

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

June 2005

LOOKING UP

May 26-Jun 1

Mega & Pre W.O.W.
Hartman Creek State Park

June 2 Thursday

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

June 2-5 Thurs.—Sun.

Wisconsin Observers Wknd
Hartman Creek State Park

June 5 Sunday

Open House—Solar Viewing
2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.
Harrington Beach S. Park

June 10 & 11 Friday & Saturday

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

June 25 Saturday

Sunday on Saturday
Begins at 1:00 p.m.
Home of Kevin Bert

July 7 Thursday

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

You Might Be An Astronomer If...

By Joyce Jentges and Members of the NCSF

Several months ago, I asked the members to submit ideas for a NCSF version of You Might Be An Astronomer If... What follows is the results I received with the author listed after the items he/she submitted.

You might be an astronomer if you express all measurements as aperture. My garage door has an aperture of 18 feet.

You might be an astronomer if the computer passwords you pick are planets, constellations, etc.

You might be an astronomer if your Christmas Tree and outdoor Christmas displays only have red lights

-Paul D. Kamikawa

You might be an astronomer if...

You chuckle (silently) whenever you hear your kids argue over whose room is Messier.

When someone mentions baby booties you rush to the internet to see if a new constellation has been created.

You just can't view these the same:

Eclipse and Orbit gum
Milky Way bars
Comet cleanser

You drive a:

Mercury (any model)
Saturn
Subaru
Nissan Pulsar (or Pathfinder)
Mitsubishi Eclipse
BMW M3 or M5

Infinity M45 or M30
Oldsmobile Aurora
Honda del Sol
Ford Taurus (and you bought it locally at Venus Ford)

... and when you refer to the "R" gear as "Retrograde motion"

-Rob Powell

You might be an astronomer if...

...you remember the day you got your telescope but always forget your wedding anniversary

...your first thought during a blackout is "what's the lunar phase tonight?"

...your telescope is worth more than your car

...you take it easy at the gym to make sure you're not too sore to set up your telescope that night

...you need to have a garage sale to make room for more telescopes

-Jeff Setzer



Your pets have names like Comet, Pluto, Orion, Jupiter, etc...

You buy anything and everything that
(Astronomer on page 4)

May Meeting Minutes By Kevin Bert

The May 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. to 34 members and guests.

After Jeff welcomed all members he thanked Kevin Koski for the fine work on the new podium that Jeff was using for the first time.

Jeff thanked all the members that participated in National Astronomy Day activities and recapped the event for the membership. Because of the cloud out, an additional viewing opportunity was held on the following Sunday at Harrington Beach. People that had signed the guest book on Saturday were called and invited.

Jeff was happy to announce that finished plans for the new observatory are finally in. A meeting with the DNR will happen soon. Files of the observatory details are posted in the hidden doc section of the clubs web site for members to check out. See Jeff for the address. Jeff also was playing with the Idea of hosting a convention in 2008.

Jeff talked next on the North Central Regional Convention at Sturgeon Bay. The whole weekend was cold and wet.

Next years NCRAL will be in Appleton WI on April 21 & 22. Jeff will have a link on our web site to get the details and encouraged the membership to attend and register early.

Jeff noted that registration for WOW on June 2-5 was full but pre-WOW was open for all members. Just let him know if you plan to attend.

Under new business, it was noted that member Christopher Limbach had won the National Young Astronomer Award and will be recognized at the national convention in Kansas City later this year. Great job Chris!

Rob Powell was looking for some members with telescopes to help him out at a Camp in Plymouth on Friday June 3rd. Kevin Gerits has been running the outings in Plymouth and has been calling us for help over the last few years. He says that a small donation would be made to the club for the much-appreciated effort. Because it runs on the same dates as WOW only a few members could help. Interested people can get directions from Rob.

Joyce Jentges had a sign-up sheet for the upcoming brat fry fundraiser on July 2nd. She explained that one shift would work from 10:00 a.m. to noon

and a second shift from noon to 2:00 p.m. Solar viewing would be tried if it was clear.

Paul Kamikawa informed the membership that he sat in on the town of Belgium meeting about a proposed subdivision and expressed his concerns on lighting of the area. He was thanked for attending and asked to keep us posted on the progress. A discussion about Dark Skies.Org followed. Joyce Jentges talked briefly about a similar construction project that might be built near the same area. The Luxembourg Heritage Center is overall much larger and also presents potential lighting problems.

Jeff Setzer spoke briefly about other upcoming events.

With no further new business, Jeff closed the business meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Bert, secretary

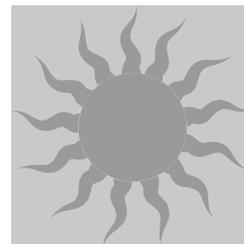
Sun-Day On Saturday

By Kevin Bert

This is just a reminder of the upcoming June 25th Sun-Day on Saturday. The main focus for members is usually evening viewing, I thought it would be nice to spend a day on daytime viewing with the primary subject being the Sun. 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 Venus, say hello to club members, check out the swap table or

bring a telescope that is in need of a tune-up.

Members and family can set up equipment anytime after 1:00 p.m. Bring a dish or goodie to pass for eating around 5:00 p.m. I will provide a meat dish and beverages. 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.



From The Editor

By Joyce Jentges

As you read this, some of our members will be in Waupaca to take part in W.O.W. (Wisconsin Observers Weekend), and the Mega and Pre W.O.W. camp-outs which were arranged by Jeff Setzer. I'm looking forward to some relaxation, and hopefully clear skies.

As noted below, I will be in charge of the June meeting while a few of our members are in Waupaca. Please plan to attend the meeting because we need your input on a wish list for the new observatory.

As far as I know, the public viewing nights for May 13 and 14 did not have

favorable weather. I believe that the Friday night was rained out. The Saturday night, might have had some sucker holes, but I wasn't able to go out there.



Astronomy 101 And Main Program

By Kevin Bert and Joyce Jentges

The June 101 class is entitled "Finding Objects," by Kevin Bert. Locating Deep Sky Objects can be one of the most frustrating of all things for the beginning stargazer. If you are patient, hundreds of objects are visible in a small telescope or binoculars, if you know where to look for them.

The first step is to have some basic knowledge of your way around the sky using the brighter stars as your reference points. This is the most important step in having success with any of the methods and is often overlooked by many first timers.

The featured constellation will be Serpens.

The main program for the June meeting will be a discussion about features and items members would like to see in our new observatory. We have the blueprints, and things are starting to move with the state. The club needs some feedback from members as to what accessories are needed for the observatory. The meeting will be run by Joyce Jentges as Jeff Setzer and some of our members will be in Waupaca.

Welcome new members: Ann Tabaska of Milwaukee and Scott Tannehill of Cedarburg, who used to be a member some years back.

Those of you who have signed up to get your newsletter online, will receive a paper copy yet for June. Due to time constraints with W.O.W. the newsletter will not be put online until after June 5th.

Public Viewing Night Leaders:

June 5: Gene & Charlotte DuPree

June 10: Gene & Charlotte DuPree

June 11: Scott Nehring & Joyce Jentges

July 8: Kevin Bert

July 9: Rick & Georgine Poulin

Registration is now available online for Northwoods Starfest and Astrofest. Go to www.cvastro.org for more information about Northwoods Starfest which will be held August 4—6, 2005. For Astrofest, the website is www.chicagoastro.org. Astrofest is September 8-10, 2005.

Brat Fry Fundraiser

By Joyce Jentges

On July 2nd, the NCSF will be hosting a brat fry fundraiser at the Piggly Wiggly in West Bend. The brat fry will run from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. We need the help of members in the club to assist with this. At this time we are in need of several cooks who can grill food on a charcoal grill. We need 1

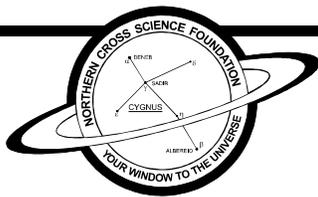
cook from 9:30—12, and 2 cooks from 12—2. Several people are needed who can help to sell food in the hut for the 12—2 shift. One person is needed to assist where needed from 12—2. Please contact me if you are able to help, even for a short while. The sign up sheet

will be available at the June meeting.

Several members will have solar telescopes available for visitors to look through.

I know this is a holiday weekend, but if you can help for a little while, it would be appreciated.

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Help Support
The NCSF
Every time
You Shop

556190

(Astronomer from page 1)

glows red, all for the purpose of astronomy.

Anything you see that remotely resembles a tube has you thinking about what kind of telescope could be created from it.

Your spouse complains that you never take a "real" vacation because all of your vacation days are used for star parties.

You carry telescope "stuff" in your car year round because you never know when you might need it.

-Joyce Jentges

For Sale:

1 brand new copy of Sky Tools Software for the PC. Contact Jeff Setzer for details.

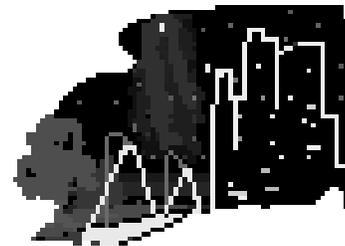
2 navy t-shirts, size large with NCSF logo. \$10.00 each. See Joyce Jentges if interested.

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.



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<http://www.ncsf.info>