

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

July 2009

LOOKING UP

July 2, Thursday

General Meeting

- 6:00 p.m. Solar Viewing
(Weather Permitting)
7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101
(Alternate to Solar Viewing)
7:30 p.m. Business Meeting
Main Program to follow

July 11, Saturday

Sun-Day on Saturday

- 2:00 p.m.
Kevin Bert's' Home

July 16, Thursday

Board Meeting

- 7:30 p.m.
Home of Joyce Jentges

July 17 - 18, Fri. & Sat.

Public Viewing

- 7:00 p.m.
Harrington Beach

July 24-25, Fri. & Sat.

Members Night

- 7:00 p.m.
Harrington Beach

July 29, Wednesday

Sidewalk Astronomy Day

- 7:00 p.m.
Bayshore Town Center

2009 International Year of Astronomy *By Jeff Setzer IYA 2009 Coordinator*



Believe it or not, IYA2009 is half-way over! We've done a lot of great work so far, and the second half should be even better as plans come together and experience is gained from previous events.

The 100 Telescopes event for September 25-26 in Milwaukee is down to Greenfield Park, Doctors Park or Estabrook Park, in order of preference. We'll know soon where we'll be, and once that happens we can get the rest of the plans going over the Wisconsin Astronomy Google Group. Our next in-person meeting is August 4. Mark your calendar to participate in this historic event!

The New Media group of IYA2009 has been very successful. The "365 Days of Astron-

omy" podcast is wildly successful, earning several awards. @IYA2009 has 3,000 followers on Twitter. And the Facebook group "I'll Be Celebrating IYA2009" now has over 6,500 members! The "Portal To The Universe" webpage (www.portaltotheuniverse.org) is up and running and quickly becoming the astronomy and space-science web portal and home page of choice around the Internet.

One of the most recent stories on the Portal To The Universe is about UW-Madison's "Planet Trek" scale model of the solar system, which had its public debut on June 20. Think of a much larger scale than the one we use at Bayshore Town Center -- this one has the Sun at Monona Terrace in downtown Madison and Pluto is out in Mount Horeb! See PTTU or go directly to <http://www.spaceplace.wisc.edu/planettrek.htm> for more information.

Sun-Day on Saturday

By Kevin Bert



July 11th is the date set for this year's Sun-Day on Saturday at my home in the town of Grafton. In past years, astronomy was primarily thought of as a night time activity and I felt there was a need to spend time appreciating the sun and what it had to offer. Over the last year there has been a new awareness of the sun thanks to the purchase of a 90mm Coronado H-alpha dedicated telescope. This will be another opportunity to view through the Coronado and a variety of the member's sun viewing telescopes. I will give a demonstration on how to set up and operate the club's Coronado for those that are interested in using it in the future, at 2:30. The event will start at 2:00 pm. and you can set up your own telescopes any time after 1:00 pm. Park on the lawn as in other years. Feel free to come and go as you please, as

we will view into the evening if there is an interest. This is a member's family event that combines leisurely solar viewing with a picnic type atmosphere. There are some non astronomy activities as well. Yard games, swimming if it is HOT, or get exercise with a hike down the inter-urban bike trail. I will provide soft drinks and snacks throughout the day. Those that plan to be here at 6:00 pm. and would like to stay and eat should bring a dish to pass. I will provide soft drinks and your choice of sloppy Joes or brats. Bring a lawn chair too.

If it is raining, the event will be canceled. If cloudy, you can still come to eat and talk astronomy as I will still give the Coronado demo. My address is on the back cover of the Spectrum. If in doubt of conditions or in need of directions, call me at 375-2239. I hope to see you there.

June Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The June business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. Vice President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 8:30 pm and welcomed over 26 members and guests. He then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Gene Dupree reported a balance of \$1130 in the general fund and \$1295 in the Observatory account.

Secretary Kevin Bert had the membership vote on upcoming open officer positions in the Astronomical League. Joanne Hailey was running unopposed for Treasurer and received the NCSF vote. Bill Bogardus received the majority of members support over Robert Burgess for the Secretary position. The vote will be forwarded by Kevin to the League by the June 30th deadline.

Marcia Crompton and Jerry Kohlmann were noted as new members. Marcia was in attendance.

Under old business Jeff reminded the membership that the club was still looking for a brat fry coordinator, and any interested member should contact a board member.

Under new business Jeff Setzer informed

the membership about the upcoming events in June. Gene and Charlotte Dupree said that they would lead the open June 20th public viewing night at Harrington Beach that would highlight sun viewing. June 27th will be a Bayshore sidewalk astronomy event.

Jeff reported that the Northern Cross was invited to hold a meeting at the Milwaukee Public Museum and take in a planetarium program. The general thinking of the membership was that a weeknight other than a meeting night would make a nice family outing. No date has yet been set.

Along the field trip theme, there was an interest to go to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago to see a new IYA exhibit on telescopes. For the least amount of hassle, Amtrak was the preferred way to travel. The display would continue on through the rest of the year, and no specific date was set.

Former member Gale Clapper talked about one of Galileo's original telescopes at Florence Italy. Jeff said that it would be at the U.S. Franklin Institute while the Florence facility is being refurbished this year. It will most likely be the only time this display will be in the U.S.

With no further new business, Jeff closed the business meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Jim and Gwen Plunkett

Observatory



Observatory Director:
Dan Bert: 262-375-2239

Observatory Notes

Grass is beginning to grow at the Observatory, but not as aggressively as hoped.

The Park Superintendent has asked for bids to purchase and plant bushes around the building. No word yet on his progress.

Minor leakage at top of the north wall will be addressed by Kevin Bert with weather stripping this summer.

The front door keypad entry system appears to be working properly. A lockbox is available on the back door should the keypad fail again.

Things to See In the July Night Sky

By Don Miles

Mercury: Look above and to the right of the rising sun about half an hour before the sun actually peaks over the horizon. It will be bright (-1.0 mag), but it is closely followed by the sun, so will appear to lose some of its brilliance. Look early in the month, as Mercury will pass behind the sun for the rest of the month.

Jupiter & Neptune: Jupiter (mag. -2.6) will rise about 11pm early in the month, and by about 9pm later in the month. Look in the east for Jupiter as it rises. It will be highest in the sky as the sun rises. Jupiter starts out 1/2 of a degree (the width of your baby finger held at arms length) below and to the left of much dimmer Neptune (mag. 7.9), but will slowly move lower and to the right of Neptune to a distance of 1-3/4 degrees by month's end. Neptune will look like a blue-gray "star".

Venus & Mars: Both will rise about an hour later than the Jupiter/Neptune pair.

Venus is still the brightest object (mag. -4.2) in the eastern sky before sunrise. Mars (mag 1.1) will be above and to the right of Venus by about 4 degrees on the 1st, but will be almost 16 degrees to the right of Venus by the 31st. Venus will end up being just east of the southern horn tip of Taurus.

Uranus: Rises in the eastern sky about midnight early in the month, but by about 10pm later in the month. Uranus (mag 6.0) is in the constellation Pisces, and is below the right "fish". Look for a blue-green "star".

Saturn: Look higher in the southwest as the sun sets. Saturn is the bright yellowish "star" below and almost as equally spaced as the vertical stars in the "hind legs" of Leo, but will work its way east towards Leo's hip. Saturn will be highest in the sky as the sun is setting, and will

set about 11:30pm early in the month and by about 9:30pm at month's end. **Pluto:** Tough, but this is the best time of the year to pick it out as it will be highest in the sky around midnight. It'll be directly over Sagittarius (about 9-1/2 degrees above the top of the lid on the teapot). Obviously, good charts will help greatly.

Moon:
July 7th: Full Moon
July 15th: Last Quarter
July 21st: New Moon
July 28th: First Quarter



Special Events:
Meteor Showers: Watch for the Southern Delta Aquarids in the early morning hours of Tuesday the 28th. The normal rate for this shower is only about 10 to 20 per hour, so it isn't the best show of the year, but if you can, take a look.

July General Meeting

Solar Viewing

Weather permitting, the Club's new Solar Scope (Solar Max 90) will be set up in the church parking lot for Sun viewing prior to the start of the meeting.

By Kevin Bert

101 Class

For July, there will be sun viewing again through the club's Coronado telescope starting at 6:00 pm. and run to 7:15 if the skies are clear. If cloudy, as a backup to sun viewing, a 101 class will be given at the usual 7:00 start on "Finding Celestial Objects."



The Featured Constellation:
"Lyra"

Main Program

The main program will be a 40 minute video entitled:

"Clyde Tombaugh and the
Discovery of Pluto"



June Events

Public Viewing

May 29th

Leader Justin Modra reported public viewing night went well with 10 to 15 members of the public attending. Approximately 4 member scopes were set up in the parking lot. The skies were partly to mostly cloudy. The eastern horizon stayed mainly clear throughout the evening and the activities in the observatory were "focused" in that direction. Despite marginal weather conditions, enthusiasm remained high and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Astronomy Day

May 30th



Courtesy of Gene & Charlotte DuPree

A sunny day and clear night provided the perfect setting for the NCSF observance of Astronomy Day, 2009. An estimated 50 visitors observed through the Panarusky

Telescope and the new Solar scope. In addition, visitors were invited to take a Solar System walk or entertain their children with planned activities. Ten members set-up a variety of telescopes in the parking lot for evening viewing

Solar Viewing

June 7th

Gene and Charlotte Dupree were leaders for this first of two Solar viewing events this month. The Club's new Coronado Solar Scope was on hand. Although they reported a cloudy start, nearly 50 people were able to observe as clouds diminished. The event went from 11:00am to 5:30pm. This was an admission free day for State Parks which helped boost visitor attendance.

Solar Viewing

June 20th

Gene and Charlotte DuPree were leaders for this event. Starting at 2:00 pm. there was slight prominence activity in the Coronado. The solar dob was uncovered but showed no spots. Four other members attended the event and about 35 people from the public turned out to participate in the viewing. The evening continued mild and thin waves of clouds came in from the west after 10:00 pm that put a halt on viewing.

CURRENT CLACK

New Members

NCSF welcomes new Club Member

Joseph Eufemi

Leaders for Public Viewing

July 17 & 18

Public Viewing

Leaders needed

July 29

Sidewalk Astronomy

Jeff Setzer

Members Night

July 11

Sun-Day on Saturday

Kevin Bert

July 24 & 25

Open

Star Parties

Wisconsin Observers Weekend

July 23 - 26

Hartman Creek State Park, WB

www.new-star.org

Northwoods Starfest

August 21- 23

Fall Creek, WI

www.cvastro.org

Prairie Skies

September 17-20

4H Camp near Bourbonnais, IL

www.prairieskies.org

For Sale!

(Reduced)

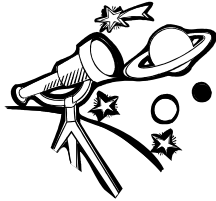
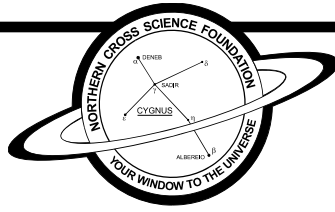
Meade LXD75 6" Refractor - \$500

Excellent Condition!

John Wedemeyer - 262-268-1352

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

SPECTRUM
 5327 Cascade Drive
 West Bend, WI 53095



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Astronomy Day Collage

By Mickey Kazmierski



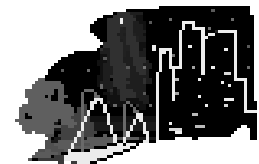
Our club has a "Discussion Group on Google"
 See our website: <http://www.ncsf.info/> for details.

SPECTRUM

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