

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

July 2006

LOOKING UP

July 6 Thursday
General Meeting
6:30 p.m. Astronomy 101
7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

July 8 Saturday
Sunday on Saturday
2:00 p.m.—?
Home of Kevin Bert

July 14 Friday
Public Viewing Night
8:00 p.m.
Harrington Beach S. Park

July 15 Saturday
Solar and Public Viewing
6:00 p.m.
Harrington Beach S. Park

July 18 Thursday
Board Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Home of Jeff Setzer

July 22 Saturday
Moonlight Hike
8:00 p.m.
Harrington Beach S. Park

July 29 Saturday
Members Night
8:00 p.m.
Home of Kevin Bert

August 18-20
Northwoods Starfest
Fall Creek, WI

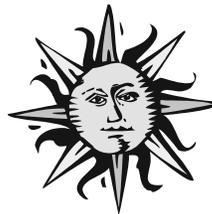
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Sun-Day on Saturday

By Kevin Bert

This is just a reminder of the upcoming July 8th Sun-Day on Saturday. For those not familiar with this event, the thought was for family members to get together for daytime viewing with the primary subject being the Sun, instead of the standard evening viewing. This Saturday is close to a full moon.

You know what they say, it always seems to be clear near a full moon. I hope all members could stop in for at least a short period of time to look through the variety of telescopes and filters at the Sun, view some of the bright daytime planets, say hello to club members or check out the swap table. To help pass the time, you could bring a telescope that is in need of a tune-up, or get in a little exercise by touring the area. I happen to live right next to the interurban bike path, but you will



need to bring your own bike. I have an outside play-set for kids, and if the temperature is nice, there is an above ground pool if you would like to cool off, or play a yard game.

Members and family can arrive and set up equipment anytime after 2:00 pm. For those that would like to stay, bring a dish or goodie to pass for eating around 5:00 pm. I will provide a meat dish and beverages. Most activities will continue if it is overcast, and some if it is raining, you are still encouraged to come.

Just to note, sunset will be about 8:30. You are welcome to stay later to view Jupiter and double stars, other deep sky viewing will be tough with the bright moon. Please call me if you need directions. (262) 375-2239

20 Inch Panarusky Telescope

By Kevin Bert

I am waiting to hear when the delivery of the Cassegrain mirror is going to be made. The holders for the mirror are on the back burner and will be addressed once the rest of the telescope is totally complete. The extended truss tube poles are all welded and are in the process of being finished. The new 18-point flotation system for the primary mirror cell is almost complete and anodizing of the focuser assemblies is complete and simply needs to be assembled. The steel has arrived for the pier sub-plate and is scheduled for machining. This will be the first component set in place and needs to be aligned as close as possible to

celestial north. I am looking for someone with a trailer or truck willing to drive the 44"x26x" 300 lbs. plate out to the site and a few strong volunteers to set it in place. Several minor components for balancing will need to be made once the entire telescope is assembled at Carlson Tool. Arrangements for the moving of the telescope in mid to late July are being finalized and should be known by the July meeting. The optical tube would be assembled on site after the mounting is moved. Other supporting equipment for the Panarusky includes a tall folding ladder and small collapsible lifting rig (for scope assembly/disassembly) that are ordered.

June Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The June business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed 27 members and guests. Jeff asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Rob Powell reports a balance of \$1,774.87 in the club's checking account and \$13,702.00 in the observatory account. Observatory disbursements of \$8,790 to Backyard Observatories and \$6,303 to Clark's Concrete were made.

Secretary Kevin Bert did not have any specific Astronomical League information to share with the membership. He did confirm that the present membership is at 64 and that all members should have gotten membership cards.

Jeff Setzer then gave an update on the Observatory status. The pier and building slab were complete and the next step was for Clark's Concrete to move excess dirt from the north side of the slab to create the proper surrounding landscape. Backyard Observatories would be ready to start construction on June 27th. Three days is all that they should need to complete the structure if weather permits. Interior finishing of the observatory will require member involvement. Members that wish to contribute ideas and expertise should consider it, and look for information on an organizational meeting to plan activities

in the near future.

Kevin Bert reported that the replacement 20-inch primary mirror was finished and waiting for aluminizing. Details on the test results showed that the mirror should perform great and the Cassegrain secondary can now be ground & polished and would be finished within 6-7 weeks. The optical tube assembly is still being worked on with additional steel being ordered for the mirror cell. Some of the anodized parts of the focusers have come back and the brass color looks excellent.

Under old business Jeff Setzer reviewed the Wisconsin Observers Weekend outing. Half the evenings were clear and half were cloudy. Rob Powell recapped the public viewing nights at Harrington Beach. The clipboard then made the rounds for members to sign-up as a leader for public viewing night dates.

Under new business, chairperson Rebecca Sher invited those interested in planning for the 2008 NCRAL to attend a meeting at Jeff Setzer's house on Monday June 5th at 7:00 pm for an organizational meeting to brainstorm on the event. Any member's input would be welcomed.

Jeff Setzer ran down the upcoming events for the month. New to the calendar was the Sun-day on Saturday for July 8th at Kevin Bert's home in

Grafton starting at 2:00 pm. Kevin explained that the primary focus would be on the sun but evening viewing would continue for those interested. Details for a picnic dinner were not yet made but suggested ordering sub sandwiches for those interested at the time of the event would be an option. A member's night on Saturday July 29th at Kevin Bert's house was also a new date.

Gene Dupree posed the question of gaining additional benefits by the club joining the friends of Harrington Beach. It was later discouraged because it was thought that the club would lose its identity and have to be absorbed into the friends group.

Joyce Jentges announced that a date of August 26th was scheduled for a brat fry fundraiser at the West Bend Piggly Wiggly. Start time would be 10:00 am with activities similar to last year. Specifics would be talked about in the coming months.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Bert, secretary

Observatory Director Needed

By Joyce Jentges

With the observatory nearing completion, a club member is needed to volunteer for the position of Observatory Director. This person would be responsible for:

—Scheduling of events at the observatory. This includes club scheduled public and members nights, nights when club members wish to use the observa-

tory for their own personal viewing, and scheduling groups to tour the observatory.

—Maintenance of equipment inside observatory (not the building). This person will need to arrange for someone to do the work, or if knowledgeable enough, do it themselves.

—Controls inventory of observatory equipment.

For more information, please contact a board member at the next meeting or call/email them.

Astronomy 101 and Main Program

By Kevin Bert

Due to the in depth nature of this month's 101 class, it would be better to call it a main program. Never the less it will start at 6:30 pm. The July program is entitled "Cepheid Variable Stars," by Kevin Bert. Last month the 101 class looked at the basics of viewing variable stars and details on the AAVSO. This month will present a more detailed look

into a specific type of variable. The Cepheid variable and give details on observing the original find that set up this class of object, Delta Cephei. The featured constellation will be Ursa Major.

For Sale Items

Submitted by Members

ETX-125EC with UHTC.

(or e-mail donmiles927@hotmail.com)

#497 AutoStar Controller , #884 Deluxe Field Tripod, 26mm Super Plossl Eyepiece, Aftermarket Focus Cable, Camera Adapter (Canon-AE)

Custom Solid Oak Case

4" Meade Refractor. Model 102ACRH/500, on a German Equatorial mount. See Gene DuPree if interested.

All in Excellent Condition

\$800.00

See Don Miles for more info.



Public Viewing Night Leaders

July 14—Gene & Charlotte DuPree

July 15—Rob Powell

July 22—Gene & Charlotte DuPree

If you are a public viewing night leader, after the event is over, please touch base with me by email or phone, to let me know how the event went. I like to be able to report this information to keep members up to date, and it also serves as good history information.

Attention Star Party Junkies!!!

Registration for Northwoods Starfest is now open!!! Go to the following website and click on the link for Northwoods Starfest: <http://www.cvastro.org>

Astrofest registration is also open now. It is September 21-24. Go to www.chicagocastro.org and click on the link for Astrofest.

Newsletter note: The deadline for submission to have information put in the newsletter is the 20th of each month. Absolutely no items will be accepted after this date.

From The Editor

By Joyce Jentges

Ahhh, I have observatory on the brain. I spent the last couple of days with the crew from Backyard Observatories, and got to chat with them a bit about their business and astronomy in general. They are a nice bunch of guys. I really hope you get a chance to get out to the site and take a look at our new observatory.

should have more to pass around at the next meeting.



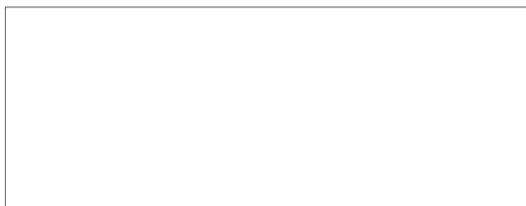
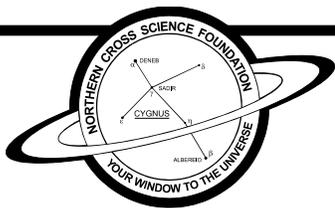
Members standing on the slab.

At the July meeting I will have a sign up sheet for a brat fry we are doing at the Piggly Wiggly in West Bend on August 26. It was decided that we should try to do the brat fry's on a day when we have a public viewing night, so in the evening we will be at the Ice Age Center near Dundee. A second brat fry will be held on September 30 at the Piggly Wiggly in Saukville. Please consider helping us out on either or both of these days.

Enjoy the pictures of the observatory, I



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August 18 & 19 Fri. & Sat.
 Public Viewing Night
 7:00 p.m.
 Harrington Beach S. Park

August 26 Saturday
 Brat fry
 10:00—2 p.m. (9:15 setup)
 Piggly Wiggly—West Bend
 Public Viewing Night
 Time TBA
 Ice Age Center, near Dundee

Just a reminder:

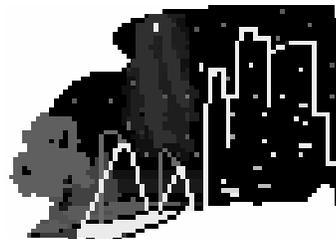
If you are a Public Viewing Night leader, you need to make sure you get a list to Jeff Setzer of members who attended, the amount of time they were at the event, and the amount of total driving time it takes them to get to HBSP. Also, give me a short report detailing how the event went, approximately how many guests showed up.

SPECTRUM

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<http://www.ncsf.info>