

May-June Calendar

May 11 (Fri) - Public Observing Night 7:30 pm,
Topic: **Saturn**

May 18 (Fri) - Board Mtg. in Quonset 7:00 pm;
New Member Forum in Z-Dome 7:30 pm;
General Mtg. in Quonset 8:00 pm. **ELECTIONS, Speaker: Scott Jamieson.**

June 11 (Mon) - Board Mtg. in Quonset 7:00 pm.
General meetings resume in September.

Looking ahead...

Aug 4 - Annual Picnic

Aug 11 - Summer campout at the Yanko Farm.

Unless otherwise specified meetings are at the Observatory. Check our website for up-to-date information on meetings and events.

Meeting Roundup

We started out the year back in September with some wonderful talks by people who do astronomy for a living: Professors Amy Berger from Madison, and Paul Rybski from Whitewater as well as graduate student AJ Heroux, but it is nice to have a balance of professional and non-professional astronomers presenting at our general meetings so the winter was ours.

April's meeting by Kip Hoffman on building his observatory should push any one near the verge of building their own over the edge and into action. Paul Gruener talked more about digital imaging this winter, this time on color management, and Jill Roberts talked on her trip to Kitt Peak. Gerry Samolyk is always has good presentations and his talk on asteroid occultations is no exception (using my round head as a

prop). All this is rounded out by our president Steve Diesso, our grand master of ceremonies.

All our presentations seem to have worn out our computer projector donated some time back by Scott Jamieson. Fortunately projectors have come down greatly in price over the years and the board wholeheartedly voted to purchase a new one seeing that we would put it to good use.

Now for some good news: we have not had a full-time program director for quite some time, so I am happy to announce that Ray Alberelli has agreed to take on this task. If you have something you would like to present to the club, walk up to Ray and volunteer!

Election Reminder

May is election time at the MAS and we are looking to fill the seats as those people who have served the maximum two consecutive terms on the board. Given Scott Berg's departure from the board, we are looking to fill an additional seat for the one year remaining on Scott's term. After the board is voted in by the general membership, they will retire to elect the officers for the next year as Scott Jamieson provides a talk to keep us entertained.

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**

Annual Picnic

Mark your calendars for August 4th this year for the annual picnic. As always the food and drinks will be provided by the Society, you provide yourselves, lawn furniture and perhaps an extra canopy to block the sun if you wish. Festivities start around 4 o'clock. More details in the summer edition of the Focal Point.



MAS Campout #1

This year the MAS will try two different dates for a campout in the hopes of getting some clear sky. Dan Yanko will host the first the weekend of August 11 on his farm near and says that there are plenty of things to enjoy even if the clouds come.

Messier Marathon

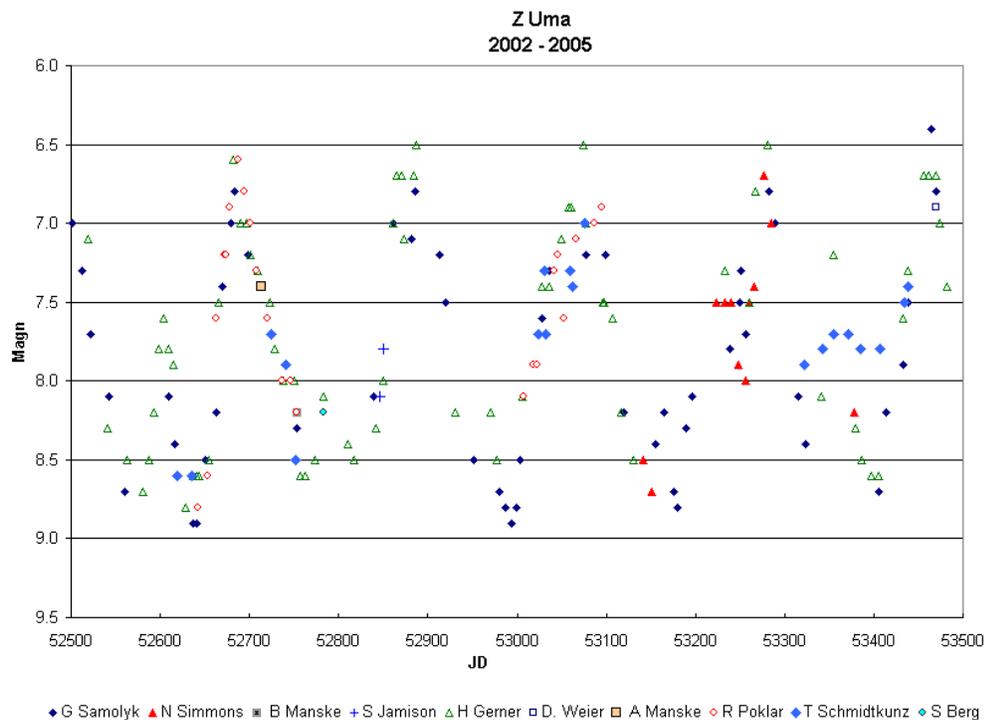
March 17 skies were clear this year and many MAS members converged at Ottawa Lake Park to enjoy an evening of hunting down the Messier objects. While the number of members attending slowly dwindled as the chill set in, Jill Roberts, Lana Silke and Dan Yanko persisted and sent this photo to record the evening. Jill reports 61 messier objects recorded in the logbook that night. A wonderful end to a winter filled with clouds.

Call for observations!

Our observatory director, Gerry Samolyk is reminding members of the Z Ursae Majoris, an easy-to-observe variable star that is not so predictable. The MAS project simply provides the tools and encouragement to observe this star. Participation has dwindled of late as members have grown their variable star observing interest to include other stars, which is the whole point of the project.

New members are especially welcome to send in observations of this star that is easy to follow in a pair of binoculars.

For details see http://www.milwaukeeastro.org/MAS_Main.asp?SW=1280&Category=5&Menu=33



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:	Dave Weier	(608) 241-1444
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:	(not working)	(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 (Milwaukee and adjacent counties 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.

May

5	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212
12	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119
19	Lee Kieth	414-425-2331
26	Dan Koehler	262-662-2987

June

2	Scott Laskowski	414-421-3517
9	Jill Roberts	414-587-9422
16	Terry Ross	262-784-2093
23	Tom Schmidtkunz	414-352-1674
30	Neil Simmons	262-889-2039

July

7	Chris Weber	262-789-7128
14	Dan Yanko	414-453-3382

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"

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society
c/o Rebecca Sher
1418 Trillium Court
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095

ADDRESS CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

