



# Focal Point



August, 2013

## Please Renew Your MAS Membership!

Starting this year the Membership Renewal Notices will be sent out via email. The members are asked to print out the attached Renewal Form, fill it out and send it back along with a check made payable to The Milwaukee Astronomical Society. The Form can also be printed from the last page of this newsletter. Please renew your membership soon. We are grateful to those members who have already responded.

If you joined the MAS after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 your membership is active till 2014.

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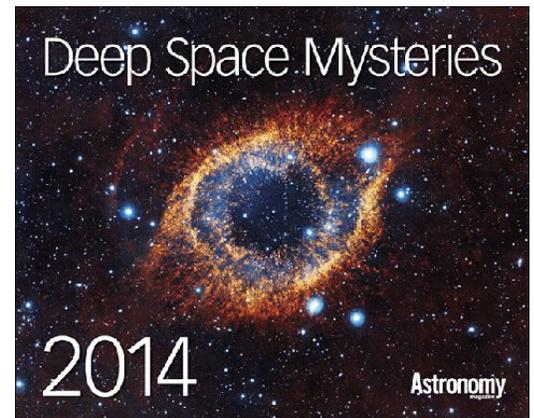
## Astronomy Calendars

I am selling the 2014 Astronomy Calendars for the MAS. The Astronomy Calendar by Kalmbach Publishing is by far one of the best Astronomy Calendars which lets you know of important Astronomical events during the year. They retail for \$12.95 but I will be selling them for \$10.00 as a fund raiser for our Club.

Please ask your family and friends if they are interested in buying. I would like to place an order for the calendars in a week or so. Send me an email with your name and address and how many calendars you would like. I will deliver them to you sometime in September. Email or call me at [danheleny@aol.com](mailto:danheleny@aol.com) to place your order. The Milwaukee

Astronomical Society "Thanks You" for your past support!

Dan Yanko



## Next Public Night on September 6

On August 9<sup>th</sup> the MAS held the third Public Night of the season. An estimated 25 guests showed up. The topic was: Meteor showers. Celeste Keith prepared and gave a pre-recorded presentation in her absence.

The next public night will be held on **September 6<sup>th</sup>**, from **7:30pm** at the MAS Observatory in New Berlin. All help from members is appreciated.

2013 Public Observing Nights	
September 6, 19:30	Deep Sky Objects Tamas Kriska
September 27, 19:30	Constellation Culture Sue Timlin
October 11, 19:30	The Moon Celeste Keith

## MAS Events

### The MAS Picnic



The Milwaukee Astronomical Society held its Annual Picnic on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at the MAS Observatory in New Berlin. Since it was an unusually chilly day, it turned into a mostly indoor event. Despite of weather conditions nineteen members showed up. This time we had a potluck, so there was plenty of food to share. Everybody was enjoying the event. The evening was concluded by an episode from the Great Courses series shown by Russell.



## MAS Events

### Annual Star Party at Yerkes Observatory



As every year in the past decade MAS has put on a star party for the one week Yerkes Summer Institute at Yerkes Observatory on August 4th. The participants are African



American high school students from inner city Chicago. An average student stays in the program for three years. Program graduates succeed at a rate that is over five times better than their peers: 100% in college, 54% Science Technology, Engineering & Math majors. MAS



was represented by eight members: Russell Chabot, Frank Evans, Agnes Keszler, Tamas Kriska, Neil Simmons, Mike Smiley, Paul Smith,



and Sue Timlin. Although, according to the weather forecast it was supposed to clear out after sunset, the sky remained cloudy. In spite of that the students showed great interest in



technical aspects of astronomy. MAS members had to explain how different telescopes work and answer lots of questions.

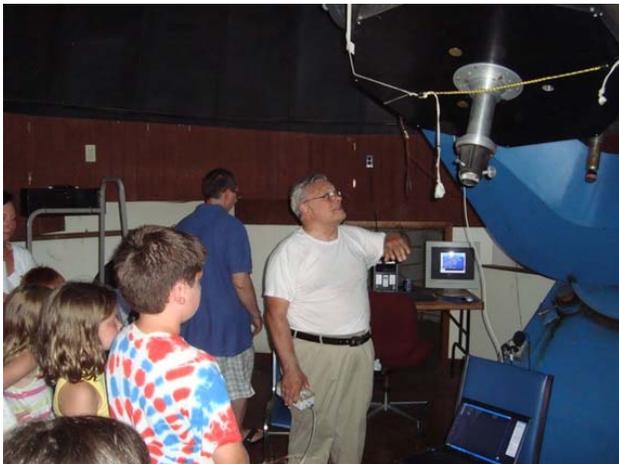
## MAS Events

### New Berlin Public Library Tour



We had a group of about 28-30 people come to the MAS Observatory from the New Berlin Library and about half were children. They arrived around 7:30 pm and Paul Borchardt, myself and Scott Jamieson gave a tour and observing session. Paul gave a talk about the History of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society and basic telescope designs. I gave a talk about what tools are needed to do amateur Astronomy and how to read a star maps. Scott Jamieson who is the MAS President talked about an upgrade project we are doing on our 25 inch Cassegrain telescope.

We had opened up two telescopes to do some observing of the Moon, Saturn and whatever other



objects we could find. We used an 18 inch Obsession Dobsonian telescope as well as a 12 inch reflector telescope. The New Berlin group was able to observe many craters on Moon. As the sky grew darker we put the telescopes on Saturn and observed the rings of Saturn as well as some of Saturn's Moons. Many of the children were just amazed to be looking at Saturn through a telescope. Many of the adults were amazed too! The sky grew darker and the mosquitoes came out in

force. We decided to look at M57 the ring nebula for the small group that remained. We observed the faint ghostly ring of a former star from long ago.



The New Berlin Library group had a fun time at the Milwaukee Astronomical Society Tour. We also enjoyed giving the tour. As a matter of fact one of the parents commented that they were watching the partial solar eclipse through my telescope the previous year at a park in New Berlin. It is a small universe after all. I am including some photos so please let me know that you receive them. Special thanks to Paul Borchardt and Scott Jamieson for their help.

Dan Yanko

## In the Astronomical News

### Amateur Astronomers Discovers Comet During Star Party

Ukrainian amateur astronomer Gennady Borisov discovered a brand new comet on July 8 near the bright star Capella in the constellation Auriga. The comet was confirmed and officially christened C/2013 N4 (Borisov) on July 13. At the time of discovery, Borisov was attending the Russian-Ukrainian "Southern Night" star party in Crimea, Ukraine. He nabbed the comet – his first – using an 8-inch (20-cm) f/1.5 wide field telescope of his own design equipped with a CCD camera.

The new comet is on the faint side, appearing as a small, fuzzy patch of 13th magnitude with a brighter center. To see it you'll need at least a 10-inch (25-cm) telescope and the fortitude to rise in the wee hours before dawn. The reason for the early hour is Borisov's location in Auriga, a constellation that doesn't clear the horizon until shortly before the start of morning twilight. Faintness and low altitude

will combine to make Comet Borisov an enticing if challenging object for amateur astronomers.

C/2013 N4 is currently traveling through Auriga not far from the easy-to-spot naked eye star Beta and will slowly brighten as it approaches perihelion – closest point to the sun – on August 20 at a distance of 113.5 million miles (182.7 million km). Unfortunately its elongation or separation from the sun will be slowly shrinking in the coming weeks, causing the comet to drop lower in the sky as it approaches perihelion. Our fuzzy visitor misses Earth by a comfortable 192.5 million

miles (310 million km) on August 11. It's likely Comet Borisov won't get much brighter than 12th magnitude. Astronomers are still working out the details of its orbit, so it's possible brightness predictions could change in the near future.

Aside from how prominent or not Gennady's comet will become, the most amazing thing is that he beat the automated surveys to the punch. These days nearly all comets and many asteroids are found by



*Gennady Borisov, who lives in Nauchnyi in Crimea, Ukraine, discovered the comet C/2013 N4 on July 8 during a star party. Borisov, 51, is a professional optician. He's shown here with his two telescopes. Credit: Oleg Bruzgalov*

professional astronomers using robotic telescopes hooked up to sensitive cameras and computers. Large areas of the sky are covered each clear night. If a fuzzy, moving object is detected by the computer, astronomers are alerted, follow-up observations are made and the new object receives a letter, number and the

survey's name. That's why there are a plethora of comets in the past 15 years with names like LINEAR (Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Survey), Pan-STARRS (Panoramic Survey Telescope & Rapid Response System), LONEOS (Lowell Observatory Near-Earth-Object Search) and others.

By dint of persistence, a smart plan and a keen eye, Gennady Borisov has made his mark in the sky. For that he deserves a well-deserved congratulations and round of applause!

*by Bob King  
Universe Today*

## Adopt a Telescope Program - Signup Sheet

	<b>Adoptee</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>1</b>	Sue Timlin	18" F/4.5 Obsession	Wiesen Observatory
<b>2</b>	Neil Simmons	12.5" F/7.4 Buckstaff	B Dome
<b>3</b>	Russell Chabot	12.5" F/9 Halbach	A Dome (Armfield)
<b>4</b>	Dan Yanko	18" F/4.5 Obsession (Kyle)	Albrecht Observatory
<b>5</b>	Tamas Kriska	25" F/15 Zemlock	Z Dome
<b>6</b>	Henry Gerner	12" LX 200	Tangney Observatory
<b>7</b>	Jeffrey Fillian	14" Z-Two scope	Ray Zit Observatory
<b>8</b>	Vacant	10" LX 200	Jim Toeller Observatory

### At Your Service

#### Officers / Staff

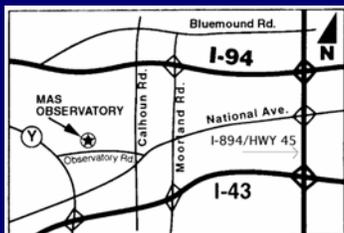
President	Scott Jamieson	262-592-3049
Vice President	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745
Treasurer	Russell Chabot	414-881-3822
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Observatory Director	Gene Hanson	262-354-0138
Asst. Observatory Director	Vacant	
Newsletter Editor	Tamas Kriska	414-581-3623
Webmaster	Robert Burgess	920-559-7472

#### Board of Directors

Robert Burgess	920-559-7472
Russell Chabot	414-881-3822
John Hammetter	414-519-1958
Gene Hanson	262-354-0138
Lee Keith	414-425-2331
Agnes Keszler	414-581-7031
Tamas Kriska	414-581-3623
Neil Simmons	262-889-2039
Michael Smiley	262-825-3981
Sue Timlin	414-460-4886
Dan Yanko	262-255-3482

#### August/September Key Holders

8/31	Lee Keith	414-425-2331
9/7	Tamas Kriska	414-961-8745
9/14	Mike Smiley	262-825-3981
9/21	Tom Schmidtkunz	414-352-1674
9/28	Neil Simmons	262-889-2039
10/5	Dan Yanko	262-255-3482



### MAS Observatory

18850 Observatory Rd  
New Berlin, WI

[www.milwaukeeastro.org](http://www.milwaukeeastro.org)

## MAS Membership Renewal Form



Please return this form with your payment. We encourage you to join our online community at the **Milwaukee Astronomical Society Google Group**. Please visit our website at [www.milwaukeeastro.org](http://www.milwaukeeastro.org)

Add my email to the MAS Google Group: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Address:

City, State Zip:

Phone:

E-mail Address:

### Membership (select one of the following)

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$46.00 - Resident Individual
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$52.00 - Resident Family
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$23.00 - Resident Student
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$28.00 - Non Resident Individual
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$32.00 - Non Resident Family
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 - Non Resident Student

A resident is defined as a person who lives in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, or Washington counties. Non-residents are all other locations. Keyholders must pay resident dues.

### Subscriptions

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$33.00 - Sky and Telescope magazine subscription
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$34.00 - Astronomy magazine subscription

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total due.

Make checks payable to The Milwaukee Astronomical Society.

Please complete and mail form with payment to:

**Tamas Kriska**  
923 Currie Place  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213