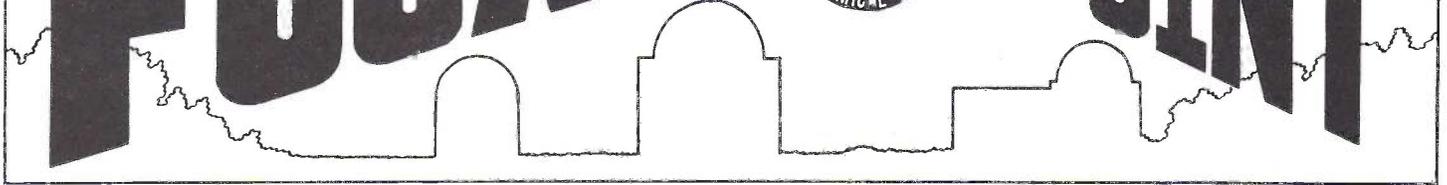


FOCAL POINT



Issued by the

MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
- : APRIL, 1986 : -

CALENDAR:

Fri., Apr. 18 - April Program-Meeting, 8 P.M.
Sat., Apr. 19 - Astronomy Day, 2 to 11 P.M.
Mon., Apr. 21 - Board meeting, 7:30 P.M., at the observatory.
Thu., Apr. 24 - Full Pink Moon.
Sun., Apr. 27 - Daylight Saving begins, 2 A.M.
Wed., Apr. 30 - May 'FOCAL POINT' deadline.
Wed., May 7 - First Wednesday meeting at observatory. Everyone welcome.
Fri., May 16 - May Program-Meeting, 8 P.M.
Saturdays - Observatory maintenance and improvement. Volunteers needed.
Saturday nights - Members Night at the observatory. Keyholder list on last page.

APRIL PROGRAM-MEETING: This month's speaker will be Dr. John Mathis, Chairman of the UW-Madison Astronomy Department.

Dr. Mathis has been featured many times at MAS Program-Meetings and never fails to captivate his audience.

Dr. Mathis will announce the subject of his topic at the meeting.

WHEN: Friday, April 18, 8 P.M.

WHERE: The Child and Adolescent Treatment Center (CATC) auditorium, 9501 W. Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa. Ample lighted parking, may be reached by Rte. 71 bus. Guests are welcome.

THANKS to Peter Smitka for the excellent workshop presentation covering reflector optical system alignment.

NEW MEMBERS: Michelle Boehlen, Waukesha, and Susan Siegfried, Milwaukee, have recently joined the Milwaukee Astronomical Society.

Both will be introduced at the May general meeting.

A REMINDER: Astronomy Day will be observed Saturday, April 19. The observatory will be open to the general public from 2 to 11 P.M. Our program will include tours, short talks, slide presentations, and, weather permitting, viewing through telescopes in the evening. The 26" Zemlock telescope will also be open to public inspection.

We'll need lots of volunteers to guide, tend 'scopes, direct parking, tend store, whatever, especially if the evening sky is clear. Please call Frank Roldan at 423-0210. Name your choice(s) of time and task.

OBSERVATORY NEWS (BY OBS. DIR. GERRY SAMOLYK):

The MAS cooperates with several national organizations in observing projects. The following people coordinate these projects:

IOTA

Lunar Occultations: Frank Roldan (423-0210).

Grazing Occultations: Paul Borchardt (445-1181), Gerry Samolyk (475-9418).

Minor Planet Occultations: John Asztalos (258-5626).

ALPO - Planetary: Terry Ross (784-2093).

AAVSO - Variable Stars: Gerry Samolyk (475-9418).

IHW - Comet Halley watch: Brian Cieslak (679-9663).

Other Projects:

Messier & Herschel Objects: Lee Keith (962-2856).

Open House: Frank Roldan (423-0210).

65cm Scope: Gerry Samolyk (475-9418).

Grounds: Someone will be needed to cut the grass this summer.

Light Pollution: John Asztalos (258-5626).

Librarian: A new librarian will be needed this July.

Four top priority work projects will need attention this summer:

New building roof & flashing: John Asztalos (258-5626).

New dome shutter: Frank Roldan (423-0210).

Repaint 'A' dome: Dick Wiesen (781-4757).

Floor repair in lecture hall: Nick Nichols (542-2055).

If you wish to participate or can help in any of the above areas contact the person listed.

Until the observatory grounds dry out, please park south of the upper parking lot chain. Stay on the road if you must drive to the buildings.

Some mirrors will soon be sent away for resilvering.

OPEN HOUSE: The MAS will again present several observatory Open Houses. They will occur bi-weekly from June 13 through September 12. The same type of assistance as for Astronomy Day is needed. We can expect many guests on decent nights, especially since most of the planets will be favorably placed for viewing this summer.

Please keep the insert with this month's "FOCAL POINT." It briefly outlines each bi-weekly program and also has a map showing the observatory location and access roads.

FOR SALE: 8" Celestron reflector with high transmission coating, off-axis guide, dual axis drive corrector, Plössl and orthoscopic eyepieces, filter set, dew cap, dryer, adjustable heavy duty tripod (will include custom pier mount if desired), and more. Price, \$1150. Please call Jim Jordan, 457-2076.

FOR SALE: Visored caps, colored blue and white, with the MAS logo. Adjustable to any size. \$4.00. Please call Frank Roldan at 423-0210.

GRAZING OCCULTATION EXPEDITIONS:

<u>NIGHT OF</u>	<u>MAG.</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>% SUNLIGHT</u>	<u>CUSP ANGLE</u>	<u>RATING</u>
Apr. 14-15	8.3	7:34 PM	27	7.7N	Marginal

For details, call Gerry Samolyk (475-9418).

For go-nogo, call Virgil Tangney (327-7976).

Participants in graze expeditions can deduct expenses for tax purposes. Gerry Samolyk has forms.

A good 1½ mile wide profile of the moon was observed during the March 19-20 graze of the double star ZC 4900. Despite adverse conditions and a small turnout, at least 21 contacts were made.

A special request for observations of U Gem, Z Cam, and SS Cyg has been received for mid-April. Details at the observatory.

<u>METEOR SHOWER</u>	<u>PEAK DATE, TIME, AND RADIANT DIR.</u>	<u>MOON AGE</u>	<u>PEAK RATE/HR.</u>
Lyrids	April 21, 3 A.M., from South	12d	10-15
Eta Aquarids	May 4, 3 A.M., from Southeast	25d	10-40

(Eta Aquarids are associated with Comet Halley).

Best viewing is between midnight and dawn. Peak rate may occur several days before or after maximum. On any normal night, an observer should see from 5 to 10 meteors per hour.

COMET HALLEY UPDATE: By the time you receive this newsletter, the earth and Comet Halley will have made their closest approach (39 million miles), then both will go their separate ways.

On April 10th, in the southern sky, Comet Halley will be treetop high at about 2 in the morning, shining at about mag. 2. Only its tail may be visible. It rises earlier and higher, but dimmer, each day, becoming visible in the evening sky on the 14th. After April 19, the waxing moon begins to interfere (full on the 24th).

As May approaches, the moon wanes, Comet Halley rises higher and earlier, becoming smaller and fainter as it moves toward the southwest and heads for the cold void in space it calls home.

Binoculars or a telescope using low power will greatly aid viewing.

A COURSE OF INTEREST to the general public, "THE SPRING SKY," will be offered by UWMilwaukee, beginning Thursday, May 1, in the Manfred Olson Planetarium. The instructor will be Director John Harmon.

Topics will cover telescopes and other astronomical instruments; our "newly discovered" solar system; stars; galaxies; the heavens through the naked eye; "Big Bang" and other theories of the universe; possibility of extraterrestrial life; and astro-photography.

Classes will be held on five Thursdays, 8-10 P.M., beginning May 1, in the Manfred Olson Planetarium, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1902 E. Kenwood Blvd. (corner of Kenwood & Cramer). The fee is \$36 for adult registration and \$18 for each teenager from the adult's immediate family. (1.0 CEU may be earned.) The late hour is necessary because participants will use UWM telescopes for observation. Attendees may use their own instruments if they prefer.

For more information please call 224-4196 and ask about course No. E-656 - THE SPRING SKY.

FRIENDS OF UW-ASTRONOMY wants to form a network of amateur astronomy societies. As a FRIEND you will help this organization to participate in various outreach projects.

By joining FRIENDS OF UW-ASTRONOMY you will receive a year's subscription to a bi-annual newsletter filled with non-technical information about new developments in astronomy at the UW-Madison and be invited to the FRIENDS Open House at the Washburn Observatory near Madison. You'll also be informed about scheduled public activities such as open observatory nights and public lectures. Annual memberships are \$10.

For full details write FRIENDS OF UW-ASTRONOMY c/o Space Astronomy Laboratory, 1150 University Ave., Madison, Wi. 53706.

MEMBER'S NIGHT KEYHOLDERS:

Apr. 12	W. Tuerck	782-2844	May 3	J. Asztalos	258-5626
19	V. Tangney	327-7976	10	H. Auchter	542-2158
26	Dr. R. Wiesen	781-4757	17	R. Berry	442-4267

DIRECTORY:

President - Daniel Koehler - 662-2987
Vice President - Dr. Richard Wiesen - 781-4757
Prog. Chairperson - Thomas Renner - 1-392-2799
Secretary - Brian Ganiere - 258-5626
Treasurer - James Toeller - 352-7144
Observatory Director - Gerry Samolyk - 475-9418
Asst. Obs. Director - John Asztalos - 258-5626
Special Observatory Activities Scheduler - Brian Cieslak - 679-9663
FOCAL POINT Editor - LeRoy Simandl - 933-3052
MAS Observatory - 18850 W. Observatory Rd., New Berlin - 542-9071

MAY FOCAL POINT DEADLINE - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30.



MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

OPEN HOUSE 1986

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society will hold "Public Open Houses" at its observatory, located at 18850 W. Observatory Road, in the City of New Berlin (SEE MAP ON BACK). A short talk will be given several times during the evening, and everyone will be able to observe many celestial objects through our telescopes. "Open Houses" start at 8:00 p.m. on the following evenings:

JUNE 13 **THE MOON**

The moon, two days before first quarter, will be the feature object for this evening. The formation of craters, mountains, and other features of our natural satellite will be explained.

JUNE 27 **GALAXIES**

Many of the distant objects outside our solar system can only be seen through telescopes like the ones at our observatory. Join us in examining these wonders of the Universe. We will also study some of the constellations.

JULY 11 **THE PLANETS**

The solar system is our astronomical neighborhood. Recently, some of the planets have been visited by unmanned spacecraft. See pictures taken during these missions and observe some of the planets through our telescopes.

JULY 25 **THE MILKY WAY**

The Milky Way is that band of dim light that stretches across our night sky. It is also the name we have given to our galaxy. Tonight we will talk about and look at parts of our home galaxy.

AUGUST 8 **METEORS**

As the Earth revolves around the Sun it comes across the remnants of comets. Small pieces of rock, etc, enter our atmosphere and burn up, giving off light. This event is called a meteor shower. Attend this lecture and learn about the upcoming Perseid meteor shower.

AUGUST 22 **DOUBLE STARS**

Some of the stars that appear to our eyes as single light sources can be resolved into two or more stars with the aid of a telescope. Our talk will cover the different types of double stars.

SEPTEMBER 12 **TELESCOPES**

Telescopes are our eyes to the Universe. This evening we will discuss various types of telescopes, how they work and their different uses.

\$1.00 donations for parking will be greatly appreciated.

BRING A SWEATER OR JACKET.....THE MOSQUITOS BITE AND IT IS ALWAYS COOL!!!

ONE INCH = .73 MILE

