

# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

February 2007

## LOOKING UP

February 1 Thursday

Annual Banquet  
Parkview Grill, Saukville  
6:30 p.m. Open Bar  
7:30 p.m. Dinner

February 3 Saturday

Candlelight Hike/Ski  
6—9 p.m.  
Harrington Beach S. Park

February 10 Saturday

Candlelight Hike/Ski  
6-9 p.m.  
Pike Lake State Park

February 15 Thursday

Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m.  
Home of Jeff Setzer

February 16 Friday

Observatory Training  
7:00 p.m.  
Harrington Beach S. Park  
Dress extra warm!!!

March 1 Thursday

General Meeting  
**7:00 p.m.** Astronomy 101  
7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

March 16 & 17 Friday & Sat.

Messier Marathon  
Dusk  
Harrington Beach S. Park

## President's Chatter

By Jeff Setzer

Hello Friends,

2007 has begun, and with it, a defining year (our 33rd!) for the Northern Cross Science Foundation. This is the year we officially open the Plunkett Observatory and begin using the Panarusky Telescope! I hope you are as excited as I am about this new chapter in our Foundation's history. This spring we'll be getting the observatory ready for public participation, and this summer we will have our official dedication ceremony. Stay tuned for details as they become available. For those of you who are "old-timers" I know you will be as thrilled as I am to be once again telling people "we're going to the observatory tonight." For the majority of the membership, who joined more recently, be prepared to enjoy a new level of observing capability and convenience! Public outreach events will be completely transformed.

Speaking of "new chapters", I am pleased to announce the creation of a

## 2006—The Year In Review

By Joyce Jentges

January—The year started out with a the monthly meeting on January 5th. Members and guests were encouraged to bring a telescope they had gotten recently that they needed help with. A candlelight ski at Harrington Beach State Park was held on January 7th. Skies were cloudy, but several members were in the Ansay Welcome Center to answer questions that guests had.

brand-new online resource for NCSF members -- we now have our own Google Group! This will allow for online discussions, document and picture sharing, and collaboration amongst our members. We are in the process of setting up Google Calendar to allow us to keep track of NCSF events and the observatory schedule. All NCSF members are not just invited, but encouraged to participate. It's free, easy and fun! You can get started by clicking on the Google Groups link now on our home page.

Our schedule for year is published and there is ample opportunity for everyone to get involved. Remember that none of this is possible without your support. I look forward to working with you all this year and hope to see you all "at the observatory!"

Sincerely,

Jeff Setzer  
President, Northern Cross  
Science Foundation

February— Approximately 22 members attended the annual banquet on February 2nd at Buchel's Colonial House in Port Washington. On February 4<sup>th</sup> a candlelight ski was held at Harrington Beach. There was also a candlelight ski at Pike Lake Feb 11. Skies were clear for this one, with a very nice crowd. February also marked the passing of Alvin Panarusky, for whom the Panarusky

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## January Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The January business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. to 25 members and guests and thanked them all for attending. Jeff informed the membership of the results of the last board meeting where officers were elected. Jeff Setzer will continue as President, with Joyce Jentges again as Vice President. Kevin Bert also continues as Secretary and Gene DuPree steps into the Treasurer position to allow Rob Powell to focus on fundraising activities. The new Observatory Director position was given to Dan Bert. Jeff was looking for an exciting year with the Jim and Gwen Plunkett Observatory dedication some time mid year. He then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Rob Powell reports a balance of \$1,819.52 in the club's checking account and \$5,085.83 in the observatory account. It was noted that membership dues should be addressed this month unless a member joined last year.

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telescope is named. Several members attended his wake.

March—In March the annual Messier Marathon was attempted by some of our members. Former member Bill Fisher passed away in California.

April – At the April General Meeting, members voted to make a bid for hosting the 2008 NCRAL Convention. The board is still working out details for the building of the observatory. A few of our members attended Superfest in Milwaukee. A few members attended a members night at Paul Kamikawa's house, and even though weather was uncooperative, a great time was had watching IMAX movies on the big screen at Paul's house. About 14 – 19 members attended the NCRAL convention in Appleton, listening to inter-

Secretary Kevin Bert reported that Carroll Iorg, Vice President of the Astronomical League, sent out a notice called "What's up with the League." A copy was made available to interested members after the meeting. Kevin also welcomed a new member from West Bend, Dean Fleischmann.

Under old business, Kevin Bert said that the first observing/training session at the Jim & Gwen Plunkett Observatory was successful. Eight members had attended and had some great views of the winter sky. Kevin said that additional dates would be posted each month. Some mice left their calling card near the entrance door and traps were set to take care of the problem. Of the remaining details to work on, Dan and Kevin Bert were working on a cover for the clock drive. Updates will continue to be given each month. Jeff said that he would like any additional forms filled out by leaders of public viewing nights from last year, so he can complete his report to the park.

esting speakers and networking with other astronomers. We also put in a bid to hold the 2008 convention. The highlight of the convention was when Kevin Bert received the Region Award. It was nice to see Kevin's contributions to our club recognized.

May – Astronomy Day, May 6 It was a cool day with a brisk wind that finally died in the evening. We had a small amount of visitors despite publicity. The exciting thing was that while Astronomy Day was going on, we were able to watch the excavation of the observatory site. WOW took place on May 25 – 29 in Waupaca. Despite a night of severe thunderstorms, we managed to have a lot of fun.

Under new business Jeff Setzer informed the club that Night Sky Magazine had some publication issues and would be discontinued after the next issue. He then gave a list of the upcoming public events and said that it is time for members to consider a state park sticker for Harrington Beach activities this year.

Kevin Bert asked if there would be interest in another UWM Planetarium trip. Dave Schultz said he would look into the details of organizing it. Jeff reminded members that there would not be a meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> due to the annual NCSF Dinner. The dinner would be held in Saukville at the Parkview Grill on Hwy 60. A postcard with the details will be sent within a week.

With no further new business, Jeff closed the business meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Bert, secretary



Picture from Astronomy Day

June – June turned out to be an exciting month. Members had a busy month with public viewing nights which included the annual State Park Open House at the start of the month. Becca Sher became chairperson of the NCRAL 2008 committee, and the first planning meeting was held. At the end of June, Backyard Observatories rolled into town to build our new roll-off roof

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## February Meeting

By Joyce Jentges

Instead of a general meeting in February, we will have the annual banquet. This year's banquet is at Parkview Grill in Saukville. This is a great time to just

get to know some other members in the club and socialize. Regular meetings will continue in March.



## For Sale

By Jeff Setzer

**For Sale** - All of these telescopes are from my own personal collection. Each of them has been lovingly cared for since coming into my possession and your satisfaction is guaranteed. Save yourself a bundle by getting a great price to start with and then not have to pay tax and shipping. I need to clean out my garage and find these telescopes a good home!

**Celestron 8" f/5 Newtonian OTA**  
Black finish, like new – barely used. Complete with aluminum rack-and-pinion focuser and tube rings. Original packaging. \$250

**Celestron Firstscope 114** Black finish and German equatorial mount with vibration-dampening wooden legs. Complete with 5x24mm finderscope and two MA eyepieces (20mm and 10mm). Like new, never used. This is a

complete observing package, perfect for an inquisitive youngster or a budget-minded adult. \$200

**Celestron C4.5** Legendary Celestron 4.5" Newtonian on the excellent Polaris German equatorial mount. This mount is a major step up from common small GEMs, sporting rigid wooden tripod, heavy-duty bearings and slow-motion controls that are silky-smooth. Telescope comes complete with a 6x30 optical finder, 26mm Plossl eyepiece and excellent optics. This telescope has seen a lot of use from its previous owner but it is still in good condition. \$300

**Hardin 6" f/8 Dobsonian** Good optics and a very solid Dobsonian mount! Comes complete with 6x30 finderscope and two Plossl eye-

## CURRENT CLACK

**A belated welcome to Dean Fleischman of West Bend. Welcome!**

Please note: the deadline for submission of items for the newsletter is the 20th of the month. Please get your items to me no later than February 20th.

pieces (25mm & 9mm). A perfect beginner's telescope or second grab-and-go instrument! \$250

**Criterion German Equatorial Mount.** Stainless steel shafts, counterweight and metal pedestal with legs. Motor drive works but needs adjustment. It's been through a lot since the 1960's but they just don't make them like this anymore! \$100

Contact Jeff Setzer. Email [astrosetz@hotmail.com](mailto:astrosetz@hotmail.com) or call at (262) 338-8614.



## From The Editor

By Joyce Jentges

Our January public viewing night was a success! At least it was until the moon came out. We estimated about 100 people looked through our scopes at Harrington Beach. We were helped by a candlelight hike that was hosted by the park.

Seeing that there isn't room for this anywhere else in the newsletter, I want to share with you a piece of NCSF history.

This is taken from our observatory log book.

Astronomy Day—10th anniversary

May 5th, 1984

Members attending:

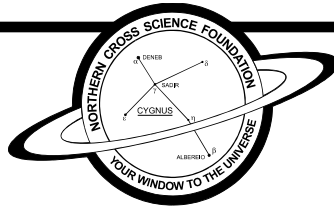
Nels Olsen, Matt Wegner, (log book reads and most other members)

1st rocket engine testing. Impressive

but short.

I would like to share with you more slices of history, throughout the year. Its very enjoyable going back and reading the old log books to see who was in the club, and remembering the long cold nights out there in search of faint galaxies.

SPECTRUM  
102 N Montgomery St # 1  
Port Washington, WI  
53074



## 2007 OFFICERS

**President - Jeff Setzer**  
1418 Trillium CT  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262/338-8614  
astrosetz@hotmail.com

**Vice President/Newsletter  
Editor- Joyce Jentges**  
102 N. Montgomery St. Apt #1  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
(920) 254-6705  
joycejentges@hotmail.com

**Secretary - Kevin Bert**  
2292 Ridgewood Road  
Grafton, WI 53024  
262/375-2239  
kevin.bert@hotmail.com

**Treasurer - Gene DuPree**  
6291 Jay Rd.  
Myra, WI 53095  
262-675-0941  
grdupree@netwurx.net

### Other Board Members:

Rob Powell  
262-894-9756  
Rick Poulin  
920-474-3064  
Don Miles  
262-675-2796

**Monthly Meeting Location**  
Unitarian Church North  
13800 N. Port Wash. Rd.  
Mequon, WI 53097

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observatory at Puckett's Pond at Harrington Beach. It was an exciting 3 days watching this go up and seeing the roof rolled off for the very first time.

To be continued....



Excavation at the observatory site on May 6, 2006.

## Observatory Tool List Status

By Kevin Bert

At this time we have almost ¾ of the tool list spoken for. If any one would like to sign up for any of the remaining tools see me at the next meeting or call me. A number of good deals for inexpensive new tools may be found at Harbor Freight on Layton Ave. They also have an on line catalog.

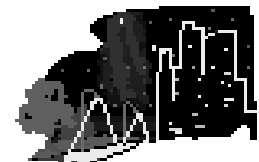
Next issue: Look for Kathy Bert's recipe for Star Party Astro Nuggets!

## SPECTRUM

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**Send inquiries to:**  
SPECTRUM  
102 N. Montgomery St. # 1  
Port Washington, WI 53074

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