

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

April 1998

LOOKING UP

April 2

Astronomy 101

7:00 PM

General Meeting

7:45 PM

Carlson Tool & Mfg.

April 15

Board Of Directors

7:30 PM

Jeff Setzer's House

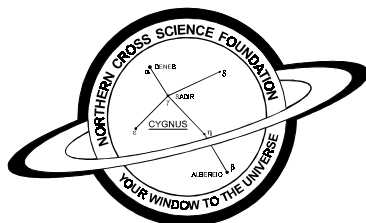
May 2

**** National ****

Astronomy Day

4:00 PM

Nichols Observatory



A Publication Of
The Northern Cross
Science Foundation

National Astronomy Day

By Kevin Bert

The biggest club sponsored event for this year will be the celebration of National Astronomy Day on Saturday, May 2nd. Nick and Jeanie Nichols have offered to host the event at their observatory. They have had their own major events over the years and draw hundreds of people even with cloudy skies. It is conceivable that over one thousand people could turn up if the skies stay clear. A lot of member participation will be needed to make this event a success. Take note that the daytime events will continue even if it is cloudy.

We will have sign-up sheets at the next meeting. You don't need to bring a telescope to help. We need members to help run some of the daytime programs, have at least 3 members to handout papers and welcome people at the entrance, and give people a break at the telescopes. Another reason to let us know if you will help is that the Nichols have graciously offered to feed those that participate, so they would like an accurate head count. If you can't make the



NATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY

MAY 2, 1998

meeting and would like to help, please call me at 375-2239 within the next few weeks.

Here is a rundown of the activities and what help we need for Astronomy Day.

2:00 – 3:00 PM Members set-up equipment and displays.

4:00 PM The Public is invited for the start of daytime activities that last until dusk.

Telescope Displays- We would like a variety to be on display for people interested in buying a scope. Be prepared to answer questions about yours.

Sun Viewing- We would like 4-5 telescopes set-up with filters for the public to view through. Solar activity is on the rise so a few sunspots should be around.

Telescope Clinic- We would like a few designated members to help any people from the public that have problems with their scope if they bring it out.

Observatory Tour- Nick and Jeanie are

(See **Astronomy Day** on page 2)

Public Viewing Nights For 98

Here is the Public Viewing night schedule for 1998 so far. Watch for changes in the LOOKING UP section.

May 2: National Astronomy Day!
at W.J. Nichols Observatory in Richfield.

May 23 & 24: Pike Lake State Park.

June 6: Riverside Park in Saukville.

June 27: Pike Lake State Park.

July 29-August 1: Ozaukee County Fair.

August 22: Harrington Beach State Park.

August 28: Riveredge Nature Center in Saukville.

September 5 & 6: Pike Lake State Park.

September 26: ABC Kids Care in Cedarburg.

October 24: Webster School in Cedarburg.

March Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The March meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held in the conference room of Carlson Tool & Mfg. in Cedarburg. The Astronomy 101 class preceded the business meeting. President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 8:10 p.m. to 25 people. Jeff explained that he had moved from his apartment to a home in Brown Deer. It had been a hectic time and that he had not been able to get together with Kevin Bert to transfer the Spectrum information. He promised that next month we should receive it. Jeff explained some upcoming activities that the board had come up with and mentioned that a detailed list would be forthcoming in Spectrum



Brad Plaumann reminded the membership that some dues were not yet paid. A standard adult membership is \$24.00. Any member joining in the past year will get a pro-rated membership for next year to bring all memberships due in January of 99. A balance of the checking and savings accounts were given.

Secretary Kevin Bert handed out the latest Northern Lights and commented on the NCRAL convention on May 8-9 in Iowa. He then reported that the 20" Panarusky telescope had some work done on the secondary spider, the clock drive. One piece was holding up the publicity and construction. The metal

fabrication provider was trying to save us some money by waiting for some leftover material to show up for the upper focuser cage. It was discussed and decided that we should contact the fabricator and pay whatever is needed to finish the project because the money was in hand. Kevin was sure that the 20" mirror would be on it's way to Nova Optics by the end of the month.

Jeff laid out the options on what the club could do for National Astronomy Day. A long discussion followed with the Nichols volunteering to host the event at their Observatory. A list was started for members wanting to help with the event. The business meeting was closed by Jeff Setzer at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Bert, secretary

Members Events 98

Here are the members nights listed for 1998 so far. Watch for changes in the LOOKING UP section. More local nights for members will be scheduled over the following months.

(See **Members** on page 4)

(**Astronomy Day** from page 1)

in charge of that. As of now the Observatory telescope will be accessible during the Day only. The lower level will be open for the entire event.

Walk The Solar System- This is a self-guided tour similar to Pike Lake. It will require help setting up.

Computer Programs- Brad Plaumann will give periodical demonstrations of a planetarium program during the daytime.

Meteor Impact Demo- It will be real familiar for those members that attended a meeting on it over a year ago. We will need at least 2 people there at a time to hand out a work sheet and assist the public as needed.

Northern Cross Science Foundation Officers for 1998:

Jeff Setzer, President
Dan Prosser, Vice-President
Kevin Bert, Secretary
Brad Plaumann, Treasurer

Scott Kroeger, Rod Nabholz, and Al Steinberg are Members-At-Large

SPECTRUM responsibility will revert back to the Secretary

Displays- People so inclined can bring books charts and photos for a display area only.

5:30 PM Food break starts. It may need to be conducted in two shifts.

8:30 Nighttime activities start.

Starlight Scavenger Hunt- We will need a total of 7 telescopes to look at the 7 categories of objects for the hunt. Each scope will stay locked on their object until 10:00 Only. After 10:00 you can view anything you like. As usual the operator will affix a sticker to the Junior Astronomer sheet that the kids will bring around. The categories will be – The Moon (low power), The Moon (high power), Galaxy, Open Cluster, Globular Cluster, Planetary Nebula and Double Star.



Tour of the Night Sky- The public will be encouraged to bring their binoculars for a guided tour of the Spring constellations and special objects. Dave DeRemer, Director of the Horlitz Planetarium in Waukesha.

General telescope Viewing- Telescopes to view as you please.

The Nichols Observatory is located 1.5 miles west of the Pioneer Plaza Truck Stop on Pioneer Road. The Plaza is off of US 41 by taking the Hwy 145 exit.

On behalf of the NCSF I would like to thank Nick and Jeanie for hosting our National Astronomy Day 98 event.

NCRAL Convention

By Kevin Bert

The NCRAL Convention Will be Hosted by The Des Moines Astronomical Society, Inc on May 8-9 at Adventureland Inn Altoona, Iowa. Early-Bird registration is \$39.00 by April 17th. \$45.00 at the door. Registration includes the Saturday night banquet with guest speaker Dr. Louis Frank. Hotel accommodations are plentiful. There will be a Star Party on Friday night at the Ashton Observatory and at

the Drake Observatory on Saturday night.

These meetings are a lot of fun to attend. Great speakers and topics are the norm. There are a few members that are planning to go. See Jeff Setzer if you are interested.



Astronomy 101

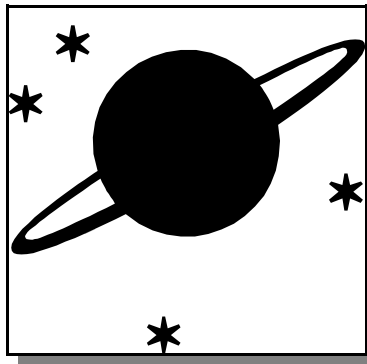
By Kevin Bert

Up to this point the astronomy 101 class seems to be a success. Based on the remaining topics the class should continue on through 1998.

The April meeting 101 topic will be the Terrestrial planets or planets with a solid surface. That would include Mercury, Venus and Mars. I will concentrate on what can be seen through the telescope.

The May 's 101 meeting will cover the gas giant planets in the same manner as the terrestrial planets.

Here is a list of the upcoming topics: The Moon, Comets, Accessories and Upgrades, Telescope Cleaning and Maintenance, Preparing for a Nights Observing, Observing Hints.



From The

As announced at the last few meetings, I would be taking over the Spectrum in the near future. Jeff and I got together a few weeks ago to make the transition. Here is the first I have the pleasure of publishing. There may be a few changes over the coming months but for now no major ones. I would like this moment to thank Jeff for all the help he has given to me and for the years of publishing the Spectrum.

I hope to have a membership roster for the entire paid membership in the May

Spectrum. Please get your membership dues in to Brad Plaumann at the next meeting or mail it to him by April 15th so you are included in the roster.



Membership cards will also be distributed at one of the next meetings.

Please feel free to copy the Astronomy Day Insert and post it at your workplace or any other appropriate place to help publicize this event.

Anyone interested in sending me

CURRENT CLACK

ISDC Meets In Milwaukee

The 17th Annual International Space Development Conference is happening on Memorial Day weekend, May 22 through May 25th. This is the annual convention for the Space Society, and this year it is being hosted by the Lunar Reclamation Society, which is the NSS chapter based in Milwaukee. The event will take place at the Hyatt Regency downtown (333 W Kilbourn). The NCSF has been asked to participate as a cooperating society. Suggestions from the ISDC people include: Hosting a star party, putting equipment on display, giving demonstrations of astronomy software, and making a formal presentation on a topic of mutual interest. We will take this up at the next meeting. If you are interested in this event, please come forward with suggestions. Any NCSF members that participate can register for the event at the reduced price of \$45.00

Storage Problem (HELP!)

It is time to find a new home for the mirror grinding machine and mirror grinding stands. Former member Bernard Golowina is moving soon and would like the equipment moved. If you have room for a 4x4' table or about 7 stands that each take up as much room as a 55 gal. drum in your garage or shed, let Kevin Bert know ASAP. Due to the weight of the table at least 4 people should be there to move it when the time comes.

Work Crew Needed

To help remove the peeling paint from the NCSF Observatory. We will then need to address any repair work and apply new paint. We will ask for volunteers at the next meeting.

SPECTRUM articles on any club activity or astronomical subject you are researching would be appreciated.

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(Members from page 2)

May 8-9: NCRAL Convention in Des Moines Iowa.

May 22-25: ISDC Conference in Milwaukee.

June 19-21: Wisconsin Observers Weekend (WOW) Hartman Creek State Park in Wau-paca.

July 18-25: Nebraska Star Party at Merrit Re-sivior near Valentine.

August 21-23: Northwoods Starfest in Fall Creek

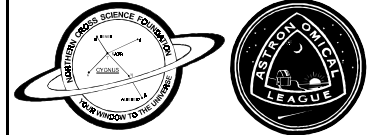
September 11-13: Astrofest in Kankakee Illinois.



Check out our great site
On the World Wide Web
<http://www.gxsc.com/ncsf>

SPECTRUM

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