

# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

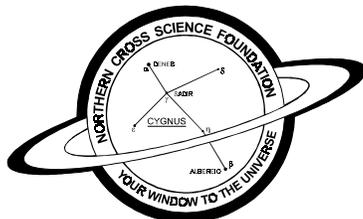
December 1998

## LOOKING UP

**Dec. 3 Thursday**  
**Christmas Party**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Carlson Tool & Mfg.**

**Dec. 10 Thursday**  
**Telescopes For Children**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Carlson Tool & Mfg.**

**Dec. 16 Wednesday**  
**Board Of Directors**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Jeff Setzer's House**



A Publication Of  
The Northern Cross  
Science Foundation

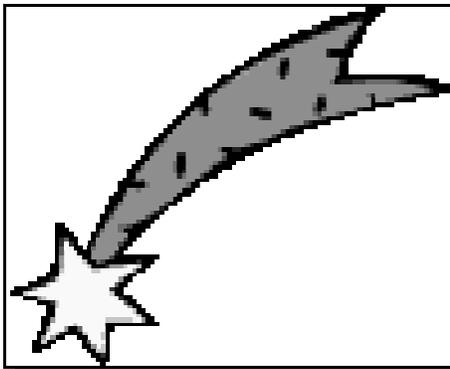
## Leonid Meteor Shower

Taken From The Astronomical League Web Site

Early reports indicate that there was substantial Leonid activity earlier than expected, with a high proportion of very bright fireballs, some brighter than mag -8, with enduring trains. Visual Leonid rates increased from about 10/hr around Nov. 16.4 UT to about 140-150/hr around Nov. 16.9-17.1.

An observer in Portugal observed 214 Leonids during Nov. 17.13-17.24. However, a group of observers at La Palma observed about 1000 Leonids/hr around Nov. 17.15, increasing to about 2000/hr around Nov. 17.19.

Observers near Sierra Vista, AZ, reported 423 Leonids during Nov. 17.36-17.45, while in New Mexico only 126 Leonids were reported during Nov. 17.38-17.47. Numerous further reports confirm an extended shower with a preponderance of bright fireballs and a general maximum zenithal hourly rate of perhaps 500. Although impressive, the display was a far cry from the Leonid storms of 1799, 1833 and 1966.



## Pick'n Save "We Care Program"

By Kevin Bert

Effective January 1, 1999 there will be a new system in place for shoppers of Pick'n Save food stores that want to help support their favorite non-profit organization. NCSF members who have been helping the club through the We Care Program would need to get a special sticker attached to their sales receipt and periodically turn them in for the club to receive a percentage of the totals.



The new system requires you to fill out a form to receive a new Advantage Plus card. The form will have a place to enter up to three, 6 digit codes that correspond to the particular charities you want to support.. When you use the new card at the checkout the totals will automatically be registered. The NCSF will receive a check every 3 months. The amount of the rebate will be

(See **WE CARE** on page 3)

# November Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The November meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held in the conference room of Carlson Tool & Mfg. in Cedarburg. The Astronomy 101 class preceded the business meeting.

President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 8:10 p.m. to over 17 people.

Jeff explained that after further investigation, no board members terms will expire in 1999 and therefore no elections will be needed.

Brad Plaumann noted that the renewal rate for Astronomy Magazine is now \$29.00 instead of the \$24.00 listed in the Spectrum. He reported that Kalmbach had raised the group subscription rate. Brad stated the transactions that had taken place. Particularly noteworthy was a donation of \$50.00 from Dave Jaeckels to the 20" telescope fund. Next he gave a rundown of the total cash on hand in petty cash, the checking and savings accounts.

Kevin Bert noted that all was quiet as far as Astronomical league activity. He then reported on the progress of the 20-inch Panarusky Telescope. There were some delays in the completion of the primary mirror but they should be resolved soon. The secondary mirror was expected back any day from QSP. The field frame had been removed

from the assembly to add on the two focuser castings. The field frame was on display in the meeting room. Kevin mentioned that the secondary holder would receive attention next.



Jeff went over the final members events that were attended last month. Homestead High school, TJ Middle School, and Erin Middle School had clear viewing. Webster Middle School for the most part was a cloud out, along with the Harrington Beach. Kevin Bert announced that he had been contacted by someone from the Cedarburg

Public Library to give a talk on astronomy. A date was set for November 18th at 6:45. He would give a talk on telescopes and the planets Jupiter and Saturn. Viewing would follow if the weather permitted. Club members were invited to attend.

Jeff told those attending that he had been working with Brad Plaumann using a 3D CAD program to produce a drawing of the roll-off roof observatory. Once modeled, a bill of materials can easily be generated and any other modifications to the building could be done easily. A building committee had been started for the observatory. It primarily consists of members of the board but any member wishing to participate should contact him. The next meeting of the group had not been set.

Harold Rogers had talked with a contractor and got a ball park estimate of \$50.00 per foot for the concrete needed for the observatories foundation. They also recommended using steel piers to support the track for the roof instead of concrete.

It was decided that work on the 16" observatory should be postponed until spring. It was getting too late in the year for the weather to cooperate.

Jeff reminded members that next months meeting will be the traditional Christmas party where members all bring a plate of goodies to share and the NCSF will provide the soft drinks.

Jeff needed to reschedule the board meeting at his house to Tuesday the 24th. All board members in attendance said that it shouldn't be a problem.

Mike Matthies announced that any members wanting to get together to view the Leonid meteor shower at his home should contact him.

The business meeting was closed by Jeff Setzer at 8:45 p.m.

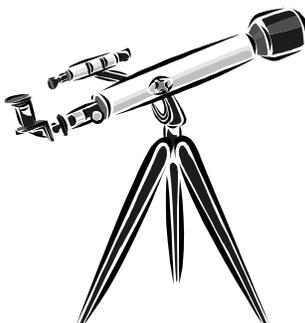
Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Bert, secretary

## NCSF Loaner Scopes

By Kevin Bert

At the present time there are Four loaner telescopes that can be checked out by members of the Northern Cross. They are all simple Dobsonian telescopes. The general procedure for checking out a scope is as follows.

Call Kevin Bert ( the loaner chairman) at 375-2239 at least 1 week before the



next general meeting to request a scope. Unless other arrangements are made, the normal meeting night will be the place to exchange loaner telescopes. You are guaranteed to have the scope for one month for a fee of \$5.00 that you need to pay when you pick up the scope. You will get a call from the loaner chairman no later than

(see **LOANER** on page 4)

(WE CARE from page 1)

a percentage of the total We Care dollars that Pick'n Save will set aside. The more club members that use their card, the larger the percentage of the set aside total we will get.

Please stop at the customer service desk at any Pick'n Save store to get the form for an Advantage Plus card. The number you need to know for the club will be listed in the be listed in the

next issue of Spectrum. Return the completed form to the service desk.

If you already shop at Pick'n Save it is a simple way to help the club financially by doing something you would normally do anyway. You can use the card at any of the Pick'n Save stores for the club to benefit.

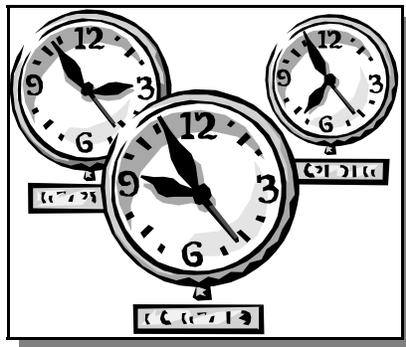
# Astronomy 101

By Kevin Bert

There will be no 101 class for the December meeting.

The January 101 topic will be "Time" by Kevin Bert. There are several types of time used by astronomers. The one to use depends on the subject and type of work you are doing.

The highlighted constellation will be Ursa Minor.



# From The Editor

By Kevin Bert

Can you believe that the year is almost over? Reflecting back, it is great to see a lot of new faces in the club. I hope we can continue to provide the things you are looking for in an astronomy club. Talk to any of the board members if there is anything we can do better to keep you active in the club.

The December Meeting of the Northern Cross has always traditionally been a Christmas Party. All members should plan on bringing a snack to share with the members, cookies, cake, chips or whatever you prefer. We usually get a nice variety to enjoy at the



meeting as we spend a little more time getting acquainted with other members and talk about our hobby. As usual, the NCSF will provide the soft drinks.

As far as a program goes, Jeff Setzer will show us some of the video he had taken at some of the summer star parties that he attended.

I would like to thank all those members that have contributed articles to the Spectrum this year. I would hope to see even more people involved next year.

## CURRENT CLACK

### Welcome New Members

Jozef Makohon from Milwaukee  
Ernie Mastroianni from Whitefish Bay

### Panarusky 20-Inch Telescope

The 4.0 inch secondary mirror and primary mirror are at QSP awaiting coating. The components will be shipped directly to us when completed. Once received Kevin will contact some of the members to help him test the primary mirror and confirm it's accuracy.

Other mechanical components are progressing, but somewhat slower than planned. Final length adjustments are being made to the truss tube poles and field frame to accommodate the 89.5 inch focal length of the primary mirror. This is only 1/4 inch short of the desired length we wanted. This will present no problem mechanically or optically. When the secondary holder is finished, the optics will be installed to check balance. Early next year another meeting will be scheduled in order to discuss any final questions concerning construction.

### 1998 Public Viewing Success

A record of the weather conditions for the scheduled public viewing nights held this year can be given. These are the nights listed on our handouts where members set up their own telescopes and exclude the extra nights scheduled for schools and the like during the year.

**Clear to mostly clear:** No problems finding an object to view – 6 nights.

**Mostly cloudy:** Glimpse a few objects briefly between clouds – 2 nights.

**Cloudy and or Rain:** No viewing possible – 9 nights.

A few of the clear nights started out cloudy. Deterring some members from attempting to come out with their scopes at all. As it was, almost 1/2 of the nights were viewable to some extent. I think most members would have thought only 1/4 of the nights were observable.

As a side note, most of the other private nights scheduled ended up with clear weather.

## 1998 OFFICERS

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*(LOANER from page 2)*

3 days before the next meeting if you need to return the loaner scope. Consecutive months are permitted if no requests for the scope are received for an additional \$1.00 per month that is payable when you return the scope. A form must be filled out that spells out the rules and responsibilities of the person checking out the telescope.

**4.5" f/10 Beam Dobsonian.**

**6.0" f/10 Dobsonian**

**6.0" f/8 Dobsonian**

**8.0" f4.5 Dobsonian**

At least 2 eyepieces will be provided with any of the loaner telescopes.

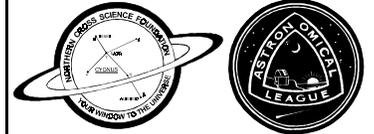
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On the World Wide Web  
<http://www.gxsc.com/ncsf>**

## SPECTRUM

SPECTRUM is published by the Northern Cross Science Foundation, Inc. A non-profit organization based the state of south eastern Wisconsin and a Member of the North-Central Region of the Astronomical League.



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