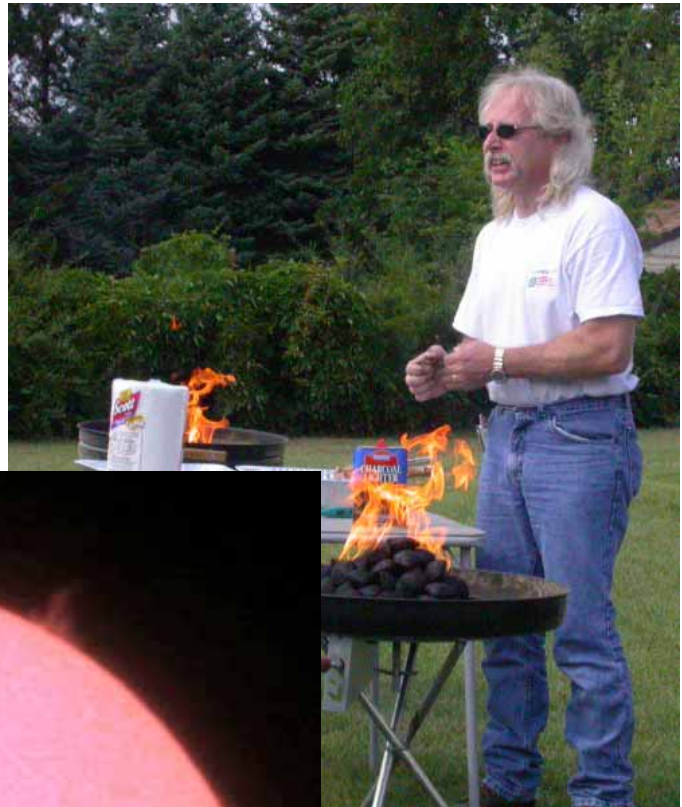




Highlight of the Summer

Once again members can anticipate a wonderful summer-time outing as the MAS holds its annual picnic on July 29th starting at 4 p.m. rain or shine.

Vern, our very own fire starter, will grill up an assortment of meats as the focus to a fine spread. The grilled food, soda, beer and desert will be provided compliments of the MAS. The raffle has become quite a tradition and we are reminded to thank donors with our patronage whenever possible.



Last year we had some wonderful views of the sunspot-minima sun through Tim Burrus's hydrogen-alpha telescope from Coronado, as well as views from our properly filtered Halbach telescope in the Armfield dome.

So, bring your favorite lawn chairs or blankets and reconnect with old friends or connect with new ones. And of course if the weather permits there will be observing/star-gazing after dark.

Another Pleiades Occultation

On Thursday morning, July 20, we will have another opportunity to observe a lunar occultation of the Pleiades. The passage of the moon in front of the cluster will start as the moon rises and continue into morning twilight. The Moon will be 23% sunlit, the stars will disappear on the bright limb and reappear on the dark limb. There should be some earthshine will make it easy to see the limb of the Moon against the sky.

Members who want to record their observations should use an audio tape recorder and short wave receiver capable of receiving signals from WWV radio at 2.5, 5, 10, 15, or 20 mHz. The brighter occultations may be recorded on video by putting time signals on the sound track. Note: this only works with VHS tape, the compact tape puts a time delay between the audio and video signals.

The predictions below are for the MAS observatory. The time (h m s) is in UT. A d means a disappearance on the dark limb, r means reappearance. The last four columns are aids to locate the star on the limb of the moon. The cusp angle (CA) is the angle from the cusp (North or South) to the star. A positive number is into the dark limb, negative means bright limb. The Position angle (PA) is measured from celestial north CCW around the moon (useful for equatorial mounts). Vertex angle (VA) is similar but measured from the zenith useful for alt-az mounts). Finally the watts angle (WA) is measured from lunar north (also CCW).

Because this event takes place early on a weekday, there will be no organized effort. If you are able to observe this event, keep in mind that the predictions below are for the MAS Observatory. If you observe from another location, time times and cusp angles will vary greatly. — Gerry Samolyk

Occultation Predictions for c-occ026 GREENF in 2006
 E.Long. - 88 8 54.4 Lat. 42 58 7.7 Alt. 294m.

day	Time	P	Star	Sp	Mag	%	Elon	Sun	Moon	CA	PA	VA	WA				
y	m	d	h	m	s	No	D	V	ill	Alt	Alt	Az	o	o	o	o	
06	07	20	6	34	24	r	76103cA9	7.9s	24-	58		4	61	60N	290	334	302
06	07	20	7	9	1	d	545 B6	4.1v	23-	58		9	66	-15N	5	52	17
06	07	20	7	31	52	R	545 B6	4.1v	23-	58		13	70	37N	313	1	325
06	07	20	7	38	37	r	76175cA0	8.2	23-	58		14	71	59S	229	278	241
06	07	20	7	53	32	r	76185 A2	8.4	23-	57		17	73	46N	304	354	316
06	07	20	7	54	12	R	76202 K0	7.8	23-	57		17	73	32S	202	252	214
06	07	20	7	58	51	R	76198 A3	7.8v	23-	57		18	74	53S	223	274	235
06	07	20	7	59	12	R	76189 F8	7.0	23-	57		18	74	67S	237	287	249
06	07	20	8	0	58	D	560cB8	3.6s	23-	57		18	73	-58N	48	98	60
06	07	20	8	4	6	R	550 A1	7.0	23-	57		19	74	81S	251	302	263
06	07	20	8	7	6	R	551DB9	7.3	23-	57		19	75	77N	273	324	285
06	07	20	8	9	13	d	561cB7	5.1V	23-	57		19	75	-39N	29	80	41
06	07	20	8	41	29	R	559cF0	6.5	23-	57		25	80	61S	231	283	243
06	07	20	8	48	48	R	76231 A2	8.1	23-	57		26	81	62S	232	284	244
06	07	20	8	53	2	R	76237 A0	8.0s	23-	57		27	81	36N	314	7	326
06	07	20	8	54	10	R	561cB7	5.1V	23-	57		28	82	65N	285	338	297
06	07	20	8	54	29	R	560cB8	3.6s	23-	57		28	82	84N	266	319	278
06	07	20	8	58	54	R	567MA0	6.8	23-	57		28	82	36S	206	258	218
06	07	20	9	14	24	r	76248 A0	9.2	23-	57		31	85	63N	287	340	299
06	07	20	9	27	35	R	570 A2	7.0	23-	57	-10	33	87	41S	211	264	223



The position of the Moon at about 7h UT (2AM CDT) on July 20. South is up.

Election Results

Rebecca Sher was elected and Brian Ganiere and Dave Weier were re-elected to the board of directors at the May meeting. After Gerry's travelogue of Turkey's solar eclipse, the board met briefly to elect the officers for the next year. All officers have been re-elected to their posts. Scott Jamieson has retired as an elected member of the board, but as a Founding member is eligible to vote at board meetings.

From the Inbox

Tim Burrus made the newspaper in an article in the Waukesha Freeman on the Astronomy Day activities of the Charles Horwitz Planetarium. Tim was recognized for his 25 years of volunteerism.

John Franch of Champaign, IL sends a note that his book entitled Robber Baron: The Life of Charles Tyson Yerkes is on sale from the University of Illinois Press. See: <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/s06/franch.html>

Annual Dues Due September 15

Renewal notices will be sent to members sometime after the July board meeting. If you did not get one by mid-August, contact president Steve Diesso. Remember that if you want a magazine subscription and are late with your renewal, then delivery of the magazine may be delayed as well. Those of you who have recently joined are considered paid up for this next year and will not get a notice.

Yerkes Volunteers Needed

On Saturday August 5th at dusk, Yerkes Observatory will host the annual star party for the Space Explorer Summer Institute sponsored by the Kalvi Institute for Cosmological Physics. This year's theme is "Boyancy and Density: what makes stars," and a hot air balloon will launch from the grounds at 7 pm weather permitting, possibly delaying the star party until 9 pm. Star party helpers can come early to watch the launch. Since 1991, Yerkes has had help from the MAS, borrowing 4 Porta-Scopes for many years. Now, we need experienced people to use telescopes and to teach the "kids" how to use them. If you have an interest, a telescope, and savvy, join us at Yerkes. — Scott Lascowski

Dragon Skies at MPM

The Milwaukee Public Museum will have an exhibit about China's 5,000 year old story of astronomical achievements called Dragon Skies: Astronomy of Imperial Chinese from July 8 through October 1.

Visit <http://www.mpm.edu/> for details.

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

Calendar for July / August

July 10 - 7:30 pm Board Meeting at the Observatory.

July 29 - Summer Picnic at 4:00 pm *Mark your calendar!*

August 25 - Public Observing, 7:30pm at the Observatory. Topic: Double Stars.

Check the website for up-to-date information on these meetings.

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.

July

1	Henry Gerner	414-774-9194
8	Chris Hesseltine	414-482-4515
15	Vern Hoag	262-548-9130
22	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212
29	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119

August

5	Lee Kieth	414-425-2331
12	Dan Koehler	262-662-2987
19	Scott Laskowski	414-421-3517
26	Bob Manske	608-849-5287

September

2	Gerry Samolyk	414-529-9051
9	Tom Schmidtkunz	414-352-1674

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"
Chris Weber (New Berlin)	(262) 789-7128	8"

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society
c/o Neil Simmons
8918 270th Avenue
Salem, Wisconsin 53168

ADDRESS CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

