

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

April 2022



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First light - This striking image released by NASA shows proof that the 18 hexagonal segments of the James Webb Space Telescope have been successfully collimated and aligned by Webb team engineers. The bright star is 7th magnitude HD 84406 in Ursa Major. This first-light engineering picture also reveals dozens of dimmer background galaxies (I lightened the background using Photoshop). You can read more about the space telescope's alignment [at this link](#). Webb's first full-resolution science images are expected to be released this summer. - *Ernie Mastroianni*

NCSF March General Meeting minutes

Jeff Setzer called the March General Meeting to order via Zoom at 7:30 pm.

Setzer was the featured speaker and his presentation was about noted astronomer Charles Messier. His great presentation outlined Messier's personal and family life, as well as the historical observations of what we see today, the Messier list of 110 deep sky objects. The meeting was recorded for those who could not join in. Watch for it in the [Slack app](#), under the General channel.

The meeting proceeded with the Gene DuPree reporting \$11,478.39 in the general account.

Mike Borchert gave secretary's report. He noted that the General Meeting minutes will be posted in the General Slack channel soon after the monthly meeting. Borchert noted that there will be an attempt to have a Messier observation the night of April 2

New meeting venue sought

We are looking for a new location for our in-person NCSF General Meetings, which have been at GSC company headquarters in Germantown. Due to the pandemic, we've held our meetings via Zoom since April 2020.

The NCSF board has some leads and places we're checking out, but we are appealing to the membership for ideas as well — some people may have connections to venues that might be suitable. If you know of such a place, contact [Mike Borchert](#) or [Jeff Setzer](#).

ending Sunday morning, April 3. Since this will take place before the next meeting, watch for postings in the [Slack app](#).

I am thinking the discussion might take place in the observing channel, there may be mention of it in the general channel. If you are not as familiar

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Looking ahead

**April 2, Saturday
Messier Marathon**
Harrington Beach
State Park

**April 7, Thursday
General Meeting via Zoom**
Main program: Dark Skies
by Mike Borchert
(details on page 2)

**May 13-14
NCRAL convention**
Country Inn & Suites
Port Washington
<https://ncsf.info/ncral-vision-2022/>

Volunteers needed!
Contact [Jeff Setzer](#)

**June 23-26
Wisconsin Observers
Weekend (WOW)**
Hartman Creek State Park
Waupaca, WI

March General Meeting minutes

from page 1 with Slack, you do need to be set up to take posts in all the channels as a separate action.

Borchert reminded everyone in attendance that there is a post on the 2/12/22 Slack general channel, giving URL's (Internet addresses) to join the Public and Club only event calendars. Setzer and Borchert noted that you may have to email Dan Bert (dbert64@gmail.com) and be invited to the observatory calendar. Club members can reserve an evening on either scope once they have been checked out on those scopes. There is room for using either scope on any night.

Setzer also noted that the annual Swap-n-Sell resumed this year. It always takes place at the Sheboygan County Airport, in the Aviation Heritage Center. This year, it was on Saturday March 19, from 8 to 3 pm.

Dues should be updated by March, please see the club's webpage (<https://ncsf.info>) for Paypal options. Or, send DuPree a check (6219 Jay Street Myra WI 53095).

The topic for the April meeting presentation will be "The Dark Skies" by Mike Borchert.

It was brought up at meeting's end that the club was in the exploratory stage of finding a new location to hold in-person club meetings. While the board is discussing the change, if any club member has a suggestion, please reach out to a board member. The club will be updated when news is forthcoming.

These minutes are submitted for any updates or corrections. Contact me for any updates. - *Mike Borchert*.

iCal links to NCSF Google calendars

Here are the iCal links to our three NCSF online calendars. You can look at them directly, or add these as calendar overlays in your calendar apps on Windows, MacOs, Android and iOS. Jeff Setzer maintains the NCSF public and member Google calendars; [Dan Bert](#) maintains the observatory Schedule.
- *Jeff Setzer*

NCSF public events (same feed that appears on our web page):
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/86nukem0mi26elekvqp128k1hg%40grou p.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

NCSF member events:
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/iv5tnk8no30d648sej5hg3ni5c%40group.c alendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

Jim & Gwen Plunkett Observatory schedule of members reservations and events. The observatory schedule is private and [Dan Bert](#) can add you to that calendar if you want to subscribe to it.
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/dbert64%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

April General Meeting main program

The presentation for April's meeting will be on the Dark Sky. It will be given by club member Mike Borchert. What could be interesting about the dark sky? Tune in and learn about the Bortle system when describing night sky darkness.

Learn about decisions you can make that will affect how the sky will look in years to come. Learn about some dark sky gadgets. There should be something for everyone, school age students as well. Hope to see you then.
- *Mike Borchert*

Public viewing night schedule *No public events scheduled for April*

Saturday, May 7, 8-11 pm
Pike Lake Unit - Kettle Moraine State Forest

**Friday and Saturday May 20 and 21
8-11 pm**
Harrington Beach State Park
Jim and Gwen Plunkett Observatory

Saturday, June 4, 8-11 pm
Pike Lake Unit - Kettle Moraine State Forest

NCSF volunteers needed at Random Lake Conservation fair

On Saturday, April 30, 2022, Random Lake High School will host a conservation fair.

Northern Cross will have a booth at the event with information about light pollution. I have brochures from the International Dark Sky Association which we will hand out. We will also have solar telescopes on site for solar viewing. We could use 4-5 telescopes able to safely look at the Sun.

If you are able to attend, please let me know. I would also welcome one or two volunteers to assist me at the booth.

The event will run from 11 am to 3 pm. The address for the high school is 605 Random Lake Road, Random Lake 53075. The event will be held in the parking lot behind the school, adjacent to the athletic field. - *Joyce Jentges*

Upcoming star parties

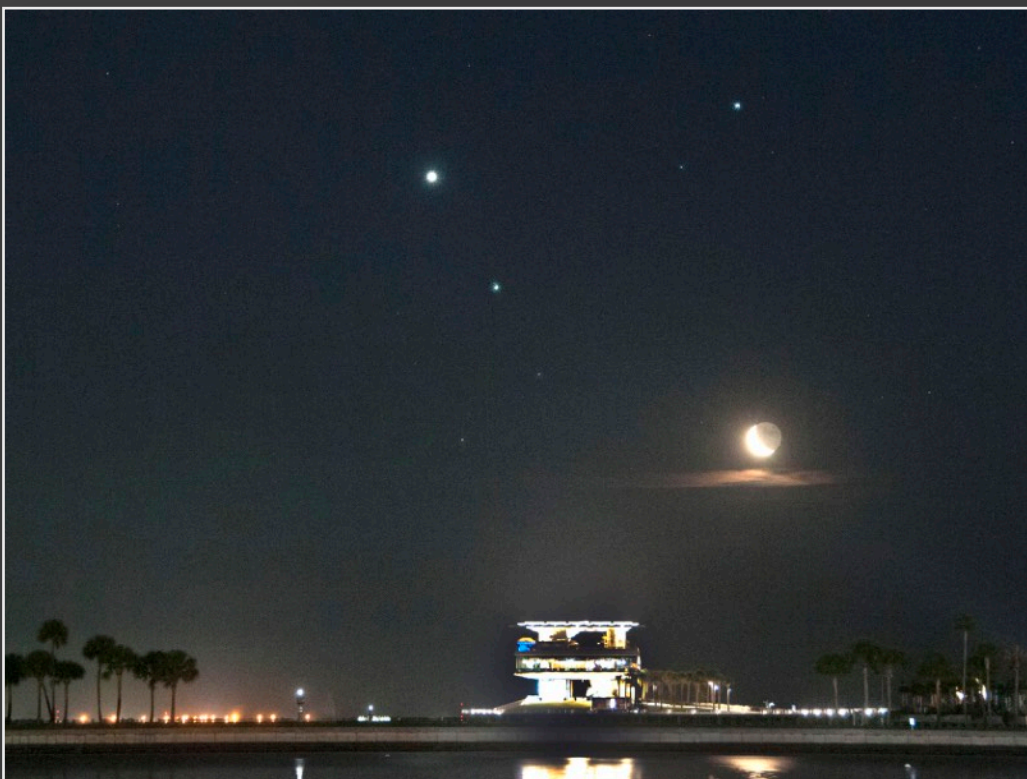
June 23-26
Wisconsin Observers Weekend 2022
Hartman Creek State Park, Waupaca
Hosted by the [Northeast Wisconsin Stargazers \(NEWSTAR\)](#)
More info and registration at [this link](#).

July 24-29
Nebraska Star Party 2022
Merritt Reservoir Snake Campground
Near Valentine, Nebraska
More info and registration:
<https://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>.

August 26-28
Northwoods Starfest 2022
Hobbs Observatory in at Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek, WI
Hosted by the [Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society](#)
More info and registration at [this link](#).

Imaging Report

Winter Classic - The colorful Rosette Nebula spans a width that would match two full moons. It lies just east of Orion in the constellation Monoceros. Board member **Don Woelz** took this photo with his WilliamOptics Zenithstar 73mm refractor on an iOptron GEM 28 mount from his West Bend backyard on March 19. He stacked 51 subframes of two minutes each for this final image, taken with a ZWO ASI071MC color camera.



Planets Aligned - The planets Venus, Saturn, and Mars (from left) aligned with the waning crescent moon before dawn on March 28, as seen over The Pier of St. Petersburg, Florida. **Ernie Mastroianni** used a Nikon D300 and a 18-200mm zoom lens at 60mm, with an exposure of 2.5 seconds at f/5. A few dimmer stars in the constellation Capricorn are also visible.

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NCSF is a member of the [North-Central Region of the Astronomical League](#).



NCSF supports the [International Dark Sky Association](#)

A Facebook Marketplace gem

I was recently on Facebook and, on a whim, decided to visit the FB Marketplace and type in the word "telescope." I couldn't believe my eyes when I found a 4-day-old ad from a couple in Port Washington, advertising a "like new" Celestron SP-C6 — WITH the extremely rare clock drive.

I made the trip out to their place, saw everything was in order, and bought it.

After a little cleaning this morning, I've got it all ready to go. For a collector like me, this is a once-in-a-lifetime thing. The seller also had two boxes — unopened — that he said contained a larger finder and rings. When I opened the boxes, I found a University Optics 8x50mm finder and SCT bracket. Wrong for this scope, but what a gem! I just had to put it together. The price: just \$200.

- Jeff Setzer



Four eyepieces, a clock drive and an extra finder came with this six-inch reflector. Let's hope Jeff brings it to this year's small scope star party.

**Spectrum newsletter**

Published monthly by the Northern Cross Science Foundation, Inc. (NCSF), a nonprofit amateur astronomy organization based in southeastern Wisconsin.

<https://ncsf.info>

NCSF On Facebook

Members:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/284397465372797/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/NCSFAstronomy/>

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