

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter



50

March 2024

Looking Back on 50 Years of Outreach and Observing



Above: At Northridge Mall during a public engagement event sometime in the 80s, are from far left: Joe Reimbold, Joyce Jentges, Bill Fisher, Charlotte DuPree, Bob Sedgwick (back to camera, who designed the Panarusky telescope), Tim Burris, Kevin Bert, Justin Modra, and Harold Rogers.

Right: Kevin Bert and former member Matt Wagner set up telescopes in Rudy Zarling's back yard sometime during an NCSF open house in a photo that has a late 70s vibe. Kevin's massive Starliner mount will carry his 8" Newtonian.

More pictures on pages 3 and 4.



Above: Astrofest was a popular star party held near Kankakee, Ill., from 1979 to 2003. This photo shows Dan Bert and Jeff Setzer under the white tent, plus Kevin Bert's binocular parallelogram mount. The photo is circa 2000.



Swap n Sell, March 23

The annual Sheboygan Astronomical Society's Swap N Sell will be on Saturday, March 23 at the Sheboygan Airport Aviation Heritage Center, N6191 Resource Dr, Sheboygan Falls. Amateur astronomers from across the state will be there to buy, sell, or trade gear. The event runs 9 to 2.

Spectrum Editor Needed

After 4 years as *Spectrum* editor and 9 years of contributing content, I'm stepping down after the May 2024 issue. Although I'm retired from my 45-year career in newspapers and magazines, I'm longing for a life without this one remaining deadline. Family obligations and travel take much of my time now.

It's been an honor to chronicle the activities of such an active and knowledgeable group. Contact Jeff Setzer or anyone on the board if you're interested in taking this on. I'll help however I can with the transition. - *Ernie Mastroianni*

February General Meeting Minutes

President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting with the introduction of guest speaker, Chris Henry, Director of the EAA Museum in Oshkosh, WI.. Chris' spoke about the NASA Astronaut program through the stories of 12 of the 13 astronauts of the Apollo program that he had the privilege to meet, interview, and befriend during his tenure as EAA Museum Director.

Starting with the formation of NASA following the Sputnik launch by Russia and ending with Apollo 17, the final Apollo mission, Chris' narrative took the audience through the Mercury and Gemini programs

See page 3.

Coming Up

**Thursday, Mar. 7, 6 pm
Annual banquet**

[Libby Montana Restaurant](#)
5616 W. Donges Bay Rd.
Help NCSF celebrate our 50th anniversary! Private room, order from the menu. Come and hear more about our club's 50th anniversary.
grdupree@charter.net
RESERVATION REQUIRED

**Thursday, April 4, 6 pm
General Meeting**
[Jackson Community Center](#)
N165 W20330 Hickory Lane Jackson, WI

What's Happening in 2024

Public outreach is one of the most important things we do as a club. Please volunteer your time, astronomy expertise and enthusiasm for at least one public viewing event each year. Starting times are approximate for volunteers. You can also see many of these NCSF scheduled events on the club's website: <https://ncsf.info/upcoming-events/>

**May 10 and 11, Friday and Saturday:
8 pm to 11 pm**
Public viewing, Plunkett Observatory,
Harrington Beach State Park

May 11, Saturday 8 pm
Telescope viewing, Kettle Moraine State Forest - Pike Lake
Unit 3544 Kettle Moraine Rd, Slinger ([map](#))

May 17-18, Friday and Saturday
[NCRAL 2024 Convention](#)
DePere, WI
Presented by the Neville Public Museum
Astronomical Society
[Bemis Center](#) located on the St. Norbert's College Campus
(See page 3 for more information)

June 1, Saturday 1 pm - 4 pm
Pike Lake Discovery Day
Safe solar telescope viewing

June 6-9, Thursday to Sunday
Wisconsin Observer's Weekend
The annual Wisconsin Observer's Weekend (WOW) will be held at Hartman Creek State Park near Waupaca, WI. Sponsored by NCRAL member society [NEWSTAR](#). Details and registration forms can be found on the club [website](#).

June 14, Friday, 8 pm
Public viewing, Plunkett Observatory,
Harrington Beach State Park

June 15, Saturday, 8 pm
Public viewing, Plunkett Observatory,
Harrington Beach State Park

June 15, Saturday, 8 pm
Telescope viewing, Kettle Moraine State Forest - Pike Lake
Unit 3544 Kettle Moraine Rd, Slinger ([map](#))

July 13, Saturday, 8 pm
Public viewing, Plunkett Observatory,
Harrington Beach State Park

July 17-20, Wednesday to Saturday
Astronomical League Convention
Doubletree By Hilton, Overland Park, Kansas
The national organization for amateur astronomy clubs holds its annual convention. Details here:
<https://www.astroleague.org/alcon-2024-kansas-city/>

August 2-4, Friday to Sunday
[Northwoods Starfest 2024](#)

The annual Northwoods Starfest will occur on August 2-4 at Hobbs Observatory in Fall Creek, Wis. See the Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society [website](#) for details.

August 9, Friday, 8 pm
Public viewing, Plunkett Observatory,
Harrington Beach State Park

August 10, Saturday, 8 pm
Public viewing, Plunkett Observatory,
Harrington Beach State Park
Telescope Viewing Kettle Moraine State Forest - Pike Lake
Unit 3544 Kettle Moraine Rd, Slinger ([map](#))



August 24, Saturday, 7:30 pm
Telescope Viewing: Henry Reuss Ice Age Center ([map](#))

September 6, Friday, 8 pm
Public viewing, Plunkett Observatory,
Harrington Beach State Park

September 7, Saturday, 8 pm
Public viewing, Plunkett Observatory,
Harrington Beach State Park

September 7, Saturday, 8 pm
Telescope viewing, Kettle Moraine State Forest - Pike Lake
Unit 3544 Kettle Moraine Rd, Slinger ([map](#))

October 11, Friday 7 pm
Public viewing, Plunkett Observatory,
Harrington Beach State Park

October 12, Saturday, 7 pm
Public viewing, Plunkett Observatory,
Harrington Beach State Park

October 12, Saturday, 7 pm
Telescope viewing, Kettle Moraine State Forest - Pike Lake
Unit 3544 Kettle Moraine Rd, Slinger ([map](#))

Star Parties in the New Millennium



Above: Green laser pointers cut through some ground fog during a well-attended public viewing night at Harrington Beach State Park in October, 2014. **Top right:** Al Steinberg brought his finely-crafted homebuilt 8" Newtonian to the 100 Telescopes in the Park event held at Greenfield Park in September 2009. There were at least 100 telescopes set up that night. **Right:** A young girl views the moon through Ernie Mastroianni's vintage Questar during an outreach event at Bayshore Mall in 2009, for which the club received a generous honorarium. - Ernie Mastroianni photos

NCRAL 2024 Convention Information

NCRAL Members,

We are in the process of gathering the speakers' bios for [NCRAL 2024](#) on May 17-18. We are planning on getting registration up in late January. People can currently register for rooms at the Kress Inn, located in DePere, Wisconsin. Mention the NCRAL Convention when you do so. Room rates are \$104.00 per night. The phone number is (920) 403-5100.

Rooms include a nice continental breakfast in the mornings. The convention will be held at the Bemis Center located on the St. Norbert's College Campus right across the street from the hotel. Friday night will include a Swap and Sell meet in the Bemis Center. Also, a display area will be for anything unusual in astronomical equipment, books or other items that may be of interest.

I will be bringing some unusual telescopes, and other rare items of interest for example. The cost of the convention will be set at \$120.00 per person which will include the banquet dinner. I'll keep you posted as things get finalized. [See the schedule on the NCRAL website](#) - Gerry Kocken, Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society

February Meeting Minutes

From page 1 leading up to the Apollo missions, and recapped many of the highlights from each mission. These included Apollo 8, the first lunar orbit with the famous picture of Earth rising above the moon's horizon; Apollo 11, the first moon landing; Apollo 15, the use of the lunar rover and the first mission with a trained geologist. The presentation was followed by announcements by president Jeff Setzer:

- The February newsletter was released and contains a lot of articles related to NCSF history, as it will continue to do throughout the 50th anniversary year.
- Newsletter editor Ernie Mastroianni has announced that he will retire as Spectrum editor in the Spring of 2024. The club will miss his talented writing, design, and photographic skills. We are actively looking for members who may be interested in carrying on this activity. If you, or a member you know, would like to take on the production of Spectrum, please contact a board member.
- Events related to our 50th anniversary are forthcoming. Watch the newsletter and your emails for further news.

- The March meeting is our annual banquet night at Libby Montana. There will be discussions and displays relating the the 50-year history of the NCSF.

Former members are also being invited. A reservation will be required so that we can get an accurate count of attendees to be sure we have adequate capacity and services at the restaurant. Watch your email and announcements on Slack for details.

- The new year means it is time for membership renewal. All members can renew their membership online from the NCSF web site (www.ncsf.info) using a credit card, or by mail with a check.
- The club purchased 1000 eclipse glasses for use with the April 8 full eclipse. These are available for \$2.00 each (\$2.15 if purchased with credit card) and also serve as a modest fund raiser. Please promote and sell as many of these as you can to friends and family for safe viewing of the eclipse. Glasses may be obtained by contacting Jeff Setzer.

- Don Woelz, Secretary, NCSF



Northern Cross Science Foundation in the News

Right: Rob Powell leads a private viewing night at Harrington Beach. The photo was featured in the May 2016 issue of Discover Magazine. Far right: Stargazing at the NCSF observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in 1974.

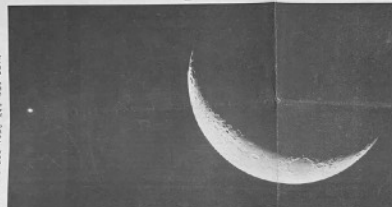


PHOTO BY NEWS GRAPHIC, May 1, 1991

All eyes on evening skies

Local stargazers focus attention on celestial pursuits

When the moon is in the sky, it's a sight to behold. For many stargazers, the moon is a familiar sight, but for some, it's a new experience. The Northern Cross Science Foundation is holding a private viewing night at Harrington Beach on Friday, May 18, from 8 to 11 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The foundation has a 17-inch reflector telescope and a 20-inch Panarusk telescope. The viewing will be led by Rob Powell, the foundation's president. The viewing will be at the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach.

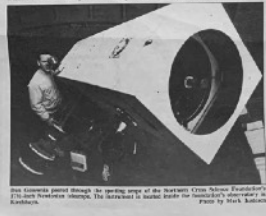


Kevin Bert, a member of the Northern Cross Science Foundation, looks at the moon through a 17-inch reflector telescope at the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach on Friday, May 18, 1991.

"It's something they've seen in pictures and now they can see it for themselves... It's the fascination of something so far away."

NCSF member Bob Fisher

The foundation will provide a viewing of the moon through a 17-inch reflector telescope and a 20-inch Panarusk telescope. The viewing will be led by Rob Powell, the foundation's president. The viewing will be at the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach.



The 20-inch Panarusk telescope is the largest in the Northern Cross Science Foundation's collection. It is located at the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach.



At left, Kevin Bert looks through the 17-inch reflector telescope at the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach on Friday, May 18, 1991.



Students from the Northern Cross Science Foundation look through a telescope at the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach on Friday, May 18, 1991.

New telescope requires many talents

The Northern Cross Science Foundation has a new 20-inch Panarusk telescope. The telescope is a gift from a donor. The telescope is a Panarusk telescope, which is a type of telescope that is designed for viewing the moon and planets. The telescope is a Panarusk telescope, which is a type of telescope that is designed for viewing the moon and planets. The telescope is a Panarusk telescope, which is a type of telescope that is designed for viewing the moon and planets.

Students visit the observatory

Students from the Northern Cross Science Foundation visited the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach on Friday, May 18, 1991. The students were led by Rob Powell, the foundation's president. The students were given a tour of the observatory and were given a viewing of the moon through a telescope.



Students from the Northern Cross Science Foundation visit the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach on Friday, May 18, 1991.

Gift allows library to add a telescope to its collection

Patrons of Port facility can get a look at planets, stars through device donated by astronomy foundation



A telescope is added to the collection of the Northern Cross Science Foundation at the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach on Friday, May 18, 1991.

Crowds flock to park to eye eclipse

People of all ages descend on Harrington Beach to view spectacle through special glasses, homemade box viewers and foundation's high-powered telescope



A crowd of people gathered at the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach on Friday, May 18, 1991, to view the solar eclipse.

Above: Jeff Setzer presents a loaner telescope to the Niederkorn Library in Port Washington.



Jeff Setzer presents a loaner telescope to the Niederkorn Library in Port Washington on Friday, May 18, 1991.

Above: a double page spread in the May 2 1991 News Graphic shows observers, a moonshot by Kevin Bert, the 17-inch reflector, and Panarusk telescope designèr Robert Sedgwick. Right: A young girl takes a look during a n Astronomy Day open house at the Plunkett Observatory.

Wonders of the sky

Members of Northern Cross Science Foundation set up more than 15 telescopes and gave tours of their new observatory during Astronomy Day activities Friday and Saturday at Harrington Beach State Park in the Town of Belknap. Sarah Nabis climbed a ladder with the help of her mother Anne to look at solar flares and sunspots through the club's 20-inch Panarusk telescope (right photo). Club member Kevin Bert made certain the telescope was positioned correctly (bottom photo). The club's next public viewing at the park will be from 8 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19.



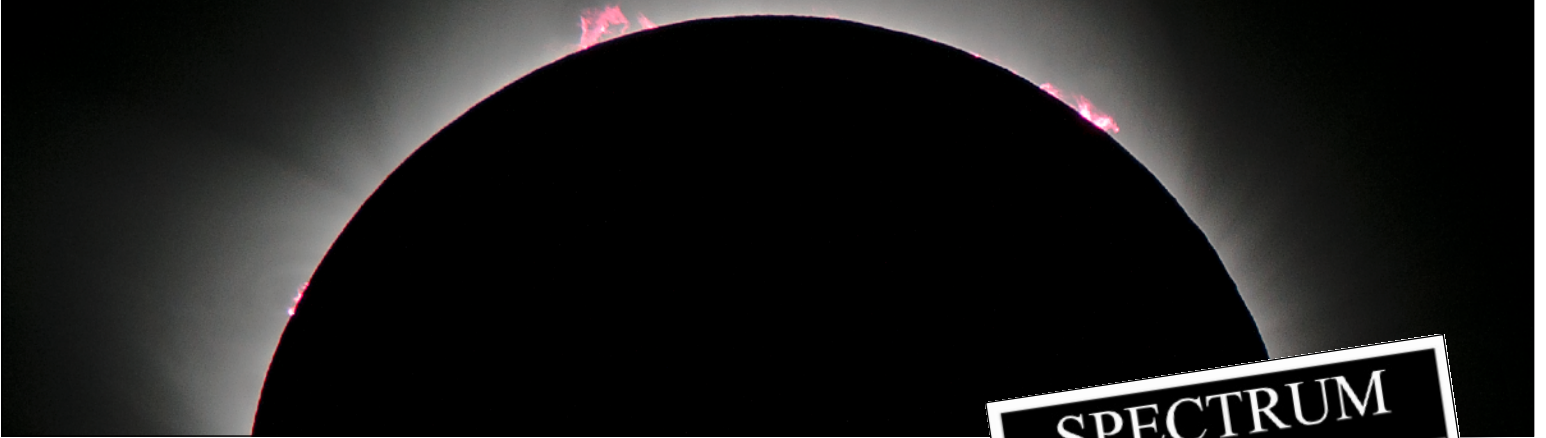
A young girl looks through a telescope at the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach on Friday, May 18, 1991.



Kevin Bert makes certain the telescope is positioned correctly at the Plunkett Observatory on Rudy Zarleng's property in Harrington Beach on Friday, May 18, 1991.

The 2017 solar eclipse drew dozens of visitors at Harrington Beach.

April 8: The Great American Eclipse, Chapter Two



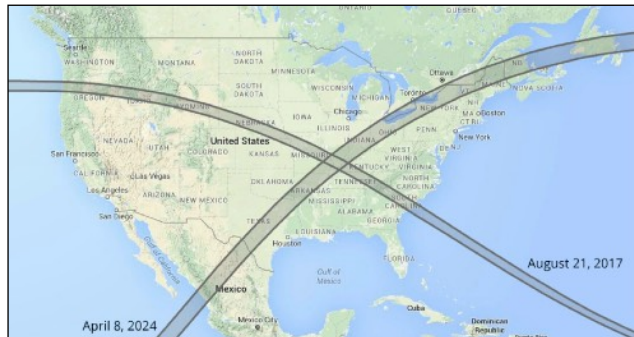
Solar prominences were easily visible during the 2017 solar eclipse. This photo was taken a vintage Nikon DSLR, a 500mm telephoto lens and a 1.4x tele-extender. Do NOT use a solar filter during totality, remember to take your solar filter off the camera but ONLY when the sun is completely covered by the moon. More photos on page 6. - Ernie Mastroianni

Longer Totality, but Fewer Clear Sky Options

This year's eclipse will differ from the 2017 event. Totality is nearly twice as long, with a path twice as wide. From where I'll view in Concan, Texas, totality will last 4 minutes and 26 seconds. When I was in Wyoming in 2017, totality was just 2 minutes and 27 seconds.

Also different: the respective paths. In 2017, totality was visible from Oregon to South Carolina, but barely grazed major cities like Kansas City, St. Louis and Nashville. Wide areas of the west known for clear skies drew major traffic jams when city dwellers (like me) streamed into ideal rural venues.

This year, the path crosses over major cities like Dallas-Fort Worth, Indianapolis, Cleveland



and Buffalo. It grazes San Antonio, Austin, Detroit, Toronto and Montreal. The path misses much of the wide western reaches of predominantly clear skies in the US.

In southwestern Texas, [historic data](#) indicate about a 35-40 percent chance of clouds. Indiana, Ohio and New York have cloudy skies of 50 to 70 percent this time of year.

Mexico offers significantly clearer skies on average but you'll pay. In the Mazatlan resort town a few rooms are available but expensive. A round trip airfare from Chicago is about \$1900 as of this writing.

- Ernie Mastroianni

Handy Eclipse Links

[Mr. Eclipse, Fred Espenak](#)

[Astronomy Magazine Eclipse Guide](#)

[Google Interactive Map](#)
(The best map I've seen, with local contact times down to the second)

[American Astronomical Society](#)

[Eclipsophile, Jay Anderson](#)

[NASA compares 2017 and 2024](#)

[Astrobackyard: Eclipse Photography](#)



Above: NCSF members recounted their 2017 eclipse experiences in the September Spectrum. Let's keep the tradition going, send in your stories and photos!

Board of Directors, 2024**President - Jeff Setzer**

1418 Trillium CT
West Bend, WI 53095
262-338-8614
astrosetz@hotmail.com

**Vice President -
Joyce Jentges**

336 N Main Street, Apt.3
Cedar Grove, WI 53013
262 483- 4270
joycejentges@hotmail.com

Treasurer - Gene DuPree

6219 Jay St.
West Bend, WI 53095
262-675-0941
grdupree@charter.net

Secretary- Don Woelz

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

Kevin Bert

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

Mark Zellner

N58 W5624 Edgewater Drive
Cedarburg, WI 53013
(262) 204-8283
mk.zellner@yahoo.com

James Neal

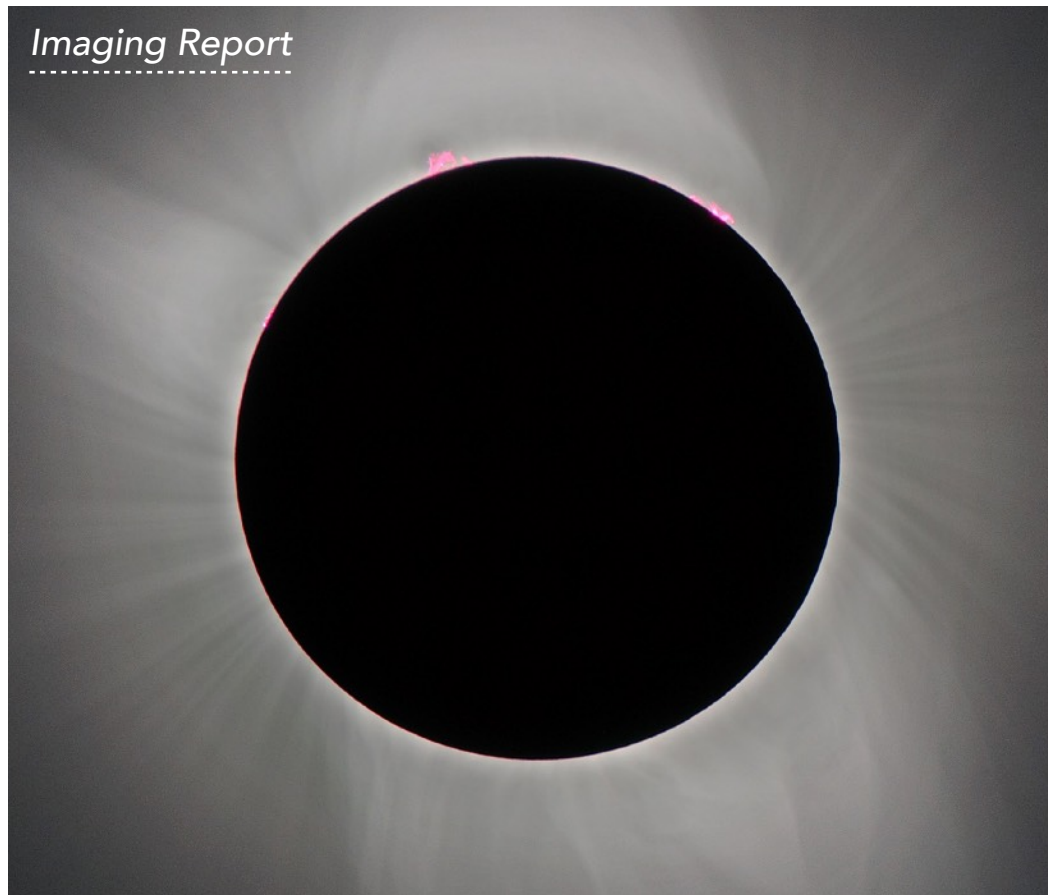
341Deer Meadow Dr.
Fredonia, WI 53021
(812) 580-3731
penn.dm@gmail.com



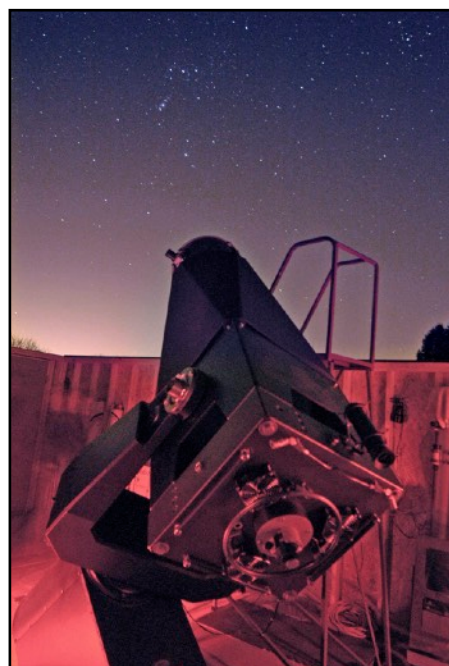
NCSF is a member of the [North Central Region of the Astronomical League](#)



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

Imaging Report

There's no single proper exposure for a total eclipse. In 2017's total eclipse, a 1/750 of a second at f8 (near right) captured detailed prominences. A longer 1/15 of a second (far right) revealed the corona. When blended (above), both are visible.
- Ernie Mastroianni photos

**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/>

Public:

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

Slack: ncsfastro.slack.com

Editor: Ernie Mastroianni
5821 N. Santa Monica
Whitefish Bay, Wis 53217
ernie.mastroianni@gmail.com