

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

July 1998

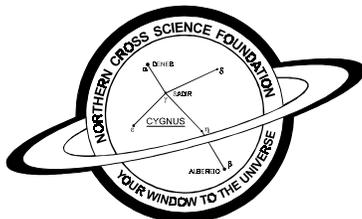
LOOKING UP

July 2 Thursday
Astronomy 101
7:00 PM
General Meeting
7:45 PM
Carlson Tool & Mfg.

July 15 Wednesday
Board Of Directors
7:30 PM
Jeff Setzer's House

July 18-25 Sat. - Sat.
Nebraska Star Party
at Merritt Reservoir
near Valentine.

July 29–August 1
Wednesday – Sunday
Evening Viewing at
Ozaukee County Fair
Fireman's Park
Cedarburg



A Publication Of
The Northern Cross
Science Foundation

Panarusky 20" Telescope

By Kevin Bert

It's starting to take shape. The main components of the Panarusky 20" telescope are assembled for some preliminary testing and photo shoot. The photo below was taken by Jeff Setzer after the June meeting. Now you can get a feel for the size of

this impressive telescope. A few of the components were slightly modified to allow assembly. It should remain in this condition for the next month or so. During the special June 11th meeting a

(See 20" on page 2)



Kevin Bert, Brad Plaumann, and Joe Reimbold admire the Telescope's solid construction.

Pike Lake Guidelines

By Harold Rogers

This is my understanding of what is expected of us at Pike Lake State Park, when we are there for astronomy related purposes.

1. We must have a park sticker if we are observing for our own interests. See the Ranger or Park office for one. A yearly pass, to enter any State Park, is \$18.00.

2. Members do not need a sticker if they are there for a scheduled star party. Park in the spot adjacent to the observing area !

3. Guests may park on the side of the main road on the campground entrance but require a sticker. Without one they

(See Pike on page 2)

June Minutes

The June 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 8:05 p.m. to over 20 people. Jeff shared some of his own viewing experiences with his new scope. He reviewed and asked for any additional members to the observers hotline, a phone tree list for those interested in impromptu viewing sessions.



Jeff also ran down the upcoming events for the month and had a show of hands who were planning to attend.

Charlotte Nelson reported that they had 458 registered people for the 17th Annual International Space Development Conference.

Nick Nichols mentioned that he had entertained a large group of middle school kids in Hartford with the help of other NCSF Members.

Kevin Bert made information available on the Astronomi-

cal League candidates. Positions will be voted on at the July meeting.

Brad Plaumann gave the financial transactions and final status of the checking and savings accounts. Astronomical League dues was the largest bill.

The business meeting was closed by Jeff Setzer at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Bert, secretary

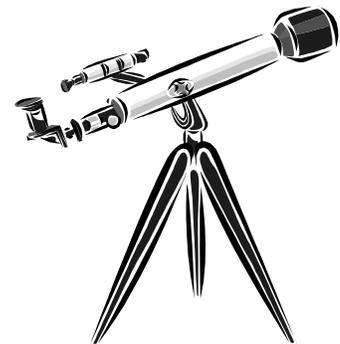
(**Pike** from page 1)
may be ticketed.

4. We are allowed to stay as late as we wish.
5. We are expected to stay in the general observing area when staying late. The park closes at 11.00 PM.
6. Keep noise to a minimum and leave quietly.
7. There are no garbage containers so take your refuse with you.
8. When ice fishing starts we can observe at the plowed beach parking lot

on Kettle Moraine Road. The campground closes in October and opens in May.

I think this pretty well covers it. If you have any questions or concerns call me or talk to the park superintendent, John Wald. The people at Pike have done a lot for us over the past years and we would like to keep a good relationship with them in the future. Please follow these guidelines when you observe

from the park.



(**20"** from page 1)

number of questions were resolved concerning the remaining construction. A standard aluminum coating and overcoating will be applied to the primary mirror when finished at Nova Optics.

A 4" minor axis Newtonian secondary will be purchased with an enhanced coating to complete the minimum of optics needed to make it operational. Members involved with the construction of the scope received a quote for the cass secondary from Torus Optical at \$1200. That was a heck of a lot more than expected. Bob Sedgwick and members of the club will continue working on a cass secondary that Bob had already

started.

It was decided to purchase two focusers for the Newtonian positions. A Crayford type was recommended. Possible sources will be looked into.



Brad pulls on the strap, and "tames" the telescope. Until the optics are installed, the telescope assembly is out of balance and needs to be carefully maneuvered.

Blue and gray will be the final colors of the exterior of the telescope. A high quality industrial enamel will be used after a proper primer coat. Flat black will be used along the internal light path. As of now, no anodizing of aluminum surfaces were agreed to. It was thought to be too expensive.

Two other components will be manufactured and assembled to the scope before it is disassembled and readied for painting. A secondary spider and a declination clutch. Both should be ready over the next month.

Saving the best information for last, Alvin Panarusky has agreed to pay the costs for finish polishing and aluminizing the primary mirror. Alvin has been the main financial contributor of this instrument from the start of the project. Speaking for all of us at the NCSF we are thankful for his generous donation.

Astrofest 1998

Fron NCSF Home Page

Astrofest is sponsored by the Chicago Astronomical Society. The Northern Cross Science Foundation has no affiliation with Astrofest, except that many members are enthusiastic veteran attendees.

Date: Friday, September 11, 1998 through Sunday, September 13, 1998

Location: 130 acre Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See 4H site near Kankakee, Illinois

Get The Official Brochure

This information is intended to be a "bare-bones" page for the benefit of those people who don't yet have a registration brochure. It is *not* meant to be a replacement of said brochure, and does not have the full information, maps or forms needed to register for Astrofest. To get the official brochure, call their voicemail at (773) 725-5618 and press 3. Please speak slowly and clearly over the phone, and leave them your name and mailing address.

Registration

It is very important to understand the registration policy of Astrofest. Be-

cause of the popularity of the event, the staff at Astrofest REALLY wants people to register by mail, ahead of time. Simply put, **the registration absolutely**



Photo courtesy of Andy Steere

must be

postmarked by 8/22/98 (that's a Saturday). After that, they will no longer accept mail-in registration. You *can* register at the door, but it costs \$100 per adult, \$85 for kids 6-12, and you can't get into any of the bunks or catered meals. In other words, register before August 22nd and everything will be fine. The reasoning behind the "discouragement" of walk-ons are valid: the Astrofest folks don't want to spend all night Friday and Saturday doing paperwork until the rooster crows. And

they can also plan for the right amount of people, avoiding situations like having an extra 400 people show up that they didn't anticipate. In years past, they have taken walk-ons, but the event has just grown too much for that to be feasible for them. So, register on time: it's better for them, and it's better for you. End of speech :-)

Souvenirs

There are souvenir Astrofest T-shirts and sweatshirts. The postmark deadline for ordering (**8/8/98**) is *earlier* than the registration deadline, and the address to send your order to is different, too. The regular Astrofest registration brochure will have a souvenir order form enclosed.

Meals

There are several meal choices at Astrofest. They give free donuts on Saturday morning, and also provide coffee and hot chocolate throughout the weekend at no charge. Catered meals are put on in the Dining Hall, and they are quite good. However, the hall only holds 250 people, so

(See **FEST** on page 4)



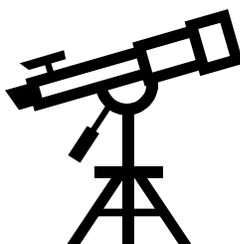
Astrofest Panorama of the flea market /swap-meet area

Photo courtesy of Andy Steere

WOW 1998

By Kevin Bert

Friday, late in the afternoon was looking great as my son Dan and I pulled up to the entrance of Hartman Creek State Park in Waupaca. As usual, it took longer to pack my van. There was still enough light to set up camp, my 8" Newtonian telescope and warm up something to eat. Nick and Jeannie Nichols were set up and ready for viewing with their LX200. New member Gene Du Pree had his 12.5 Dobsonian ready too. Jeff Setzer pulled in as the first stars became visible. He brought his new toy,



the 22" Starmaster. This was the first chance I had a chance to look through it under dark sky conditions. It gave great views of globular star clusters. Just ask Nick. I was really impressed with the view I had with it at the Omega Nebula. Jeff's UHC filter was spectacular. My son enjoyed the views too.

Dew was a major problem all night for most of the scopes. A lot of people had to quit early because of it. I was very popular for bringing my dew zapper and portable battery. My 8" scope had a little problem coping with the dew. Only the eyepieces

would dew up.

The next morning was hot. I was tired because I stayed up late to get a look at the planets and help Jeff load the 22" back in his van. We did a little sun viewing during the day. Al Steinberg and Charlotte Nelson stopped in on Saturday. The weather forecast was bad for Saturday night so Dan and I headed for home late in the afternoon. It was a great time all things considered. I guess it was too much to ask for two clear nights.

About The Astronomical League

Taken from their web site

The Astronomical League is composed of over two hundred local amateur astronomical societies from all across the United States. These organizations, along with our Members-at-Large, Patrons, and Supporting members form one of the largest amateur astronomical organizations in the world.

Our basic goal is to encourage an interest in astronomy (and especially amateur astronomy) throughout America. Many people have seen pictures of the other planets in our Solar System from spacecraft, but have no idea that they too can see these objects with a

telescope. We want people to get ac-



cess to telescopes, whether it is

through their local astronomical society, school, or their own instruments, and use them to view the beauty in the heavens.

The mission of the Astronomical League is clearly stated in the masthead: to promote the science of Astronomy. The major benefit of belonging to this organization is receiving the quarterly newsletter, *The Reflector*, which keeps you in touch with amateur activities all over the country. The chance to meet the people you read about there occurs during our annual National Convention, or at one of the

(See **AL** on page 5)

(**FEST** from page 3)

if you want to get into those meals, you'd better register WELL AHEAD of the August 22nd deadline. Experience shows that all of the catered meals are sold out before the end of July. The menus, for your perusal:

Saturday Breakfast: scrambled eggs, regular and non-cholesterol, sausage, bacon, hashbrowns, biscuits and gravy, coffee, milk, omelettes, cinnamon rolls, banana fruit salad, and various juices.

Saturday Lunch: baked chicken, fried chicken, meatloaf, Obrien's potatoes, mixed vegetables, pasta salad, Italian bread with butter.

Saturday Dinner: meatballs, mostaccioli, roast turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, dressing, corn, green beans in mushroom sauce, pistachio salad, tossed salad, bread and butter.

Sunday Breakfast: scrambled eggs, regular and non-cholesterol, sausage, bacon, hashbrowns, biscuits and gravy, coffee, milk, omelettes, cinnamon rolls, banana fruit salad, and various juices.

New for this year: they will be selling box lunch sandwiches "at all hours of the day and night, *while supplies last.*"

The choices will be ham, turkey, ham salad, turkey salad, tuna salad, and veggie. You'll also get a bag of chips and a cookie in the deal.

The Northwest Suburban Astronomers will have their ever-popular AstroDog stand set up again this year. They will be open Friday from 4-6pm, Saturday 11:30am to 1:30pm, and 4-6pm.

As a last resort, the nearby town of Bourbonnais has several restaurants. The registration packet you get when you arrive at Astrofest will have a list of them.

Registration Details

Two-day option: You may attend Friday afternoon through Sunday



Astrofest attendees checking out equipment

morning.
\$35.00/adults, \$15.00/kids 6-12, under 6 free

One-day option: You may attend Sat-

urday through Sunday morning.
\$25.00/adults, \$10.00/kids 6-12, under 6 free

Meals option: Several catered meals are available. They will take the first 250 people for each meal.

Saturday Breakfast \$6.00, Saturday Lunch \$6.00, Saturday Dinner \$8.00, Sunday Breakfast \$6.00

Cabins option: Camping is free, but rustic (unheated) cabins are available. \$12.00 per bunk (rental is for the entire weekend)

Electricity option: Reserve one of 18 spots on their "powered" observing field.

\$5.00 per spot (rental is for the entire weekend) Remember that your **registration must be postmarked** on or before **8/22/98**. After your registration form has been processed, a **confirmation card** will be mailed to you. You want to **keep this card and bring it with you** to Astrofest. Registration packets are handed out to pre-registered attendees at the tent situated near the 4H camp entrance. You hand the worker at the entrance your confirmation card so that your packet with IDs, program, and other information can be provided for you.

(AL from page 4)

ten regional conventions that the AL sponsors.

The easiest way to become part of the AL is to join one of our member societies close to you. A benefit of membership in this society is membership in the Astronomical League and part of your society dues goes to pay for your Reflector subscription.

If it is not convenient for you to join one of these societies, you might consider becoming a Member-at-Large. If all you desire is a subscription to the Reflector, please fill in the subscription form and return it to us, along with your payment and we will enter your subscrip-

tion.

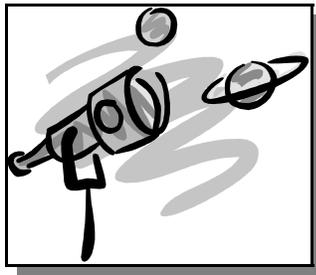
Astronomical League members can order astronomy-related books at a 10% discount through the Book Service. Books and other material published by the Astronomical League as well as clothing and jewelry can be purchased from the A.L. Sales Office. The Observing Clubs offer encouragement and certificates of accomplishment for demonstrating observing skills with a variety of instruments and objects. These include the Messier Club; Binocular Messier Club and the Herschel 400 Club.

Astronomy 101

By Kevin Bert

The July meeting 101 topic will be "Accessories and Upgrades."

There are a multitude of devices that can be purchased to enhance the performance of a telescope. Some you might have heard about, others you might not even be aware of. Jeff Setzer will introduce you to some of



the things that can make our hobby more enjoyable. The highlighted constellation will be Hercules.

The August 101 topic will be on "Observing Hints." It is a list of things that can help bring out details in objects you view.

From The Editor

By Kevin Bert

There were a number of problems with publishing this issue of Spectrum. Computer breakdowns have caused me many delays. I hope that this Issue will be in your hands before the July meeting. A reminder of the July 2nd meeting was sent out by postcard in case you don't get the Spectrum on time.

The Panarusky 20" telescope is moving along well. See the lead article for the latest information along with pictures. I hate to be too optimistic but things are moving fast. There is still a good chance that things will come together near the end of summer.

For other articles, Harold Rogers has

Pike Lake information for any member who goes out to the park to Observe. Harold has additional; information about Pike Lake that he will share with us at the meeting.

Jeff Setzer fills us in about Astrofest. It is a good idea to register soon if you plan to attend.



Check out the Kalmbach book list. They are all great deals. Contact Rod Nabholz to reserve one.

CURRENT CLACK

New Members

The latest individuals to join the Northern Cross are-

Bill Johnson from West Bend ;

Gene R. Du Pree from Jackson;

Brad Haubrich from West Bend.

A warm welcome to our newest members from all of us at the NCSF.

Kalmbach Books For Sale

The NCSF is selling out the remaining Kalmbach books listed below at our reduced club cost.

QTY	Title	List Price	Club Cost
2	Phillips Color Star Atlas		
		\$19.95	\$10.97
1	40 Degree Miller Planisphere.		
		\$ 9.95	\$7.45
10	To Know the Stars.		
		\$7.00	\$5.25
5	THE MOON: Observing guide for Backyard Telescopes.		
		\$11.95	\$6.57
5	The Best Deep Sky Objects Card.		
		\$2.00	\$1.00
1	Peterson's Field Guide to Stars and Planets.		
		\$24.95	\$18.71
5	Beginners Guide to Amateur Astronomy		
		\$19.95	\$10.94

Rod Nabholz is willing to be the person to handle the distribution at our meetings. Any interested parties could call Rod at 338-8958 or e-mail him at rnabholz@execpc.com He will set aside your book.

Observatory Maintenance

The initial step in fixing the NCSF Observatory was completed by members on June 13th. The old peeling surface on the dome was removed. Some minor repairs need be addressed along with preparation for a new coat of paint. A Saturday work session will be scheduled soon.

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Phone Scam!

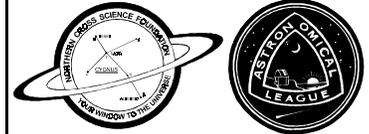
This is an important message for anyone that subscribes to Astronomy Magazine. Beware of anyone calling you to renew at 75 cents per copy. After the sales pitch they will say almost anything to try and make the sale. It is just the person trying to get your credit card number. There have been a few reports of it happening lately. Be on guard!



Check out our great site
On the World Wide Web
<http://www.gxsc.com/ncsf>

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



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