

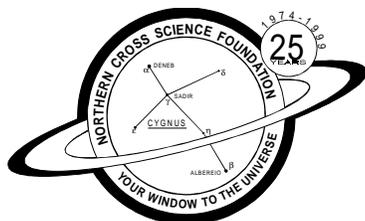
SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

April 2002

LOOKING UP

- Apr. 4 Thursday**
Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Astronomy 101
7:30 p.m.
General Meeting
Carlson Tool & Mfg.
- Apr. 18 Thursday**
Board Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Jeff Setzer's Home
- Apr. 19 & 20 Fri. & Sat.**
National
Astronomy Week
6:00 p.m.
Concordia University



A Publication Of
The Northern Cross
Science Foundation

First Light for the 20 Inch

By Kevin Bert

The 20 inch Panarusky telescope is a few weeks away from being operational and the First Light celebration is being planned. Wednesday May 15th will be the private showing for all contributors and NCSF members. Thursday May 16th will be a chance for members and the public to get a look at and through the telescope. Activities will take place both evenings at Carlson Tool at 7:30 p.m.

I am not sure how many club members know that this project was started back in 1984. I would never have guessed at that time that it would have taken this long to complete.

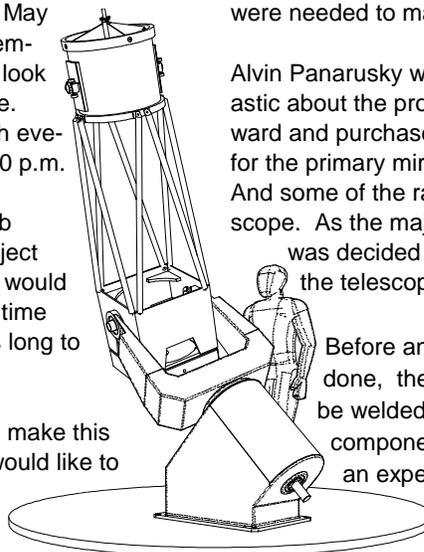
Numerous people helped to make this fine instrument a reality. I would like to recognize a few.

Talk started after the 16 ft. Dome observatory was finished that we should build a 16 inch telescope for it. It

was later upgraded to a 20 inch scope when retired engineer Bob Sedgwick came up with an impressive design for a telescope. After club approval he started to make all the working drawings that were needed to manufacture it.

Alvin Panarusky was extremely enthusiastic about the project. He stepped forward and purchased the raw glass blank for the primary mirror to start the project. And some of the raw materials for the scope. As the major financial backer, it was decided by the club to name the telescope after him.

Before any machining could be done, the steel plates needed to be welded together into the main components. "Happ" DeWitt, an experienced welder that worked at Carlson Tool, offered his services in fabricating the weld-



(See **20 INCH** on page 2)

Astronomy Day 2002

By Kevin Bert

Last Year's Astronomy Day Celebration went over very well. We will be using somewhat the same format this year. One major difference will be that we are combining the forces of two sites into one at Concordia. Only evening outdoor activities will take place, so remember that we are again at the mercy of the weather.

A start time of 6:00 p.m. will allow plenty of time to sun view. Sunset is at 7:09. The Moon and Venus will be available early with Jupiter and Saturn making their presence known about 8:00. It should be dark

enough to see Comet Ikeya-Zhang and other deep sky objects after 8:30. Things should finish before midnight.

We need your participation to make this event a success. Members willing to bring a telescope should be ready to go at 6:00 p.m. Allow time for set-up. It is expected that you should be there if there is any chance of viewing. As with other events, please do not have every telescope looking at the same object once it gets dark. I order to get a handle

(See **DAY** on page 3)

March Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The March business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held in the conference room of Carlson Tool & Mfg. in Cedarburg.

President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. to over 21 members.

Jeff welcomed all members and guests in attendance and asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Brad Plaumann gave the latest balance for the checkbook and savings account. Only standard expenditures for postage and printing took place in addition to a few deposits from membership dues. Brad encouraged other members that have not paid dues for 2002 to do so by



next month.

Secretary Kevin Bert displayed the latest purchase for the 20 inch Panarusky Telescope. The control of the Sky Commander positioning unit.

He listed the \$35.00 deadline for the NCRAL convention registration at the end of the month. After that date prices go up. Any other members going should contact him.

Kevin said that more members nights would be coming. Look in the Spectrum for dates.

Jeff told the members that the club has purchased a new web domain. It is <http://www.ncsf.info> and is in effect as of March. The old address will still

work for now but you should store this new address.

Jeff talked a little about Northern Cross shirts, hats and jackets. There was a definite interest. Kevin recorded a rough count for each category. More information will come later.

Jeff covered upcoming events and asked for any new club business.

With no further new business the business meeting was closed by Jeff at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Bert, secretary

Special Interest Groups, the Next Step

By Kevin Bert

The results are in and tabulated from 2 months of sign-ups. There are six topics that received most of the votes. They are

- 1) Astrophotography.
- 2) Asteroids / Solar system.
- 3) Cosmology and Theoretical topics.
- 4) Telescope Making.
- 5) Ancient Astronomy.
- 6) Computers.

Astrophotography was top on the vote getting and the computer group was at

the bottom of the six topics.

The next step is to find a leader or leaders for these topics. This will be the key on whether a SIG will survive. The computer group fortunately has one member willing to lead.

What will a leader need to do? Here are some of the questions that leaders will need to address.

Where to meet? Could be one of the SIG member homes. The groups are small enough that this should not be a problem. Carlson Tool could be avail-

able if you prefer.

When to meet? It would need to be a date when most participants could make it. Some Sig's will require outdoor dates with clear skies. Backup dates might be needed.

Meet how often? As busy as most people are I would be surprised if participants met every month. I would guess 3 or 4 times a year.

What specific activity? That should be
(see SIG's on page 4)

(20 INCH from page 1)

ments.

At that early time Carl Edquist, president of Carlson Tool & Manufacturing offered time on their metal cutting machines when work was slow. Current president of Carlson Tool is Carl's son Jerry. He has kept up with the original

promise for machine time. A number of skilled craftsmen from Carlson Tool worked on the project, often after hours on their own free time.

After making a valiant attempt to complete the primary mirror, the club decided to have the mirror professionally completed so as to concentrate on getting the rest of the telescope manufactured. Nova Optical in Utah was se-

lected. All tests show the mirror to be excellent.

The construction of a few small parts and some painting is all that remain. It is quite an impressive scope when you see it up close. Try to get to see it one of the two nights scheduled.



New Member

Dylan Pinkus from Cedarburg

Additional Public Date

Please add August 17th to the public viewing schedule for an evening of viewing at Harrington Beach State Park.

FOR SALE!

6" f/8 Criterion Dynascope. With equatorial mount, 6x30 finderscope and clock drive. The drive needs repair, but the optics are equal to their legendary pedigree. \$500

6" f/8 Meade Starfinder Dobsonian. With 2" focuser and finder upgrade. \$350

10.1" f/4.5 partially-built telescope. Optics from a 15-year-old Coulter. Includes secondary holder and miscellaneous hardware, including Teflon pads and Astro-system pivot bolt assembly. \$350

Feathertouch focuser. Black anodized, original design (1.6" travel). \$200

Contact Jeff Setzer at (262) 338-8614 or astrosetz@hotmail.com

FINAL REMINDER

Those members that have been with the club over one year and have not renewed their club membership should do so now. This will be the last newsletter you will receive if you don't. Please take time to pay at the next meeting or mail your dues to the treasurer Brad Plaumann.

scope, although it would be a plus. But it does mean being there even if conditions are not conducive to viewing, (mostly cloudy).

I hope to see you at the next meeting or under the stars.



has a publicity poster you can print out too.

Be sure to be at the next meeting to get answers to any of the questions you may still have.



Astronomy 101

By Kevin Bert

The topic for the April 101 class will be "Observing The Moon" by Al Steinberg. Start time is 7:00 p.m. The Moon has a wealth of detail to see in small telescopes. Learn what features to look for during the lunar month.

The featured constellation will be Coma Berenices.

Next months 101 class will be about Asteroids.

The featured constellation will be Hydra.



Main Program

By Joe La Piene

In April, video tape lecture number ten will be shown featuring the continuing saga of early astronomy, presented by professor Alex Filippenko from the University of California, Berkeley. This video is entitled "The Copernican Revolution". The Earth was no longer the center of mans world.

One thousand four hundred and fifty years of beliefs torn asunder.

Other members willing to give a presentation should call Joe La Piene at 262-335-6757, or e-mail ...g@alexssa.net

From The Editor

By Kevin Bert

Greeting NCSF members. Be sure to get a look at comet Ikeya-Zhang in the western sky. It looks great! Bring any photos you might have taken to the next meeting.

The lead article this month is about the first light for the 20 inch Panarusky telescope. Things are finishing up and I might need your help in finishing the project.



telescope along or not, mark your calendars and make it a point to join in on the fun.

The third article talks about the special interest groups (SIG's). I hope that there will be some members willing to be leaders of a group. I would be disappointed if no one steps up and the whole project fails.

The second article is about National Astronomy Day. This is our largest public event of the year. I hope all members will take time to attend at least one of the scheduled nights at Concordia. So whether you bring a

The club will be looking for volunteers to be leaders of the upcoming public viewing events. It would basically mean **showing up** at the event and have the standard NCSF handouts with you to give to the public. It is not mandatory for you to have a tele-

(DAY from page 1)

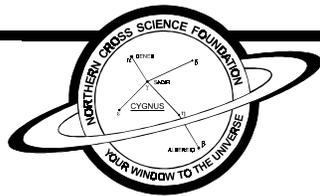
on what telescopes will be there, I will have a sign-up list at the April meeting.

A sign-up list will be there for members without telescopes as well. We need greeters to hand out NCSF material at the canopy tent and take turns giving

the telescope operators a break to look through other scopes. I would encourage all members to get out and view the variety of sights even if it would only be a short period of time.

A handout is enclosed in this newsletter for you to copy and post as you see fit to publicize this event. The web site

SPECTRUM
2292 Ridgewood Road
Grafton, WI 53024



2002 OFFICERS

President - Jeff Setzer
1418 Trillium CT
West Bend, WI 53095
(262) 338-8614
astrosetz@hotmail.com

Vice President - Al Steinberg
3716 Fond Du Lac Drive
Richfield, WI 53076
(262) 644-8089

Secretary / ALCor- Kevin Bert
2292 Ridgewood Road
Grafton, WI 53024
(262) 375-2239
kevin.bert@mixcom.com

Treasurer - Brad Plaumann
4266 N. 88th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53222
(414) 535-0219
bpeinstein@msn.com

Monthly Meeting Location -
Carlson Tool & Mfg. Corp.
W57 N14386 Doerr Way
Cedarburg, WI 53012
(enter from south parking lot)
(262) 377-2020

(SIG's from page 2)

determined by each leader as they talk with their group participants. I would guess that all the members would share some of the load of preparation and not dump all the work on the leaders. The whole purpose of the SIG is to focus in, spend more time and learn about a topic, more than what you could get at a normal monthly meeting.

There will be unique problems to solve for each group. At times it may take more than one session to complete some specific section under your SIG. There will be all different levels of experience for each SIG. The whole idea is for all to learn. You might have to start with very basic concepts first.

Remember that you are a separate unit of the NCSF. It will support each group the best it can. We only ask that you try not to compete with the normal Thursday monthly meetings or scheduled public events.

We can spend time answering questions and look for leaders at the April meeting.



**Check out our great site
On the World Wide Web
<http://www.ncsf.info>**

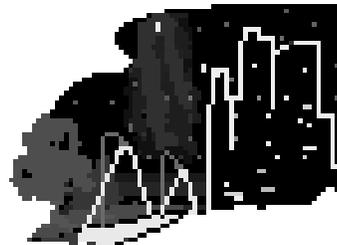
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the New
web domain
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SPECTRUM

Is published by the Northern Cross Science Foundation, Inc. A nonprofit organization based in southeastern Wisconsin and is a Member of the North-Central Region of the Astronomical League.



The NCSF supports the International Dark sky association.



Send inquiries to:
SPECTRUM
2292 Ridgewood Road
Grafton, WI 53024

This Issue, along with back Issues of SPECTRUM, can be found on the NCSF Web Site.