

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

July 2007

LOOKING UP

July 5 Thursday

General Meeting

No Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

July 14 Saturday

Members Night

8:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach State Park

July 19 Thursday

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Home of Jeff Setzer

July 20 & 21 Fri. & Sat.

Public Viewing Night

8:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach State Park

July 21

Observatory Dedication

4-6 p.m.

Harrington Beach State Park

August 2 Thursday

General Meeting

7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

August 10-12 Friday-Sunday

Northwoods Starfest

Fall Creek, Wisconsin

August 17 & 18 Fri. & Sat.

Public Viewing Nights

7:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach State Park

Main Program

By Kevin Bert

There is no Astronomy 101 class this month.

Anyone who has turned a telescope to the Moon is immediately aware of the great number of craters that cover its surface. Many other bodies of the Solar System retain the ancient scars from this process. The Earth is no exception. Most of the evidence has been eroded away over time. The origin of craters then is of interest both from a historical standpoint and from the standpoint of it possibly happening again some time in the future. Over the years a debate on how these craters were formed has raged. Years ago many believed that

most were produced by volcanic activity. Today it is believed that nearly all were the result of impacts of meteors or asteroids. At the July meeting Kevin Bert will present "An Impact Crater Demonstration." The goal is to reproduce this phenomena but at a scaled down, manageable level. After all, trying to throw around a large object at 50 miles/second would be unwise and impractical. All in attendance will participate in this hands-on program so you can gain a better understanding of craters and come away with a new perspective and appreciation the next time you gaze at the moon through a telescope.

June Observing Reports

By Ernie Mastroianni

June 22nd– Report on Public Viewing Night. I arrived at about 20:30 and the roof rolled open at about 21:00.

Present were members Ernie Mastroianni, Paul Gruener, Al Steinberg and Steve Schowalter and his wife.

Two families visited us. A father, mother, and three kids, aged from about 12 to 3 years old, and another family - a mother, her adult son and a friend, for a total of 8 non-member visitors, three members and the electrician and his wife, making a total of 13 in attendance that night. It was surprising, because the night started out quite clear, in contrast to the public night on May 18, which drew at least 26 public visitors on a night that was mostly cloudy.

We looked at Saturn, Venus, Jupiter and the moon, including views at high power of the Apollo 11 landing site. We saw the crater Moltke, but could not make out the

craters Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins, due to marginal seeing and increasing low clouds. We also set up the Celestron 9.25 on the concrete pad outside the south doors, where Paul Gruener showed visitors Jupiter and its moons while the large scope was pointed at the moon and Saturn.

Perhaps the best views of the evening were of Saturn, but they were through Al Steinberg's 8-inch home-built Newtonian as twilight lingered on the first full night of summer.

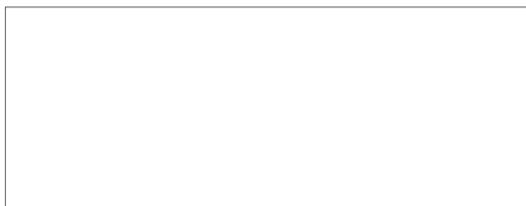
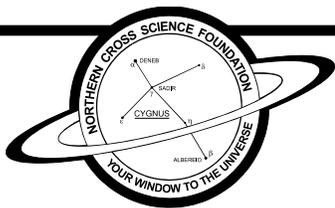
As the sky grew darker, we looked at Epsilon Lyra, Albiero and M57. The sky grew increasingly cloudy and the air increasingly unsteady up to the point where no other deep sky objects could be easily observed. We rolled the roof closed at about 23:15.

Saturn, as always, was a crowd pleaser.

I also observed on Tuesday, June 12, during a clear, moonless night with member

(Reports Continued on page 2)

SPECTRUM
102 N Montgomery St # 1
Port Washington, WI
53074



2007 OFFICERS

President - Jeff Setzer
1418 Trillium CT
West Bend, WI 53095
262/338-8614
astrosetz@hotmail.com

**Vice President/Newsletter
Editor- Joyce Jentges**
102 N. Montgomery St. Apt #1
Port Washington, WI 53074
(920) 254-6705
joycejentges@hotmail.com

Secretary - Kevin Bert
2292 Ridgewood Road
Grafton, WI 53024
262/375-2239
kevin.bert@hotmail.com

Treasurer - Gene DuPree
6291 Jay Rd.
Myra, WI 53095
262-675-0941
grdupree@netwurx.net

Other Board Members:

Rob Powell
262-894-9756
Rick Poulin
920-474-3064
Don Miles
262-675-2796

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

(Reports continued from page1)

Paul Gruener. He and I were the only ones present. Paul set up his Tak Mewlon 250 inside the observatory, and we compared views through his 10 inch Cassegrain and the 20-inch Newtonian.

While my observations were logged at the observatory, I do recall looking at many Leo galaxies, but the best views were some high power (260x) looks at M57, where the center star was clearly visible and much detail was visible in the ring. We also observed the Swan Nebula (m-17) at high power through the 20-inch at 260x, and the detail in that nebula, at that power, was remarkable. The nebulosity filled the eyepiece, was quite bright, and presented a lot of detail in the nebula itself.

Odds 'N Ends

By Joyce Jentges

The observatory dedication is slated for June 21st. Invitations will be going out soon. Please RSVP if you can attend. It will be from 4-6 p.m.

As usual the NCSF had a nice showing at WOW in Waupaca. A more formal report will be shared at the July meeting as time permits. We had approximately 8 members who came. Remarkably, skies were clear during the week for those who attended "Pre-WOW" and the weekend for those who attended the main event. We got to see several nice sightings of the Space Station and Space Shuttle flying over. We had some rain on Saturday, and heat on Friday, but a great time was had by everyone. Jeff Setzer took the opportunity to distribute some bookmarks for NCRAL 2008.

I did not receive any reports for the public viewing on the 23rd of June or the Sunday on Saturday. I did host a star party on June 23rd at Kohler Andre for the families of the school I work at. Thanks to Gene and Charlotte DuPree for their assistance.

SPECTRUM

Is published by the Northern Cross Science Foundation, Inc. A nonprofit organization based the state of southeastern Wisconsin and is a Member of the North-Central Region of the Astronomical League.



The NCSF supports the International Dark sky association.



Send inquiries to:
SPECTRUM
102 N. Montgomery St. # 1
Port Washington, WI 53074

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

<http://www.ncsf.info>



**Help Support
The NCSF
Every time
You Shop**

556190