

# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

June 2006

## LOOKING UP

June 1 Thursday  
General Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Astronomy 101  
7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

June 3 Saturday  
Solar and Public Viewing  
6:00 p.m.  
Harrington Beach S. Park

June 4 Sunday  
Park Open House/Solar View  
Noon—4:00 p.m.  
Ansay Welcome Center  
Harrington Beach S. Park

June 5 Monday  
NCRAL Brainstorm Meeting  
7:00 p.m.  
Home of Jeff Setzer

June 15  
Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m.  
Home of Jeff Setzer

June 24 Saturday  
Solar Day  
1:00—4:00 p.m.  
Mauthe Lake (see page 2)

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

**(see page 4 for more dates)**

## President's Chatter

By Jeff Setzer

Hello Friends,

The Jim & Gwen Plunkett Observatory is well on its way! All of the concrete work is finished and Backyard Observatories will be out during the last week of June to put up the building.

The new mirror for the Panarusky Telescope has been shipped from the optician to the coating company. After the mirror has been coated, it will be sent to us; we believe the mirror will arrive sometime in June. Kevin Bert is working on the mechanical refit of the telescope to accept the new optic, and projects completion over the next few weeks.

What this all means is, realistically speaking, we could very well have the telescope operational in the observatory in the next 60 days! That's very exciting, but also a little scary...we will have to deal with issues we haven't faced for decades, such as telescope access and observatory security. In the coming

## NCRAL 2008 Meeting Notice

By Becca Sher

I will be holding a brainstorming meeting Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 7pm at Jeff Setzer's house. Please join me, this meeting is open to all and I would love to see you there. If you can not make this meeting but have ideas you would like to share or would like to volunteer your time in the future please feel free to call me at 414.379.1661 or email me at [light\\_pig@hotmail.com](mailto:light_pig@hotmail.com). I welcome any ideas and comments.

months, the Board of Directors will be formulating policies and procedures, and we want your input. If you have ideas or concerns, now is the time to contact a Board member and talk to him or her about it. All conversations will be considered in the Board's discussions.

We will also need some interior work done at the observatory; the shell will be built, but that is all. So if any NCSF members are handy with wallboard and/or electrical wiring, please give me a call or drop me an email.

By the time you read this article, several NCSF members – including myself – will have returned from Wisconsin Observer's Week-end. I really hope to see a lot of NCSF members out on the observing fields at Harrington Beach and elsewhere this year; the best way to learn astronomy is to "do" it, and our members are very generous with sharing their telescopes and their knowledge. Ask questions and don't be bashful!

Thank you and hope to see you on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Rebecca Sher

NCRAL 2008 Chair

Directions to Jeff's, 1418 Trillium Court, West Bend, WI 53095:

From Hwy 45, get off at the Paradise Drive exit and head east, turn left onto Indiana (across from the mini golf place) then take another left onto Trillium Court.

## 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. and welcomed 28 members and guests. Jeff informed the membership on observatory progress. Excavation of the site was delayed last weekend because of rain. It would go ahead on Astronomy Day weekend during the morning. Clark's Concrete was overseeing the project. The park had staked out the site and diggers hotline had been notified to clear the way for excavating. Members at the Harrington Beach Astronomy Day should be able to get a first hand view of the progress. If the weather holds up, the following Tuesday would be the date to pour concrete. Backyard Observatories has been rescheduled to erect the observatory near the second or third week in June.

At the Astronomical League's North Central Regional Convention that was held in Appleton last month, the Northern Cross was accepted to host the 2008 NCRAL. Rebecca Sher had volunteered to be the chairperson for that event. The convention is expected to be held on April 18 & 19 in 2008. Rebecca said some initial planning would be held soon. Last months convention was one of the best regional events ever given. There were fantastic speakers and events throughout the event. The Newstar club is to be congratulated for their efforts.

Jeff noted another important milestone in NCSF history as Kevin Bert received the Regional Award for recognition of his outstanding contributions to amateur astronomy. After a few comments by other members on the convention, Jeff asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Rob Powell reports a balance of \$2,052.00 in the club's checking account and \$28,795.00 in the observatory account. Again Carl Edquist has graciously donated to the observatory fund, this time in the amount of \$1000.00. A gift of \$460 was collected at the Panarusky Memorial Service and forwarded to the club too.

Secretary Kevin Bert confirmed that the membership should have received an updated membership roster in their last newsletter. Membership cards were up front to be picked up by those members in attendance. Those remaining members will have their card mailed along with the June Spectrum. Kevin then reported on the Panarusky telescope. The new primary mirror would be finished by the end of the week and sent off for aluminizing. 8-10 weeks later the Cassegrain secondary would be delivered. The optical tube assembly modifications are under way and details on a full size base plate to mount to the pier were finalized. Carlson Tool had given permission to truck the telescope out to the observatory

when the time is right. The clipboard then made the rounds for members to sign-up as a leader for public viewing night dates.

Under old business Jeff Setzer encouraged members to sign up as volunteers at National Astronomy Day activities that would be held on the upcoming weekend Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>. The event at Harrington Beach would start at 2:00 p.m. and run to 11:00. Setup would be centralized near the picnic shelter in the south end of the parking lot.

Under new business, Mike Matthies knows a person willing to donate back issues of Astronomy magazines for club use. The club thought that it would be good for the library or as a handout on public nights. Then Jeff Setzer ran down the upcoming events for the month.

A discussion on some recent observing of the comet Schwassmann-Wachmann 3 followed.

With no further new business, Jeff closed the business meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Bert, secretary

## June Public Viewing Events

By Joyce Jentges

June is going to be a pretty busy month for observing, even though it gets dark so late. There are several events that need a bit more explanation, so that everyone is clear on details.

We are scheduled to be at Harrington Beach on both June 3 and 4. On the 3rd, you can come as early as 6 p.m. for some solar viewing. This will take

place at Puckett's Pond, our usual location. June 4th, is the annual park open house. Being that this is a park event, we will do solar viewing at the Ansay Welcome Center from Noon to 4 p.m. The hours for this are flexible, so if you arrive before or after this time, feel free to set up and show the public some sunspots!

On June 24th, we have been invited to come out to Mauthe Lake for a special Solar Day which will run from 1:00—4:00 p.m. This is at the Mauthe Lake Recreational Area picnic shelter. There will be many solar displays set up, and we will be part of that with solar viewing.

## Astronomy 101

By Kevin Bert

The June 101 class is entitled "Introduction to variable stars," by Kevin Bert. The class will look at the basics of making visual estimates of variable stars and focus on Delta Cephei.

The featured constellation will be Bootes.



## For Sale Items

### Submitted by Members

1 large navy blue NCSF t-shirt \$10.00  
1 large navy NCSF polo shirt—\$15.00  
See Joyce Jentges if interested.

If you have any astronomical related merchandise for sale, drop me an email by the 20th of the month, and as long as I have room, I will run an ad for you.

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



### Public Viewing Night Leaders

June 3 & 4 –Gene & Charlotte DuPree

### 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.chicagoastro.org](http://www.chicagoastro.org) and click on the link for Astrofest. Considering that the quality of this star party has declined over recent years, you may want to talk to people who usually go, to see if they are going to this star party, or a different one in Illinois.

**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

I am so excited about what is happening with the Northern Cross right now! I hope you have driven out to Harrington Beach to take a look at the observatory! The concrete is in, and now we just wait for Backyard Observatories to come at the end of June.

Personally, I think it was so cool that while we were out there for Astronomy Day, the excavation was going on for the observatory. It was sort of neat to be able to point that out to visitors.

Speaking of Astronomy Day, we had a nice show of members. It seemed like our attendance for guests was down, which was a disappointment, but I guess its is not for a lack of trying. Gene and Charlotte DuPree have really worked pretty hard on publicity, and I know they will continue to get the word out.

The weather turned out to be pretty cold

during the day, but warmed a bit as the wind died down in the evening. Needless to say, hot chocolate sales were pretty brisk! We were able to view some of the brighter objects, despite the moon.

Jeff Setzer was able to do a talk in the evening. The solar system walk had one group go on the walk. Guests got to see some solar prominences and one little group of sun-spots.

Thank you to all of the members who dedicated their time to this day to try and help us educate the public. We appreciate it!

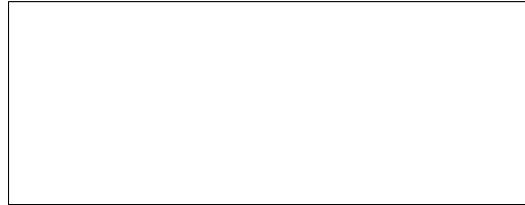
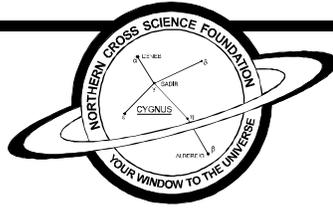
With the weather getting warmer, we will be setting dates for a few brat fries in the area. Please come out to help out if you are available. I hope to have at least 1 date by the June

meeting. These take a lot of work, but will help us raise just a bit more money for the observatory.

This picture is of some of our members on astronomy day gathered around the form to make the pier for the telescope.



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



## 2005 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 - Rob Powell**  
 1429 W. River Oaks Ln.  
 Mequon, WI 53092  
 262/894-9756  
 rkmpowell4@wi.rr.com

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



Help Support  
 The NCSF  
 Every time  
 You Shop  
  
**556190**

(Continued from Page 1)

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 23-29  
 Nebraska Star Party  
 Near Valentine Nebraska

July 29 Saturday  
 Members Night  
 Time TBA  
 Home of Kevin Bert

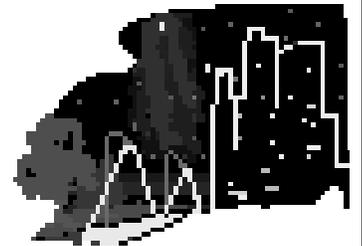
August 18-20  
 Northwoods Starfest  
 Fall Creek, WI

## 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>