

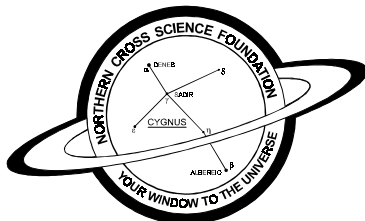
# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

October 1998

## LOOKING UP

- Oct. 1 Thursday**  
**Astronomy 101**  
**7:00 PM**  
**General Meeting**  
**7:45 PM**  
**Carlson Tool & Mfg.**
- Oct. 21 Wednesday**  
**Board Of Directors**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Jeff Setzer's House**
- Oct. 24 Saturday**  
**Public Viewing**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Webster School**  
**Cedarburg**
- Oct. 31 Saturday**  
**Public Viewing**  
**Halloween Hike**  
**6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**  
**Harrington Beach**  
**State Park**



A Publication Of  
The Northern Cross  
Science Foundation

## Northwoods Starfest Part 2

By Jeff Setzer

After hanging around the observatory for a while, we realized that it was getting dark outside. So we headed out the door, and the view was glorious! I would rate the skies at Hobbs as a little darker than Wau-paca. The southern sky was definitely the best I've seen in Wisconsin.

Early on, we observed the faint fuzzies, and then after 3:00 am, the seeing got very steady and we looked at the planets for a long time. Many people came by my 22" to get some looks, and we had a bit of a crowd until after 4:00

am. Kevin and Danny went to bed as the dawn was just starting to break, but I decided to take down my scope before I went to sleep. I hit the bunk around 6:00 am.



Daytime activities inside the Hobbs Observatory included mirror grinding and testing, vendor tables, swapp tables and

Rumbling thunder jolted me from my slumber. My first thought was "OH NO, THE SCOPE!" But then I remembered that I put the scope away before I went to sleep. What relief! Still, although it was 10:30 am, I was awake. And I did leave my ladder and lawn chair outside, so I decided to

(See **WOODS** on page 2)

## Astronomical League

Taken from their web site

Here are the names of the elected officers for our region of the Astronomical League. The 1999 NCRAL Convention is slated for Cedar Rapids, IA; Date To be announced.

### Chairman

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### Representative

(See **League** on page 3)



# September Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The September meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held in the conference room of Carlson Tool & Mfg. in Cedarburg. The Astronomy 101 class preceded the business meeting.

President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. to over 25 people.

The last public nights at Riv-eredge and Pike Lake were talked about. Upcoming activities for September were reviewed.

Kevin Bert gave an up-



date on the 20-inch Panarusky Telescope. He reported that the optics were nearing completion and extra machining time was becoming available to manufacture some of the remaining components needed to make the telescope minimally operational. Saturday, September 26th was the tentative date set for a showing of the telescope to the contributors.

Brad Plaumann gave a rundown on the amount and number of contributors to the Panarusky Telescope. The total amount raised fell slightly short of the \$2,000 that would be matched by an anonymous

donor. Thanks to Rudy Zarlings efforts, it was thought that the \$2,000 mark would be surpassed sometime soon.

Kevin Bert handed out issues of the Northern Lights and gave directions to his home for the upcoming members night on September 19th.

The business meeting was closed by Jeff Setzer at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Bert, secretary

(WOODS from page 1)

cruise over and put those items away before it rained. Then I wandered back to the camp lodge for a tasty breakfast.

The rest of the day was lazy and relaxing. After hitting the showers, I hung out at the vendor tables. My pretense was that I was looking for a pair of binoculars, but I really just liked to be inside of that wonderful observatory. I



One of the five cabins.



Another look inside the observatory.

should have guessed that the weather forecast was really poor when they set up the vendors *inside* of the observatory clubhouse. Sure enough, it didn't take long for the rain to start. There were some talks in the nature center down the road from the observatory, but the rain kept me from attending. So, I read some magazines and hung

around the Eagle Optics table some more. Still looking at those binoculars. Before dinnertime, I succumbed to the evil forces and purchased a pair of Swift 9x63s. But I wondered if I'd get a chance to use them.

After a hearty dinner, most folks went into the observatory and waited out the storm. The beauty of the clubhouse was made apparent during that Satur-



Dan Bert inside our Cabin

day night. There we were, in the middle of a downpour, and we're watching the weather report on a big-screen TV. Looks like a tornado watch for our area...what to do? How about popping in the John Dobson video on how to make your own telescope? That entertained us for a few hours! Plus, they set up the "midnight snack" an hour early. It was the most fun I've had during the rainy part of any star party. All in all, the weekend was a big success. The skies alone are worth the



Spacious dining facilities

trip. But when you factor in the on-site facilities, and the well-planned programs and meals, the Northwoods Starfest is one of the "best buys" in star parties anywhere.

(League from page 1)

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**1998** Convention: Des Moines, IA;  
May 4, 1998.

**1999** Convention: Cedar Rapids, IA;  
To be announced.

**2000** Convention: LaCrosse, WI; To  
be announced.

## CURRENT CLACK

### Panarusky 20" Telescope

The 4.0 inch secondary mirror was ordered from eOptics. It will arrive near the time of our October meeting. It was decided that the club should purchase the mirror un-coated and pay the extra money to have the secondary sent to QSP for a special high reflective enhanced coating. This will, in effect, make the telescope capable of collecting more light. The spider for the secondary holder is in place. The holder itself is next on the list of things to make. It will contain an AstroSystems dew chaser circuit board. It will slowly warm the temperature of the glass a few degrees above the air temperature to keep dew from forming.

A special showing of the 20-inch Panarusky telescope was given to contributors of the telescope on September 26th at 3:00 p.m. at Carlson Tool. Everyone was pleased with the results to date and were optimistic of it being completed in the near future. Photos were taken of the group gathered around the scope. Two newspapers that could not attend, published articles before the event.

## Astronomy 101

The October meeting 101 topic will be "Collimating A Newtonian." Jeff Setzer will demonstrate the steps for proper optical alignment using some special tools. There are a number of ways to achieve collimation. Some are better than others. Even if you don't use a Newtonian, this is a subject that deserves some attention to know how to recognize poor collimation in any telescope.

scope Maintenance by Al Steinberg.



The highlighted constellation will be Perseus .  
The November 101 topic will be Tele-

## From The Editor

By Kevin Bert

A strofest was great this year. Six representatives from the NCSF were in attendance. Loren Krug, Jeff Setzer, Mike Malloy, Charlotte Nelson, Dan Bert and myself. There were two wonderful nights of viewing through some of the most interesting telescopes.

Planetary viewing was predominate on most viewers list. Especially after the moon rose around midnight. This gave Jupiter and Saturn a chance to get higher in the sky. I must



say that Jeff's 22" StarMaster ruled on the planets when the seeing conditions improved. Ganymede and it's shadow were easily seen in transit across the face of Jupiter. Numerous fine markings were seen on the face of Jupiter and Saturn was sharp and steady over 500X. It always fascinates me when I can compare the views of the same object in different scopes.

It must have been close to record attendance. People seemed to be camping in every imaginable spot next to the observing field. Our

group was fortunate to be able to set up near the center of the field. The club's canopy tent is getting a lot of usage. It makes a great base of operation. The flea market was very impressive. It seems to get bigger every year. As usual, I spent more money than I should have. I am slowly getting components for my 17.5" Coulter optics. I need to construct a telescope that is easier to transport.

Getting back to the Spectrum now. Things are getting a bit easier when it comes to getting it ready for the printer. I just have to remember to keep at putting pieces of it together throughout the

(See **EDITOR** on page 4)

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*(Editor from page 3)*

month, instead of doing marathon sessions the nights before.

Thanks to all the people that attended my Members night on September 19th. I had a great time. Thirteen club members were in attendance. It was a decent night, that had little dew and clear skies. Transparency was poor but seeing was better than average. I had seen something that I don't recall ever seeing. Jupiter appeared to have a thin dark ring of material around the Great Red Spot.

It would be nice if we could schedule at least one more members night this year. There is more one on one time for members that need a little help.

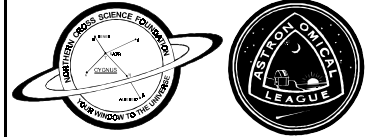
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**Check out our great site  
On the World Wide Web  
<http://www.gxsc.com/ncsf>**

## SPECTRUM

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