

# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

September, 2019

## Looking Up

### September 5, Thursday

#### General Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. - Main Program

Business Meeting to Follow

### September 6, Friday

#### Public Viewing

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

Harrington Beach

### September 7, Saturday

#### Public Viewing

(Fall Harvest Hike)

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

Harrington Beach

### September 7, Saturday

#### Public Viewing

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

Pike Lake Campground

### September 14, Saturday

#### Public Viewing

(Community Campfire)

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

Pike Lake Beach Area

### September 19, Thursday

#### Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Home of Jeff Setzer

#### Note Date Change

### September 21, Saturday

#### Small Scope Party

7:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

(See article Pg-2)

### September 22, Sunday

#### NCRAL Meeting

To Be Determined)

## Visit Poniatowski, WI., 45 deg Latitude, 90 Degrees Longitude *Internet Source*

For many years the grid work of latitude and longitude upon the surface of the Earth was of interest mainly to the sailors, explorers, and cartographers who bet their lives on them. Today we all have access to this ghostly grid via our phones, car navigation systems, and Google Maps. The twin brothers of latitude and longitude have become an intimate part of our lives, guiding us to and from our homes, and marking each step we take with a new number, each inch we shuffle down to, with thirteen figures after the decimal point, an atomic level of specificity.

So what happens at the four magical spots that lie directly in between these most important of geographical ley lines? Stuck halfway between the geographical poles, the equator, the Prime Meridian, and the 180th meridian, what confluence of energy wells up from the Earth in the four corners of the earth found at exactly 45 degrees latitude, 90 degrees longitude?

### In Poniatowski, Wisconsin something kind of magical happens.

After winding down some country roads, past the junkyard with its pile of 1950s rusting car bodies, and avoiding the horses and buggies used by the Amish in the area, you find yourself in front of a painted brown wooden sign with yellow text that reads;

#### Note Date Change

### October 10, Thursday

#### General Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. - Main Program

Business Meeting to Follow

### October 4, Friday

#### Public Viewing

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

Harrington Beach

### October 5, Saturday

#### Public Viewing

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

Harrington Beach



“Geological Marker”

“This spot in section 14, in the Town of Rietbrock Marathon County is the exact center of the Northern half of the Western Hemisphere. It is here that the 90th Meridian of Longitude bisects the 45th Parallel of Latitude meaning it is exactly halfway between the North Pole and the Equator and is a quarter of the way around Earth from Greenwich, England. Marathon County Park Commission”

While it isn't much to look at, Wisconsin's 45x90 is only one of two of these spots found on land – the others are in the Pacific and Indian oceans – and of the two found on land, it is the only one that is marked as such. (Though, embarrassingly, it is marked incorrectly as a Geological Marker, when it should read Geographical.) The other 45x90 found on land, in rural China, is difficult to get to and it does not currently have a marker noting its significance. Today is easy to look down at your



Charlotte DuPree stands on the exact location: 45 degrees latitude, 90 degrees west longitude.

GPS unit and find out just exactly where on the invisible grid you stand, but in 1963 when owner of Gesicki's General Store and Tavern John Gesicki began researching the invisible point, it wasn't quite so easy. It took him some “five years to (Cont. Pg-4)

## August Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The August 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 8:05pm and welcomed 16 members and guests. He then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Gene Dupree tells the membership that the checking balance is \$10,435.30 and the Observatory balance is at \$394.18

Secretary Kevin Bert reports that the latest members to join were Christopher Laudani and Mark Zellner. Under the Astronomical League there was no news.

The observatory Director Dan Bert says he could use a leader for the August 10 evening at the Observatory but had nothing else to report.

Jeff Setzer reminded members to save the dates of May 1 & 2 for the 2020 Astronomical Leagues regional convention that our

club will be hosting. Planning meetings are still in progress with the next one coming up on August 29th at the home of Rick Kazmierski. All members are welcome.

With no new business Jeff reminded members of upcoming events. August 9th and 10th are public viewing nights at Harrington Beach. Pike Lake State Park is also scheduled for evening viewing on the 10th. August 10th continues to be a busy date as a group has asked us to set up a few scopes to entertain a group of campers at Upper Lake Park in Port Washington. August 29th is a program followed by telescope viewing at the Reuss Ice Age Center near Dundee.

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

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## Calling all NCSF Members

By Mike Borchert

Have you purchased any astronomy related equipment, software, publications lately? Your help is needed. As you may know, our

club is hosting the regional convention of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League (NCRAL) next year, 2020. The committee is looking for donations as door prizes in general. The thought is if a customer liked the product they purchased, and went back to ask the business for a donation of that product, they would be more inclined to donate. If you would contact that business, and in your own words plead our case, the NCRAL committee would much appreciate it. If you would like to add any of the club board members names and emails for help or legitimacy, please refer to the newsletter for that info. Or, include the newsletter, or, leave the club's website address, the NCRAL 2020 link is on that page also. If you would like to get in touch with me, please use the email on the newsletter. Also, if your business or one that you are associated with would like to sponsor the convention, there will be many opportunities available. Again, please get in touch with one of the board members and they will be happy to discuss. Thank you for your time, and clear skies. – Mike Borchert  
[gmborchert@charter.net](mailto:gmborchert@charter.net)

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## Small Scope Star Party September 21st, 2019

By Kevin Bert

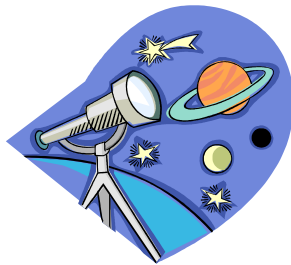
Make note that the date for this year's SSSP has been changed from an early listing of September 28<sup>th</sup> to the 21st. The often neglected small telescope takes second fiddle to owners of larger telescopes. Now is the time to take them out of the closet and bring them front and center as the focus for an evening of fun. Many objects are better suited to the wide fields that small scopes provide.

Past years have been a hit with the membership and are one of their favorite events for the year.

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. The moon will rise after 11:00 pm. allowing for plenty of deep sky viewing.

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.

Members that are willing can assist by bringing food and beverages as we can pool our resources to share. 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. Make it a point to stop out and enjoy the evening.



## 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, (southern 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. They will have their theme night soon.
- 5) Visual equipment only!
- 6) 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 Observatories imaging scope will be available too.

## September General Meeting

### Astronomy 101 *by Kevin Bert*

#### "Uranus & Neptune"

The outer planets Jupiter and Saturn which are easily seen by eye, are often the first targets viewed in the evening. They both have a lot to offer and changes can regularly be seen. Uranus and Neptune are often neglected because they require at minimum, binoculars to be seen and are very small and featureless in the scope. The challenge is to simply find them. We will look at what to expect at the telescope and check out some of the comparisons to earth.

#### Constellation of the Month:

#### Cygnus

### August Public Viewing Events

#### August 9, PVN Harrington Beach

By Gene DuPree

There was a partly cloudy sky at the start of the evening, but the Moon was visible, so that was the first object of the evening. We knew that Jupiter was a short distance from the Moon, and Ernie was able to find it with his binoculars. The great red spot was visible, and the four moons. Saturn was the next object to view. We had a crowd from the start and a lot of first time visitors. Some of them wondering if we are open ever weekend, and they had lots of questions. Because of the clouds and the Moon we were limited to what we could see. M57, M13, and double stars, some of the people commented on the colors of Albireo. There were a few members set-up in the lot. Ernie and his wife, Chris and Nolan assisted in the observatory.

#### August 10, PVN at Harrington Beach.

By Kevin Bert

The Public Viewing Night at the Observatory was a big hit with the over 100 attendees enjoying views through the 20-inch Panarusky telescope and 5-inch refractor. Mostly clear conditions prevailed as the Moon and planets Jupiter and Saturn were viewed early, later turning to some of the showpiece deep sky objects. Thanks to leader Bruce Brewer and his assisting Jim Macak for keeping a handle on things in the Observatory. I had a chance to help out with setting up the 6-inch Dynascope just outside for some awesome views of the moon. Rich Sauve was chief telescope viewer working those gathered in the parking lot.

#### August 10, PVN Pike Lake

By Gene DuPree

By 8:00 it was mostly cloudy, and not a lot of hope for clearing. Rick D. arrived and set-up his scope because the clearing line looked like it was an hour away. When Al S. arrived the sky did not look any better. We had a few visitors, and we told them we were waiting for the clearing to arrive. It just linger in the West and it didn't look good. By 9:15 we decided it was time to go

### Main Program *by Rudy Zarling*

#### "History of the Northern Cross Science Foundation"

Rudy Zarling, founder of NCSF will address our club on the formation of the Northern Cross Science Foundation, including the struggles encountered. He will talk about how the concept began, some of the hurdles, and the long road to completion. Then getting non-profit status, and the people who were kind enough to help by donating time and materials for project.

home. We stopped for gas and saw that is was clear and went back to the park. Only to find the clearing we had lasted about 15 minutes.

#### August 31, Reuss Ice Age Center, Dundee

By Gene R. DuPree

The sky didn't look good, but no rain, during the day. We could see the sunset and were hoping the clearing would arrive before the end of Jeff's presentation. He had been ask to do a program, his talk was " The Universe From Your Back Yard", which started at 7:30. By 8:15 a little clearing was starting, and Jupiter was appearing in and out of the clouds. As the visitors were coming out from the talk Saturn could be seen, but the clearing was still slow moving. Rick D. had already set-up his scope when he arrived. Then Al S. got out his byno's on a parallelogram gram mount. Then I decided to put out our 8 inch Dob. Jeff was using the laser pointer to show objects. We were bouncing around object to object, as the clearing would move across the sky. So, we had happy visitors that saw the many objects they viewed. The head count was 70. We were packed-up and ready to leave by 10:30.

### Observatory Note

Please note there is now an updated key available to access the breaker box on east wall of Puckett's pond bathroom to control both bathroom lights and shelter lights.

Dan Bert



## Related Info

### Welcome New Members

Jim Hahn  
Michael Baka  
Lisa Baka

### Leaders for Public Viewing

#### September 6, Friday

Harrington beach  
Gene & Charlotte DuPree

#### September 7, Saturday

Harrington beach  
Jeff Setzer

#### September 7, Saturday

Pike Lake  
Gene & Charlotte DuPree

#### September 14, Saturday

Pike Lake  
Gene & Charlotte DuPree

#### October 4, Friday

Harrington beach  
Leaders Needed

#### October 5, Saturday

Harrington beach  
Leaders Needed

### NCRAL 2020

May 1-2

Port Washington Country Inn and Suites

Hosted by Northern Cross Science Foundation.



## 2019 Board of directors

### **President - Jeff Setzer**

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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.

Cont. from Pg-1)

piece together the correct maps to pinpoint the exact center of the Northwest Hemisphere." He then petitioned the U.S. Geological Survey to mark the exact spot.

The problem, however, was that the real 45x90 was on private farm property and away from the road. So the best place for the marker was some 1063 feet away from the actual 45x90 spot, which is an unmarked piece of dirt in the middle of a soybean field.

In 2017, an agreement was made with the farm owners who offered an easement to



*Free Commemorative Medallion for signing the 45x90 Club registration book.*

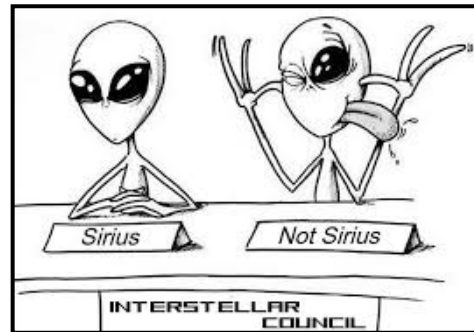
Marathon County. The marker is now in the correct location, with a packed gravel pathway, parking lot, park benches and signage available for visitors to more easily enjoy.

However what is truly wonderful about the 45x90 spot in Poniatoski, Wisconsin is neither the sign, nor the spot itself, but the degree to which the local area has embraced their unique geographical location.

After visiting the 45x90 spot it is essential that one make the trip into the nearby larger town of Wausau to stop by the Visitors Center. Once run out of Gesicki's Tavern, since 2006 the visitors center has been the holder of the official "45X90 Club" registration book, on loan from the family. The book at a good six inches thick holds the names and dates of all those who have made the trek to the spot. It turns that a steady flow of people from all over the world care to come stand in an empty field just to appreciate what it represents.

Not only does signing the book make you an instant member of the 45x90 club, you are given a commemorative coin as proof of your visit. Peter & Lou Berryman, Wisconsin folk singers, even wrote a song about it.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/45-x-90-geographical-marker>



### 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](mailto:rickenkaz@charter.net)