

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

January 2005

LOOKING UP

January 6 Thursday

Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. 101 Class

7:30 Main Program

UCN—Lower Level

January 7 Friday

Public Viewing Night

6:30 p.m.

Harrington Beach S. P.

January 8 Saturday

Candlelight Ski

6:30 p.m.

Harrington Beach S. P.

January 20 Thursday

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

At the home of Jeff Setzer

February 3 Thursday

Annual NCSF Banquet

See insert for times

Klug's Creekside Inn

February 5 Saturday

Candlelight Ski

6:30 p.m.

Harrington Beach S. P.

February 12 Saturday

Candlelight Ski & Stars

6:00—9:00 p.m.

Pike Lake State Park

Yearly Guide to Showpiece Objects

By Tim Grunewald

(taken from Wehr Astronomical Society Newsletter, Starry Night)

All of these objects are shown on the sky maps that we hand out at the observatory from www.Skymaps.com. There are only a few that may be difficult to view in a small aperture scope and many of these objects are viewable with binoculars.

Below, I give a list of these objects sorted out by month for the entire year. For each month I list ten objects that you can locate. I figure that the list will come in handy if you come out to the observatory and wonder what objects you can show people. If you can find half of these objects for a given month, you can definitely handle showing these same objects at the observatory. There is nothing more gratifying than having someone say "Thank you" to you for giving them a chance to look at an object through your telescope.

Below is a List of some of the more common objects that we show people at the observatory:

M15 M22 M27 M31 M35 M36 M37 M38
M42 M44 Albireo Cr399 M2 M3 M5 M8
M10 M11 M12 M13 M45 M57 M64 M65/
M66 M81/M82 M104 Mel 111 NGC253
NGC869/NGC884

Objects by month (sorted by Right Ascension, West to East)

January

M31 NGC869 NGC884 M45 M38 M42
M36 M37 M35 M44 M81/M82

February

M31 NGC869 NGC884 M45 M38
M42 M36 M37 M35 M44 M81/M82

March

NGC869 NGC884 M45 M38 M42
M36 M37 M35 M44 M81/M82 M3

April

M38 M36 M37 M35 M81/M82 M65/
M66 Mel 111 M3 M5 M13

May

M81/M82 M65/M66 Mel 111 M104
M64 M3 M5 M13 M12 M10

June

M81/M82 Mel 111 M3 M5 M13 M12
M10 M11 M57 Albireo

July

M3 M5 M13 M12 M10 M8 M22 M11
M57 Albireo

August

M3 M5 M13 M12 M10 M8 M22 M11
M57 Alberio

September

(Yearly on page 2)

December Meeting Minutes By Kevin Bert

The December business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. to 27 members and guests.

Jeff welcomed all in attendance and noted that this meeting is the one meeting that is required by the by-laws to have for the purpose of electing officers. He then asked for standard reports.

Secretary Kevin Bert said that a thank you letter was drafted for David Schleif for the donation of a 6-inch telescope.

Kevin said that a current membership roster would be on display for members interested in voting.

Treasurer Rob Powell said that only standard transactions were made over the last month and reminded members to pay their membership dues at the next meeting or mail them to him.

Jeff Setzer opened the floor for additional nominations for the board of di-

rectors. Don Miles nominated Rick Poulin. Georgine Poulin seconded and Rick said that he would serve if elected. No further names were nominated.

Each of the 5 nominees had a chance to address the membership.

Jeff explained that the top three vote getters would replace the three leaving board members. Ballots were then distributed to the membership and instructed to vote for three of the five candidates. Once completed and collected Kevin Bert and Joyce Jentges did the tallying of names with the help of Rob Powell.

The following results are as follows. At the top with 22 votes – Gene DuPree. Second with 21 votes – Rob Powell. And finally with 14 votes – Rick Poulin. Al Steinberg fell one vote short of a tie with 13 votes and Kip Kaplan had 8.

Under new business Kevin Bert presented an achievement certificate and telescope plaque to the partici-

pants of the Solar Dobsonian class. He said it has been a tradition to recognize the effort of members in NCSF telescope building classes.

Joyce Jentges told members that information on an NCSF dinner in February will be in the next Spectrum. She encouraged members to attend.

Justin Gruber had a 6-inch Orion Intele-scope on display for the membership and told them that it was for sale. They could see him after the meeting if interested.

With no further business, Jeff closed the business meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Bert, secretary

(Yearly from page 1)

M13 M12 M10 M8 M22 M11 M57
Alberio M15 M31

October

M13 M11 M57 Cr399 Aibireo

M27 M15 M2 M31 NGC869
NGCS84

November

M57 Cr399 Albireo M27 M15 M2
M31 NGC253 NGC869 NGC884
M45

December

M27 M15 M2 M31 NGC253
NGC869 NGC884 M45 M38
M36

-Tim Grunewald

Comet Machholz By Joyce Jentges

Hopefully by now some of you have had a chance to view a new comet that is making a nice appearance in the winter sky. I have not been able to see it yet, but I hear that under dark skies it is naked eye. At the time of this writing, it is supposed to be magnitude 3.6—4.0, and looks splendid in binoculars. This comet was discovered by Don

Machholz on August 27, 2004.

In January the comet is expected to pass by Taurus, Perseus, and Cassiopeia. The night of January 7/8 is passes 2 degrees west of the Pleiades. If I remember our calendar correctly, we also have a public viewing night then, so this will be a great object to show people.

Look for more up to date information on the Internet.

Good luck seeking out this comet!



101 Class and Main Program

By Kevin Bert

The main program for January will take a slightly different format. All the ingredients will be at hand for mixing up a special recipe for astronomy enthusiasts. Witness the creation of a comet! Data for the recipe comes from years of research at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Get an up close and personal look at this frosty replica that normally lies billions of miles from the earth in the deep freeze of outer space. Get in even closer to hear and even touch it if you dare. This main program is entitled "The Kitchen Comet" and will be presented by Kevin Bert. Fortunately those attending will not need to stay the estimated 4 billion years normally thought that it takes to make a real comet. It's fun, it's a mess, and it's one of the most

memorable and scientifically accurate demonstrations in astronomy!

The Astronomy 101 course on the planets will start at 6:30 p.m. and precede the main program. Get an overview of the planets for 2005. The featured constellation will be Auriga.

For the youngsters in our group, Rob Powell will be conducting a program for kids ages 6—11. This program called Cygnets, will take place during the astronomy 101 class. In January the topic will be Solar System and Stories. Bring your kids and grandkids!

From the Editor

By Joyce Jentges

Ahhh....a new year to start out fresh with! As we start out this new year, I would like to point your attention to the Current Clack column next to this article. You will see several paragraphs about different positions in the NCSF that you can volunteer for. Right now, the work of these positions is currently being done by various members of the board of directors. We would like to have a few other members take over these positions. If you are not active in the organization and are looking for a way to jump in and help, here's your chance. This organization does not run itself, and this is a chance for you to contribute your time and talents.

Also, if you have kids ages 6—11—the NCSF is offering a new program for children. Called Cygnets, this is a program that will bring astronomy down to their level. If you know of neighbor kids, grandkids, or your own youngsters who are interested in science, this is strictly for them. It will take place beginning at 6:30 p.m. and will be finished at 7:30 p.m.

I would like to thank Gene DuPree for fixing me up with several articles for the

Spectrum, including the headline article in this issue. Hopefully you will keep these objects in mind when you observe this spring. If you haven't looked at them, perhaps you will find some new objects to look at. I am always in need of articles for Spectrum, and welcome any that you may choose to write.

As you can see from the calendar on page one, we have several public viewing nights coming up in January and February weather permitting. Most are candlelight ski's at local state parks. Keep in mind that you will need a state park sticker. The 2005 stickers are available for \$20.00 now. The board of directors will be working on the public and members viewing calendar for 2005 soon, so if you have a date in mind for a members night, or a place for a public viewing, please see a board member with that date.

Happy New Year!!



3 or 4 people have not picked up their NCSF merchandise. Please contact Joyce Jentges at (920)-254-6705 if you cannot make it to the next meeting to pick up your shirts.

Wanted:

A podium to be used for our general meetings at UNC. A podium with storage space and shelves would be useful for storing electronic equipment. If anybody would be willing to make one or knows of one that could be donated, please see a board member at the December meeting.

Also needed is a large white board, to be used for programs and meetings. If you would like to make a financial donation toward the purchase of this, see Rob Powell.

Volunteer Help Wanted:

A creative person with an interest in history to serve as club historian. You would take photos of club events, and collect photos and news clippings or video clips about our club. Scrapbooking experience is helpful but not required.

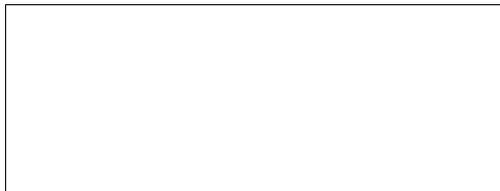
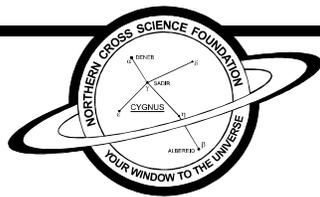
A publicity person is needed to help arrange publicity for our public viewing nights and general activities. Kevin Bert is doing this job right now, and would like to give it to someone else. This is crucial to our attendance for public viewing nights. Kevin will set you up with contacts for this.

Also needed is someone to arrange monthly programs for the general meetings. This would involve arranging speakers (club members or outside people) to speak on a variety of topics, or finding videos that can be used for a program. If you like a challenge, or have a lot of local contacts, this would fit you to a tee!

See a board member if you are interested in any of these positions. We need your help to make things happen in 2005!!!

*****Return Banquet forms to Joyce Jentges by January 20th!!!**

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Monthly Meeting Location
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Pickup at my work or at the next NCSF meeting. Can ship for additional cost.

Robert M. Powell
Home: 262/243-5141

Have astro stuff you'd like to sell? Drop Joyce an email with the information, I will put an advertisement in the newsletter for you. Just remember that if I run out of space, I may have to put your advertisement in the next issue of Spectrum.

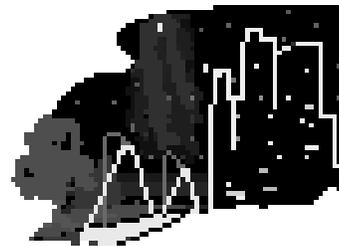


SPECTRUM

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<http://www.ncsf.info>