

# S P E C T R U M

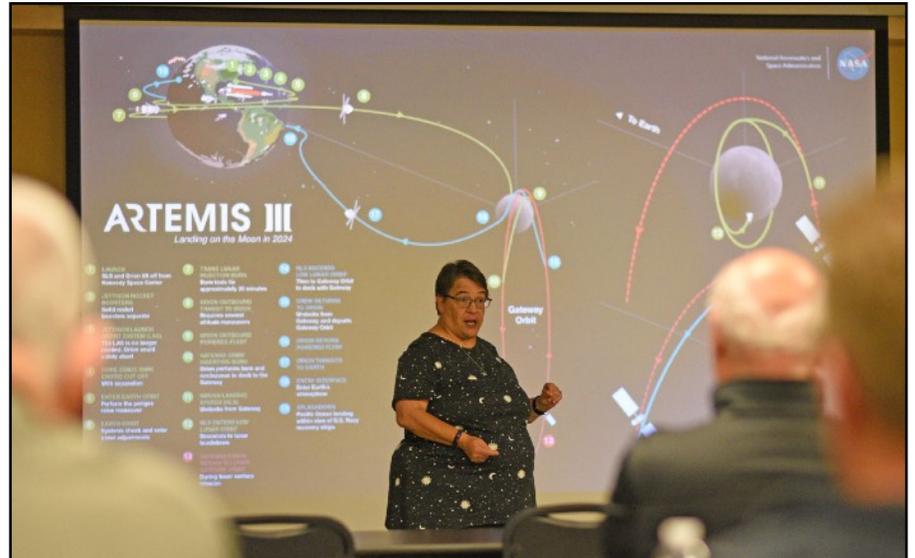
Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

December 2022

## First in-person Meeting in Nearly Three Years Held at Jackson Community Center

November 2022 meeting minutes

- Joyce Jentges opened the meeting with a welcome to the club's in-person attendees at our newest location in the Jackson Community Center, at 6:30 pm. There were 19 members present.
- The meeting was prefaced by 30 minutes of a social, get-together time starting at 6 pm. As noted by the secretary, the times, shape, content of the meeting is a work in progress and feedback is welcome. The 6 pm start is new. It is an effort to make it easier for some members. The technical aspect of delivering presentations, making question and answers possible, acoustics, in general, making the meeting comfortable for all, is also on-going. The club's indulgence is requested as we round out the edges. There's a lot of expertise in the club, suggestions would definitely be reviewed by the board.
- Joyce's presentation was an overall look as well as specifics on NASA's Artemis lunar project. The SLS rocket and unmanned Orion launched from Kennedy Space Center on Nov. 16. The [NASA channel](#) through the internet would be a commercial-free way See page 2



**Top:** NCSF vice-president Joyce Jentges spoke about NASA's Artemis mission. **Above:** Members gather in the new meeting space at the Jackson Community Center. Photos by Steve Sweeney and Don Woelz

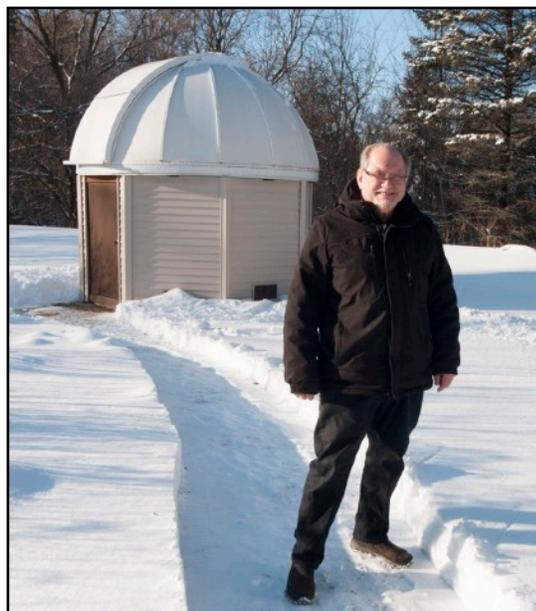
## Remembering Kaz

By Charlotte and Gene DuPree

When we went to Rick Kazmierski's memorial service on Saturday November 12, we learned that his love for astronomy goes to his childhood. He would take his siblings to the house rooftop to look at the stars and planets.

His sister recalled that as a teen, he ground a mirror for a telescope he made. The family spoke highly of him as the oldest child, a kind person, a philosopher, and a prankster.

Rick and his wife Mickey had land with a trailer near Dodgeville, where the dark skies inspired his passion for astrophotography. He also had his hobbies: woodworking, camping, family time and Sheepshead. One time Rick noticed an eight-inch DOB telescope we had. "I know that scope," he said, "I helped Harold build it." See page 3



Rick Kazmierski and his home observatory near West Bend. Ernie Mastroianni photo

## Coming Up

**Thursday, December 1**

**Holiday Party 6 pm**

In-person, [Jackson Community Center](#)  
N165 W20330 Hickory Lane  
Jackson, WI 53037  
Members bring food, club provides soft drinks

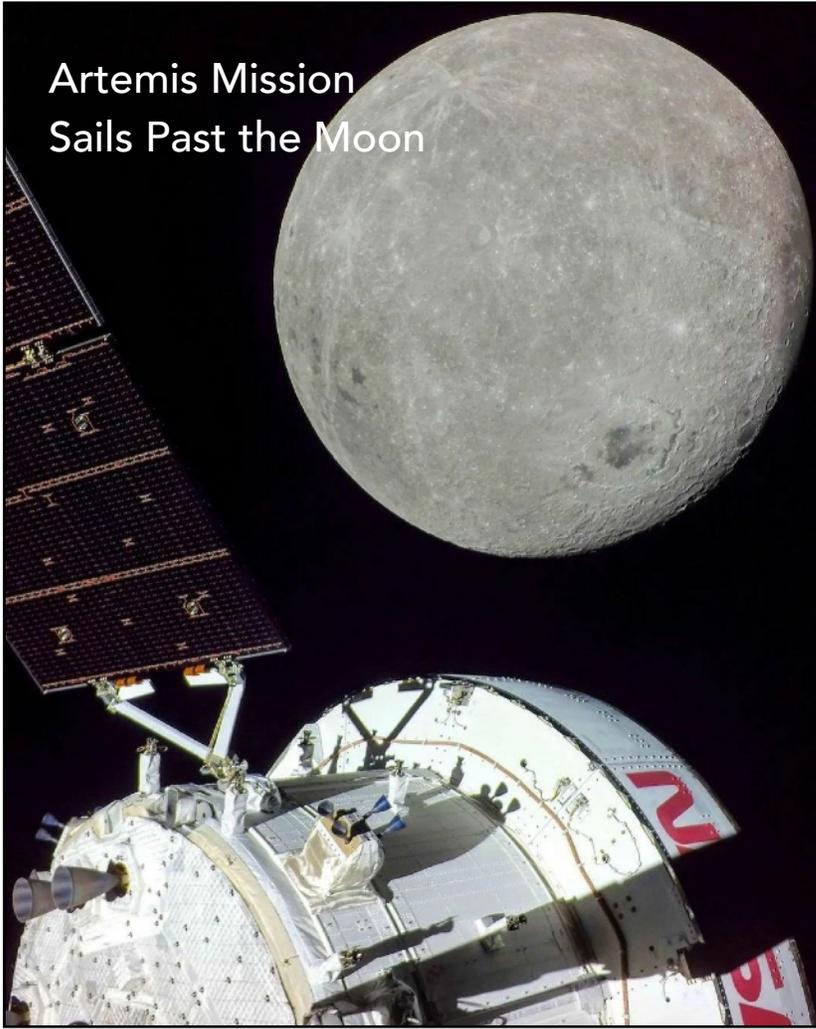
**Wednesday, December 7**

The full moon occults Mars  
See page 2

**Thursday, January 5**

General Meeting, 6 pm  
[Jackson Community Center](#)  
N165 W20330 Hickory Lane  
Jackson, WI 53037

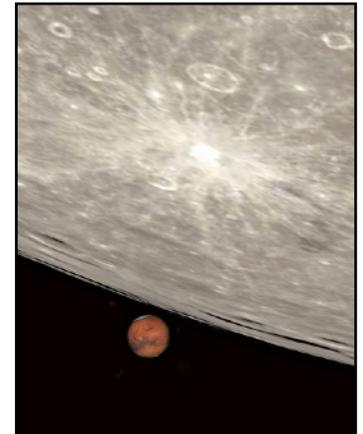
## Artemis Mission Sails Past the Moon



**Above:** NASA's Space Launch System rocket carrying the Orion spacecraft launches on the Artemis I flight test on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

**Left:** A portion of the far side of the Moon looms just beyond the uncrewed Orion spacecraft in this image taken on the mission's sixth day by a camera on the tip of a solar array. The spacecraft came within 80 miles of the lunar surface. Read more about the mission [at this link](#). NASA captions and photos

## Moon Occults Mars on Dec. 7



At about 9:09 pm Central Time on Dec. 7 (as viewed from southeast Wisconsin), the full moon will occult the planet Mars. The red planet will be near opposition and at its largest apparent diameter this year. The coverup goes quickly: Less than a minute will pass from first contact to the moment it vanishes behind the moon. You'll be able to see the moon's motion relative to Mars as its limb glides over the planet. This simulated view is from the Stellarium digital star atlas. - Ernie Mastroianni

## November General Meeting Minutes

From page 1

of watching. The NASA channel also gives great behind the scenes information while waiting for the actual launch. You can also look for more

Artemis information at <https://www.nasa.gov/artemis-1>

• Joyce had new members introduce themselves and noted that maybe we all had to introduce ourselves, being it nearly three years since we have had an in-person meeting.

• Gene DuPree reported that after the transfer of PayPal funds, the general account stood at \$13,770.16. There was an expenditure of \$25 for the extra hour that would be provided for the holiday party at the December meeting. The donation jar at the observatory netted \$38. Also, money was spent for replacing the hand controller for the 5" refractor at the observatory.

• Joyce reported the trip to the Adler Planetarium was a success. The weather was beautiful, solar observing was in progress, and a full-scale replica of the Mar's rover was on display.

• Joyce reported that Gene and Charlotte DuPree, Jim Hahn and Joyce had another successful outing at Random Lake middle school.

• Joyce mentioned to keep an eye out and plan for the lunar eclipse on November 8. Various phases of the eclipse will start at 3:09 am, and end 4:59 am.

• Nominations for expiring term board members took place. Joyce, Gene, and Steve S were nominated and seconded.

• On a sad and unexpected note, Charlotte announced that Rick "Kaz" Kazmierski, had passed that morning. Kaz was presently serving on the board, and was very active in astrophotography. Kaz will surely be missed. Details will follow. Also, not mentioned at the meeting, but as a friend I must note, the Mastroianni family has lost their son in a bike accident, see [Ernie's page in Facebook](#) for the announcement. As the NCSF members take some time to try to take this all in, we acknowledge this loss. It will take time to do this.

• Slack was discussed. It was noted that members old and new use this social media tool as a means to communicate. Members need to be invited to join. This helps keep it private. [E-mail Jeff Setzer](#) for that invitation. If there are members who do not have access to the internet (you may not be reading this, please reach out to members), don't hesitate phoning a board member. It was acknowledged that the NCSF channel is private, and might provide a challenge in the initial start up phase. Do not hesitate to text a fellow member for help.

• A quick discussion continued concerning the holiday meeting. There will not be a presentation at that meeting. The obligatory business meeting will take place, Nominations will continue, and a vote will take place. Members are invited to bring a food entrée of their choice; the meeting room has kitchen facilities and will be utilized. The club will provide soft drinks.

• Joyce concluded the meeting at about 7:30, some socializing followed and we did leave the center by 8 pm.

• Minutes submitted for review and correction by Mike Borchert.



**Left:** IC 1396 and the Elephant Trunk Nebula from his home observatory, taken with his 4-inch refractor. **Below:** Kaz with his 14-inch Meade telescope under the dome.

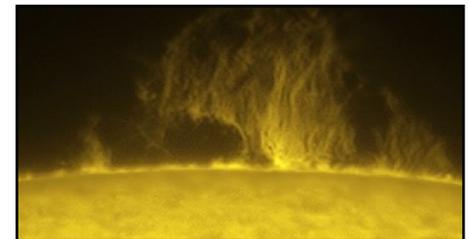
Photo by Ernie Mastroianni.

See more of his images on page 4 and at <https://skyhawkobservatory.com/>

All astrophotos by Rick Kazmierski



**Above:** The Iris Nebula taken with a Canon DSLR and his 14-inch Meade.



**Above:** Solar flares taken with a Coronado solar telescope.

**Left:** Nebulosity around the bright star Sadr in the constellation Cygnus.

## Remembering Kaz

From page 1  
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We had bought it from the man Harold had sold it to.

At one time we had four members named Rick in the NCSF club. I took to calling him "Kaz". Mickey told me he was just tickled when I did. He had always wanted that to be his nickname. When the Kazmierski family moved to West Bend, they built an observatory in the backyard and he became dedicated to taking night pictures.

Rick also shared his astronomy knowledge at the grade school his grandchildren attended and received many thank-you cards from the students. He would host stargazing nights with the home-schooled neighbors. He helped start the club's astrophotography group and was on two NCRAL committees.

### Bowling Fan

We learned more about Kaz when we started spending time with him after the death of his wife Mickey in 2017. He and Gene would play cribbage once a week. He knew we were involved with bowling and he surprised us one day, saying he bought a bowling ball, then joined us three days a week. We also discovered

how competitive he could be, and his family agrees with that.

### From Ernie Mastroianni:

I first met Kaz in the late 1990s while hanging out at a camera store at Bayshore Mall. I'd go there to talk shop, look at gear, and get my film processed. On the day I met him, he was picking up prints of some spectacular astronomy pictures he made, including a shot of the



edge-on galaxy NGC 891 that he took under the dark skies near Dodgeville.

### Started with film

As a budding astrophotographer, I instantly recognized his talent at getting the most out of film, which was a difficult thing to do in the pre-digital days.

His astrophotography always stunned me. He wasn't an imaging professional,

but the way he composed and processed his photos revealed a professional touch.

### Skilled Editor

I worked more closely with him when the club decided to pursue buying astrophotography gear, and later, when he asked me to become a regular contributor to the Spectrum newsletter in 2014. As a veteran journalist, I've worked with many editors over the decades, and he was one of the best. He was patient, generous with praise, but had a gentle way with a firm nudge when deadlines approached.

Rick edited the Spectrum for 12 years, producing a four-page newsletter 144 times without fail. He kept members informed with a style that nicely mirrored the personality and enthusiasm of the NCSF members.

Kaz left his mark in many ways with the club: Board member, editor, active participant in public viewing nights, often traveling to out of town and out-of-state star parties and regional meetings.

His NCSF legacy will live on. Read more about Kazmierski's life outside of the NCSF at this link: <https://memorials.phillipfuneralhome.com/fredrick-kazmierski/5061991/>

**Board of Directors, 2022****President - Jeff Setzer**

1418 Trillium CT  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-338-8614  
[astrosetz@hotmail.com](mailto:astrosetz@hotmail.com)

**Vice President -  
Joyce Jentges**

336 N Main Street, Apt.3  
Cedar Grove, WI 53013  
262 483- 4270  
[joycejentges@hotmail.com](mailto:joycejentges@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer - Gene DuPree**

6219 Jay St.  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-675-0941  
[grdupree@charter.net](mailto:grdupree@charter.net)

**Secretary and ALCOR -  
Mike Borchert**

3656 Willow Creek Rd.  
Colgate, WI 53017  
262-628-4098  
[gmborchert@gmail.com](mailto:gmborchert@gmail.com)

**Kevin Bert**

2292 Ridgewood Road  
Grafton, WI 53024  
(262) 674-0610  
[kevin.bert@hotmail.com](mailto:kevin.bert@hotmail.com)

**Rick Kazmierski**

5327 Cascade Dr.  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-305-1895  
[rickkaz@charter.net](mailto:rickkaz@charter.net)

**Don Woelz**

4892 Lois Lane  
West Bend WI 53095  
(414) 732-7705  
[woelzd@charter.net](mailto:woelzd@charter.net)



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



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



*At least 75 galaxies appear in this frame that spans just a half degree, but the Perseus Galaxy Cluster is often overlooked. Kaz took more than three hours of subframes through his home observatory's 14-inch Meade to capture this deep field.*



*Above: It was 9 below zero when Kaz photographed Supernova 2014J in January 2014.*

*Right: Kaz captured the Owl Nebula in great detail, including a couple of distant 17th magnitude galaxies.*

**Spectrum newsletter**

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<https://ncsf.info>

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Editor: Ernie Mastroianni  
5821 N. Santa Monica  
Whitefish Bay, Wis 53217  
[ernie.mastroianni@gmail.com](mailto:ernie.mastroianni@gmail.com)