

The Newsletter of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society September-October 2001

MAS Fall Campout, September 14 to 16

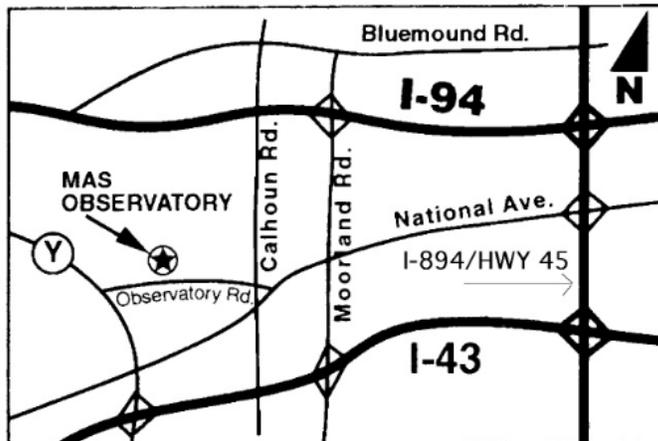
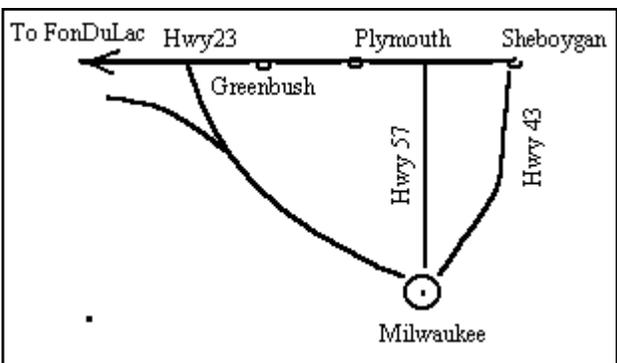
Yes folks, that campout time of year is almost here once again! So mark your calendar for the middle weekend in September.

We'll journey to the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and pitch our tents at Greenbush Group Campground, sites #3 & #4. Hopefully we will use our scopes from these sites too! But clear skies or not, I know that this campout will be a fun time for all. The club has paid the site camping fee, so all you need is a state park vehicle sticker, which can be purchased at the daily or annual rate in the park. Remember you don't have to "campout" to be part of the fun, Milwaukee is just an hour drive away, so you could drive up for the evening, return home that night.

What? You say that you don't own a telescope. That's no problem either, there will be several scopes bought up for every one to use including the M.A.S. 18" Dobsonian and my own 12" ballscope. Firewood is something that any one coming up can bring along, if a few people bring a little each, we'll have a good fire to warm up by during the night. Family and friends are also great to bring along, you don't need to be a member of the club to participate in this weekend, and I've yet to see the two sites not have enough room for a few more tents.

If you have any questions, please contact me, at 262-781-0169 or pjb924@aol.com, hope to see you there under clear skies!

Paul Borchardt



We Meet On Friday, Sept. 21, 8:00 PM at the MAS observatory. This is our startup meeting after a brief summer respite (from meetings, not observing). A map to our site is shown above.

The featured speaker of the evening (tentatively) will be our own **Observatory Director, Gerry Samolyk, describing and illustrating his Solar eclipse Odyssey to Zambia, in South Africa.** Gerry has been an inveterate pursuer and recorder of solar eclipses (for many years) to some of the most remote sites in the world. Gerry has a unique story with every trip and always has good presentations..

A MAS Board meeting will precede the regular meeting at 7:00PM All Board members are expected to be there.

It's Membership Renewal Time!!
Renewal forms should coming your way shortly. Please follow up promptly to assure special magazine subscription rates and reduce work for the membership chairman

Another Good Picnic?

About 50 brave members came out to the annual picnic to bake in the sun or try to hide under one of the three sunshades we had set up. The food was cooked by Chris Weber and myself again this year with a few adjustments that I hope everyone enjoyed. Although I think most of us still felt like Chris's steamed corn in the 90+ degree and high humidity day. At least it didn't rain, so was this considered another good picnic?

The highlight of the picnic by far was the presentation and dedicating of two of our newer observatories. C shed, which houses a 10 F6 Meade, is now officially named the Albrecht Observatory. Named after Bill and Anne Albrecht for all their hard work and dedication. Bill was still helping out today as he helped Gerry setup one of the sunshades. The LX-200 flip top observatory is now officially named the Tangney Observatory. Named after Virgil and MaryAnn Tagney, also for all their hard work and dedication. These people have spent years working on what they believed in, not realizing at the time that their dedication would have such a positive effect on the future of the MAS. So on behalf of all the members in the MAS, I thank each one of you. You are what we all should try to be like.

After the door prizes were given out and the cake was cut, the sky cleared up and a few of us went home, took a shower and came back to observe. Although not much observing really got done, we mostly sat around looking at the sky and talking. It was nice just to sit and relax after a long day. Around 1:00 am we finally packed it in, the picnic was over.

Library News

The following are recent additions to the Library.

1. **The Comet Hale-Bopp Book: Guide to an Awe-inspiring Visitor from Deep Space**- by Thomas Hockey- 1996. The comet of the century has passed us by but our memories and photos remain. Here is a reminder of our joys and thrills. (anonymous donor).

2. **The Nature of Space and Time**- by Stephen Hawking and Roger Penrose The text, discussion, and math may be beyond some of us but it may offer some intuitive understanding of the problems involved with solving a quantum-gravity theory. (Donated by Carlos Garces).

3. **Worlds Without End: the Exploration of Planets Known and Unknown**- by John S. Lewis- 1998. We have discovered dozens of extra solar planets to date."Worlds deals with planetary formation, our solar system and extra-solar planets. With a mixture of philosophical and historical anecdotes, the scientific evolution of of planetary systems, (Donated by Carlos Garces).

Scott Laskowski, MAS Librarian

Bits and Pieces

Items of significance from the August Board meeting are as follows.

*The remotely operated LX-200 is up and running, including remotely operated focuser, filter wheels etc..Some spectacular deep space (including 3 color) are being taken. After initial alignment to a known star, the scope can be remotely computer driven to image any object currently available. It usually lands with the desired object within the CCD's 20 arc minute FOV.

*Care must be used when powering up the lower level of Z building for remote LX 200 operations. Read the breaker labels if in doubt. Someone accidentally powered the upper level 25 inch cassegrain....it was found pointing downwards with the primary mirror loose in its clips.

* Painting & repair of the Quonset building is still scheduled for this year. Intent is to extend the useful life of the existing hall as well as being a good neighbor to residents with homes against our hill.

*\$300 was appropriated to replace the existing ceiling under A scope, with a suspended ceiling. This area acts as entry area to the hall, access to Portascopes, bathrooms etc. Shortly after authorization, Vern Hoag and Chris Weber installed the new ceiling.

*As part of the above hall cleanup, the monster safe on wheels that sat in the A scope hallway has been removed on the eve of Sept. 2nd. It took a spirited crew until 2:00 AM (with some disassembly) to get it out of the hall and down to the lower shed. ...a living testament to how "Yeg" proof this old safe was. However, its utility for our equipments was never demonstrated.

*A proposed joint meeting of the MARS society and MAS (at UWM) in November did not materialize. It was hoped to feature Astronaut Harrison Schmidt as a speaker. Unfortunately, conflicting schedules did not allow this to happen.

New Member Welcome

We welcome the following new members to MAS.

Andrew Bbruner, Brookfield, WI.

Dean Chapman, Cudahy, WI

Arthur Bach, Brookfield, WI

Robert Sedlar and family, Franklin, WI

Steve Aspenleiter and family, New Berlin, WI

Raghavendra Krishna and family, Brookfield, WI

We invite the new members to join us at the meetings and activities listed herein. Old members, please make these new members welcome.

Carlos Garces, New Member Chairman

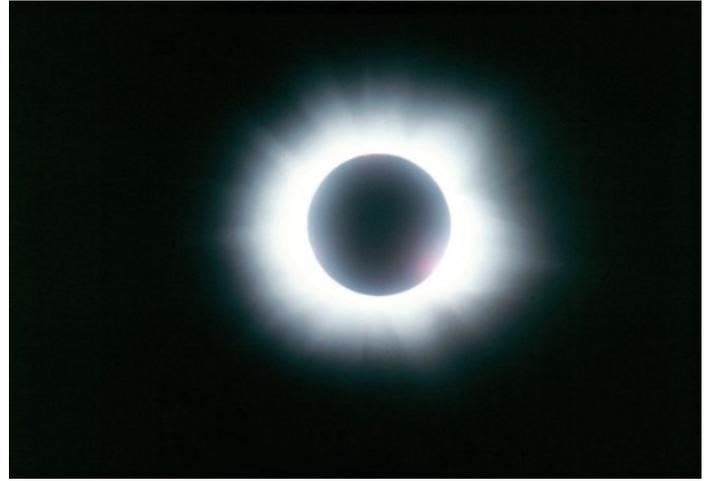
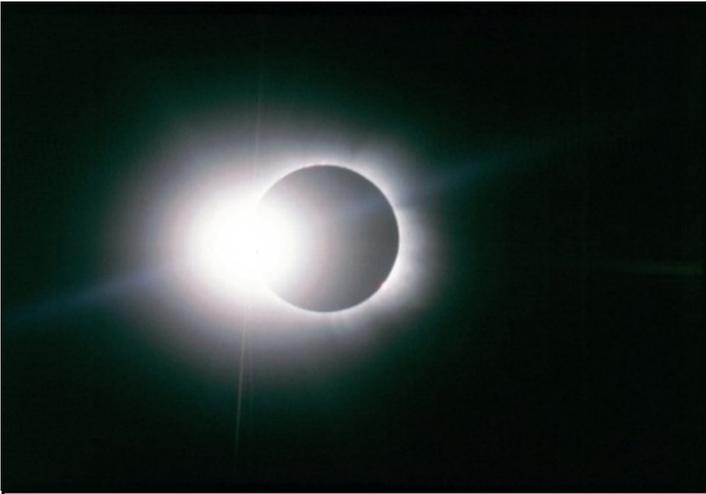
Remaining Open House Schedule

The following are the two remaining (Friday, 8:00 PM) open houses at MAS.

Sept 7 See the Red Planet

Oct. 5 The Summer Triangle

Members are requested to help for two reasons...Public education of our universe. Secondly, these open houses are frequently a catalyst for potential new members to join and get further involved.



Above are two photos taken of the **total solar eclipse** taken by **Gerry Samolyk** earlier this year in **Zambia** (South Africa). The left photo is the classic "Diamond ring" phenomena and the right is the eclipse in totality

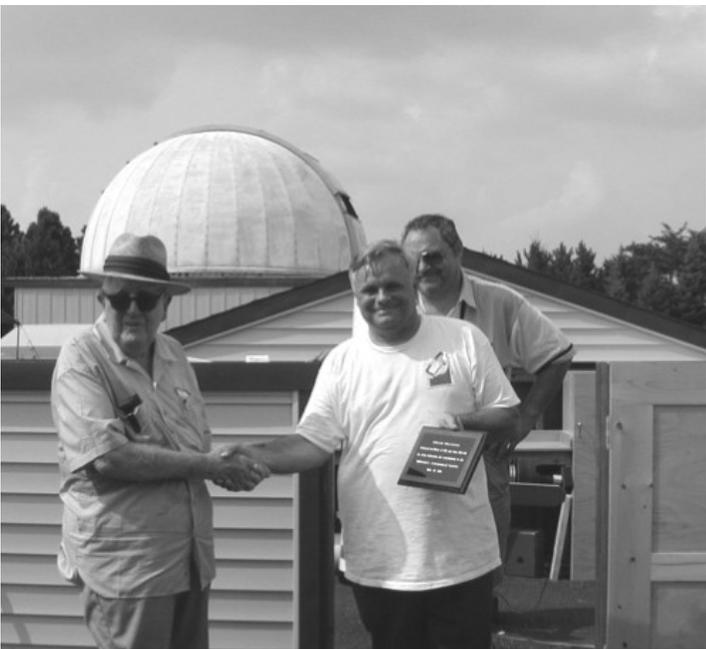


Photo at right shows **Bill Albrecht** with President Jamieson at the dedication of the old "c" Scope as th **Albrecht observatory** in recognition of many years of cotributions to MAS by Bill and his wife Anne. Similarly, the photo at left shows **Virgil Tangney** at the deidication of the remote LX200 facility as the **Tangney Observatory** in recognition of his and his wife Maryann's many contributions over the years.

Long Time, Contributing Members Honored

It was a real thrill to be able to present to Virgil Tangney and Bill Albrecht a set of plaques in recognition of their many and long contributions to the MAS. We officially designated the LX200 observatory as Tangney Observatory, and the observatory previously recognized as "C" scope is now Albrecht Observatory. The heat was terrible for the picnic but all still had a good time.

Looking back over the last few years I have seen in action the kind of people and the efforts many members of this club make to improve the clubs facilities and activities. We have made a lot of progress and I wish to express my sincere

continued in next column

thanks to those of you that have been so generous in contributing your time an effort. It has also made me appreciate the most remarkable aspect of this clubs membership over the last 80 years. We have had people who have been willing to contribute their time and efforts for the entire life of this club. I say life because this is a dynamic club with all the ebb and flows of any other living entity. Their have been times that a very few have held the club together and other times that many were involved and the club prospered. Fortunately, we are now prospering and I hope all of you will take advantage of the tremendous observing and imaging capabilities on the hill. See you at the campout!

Scott Jamieson, President MAS

MAS Officers/ Staff

President	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119
Vice President	Lee Keith	414-425-2331
Treasurer	Dan Yanko	414-453-3382
Secretary	Henry Gerner	414-362-4441
Observatory Director	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
Assistant Observatory Director	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169
Focal Point	Rudy Poklar, Editor	262-574-1498

Future MAS Events

Sept. 7, MAS Open House
 Sept. 14, 15 MAS Campout at Greenbush
 Oct. 5, MS Open House
 Oct 19 MAS meeting at Observatory

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
 1914 E. Sunset Drive

Saturday Keyholders

Sept

1	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212
8	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119
15	Lee Kieth	414-425-2331
22	Dan Koehler	262-662-2987
29	Scott Laskowski	414-421-3517

Oct

6	Rudy Poklar	262-574-1498
13	Terry Ross	262-784-2093
20	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
27	Tom Schmidt-kunz	414-352-1674

Nov

3	Neil Simmons	262-889-2039
10	Chris Weber	262-789-7128
17	Dan Yanko	414-453-3382
24	Wanda Burner	262-646-8229

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

MAS Observatory 262-542-9071

MAS Web Page: 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 Open House, at the Observatory, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, 8:00 PM*
** MAS Annual Campout at Kettle Moraine, Greenbush, Sept. 14, 15, & 16*
** Monthly meetings resume Sept 21, 8:00 PM at the Observatory*

