

# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

April 2005

## LOOKING UP

April 2 Saturday

Superfest

8:30—3:00 p.m.

Amateur Elect. Supply

April 7 Thursday

General Meeting

6:30 p.m. Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

April 16 Saturday

Astronomy Day

2:00 p.m.—?

Rotary Park, Mequon

April 21 Thursday

Board Meeting

Home of Jeff Setzer

7:30 p.m.

May 5 Thursday

General Meeting

6:30 p.m. Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

May 13 Saturday

Public Viewing

8:00 p.m.—?

Harrington Beach S. Park

May 19 Thursday

Board Meeting

Home of Jeff Setzer

7:30 p.m.

## Join Us For Astronomy Day 2005

By Jeff Setzer

This year, National Astronomy Day occurs on Saturday, April 16. This year, we are holding our celebration at Rotary Park in Mequon (on Highland Road just east of MATC). We will make our "home base" inside Rotary Pavilion at the park; it's a large covered shelter and it has dozens of picnic table available for our use. It's going to be a fun-filled day, not only for our guests, but for participating members as well. We have many activities planned and we need volunteers to make this event a success. Please read below about the items on the schedule and let me know how you can help. My email address is [astrosetz@hotmail.com](mailto:astrosetz@hotmail.com) and my phone number is (262) 338-8614.

We need people to man the information table, which will be open during the entire event. This is a very important function, because it is where people find out about the on-site activities and are also made to feel welcome at the event. **We need two volunteers to share the work in shifts from 2:00pm to 6:00pm and two volunteers to share the work in shifts from 6:00pm to 10:00pm.**

We will begin our Astronomy Day activities at 2:00pm. From that time until sunset, we will be doing solar observing. **We need a few volunteers to bring and man solar telescopes.**

At 2:00pm, 4:00pm and 6:00pm we will have guided walks through the park, where participants will walk off a 1000-yard scale

model of our solar system. Rob Powell will bring the model to the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, as he will be unable to join us for Astronomy Day. **We need at least one volunteer to set up the trail and take people on the tours during Astronomy Day.**

At 5:00 and 7:00 there will be a talk about astronomy and stargazing. That event is covered.

We will have also sky viewing on Saturday night. Once it gets dark (which will be around 8:00 PM), telescopes will turn to various celestial objects. **We need many volunteers to set up telescopes and run them during the night.**

We are doing a Binocular Tour of the Universe at 9:30 PM. That event is covered.

**We also need a few volunteers to be "on call" for the ongoing Telescope Clinic.** You need to be comfortable helping people set up their telescopes and showing them how to use them.



## March Meeting Minutes By Kevin Bert

The March business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 8:30 p.m. to 38 members and guests.

After Jeff welcomed all members and recognized two former members that were active in the early years of the Northern Cross. Matt Wegner and Nells Olsen. Jeff said that he was pleased to see such a good turnout. He then asked for standard reports.

Secretary Kevin Bert gave a brief treasurer's report and proceeded to pass around a signup sheet for public viewing night leaders. He thanked Paul Kamikawa for picking up and running with the club and scrapbook as club historian. Paul asked the general membership for help by turning in any newspaper clippings about the club they collect throughout the year to add to the book. Kevin said the club scrapbook would be on display after the meeting.

Kevin also thanked Kevin Koski for his willingness to help construct a podium for future meetings. It would be similar to the podium used at Carlson Tool so a dimensioned sketch of the project would be advanced to Don Miles from Kevin Bert. Don would then make up working drawings to Kevin to start construction.

Kevin showed the members a copy of the revived North Central Region newsletter of the Astronomical League, The

Northern Lights. This quarterly publication will be available on line in April at its temporary home at: <http://www.npmas.com> Click the link at the top of the page "NCRAL Northern Lights Newsletter". The newsletter is in PDF format and will require Adobe Acrobat Reader to view it.

Jeff Setzer talked about upcoming Superfest on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Amateur Electronic Supply in Milwaukee where Jeff will give a presentation on astronomy at 10:00 a.m. followed by a speaker on radio astronomy. The entire event runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and if clear, sun viewing will take place throughout the day. A booth with displays will be set up inside a huge warehouse along with other vendors. Telescopes will be for sale and hundreds of people across the state and in neighboring states will be present. Members are encouraged to attend.

National Astronomy Day will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The entire event will be held at Rotary Park in Mequon. The event will start at 2:00 p.m. under the pavilion with solar viewing and displays and continue at the park for evening viewing. Look for more details and a signup sheet for activities at the next meeting.

Under new business Jeff Setzer informed the membership that there was a possibility that use of the current meeting place (UCN) might be temporarily inaccessible for a few months

while some construction takes place this spring. In a round about way he had been offered the use of a meeting facility at the West Bend Airport at no charge if the club was interested. Jeff said that he wanted the club to be aware of the possibility and that it could happen but he would first want the memberships input. A discussion about the move and the possibility of it being a permanent move continued on for several minutes. More information about it would become available in the next newsletter with continued discussion at the meeting.

Kevin Bert brought up the possibility of an additional public viewing night at the Reuss Ice Age Center on August 27<sup>th</sup>. After a discussion it was decided to go ahead with it. Kevin agreed to confirm the event.

Jeff made note of the Messier Marathon on March 11 & 12 at Harrington Beach. Members were encouraged to attend and try their luck at finding all 110 objects if the weather cooperates, even if they only participate early. He said links to information would be on the club web site to assist in preparing.

With no further new business, Jeff closed the business meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Bert, secretary

## Offer Of New Meeting Site At West Bend Airport By Jeff Setzer

The NCSF has received an unsolicited offer from the West Bend chapter of the EAA to meet in their facility, which is located in a building at the West Bend Airport.

Pros:

- New 70-seat meeting room

with a full audio-visual setup.

- Lower cost for the use of the room.

Cons:

- Location is at the West Bend airport, away from our tradi-

tional "center"

- Stargazing before/after meetings would be severely impaired compared to the relatively dark site at UCN. We would have no control over the outdoor security and air-

(West Bend page 3)

## From The Editor

### By Joyce Jentges

Spring has officially arrived, even though most days it doesn't feel like spring. April officially opens our observing season, as you can see by looking at the calendar on the first page. We will need your help to make Astronomy Day a big success.

I could easily sum up this year's Messier Marathon in one word: Brrrrrr! Yes, it was cold! This is probably the coldest weather I've been observing in for a long time.

I arrived at Harrington Beach just before dark to get set up. I was joined by the Koski family, Paul Kamikawa, Kevin

Bert, Jeff Setzer, Robert Radke, and Don Miles. M77 was difficult to find, M74 was just lost to the glow of the moon.

Kevin Koski found 67 objects and left at 1 a.m. Kevin Bert logged 84 objects and left at 2 a.m. He tells me it was 9 degrees when he left. He mentioned that the key to the marathon is getting to the site early, before dark to get set up. The telrad finder charts proved to be the most useful for finding objects. I found 41 objects and left at midnight because I was frozen. Better luck next year!

## Astronomy 101 And Main Program

### By Kevin Bert and Joyce Jentges

The April 101 class is entitled "Telescope Basics," by Kevin Bert. No matter what kind of telescope you have there are a few basic things that the amateur astronomer should know when setting up a telescope for viewing. Suggestions given will save a lot of potential grief and frustration on the observer's part.

The featured constellation will be Puppis.

Got a new astronomical toy or piece of equipment you've been waiting to show off? This is your chance! The Main Program for the April meeting will be a show and tell. This is your chance to brag, or let everyone drool over that nice new eyepiece you just bought. Please limit your presentation to 5 minutes so that everyone has a chance to share.

*(West Bend from page 2)*

port lighting, which is considerable.

- It's pretty much a foregone conclusion that use of green laser pointers would be prohibited!

I am not going to try to influence people one way or another, other than to say that even though I live in West Bend myself, I believe UCN is a more suitable meeting place for the NCSF. I was approached by a member of the West Bend EAA and it is simply my duty as

NCSF President to bring their offer before the membership.

There was some talk at the last meeting about having problems with the summer construction at UCN, but we have determined that it will not be an issue. We can continue to meet at UCN uninterrupted for the foreseeable future, if we choose.

In order to gauge the feelings of the membership, there are a few short survey questions below. If you want to make your voice heard on this is-

*(West Bend on page 4)*

### UCN Construction:

**Rob Powell tells me that the lower level of UCN will be available for our use during construction, which starts in late April. If it looks like construction is underway though, he would like us to park and enter through the upstairs of the building. The north door and the parking lot we normally use will not be available to us once construction begins.**

**If you have not paid your 2005 membership dues, and are not on a pro-rated schedule, you need to take care of your dues obligation. The deadline has been extended one more month. See Rob Powell or Kevin Bert at the April meeting to take care of your obligations. This will be your last newsletter if you do not pay your dues.**

### NCRAL Convention

April 22nd—April 24th

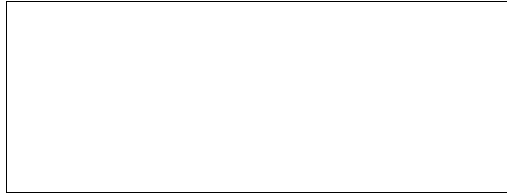
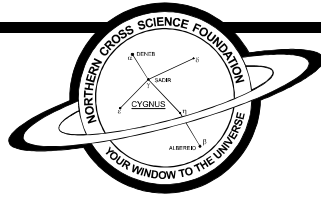
Jointly hosted by the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society and Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society, this year's convention is in Sturgeon Bay, WI. Go to [www.npmas.com](http://www.npmas.com). Choose the link for the Northern Lights newsletter. The registration form is imbedded in the newsletter. While you are there, don't forget to read the rest of the newsletter!

### W.O.W. Registration Is Open!

Wisconsin Observers Weekend will take place on June 2—5. You can go to [www.new-star.org](http://www.new-star.org) to print off the registration form. Registration is only \$9.00. This is a great weekend getaway, but if you intend to go, spots are filling up fast! If you want to join Jeff Setzer for "Pre-W.O.W." which is the previous weekend, be sure to let him know.



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**556190**

*(West Bend from page 3)*

sue, please read these questions carefully and email or phone me about it. My email address is astrosetz@hotmail.com and my phone number is (262) 338-8614.

1. Do you oppose moving the meeting location to West Bend airport? (yes or no)
2. If the meeting location were to be changed to West Bend airport, would you be less inclined to attend meetings? (yes or no)
3. If the meeting location were to be changed to West Bend airport, would you be less inclined to remain a member of the NCSF? (yes or no)

For Sale:

New, never used, Orion Achromatic 9 x 50 finder scope with an aluminum dove-tail bracket - \$40.00

Meade 7" E.D. Apochromatic Refractor with a German Equatorial type mount. 1600 mm, f9, with a giant field tripod. Call Nick to discuss price.

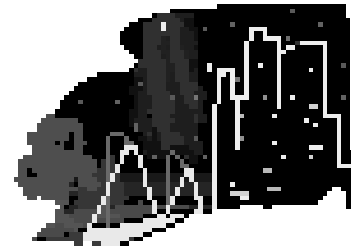
If anyone is interested please call Nick Nichols @ 262-628-4059.

## SPECTRUM

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The NCSF supports the International Dark sky association.



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

<http://www.ncsf.info>