

# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

September 2013

## Looking Up

September 5, Thursday

### General Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. - Main Program

Business Meeting to follow

September 11, Wednesday

### Sidewalk Astronomy

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

Bayshore Towne Center

September 13, Friday

### Public Viewing

7:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

September 14, Saturday

### Public Viewing

7:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

September 14, Saturday

### Community Campfire

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Pike Lake

September 21, Saturday

### After Summer Hike

9:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

September 28, Saturday

### MEMBERS NIGHT

#### "Small Scope Party"

7:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

(See article Page 1)

October 3, Thursday

### General Meeting

## Mark your Calendar - Small Scope Star Party - September 28, 2013

By Kevin Bert

A special night is once again being set aside for you and others to gaze through those amazing little instruments that are often neglected. It may be the simple refractor or other similar aperture-challenged telescopes but all are welcome at the fifth "Small Scope Star Party," (SSSP), on Saturday September 28th at Harrington Beach State Park. No feelings of aperture inadequacy here as you might at other star parties. Feel right at home and have a chance to learn from other members as advice runs freely. A starting time of 7:00 pm. will allow time to set up and enjoy the variety of scopes before it gets dark. Expect views of Venus close to Saturn over the western horizon. A moon two days after last quarter will allow for hours of deep sky viewing.

Our goal is to have all members attend and you are in no way obligated to bring a telescope. Members are encouraged to bring as many small scopes as possible. I know some of you have two or more lurking in attics, closets and basements. Even if they are only tube assemblies, bring them all! I hope to see the parking lot full of them either set up or only on display. The night will be treated very much like a members night. Scaled up enough to call it a party, scaled down, (in aperture), enough to appreciate the joy, (and sometimes frustration), of small scopes. Though this event is for members, be aware that some campers from the park might stop in to check out the activity. Members should use the parking lot to set up and the observatory

will remain closed to focus on the small scope theme.

We will open up the observatory and have an 11:00pm snack. Members can assist by bringing food and beverages if you wish. If it turns out to be a night to look at your scope instead of through it because of clouds, please consider still bringing your scope so those in attendance can still appreciate it.

### SSSP RULES

Like other classy events, a few ground rules need to be set up. This is to insure that no bloated aperture light buckets ruin the setting. This is strictly a visual equipment event.

Please don't set up photographic accessories.

- 1) No telescopes over 6.0-Inch in aperture are permitted to be set up
- 2) Larger scopes, stopped down do not qualify
- 3) Telescopes of any optical configuration, (Reflector, Refractor, Catadioptric), are acceptable
- 4) No binoculars please
- 5) No photon amplification equipment allowed. Visual use only!
- 6) Items for sell or trade are permitted. (And Encouraged)

## Neil deGrasse Tyson Says Long-Awaited *Cosmos* Sequel Tells 'Greatest Story Ever Told'

By Rachel Edidin

Space fans have been waiting a long time for a sequel to Carl Sagan's ground breaking documentary series *Cosmos* — 33 years, to be exact. Next year they'll finally get that long-awaited follow-up, and it'll be hosted by everyone's favorite astrophysicist, **Neil deGrasse Tyson**.

"*Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*", which will air on Fox in 2014, is meant to take the groundwork of Sagan's brilliant 1980 series and expand it for modern audiences. It will also, according to Tyson, build on that show's ability to be more than just a televised science book.

(Continued on Pg 2)



"Cosmos Sequel"

Hosted by: Neil deGrasse Tyson

## August Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The August Business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at Unitarian Church North. President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 7:40 pm and welcomed 24 members and guests. Jeff then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Gene DuPree reports that the balance in the checkbook was \$10,088.69 and \$1,050.00 in the Observatory account.

Secretary Kevin Bert noted that the membership roster was up to 67. The latest members were Walter and Jane Gersmehl from Sheboygan. The Astronomical League national convention, (ALCON), will take place on July 24 – 27 in Atlanta.

Jeff noted the 195<sup>th</sup> birthday of the first female US astronomer, Maria Mitchell.

Mickey Kazmierski reports that the NCRAL 2014 committee has 4 confirmed speakers and the Friday field trip will be to the Harley Davidson Museum.

Observatory Director Dan Bert reported that Robert Powell would be at the observatory tonight.

Jeff Setzer covered upcoming events for August. The Bog program is on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sidewalk Astronomy at Bayshore on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Harrington Beach PVN on the 16 & 17, Horicon telescope viewing also on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Pike Lake PVN is on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The 31<sup>st</sup> is the Ice age center.

With no further business Jeff closed the meeting at 8:15 pm.



**“Cosmos Sequel”** (Continued from Pg 1)

“Cosmos spent time learning—exploring—how to make science matter to you, as a human being, as a citizen, as a species with the capacity to reflect on its own existence. And those kind of messages are timeless,” Tyson told reporters following a screening of the documentary at Comic-Con International in San Diego. “They’re layered onto whatever is the science of the day, but it’s the science of the day that gives us knowledge about how to think about our place in the universe.”

Sagan’s widow Ann Druyan, who co-wrote and produced the first series along with Sagan and Steven Soter, is producing *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*. She noted that while the original was about how science discovered Earth’s coordinates in space and time, the new *Cosmos* looks to the future.

“This series is still about that same thing, but we’re telling a completely different set of stories, establishing the coordinates, but then jumping off from there,” Druyan told reporters.

The show’s crew includes a who’s who of science fiction veterans, including director

Brannon Braga, who won a Hugo award for his work as a writer and producer on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and director of photography Bill Pope, who was also the cinematographer on the *Matrix* trilogy. The particular expertise of *Family Guy* creator Seth MacFarlane, who was instrumental in not only getting the show off the ground but winning it its prime-time spot on the Fox network, will be visible in the new *Cosmos* as well. In the new series, the live-action historical reenactments of the original series will be largely replaced with animation in what Braga described as “a sophisticated graphic novel-type style.”

Since it’s been more than three decades since the first *Cosmos*, there are now far more visual effects that can be utilized to enhance the impact and the scope of the series.

“As humans, we like hearing stories,” Tyson said. “We have what I think is the greatest story ever told: the story of the universe, and our place within it, and how we came to discover our place within it. And finally, we have the methods and tools to bring that to the screen.”

Some of the new effects will update concepts and images introduced in the original show, like the cosmic calendar. “With Brannon’s talent we could take the cosmic calendar, which actually had cardboard dinosaurs on it in the original, and

*Continued on Pg 4*

## Things to See In the September 2013 Night Sky

By Don Miles

**Mercury:** Follows very close to the Sun as it sets almost the same time early in the month, but falls behind by about 45 minutes by month’s end. It’s at (mag -0.3), but its brightness won’t help observers as much as it would normally because it’s so close to the Sun. Because of that, it will be a difficult object this month.

**Venus & Saturn:** Venus continues to stay about an hour behind the Sun, and is now at about (mag -4.1) this month, so it is an easy object for the rest of the year. Saturn is in the constellation Virgo, is still up at sunset, and will set about (10:15/8:30pm). It’s still an amazing sight, and this month it’s at (mag 0.7), so take a look now while it’s still relatively warm. It will set closer to the Sun as fall progresses, and by mid-November, will turn into a morning object.

**Pluto, Neptune & Uranus:** Pluto transits at sunset, sets about (1:30am/11:30pm) in the constellation Sagittarius. It will be as high and bright as it’ll get at a blazing (mag 14.1), so if you haven’t already track it down before, do so before it “fades”. Neptune (mag 7.8) rises in the constella-

tion Aquarius already at sunset, and will transit at about (1am/11pm) this month. Uranus follows Neptune by about 2 hours, so will rise about (9pm/sunset). It’s in the constellation Pisces, and is at (mag 5.7) now. It transits at about (3:30/1:30am), so the best views will be in the morning.

**Jupiter & Mars:** Brilliant Jupiter is at (mag -2.1) now, so will be hard to miss in the morning sky, and rises about (2:15/12:30am) in the constellation Gemini. Mars rises about (3:30/3am) also in Gemini, and is at a respectable (mag 1.6). The views of Mars will only get better as fall/winter progress, as Mars is on its way to opposition next spring.

**Moon:**

September 5th: New Moon

September 12th: First Quarter

September 19th: Full Moon

September 26th: Last Quarter

### Special Events:

There is only one meteor shower to watch for this month...the Aurigids. They will “peak” the morning of the 1st, but these have very unpredictable in the past, with mostly minimal sightings, but like any of the other showers...nobody can predict for sure. If you happen to have the opportunity, or might be out observing anyways, you might be in for a rare happening. The moon will have already set at 4:30pm, so won’t be an issue. Good luck.

Comets...There is one that should be worth taking a look at, and that is Comet Garrard. It’s in the constellation Hercules, and about (mag 7.0), so should be an easy binocular object. Check the web for its current position & brightness.



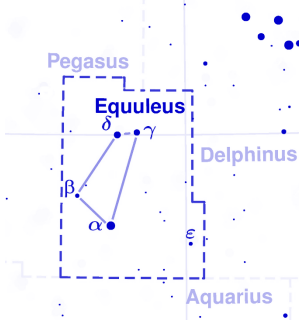
## September General Meeting

### 101 Class... with Kevin Bert

The Astronomy 101 class for September is entitled "Telescope Basics" by Kevin Bert. Pick up some sound advice on operating a telescope. There are a number of details to consider for a productive and satisfying viewing experience. Come see if these basics match the ones you are familiar with.

The Constellation of the month:

### Equuleus



### Main Program with Al Steinberg

You have had your reflecting telescope for a few years and it is time to address a maintenance issue that you have been putting off for some time. How do I clean my optics? Choices seem endless and methods are many. You read that it is important to do it, but just how often? Cleaner, Alcohol, Detergent or Distilled Water? Soak it, Brush it or Rub it? Lens tissue, Cotton Balls or Towel?

It is time to get down and dirty! Oh, bad choice of words. How about, Roll up your sleeves and make it sparkle. See a demo from long time member Al Steinberg on the tried and true method to make your telescope perform up to its potential. The only thing left is collimation. But that is a topic for another day.

## August Events

### Cedarburg Bog August 3

Reported by Dan Bert

With summer events in full swing and the county fair going on only about a dozen people showed up for the viewing night at the Cedarburg bog UWM field station. A program on the upcoming Perseids meteor shower and the planet Saturn was given by Kevin prior to viewing. The skies were dark and clear and viewing took place into the night well after visitors departed. Notable objects found included the blue flash, a recent object from the constellation of the month. A big thank you to Rich Sauve, Rick Dusenbery, Kevin Bert and Jeff Setzer for helping with the event. The bog was appreciative of our efforts, we received a thank you letter and donation for the event.

### Bayshore Towne Center August 14

Reported by Charlotte DuPree

Bayshore Mall. Gene and Charlotte DuPree, Carol Nelson, Don Miles, Bob Radtke. It was the day after first quarter Moon, and the Straight Wall was putting on a very good show. We had the usual steady flow of people, some stayed long enough to enjoy all of the scopes and they showed lots of interest in stargazing.

### Harrington Beach August 16 & 17th

Reported by Kevin Bert

Both nights were clear with an estimated 50 and 80 guests from the public attending. It was enough to create long lines behind the 20-inch Scope. Venus, Saturn and the Moon were easy early objects. The bright moonlight limited the number of deep sky objects to view. Thanks to observatory assistants Dan Bert and Scott Nehring also members Al Steinberg, Rich Sauve, and Joyce Jentges.

### Horicon Marsh August 17

Reported by Charlotte DuPree

Clear skies. Gene and Charlotte, Rick D. were present. We looked at Venus, Saturn, and the usual brighter objects with a Moon three days after first quarter. We had a captive crowd when the movie night was over. There was a limited sky area to look at, because the parking lot lights can not be turned off. So this will be the last public viewing at Horicon other than their candle light ski & hike in January.

### Pike Lake State Forest August 24

Reported by Charlotte DuPree

Gene and Charlotte, Carol Nelson, Al Steinberg, Gail and Harvey Sherman, Rick D. Rick and Georgine Poulin. Good sky and we looked at a lot of objects until the Moon came up. Mostly people from the campground came.

### Northwoods Starfest

Reported by Mickey Kazmierski August 9 - 11th

NCSF members in attendance, Kevin and Dan, Rick, Harvey and Gail, Charlotte and Gene, Rick, Nic and Mickey For those of you who haven't been, you need to try it at least once! Wooded surroundings, wide open area to view, delicious meals, speakers, swap-sell, prizes (our entire group all won something). Fri. night cloudy, but at the midnight snack hour everyone gathered and visited in the red-light lit lodge. Saturday was partly sunny, afforded some solar viewing and Saturday night a little cloudy, clear enough to view, to see one of those great fire balls soar through the sky, all this along with a good preview showing of the Perseids Meteor shower.. Photo's on Pg 4

## RELATED INFO

### New Members

NCSF Welcomes New Club Members



**Jaime Hansen**  
**Mequon**

**Troy Thompson**  
**Union Grove**

### Leaders for Public Viewing

#### September 11

Bayshore Towne Center  
Jeff Setzer

#### September 13

Harrington Beach  
Leaders Needed

#### September 14

Harrington Beach  
Leaders Needed

#### September 14

Pike Lake  
Gene and Charlotte DuPree

#### September 21

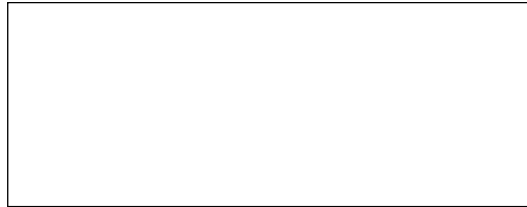
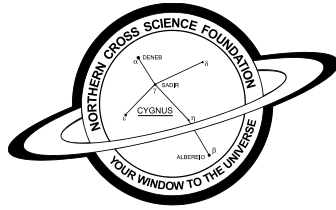
Harrington Beach  
Leaders Needed

**Jim and Gwen Plunkett**  
**Observatory**



**Observatory Director:**  
**Dan Bert: 262-357-1943**

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### “Cosmos Sequel” (Continued from Pg 2)

turn it into something that was, I think, even grander and more representative of that great football field of time,” said Druyan.

Above all, the goal of Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey is meant to recapture the accessibility and broad appeal of the first series. However, the creators aren’t looking to preach to the space-loving converted. Instead, they’ll use the show’s network placement and prime-time slot to reach the people who might not have found the series otherwise. “We’re doing exactly what Carl Sagan would have done, which is to go to the broadest possible audience and try to touch each and every person, Druyan said. Creating a show with that level of accessibility is the best hope for a return to a science-literate—and more science-passionate—society.

“That’s what Cosmos is about. It’s about a hopeful vision of the future,” Druyan said, “It’s about the future we could still have—it’s not too late—that is within our grasp if we could just awaken from this stupor that we’re in.”

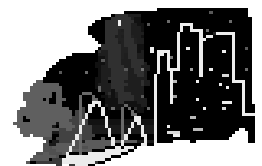


### SPECTRUM

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The NCSF supports the International Dark sky association.



**Send inquiries to:**  
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<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