

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

November 2005

LOOKING UP

November 3 Thursday

General Meeting

6:30 p.m. Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

Mars Viewing will take place

November 9th Wednesday

Mars Viewing

7:00—8:00 p.m.

Green Tree School,
1330 Green Tree, West Bend

(Nov. 10 rain date)

November 16 Wednesday

Buying a Telescope

Workshop

7:00 p.m.

Unitarian Church North

November 17 Thursday

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Home of Jeff Setzer

December 1 Thursday

General Meeting

6:30 p.m. Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

Annual Holiday Party

December 6 Tuesday

Buying a Telescope

Workshop

7:00 p.m.

Unitarian Church North

Observatory Update

By Jeff Setzer

Hello Friends! I have wonderful news as we head into the close of the observing year: our observatory project has been approved by DNR engineers. Our site plan is taking shape and our observatory location will be staked out on the property for our evaluation over the next few weeks. If you're out observing at Puckett's Pond and you see the stakes, be sure to take a walk through the area. Our final step with the DNR will be for the actual Board of Directors to approve our gift of the proposed building. This is where the final agreement is written down and submitted for their approval, and it will contain the language specifying that the building is owned by the DNR, and the contents are owned by the NCSF. We have some precedent from Wyalusing State Park and the Starsplitters of Wyalusing and those documents are being researched as we speak.

Andrew Krueger, the Property Manager for Harrington Beach State Park, has also introduced us to people at A.N. Ansay & Associates. We have been discussing their Luxembourg Village project in the Town of Belgium and light pollution was a major topic. To my delight, the manager of the project was very receptive to the idea of well-designed and tightly-controlled lighting for the entire property. Our ongoing discussions are very positive and I am hopeful that the Luxembourg Village lighting will not only reflect our needs, but also serve as an example for any future development in the area around Harrington Beach.

Fund raising has been very successful. We have been extremely fortunate to have several generous donations made toward the observatory, and we are well on our way to

meeting our fundraising goals. All NCSF members have the opportunity to make a financial contribution to the observatory, and no amount is too small. To all of those who have already donated money, time and talent to this enterprise, you have my sincere gratitude.

These are indeed exciting times for the NCSF! Look for more discussion in the winter months as we make preparations to break ground as soon as possible after the ground thaws. Thanks to all of you, I am supremely confident that we will achieve our goal of opening our new observatory in Spring 2006.



October Meeting Minutes By Kevin Bert

The October business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. Vice President Joyce Jentges opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. to 26 members and guests. She noted that Jeff and a number of other members were attending a star party in Kentucky and was expecting a full report next month. She thanked all attendees for being there and then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Rob Powell reports a balance of \$5,572.21 is in the checking account. Twenty-five 2006 calendars would be on sale for \$10.00 each. Only eight were already spoken for.

Secretary Kevin Bert welcomed new members Bob and Anabel Mason to the club.

Under old business Joyce said that the final brat fry at the Saukville Piggy Wiggly was the best this year. \$347 went into the building fund when the smoke cleared. She noted that telescopes were a big draw to the frying festivities. Dates would be set in the spring for next year's fundraisers. She said that the club would be in need of more helpers next year to make it successful. Rob noted that leftover soda from the fry was available for a small donation.

Joyce Jentges informed the membership that the order for shirts and hats has not yet arrived but is expected at any time. An order form for Astronomical League books and merchandise would be in the next newsletter.

Rob Powell said that the latest estimate for Observatory construction, including site preparation and miscellaneous items, would be close to \$14,000. Lists of other supporting equipment would push the cost up above the minimum estimate. Naming rights for the observatory were still open, hopefully for a large donation. When subtracting \$3,700 from previous years of observatory donations and fundraising and \$2200 from member's pledges there remains a balance of \$8,100 to come up with.

Paul Kamikawa stated that there is a need for some type of flyer that could be handed out to solicit donations for the observatory. Other members agreed. Rob said that a painless way for some people to donating would be a gift of appreciated stock. Instead of selling the stock and paying a large percent in taxes, it could be given to the club for it's full value and have tax benefits for the giver.

Rob Powell updated the membership on the latest with drawing approval for observatory construction. He was

confident that Plunkett architects now looking into it would resolve the DNR "Wisconsin Stamp" issue. Other state park meetings were looking favorable.

Joyce said that she had little contact with Belgium Luxembourg Cultural Heritage Center lighting issues. Paul Kamikawa volunteered to stay on top of it and report to the club.

Under new business, Bob Sedgwick turned over the original drawings he had made for construction of the 20-Inch Panarusky telescope. He thought that it would be best if they were kept with the club.

Joyce gave a brief account of Astrofest and went over the upcoming activities at Harrington Beach on Oct. 28 & 29 as the club reaches the end of the public observing season.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Bert, secretary

Statistics About The Panarusky Telescope

By Robert Powell and Kevin Bert

What has it taken to build the Panarusky Telescope?

Machining - 600 hours (thanks to Carlson Tool and Manufacturing). 500 hours could be charged to a shop rate of \$60—70 per hour. The other 100 hours were for planning or machining components we could have purchased for less.

Welding of steel plates - 60 hours Cost - \$1,150 (includes cost of plate purchase)

Optics - 250 hours Cost - \$2,767 includes: 68 hours to build and test the mirror grinding machining & stand; 163 hours to rough grind, finish grind, and polish the mirror.

Miscellaneous (Design, Painting, Planning) - 290 hours Cost - \$0

Grand Total: 1200 hours and \$3,917 for a 2,000 pound, 20" research-grade telescope balanced so perfectly you can slew it with your little finger. Replacement value: \$35,000

Fundraising Update**By Rob Powell**

The observatory fundraising effort is growing in momentum. The average pledge has been an astronomical \$1,059. A public thanks goes out to all that have already pledged so generously.

If you haven't already pledged or made a cash gift, you'll find a donation request letter enclosed with this issue.

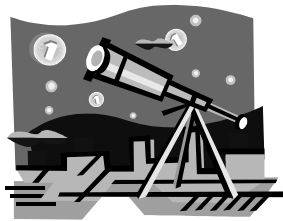
Please respond as generously as you are able. Every donation dollar helps, regardless of size. At press time, we're 86% of the way to our goal, just \$3,350 short. Pledge payments can be made between now and the end of March, 2006.

Astronomy 101 And Main Program**By Kevin Bert**

The November 101 class will be a group observing night if weather permits. Prior to that, at 6:30, Kevin Bert will go over an observing list of objects to search for. Mars will be the prime target as it is near opposition. A DVD from the Astronomical League will be shown thorough out the evening for members inside the facility to promote the regional convention in 2006. Be sure to watch this brief presentation when you are in getting a snack. It

sounds like an event that all members would appreciate and should plan for.

With the viewing night, there will be no main program. Bring out that telescope, and dress appropriately.



Update on the merchandise order: I will distribute items at the meeting. There will be a delay on the hats, because Infinteess was not happy with the printing on the hats, but after showing samples to some members, we have decided to have them printed. More regarding this at the meeting. If you have not yet paid, I will expect payment at the meeting, as the bill will be paid soon.

New address: As of November 6th, my new address will be 102 N. Montgomery St. Apt #1, Port Washington, WI 53074. As of now the phone will stay the same, but remember to use my new email address which is listed on page 4.

It's not too late!!!! You can still sign up to get your newsletter online! Just send me an email, and tell me you want to get your email online, and I will add you to the online newsletter list starting in December.

Looking for an unusual way to show your interest in astronomy? The U.S. Postal Service has constellation stamps! The 37 cent stamps feature constellations such as Pegasus, and Leo. Take a look at your newsletter for an example!

From the Editor**By Joyce Jentges**

Are you starting to think about the holidays? I know I am. It's sad to see another season of observing come to an end. I hope that you have been able to dodge the clouds and get out to see some nice views of Mars.

With the end of the year coming, that means we need to think about election of officers for our December meeting. Jeff Setzer will open nominations at the November meeting. Considering all the action with the observatory, the board members will be busy next year. If you

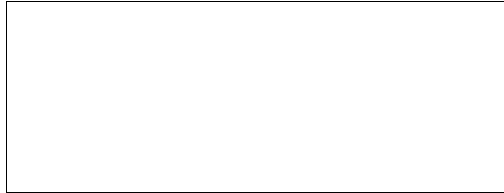
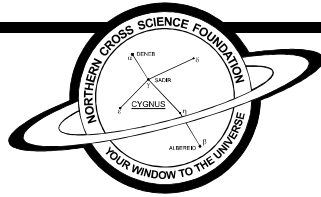
are interested in being a part of this, perhaps you would consider being nominated for the board?

The October 28 and 29 Public Viewing Nights were successful. The Friday night had very good skies, but few guests. Saturday night for the Haunted Hike, Park Rangers estimate a crowd of 400-500 people. We did have to deal with lots of headlights, so dark adaption wasn't great, but we did get some very good exposure. Clouds were also numerous for Satur-

day night, but we were able to focus on some showpiece objects. One thing I did notice was that there were members from Wehr Astonomical Society set up too. Seems they like our choice of sites.

In December the club will have their annual holiday party. Members are invited to bring goodies to share.

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Monthly Meeting Location
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556190



For Sale:

Orion Paragon-Plus Binocular

Mount & Tripod

Great for star gazing or terrestrial viewing! Sells for \$279 new, plus shipping. May be viewed on Orion's www.telescope.com website. Asking \$175 or \$200 with Bushnell 16x50 binoculars. Proceeds will be donated to the Northern Cross Science Foundation's Observatory to be built at Harrington Beach State Park.

Kip 262-375-8952

For Sale: Astronomy Calendars

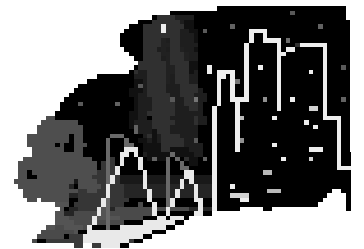
Calendars are \$10.00 each. If you have already signed up for one, you may pay Rob Powell at the November meeting. Extra calendars are available. They make great gifts too!

SPECTRUM

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<http://www.ncsf.info>