

# Focal Point



September and October 2008

## Milwaukee Astronomical Society

### MAS Fall Campout at Yanko Farm

The MAS fall campout will be at the Yanko Farm in Rib Lake Wisconsin, September 26th through the 28th.

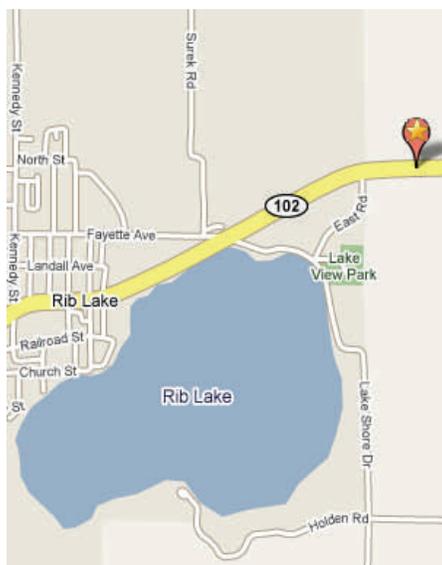
There is plenty of room to camp in the yard and enjoy the comfortable farmhouse for the campout. There is electricity for telescopes and camping gear. The accommodations are very comfortable and the viewing will delight you showing the Milky Way touching the tree line to the South as well as the North.

Bring your bike for a ride on The Pine Line Bike Trail, Hike the Ice Age Trail two miles away or just walk around the forty acres of farmland. You can visit Timms Hill the highest point in Wisconsin, swim in Wood Lake, go fishing in Spirit Lake or hike among 200 year old pine trees at Gertsgerger Pines County Park.

Stop by at Camp 28 Motel/

Tavern for a glimpse of the logging history of the area or visit Zondlo's Tavern and ballroom for one of your favorite beverages.

The weekend is sure to be fun! Please rsvp Dan Yanko at [danheleny@aol.com](mailto:danheleny@aol.com) or call at 262-255-3482 if you can attend the MAS Fall Campout in Rib Lake at the Yanko Farm.



Yanko Farm  
W2119 HWY 102  
Rib Lake, WI 54470

### New Changes Within Our Library

Effective this spring of 2008, Scott Laskowski has released his responsibility as Librarian to me, Jill Roberts. Scott has been librarian for many years and has done a good job. Thanks Scott. I have been a member for 8 years. I am on the Board and currently get public outreach events together with help from other members. If anyone has any ideas or comments, please feel free to let me know.

There will be a few changes and upgrades. The library will have new books, DVD's and of course the new scanning system Steve Diesso and his son Sean have implemented. I am learning how to operate that and we may have it accessible via our website in the future. I will keep everyone informed. You will be able to ONLY view the catalog of books. Then go to the library to check them out.

Also, I have called a number of you with books that have been checked out years ago, please join us at an open house and return them. You can also call me and you can drop them off at my house if that's more convenient.

I will post another article soon with more updates and a list of some new books bought for the library. Feel free to send me an e-mail with any questions or concerns.

CLEAR SKIES!  
Jill Roberts  
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## Wal-Mart Fundraiser Results

The fundraiser was August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the New Berlin Wal-Mart. To start off, it was raining, however it didn't last long. It was overcast but by noon it was sunny and warm. We had a good turnout.

Our profits were \$180.00, pending Wal-Mart's match. That's good considering we started a little early. Next year, we will plan on starting at 11:30am and be there later in the afternoon. Not a lot of people were interested in eating brats at 10:00am.

The volunteers were Steve, Becca, Jeff, Jill (myself), Bob, Tim and Kip. Neil also was there.

We had a couple of scopes and Jeff brought his Coronado, which we saw one looped flare. The sun was blank, which is nothing new.

The public was interested in our observatory and our open houses. The information we had out included our MAS brochure and a couple other pamphlets on "How to get started in Observing".

Everyone did an excellent job in helping set-up and tear down. We had a good time and made some money. I hope to plan on another fund raiser next year at Wal-Mart.

Thank you to all who participated.

Jill Roberts

## Letter from the President

Now that the summer is over, that means its prime time for astronomy again! We have a number of events over the next few weeks. So for those of us who have spent the summer checking off items on the "Honey-do" list, now it time to start cashing in on those earned SPU's\*

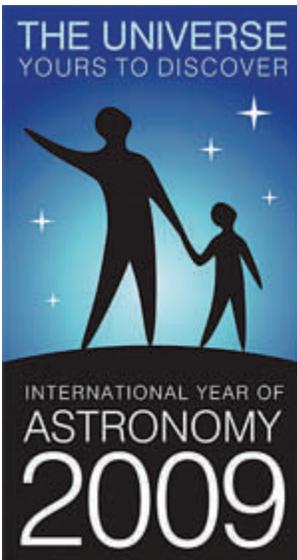
Friday September 12: (9) Metis asteroid occultation. Time: 1:41AM. This is a major astronomical event for Wisconsin residents. Many members of the MAS are planning on observing this easily observable event and send their findings to IOTA (International Occultation Timing Association). If you are interested in participating in this event contact Gerry Samolyk @ [obsdirector@milwaukeeastro.org](mailto:obsdirector@milwaukeeastro.org) for instructions.

Friday September 19: Monthly Membership Meeting 8:00 PM @ the MAS Observatory. Join your fellow members for a night of MAS business, information and socializing.

Friday September 26-28: Annual observing campout at the Yanko farm in Rib Lake Wisconsin. MAS member Dan Yanko opens his getaway home for a weekend of REAL DARK SKY observing. To give you an idea of how dark this sight is, in 2005 I was able to easily see the Horsehead Nebula in my 6 inch reflector! Of course the highlight of the night was being serviced hot coffee and chocolate at 2AM by Dan himself... we still give him a hard time about that! If you are looking for a fun getaway weekend this is great event!

Also, remember that the observatory is still open any Saturday nights for our members. Multiple visual scopes and CCD imagers are available for use.

\* SPU - Spousal Permission Unit



In 1609 Galileo Galilei built two telescopes that could magnify object 3 and twenty times respectively. With those two telescopes, he was able to observe the Moon, the satellites of Jupiter, a supernova, confirm the phases of Venus and discovered sunspots.

To commemorate this event 2009 has been designated as the International Year of Astronomy (IYA). This will be a International celebration with participation by both professional and amateur astronomers. The main goal of the celebration is to promote astronomy and continue to introduce the general public to astronomy.

Two projects are under development. The first one is the coordination of observations of the Epsilon Aurigae eclipse. This eclipse occurs once every 27 years and lasts for almost 2 years. Since it occurs during the IYA, and is easy to observe, it is major project for amateur and professional astronomers.

The second project is to give as many people as possible the opportunity to look through a quality telescope. Naturally amateur astronomy organizations can easily fulfill this goal. The aim is to give 10 million people chance to look through a telescope in 2009. Sound impossible... then work the numbers 100,000 amateur astronomers each give 100 people a chance to view the sky and the number is achievable. Details on the IYA can be found at [www.astronomy2009.org](http://www.astronomy2009.org)!

I look forward to seeing you at some of our September events!

# Wal-Mart Brat Sale Pictures Provided by Jill Roberts



Left  
Tim,  
Jeff,  
and  
Bob

Below  
Tim,  
Jeff,  
and  
Steve

For Sale See Page 4



## 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.

### **September**

<b>6</b>	Dan Yanko	262-255-3482
<b>13</b>	Paul Borchardt	262-781-0169
<b>20</b>	Steve Diesso	262-501-0384
<b>27</b>	Tim Burrus	262-369-1022

### **October**

<b>4</b>	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745
<b>11</b>	Carlos Garces	262-786-2623
<b>18</b>	Henry Gerner	414-774-9194
<b>25</b>	Chris Hesseltine	414-482-4515

### **November**

<b>1</b>	Vern Hoag	262-548-9130
<b>8</b>	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212
<b>15</b>	Scott Jamieson	262-896-0119
<b>22</b>	Lee Kieth	414-425-2331

**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	\$36	Individual	\$23
Family	\$42	Family	\$27

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

## **For Sale**

Orion Sky Quest 10 inch f 4.7 dob with a 8x50 view finder and a new 2 inch low profile Crayford focuser with dual speed. Comes with a natural color solar filter. The scope is like new and works great. Price is 475 dollars.

If interested contact

Kip Hoffman

(920)980-0670

[donobs@yahoo.com](mailto:donobs@yahoo.com)

### **MAS Officers / Staff**

President:

Steve Diesso (262) 641-0331

Vice President:

Rebecca Setzer (262) 707-7478

Treasurer:

Brian Ganiere (414) 961-8745

Secretary:

Henry Gerner (414) 774-9194

Observatory Dir:

Gerry Samolyk (414) 529-9051

Newsletter Ed:

Rebecca Setzer (262) 707-7478

MAS Observatory:

(not working) (262) 542-9071

### **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"