

# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

April 2004

## LOOKING UP

**April 1 Thursday**

7:00 p.m. 101 Class

8:00 p.m. Main Pgm  
Carlson Tool & Mfg.

**April 15 Thursday**

7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting

Jeff Setzer's Home

**April 23 & 24 Friday & Sat.**

Astronomy Day

Harrington Beach St. Park  
(see article on page 1)

**April 30-May 2**

NCRAL Convention

Burlington Iowa

**May 6 Thursday**

7:00 p.m. 101 Class

8:00 p.m. Main Pgm  
Carlson Tool & Mfg.

**May 20 Thursday**

7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting

Jeff Setzer's Home

**May 21 Friday**

7:00 p.m.

Public Viewing

Rotary Park, Mequon

## Astronomy Day

By Kevin Bert

Mark down the dates of April 23 and 24. These are the days that we could use your help entertaining the public in the upper parking lot next to Pucket's Pond at Harrington Beach State Park. Friday evening sun viewing will begin at 6:00 p.m. and run until 7:30. Brighter planets and Moon will then be viewed after sunset until (around 9:00 p.m.) when it would be dark enough for deep sky viewing. A centralized canopy tent will have a table for the various NCSF handouts. As in other years the scavenger hunt will be promoted for the evening, as participants try to view the list of objects through telescopes to complete their certificate. Something new will be the Astro-Quiz. Participants in this quiz will be entered in a drawing for prizes.

Saturday's activities will start at 2:00 p.m down at the beach with Rob Powell taking a group through the 1000-yard model of the solar system (faster than the speed of light I might add). These tours will have members of the group pace off and set out the scale models of the planets along the beach with Rob talking about the interesting facts of each planet along the way.

The round trip will take close to 40 minutes. These tours will repeat at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Remaining evening's events will then be a repeat of Fridays except that sun viewing will take place earlier in the afternoon.

We will talk about it a little more at the next meeting, answer any questions and pass a clipboard around for members to sign up for one or both days. Bringing a telescope to the event is preferred but we need some members without scopes to help other members with their scope if they need a break or to pass out materials at the table. This is our first attempt with Astronomy Day at Harrington Beach and I am confident that with your help it will be a successful event.



## Solar Dobsonian

By Kevin Bert

I am happy to report that the Sun Telescope group is off to a great start. Most members of the group attended the three sessions thus far and things have been going smoothly. I wasn't sure how crowded it would be in my basement with all members of the group there. A dozen seem to be ok. My basement is often a bit on the cool side but with all those bodies the sweaters I recommended were not needed.

Rough grinding went faster than expected and the first few grits started off a little slow so things kind of evened out. As the group picks up on the routine and they gain experience and con-

fidence things should move even faster. Everyone is working with 320 grit aluminum oxide and all mirrors are close to the same radius of curvature. We started using a spherometer to check the radius, but it is surprising how accurate you can measure it by using a simple curved template. I have read that two pieces of glass can stick together very tight during grinding if the water dries out and the curves match just right. The few times it has happened to me in the past they easily came apart if you quickly put them into a pail of water and twisted. Last Thursday was the first time I needed to use a hammer (rubber that is) to jar them apart.

Three more grits to go then polishing can begin.

The prototype model is finally completed after a few setbacks that delayed it. A few modifications will be made as the group starts in production of the wood components. I will bring the model along to the next meeting for everyone to see.

## April Celestial Events

By Charlotte DuPree

Venus appears as the very bright evening star in the west, along with Mars in Taurus. Saturn is in Gemini; Jupiter is in Leo. Sunset on April 1st is at 6:19 p.m. Sunset on April 15th is at 7:35.

Don't forget! Daylight Savings Time begins on April 4th. Remember to reset your clocks as we spring ahead!



## March Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The March business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held in the conference room of Carlson Tool & Mfg. Cedarburg. President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 9:10 p.m. to welcome 37 members and guests.

Jeff spent some time reviewing the last public viewing event at Pike Lake. That was followed by a discussion on National Astronomy Day. As in past years it was decided to take two days, the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> of April, to participate. Both would be at Harrington Beach. Jeff listed other upcoming events including the Messier Marathon



scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup>. Group purchasing of the computer program Sky Tools was discussed. Jeff noted that he would be giving a demo of the software at the next meeting.

Secretary Kevin Bert went over some details of the regional Astronomical League convention in Iowa. Presently only two members had committed to attend. Kevin asked for a show of hands of members that would be attending the UWM Planetarium show on the 12<sup>th</sup> and would like to have a ticket reserved. Thirty members were interested. Car pooling details were confirmed and Dave Schultz

said that he would take care of the tickets.

Jeff asked for new business. Brad Plaumann started a brief discussion on the status of the Hubble Space telescope.

With no further business, Jeff closed the business meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Bert, secretary



### Astronomy 101 Class

By Kevin Bert

The 101 class for April is "Telescope Optics" by Kevin Bert. This topic will explain the two basic types of telescopes, how to calculate the power of a scope and the properties common to all telescopes.

The constellation of the month will be Canis Minor.



Mark on your calendars the date of September 11th. Nick and Jeannie Nichols will host a members night at their home in Richfield.

**W.O.W. Registration**  
Now is the time to register, if you want to go to Wisconsin Observers Weekend near Waupaca June 17 - 20.

**Nebraska Star Party Registration**  
Registration is also available for the Nebraska Star Party. See [www.nebraskastarparty.org](http://www.nebraskastarparty.org) for more information.

**If you have not paid your 2004 dues, this will be your last newsletter! See Brad Plaumann to pay your dues at the April meeting, or mail him at the address on page 4.**

Looking to buy a telescope?  
Orion Telescope's website has a section with clearance telescopes. Go to [www.telescope.com](http://www.telescope.com) and click on telescope. Then click clearance for an array of merchandise. The listing changes frequently, so check in often.

### Main Program

By Joyce Haussler

Jeff Setzer will do a demo of the program Sky Tools. Those who are considering buying this product, be ready to order at the April Meeting. An order will be going in shortly after the meeting. If you were to buy it outright, the program would cost \$99.00. However, they are offering a deal for astronomy clubs. As a club, if we order 2-9 copies of the software, we will pay \$74.96 for each copy. For an order of 10-24 cop-

ies, the price drops to \$59.97 each! If you are interested, you can go to the website for more information.: [www.skyhound.com/skytools.html](http://www.skyhound.com/skytools.html)

If you are interested in buying this program, please see Jeff Setzer after the meeting.

### From The Editor

By Joyce Jentges

March and April weather is so fickle! I'm glad for the warmer weather that we've had, but it is hard getting used to the up and down temperatures. We have not had much success with our March viewing nights. The night of the Messier Marathon we had extremely high wind, and pretty cloudy skies. A couple of our brave members went out to attempt the marathon, but skies were not clear.

At least for the planetarium trip we did not have to rely on weather! A group of approximately 26 club members and family members turned out for this event. The planetarium show was interesting, and the price was right.

Some of us stayed around after the planetarium show to watch the Science Bag show, which was fascinating.

On March 27th, Charlotte and Gene DuPree hosted a members viewing night at their house. The skies were cloudy, which was a shame because of the amount of planets visible.

If you are considering going to W.O.W. in June, now is the time to register! Registration forms will be available at the April Meeting. Also, you may wish to consider attending the "Pre W.O.W." at Hartman Creek State Park from June 14—16. Jeff Setzer is planning on being there.

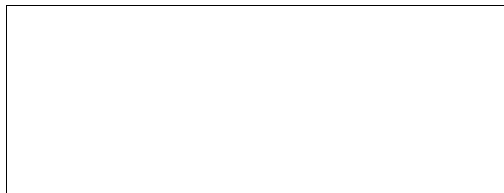
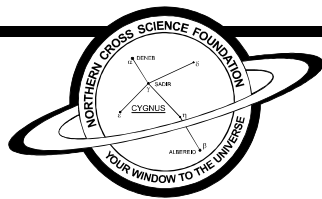
Those of you diehard observers—this is your opportunity! Don't miss it! See [www.new-star.org/WOW2004.htm](http://www.new-star.org/WOW2004.htm) for more information.

I hope you enjoy the poetry on the 4th page. It's something that I found while scouting around on the internet. I was originally looking for a different poem, but came across this instead.

Remember to send those articles to me! I need new work to be included in this newsletter!

On a final note, you will notice that my last name has changed. This is my maiden name, which I have taken back.

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**Monthly Meeting Location—  
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W57 N14386 Doerr Way  
Cedarburg, WI 53012  
(enter from south parking lot)

### Excerpt from "The Ballad of the Northern Lights"

And the skies were alive with light, with a throbbing,  
thrilling flame

Amber and rose and violet, opal and gold it came.

It swept the sky like a giant scythe, it quivered back to  
a wedge;

Argently bright, it cleft the night with a wavy golden  
edge.

Pennants of silver waved and streamed,  
Lazy banners unfurled;

Sudden splendors of sabres gleamed,  
Lightning javelins were hurled.

There in our awe we crouched and saw  
With our wild, uplifted eyes

Charge and retire the hosts of fire  
In the battlefield of the skies.

*-Robert W. Service*

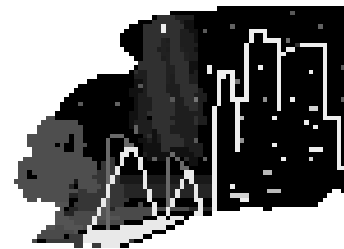
Taken from [www.nwlink.com/~fimdos/mill/poetry.htm](http://www.nwlink.com/~fimdos/mill/poetry.htm)

## SPECTRUM

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[www.ncsf.info](http://www.ncsf.info)