

FOCAL POINT



Issued by the

Milwaukee Astronomical Society

May 1988

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New Members

We're pleased to meet and greet Richard Adduci, New Berlin; John Arnold, Kenosha; Robert Bialecki, Milwaukee; and David Wichman, Milwaukee.

Meteor Showers

The month of May is a very good month to observe meteors. The weather is warmer and the skies are beginning to clear.

Phi Bootids - May 1. Peak at 2 AM. 6 per hour. Look overhead.

Alpha Scorpiids - May 3. Directly overhead at 1AM.

Eta Aquarids - May 4. Radiant rises at 2AM. Fireballs are expected from May 9 to May 11. About 21 per hour.

Meteorites and an Election

Both meteorites and an election will receive top billing at the May Meeting.

Normally, the election of officers and board members and general business opens the meeting. They key speaker will follow with her presentation.

Currently there are four candidates for the three open board of director positions. All paid-up members are eligible to run. Positions may be filled by volunteers, nominees, or consenting volunteers recommended by other members. Directors serve 3 year, officers serve ex-officio and are re-elected annually.

The election is vital to your Society. The board governs it, plans its future, and determines how its resources are used.

After the election, Ms. Terri Hoag, key speaker, will present her enjoyable talk, "Meteorites," an overview including a historical background as it relates to their falls and finds.

We expect a full auditorium. Guests are welcome. Incidentally, attendees will not be coerced into a nomination.

WHEN: Friday, May 20 at 8:00 P.M.

WHERE: The Child & Adolescent Treatment Center Auditorium
9501 West Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa .

Rt 71 bus stops nearby. There is ample, well-lit free parking.

**Calendar of Events**

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Friday, May 20 | - | May Election - Program Meeting. |
| Monday, May 30 | - | Memorial Day. |
| Tuesday, May 31 | - | Full Planting Moon. |
| Wednesday, June 1 | - | First Wednesday, 7:30 PM at the observatory. |
| Wednesday, June 8 | - | Summer "Focal Point" deadline. |
| Monday, June 13 | - | Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at the observatory. |
| Saturdays | - | Observatory maintenance and improvements. Help wanted. Call 475-9418 or 258-5626. |
| Saturday Nights | - | Member's night at the observatory. |

Be a Buddy!

Scout leaders Robert and Carol Stachowicz are looking for an astronomy merit badge counselor to help interested, eager, Boy Scouts to learn about astronomy. At your convenience you can introduce young men to your hobby and guide them towards earning a merit badge.

The Potawatomi Area Council has one astronomy Merit badge counselor, MAS member Lee Keith, and can use a second person living in the Waukesha area.

If you are interested and want more information, contact the Scouting Service Center at 544-4881, or Robert or Carol Stachowicz at 544-5923, both local numbers.

For Sale

Meade DS10 f4.5 10" Reflector Telescope with accessories. Excellent buy. Please call Mr. Tom Berken 422-0569 any time.

OOPS!

The "Focal Point" apologizes for failing to credit MAS member Darrell Green for his informative, well-written article "Astrophot Contrast Enhancements" which appeared in the March "Focal Point."

It has long been a "Focal Point" policy to give credit to contributors and, if possible, sources of items which appear in it. It welcomes short, newsy, astronomical items of general interest to its readers and endeavors to publish them in their entirety or edited when space is limited. And since the non-profit "Focal Point", an instrument of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society, proposes to instill general interest in the fascinating science of astronomy, it has no objection if other well-meaning organizations draw from it with good intention.

Keyholders

May 14Aris Penikis354-9708
May 21John Pfannerstill475-6494
May 28Frank Roldan423-0210
June 4Terrance Ross784-2093
June 11Gerry Samolyk475-9418
June 18Tom Schmidtkunz.....784-0253
June 25Pete Smitka785-0926

Library News by Sally Waraczynski

Thanks to Jim Mayer for allowing the MAS library to sponsor his membership in the Astronomy Book Club. As a result, the following books were added to our collection at no cost to the Society:

The Amateur Astronomer's Catalog of 500 Deep-Sky Objects, Volume One - J. Morales, 1986...a practical guide to observing selected objects from the New General Catalog.

The Cosmos From Space - David H. Clark, 1987...part history, part anticipation of the next leaps in examining the universe at extra-visual wavelengths.

Quasar Astronomy - Daniel W. Weedman, 1986 (Cambridge Astrophysics Series)...a challenging book which "serves as both a summary of what is known about quasars and as a guide to research methods and unanswered questions."

For the convenience of our Open House speakers and other members who give astronomy programs in the community, the MAS 35mm slide collection is now indexed. Categories include MAS History, the Solar System, Galaxies, etc. All slides have been given a green file number and are kept in metal boxes in the audio-visual closet at the observatory. Besides the Index, there is a folder for scripts or commentaries and a special signout sheet for slides and carousels. Anyone needing assistance in using this resource may call the librarian.

Loaner Scopes Are Available!

Two 8" Dobsonian loaner "APOLLO" telescopes are now complete and available for general use away from the observatory. They will accept either 1.25" or 2" eyepieces.

One is located on the north side, at the home of:

Matt McNeeley
8200 N. Cedarburg Road
Brown Deer (354-5307)

The south side location of the other is at the home of:

Richard Sterle
8115 W. Waterford Avenue
Greenfield (543-7459)

No deposit or rental fee is required, but an agreement to cover loss or damage must be signed. The loan period is from 14 - 21 days with an extension possible.

Observatory News

Several projects are under way in order to finish as many tasks as possible before the July 8 Open House #1, and before the hot weather arrives. (It will!) Jim Toeller and Frank Roldan will fix the "A" dome shutter. The Quonsethut floor and the auditorium should be repainted by now. Sally Waraczynski cleaned the restrooms. They sparkle! Frank needs help on the 26" telescope dome slit. We need volunteers for a lot of tasks. Call 475-9418, 258-5626, or 542-9071 (observatory).

Please, please! Keep the buildings and grounds clean and in good repair.

THIS IS IMPORTANT! Do not start rubbish fires at the observatory without first notifying the New Berlin fire department and getting permission. We would be billed for an unnecessary visit.

Speakers are needed for the July 22 (#2-MOON), September 16 (#5-TELESCOPES) and October 14 (#7-ASTRONOMY) Open Houses. Talks are repeated 2-3 times depending on the audiences. Call Mathew McNeeley if you'd like to speak or know of someone.

Unusual Request

MAS member Tony Jarozewski has at least two areas of interest - astronomy and chemistry. However, he is devoted for life to promote and research the subject of astronomy.

Tony would like to work closely with someone with a chemistry background. He or she must be trustworthy and willing to study all areas of astronomy, chemistry, or physics. Some of the experiments involve setting up atmospheric conditions of planets under laboratory conditions. All of his notes will be forwarded to your "Focal Point" editor and will be available to all MAS members.

Please address all inquiries to Tony E. Jarozewski, 2565 South 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215 (383-6805).

Herschel Club's Best Heavenly Bodies by Lee Keith

DESIGNATIONS: NGC 3184, H168¹
SPECIFICATIONS: Spiral Galaxy in Ursa Major
R.A.= 10h 18m Dec.= +41° 25' (epoch 2000)
Size: 5.5' x 5.5'; 10.4 Mag. Sc type.
GENERAL LOCATION: 1/2° west of 3rd mag. MU Ursae Majoris, in the Bear's rear paw.
RIGHT ANGLE SWEEP: Start at MU UMa, sweep 0.5° west. Or start at BETA UMa, the southernmost of the "pointer stars", sweep 15° south, then 7° or 46m R.A. west.

REFERENCES:

ASTRONOMY Magazine, May 1984, p80:

NGC 3184 is a Sc type spiral; shows as a low surface brightness haze surrounding a relatively bright core.

AMATEUR ASTRONOMER'S CATALOG by Ronald Morales, p72:

Galaxy, 9.6 visual mag. Roundish, diffuse, fairly large, no core, even brightness throughout. One star seen near northern edge. With averted vision a possible starlike nucleus is seen. (6" reflector f/8, 25mm Orthoscopic).

WEBB SOCIETY DEEP-SKY OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK, Vol 4, p104:

(16.5") Slightly brighter nucleus with a star close north following it; at 222x a star on the N edge with a dark area to the south. (6") 61x quite large though pretty faint; circular in shape with gradual central brightening. 152x a star is close to the nucleus and at higher powers the galaxy is very difficult.

OBSERVE THE HERSCHEL OBJECTS (Pub by Astronomical League):

Mag 9.6, spiral Galaxy in Ursa Major, 5.6' x 5.6' in size. Extremely difficult due to low surface brightness and large size. Circular with no distinct nucleus, extremely faint, use averted vision for this elusive object. (8" Starliner, 48x)

Eye-piece Impression:

Large, round easily seen. Sensed some unevenness of lighting. Reminds me of Owl Nebula (M97) (10" f/4.5 Newtonian, 44x, seeing VG)

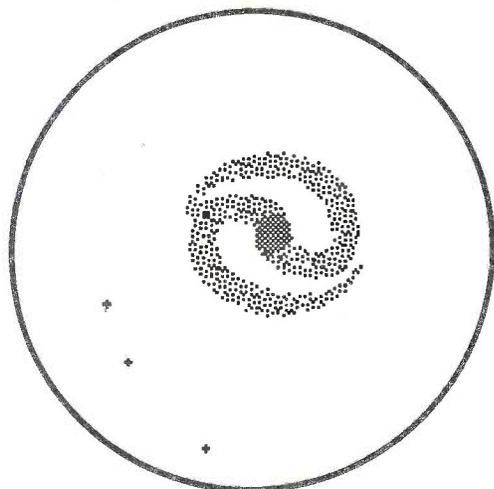
BURNHAM'S CELESTIAL WANDBOOK, p1930:

Sc; 10.5 mag., 5.5' x 5.5'; pretty bright, very large, round, gradually bright towards middle. Fine face on spiral in field of MU UMa.

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

NGC/IC No: 3184 Other: H168¹
Size: 10' Magnitude: 12
Object Type: Galaxy In Ursa Major

EYEPIECE DRAWING



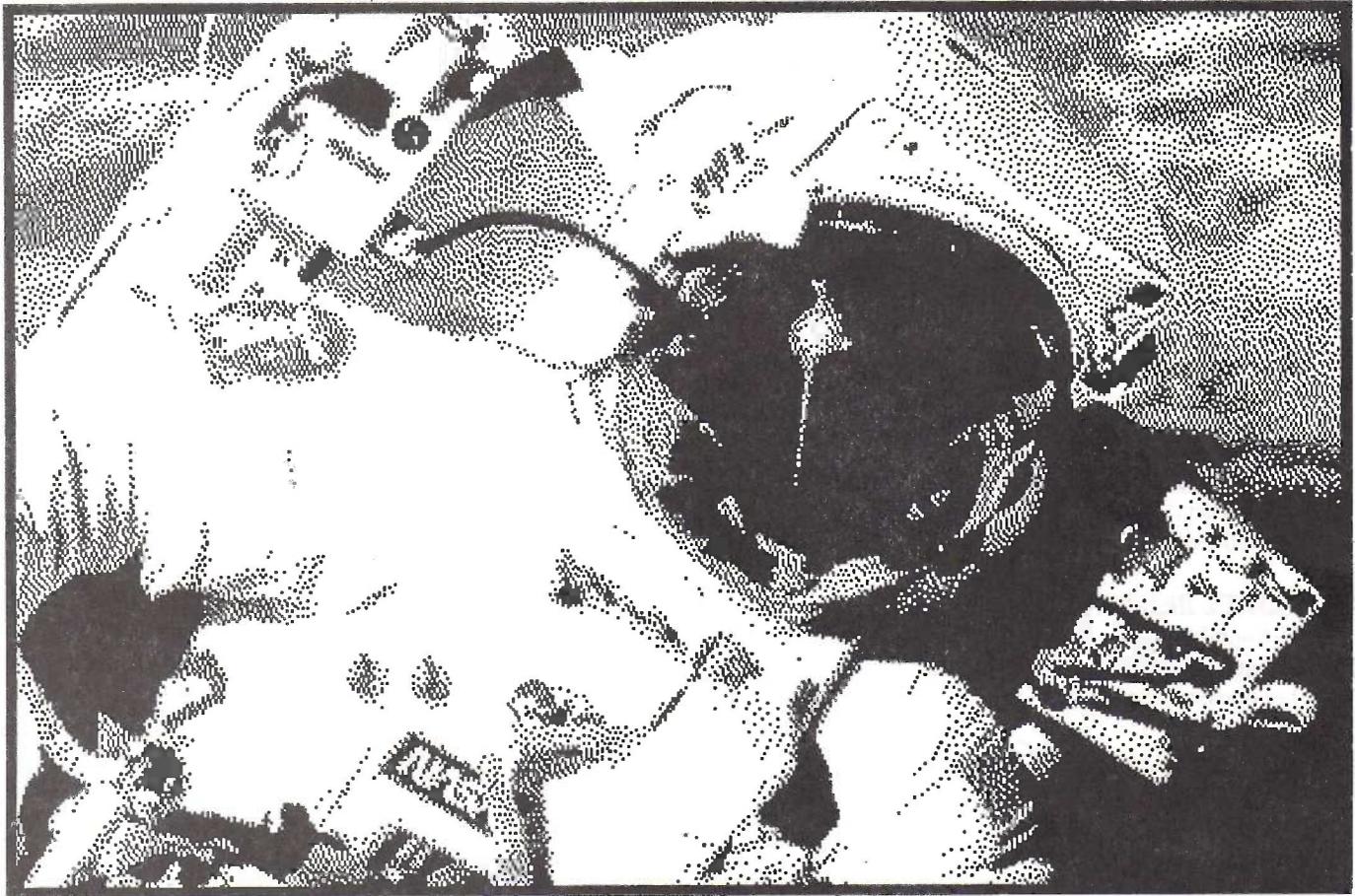
Eye-piece 9.7mm Magnification 117x

VIEWING CONDITIONS

Date: 5/29/87 Time: 3:35 UT
Seeing: Avg Transparency: 5.2
Observer's Name: Lee Keith
Location: TSP '87
Telescope Type: 10" f/4.5
Other Conditions: High clouds

ADDITIONAL SKETCHES & NOTES

Spiral structure sensed. Barred? Disk unevenly bright. Nucleus large & diffuse. Stars on one edge in nebulosity. Detail seen is a testament to the darkness & clarity of Texas Star Party skies!



China Trip

The following article is excerpted from the Milwaukee Journal.

Gary Sampson, an astronomy teacher at Wauwatosa West High School, has been selected as one of four teachers in the nation to lead a delegation of students to China this summer. Participating students will take part in American-Chinese Youth Science Exchange, an exchange of scientific information among students from the two countries. Students will visit Beijing and five other cities and study astronomy and other sciences during the 23-day tour that will begin in mid-July. Forty American astronomy students, including 10 from Wisconsin, will take part. To be eligible, students must attend a senior high school in Wisconsin, have good science grades and a desire to represent the United States as good-will ambassadors. The trip is sponsored by People to People International, a private, non-profit foundation started in 1956 to promote international relations in the private sector.

Mr. Sampson is a member of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society.

ALCON-ALPO '88

The Omaha Astronomical Society will host the combined meetings of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO) and the Astronomical League (AL). The meeting will be held at the Iowa Western Community College near Council Bluffs, Iowa, near Omaha, Nebraska. The convention will convene from July 27 through July 30, 1988.

For details, please refer to your copy of "Northern Lights" which you have recently received.

Your "Focal Point" editor has some general information. Call (414) 933-3052.

Directory

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