute to the success of this club by performing the various tasks that are needed. Most of this work is done out of sight of the general membership unless they spend a lot of time at the observatory but for the newsletter editor the result is not only published for the general membership but, with the hard work of our webmaster Bob Manske, is published for all the world to see. Almost all activities of a scientifically oriented club evolve over time but I don't think that has been more clearly illustrated than Gary's tenure as editor. This position is one of the most demanding in the club, but I think must be one of the most rewarding in terms of a sense of accomplishment. This should be especially the case with the job Gary has done. The Focal Point has evolved from a black and white document that was printed by an external company at great expense, hand folded, addressed and bulk mailed, to a colorful bi-monthly newsletter published electronically. Some copies are still printed and mailed but most are sent out electronically after conversion to a PDF file. I must admit that I was skeptical of this at first, but Gary persisted and the results are before you. I sincerely appreciate what Gary has done for this club as the FP editor and hope that you will join me in saying thanks!

The land search-

The past summer has not yielded any real progress toward obtaining land for the new location. We continue to pursue land in the area of Eagle and Palmyra based on expected land growth patterns and current light pollution levels. We have found several great sites, including one on a hill that would have been perfect, but we have found it is very difficult to get the landowners to sell it to us. Most people are very skeptical of our intentions, one commenting that he just didn't like the idea of people being out doing strange things at night! For the most part though people have been very friendly after they understand what we do but still no one has even come close to a donation or low price for a few acres of land. With the high price of land, it is becoming very clear that, though we will continue to pursue the best deal possible, we will have to pay a substantial amount if we are to have any chance of getting a new site. This winter and spring we will be trying several different, more public approaches to finding land but the difficulty is that our needs are pretty specific and unique. We must continue this effort because the light pollution level on our hill will continue to increase in the future.

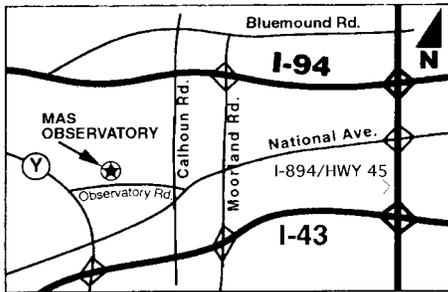
Since no one has volunteered to be the new speaker chairman, I will be giving a presentation at the November meeting on an unusual subject that I hope you will find interesting. It has to do with the rather strange picture shown on the right. I challenge you to try to guess what is shown and how the picture was made. I will only tell you the following. The picture is a false color composite and was taken using an unusual setup that would normally not be used. The image is about 1.5 Degrees wide and is centered at approximately 20h 45m RA and 42 degrees 20 Minutes Declination and North is up. Some of you may already know from hearing me talk while I was experimenting but for the rest of you it would be fun if you could figure out the nature of the object in the center before the meeting. Meantime, I would also like to thank Jerry Bialozynski for his efforts at the observatory. Jerry has had some time off from his job and is doing a tremendous amount of work on the hill. **Continued on Page 2**



2 Keeping the grounds and the equipment running is a continual struggle so thanks to all of you that have helped out this year.

MAS General Meetings

The next General meeting will be held on November 21st at 8:00pm at the observatory. See map below



Welcome New MAS Members

We would like to welcome nine new members:
Josh Gozdziwski from Rockford IL.
Robert Kemka from Muskego
Jason Chesley from Milwaukee
Brian Pierce from New Berlin
Claarence Bergs and family from New Berlin.
Cindy Kilkenny and family from Brookfield
Casmir(Caz) Laska and family from Brookfield
Chad Kopca from Milwaukee
Bethany Reilly from New Berlin.

As new members please don't be afraid to ask questions about the club and what kind of work we do for the astronomical community. On the last page of this newsletter you will find a list of board members and key holders please don't hesitate to call the board members if you have any questions what so ever. Every Saturday night the club is open to the members to use our telescopes and imaging equipment. After a short training session with the keyholder you will be on your way looking at our universe. If you have questions about going there call the key holder for that particular Saturday and he can answer any questions you might have.

Library News

By Scott Laskowski

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Observers Hand Book-2004, will be available at fu-

ture 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 rise and set times. Not just the solar system but information includes all kinds of star, galaxies, their coordinates and maps. This book is highly recommended by experienced MAS members. The publisher's price in the United States is \$25.95. The MAS buys in quantity so we receive a substantial discount. The price this year once again is only \$15.00 so take advantage while the supply lasts.

Library Information

New members or those not acquainted with the MAS library may not be aware that our library is probably one of the most extensive private Astronomy collections in Wisconsin. Our resources include over 500 books, charts and Atlases. We have over 24 VHS video tapes, computer disks and over 1200 slides. The major portion of our library material is located in the Zemlock (25" Z scope downstairs) building offices. These items may be borrowed by any member in good standing any Saturday night that the club is open or at our monthly meetings or by making arrangements with a key holder. Certain items may not be borrowed they include magazines, charts-atlases, vertical file papers and articles or any other items not specified. Under special circumstances like research projects or lectures historical and other items may be procured by contacting myself Scott Laskowski at a meeting or call me at 414-421-3517.

MAS Annual Christmas Party

Will be held at the observatory on December 6th. Social hour will start at 5:00 pm and Pizza will be served around 6:00 pm. So come on out and have some good conversation, Beer, Soda and great fun. All members and their families are invited. If the skies are clear the probabilities are pretty high that there will be some viewing through the telescopes. If you are a new member this will be a good way to great way to get to know everyone.



3 Member Guide Being Proposed and We Need Your Help!!!!

To all of our new members - greetings! In order to help you become active members of MAS as quickly as possible, Scott Berg has volunteered to write a new member's guide. It will include sections on the society's organization, rich history and operation of equipment.

To create the guide, Scott is asking all members for ideas on what should be included. What do you wish you had been told when you joined? What little idiosyncrasy have you found in one of the MAS scopes and how do you get around it? We want to include as much MAS specific information as we can. Any articles, photos or ideas would be appreciated.

In addition to a printed manual, Scott would like to create a CD with information on MAS and astronomy in general. Do you have any favorite photos, electronic images, articles, monographs, manuals, software, PowerPoint presentations, spreadsheets, etc. that you think would be helpful to other members? We can pack a lot of information on a CD and we would like items for all interests and levels of expertise. Your originals will be copied and returned to you as quickly as possible.

If you have anything you would like included, please contact: Scott Berg, 18115 Whippetree Lane, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53045, or Telephone him at 262-797-8772. Scott can also be contacted via email at scott@scottberg.com.

MAS Endowment Fund

MAS would like to thank the following members for their generosity in donating money to the endowment fund. They are:

Dan Yanko, John Bonow, Dr. Benard & Marie Sandler, Joe Payne, Carlos Perez Pena. If anyone else cares to donate it can be done anytime just contact Chris Weber our treasurer or Lee Keith.

Albrecht Moving Fund Update

MAS would also like to thank all the members who have donated money to the Albrecht moving fund as of October 31st we have \$3,377.96. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

Note from the Editor

I just wanted everyone to know how much I have enjoyed being the editor of the Focal Point for the

last two years. I had big shoes to fill when Rudy Poklar had to give the position up and didn't really know what I got myself into. Although I have found the job to be challenging I have loved the time I have spent putting out the FP every other month.

I hope you have enjoyed the modernization of the FP and also receiving it by email now. Right now 130 members are receiving the FP by email and only 33 get it by U.S. Mail. Sending it out by email has saved the club hundreds of dollars a year. I also hope you have liked the color pictures in the FP and the new banner.

I would like to thank all the members who have contributed many articles for the Focal Point especially Scott Jamieson and Gerry Samolyk.

At this time I have to give up being the editor of the FP because of health reasons. I would like to ask someone to volunteer to take over for me. I have everything on CD's and would be more than happy to help with the first one or two publications. It's a job that is absolutely a must as it has been said the Focal Point is the life blood of the MAS. I have been in several clubs now and it always seems the same, there are only a few members that do all the work and all the other members reap the reward. Please don't let this happen to our great club. We have been asking for a speaker chairman for months now and no one has stepped up to do the job. I know every one's life is full of stressors and liabilities but please make time for the MAS so it can be enjoyed for years to come by many members. If you would like to volunteer for the Editors job or the speaker coordinator for the general meetings please contact MAS President Scott Jamieson at **262-896-0119** or email him at **sjamiem16@aol.com**. Thank you Gary Parson

Total Lunar Eclipse Party

By Henry Gerner

Astronomy magazine has invited the MAS to help with the "total lunar eclipse party" which will be co-sponsored by WISN Channel 12 at Memorial Park, located next to the Art Museum in Milwaukee. The lunar eclipse is Saturday, November 8th. I hope our membership will provide a good showing for the Public! Please bring your Binoculars, or telescopes to the Lake Front. Astronomy magazine has said they are planning to have drawings on telescopes possibly, as well as other items.

4 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 414-774-9194
Observatory Director
 Gerry Samolyk 414-529-9051
Assistant Observatory Director
 Paul Borchardt 262-781-0169

Focal Point Open

Future MAS. Events

MAS general meetings will resume on Nov 21st. The board will meet at 7:00pm and the general meeting will be at 8:00pm

MAS Membership is open to all with an interest in Astronomy and expanding their knowledge of the Universe. Yearly Membership Dues are:

Individual \$34/yr.; Family \$40; Non-resident (individual \$22, Family \$40); Student (under 18) \$16. 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: to be determined

Keyholders List

Nov

1	Jerry Bialozynski	262-895-7461
8	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169
15	Tim Burrus	262-548-6372
22	Steve Diesso	262-641-0331
29	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745

Dec

6	Carlos Garces	262-786-2623
13	Henry Gerner	414-774-9194
20	Chris Hesseltine	414-482-4515
27	Vern Hoag	262-548-9130

Jan

3	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212
10	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119

MAS Christmas Party

The 2003 Christmas party will be held at the observatory on Dec 6th starting at 5:00pm and pizza will be served at 6:00pm

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 MAS General and board meetings will be held on November 21st..
The board will meet at 7:00pm and the general meeting will be at 8:00pm at the Observatory.*

