

# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

June 2019

## Looking Up

June 6, Thursday

**General Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. - Main Program

Business Meeting to Follow

June 7, Friday

**Public Veiwng**

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

June 8, Saturday

**Public Veiwng**

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

June 8, Saturday

**Public Veiwng**

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Pike Lake Campground

June 15, Saturday

**Sunday On Saturday**

2:00 p.m.

Home of Kevin Bert

(See Lead Article)

June 20, Thursday

**Board Meeting**

7:30 p.m.

House of Jeff Setzer

June 27, Thursday

**NCRAL Meeting**

7:30 p.m.

Home of Rick Kazmierski



## Sun-Day on Saturday

By: Kevin Bert

June 15th is the date set for this year's Sun-Day on Saturday members' event at my home in the town of Grafton. This relaxed setting away from the public gives members a chance to spend time conversing while enjoying the sights of our nearest star. Solar activity is low but there can always be a surprise. This will be an opportunity to view through the Coronado and a variety of the members' sun viewing telescopes. I will give a demonstration on how to set up and operate

the club's Coronado for those that are interested in using it in the future, at 2:30. The event will start at 2:00 pm and you can park on the lawn as in other years to set up your own telescopes any time after 2:00 pm.

This is a member's family event that combines leisurely solar viewing with a picnic type atmosphere. I will provide soft drinks and snacks throughout the day. Feel free to come and go as you please, as we will view into the evening if there is an interest. Those that plan to be here at 5:00 pm. and would like to stay and eat you should bring a dish to pass. I will provide soft drinks and your choice of sloppy Joes or brats. Please bring a lawn chair too.

If it is raining, the event will be cancelled. If cloudy, you can still come to eat and talk astronomy as I will still give the Coronado demo. My address is on the back cover of the Spectrum. If in doubt of conditions or in need of directions, call me at 262-674-0610. I hope to see you there.

July 5, Friday

**Public Veiwng**

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

July 6, Saturday

**Public Veiwng**

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

July 6 Saturday

**Public Veiwng**

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Pike Lake Campground

## Note

### Meeting Date Change

July 11, Thursday

**General Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. - Main Program

Business Meeting to Follow

**NCRAL 2019** By Mike Borchert

NCRAL 2019 took place in Moline, IL, May 3, 4, and 5. I enjoyed the regional astronomy convention on many levels. The chance to get out, meet and talk with astronomy people was just one of them. Was able to see Moline, which is home to John Deere, as well as being one of the four cities that make up the "Quad" cities of Iowa and Illinois. I got there early enough to see the Mississippi at record high levels, and had to park a couple of blocks "upstream". The entry way to the hotel parking lot had about a foot of water blocking its entrance.

Traveling always gives me a chance to see another person's backyard. As it did not hamper any activities for the get together, I got out and saw the John Deere pavilion, an excellent example of the products and history of the John Deere company. John Deere is a big influence in the Quad cities, as was experienced in planetarium they support, which we later visited. There were tours to the Rock Island Arsenal, and other John Deere manufacturing facilities.

The event started in earnest on Friday at 1 pm with programs in community outreach for clubs, astrophotography, a welcome from the host club, as well as two presentations with Albert Einstein and Arthur Edgington the topic. The food was great and kept us in the convention center. Some of Northern Cross attendees choose to camp, the convention (Con't on Pg-4)



Attending Northern Cross Science Foundation members at the Saturday Night Ban-

## May Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The May 2019 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 8:00pm and welcomed 21 members and guests. He then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Gene Dupree tells the membership that the checking balance is \$11,700.11 and the Observatory balance remains at \$418.49.

Secretary Kevin Bert reports that the membership roster remained the same at the start of the evening. However Jason Kazmierski had just turned in a membership application and will be included in the roster. Under the Astronomical League the regional convention had finished up last weekend. An upcoming Spectrum will provide a follow-up.

The observatory Director Dan Bert reports an improved security at the Observatory.

Only the north door can be used for access to the building for the time being. He noted that the fading interpretive signs around the Observatory have been upgraded with fresh images. The proposal for Friday music to precede a few public viewing nights over summer have been canceled due to scheduling conflicts. Harrington Beach Park Manager Ken Severn is retiring this year. Superintendent Carolyn Morgen and Park Ranger Andy Schultz will now be in charge. An Observatory training night will be held on May 18th for members wanting to run the 20-inch Panarusky Telescope.

With no new business Jeff reminded members there a few upcoming events. May 26th is the start of our public outreach with solar viewing at the Port Washington Street Festival during the day followed by observing at Harrington Beach. Wisconsin Observers Weekend (WOW), starts on Thursday May 30th at Hartman Creek State Park and runs through that weekend.

## Earth Day Spring Cleaning

By Ernie Mastroianni

Carolyn Morgen, the Wisconsin DNR property manager for the Kohler-Andre and Harrington Beach state parks, moves a load of mulch to the perimeter of the Plunkett Observatory after pruning the bushes on April 27. Various groups volunteered their time and efforts for an Earth Day spring cleaning at various sites around Harrington Beach, including the area at the Puckett's Pond, which has been home to the observatory since 2007.



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## Harrington Beach Imaging Report *by Ernie Mastroianni*



**M63 Sunflower Galaxy** Photo by Ernie Mastroianni

The lumpy-like appearance of M63 gives rise to nickname of this northern deep sky favorite, the Sunflower Galaxy. This image was taken at Harrington Beach State Park on May 4, using the club's SBIG astro camera and a Celestron 9.25 Schmidt Cassegrain equipped with a focal reducer for an effective focal length of 1500 millimeters. It is a stack of 16 exposures of five minutes each, recorded and processed using Nebulosity and Photoshop software. A NASA website describes M63 as a flocculent spiral galaxy, or one with discontinuous spiral arms. It shines at magnitude 9.3 in the constellation Canes Venatici and was discovered in 1779 by French astronomer Pierre Méchain. - Ernie Mastroianni

The dramatic image of NGC 5128, the famous Centaurus A galaxy, reveals a large elliptical galaxy in the act of consuming a spiral. It was taken on May 6 by member Tom Schmidtkunz using a remote Planewave 20" telescope at iTelescope's Siding Springs Observatory in New South Wales, Australia. At f/4.4, the scope produces a 55' x55' field, enormous for a telescope of this size. Tom made 36 total minutes of exposure using a FLI-PL09000 CCD camera. He processed the image in Nebulosity with a tweaks in Adobe Elements. Tom says he's seen this deep sky object from Southern Kettle Moraine skies in an 8" SCT and in binoculars, where at -43 degrees of declination, it is not quite 5 degrees above the horizon. It's about 15 million light years away and is well-known active radio galaxy. A 55 million-solar mass black hole is thought to be at the galaxy's center.



**NGC5128 Centaurus Galaxy** Photo by Tom Schmidtkunz



## June General Meeting

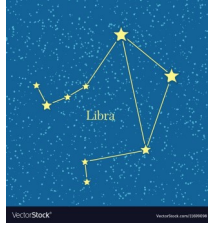
### Astronomy 101 *by Kevin Bert*

#### "Telescope Optics"

Telescopes are the main tools for star gazers. It is good to be familiar with the types you would encounter and the properties common to them. We will explore and highlight these details and I hope to see you there.

#### Constellation of the Month:

### Libra



### General Meeting *from Dupree Library*

#### "Northern Arizona - Backstage Pass"

#### Video

We will be headed for Northern Arizona with Astronomy Magazine's own David Eicher and Michael Bakich as they go behind the scenes at Lowell Observatory. The video shows the 24 inch Alvan Clark refractor, the 13 inch camera that captured Pluto, one of the two Pluto discovery plates, and much more at this historic site.

### Astronomy Day 2019 *By Kevin Bert*

May 26 was the yearly kickoff to the public viewing season this year. As in past years we started the day with solar viewing in conjunction with the Port Washington Street Festival the Sunday before Memorial Day. To be honest, the board was considering abandoning the Street Festival scene this year due to an increase in the fee to set up but mostly because of the location we have been continually designated to set up in. It was hard to hold a conversation with any person or just explain to someone what they were viewing without yelling at them to be heard over the loud live music just a short distance away. After a few



Port Washington Street Festival

phone calls and the promise of a new more centralized site to set up, the board went ahead with the Street Festival as in other years.

I was fortunate to be available to set up the Coronado H-Alpha telescope and pop-up canopy tent at the new site. I initially had some reservations being on the west side of main street thinking that we would be looking at the tops of buildings by early afternoon but later discovered that the sun was still in the scope at 5:00 pm from the spot I selected out from the curb. Rick Dusenbery had his 8-inch Dobsonian set up next to me for a white light view that unfortunately had no sun spots to examine on the disc. The Coronado showed nice surface detail with only one small

prominence. Foot traffic was high this year with the nice clear weather and I felt that most people passing by were genuinely interested and were easily coaxed in to coming over to view. Other years it felt like people were avoiding us like we were trying to sell them something. Of course there were also the excited kids sometimes almost dragging their parents over to get a look. I enjoy their enthusiasm. Jeff Setzer kept an eye on the gusts of wind that occasionally lifted the canopy and was busy handing out club info on that evenings viewing and other public nights. Thanks to Gail Sherman who gave me a few breaks at the Coronado. We were all pleased at the normal talking levels possible at the new site and it ended well.

The evening at Harrington Beach was a continuation of the clear weather and there were at least a dozen scopes in the parking lot. I joined the group with a 10-inch scope under the moonless sky as twilight slowly disappeared. M81 & M82 were my favorite targets as the sky conditions improved. Many other deep sky views were shared during the evening. Rich Sauve had a great view of bright Jupiter in his refractor for all that stepped up to take a look. Gene and Charlotte Dupree ran the Observatory and had a steady stream of family observers over the next few hours. I haven't yet confirmed the estimate of the public that attended but I would think that it was over 100. It was almost time to confirm that there were a line of UFO's sighted that evening but it turned out to be the recent launch of starlink satellites by SpaceX. You can always count on the campers but I was pleased to hear that many of those attending were there because of the Street festival that they earlier attended. Thanks to all those members that came out to help with the years first public event to make it a success.

### **Observatory Training, May 15**

by Kevin Bert

The training session on May 18 was cloudy and cold. 4 members received training and are looking forward to using the 20-inch Panarusk sometime soon. Congratulations to Bruce Brewer, Steve Olsen, Katy Zens, and Dan Goetz.

## Related Info

### Leaders for Public Viewing

#### June 7, Friday

Harrington beach

Rob Powell & Dan Goetz

#### June 8, Saturday

Harrington beach

Leaders Needed

#### June 8, Saturday

Pike Lake

Al Steinberg

#### July 5, Friday

Harrington beach

Leaders Needed

#### July 6, Saturday

Harrington beach

Leaders Needed

#### July 6, Saturday

Pike Lake

DuPrees

## Star Parties

### Northwoods

#### August 2 - 4

Hobbs Observatory

Beaver Creek Reserve

Fall Creek, WI.

[www.cvastro.org](http://www.cvastro.org)



## 2019 Board of directors

### **President - Jeff Setzer**

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### **Vice-President - Joyce Jentges**

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### **Secretary - Kevin Bert**

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### **Treasurer - Gene DuPree**

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### **Dan Bert - Observatory Director**

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### **Rick Kazmierski - Newsletter**

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## **SPECTRUM**

Published by the Northern Cross Science Foundation, Inc. A nonprofit organization based in Southeastern Wisconsin.

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



NCSF supports the *International Dark Sky Association*



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

(Con't from Pg-1)

was set up to accommodate all. Saturday Morning started with an NCRAL business meeting, and quickly proceeded with seven presentations encompassing a discussion on General Relativity, Meteorites, Radio astronomy, Gravitational Waves, M Dwarf stars, Galaxy Evolutions through simulations, Asteroid Research, and ended up with the keynote speaker presenting historical views of the sky through the eyes of the Native Americans.

Throughout the day there were some big value door prize giveaways, as well as everyone receiving at least one door prize. I walked away with two tickets to the Adler planetarium in Chicago. During all three days the club's actual observatory was open for solar viewing during the day and planetary viewing at night. The Popular Astronomy Club's observatory is actually a trailer with scopes in them, which made it a portable observatory. I was impressed.



*Popular Astronomy Clubs travelling observatory was Quite impressive.*

Sunday, we moved to the Bettendorf High School planetarium. (Yes, the high school actually has a planetarium) We discussed how to get the younger crowd interested in astronomy with a panel of young experts. We also saw a couple of planetarium-based shows in which the students themselves had a hand in making. The shows were from student subjects such as English and History, as well as the sciences of Astronomy.

If you are looking for an idea to supplement an upcoming vacation, think about planning it around an astronomy happening. Ask fellow club members for ideas. This year's National Convention is planned around a cruise in the Bahamas. That may be more than you were planning for, but there is always something astronomy out there for everyone.

### 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

## **2019 Wisconsin Observers Week-end**

by Gene R. DuPree

It sure didn't have the WOW factor this year! Because of rain and storms we started out a day late. On that night, Tuesday, it was cloudy. Wednesday wasn't any better, and the Canadian wild fires didn't help., giving us a milky white sky. On Thursday we were hoping for a change, but that never happened, and the heat was bad. It was hot on Friday, and we were able to do some Solar viewing. That night it rained, so we had hopes of Saturday night viewing, which did happen early, and it was better after 2 am on Sunday. Rick B., from Illinois joined us, and Dennis B. from Elkhorn. Club members were Allan Kent. Rick Duesnbery, Joyce, and Jeff. Brewer, Steve Olsen, Katy Zens, and Dan Goetz.

### **Post NCRAL 2019** by Gene R. DuPree

After the NCRAL banquet dinner on Saturday night, the DuPree's, Kazmierski's, and Bert's returned to the campground where we were staying. We had a pretty dark sky, and the campground owners joined us for some telescope viewing. A few of the other campers stopped by too. We did not have a large opening because of trees, but we still looked at a dozen or more objects. They were overwhelmed by the views with my 12.5" Dob.



**Spectrum Newsletter**  
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Suggestions, Articles, and  
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