

NCSF Celebrates 50 Years of Astronomy, Camaraderie at Annual Picnic

Joyce Jentges, NCSF Vice-President
Dave Minerath, Editor

The Northern Cross Science Foundation (NCSF) celebrated 50 years of astronomy on Saturday, September 28 at Harrington Beach. It was a clear, sunny, breezy day, with lots of good conversation and even some four-legged friends! It was a great way to celebrate 50 years of NCSF astronomy, outreach, and the opportunity to continue these great traditions.



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September General Meeting Minutes

Don Woelz, NCSF Secretary

The NCSF Members meeting was opened by President Jeff Setzer at 6:30 on September 5, 2024 at the Jackson Community Center.

The program for this meeting was 'All About Eyepieces' and was presented by Jeff Setzer. His slide presentation and talk thoroughly covered many of the aspects of using and selecting eyepieces for telescope observing. He gave his audience information about field of view (FOV), magnification (power), exit pupil, eye relief, and barrel size, including many of the formulas used to calculate these numbers from the known specifications of the telescope and eyepiece. There was also a brief discussion on the use of the Barlow lens.

After the presentation, Jeff Setzer made these announcements:

- There will be road construction between the entrance and the campground turn-off at Harrington Beach State Park. While that is being done, access to the observatory will be from Sauk Trail Road.
- The NCSF 50th Anniversary Picnic will be held on September 28 starting at 2pm at the

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October Events

General Meetings

All general meetings are held at the Jackson Community Center
N165 W20330 Hickory Lane
Jackson, WI
unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, October 3, 6 PM

Presentation Topic: Europa Clipper

Thursday, November 7, 6 PM

Presentation Topic: TBD



September General Meeting Minutes

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A huge thank you to Gene and Charlotte DuPree for their help setting up and cleaning up. Thank you to Mark and Kathy Zellner for doing the grilling of the meat in windy conditions. I'm grateful you volunteered to do this! Twenty four members were in attendance. 🍌



Panarusky Repairs – A Quick Update

Dave Minerath, Editor

I spoke to Jeff Setzer, NCSF President during the picnic regarding the repair status of the Panarusky Telescope. The repairs are proceeding, with the primary mirror mount being reworked and modified to prevent the type of failure that brought the scope down for repair. The repair work also provided an opportunity to clean the primary mirror while repairs are being made. The telescope is expected to be out of service for a few more months, with the emphasis being on getting it right rather than getting it fast. 🍌

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shelter adjacent to the observatory. Please RSVP to Joyce Jentges ASAP if you plan to attend. Please bring a dish to pass. The NCSF will provide some grilled meat choices with buns, soda, paper plates, and utensils. Bring your own drink selections if desired. The Panarusky is still under repair, but other telescopes in the observatory will be available for use. Members are encouraged to bring their own telescopes as well. 🪐



Observation Reports

James Neal, via Slack #outreach channel

September 6, Harrington Beach: Not much happened tonight. 8 people total. Surprisingly, the sky was very nice with a bit of clouds and haze low on the horizon that completely vanished once the sun dropped! Too bad the wind was pretty chilly. My f2.8 lens isn't the sharpest but I still had fun trialing shoots of the Milky Way.



September 7, Harrington Beach: The wildfire smoke held off enough to make for a good night out! A fairly reasonable turnout at HB especially considering the campground is closed. Also a nice turnout of scopes in the lot!! 🪐

Northwoods Starfest 2025

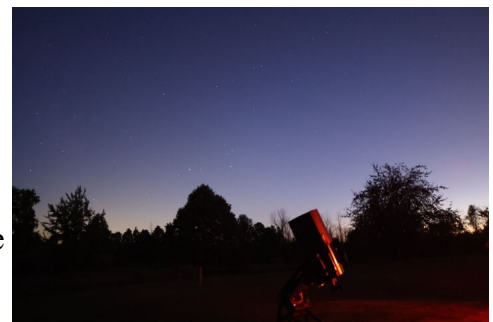


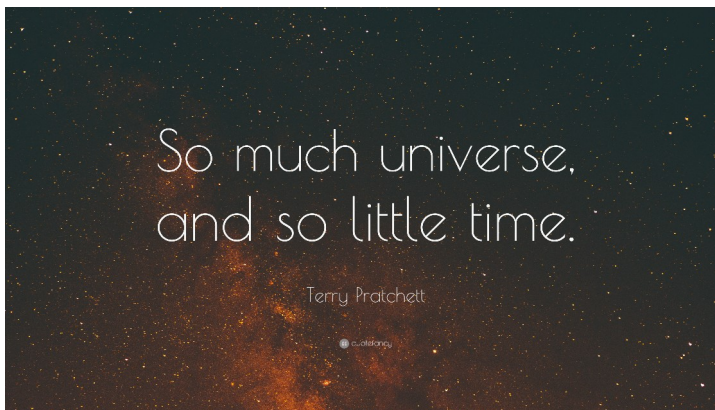
Courtesy of Mark Weber in the #general Slack channel

Mark posted in the NCSF #general Slack channel that the Northwoods Starfest 2025, sponsored by the Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society, has been announced for September 19-21 at the Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek, WI. Details can be found here:

<https://www.cvastro.org/northwoods-starfest/nwsf-information/>

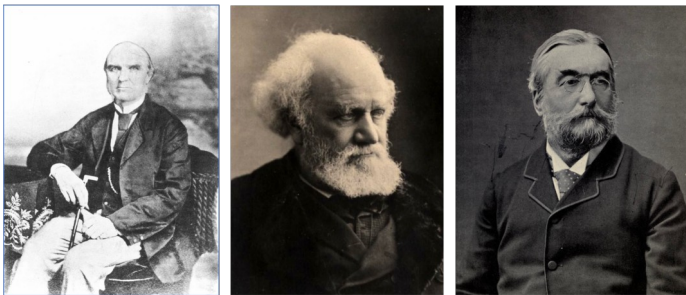
The announcement webpage looks to be still evolving, as there appear to be some links missing such as the mail-in apparel and registration forms, some deadlines are listed as TBD, and the agenda itself has 2025 dates but is marked "2024." Check the website periodically for updates and new links to the related events. 🪐





Via quotefancy.com

This Month in Astronomy History



From left to right: Pogson, Janssen, and Lockyer

1868 – British astronomers Norman Pogson and Norman Lockyer and French astronomer Jules Janssen through a series of observations stemming from the August 1868 eclipse made several discoveries and advances in astronomy in October:

- the discovery that prominences are incandescent gas
- Lockyer's and Janssen's independent discoveries of spectroscopic methods to examine solar prominences outside times of an eclipse
- Janssen's invention of the spectrohelioscope
- the discovery of the chromosphere by Lockyer
- the discovery of emission lines in the corona,
- the discovery of polarized light from the corona, indicating that it gives off predominantly reflected light

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In the Sky This Month

<https://spacetourismguide.com/october-night-sky/>

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/sights-to-see.html>



[freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com)

2 – Micro New Moon; the New Moon is at apogee

5 – Peak of the Camelopardalid Meteor Shower

8 – Peak of the Draconid Meteor Shower

17 – Super Hunter's Moon; the Full moon is at perigee

18 – Peak of the ϵ -Geminid Meteor Shower

20 – Peak of the Orionid Meteor Shower

21 – Peak of the Leonis Minorid Meteor Shower



In 1999 the United Nations declared that the week of October 4-10 each year would be designated World Space Week, in two key events: the October 4, 1957 launch of Sputnik 1, and the October 10, 1967 effective date of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

The goals of Space Week are:

- Provide unique leverage in space outreach and education
- Educate people around the world about the benefits that they receive from space
- Encourage greater use of space for sustainable economic development
- Demonstrate public support for space programs
- Excite young people about science, technology, engineering, and math
- Foster international cooperation in space outreach and education

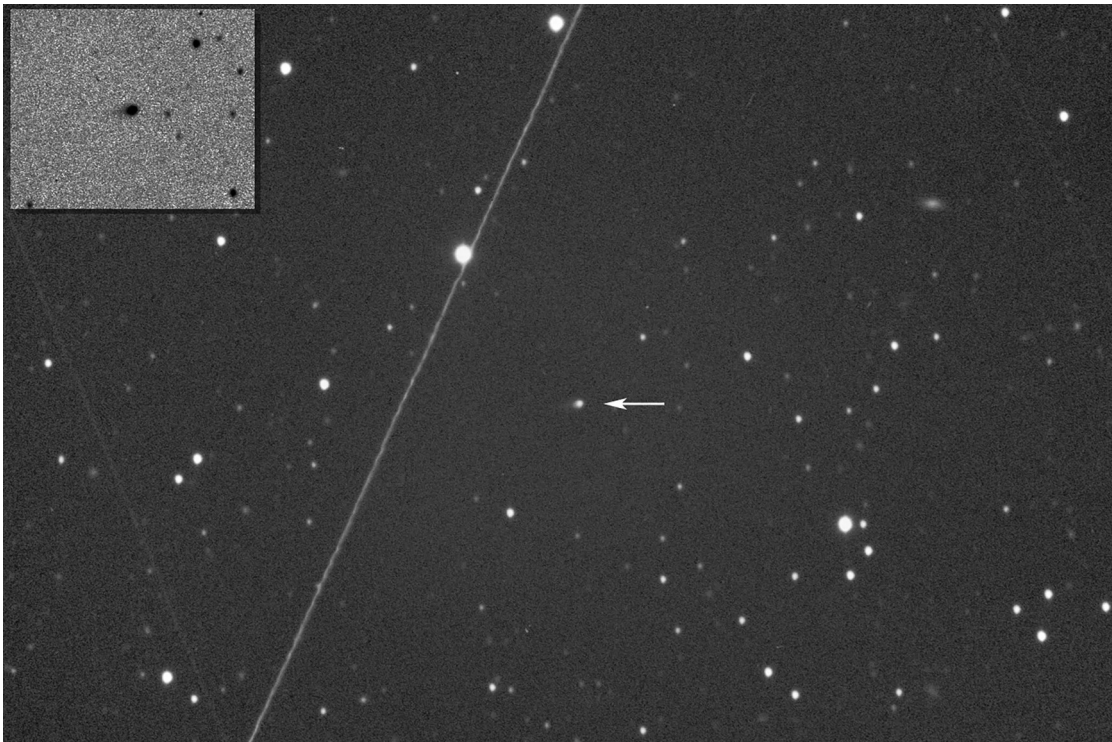
For more information including locations of space week events, visit the World Space Week website:

<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/outreach/events/ws/index.html>

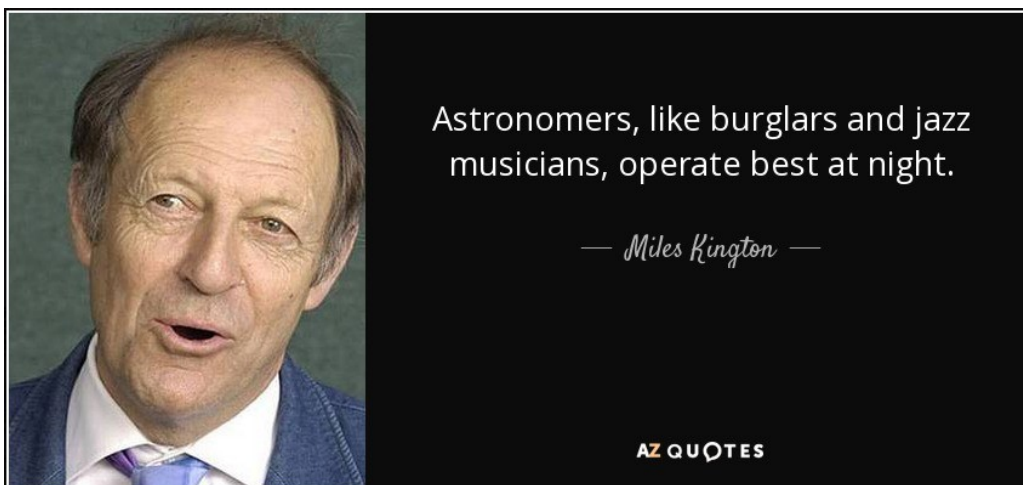
Newly Discovered Comet C/2023 A3 Tsuchinshan-ATLAS Makes Its Closest Approach to Earth This Month

From the New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/explain/2024/astronomy-space-calendar>

Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS was discovered by Chinese astronomers in January 2023, and will be coming within 44 million miles of Earth on October 12-13. Based on earlier observations, C/2023 A3 could be a brilliant sight in the night sky as it approaches Earth, and is expected to be visible through October 24.



The comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS observed in August 2023. Credit...Gianluca Masi/Virtual Telescope Project



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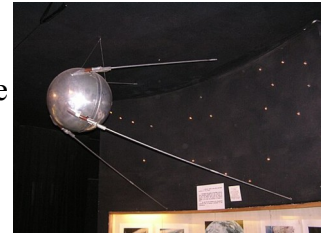
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- the discovery of the element Helium (even if it took decades after to prove)

<https://aas.org/posts/news/2022/10/month-astronomical-history-october-2022>

1957 – Sputnik 1 is launched into low Earth orbit by the Soviet Union from what is now known as the Baikonur Cosmodrome, triggering the Space Race. 🪐



From Wikipedia



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



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

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