

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

January 2009

LOOKING UP

January 1, Thursday

Dawn of IYA - 2009

Solar Observing

Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Bayshore Town Center

January 3, Saturday

Ski and Hike

6:00 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Harrington Beach

January 8, Thursday

General Meeting

7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. - Main Program

Business Meeting to follow

January 15, Thursday

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Home of Joyce Jentges

February 5, Thursday

Annual Banquet

6:00 - Social Hour

7:00 - Dinner

Fox & Hounds Restaurant
Hubertus, WI

(See enclosed flyer)

2009 International Year of Astronomy

By Jeff Setzer IYA 2009 Coordinator



Welcome to the International Year of Astronomy -- it's finally here! On January 1, we will be at Bayshore Town Center to participate in "Dawn of IYA2009," which is a side-walk solar-astronomy event beginning at local noon in locations all over the world. The first Candle-light Ski & Hike event at Harrington Beach occurs a few days later on January 3. Thanks in advance to everyone who participates.

Remember the special project "365 Days of Astronomy"? Every day during 2009, there will be a different podcast released, between five and ten minutes in length, regarding some aspect of astronomy -- professional or amateur. Yours Truly tried his hand at this and the resulting "Tips For Using Your First Telescope" podcast has been moved up for release on 365 Days of Astronomy on January 2nd. The NCSF is credited in the podcast and our website is used as the starting point for links to the tools I mention in the audio. Very exciting! Remember that podcasts are available any time after their initial release, so if you miss this or any of the other podcasts, you can listen to them any

Presidents Corner - Joyce Jentges

As the year 2008 draws to a close, I've been thinking about this past year and the success we've experienced. In April 2008, our club hosted for the first time ever in our history, a regional convention of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League. We had a successful convention with great attendance, and wonderful speakers. For those of us who have been to previous conventions, it was a great chance to see old friends, and talk with other fellow astronomers.

In August 2008 I made an appearance on

time down the road. You can listen to them right on the site, so you don't even need an iPod!

The Astronomical League has introduced a new observing program based on Galileo's original work with his tiny telescopes. Kevin Bert will be introducing the program in January's Astronomy 101 session. How cool would it be to complete the Galileo Observing Club exactly 400 years after Galileo did it the first time? Be sure to get to the meeting early and find out how you can follow in Galileo's footsteps!

Opening ceremonies for IYA2009 in the United States will occur on January 6 in Long Beach, California at 7:45PM PST. This event will be streamed live over the Internet. Check the US National Node website at www.astronomy2009.us for more information.

Later that evening, representatives from astronomy organizations around Wisconsin will gather at Milwaukee Public Museum for their first-ever meeting. The topic? IYA2009, of course! Plans and activities will be coordinated and new relationships will be forged as we work together in unprecedented fashion.

IYA2009 is off to a great start!

The Morning Blend, a morning talk show, to bolster publicity for several upcoming public viewings we were having. For me it was an opportunity to try a new experience professionally, while representing a club that has been a major part of my life for over 20 years.

While attendance at some of our public viewing nights early in the year lagged, we overall had a larger turnout of visitors to the observatory. Weather was generally cooperative (as cooperative as weather in Wisconsin can be), except for the rainy spring. This year our publ

(continued on pg 3)

December Meeting Minutes

by Kevin Bert

The December business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. President Joyce Jentges opened the meeting at 7:35 pm and welcomed over 27 members and guests to the annual elections business meeting. She said that it is the only business meeting required by club by-laws. Joyce then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Gene Dupree reported a balance of \$4884.35 in the general fund and \$2688.26 in the Observatory account. He says that everyone should have received a dues invoice in the last Spectrum. It could be handled tonight or by the January meeting.

Secretary Kevin Bert said that a complete report on the Astronomical League's National Convention, (ALCON EXPO 08), can be found in the latest issue of the Reflector. The minutes of the business meeting can be found at the League web site. Next years event will be held in New York City. Jeff Setzer made the interesting observation that attendance at the national convention was 160, so our regional convention did extremely well with an attendance over 100. Next years regional convention will be in Cedar Rapids Iowa. Kevin said that the League has introduced a new observing program called the Galileo club. Up to 13 objects are monitored over a period of time with a 10 to 20 power telescope. This ties in nicely with the International Year of Astronomy, (IYA) theme of the celebration of Galileo's 400th anniversary of the

telescope. More details will be available soon at the League's web site.

Jeff Setzer gave a brief report on latest IYA happenings. All aspects of the year-long event are ramping up in activity. Of the 365 daily podcasts sponsored by the IYA, Jeff was going to promote the Northern Cross and give a presentation on January 2nd to talk about using your new telescope.

Under old business, Joyce reminded people that in place of the February regular NCSF meeting, there would be the annual banquet, this year held at the Fox & Hound restaurant. She hopes that all members would plan to attend the February 5th event. Details will be presented in the next newsletter.

Under new business Joyce gave a list of upcoming events. Joyce reported that six nights have been scheduled for Bayshore in 2009. The first on Saturday April 4th that will also correspond with the International Sidewalk Astronomers Night and the IYA's 100 hours of Astronomy. The entire schedule of Bayshore will be made available in the future. Joyce went on to say that Rob Powell had reported that the great demand has caused the Coronado solar telescope to continue to be back ordered for at least two additional months. She reminded members that Bayshore is the main reason this telescope was available. Expect delivery some time early next year.

Joyce said that she was excited and looking forward to 2009 with a number of additional public outreach opportuni-

ties. The increased amount of educational events will be a real challenge but one the club is ready to take on. She covered the next public viewing nights at the observatory that will be held in January and February in conjunction with park candlelight hikes and encouraged members to help.

With only election of officers remaining, Kevin Bert acknowledged the hard work of Joyce Jentges for qualifying for the Binocular Messier award. Kevin presented her with a pin and certificate from the League, along with her original observing notes. Another member Tony Marek had finished the Lunar Club requirements and received his certificate directly from the League. Both received a round of applause.

Joyce opened up the floor for additional nominations to the board of directors to replace one spot that was opening up at the end of the year. Charlotte DuPree nominated Tony Marek and Don Miles seconded. Tony however declined to run. With no other names advanced, Joyce closed nominations and a motion was made by Robert Radtke to elect Jeff by acclamation. Paul Kamikawa seconded the motion. Joyce called for a voice vote for all those in favor. Ayes were unanimous. She thanked Jeff for all the help he had given her over the last year and looked forward to working with him again.

With no further new business, Joyce closed the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Things to See In the January Night Sky

By Don Miles

Mercury: Look behind the setting Sun on the southwestern horizon early in the month, and ahead of the rising sun in the northeastern horizon before sunrise late in the month. The much brighter Jupiter will be below and to the right of Mercury at sunset. Mercury travels between the Earth and sun during the middle of the month so will be temporarily lost in the glare.

Mars & Pluto: Are both just rising ahead of the Sun, and both will be difficult to observe this month.

Venus & Uranus: Look for blazing Venus in the southwestern sky after sunset. Early in the month, Venus will be below and to the right (21 degree) of much fainter Uranus, but will pass within

almost 1 degree (2-full moons) on the 2nd. Uranus will be just below and to the left of brilliant Venus.

Saturn: Rises about 11pm early in the month, and by about 10pm by the end of the month. Saturn is still located below the "hind legs" of Leo and will be highest in the sky after about 2:30am. Saturn's rings are just a sliver now as we are seeing them edge-on.

Neptune: Is still visible (mag 8.0) in Capricornus using binoculars and a good finder chart. Neptune is highest in the sky around 6pm, and sets before 8pm.

Moon:

January 4th: First Quarter

January 10th: Full Moon

January 17th: Last Quarter



January 26th: New Moon

Special Events:

Meteor Showers: Watch for the Quadrantids, which will peak the early morning (~3am) of Saturday the 3rd. Under ideal conditions, the peak count could be as high as 120/hr. Look in the general direction of above the Big Dipper handle. These showers are notorious for having a very small peak window, but if you are willing to brave the elements and be patient, you may be rewarded with a show seen by few. As with any sedate outdoor activity, dress warmer than you think you need to (much, much warmer). Good Luck.

January Meeting

101 Class

with Kevin Bert

The January 101 class is entitled "The Galileo Club," led by Kevin Bert. This is the latest of a growing number of observing clubs sponsored by the Astronomical League. An overview and rules of the program will be presented for you to consider. If an interest is there, the club will incorporate opportunities for you to join other members in completing the necessary requirements. The purpose of this observing program is to experience the thrill that Galileo had when he was the first person to turn a telescope towards the sky. If you decide to participate in the exercises during 2009, you will make observations like those that caused such a great uproar throughout Europe, as you find evidence that shows that the Ptolemaic model of the Universe (geocentric) was wrong and that Copernicus might be right (heliocentric), and that Aristotle may not have been right either.

There will be no featured constellation of the month. However, some relevant objects will be highlighted in the 101 program.

(continued from pg 1)

ic viewing night schedule was pretty impressive. We hosted a total of 33 public viewings this year at 4 different locations.

I don't have a membership list in front of me as I type this, but we have gained a number of new members over this past year. This is partly due to our increased presence at Bayshore Town Center, and the fact that as a club, we are active observers. The Northern Cross has always enjoyed a better than average turn out at our monthly meetings.

The year of 2009 will be a challenging one for us because we will be getting involved in the IYA2009 projects, which Jeff Setzer will spearhead. I invite you to join us at any of our events and share the excitement of Astronomy with others. We also expect to take delivery of the new solar telescope in the next few months, which is certainly exciting because it will add a new dimension to our public viewing and outreach. Jeff has also introduced the board of directors to a new source which we can use for public outreach, called the Night Sky Network.

Main Program

The Main Program will be presented by Paul Gruener and is entitled:

"Astro-Photography"

Image Scale
Noise Management
Image Processing
Capturing Longer Exposures

Plus: Resources for further study



Look for more information on this in the near future.

Looking ahead, I can tell you that the officer positions on the board will be staying the same for this coming year (Club officers are listed on the back page of the Newsletter). The board of directors has already chosen dates for Bayshore Town Center for next year. In January we will create our public viewing schedule for the year. I would ask that you consider participating in as many events as possible, as the potential to reach more people certainly presents itself. For as long as I have been in this club, education has been a priority, and will continue into the end of this decade.

Finally, despite the cold weather, I invite you to join us as we brave the cold weather to have public viewing nights in January and February. Look for these dates in the calendar section of the newsletter. Let's maximize the potential we have been given with IYA2009 to increase awareness of astronomy, and to celebrate our unique hobby.

CURRENT CLACK

New Members

NCSF welcomes the following new Club member, effective January 1st.

Janice Wittkopp

Leaders for Public Viewing

January 1

Dawn of IYA -2009

Bayshore Town Center

Leader: Jeff Setzer

January 3

Ski and Hike

Harrington Beach

Leaders: Gene and Charlotte Dupree

February 7

Ski and Hike

Harrington Beach

Leaders: Gene and Charlotte Dupree

February 15

Ski and Hike

Pike Lake

Leaders: Gene and Charlotte Dupree

Congratulations!

Astronomical League Certificates

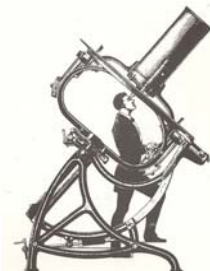
Awarded to:

Joyce Jentges —

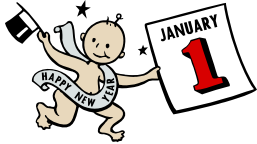
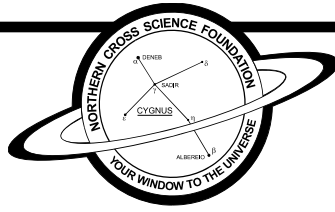
Messier Binocular Club

Tony Marek —

Lunar Club



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December Holiday Party!

by Mickey Kazmierski

Once again, the NCSF Holiday Party was another delicious culinary event! With 27 members in attendance, this was a wonderful way to share ideas, latest projects and as always camaraderie with fellow members.



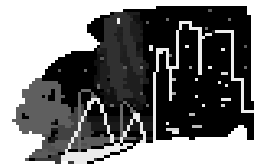
Monthly Meeting Location
Unitarian Church North
13800 N. Port Wash. Rd.
Mequon, WI 53097

SPECTRUM

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The NCSF supports the International Dark sky association.



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<http://www.ncsf.info>



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