

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

April 1999

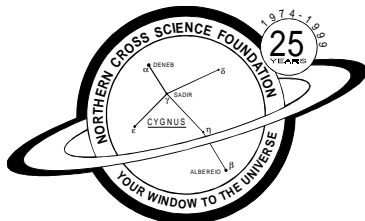
LOOKING UP

Apr. 1 Thursday
Astronomy 101
7:00 PM
General Meeting
8:00 PM
Carlson Tool & Mfg.

Apr. 14 Wednesday
Board Of Directors
7:30 PM
Jeff Setzer's House

Apr. 23 Friday
Public Viewing
7:00 PM
ABC Kids Care
Cedarburg

Apr. 30 – May. 1 Fri.-Sat.
NCRAL Convention
Cedar Rapids , Iowa



A Publication Of
The Northern Cross
Science Foundation

The Convention Is Coming!!

from the Internet <http://www.irelandtech.com/nova/ncral99/>

The 1999 North Central Region Astronomical League Convention will be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on April 30 and May 1. A meeting hall has been procured at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel and the Cedar Amateur Astronomers are delighted to be your hosts.

How do I Find the Convention?

The Sheraton is located just off Interstate 380 south of Cedar Rapids and is conveniently near a number of restaurants and other hotels. You can pick up your registration packets or conduct late registration at the NCRAL table which will be set up in the Sheraton's lobby from 5:00 to 7:00 on Friday evening and from 8:00 to 9:00 on Saturday morning.

What Activities are Planned for Friday Evening?

A tour of either the North Liberty VLBA radio telescope or the Iowa City telescope manufacturing facility, Torus Optical, is being planned for Friday evening. If you are interested, please meet in the hotel lobby at 6:00 p.m. Maps to the sites will be

provided and car pools will be arranged. Unfortunately, we cannot specify which

tour will take place until shortly before the convention since tours are dependent on availability of Torus Optical personnel and the VLBA's observing schedule. In either case, the tour is expected to last about an hour plus driving time.

After the tour you can return to the Sheraton or,

better yet, join us at Palisades Dows observatory for barbecue and stars. (link to Palisades Dows observatory)

Palisades Dows observatory will be open starting at 6:00 on Friday evening. If the weather cooperates, the Cedar Amateur Astronomers will host a barbecue starting about 8:00. In addition to 2 observatory buildings housing 3 telescopes, Palisades Dows has a number of observing pads just waiting for someone to show off

(See **NCRAL** on page 3)



Age Old Question Answered!

Over the years, amateur astronomers have wondered who should receive credit for popularizing the alt-azimuth Newtonian reflector. Most will argue that John Dobsonian was the first. The common name used today after all is the **Dobsonian**. He uses simple material and methods to construct a large telescope, capable of showing a great amount of detail in ce-

lestial objects. Others after him have refined the same type of telescope to make it portable and easier to operate.

Some startling new archeological discoveries have shed new light on this subject .

See page 2

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 over 30 people.

Jeff welcomed all members in attendance. He recognized and welcomed Dave Stublaski who is a member of the Wehr Astronomical Society.

Jeff covered the upcoming events planned for March. He was 99% sure



that Astronomy Day would be held at the Jansen Family Park in West Bend. He will get confirmation on that soon. He encouraged members to consider attending the NCRAL convention in Cedar Rapids Iowa on April 30th.

Brad Plaumann covered the latest financial transactions. He reminded those in attendance that members who have not paid their dues will not receive a newsletter and will be removed from the roster.

Kevin Bert said that he would list a few of the brighter Iridium flares in the next few issues of the Spectrum. He laid out membership cards for those in attendance that have paid

up their dues. He said that the remaining cards would be mailed out after he gets a final membership roster from the treasurer.

Bill Fisher presented to the membership a special hand crafted banner with the club name and constellation made by his daughter.

Kevin asked for more members to consider hosting a members night..

The business meeting was closed by Jeff Setzer at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Bert, secretary



(NCRAL from page 1)

their favorite equipment so BYOT (Bring Your Own Telescope). Maps to Palisades Dows will be provided at the NCRAL table in the Sheraton lobby.

What Time are We Starting on Saturday? The NCRAL table will be open in the Sheraton lobby from 8:00 to 9:00 on Saturday. Opening announcements are scheduled for 9:00 a.m.

I Want to Sell Some Equipment and Set up a Display. Table space is available on a first-come-first-serve basis for vendors, club advertising, and equipment sales. Please bring along your homemade equipment, drawings, artwork and photographs to



information.

(see NCRAL on page 4)

share at the convention. Save your best photographs for the astrophotography contest. Displays can be set up starting at 7:00 Saturday morning.

Who are Our Speakers?

Several well known professional and amateur astronomers have agreed to give presentations on Saturday and there are several time slots still open for additional presentations. Please see the enclosed "List of Speakers and Topics" for a description of our speakers' topics and visit our web site at <http://www.irelandtech.com/nova/ncral99> for more detailed

CURRENT CLACK

Welcome New Member

Dave Stublaski from Glendale

Clear Skies for Pike Lake

It was a great night for viewing celestial objects at Pike Lake State Park on March 19th. It was clear and very cold. Nine members braved the elements to show visitors the conjunction of the Moon, Venus and Saturn early in the evening. It remained a spectacular view until they set over the lake. Interesting deep sky objects followed. One in particular was M46. It is a nice open cluster with a small planetary nebula inside. You will here more about it in Kevin's 101 class.

Too bad that only a hand full of people from the public made it out. Thanks again to the people at Pike Lake for allowing us to set up for this event on such short notice.

Get Well Soon

We were sad to here about Alvin Panarusky's accident. He is recovering at Cedar Springs Rehabilitation Center in Cedarburg. I recently visited with Alvin and he is in good spirits and looking forward to returning home. If you get a chance, stop in and say hello.

Panarusky 20-Inch Telescope

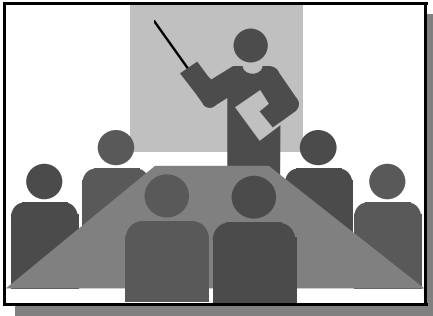
The primary mirror for the Panarusky 20-Inch Telescope is at Carlson Tool and waiting to be tested to confirm it's accuracy. This may or may not be done by the meeting.

The secondary holder is almost complete. We will need to decide on a finish for the components that make it up.

rain or shine with the indoor facility. This is generally our biggest effort of the year. I hope all members will get involved.

Astronomy 101

By Kevin Bert



The April 101 topic will be "Asteroids" by Kevin Bert. They are not as impressive to look at as a star cluster or galaxy. The excitement with asteroids is in the hunt and trying to identify these small star-like objects. They are constantly challenging your observing skills as they are continually changing position. See what it takes to locate them.

The highlighted constellation will be Puppis.

From The Editor

By Kevin Bert

Greetings to one and all. Our lead article talks about the regional meeting of the Astronomical League. It is a bit of a drive but well worth while. See Jeff Setzer if you plan to attend.

The second article was taken from an old issue of the Spectrum (1982). I thought some of the new members would get a kick out of it.

Mike Matthies will display some of the

Hubble Space Telescope pictures in a slide format for the main program. These slides were purchased from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.



I was hoping to include a revised membership roster in this Spectrum. It will have to wait for the next issue.

We will do more planning for Astronomy Day at the April meeting. We can have activities

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(NCRAL from page 3)

How do I Register? Avoid late registration fees by filling out a web site registration form and returning it by April 15 to **Jim Rutten, 345 Freese-way Drive, Robins, Iowa 52328.**

Can I Get More Information? A web site has been prepared which will be constantly updated as additional speakers are selected and as additional information becomes available. You can download the registration form there as well. The site is located at:

<http://www.irelandtech.com/nova/ncral99>

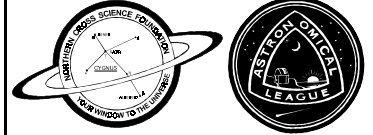
If you don't have a computer or just want to talk to a real person, please contact Jeff Finley at 319-390-1037 (evenings).



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

SPECTRUM

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This Issue, along with back Issues of SPECTRUM, can be found on the NCSF Web Site.

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