

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

September 2016

Looking Up

September 1, Thursday

General Meeting

New Location

7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m.– Main Program

September 3, Saturday

Evening with Nature

8:00p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Ice Age Visitors Center

September 9, Friday

Public Viewing

7:00p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

September 10, Saturday

Public Viewing

7:00p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

September 10, Saturday

Community Campfire

6:00p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Pike Lake State Forest

September 15 Thursday

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Jeff Setzer Home

September 17, Saturday

After Summer Hike

6:00p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

September 23, Friday

Binocular Star Party

“Members Night”

8:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

Sneak Preview

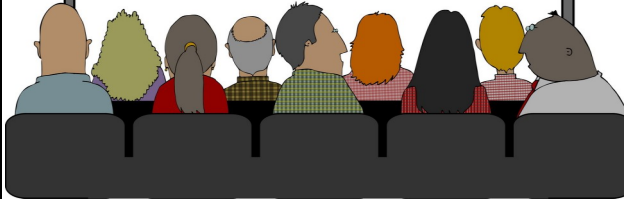
NCSF - New Club Location

GSC Technology Center -

W189 N11161 Kleinmann Dr

Germantown, WI 53022

Thursday, September 1st!



Binocular Star Party...By Kevin Bert

Where: Harrington Beach

When: Friday, September 23rd at 7:00pm

Following with the ongoing Small Scope Star Party “themes” of dedicating nights for particular instruments the **Binocular Star Party** after last year, will once again be held! BSP will be held at Harrington Beach on Friday September 23rd at 7:00pm. This is one of the members events scheduled for the year. We are all wired to use two eyes and it makes a difference viewing with binoculars at celestial objects. Many offer a 3-d effect and always reach to a fainter magnitude than the same size telescope with single eyepiece. I have had the chance to look through many binoculars over the years at star parties and have always been impressed. The largest being two 17.5-inch scopes at Astrofest. There are a variety of styles and price tags that one can purchase. I hope to see dozens of them at the event. Don't limit yourself to ones held on a tripod.

There are only a few rules that apply for the evening.

- 1) Only true binoculars, (two objectives). No Bino-Viewers on a telescope.
- 2) Willingness to share views.

Snacks are optional but always welcome at members events. We will take a snack break when campers should be back at their sites at 11:00pm and graze

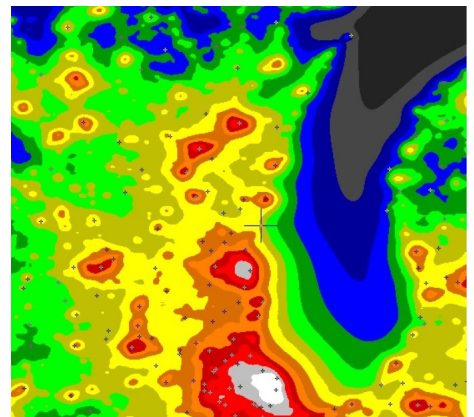
Always remember what a famous philosopher said. "The distant universe looks even farther away when you look through the wrong end of binoculars."

Seeking Dark Skies...By Jaime Hanson

Have you had this experience? You drive out to Harrington Beach. The sky is clear and moonless. Looking forward to a dark and quiet night, you set up your equipment and begin your session.

Then zoom, a truck drives by with lights blaring. You blink your eyes a few times and wait for the blue dots to go away. Then zoom, another car, then another truck. Was that the same truck I just saw five minutes ago?

With the increased popularity of the Harrington Beach Campground, the car traffic in and around Plunkett Observatory has increased dramatically over the past few years. A few members have reported the experience noted. Visual observers know that it takes about 15 mins for your night vision to recover and photographers know that particular scan is lost. (Con't. Pg 4)



Light Pollution Map of S.E. Wisconsin
Makes you want to cry!

August Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The August Business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at Unitarian Church North. Secretary Kevin Bert opened the meeting at 8:20pm and welcomed 20 members and guests. He then gave the Secretary report noting Mike Schactner from West Bend as the latest member. Kevin referenced an interesting article in the Reflector on the new binocular double star program. He told members that there had been some activity in the club's binocular mounts and anticipated some continued progress. He will keep the club posted. There was no Treasurer report. Observatory Director Dan Bert reports a need for a leader on the August 27th Public Viewing Night.

Imaging committee Ernie Mastroianni had some great success with the ES127 imaging scope. He confirmed 20 minutes of spot on tracking with no sign of dew thanks to the dew heaters designed by Chad Andrist. M17 was the target making 16 sub frames at three minutes each. Results were very satisfying and can be viewed on the Harrington Beach Imagers group on Astrobin.

Joyce Jentges gave a brief follow up on the Small Scope Star Party held on July 30th. Overall it was a great evening where clear skies ruled until a break for snacks. Small telescopes can really perform well and unfortunately are often overlooked for pleasing views.

Under new business Joyce noted an article in the West Bend Daily News covering things happening in the August sky and activities of the NCSF. She brought a copy of the article for those in attendance to see.

The September general meeting will take place at the new location in Germantown. GSC will be moving into the Technology Center about the same time and things may not have settled completely. We are all looking forward to open this new page in our club's history.

Kevin then covered upcoming September 2016 events. The 3rd brings us the popular Evening with Nature at the Ice Age Visitor Center near Dundee. Telescope viewing will follow the talk at 8:00pm. The 9th and 10th are consecutive public viewing nights at Harrington Beach State Park. Community Campfire at Pike Lake State Park is also held on the 10th and is always well attended. The

17th promotes the After Summer Hike at Harrington Beach. A clear mild night can bring out hundreds of people so any help with telescopes are appreciated. The final scheduled event for September is on the 24th at Harrington Beach and is the members Binocular Star Party.



Public Night at Harrington Beach

Photo by Ernie Mastroianni

Summer brings a Target Rich Sky...By Ernie Mastroianni

Northern Cross imagers had plenty to shoot this summer and came out for clear skies, even in mid-week.

I photographed the Eagle Nebula (M16) with the club's 5-inch refractor at Harrington Beach on Wednesday night, August 3. This nebula hosts the famous Pillars of Creation, photographed by the Hubble telescope in 1995 and revisited in 2015. The pillars are clearly visible, though at a much smaller scale, but it was fun to see them emerge after combining 16 exposures of three minutes each with the club's SBIG color camera.

M16 - Ernie



I returned to Harrington on August 13 to catch the tail end of the Perseids, but the meteor shower was past peak. However, the well-publicized event drew a decent-sized crowd, so I opened the observatory for a public event. While showing about 15 visitors the summer sky highlights through the 20-inch Panarusky, I also managed to image the moon, nearly 80 percent full, through the club's 5-inch refractor. I used an Imaging Source firewire camera and a 3x Klee barlow (purchased for \$10 at last

April's swap meet in Sheboygan) to photograph the 60-mile-wide crater Gassendi, stacking a total of 1200 frames.



Gassendi - Ernie

I also had the SBIG camera attached to the smaller guide scope, and aimed the refractor toward the North American Nebula (NGC 7000) once my lunar imaging was completed.

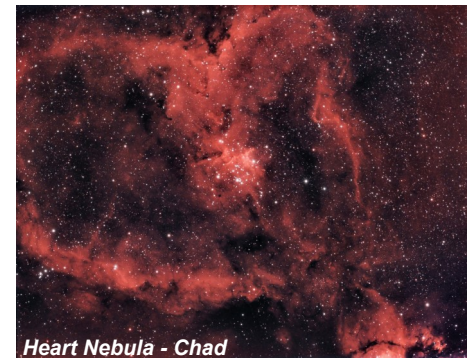
NGC7000 - Ernie



I would not recommend shooting deep sky during a public event. Moving the ladder creates vibrations, and the scope did get bumped once (by me). Fortunately, it did not move the scope from polar alignment. But

after the guests departed, I continued to image and got decent results after only 8 frames of three minutes each.

The Harrington Beach parking lot gang was busy too. Chad Andrist combined 3.3 hours of exposures through RGB and narrow-band filters with his Stellarvue 80mm refractor to image the Heart Nebula in Cassiopeia.



Heart Nebula - Chad

Wally Gersmehl captured the Bubble Nebula and nearby M53 with his 66mm refractor and 2.5 hours of total imaging time. The deep sky pair is also in Cassiopeia.

Bubble Nebula - Wally



September General Meeting

101 Program ...by Kevin Bert

To Be Announced

Main Program... Jeff Setzer

To be announced

RELATED INFO

Welcome Back

Gail & Michael Borchert

Leaders for Public Viewing

September 3

Ice Age Visitor Center

Setzer & DuPrees

September 9

Harrington Beach State Park

Gene & Charlotte DuPree

September 10

Harrington Beach State Park

Leaders Needed

September 10

Pike Lake State Park

Charlotte and Gene DuPree

September 17

Harrington Beach State Park

Leaders Needed

FOR SALE!

Large 14.5 inch F5.6 dobsonian truss style telescope that can be transported in most cars.

Great for deep sky viewing but also shows the Cassini division in

Saturn easily. Also can be moved in the field with custom attached 2 wheel system. Has DOB driver attachment.

Accommodates 2 inch and 1 1/4 inch eyepieces. Has cords to secondary eyepiece for dew system. Also, black shroud to keep out light and dew on the main mirror. Custom made by Jim Mulherin - expert mirror maker - of Torus Optical now OMI. Have over \$4000 into this telescope and am looking for best offer for only about 1/2 that amount.

Contact Nolan Zadra
262-375-1290
zade@ww.rr.com



August Public Viewing Events

Cash Bash August 12

By Jeff Setzer

Rain persisted all day Friday, and made for a wet and soggy evening for our scheduled event. In lieu of observing, we shifted to Plan B which consisted of me doing a 2017 Total Solar Eclipse program under a park shelter, with support from Kevin Bert, Gene and Charlotte DuPree manning an excellent display and selling eclipse glasses. Despite the poor weather, there were well over 100 people in attendance, and dozens of great interactions after the well-received main program. To quote from the thank-you letter I received this week: let's hope next year will be clear!

Pike Lake August 13

By Charlotte DuPree

August 13, Pike Lake PVN. We had an almost perfect night for stargazing. The humidity gave us some haze by the time it was really dark. The moon was three days past first quarter, so it was bright enough to block out most of the deep sky objects. The Ring nebula, Dumbbell nebula, owl cluster and coat hanger cluster were very nice looking. Thanks to Rick D., Al S. for bringing out their scopes to help.

Harrington Beach August 26

By Charlotte DuPree

PVN, Plunkett observatory. The evening started out with thin enough clouds so Gene was able to line-up the 20 inch scope. By the time we were able to see Mars and Saturn the clouds were thicker, and we lost the sky. There were a few sucker holes that would disappear before we could find any objects. We had over 50 visitors, not all campers. Kevin hosted a small cub scout group. Rick S., Rick D. and Tyler and scopes in the parking lot. Richard helped us in the observatory.

Sandy Knoll County Park August 27

By Charlotte DuPree

August 27, Sandy Knoll Washington County Park. This was the second "Wild About Parks" event this summer. Activities for the day included dog obedience and rocketry demos, nature crafts, guided trail hike, skin and skulls, solar viewing, and reopening of the new beach area. The morning started out, of course, with rain. The sky was dry during the day, even though it was cloudy. We kept hoping for any kind of "sun shadow" so we could use the solar dob. When we started thinking about packing-up the rain started. Thanks to Rick D. and Al for joining us.

Harrington Beach August 27

By Rob Powell

Viewing report for the Public Open House on M111 (The Great Milwaukee Nebula) greeted us as we rolled off the roof at 5:30PM. Visitors arrived in three waves, around 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30pm. 35 guests in all. The first two groups enjoyed hearing about how the observatory came to be, and we squashed the latest round of false Facebook astro-memes. Apparently the "Double Moon" and the "Mars-as-large-as-the-moon" issues are arising once again. A round of groans was emitted when they learned how the kernel of truth to the Mars story morphed into the current falsehood!

To the patient came the spoils, however, as the 9pm crowd waited for the skies to clear, and by 10pm we observed M57. Following that, everyone was issued binoculars and were treated to learning how to find the Andromeda galaxy with the unaided eye. Success and "Wows" ensued. The fog rolled back in, so we closed the roof and called it a night. Thanks to Al, Rich, Rick P, Tyler, and Richard from Pt. Washington.

Northwoods Starfest 2016

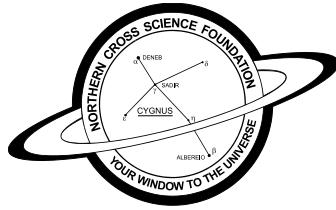
By Charlotte DuPree

Five members of the NSCF attended Northwoods Starfest, at Hobbs observatory, in Fall Creek. It was hosted by the Chippewa Valley A.S., on August 5-7. Friday night started out with the cash brat fry.

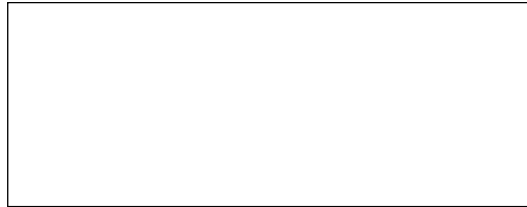
We had two good, almost perfect, viewing nights this year. Most of our equipment was dewed up by midnight. A few good meteors flashed each night and we saw the ISS a few times. I remembered the one object I like to see at Starfest, Kimball's Cascade. Saturday brunch, catered this year, was very good. The jambalaya dinner (four different flavors) was brought back, by special request of pass attendees, corn on the cob, and Klondike bars for dessert. Of course midnight snacks had a nice variety. Friday and Saturday night speakers gave interesting talks. On Friday night everyone in the auditorium received a piece of the Russian meteorite. Four of us were lucky enough to win door prizes.



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Jim & Gwen Plunkett
OBSERVATORY



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(Con't. from Pg 1)

I would like to propose that we make an effort to find an **alternate dark sky location**. This would be an alternative to go on nights when we know the parking lot will be busy. Which seems to be the case on any given Friday or Saturday night during camping season. So, we are looking for your ideas. Do you know a farmer? Is there a county park in the middle of nowhere with little or no traffic and will allow viewing hours?

Looking at the (attached) light pollution map, it seems that areas along Lake Michigan are good bets. The cross marks Harrington Beach. There is also a large area heading north and west of Harrington Beach toward Fond Du Lac that might have some good spots. For those of us with carloads full of equipment, it would be nice to have vehicle access or at least a dirt road.



"I'm warning you, Perkins - your flagrant disregard for the laws of physics will not be tolerated!"

SPECTRUM

Published by the Northern Cross Science Foundation, Inc. A non-profit organization based in South-eastern 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.

Monthly Meeting Information

7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101
7:30 Main Program
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:
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