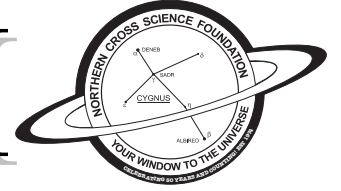


# SPECTRUM



Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

May 2025

## Notes from the Board

*Jeff Setzer*

May's membership meeting program will be a review of the recently-held convention of the North-Central Region of the Astronomical League, which three of our members attended. As part of the discussion, I will go through the insights of Greg Bragg, a longtime insider in the telescope industry, who presented on the state of the telescope industry at the conference.

This is also a reminder that 2025 membership dues are overdue, and we will have to drop membership from those who do not renew by the end of May. 🪐

## April 2025 Meeting Minutes

*Don Woelz*

Jeff Setzer, NCSF President, opened the April 2025 Member Meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation at 6:30 pm on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at the Jackson Community Center.

Jeff introduced the program for the evening, "The Story of the Harvard Computers" presented by Joyce Jentges, member and vice-president of the NCSF.

The program covered the individual lives and much of the history surrounding a group of women who helped transform astronomy by cataloguing, analyzing, and calculating many aspects of the field. It began with

*Continued on p. 2*

## April Events

General Meetings

All general meetings are held at the Jackson Community Center

N165 W20330 Hickory Lane  
Jackson, WI

unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, May 1, 6pm

Presentation topic: A review of the recent NCRAL convention by Jeff Setzer



April 2025 Meeting Minutes

From p. 1

Edward Pickering, then Director of the Harvard Observatory, who hired 40 to 80 women to catalog all the stars. They went on to catalog a lot more than that and achieved some astonishing accomplishments. The presentation was excellent and well received.

After the program, some announcements were made:

–The first Public Viewing Nights at Harrington Beach are on May 30 and 31. At Pike Lake State Park, the first night is May 24.

–All member dues for 2025 are now payable in full. Unpaid members will soon be removed from the membership roster.

–The program for the May meeting will be a panel Q&A discussion about “Stupid Observing Tricks.”

–We are looking for volunteers to help staff a program with a solar telescope for the Cops and Kids event at the Ozaukee Fairgrounds on May 4. 🪐

## A Nova is Coming! (maybe)

Dave Minerath

In Corona Borealis is a binary star system name T Coronae Borealis (T CrB). It is a red giant with a white dwarf in close orbit. The white dwarf is continuously absorbing some of the red giant’s hydrogen atmosphere. After about 80 years, the white dwarf has absorbed so much hydrogen that it triggers a nova.



Expected location of nova "T CrB in Corona Borealis, near Hercules and Bootes (Photo credit: NASA/JPL-CalTech)

Recently, the white dwarf dimmed suddenly. The last time it dimmed suddenly was in 1946, right before it went nova. Once it has gone nova, it will flare up for only a few days, and the ~80 year cycle starts again. [More can be read here.](#) 🪐

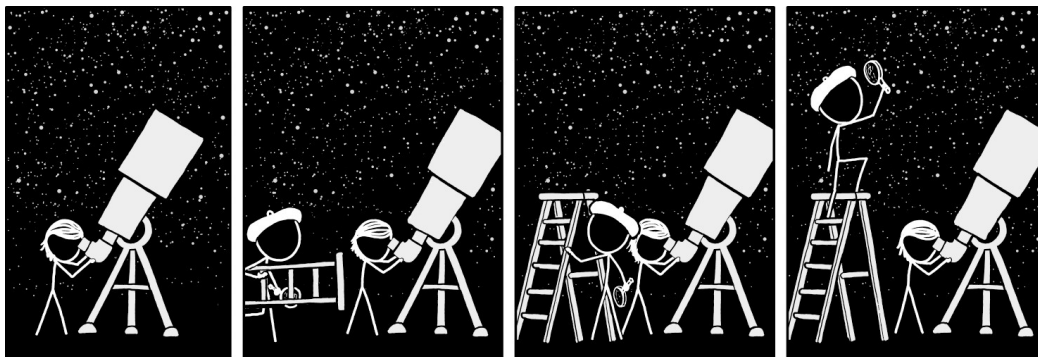
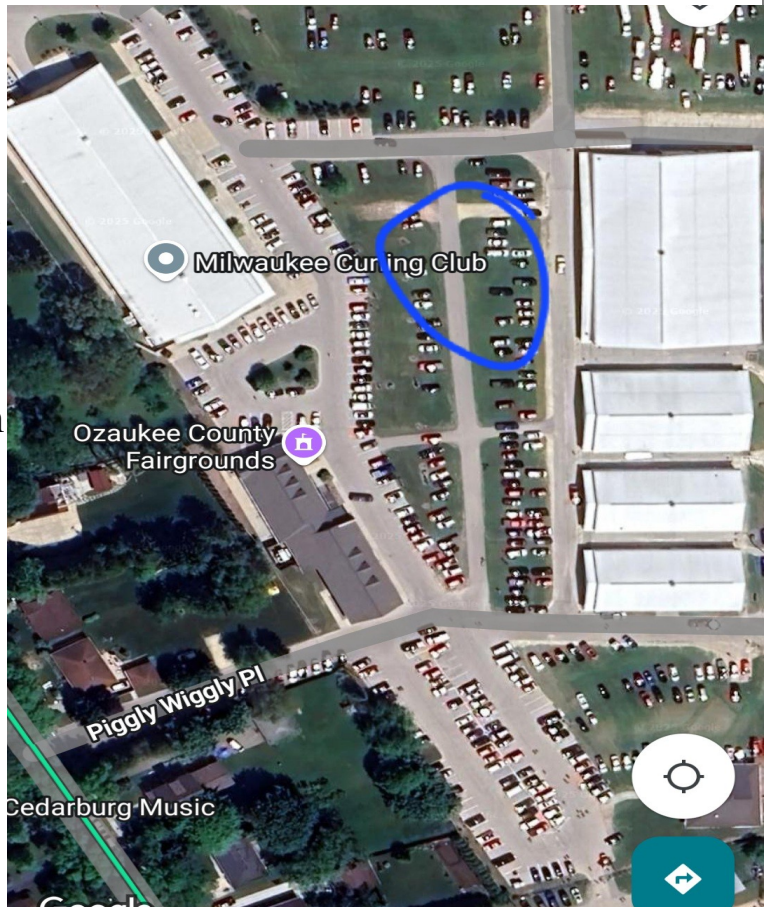
## Upcoming Outreach Programs

### Cops and Kids Event at the Ozaukee County Fairgrounds

On Sunday, May 4 (Star Wars Day!) from 11 AM to 3 PM the Ozaukee County Sheriffs Office will host its annual Cops and Kids Event at the Ozaukee County Fairgrounds. The event is designed to foster positive interactions between local youth and law enforcement. Details about the event can be found [at this link](#).

Joyce Jentges, NCSF Vice President, will be there as a NASA Ambassador talking about the Sun and solar viewing. If you want to share your affinity for astronomy and support the local community, you can bring your telescope and educational materials to the event. The fairgrounds will open up at 9 AM for setup; you can drive in with your gear until 10:30; after that, you are carrying your gear and material in by foot. The aerial image below shows the approximate location of the exhibit area.

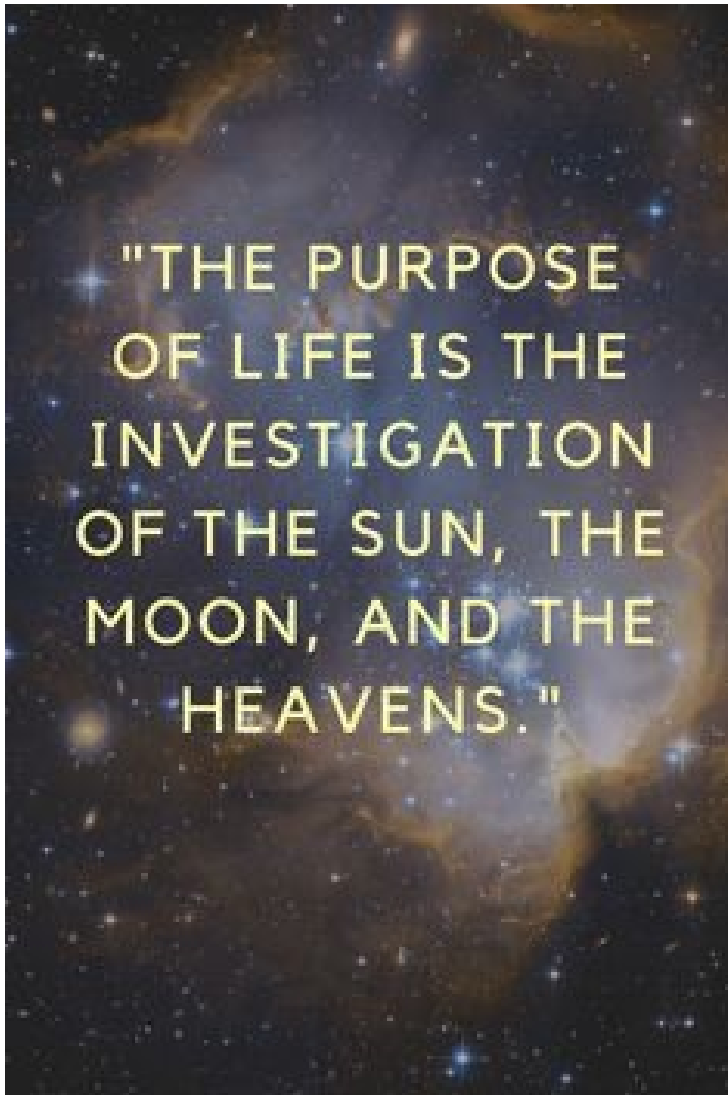
If you need any more information, you can reach out to Joyce and she can help fill in the details. 🪐



<https://xkcd.com/1522/>



*The Whirlpool Galaxy (M51) Photo Credit- Ernie Mastroianni*



<https://www.thenarratologist.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/best-astronomy-quotes.jpg>

## In the Sky This Month



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

3-4 – Mars near the Waxing Crescent Moon

4 – First Quarter

5-6 – peak of the eta Aquariid meteor shower; the source of this meteor shower is the debris trail from Halley's Comet. Best viewing is just after 3 AM when the radiant rises above the horizon

12-13 – Full Flower Moon; last micromoon of the year

20 – Last Quarter

22-24 – Waning Cresecent Moon near Saturn and Venus

27 – New Moon

28 – eta Aquariid meter shower ends

31 – Mars near the Waxing Crescent Moon

More reading:

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/en/news/science/space/look-up-whats-going-on-in-the-may-night-sky-2025> 🪐

## This Month in Astronomy History

295 – The comet that would eventually be known as Halley's Comet makes its closest approach to Earth – 30 million miles.

1715 – The total solar eclipse of May 3, 1715 is called Halley's Eclipse. The eclipse was named after Edmund Halley because he was the first to calculate any eclipse's time and location in advance with any sort of precision. Halley was off by four minutes in the timing of the eclipse, and 20 miles in the eclipse's track.

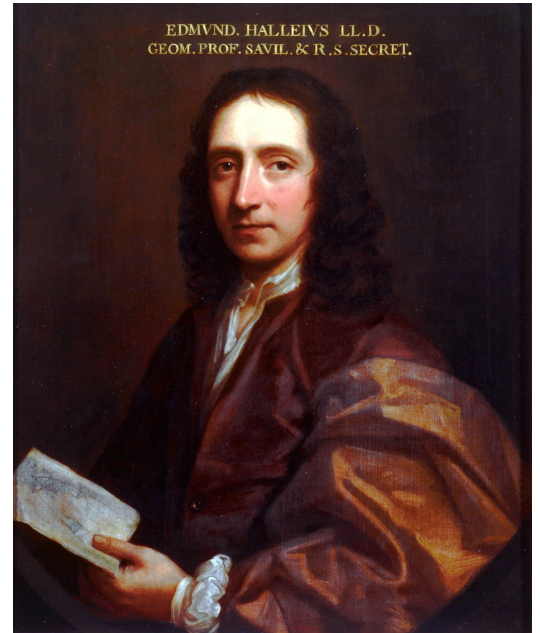


Image credit - [Thomas Murray](#)



John Birmingham ([artist unknown](#))

1866 – The Nova of 1866 is discovered on May 12 by John Birmingham, an Irish astronomer. Later known as T CrB (see article on page 2), it is considered a prototype for recurring novae. The star went nova last in 1946, and is expected to go nova again in 2025 or 2026. 🌌

*Copernicus (1473-1543): "In the center of all rests the Sun. For who would place this lamp of a very beautiful temple in another or better place than this from which it can illuminate everything at the same time."*

## Board of Directors, 2024

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

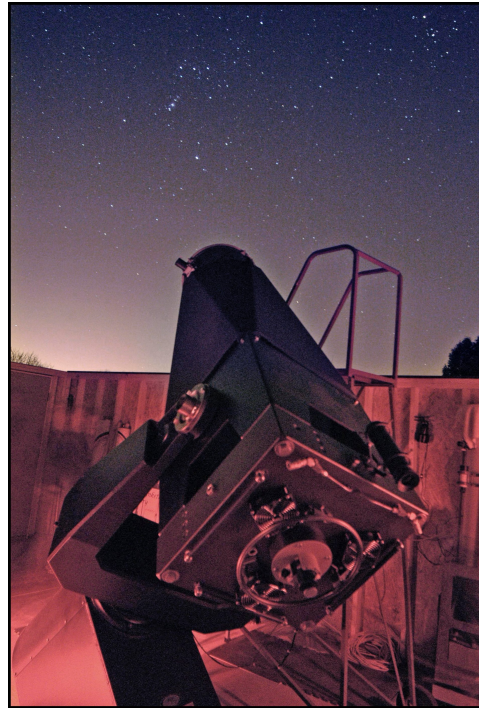
Kevin Bert  
2292 Ridgewood Road  
Grafton, WI 53024  
(262) 674-0610  
[kevin.bert@hotmail.com](mailto:kevin.bert@hotmail.com)

Mark Zellner  
N58 W5624 Edgewater  
Drive  
Cedarburg, WI 53013  
(262) 204-8283  
[mk.zellner@yahoo.com](mailto:mk.zellner@yahoo.com)

James Neal  
341 Deer Meadow Dr.  
Fredonia, WI 53021  
(812) 580-3731  
[penn.dm@gmail.com](mailto:penn.dm@gmail.com)



Supernova 1987A (Photo credit - [eso.org](http://eso.org))



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



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

SPECTRUM newsletter is published monthly by the Northern Cross Science Foundation, Inc. (NCSF), a non-profit 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:

<https://ncsfastro.slack.com>

Editor:

Dave Minerath  
7430 N. Boyd Way  
Fox Point WI 53217  
[dave.minerath@mac.com](mailto:dave.minerath@mac.com)

Submissions for publication may be sent to [newletter@ncsf.info](mailto:newletter@ncsf.info) by the third Saturday of the month prior to publication. 🪐