



The Newsletter of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society

MidSummer2000

### May Election Results

At the regular May 19th monthly meeting, Carlos Garces, Tanya Lemanski, and Tom Pelnar were elected to fill the three 3 year terms on the MAS Board of Directors. Additionally, Paul Borchardt was appointed to the Board to fill the remaining two years of a vacated board seat. There were no new nominations for the officer positions, other than the present incumbents. Hence, the new Board voted the existing officers to another one year term.

The following is the new Board (and officers) as a result of this election.

<u>Director</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Scott Laskowski		2001
Rudy Poklar		2001
Vern Hoag		2002
Dan Yanko	Treasurer	2002
C. Weber		2002
D. Koehler		2002
V. Tagney		2001
P. Borchardt		2002
C. Garces		2003
T. Lemanski		2003
T. Pelnar		2003

#### Ex Officio

S. Jamieson	President
L. Keith	Vice President
M. Warner	Secretary
G. Samolyk	Observatory Director

#### Founder Members

E. Halbach (1964)  
 W. Albrecht (1978)  
 M. Lange (1986)

### New Members

We welcome the following new members into our club.

-The **Monika Anderson family (Steve, Kurt, Ingrid)** from Waukesha Wi.

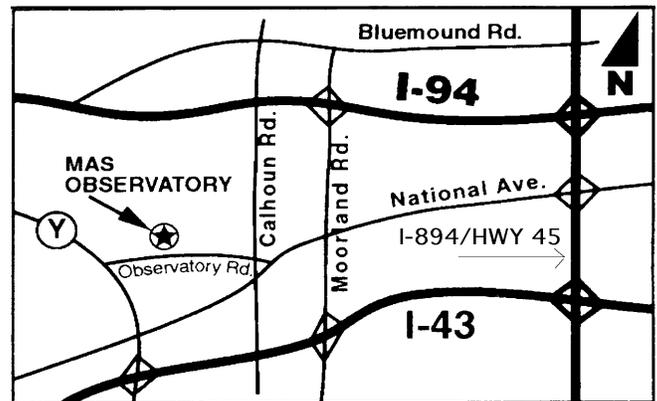
-**Susan Timlin** from Milwaukee

-The **RandySoukup Family (Tammy, Megan, Amanda, Justin)** from New Berlin.

-**Gary & Karen Schoenike** from Oconomowoc

Please join us at our picnic and future activities. Current members, please make these new members feel at home.

*Carlos Garces, New Member Chairman*



### July 22 is MAS Picnic Time !

Once again its Round Up time at the Ol' MAS Corral....the hilltop observatory site, that is, starting around 3:00 PM. Picnic Chairman, Dan Yanko and his able staff of culinary experts are standing by (along with Mother Sentry) to prepare a Milwaukee gemütlichkeit type spread of Brats, Hot-dogs, Hamburgers, Potato Salad etal. No attendee has ever had a reason to have his/hers ribs sticking out because of being underfed. Besides the excellent food, pop and suds will also be available and its all on the house. Members are encouraged to bring the family and guests as well.

There will be plenty of lawn games( badminton, Croquet) with even a possible golf chipping range for the big and small kids as well

Lastly, Dan has managed to get major Astronomy and software manufacturers to donate some really neat astronomy accessories as door prizes last year and will hopefully do the same again this year. Threatening weather kept attendance low last year and it was a shame...however, those in attendance were the lucky ones with some getting two or more prizes. The only rule to be eligible for one of these great door prizes is ...ya gotta be there at the time of the drawing....usually right after a sumptuous dining experience. Another reason for wayward members to attend is to check out the changes that have taken place at the observatory. In fact, weather permitting, the picnic will go right on into evening observing, trying out new equipment, yarn swapping etc. for those willing to hang in there.

Lastly, MAS Board meeting will be briefly held around 4:00 PM. All Board members are requested to attend.

## Notes from the President

Exciting progress has been made in the last few months. Probably the most dramatic for me has been the tremendous efforts of Bob Manske and Bruce Brinkerhoff in creating a new web page for the MAS. I have really enjoyed touring this new site and congratulate Bob and Bruce on a job well done! Take a look!

C scope and Shed were formally dedicated to the membership at the May meeting and those that have seen the facility have been very impressed. It's even carpeted! Unfortunately, we have had a number of problems come up with the mount and drives but we hope to have these resolved by the time of the picnic in July. I have quite a list of people eager to get the training and access keys and will try to get that started in late July. Please be patient, we're pedaling as fast as we can!

Most recently, we had a very productive set of clean-up days dedicated to tearing down the satellite shed. This building was in bad shape and is now down to a small pile of concrete blocks. The site should be filed in and planted by the end of August. Thanks to everyone who participated in this project.

Gerry Samolik's variable star project to interest more members in this field of research has continued to attract first efforts by some of our members, including myself. I'm not confident enough in my judgment of relative light levels yet, but plan on submitting my first results after a bit more practice. It's fun and I have the sinking feeling that it's addictive, so give it a try!

. Finally, Paul Borchart has been busy with the ST9 camera on B-scope and has taken some beautiful pictures that are now on the website.

*Scott Jamieson, MAS President*

### New Program Chairman

**Tom Pelnar** has volunteered to take on the job as program Chairman for the MAS. Tom is an active astronomy buff who recently was elected to the Board as well. A retired teacher, Tom should do well in contacting both academia and industry types for our future speakers in related astronomy topics.

Warm thanks also go out to **Mary Ann Tagney**, who had fulfilled this roll for the last couple of years to keep a flow of interesting speakers coming to our podium.

### Astronomy 2001 Calendars

Astronomy magazine 2001 calendars will be available for purchase starting with the MAS picnic on July 22nd. These are available to members for close to 50% off (\$7.00). These are usually snapped up so don't delay. Scoot Laskowski will be on hand with the calendars.

*Eds note: Besides buying the calendar for personal use, I find they make excellent gifts for friends and relatives with an astronomy bent.*

### MAS Membership Program

**Carlos Garces** has assumed the job of **New Member Chairman** to facilitate new members joining our ranks. Carlos is a Board member, Keyholder and active astronomy observer at MAS. It is intended that Carlos can provide guidance to any new member wishing to participate in MAS activities.

**Vice President Lee Keith** has volunteered to handle the annual Fall membership renewal and be the MAS Roster source.

This approach is intended to allow closer attention to new member needs while preserving our existing member base.

### Bits and Pieces

\* At the June MAS Board meeting, a \$1700 expenditure was approved to purchase an SBIG programmable RGB color filter wheel for use with the ST9 CCD imaging camera. Additionally, a UBV/RI filters will be acquired as well. The continuing and expanded use of our CCD cameras has brought requests for capability to do color imaging of the many deep sky object. After the filters are acquired, watch our Web page for some of the imaging results.

\*Carlos Garces was approved as a keyholder and will be cycled into the keyholder rotation

\* C Scope (the roll-off roof) observatory was formally dedicated at the MAS May 19 meeting. However, worm gear drive and clutch problems have delayed the member checkout until the significant problems can be resolved.

\*Two weekends of clean up have resulted in the teardown and removal of the old satellite shed behind the Quonset hut. That plus eliminating stored junk saved over the decades resulted in two large dumpsters being filled to the brim.

## Try our new Web Page!

Members **Bob Manske** and **Bruce Brinkerhoff** have our new web page:

**www.milwaukeeastro.org** up and running in a very user friendly format and is intended to be current on club activities and schedules. It's being expanded to showcase the club's facilities, member CCD imaging of deep space objects, forthcoming observing events such as grazes and occultations that are pertinent to our area plus all the normal meeting schedules. It also provides links to some very interesting astronomy sites..With the advent of color CCD images being done by MAS members in the future, this may well be the only vehicle for showcasing the results since color laser prints for the newsletter may not be practical due to cost.

With the newsletter going to an every other month schedule, this web site becomes an important link in keeping members posted on new developments in the interim periods.The vast majority of our members have Internet access at home or at work. Others use library computers (a free public service) to gain Web access.. It behooves members to track this new site on a frequent basis.

The new web page is looking great Bob and Bruce....keep up the great work.

## Focal Point Going Bi-Monthly

The MAS Board voted to have the Focal Point published every other month starting with the new season in September It is intended that the coverage be complete but there may be occasions where a speaker for the off-month is not lined up at the time of publication (or other important event). An optional ,off -month postcard mailing may be used to flag out these and other events that members should be aware of in a timely manner. More importantly, the above web page will be used as an interim information source as well.

## Mark Your Calendars for the Fall Campout

Mark your calendars for **Sept. 29 and 30th** and plan on being there. Campout Chairman **Paul Borchardt** hopes to make it the best ever.

MAS has again reserved plenty of campsites at the Greenbush campgrounds in the Kettle Moraine State Park

More details and directions will appear in the September issue of the Focal Point. Mark it down and stay tuned.

## Remaining Open Houses

The following is a list of the remaining MAS open houses. These are part of the MAS public outreach program and are a source for attracting new members, as well as teaching the attendees about this universe of ours.

We need both MAS personnel to man the scopes,,parking lot.a and help answer questions. We can also use any old (within the last five years) Astronomy and Sky & Telescope Magazines that can be used as sample handouts for those who are more interested in exploring this hobby further.

The remaining dates are:

August 11	Perseid Meteors
September 8	Summer Milky Way
October 6	See Uranus & Neptune

## Member Renewals go out in August

Lee Keith will be handling the renewal of existing members and renewal applications will go in the mail during the month of August. The goal is to complete the renewal task by the end of September.

Many MAS members take advantage of the reduced subscription rates available for Astronomy and Sky and Telescope.. However, delaying renewal much past the end of September deadline could cause problems with the subscription implementation.

By definition, membership runs from September thru August.

Help Lee get this job done and on to observing!

## A Graphic Apology

The Editor had promised several people to print photos and CCD images in this issue. Because of the writers summer travel schedule and the lengthy proof review process with the printer's graphics people ( a week or more with up to two proof copy reviews), the graphics have been delayed until September.

The advent of the new Web page may obviate the need for much graphic capability in the Focal Point, but there still may be occasions where printouts are desired .A simpler process of printing a graphics page only, will be pursued by the Editor. New and cheaper high resolution (and fast) inkjet printers may be one approach.

*Editor*

**MAS Officers/ Staff**

President	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119
Vice President	Lee Keith	414-425-2331
Treasurer	Dan Yanko	414-453-3382
Secretary	Margaret Warner	414-327-7427
Observatory Director	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
Assistant Observatory Director	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169
Focal Point	Rudy Poklar, Editor	262-786-8931

**Future MAS Events**

July 22 MAS Picnic at the observatory  
 August 11, Sep 8, Oct 6 MAS Open houses  
 September: MAS Membership Renewal Time  
 Sept 29,30 MAS Annual Campout

**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,

**Focal Point Publishing Guidelines**

Focal Point Newsletter is published bi-monthly (Sep Nov Jan Mar May) with a Mid-summer issue in 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 E-Mail, or diskette in a text or Word compatible format, if possible. Submit FP inputs to:

MAS Focal Point c/o Rudy Poklar  
 12905 W. Crawford Drive

**Saturday Keyholders****July**

1	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119
8	Lee Kieth	414-425-2331
15	Dan Koehler	262-662-2987
22	Scott Laskowski	414-421-3517
29	Rudy Poklar	262-786-8931

**August**

5	Jill Roberts	
12	Terry Ross	262-784-2093
19	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
26	Tom Schmidtkunz	414-352-1674

**September**

2	Neil Simmons	262-889-2039
9	Chris Weber	262-789-7128
16	Dan Yanko	414-453-3382
23	Wanda Berner	262-646-8229-
30	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169

**Loaner Telescopes** (available to members for local use)

Scott Jamieson (Waukesha)	896-0119	4" f/15 refractor
Lee Keith (Franklin)	425-2331	8" Dob reflector
Rich Sterle (Greenfield)	543-7479	8" Dob reflector

**MAS Observatory** 542-9071

**MAS Web Page: [www.milwaukeeastro.org](http://www.milwaukeeastro.org)**  
*New and timely, Check it out*

**The Milwaukee Astronomical Society**

2933 N.68th Street  
 Milwaukee, WI. 53210-1208

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**\*MAS Picnic, July 22nd, 3:00 PM at the Observatory**

**\*MAS Open houses August 11, Sept.8th, at 8:00 PM**

