

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

May 2013

LOOKING UP

May 2, Thursday

General Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Solar Viewing

7:00 p.m. - Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. - Main Meeting

May 15, Wednesday

Sidewalk Astronomy

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Bayshore Towne Center

May 17, Friday

Public Viewing

8:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach State Park

May 18, Saturday

Public Viewing

8:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach State Park

May 18, Saturday

Public Viewing

8:00 p.m.

Pike Lake State Park

May 26, Saturday

Astronomy Day

Street Festival

12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Port Washington

Public Viewing

8:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach State Park

June 2, Sunday

Solar Observing

Noon - 5:00 P.M

Harrington Beach

NCRAL 2014 Update...by Mickey Kazmierski

As you know, our NCSF Club will be hosting next year's NCRAL 2014 Event. Drum roll please...Here's our **Logo and Theme!**



And now, we are very excited to announce our Banquet and Keynote Speakers!

Professor of History-of Science University of California, Irvine Dr. Barbara J. Becker



Our Banquet speaker, Dr. Becker is the Author of *Unraveling Starlight: William and Margaret Huggins and the Rise of the New Astronomy*.

Dr. Becker graduated with a bachelor's degree in Physics from Goucher College; Towson, Maryland. She received a Master of Liberal Arts degree and a PhD degree both from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Her doctoral thesis dealt with the Huggins' husband-and-wife team and the origins of astrophysics. She has written many articles on the history of astronomy and has contributed to college science curricula. Dr. Becker also served as Advisor to

the **Television series "Women in Science,"** as well as being on the Committee of the American Astronomical Society's History of Astronomy Division. (Thanks to the DuPrees who were instrumental in procuring Dr. Becker.) Please check out Dr. Becker's website:

eee.uci.edu/clients/bjbecker/

PBS' Star Gazers! Dean Regas



Our Keynote Speaker, Dean Regas is the Co-Host of PBS' Star Gazers, a new twist on an iconic backyard astronomy program, made famous by *Jack Horkheimer*, which airs on over 100 PBS stations around the world!

Dean has been the Outreach Astronomer for **The Cincinnati Observatory** since 2000, which just happens to have celebrated their 168th year anniversary on April 27th! Dean has developed his skills as a dynamic writer and public speaker who brings the complicated field of astronomy down to Earth for all ages.

Dean is also a contributor to **Sky and Telescope Magazine and Astronomy Magazine**, and in 2008, he won the **Astronomy Magazine "Out-of-this-World" Award for Astronomy Education**. Dean has been featured on local television and radio news programs, has a weekly segment on Fox affiliate WXIX, and has interviewed renowned scientists for WVXU radio and CET Connect, an online video-on-demand site.

Continued on Pg. 2

April Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The April Business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at Unitarian Church North. Vice President Joyce Jentges opened the meeting at 8:00 pm and welcomed 19 members and guests. She welcomed all in attendance, and then asked for standard reports.

Gene DuPree said that the balance in the checkbook was \$9,313.77 and the Observatory account balance is at \$299.07. He reminded members that had not yet returned membership renewals to do it soon.

Secretary Kevin Bert noted that things were running late and the membership roster would be finalized next month and be included in the newsletter. The latest member to join was Jason Luck from West Bend.

The Astronomical League regional convention, (NCRAL), will be held on April 12 & 13 in Rochester Minnesota. The League was considering a 2017 national convention in Casper Wyoming to view the total solar eclipse on August 21st. A survey is on the League website for you to voice your opinion. There is a new Reflector

editor from New Mexico. His name is Ron Kramer and his bio is in the most recent publication.

Under old business, it was noted that the imaging committee had no activity over the last month.

Mickey Kazmierski said that 2014 NCRAL committee members met and decided on a logo & theme for the convention. "Gazing at the Stars." Mickey is pleased with the progress and would skip the next scheduled monthly meeting. She will update the club as more details develop.

Under very old business, Kevin said the binocular parallelogram project will be starting up again soon because of a foreseen reduction in his workload. He will note any progress.

Under new business, Joyce talked about the Memorial Day weekends Street Festival in Port Washington and our participation with our Astronomy Day. She continued with a list of upcoming NCSF events. April 19 is a non club telescope night at American Science & Surplus Milwaukee. Next activity will come in May on the 15th at Bayshore Town Center. May 17 & 18 at Harrington Beach are a public viewing nights. May 18th is also a night of telescope viewing at Pike Lake State Park.

A little bit of chatter occurred from members observations of comet PAN-STARRS. With no further business Joyce closed the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Continued from Pg. 1 (NCRAL 2014)



Last May Dean was interviewed on the **National Public Radio's Science Friday** about his eclipse chasing experience. (Committee member Rick Kazmierski is handling the arrangements with Dean.)

To read more on Dean Regas you can check him out on :

www.cincinnatiobservatory.org/stargazer.html

Your enthusiastic NCRAL 2014 Committee promise's there are more exciting surprises to come. Stay Tuned!

Things to See In the May 2013 Night Sky By Don Miles

Venus, Mercury, & Jupiter: All follow the setting Sun, with Venus (mag -3.9) setting first about 9pm at mid-month, and by about 9:30pm late in the month. Earlier in the month, Venus is too close to the Sun to be observed. Jupiter (mag -1.9) being the next to set (11pm/9:30pm) Mercury (mag -0.3) starts the month too close to the Sun as it's working its way around the back side, but will then be an evening object after about mid-month, and sets about (8:30pm/10pm). Special note...On the evening of the 28th, all three will be grouped very closely together, with Venus being a little over 1 degree above and to the right of Jupiter. Then, look 2.5 degrees above and to the left of Venus to find Mercury.

Saturn: Is up as the Sun is setting, and will transit (be highest in the sky, so typically the best viewing) at (1am/10:45pm), and will set after sunrise. It's still in the constellation Libra, but is slowly working its way westward, and will have moved into the constellation Virgo by the end of the month. It's a beautiful sight to see, and an easy one at (mag 0.3).

The "planet-imposter" **Pluto & Neptune:** Pluto rises about (12:30am/10:30pm) this month, and hasn't moved much (about 1.5 degrees to the East) from its location last season in Sagittarius, and at (mag 14.1),

is again an elusive object for most. Neptune is a much easier target, and rises about (3:30am/1:30am). It's at (mag 7.9) now, so is certainly within reach of even binoculars, but you'll need to hold them still. Even a small telescope (2-3") with a steady mount will show you the tinge of green that will tip you off that you're on target.

Mars & Uranus: Mars now rises right before the Sun this month, so will still be too close to be viewable. By mid-July, Mars will be a comfortable morning target again. Uranus rises about (5am/3am), and is at (mag 5.9). It's fairly faint (compared to the glare of the soon to rise Sun, but will get easier as the month progresses, as it will rise earlier and earlier, giving observers more dark observing time before our star rises.

Moon:

May 1st: Last Quarter

May 9th: New Moon

May 17th: First Quarter

May 24th: Full Moon

May 31st: Last Quarter

Special Events:

There will be a close grouping of Venus, Jupiter, & Mercury the night of the 28th.

There is only one meteor shower this month, and that will be the Eta-Aquarids. They'll peak the night of the 5th. The source of this shower is Halley's Comet, and peak rates are typically about 60/hr. If you look for them after midnight, but before 3am, you'll see more, as the Moon rises at 3:17am. These are known to have brilliant fireballs mixed in, leaving "smoke trails" as they pass.

Comet ISON is still very faint (mag 15.9), but will be moving out of Auriga, and into Gemini this month. By the end of the month, it will be midway down the "body" of the western-most twin of Gemini. It won't be bright enough to be easily seen for a while (around mid-summer). It will progressively get brighter and brighter as summer fades into fall, and should be an easy binocular target by late September. (You can find the latest finder charts and magnitude values at numerous places on the web, one of them being "www.heavens-above.com").



May General Meeting

101 Class... with Kevin Bert

The Astronomy 101 class for May will start with an opportunity to look at the sun through telescopes starting at 6:30 pm. The classroom portion will be presented at 7:15 by Kevin Bert and is taken from The Universe Sampler Manual entitled "The Sun." If overcast and no sun viewing is possible, the class will start at the usual 7:00 pm.

Constellation

Of the Month...



Main Program

"UNDAUNTED: The Forgotten Giants of the Allegheny Observatory"

Third time is a charm, or so we hope! After two consecutive months of equipment failure, we will once again attempt to show this DVD. Here is a brief recap of the film.

This video tells the remarkable stories of Samuel Pierpont Langley, John and Phoebe Brashear, and James Edward Keeler. Despite catastrophic setbacks and unrelenting hardships, these determined individuals defied the odds to make world-changing contributions to science and technology.

member Dustin Ebert and Prof. Jeff Wilkerson from Luther College. Dustin is putting the final touches on his hillside observatory which overlooks his vineyards and winery in the Zumbro River valley. His observatory utilizes a silo with a newly built detached building and for the dome he ordered a silo dome and assembled it on top of the silo. It was snowing when we arrived, so no viewing. We continued on with the Lasagna Dinner enjoying other amateur astronomers and Speakers.

Saturday morning speakers were interesting starting with Jack Wiltsie and his topic, "Seeing the Universe with New Eyes." Bill Davidson on "Building a 6 inch Refractor", and Randy Brock, a FOX 47 Meteorologist who spoke on "Atmospheric Optics".

Door Prizes won by club members, the Kazmierski's did well as Rick won an Astronomy Manual of his choice and Mickey a Celestron 25x70 Binoculars. Jeff Setzer won a unique coffee cup, ask him about it, he'll show you how it works! Dan Raasch won astronomy themed apparel.

Saturday afternoon continued with Fred Deters, "Viewing and photographing ISS Transits", David Schultz talking about his book on the "Andromeda Galaxy" and Dr. Dennis Robertson on the "Effects of Laser Pointers on the Eye". We could have a Main Program on that.

At the NCRAL Business meeting Gerry Kocken was elected to NCRAL Chair and Charlotte was re-elected for Vice-Chair. Mickey gave a PPP for next year's 2014 NCRAL.

The banquet dinner was delicious!, Followed by Banquet Speaker: Dr. William Sheehan – *When Believing is Seeing!*

To sum up this wonderful event, Gerry Kocken was the recipient of the NCRAL Annual Region Award! Charlotte DuPree read the nomination and presented the award. This award is given to an NCRAL member who demonstrates extraordinary skill and generosity of time and devotion to promoting amateur astronomy. Heartiest Congratulations Gerry!

Continued on Pg 4

RELATED INFO

Leaders for Public Viewing

May 15

Bay Shore Towne Center

Jeff Setzer

May 17

Harrington Beach

Leaders Needed

May 18

Harrington Beach

Leaders Needed

May 18

Pike Lake State Park

Gene & Charlotte DuPree

May 26

Port Washington

Gene & Charlotte DuPree

May 26

Harrington Beach

Leaders Needed

June 2

Harrington Beach

Leader Needed

STAR PARTIES - 2013

Wisconsin Observers Weekend

June 6 - 9

Hartman Creek State Park

www.new-star.org

Northwoods Starfest

August 9 - 11th

Hobbs Observatory

Fall Creek, WI

www.cvastro.org

Jim and Gwen Plunkett Observatory

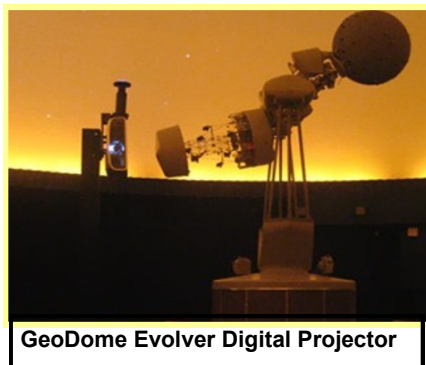


Observatory Director:
Dan Bert: 262-375-2239

NCRAL 2013 Rochester, MN

By Mickey Kazmierski

This year's event was put on by the RAC, Rochester Astronomy Club. The venue was held at the beautiful Kahler Grand Hotel



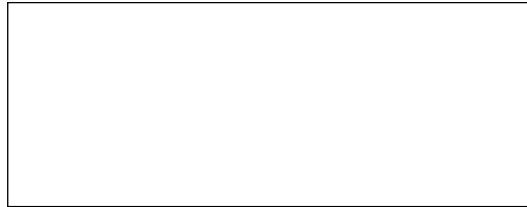
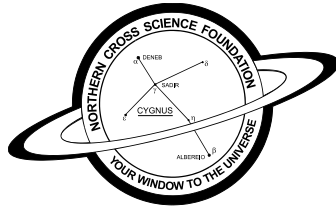
GeoDome Evolver Digital Projector

Friday afternoon started at the Mayo High School. Teacher Larry Mascotti gave his presentation in the Planetarium, "Going Outside our Solar System". MHS have recently upgraded to an Eluminati GeoDome Evolver Digital Projector, we really felt like we were traveling through the stars! After our "voyage", we then saw the Magic Planet Globe. A unique teaching device, illuminated, run by various software's to simulate other planets, solar systems, and of course our Earth. The "magic" is that it can take you on a trip to just about anywhere. This impressive High School is the Nation's only high school supporting a Magic Planet Digital Teaching Globe and a Planetarium. In 2008 the completely renovated planetarium added a large format digital projector and a 36 inch Magic Planet Globe.



Friday evening was spent at the Salem Glen Winery Tour, Taste, and Talk with club

SPECTRUM
 5327 Cascade Drive
 West Bend, WI 53095



2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Vice-President—Joyce Jentges
 102 N. Montgomery St. Apt #1
 Port Washington, WI 53074
 262-483-4270
 joycejentges@hotmail.com

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

Treasurer - Gene DuPree
 6219 Jay St.
 Myra, WI 53095
 262-675-0941
 grDuPree@charter.net

Rick Kazmierski
 262-305-1895

Dan Bert
 262-375-2239

Jennifer Ryan
 414-232-4338

Newsletter Editor & Publisher
 Rick & Mickey Kazmierski
 262-305-1895/ rickkaz@charter.net

Great Job RAC!



Gerry Kocken, Maryann, Charlotte and Gene DuPree

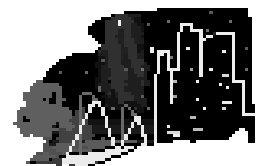


SPECTRUM

Is published by the Northern Cross Science Foundation, Inc. A nonprofit organization based in the state of Southeastern Wisconsin and is a Member of the North-Central Region of the Astronomical League.



The NCSF supports the International Dark sky association.



Send inquiries to:

SPECTRUM
 5327 Cascade Drive
 West Bend, WI 53095

This Issue, along with back Issues of SPECTRUM, can be found on the NCSF Web Site.
<http://www.ncsf.info>

Monthly Meeting Information

7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101
 7:30 Main Program
 Unitarian Church North
 13800 N. Port Wash. Rd.
 Mequon, WI 53097