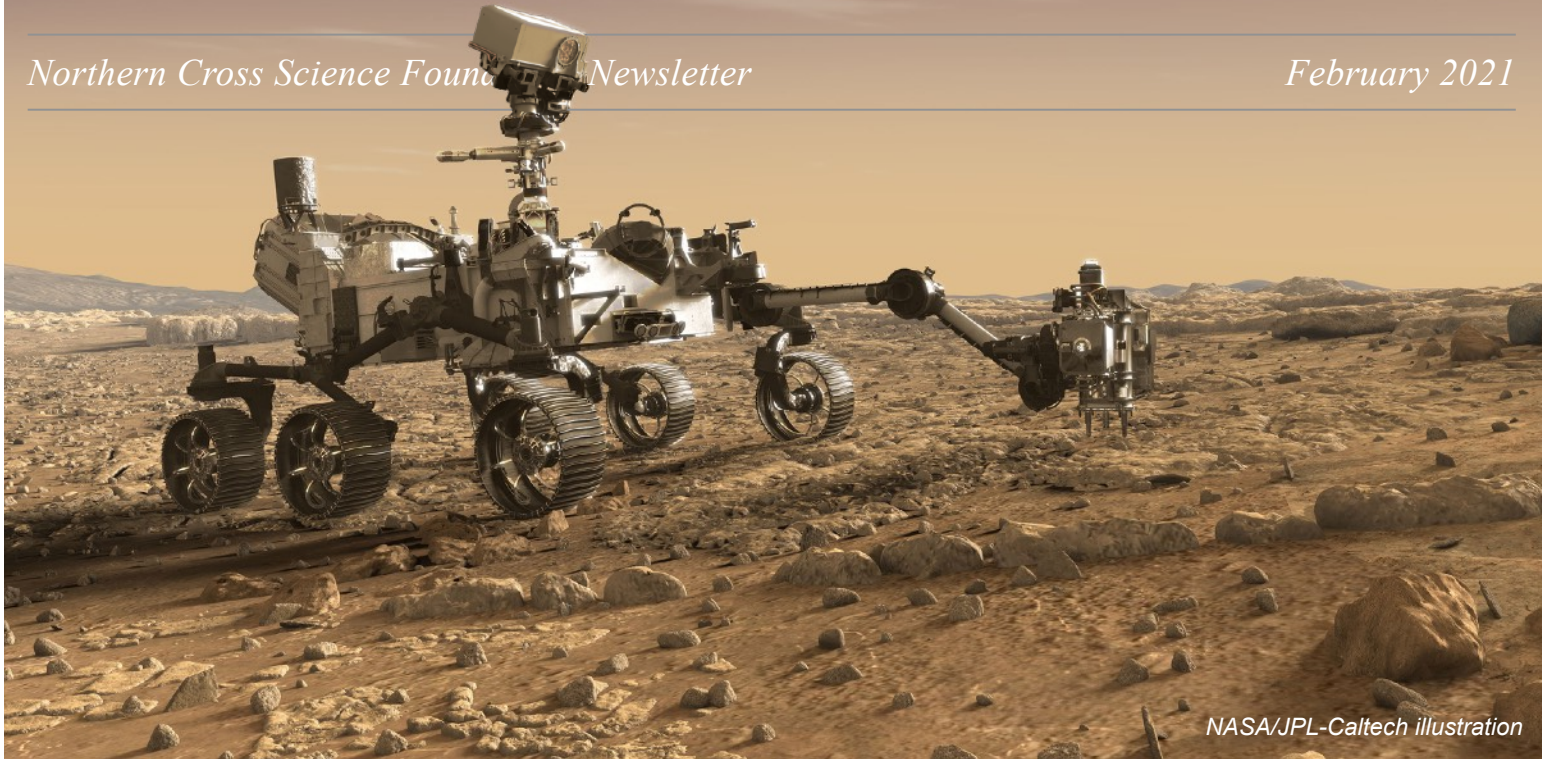


# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

February 2021



## February program to feature the Mars 2020 mission, set to land on Mars this month

NCSF vice president Joyce Jentges will present February's General Meeting main program which will cover a major event in Mars exploration. The [Perseverance rover](#) will land on Mars February 18, 2021. This presentation, Countdown To Mars, will

discuss the steps involved in landing on Mars. Jentges will also describe some of the functions of the rover and share ways that you can get involved and watch the landing. This illustration depicts NASA's Mars 2020 rover with its robotic arm extended.

## NCRAL convention canceled, January General Meeting report

The NCRAL 2021 convention, scheduled for May 7-8 at St. Norbert College, has been canceled this year, says convention chair Gerry Kocken. It marked the second consecutive cancellation of the conference due to the COVID pandemic. Kocken, of the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society (this year's host club), made the decision in conjunction with the NPMAS board and officials at St. Norbert College.

### January General Meeting notes

The first NCSF General Meeting of this year was again held via Zoom on Jan. 7.

Many members discussed their observations of the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction, which was best viewed in the last half of December. While the day of closest approach (December 21) was completely overcast in southeast Wisconsin, members did have a chance to see the planets on nights a few days before and after. Though

not as close as on December 21, most had the pleasure of seeing and/or photographing both gas giants in a single telescope field.

Treasurer Gene DuPree reported \$11,787.17 in the club's account. President Jeff Setzer reminded everyone that the observatory at Harrington Beach State Park remains closed for observing and public events, but members are permitted to enter the building periodically to check on its condition.

The park is open to the public, but an annual vehicle sticker is required to enter. The fee is \$28. You can purchase stickers online at <https://yourpassnow.com/ParkPass/wi> or by phone at 1-888-305-0398. If you are 65 or older, admission stickers are just \$13.

Member Ernie Mastroianni gave the main program presentation on the 20th anniversary of his *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

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### February 4, Thursday General Meeting

Online via Zoom  
7:30 pm

### General Meeting Post-pandemic

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

Location:

GSC Technology Center  
W189 N11161 Kleinmann Dr.  
Germantown, WI

.....  
Please email editor Ernie Mastroianni with dates and times of any upcoming NCSF events:  
[ernie.mastroianni@gmail.com](mailto:ernie.mastroianni@gmail.com)

## January NCSF board report

The officers for 2021 remain unchanged. Mike Borchert will be assisting Kevin Bert while he's still on second shift at work.

2021 dues are due! Remember, you can pay by check, but you can pay with PayPal or a credit card on our website (<https://ncsf.info/ncsf-online-dues-payment>)

Our outreach plan for this year is to schedule public events internally at our February board meeting, but not release a calendar until such time as we can actually hold public events. When that time comes, we'll publish the event schedule from that point forward. - Jeff Setzer

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



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

**Looking ahead: Annual NCSF banquet canceled, other events affected due to COVID pandemic****March 4 General Meeting**

*Banquet canceled this year due to current COVID conditions. A general meeting to be held instead.*  
Online via Zoom  
7:30 pm

**Sheboygan Swap-n-Sell**

March 27, 2021 *As of this writing, due to the current COVID conditions, this event could be canceled or its date changed. More details to come in the March newsletter.*  
Aviation Heritage Center  
Sheboygan Airport

**NEAF**

Northeast Astronomy Forum  
April 10 and 11, 2021  
*The twice-canceled conference has been recast as a free virtual experience.*  
Details at this link:  
<https://www.neafexpo.com>

**NCRAL convention**

May 7-8, 2021  
**Canceled due to COVID**  
St Norbert College Bemis Center,  
De Pere, Wis.  
Hosted by the Neville Public Museum  
Astronomical Society

**Pre-WOW**

June 4-9 2021  
Hartmann Creek State Park  
**IMPORTANT NOTE:**  
If anyone is thinking of attending Pre-WOW, June 4-9 2021, please let us know. We will release the early weekend dates if no one interested in camping. You would not have to come for all of the pre-dates. You can camp and leave anytime during if you cannot attend WOW on June 10 - 13. Contact: 262-675-0941 or [grdupree@charter.net](mailto:grdupree@charter.net)  
*Gene and Charlotte DuPree*

**Wisconsin Observers Weekend**

June 10-13, 2021  
Hartmann Creek State Park  
<http://www.new-star.org/index.php?Itemid=82>

**Pike River Starfest**

July 7-11  
Amberg, Wis.  
Contact Gerry Kocken  
[gerryk@kockenwi.com](mailto:gerryk@kockenwi.com)

**Nebraska Star Party**

August 1 - 6, 2021  
Merritt Reservoir Snake Campground  
<https://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>

**General Meeting report**

*From page 1* assignment to Antarctica. His Amundsen-Scott South Pole station to  
----- report detailed how report on the predecessor of IceCube, the  
Wisconsin researchers giant neutrino detector buried deep in the  
contributed to multiple fields of research in South Pole ice.  
Antarctica. The trip's highlight was a visit to - *Ernie Mastroianni*

**SPECTRUM newsletter**

Published monthly by the Northern Cross Science Foundation, Inc. (NCSF), a nonprofit amateur astronomy organization based in southeastern Wisconsin.  
<https://ncsf.info>

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