

# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

August 2010

## LOOKING UP

**August 5, Thursday**

### General Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. - Business Meeting

Video to follow (see pg 3)

**August 6, Friday.**

### Members Night

7:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

**August 7, Saturday**

### Small Scope Star Party

7:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

**August 13 & 14, Fri. & Sat.**

### Public Viewing

7:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

**August 18, Wednesday**

### Sidewalk Astronomy

7:00 p.m.

Bayshore Town Center

**August 19, Thursday**

### Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Home of Joyce Jentges

**September 2, Thursday**

### General Meeting

(Programs to be announced)

## *In Memory of Carl W. Edquist 1918-2010...by Kevin Bert*

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Carl W. Edquist on July 9, 2010 at the age of 91. Carl was one of the founding members of the



Carl Edquist and Son Jerry with the 20" Panarusky Telescope.

Northern Cross and instrumental in advancing the club's vision of educating the public on topics of science and in particular astronomy. A number of his Northern Cross involvements include: former NCSF president, allowing the club's monthly meetings to be held at Carlson Tool, constructing the club's 16-foot observatory in the basement of Carlson and transported the modular components to site, allowing the machining time for construction of the 20-Inch Panarusky telescope and building the hydrogen peroxide jet engine, acquisition and refurbishing of the "Star Wagon", and his continued financial support for the Northern Cross. Carl will be remembered as a husband, father, grandfather, businessman, community leader and a very wonderful human being. His wife, Rita, often characterized Carl as a "Renaissance Man"; with his feet planted

firmly on the ground and his eyes on the stars."

Carl's parents had immigrated to the United States from Canada in 1928 when Carl was 10. During the Depression years and into World War II, Carl became a toolmaker, marrying Rita in 1944. Shortly after, Carl was recruited to work at Los Alamos in New Mexico on the Manhattan Project. They moved to Cedarburg, Wisconsin in 1947 where they raised eight children. In the Scandinavian tradition of sons taking the surname from their father's first name, Carl founded Carlson Tool & Manufacturing Corp. in Cedarburg in 1958. I had the pleasure of working for Carl and found him very down to earth and had the utmost respect for him and his achievements. He was very active in the community. Co-founder of the Cedarburg Cultural Center, member of the Cedarburg-Grafton rotary club and active as a community philanthropist for local initiatives including the very popular Ozaukee Ice Center located on former Carlson property.

The Mass of Christian burial was held on Saturday, July 17, at St. Francis Borgia North, followed with private interment at St. Francis Borgia Cemetery.

## **29th Annual ISDC Conference... by Charlotte DuPree**

The Chicago chapter of the National Space Society (NSS) hosted the 29<sup>th</sup> annual International Space Development Conference (ISDC), May 27-30. "Four Decades After Apollo: Getting Back to the Future." The conference was held at the Intercontinental Chicago O'Hare. Four members of the Milwaukee Lunar Reclamation Society (LRS), the local chapter of NSS, attended the conference, including Charlotte DuPree. I had attended the conference over the years, but not since I was married. I dragged Gene with me,

since he has never been to an ISDC, and it was so close to home.

The NSS is an independent, grass roots organization dedicated to the creation of a space faring civilization. The mission of NSS is to promote social, economic, technological and political change to advance the day when humans will live and work in space. Local chapters unite the society with a passion for space development and exploration, as well as a desire to improve the condition of humanity through

(cont'd on pg 4)

## July Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The July business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. President Joyce Jentges opened the meeting at 8:45 pm and welcomed over 21 members and guests and then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Gene Dupree reported a balance of \$678.14 in the observatory account and \$4,646.47 in the general fund.

Secretary Kevin Bert welcomed the clubs newest members, Carl and Susan Eisenberg, who were in attendance.

The national convention of the Astronomical League (ALCON), was held in Arizona and had just completed. He hoped to have more info about it next month.

Under old business, Dan Bert presented some animation showing the tentative plans for the prototype parallelogram binocular mount that Kevin Bert was working on. 1 1/2" Square aluminum tubing made up the main supports with the remaining components constructed out of stainless steel and aluminum. Kevin

briefly explained how it started as a eagle scout project and made its way to the current binocular viewing area. He hoped to have the prototype complete within the next few months so the bugs can be worked out so six complete mounts can be constructed for use on the removable piers just east of the observatory. The final phase of the project will be for members to place orders of the finished design desiring their own personal mount and willing to help in the assembly. The final cost for each mount is projected to be under \$100 but has yet to be determined.

Under new business, Joyce said that she had seen an interesting Astronomy in Wisconsin article in the Wisconsin Blue Book for 2009/2010. She encouraged members to look it up online if they have a chance.

Joyce Jentges went over upcoming events for July. Wisconsin Observers Weekend (WOW), will take place on July 8, 9 & 10 in Waupaca. Public Viewing Nights (PVN's), are held on the 16th and 17th at Harrington Beach, and sidewalk astronomy on July 21st is at Bayshore, (See Jeff for a pass to park at Bayshore).

With no further new business, Joyce closed the business meeting at 9:05 p.m.

### Small Scope Star Party RULES

Like other classy events, a few ground rules need to be set up. This is to insure that no bloated aperture light buckets ruin the setting. This is strictly a visual equipment event. Please don't set up a bunch of photographic accessories.

- 1) No telescopes over 6.0-Inch in aperture are permitted to be set up.
- 2) Larger scopes, stopped down do not qualify.
- 3) Telescopes of the Reflector, Refractor or Catadioptric persuasions are all acceptable.
- 4) No binoculars please.
- 5) No photon amplification equipment allowed. Visual use only!
- 6) Items for sell or trade are permitted.

Monthly Meeting Location  
Unitarian Church North  
13800 N. Port Wash. Rd.  
Mequon, WI 53097

## Things to See In the August Night Sky By Don Miles

**Mercury:** Is still an evening object (mag 0.3) right behind the sun, and continues pulling away until the 6th, when it will be reach its max separation from the sun. After the 6th, Mercury will start to slide back towards the sun again on its way around the back side and become a morning object the next time we see it. Another sight to see on the 6th is the close inverted triangle formed by Mars, Saturn, & Venus. This trio will be up and to the left as you observe Mercury.

**Mars, Saturn, & Venus:** The three are all close at the beginning of the month with Mars (mag 1.5) forming the top left leg of the triangle, Saturn (mag 1.1) forming the top right leg, and still brilliant Venus (mag -4.2) forming the base. All three planets will set by about 8:30 early in the month, and by about 8pm later in the month. Saturn stays relatively still as Mars and Venus drift eastward thru Virgo. Venus reaches its "greatest eastern elongation" on the night of the 19th (which means from our

vantage point on earth, the object appears to quit moving east, and starts drifting westward).

**Neptune, Jupiter, & Uranus:** All are evening objects and will stay fairly stationary. Neptune is in Capricorn, and Jupiter and Uranus are in Pisces. They all rise about 10pm, with Neptune leading the pack about an hour earlier. Neptune shines at (mag 7.8), Jupiter at (mag -2.8), and Uranus is at (mag 5.8). Neptune will be at opposition on the 20th (we are between the sun and Neptune in our orbit, so this object will be up all night). They will all be fairly high in the sky at midnight, so will be in good viewing position thru the night, but best in the early morning as the air/land temperatures are the most stable.

**Moon:**  
August 3rd: Last Quarter  
August 9th: New Moon  
August 16th: First Quarter  
August 24th: Full Moon

### Special Events:

There is only one main meteor shower to watch for this month...the Perseids. They actually last from mid July thru near the end of August, but will peak the night of the 12th and into the morning of the 13th. The just past new moon will not interfere with the viewing, so this may be one of the better occurrences of the Perseids. Predicted rates from a dark location could be up to 110/minute



# August General Meeting

## 101 Class

The August 101 class by Joyce Jentges is entitled:

### Observing Programs

#### What's Next?

You are beyond the beginners stage, or have already completed the programs that were discussed last month, now what? At the August Astronomy 101 class, we will take a look at the Messier Club, the Lunar Club and the Urban Skies Club. These are excellent programs for you to try. The Messier Club is a great place to start if you want to tackle deep sky objects. For those interested in exploring the Moon, the Lunar Club is an excellent choice as you will be identifying craters and other Lunar features. Urban Skies is a great club for anyone who is viewing in a light polluted area.

## Main Program

### "If We Had No Moon"

*Discovery Channel Video*

What would life on earth be like without the moon? Well, chances are, there wouldn't be any life on earth without the moon. Life, if it had started at all, would still be in the earliest stages of evolution.



Scientists use the latest computer simulations to show how an ancient rogue planet named Orpheus collided with the earth millions of years ago, producing a sizable chunk of debris that eventually became our moon. If that collision had never occurred, we would live in a very different place.

## July Events

### Friday July 16

Ernie Mastroianni reported that more than two dozen guests and several members came to this public viewing night. The roof was open at about 7:45 while the sun was still up. The sky was filled with broken clouds and the air was steady, warm and humid.

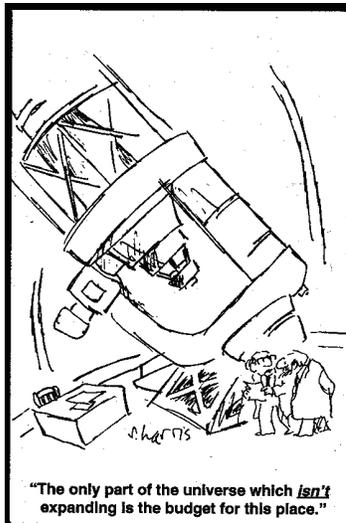
Besides lunar viewing, members and guests spotted Venus before the sunset. Saturn, not yet visible to the naked eye, was located in a smaller telescope using setting circles. As twilight faded, Venus, Saturn and Mars were easy to spot as they formed a line in the western sky. Visitors also enjoyed viewing M-13 and M-57 before clouds filled the sky. The observatory roof was closed at about 10:30 as a light rain began to fall.

### Saturday, July 17

Charlotte DuPree reported PVN started at 4:00 with solar viewing. About 50 visitors looked through the Solar max Coronado, and the solar dob. Gene set up his 3 inch astrophysics to look at the Moon. There were some very nice prominence's and one Sun spot. The thin clouds continued into darkness with a first quarter Moon. We hosted another 50 visitors, including one family that was around most of the day!

### Wednesday, July 21

Jeff Setzer reporting the sidewalk astronomy event at Bayshore Town Center was a bit of a challenge with only two scopes. Robert Radke had his trusty 10" Meade Schmidt-Newtonian and I had my "new to me" Celestron Classic 8. Becca Setzer was there manning the information table, along with her dad who came over to help. Approximately 100 people looked through our telescopes that night, but it could have been more since I was too busy to count that often. Weather was clear for most of the night, with high clouds partially obstructing the moon after 10pm.



## CURRENT CLACK

### Leaders for Public Viewing

#### August 6

##### Members Night

Kevin Bert

#### August 7

##### Small Scope Party

Observatory not in use; scopes in parking lot.

#### August 13

##### Public Viewing

Leaders Needed

#### August 14

##### Public Viewing

Leaders Needed

#### August 18

##### Sidewalk Astronomy

Jeff Setzer

### Star Parties

#### Northwoods Starfest

August 13 - 15

[www.cvastro.org](http://www.cvastro.org)

#### Prairie Skies

September 30 - October 3

Kankakee, IL

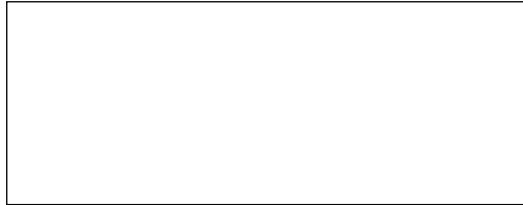
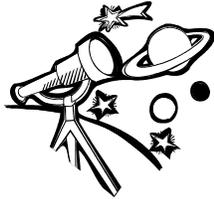
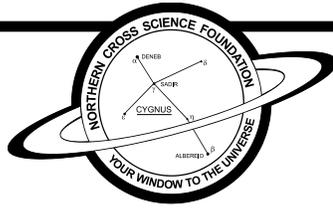
[www.prairieskies.org](http://www.prairieskies.org)

### Jim and Gwen Plunkett Observatory



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space. The NSS pursues a variety of educational, legislative, and technical projects to advance its mission.

Each day of the conference there were different tracks of speakers to choose from: the business of space, NSS space solar power symposium, Space 2.0: rebooting out space vision, space communications & navigation symposium, living in space, break through science and technology, many roads to space, and a general track. Special speakers this year included Jeff Greason, President of XCOR Aerospace. Charles Bolden, Jr., NASA Administrator. Lori Garver, Deputy NASA Administrator. Buzz Aldrin, Chairman ShareSpace Foundation. John Marmie, Deputy Project Manager, LCROSS TEAM. Richard Garriott, civilian astronaut. There had been an online auction, prior to the conference, to win a dance with Buzz Aldrin. At the awards banquet dinner, the Space Pioneer award was given to Ray Bradbury.

There was a large display room for the supporting organizations and exhibitors. I was able to borrow my mother's minivan, and we took the LRS award winning Moon base design model. Gene, of course, had to bring along a solar scope to set up. Since the conference was close to where I grew up, I had to take Gene and a friend of mine, from LRS, to two of the restaurants I miss, Triton Junior college that I went to, and of course to see the home that I grew up in.

We came home with lots of new info and what NASA and the private space companies have in plan for the future of space development. And an autograph from Rusty Schweickart, B612 Foundation (Apollo Astronaut) to add to my collection.

Our club has a "Discussion Group on Google"  
See our website: <http://www.ncsf.info/> for details.

## SPECTRUM

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