

# SPECTRUM



Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

August 2024

## Groundskeeping at the Observatory

A big “Thank You” to Steve Schowalter and Pat Marek for their recent groundskeeping activity at the observatory. They did some trimming, weeding, and spraying around the building. 🌱

*Johannes Kepler: “The diversity of the phenomena of nature is so great, and the treasures hidden in the heavens so rich, precisely in order that the human mind shall never be lacking in fresh nourishment.”*

## A New Editor

Dave Minerath, Newsletter Editor

Happy August all! I am your new SPECTRUM newsletter Editor, Dave Minerath. I’ll start off by giving a bit “Thank You” to Ernie Mastroianni for his years of being the newsletter editor. It was some very fortunate timing that his last edition had the grand spectacle of the total eclipse for some very nice stories and photos. That is going out in style!

I started my journey in astronomy back in 2004 or so when I joined my

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## Save The Date!

In celebration of our 50th anniversary, The NCSF will be having an anniversary picnic at Harrington Beach State Park. The date is September 28, 2024 2 pm until ?. This is so late in the season because of conflicts with new moon weekends. Come anytime after 2 pm and if weather cooperates, plan to observe in the evening. Please bring a dish to pass a chair and your own drinks. Make sure if you are bringing a dish to pass that you are able to keep it cold before and after the picnic. Our club has rented the shelter at Puckett's Pond next to the observatory. More details to come. 🌱

## July General Meeting Minutes

Don Woelz, Secretary

The NCSF Members meeting was opened by President Jeff Setzer at 6:30 on July 11, 2024.

13 persons were in attendance.

Joyce Jentges presented a program that outlined the current status of the NASA Perseverance Mars rover. Joyce described all of the various instruments that included 19 different cameras. The landing point and the path to its current position in the inflow area of Jezero crater were

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## Observing Report for July 12 & 13 at Harrington Beach

Joyce Jentges, NCSF Vice President

Skies were not as clear as expected on July 12. There was smoke in the sky and the sky appeared to be very murky. Deep sky objects were finally looking a little bit better by the time we left after 11 pm. The observatory was closed due to the mirror in the 20 inch scope needing repairs. There were to my estimation about 20 visitors who showed up. I'd like to thank the following members for coming out to help at this observing night: Joseph Barboza, Steve Schowalter, Rick Dusenbery, Mark Weber, Jim Hahn, the Friess Family, Jeff Setzer and Jim Macek.

July 13 - This night was cancelled due to incoming severe storms. Gene and Charlotte DuPree and I hung out for about an hour until the event was cancelled.



*A New Editor Continued from Page 1*

first astronomy club in northern Virginia. Since then, I have been a member of clubs in Madison, Minneapolis, and Green Bay. The azimuth drive in the scope broke down one day while setting up, and it took me 15 years to fix it. But eventually I did get around to it, and shortly after joined NCSF in 2021 (I think). I'm a pretty casual observer, so the newsletter is in a way my opportunity to be more involved with the club.

Over the next few months I'll be getting my feet under me and getting the newsletter routine down. I'm looking forward to the challenge. If you have something you would like to have published, please send it to me by the 20th of the month prior to publication. Dark skies! 🪐

### August Events

#### August 1 (Thursday)

-General Meeting, 6 pm

[Jackson Community Center](#)

N165 W20330 Hickory Lane  
Jackson, WI. Presentation  
topic: "Star Party Etiquette"

#### August 9 (Friday)

-Observatory Viewing 9 pm  
Harrington Beach State Park

#### August 10 (Saturday)

-Observatory Viewing 9 pm  
Harrington Beach State Park  
-Telescope Viewing 9 pm  
Kettle Moraine State Forest-  
Pike Lake Unit

#### August 24 (Saturday)

-Telescope Viewing 7:30 pm  
Henry Reuss Ice Age Center  
N2875 WI-67,

## Observation Reports from Around the Area

Gene and Charlotte DuPree

June 1, Friends of Pike Lake , Discovery Day. We have done solar viewing for their event. This year it was rained out. We did put our astronomy display in the north shelter where some of the other activities were happening. Gene and Charlotte DuPree, Al Sherman.

June 15, Pike Lake State Forest. It started out cloudy and changed to partly cloudy. We only had about 20 visitors. One family, with a new



## July General Meeting Minutes

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outlined with maps and photographs. She reported that a rover experiment to convert CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) to O<sub>2</sub> (oxygen) was successful. The geological sample collecting process was also working, but NASA funding issues may not be able to support their retrieval.

Joyce also talked extensively about the Ingenuity helicopter and its very successful deployment.

After the presentation, Jeff Setzer made these announcements:

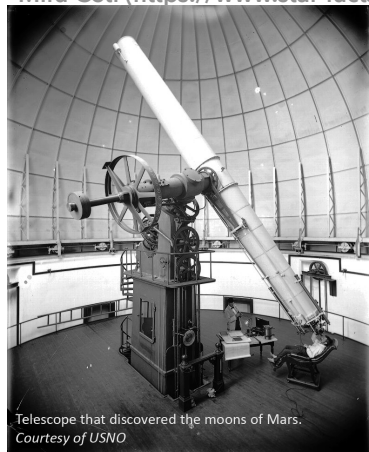
- Dave Minerath has volunteered to become editor of the Spectrum newsletter. Watch for his first edition in August.
- The Panarusky telescope at the observatory is out of operation due to a mirror clamp that broke. Efforts are under way to replace the clamp, clean the mirror, and return the telescope to service as quickly as possible, but the timing is not yet known.
- Until the Panarusky is back in service, Public Viewing nights will be limited to member telescopes set up in the parking lot. 🪐

## This Month in Astronomical History

Main source: <https://aas.org>



Mira Ceti (<https://www.star-facts.com/mira/>)



Telescope that discovered the moons of Mars.  
Courtesy of USNO

(Photo from [aas.org](https://aas.org))

1596-German astronomer David Fabricius discovers the first long-period variable star, Mira Ceti.

1818-America's First Woman Professional Astronomer, Maria Mitchell is born

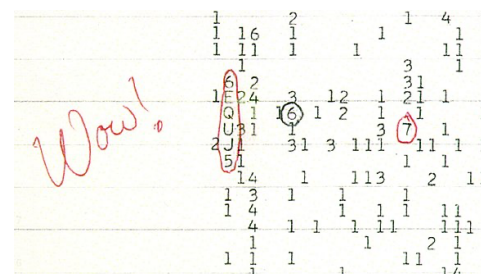
1877-Asaph Hall III using the 26-inch refractor at the Naval Observatory in Washington DC

discovers Mars' two moons, naming them Deimos and Phobos.

1977-The mysterious "Wow!" Signal is detected by the "Big Ear" telescope at Ohio State University 🪐



Maria Mitchell (August 1, 1818 – June 28, 1889)  
(Wikipedia)



The original printout with the handwritten note (Wikipedia)

*Continued from Page 2*

9.25 Celestron scope, would like to join our group. He remembers coming to the park when he was younger, to our public viewing nights. Leaders Gene and Charlotte DuPree. Thanks to Al S. for his help.

June 29 Kohler Andre State Park. Gene saw that there was an University in the Park program this night so we took two scopes out there to use after they finished their slide presentation. Gene and Charlotte

July 12, University in the Park program, at Ottawa Lake state Park. After and during the slide program we had a lot of visitors stopping at our scopes. The Moon was out, and we looked at lots of M objects, and a few double stars. Gene and Charlotte

July 13, Pike Lake State Forest, solar viewing. It was partly cloudy. The Coronado filter was hard to the prominences. The visitors enjoyed watching the clouds pass over the sun, and the many large Sun spots. Leaders Gene and Charlotte. Thanks to Joe B. and Al S. 🪐

## **New Feature: Member in the Spotlight**

I'd like to try out a new feature for the newsletter. Every month I'd like to highlight a member or member family so we can get to know everybody a little better.

I'll pick somebody at random from the club roster and contact them to get their permission and provide some seed questions. The selected member, if they wish to do so, can use the questions to write up a short family bio, or just answer the questions and I'll use them to write up a short story. A photo or two is always nice.

## **In the Sky - August 2024**

4 - New Moon

12, 13 - Perseids Meteor Shower

19 - Full Moon, Blue Moon

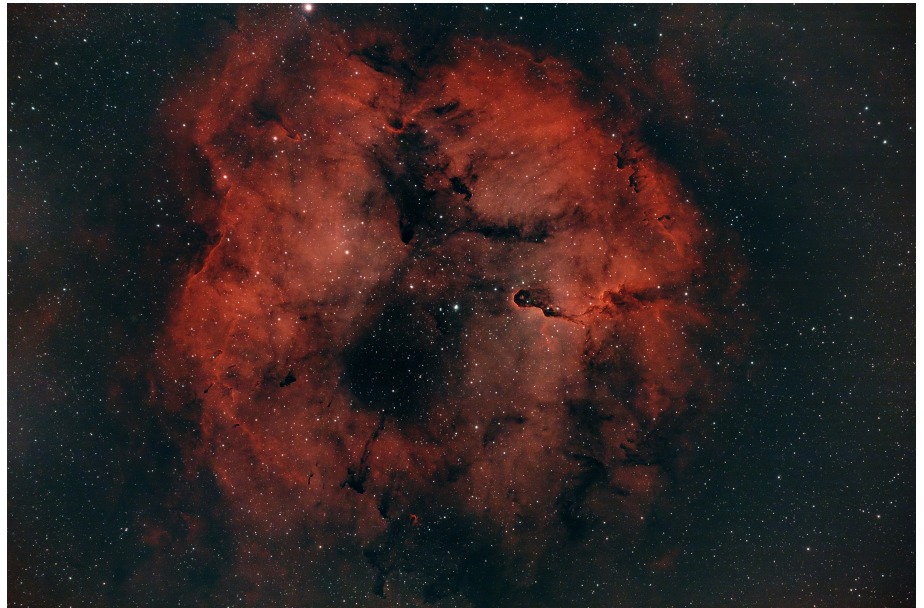


## Image Credits

Editor's Note: The image was rotated 90 degrees to fit the page format

Page 2 background-Don Woelz (via Slack)

A perennial favorite, the Elephant Trunk nebula, taken on 6/30 with my WO ZenithStar 73mm, 0.8x reducer, Optolong L-eXtreme filter, and ZWO ASI071 camera on an iOptron GEM28 mount. PixInsight post processing with RCAstro tools.



## Image Credits

Editor's Note: The image was rotated 90 degrees to fit the page format

Page 1 background-James Neal (via Slack)

20x5min for R, G, and B = 5 hours

ZWO ASI294MM Pro

William Optics Redcat 61

ZWO RGB Filters

ZWO AM5 Mount

Pixinsight w/ StarXterminator





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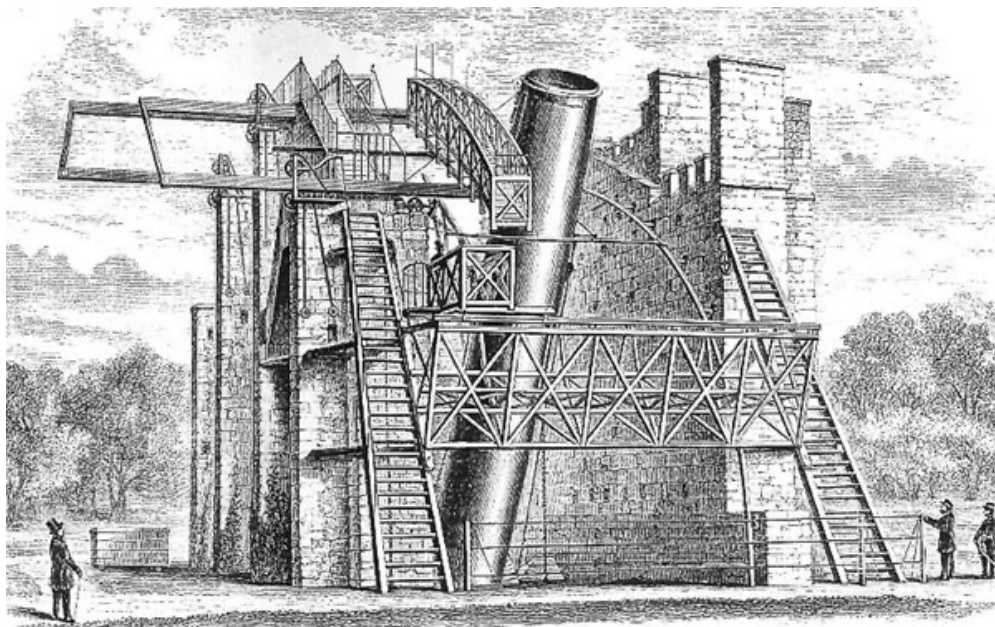
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NCSF is a member of the [North-Central Region of the Astronomical League](#).



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



The “Leviathan of Parsonstown,” a 72-inch reflector, was constructed in 1845 by William Parsons, third Earl of Rosse.

Source: [astronomy.com](http://astronomy.com) and Wikimedia Commons

**Spectrum newsletter**

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<https://ncsf.info>

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