

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

August, 2018

Looking Up

August 9, Thursday

(Note Meeting date change)

General Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. - Main Program

Business Meeting Follow

August 4, Saturday

Public Viewing

8:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

Pike Lake Campground

August 11, Saturday

Small Scope Star Party

(See article—Page 3)

August 16, Thursday

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

House of Jeff Setzer

August 17, Friday

Public Viewing

8:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach State Park

August 18 Saturday

Public Viewing

9:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach State Park

August 30, Thursday

NCRAL 2020 Meeting

7:30 p.m.

House of Mike Borchert

September 1, Saturday

Evening with Nature

6:30 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

Ice Age Visitors Center

September 6, Thursday

General Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. - Main Program

Business Meeting to Follow

Notice

Mark Your Calendar

The NCSF General Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, August 2 has changed. It has been rescheduled for the following week, Thursday, August 9th.



Alcon 2018 by Mike Borchert



Jeff Setzer, Rick Kaz, & Mike Borchert discussing Deep Astronomical Mysteries at Alcon 2018. Gayle Borchert & Mariah Kaz also attended.

The Astronomical League Convention, ALCON took place July 10-13, in Minneapolis (Bloomington), Minnesota. This was my first National Conference, did not know what to expect. The Minnesota Astronomical Society (MAS) helped to sponsor the event. There was quite an agenda. Daytime activities at the Hilton Airport hotel featured speakers, typically 2 speakers in the morning, and 3 in the afternoon. I did not sign up for any field trips, I did not want to fall asleep due to late night observing, and from what I heard, there was some late night observing. Day time

sessions ranged from subjects on NASA Science Education Program, Connecting with the Deep Sky, Creating a Great Backyard Sky show, Galaxy Clusters, The Traveling Astronomer, Using Your eyes as an Instrument, Gravitational Waves, Mass Loss in Hyper-giant Stars, Communicating with, and in today's Social Media, Space Law and many more. Workshops included Mirror Making, Night Sky Network, and Telescope Collimation.

MAS had field trips also, and if you're ever in the Minneapolis area you should go. They included the Museum of Minnesota, Eagle Lake Observatory, Bell Museum and Planetarium, John Tate Hall and Observatory, Cherry Grove Observatory, and the Baaken Museum. Tons of telescopes, expert astronomers, good discounts on astronomy software. I did stay later one night for a talk on Astrophotography. Ever play with the idea that there is life out there? One such talk explored the pros and cons of that possibility; I enjoyed that one.

Saturday evening concluded the convention with an awards banquet and guest speaker Dr. Pamela Gay. You might know Dr. Pamela Gay from the Pod Cast, "Astronomy Cast" which Jeff has highlighted in his electronic media series.

July Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The July 2018 Business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the GSC Technology Center in Germantown. President Jeff Setzer called the meeting to order at 8:25pm and welcomed 13 members and guests. Attendance was down due to the holiday weekend. Jeff then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Gene Dupree tells the membership that the checking balance is \$12,841.97 and the Observatory balance remains at \$418.49.

Secretary Kevin Bert reports no change in the membership roster and the total remains at 54. Under Astronomical League news the 2018 National Convention (ALCON) will take place next week. Three members will make the trip to Minneapolis.

Observatory Director fill in, Kevin Bert, reports that Dan is looking for leaders and assistants for the July 20 & 21. Contact Dan

if a scheduled night is clear on your calendar and you are willing to help.

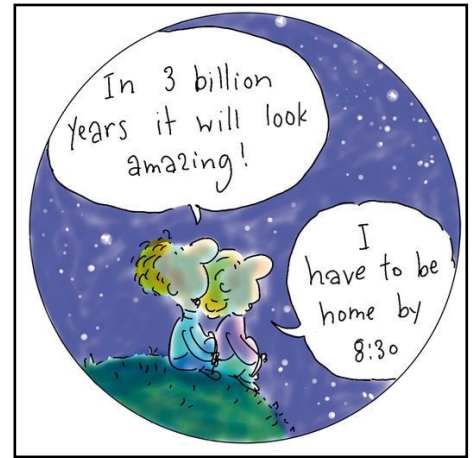
It was noted that Ernie Mastroianni has imaged the Cocoon nebula recently. Friday and Saturday night will be opportunities to join him if you want to learn the process. More nights will be scheduled.

2020 NCRAL Convention meeting did not meet last month. July 26 will be the next meeting. Contact Jeff Setzer for time and location if you are interested in attending.

Gene and Charlotte Dupree are taking orders for 2019 calendars. Contact them if you would like one.

With no new business Jeff reminded members of this weekend's pre WOW star party that runs up to Thursday the 12th when Wisconsin Observers Weekend starts. July 20 & 21 are public viewing nights at Harrington Beach.

With no further business Jeff closed the meeting at 8:35 pm.



Pictures in this Newsletter are best viewed in the digital publication members receive monthly by email.

It can also be viewed online at WWW.NCSF.info.

Harrington Beach Imaging Report *By Ernie Mastroianni*

Consistently clear skies during the week of the July 4 holiday presented long-delayed imaging opportunities for club members at the Plunkett Observatory.

During a three-night run on July 3, 6, and 7, we photographed the Cocoon Nebula (IC 5146), the Fireworks Galaxy (NGC 6946) paired with open cluster NGC 6939, the Veil Nebula, and the classic globular cluster M13. Three of these four deep-sky objects are in Cygnus and M13 was directly overhead in Hercules. We used the 5-inch refractor and the SBIG 8300 astrophotography camera, as well as an unmodified Canon DSLR for M13.

Participating in the imaging runs were members Kevin Bert, Mike Borchert, Jim Macak, Ernie Mastroianni, Aris Penikis and Richard Yzaguirre. Everyone spent the long hours necessary to coordinate the many elements needed to take multiple subframes of each object. Due to the complexity of the process, an entire evening was necessary to suitably photograph just one object. We had much to consider. What objects would be best suited for the 950mm focal length of the telescope, how to best center each object for ideal composition, precise focusing, and knowing how to work the various programs that run the guide scope camera, the main SBIG camera, and the Celestron mount. We used Nebulosity 4 to run the SBIG camera, and PHD (Push Here Dummy) to run the guiding camera. We had glitches each night, but because this was a group effort, our collective knowledge came in handy to solve problems. If you'd like to be part of an imaging run,

please send a message to ernie.mastroianni@gmail.com and I'll include you on our list of people that are notified when an upcoming imaging session is scheduled.



This version of M13 was captured on Richard Yzaguirre's Canon DSLR. The globular cluster is 22,000 light years from us.



The Cocoon Nebula lies 3,300 light years away in Cygnus and is classified as an emission and reflection nebula. It's also an



The Western Veil of the much larger Veil Nebula is also known as the Witch's Broom. The bright star is 52 Cygni, about 201 light years away. The nebula is far more distant, at about 1,450 light years.



Ten supernovae have been observed in The Fireworks Galaxy since 1917, which accounts for the name of this spiral galaxy 22 million light years away. It is paired with open cluster NGC 6939, which is much closer at about 3,800 light years from Earth.

August General meeting

Astronomy 101 - Kevin Bert

"Star Hopping"

The August 101 class is The Universe Sampler chapter 6 "Star Hopping." Spending some time learning your way around the night sky is essential when looking for objects with star charts. There are a number of things one can do to help you in what is called Star Hopping. It is a very rewarding skill that needs practice to be efficient. This class will look at the basics and additional things for you to consider.

Constellation of Month: Ursa Major

Main Program

"To Be Announced"

Astrophysicist, Dr Angela Van Sistine was scheduled to speak at the August 2nd Meeting, but I am currently unsure if she will be available for August 9th meeting. If not, we can hopefully reschedule her for later in the year. Her topic will be "The Interstellar Medium".

Our backup program will be another episode of the "Chicago Backstage Pass" featuring one of four outstanding scientific facilities Chicago has to offer.

Related Info

Leaders for Public Viewing

August 4, Saturday

Pike lake
DuPrees

August 17, Friday

Harrington Beach State Park
Leaders Needed

August 18, Saturday

Harrington Beach
Leaders Needed

September 1 Saturday

Ice Age Visitors Center
DuPrees

July Public Viewing Events

Harrington Beach July 20

By Gene R. DuPree

It was cloudy this night. I had received new handouts, and calendars from Astronomy magazine so I headed out to the observatory to re-fill the supply. Shortly after I got there a car pulled in with three people, they were impressed with the observatory and I had to tell them it was too cloudy to open. I also had to tell another car of people that it was too cloudy to open. I was there from 8:20 to 9:20.

Harrington Beach July 21

By Mike Borchert

All I can say is that it was overcast and raining. The public viewing was canceled.

Pike lake July 21

By Charlotte DuPree

It had been a cloudy raining day, but we decided to go to the park for the night hike anyway. The hike must have been canceled because we could not find the starting group. We went to our observing spot and waited in the truck. We watched three different cloud layers moving at different speeds and directions. We saw the Moon in and out of the clouds, so Gene set up the 8 inch dob. It was two days after first quarter, so we were able to see the straight wall. After 20 minutes it started to rain (we could still see the Moon) so we headed home. We were there 7:50 to 8:40.

Wisconsin Observers Weekend

By Gene R DuPree

Friday, July 6, was the start of Pre-wow, thru July 11. We had clear skies every night for a change. July 12, the start of WOW, was cloudy. Friday the 13th was also cloudy, so attendance was low. Of the 48 people pre-registered 30 were in attendance. So that was good for the 28 door prize winners at the ice cream social on Saturday. The clear sky did prevail on Saturday night, so all wasn't lost this year, and a good finish for WOW. Save the dates for 2019, pre-wow is Monday May 27 - 29. And WOW Thursday May 30 to June 2.

August Planets By Gene DuPree

August starts with Mars at opposition. It looks like the dust storm is starting to die down.

Jupiter is still putting on a great red spot show, and the visible moons are interesting to watch their changing positions.

Saturn, as usual, has the wow factor for the public to see.

Venus is always good to see it's changing phase and size always impresses me.

Mercury has changing phases, in the morning sky the month.

Uranus and Neptune are early morning objects.

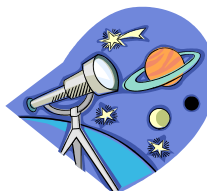
Don't forget about the Perseid meteor shower. This year, the best time to see them will be just past new Moon!

So get out there and Keep Looking Up.

Small Scope Star Party August 11th, 2018

By Kevin Bert

It may be the simple refractor or other similar aperture-challenged telescopes but all are welcome at the tenth "Small Scope Star Party," (SSSP), on Saturday August 11th 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 good views of the planets. No moon will be visible allowing for plenty of deep sky viewing. (Cont. Page 4)



Northwoods August 17 - 19

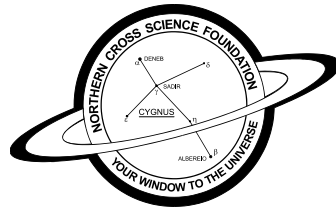
Hobbs Observatory
Beaver Creek Reserve
Fall Creek, WI.
www.cvastro.org

2019 Astronomy Calendars

We will have the 2019 Astronomy magazine Calendars at the Aug.9 meeting. If you did not pre-order a calendar we did order a few extras. *Charlotte DuPree*



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(Cont. from Pg.-3)

Our goal is to have as many members attend this event. You are in no way obligated to bring a telescope but members are encouraged to bring as many small scopes as possible. The night will be treated very much like other viewing nights. 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.

Just after the 11:00pm park curfew it's snack time for members that need to refuel for the later shift viewing. Members can assist by bringing food and beverages as we can pool our resources. If it turns out to be a night to look at your scope instead of through it because of clouds, please consider still attending. The Observatory will be open for friendly astronomy conversation.

SSSP RULES

A few ground rules need to be set up. This is to insure that no bloated aperture light buckets ruin the small scope theme.

- 1) Set up at the parking lot area directly adjacent to the Observatory, (south lot).
- 2) No telescopes over 6.0-Inch in aperture are permitted to be set up.
- 3) Larger scopes, stopped down do not qualify.
- 4) Telescopes of any optical configuration, (Reflector, Refractor, Catadioptric), are acceptable.
- 5) No binoculars please.
- 6) Visual equipment only!
- 7) Items for sale or trade are permitted. (And Encouraged)
- 8) Be courteous of others and warn observers when car lights are coming on when you leave.

*Imagers are by all means welcome to take advantage of the moonless evening as well. They should set up portable equipment in the lots just north of the southern lot. The Observatorys imaging scope will be available too.

SPECTRUM

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NCSF is a member of the North-Central Region of the Astronomical League.



This Issue, along with back Issues of SPECTRUM, can be found on the NCSF Web Site.

Monthly Meeting Information

7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101 Mtg.
7:30 p.m. Main Program
Location at the -
GSC Technology Center
W189 N11161 Kleinmann Dr
Germantown, WI 53022

Spectrum Newsletter
5327 Cascade Drive
West Bend, WI 53095

Please send your Questions, Suggestions, Articles, and photos to:
rickkaz@charter.net