

# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

June 2009

## LOOKING UP

June 4, Thursday

### General Meeting

6:00 p.m. Solar Viewing

7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. Main Program

Business Meeting to Follow

June 7, Sunday

### Solar Viewing

10:00 a.m.

Harrington Beach

June 18, Thursday

### Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Home of Joyce Jentges

June 20, Saturday

### Solar Viewing

2:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

June 27, Saturday

### Sidewalk Astronomy Day

3:00 p.m.

Bayshore Town Center

July 11, Saturday

### Sunday on Saturday

2:00 p.m.

Kevin Bert's Home

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

## 2009 International Year of Astronomy *By Jeff Setzer IYA 2009 Coordinator*



The Galileoscope program has shipped its first order of 60,000 units! Unfortunately, the problems in the global economy has made it impossible for the Galileoscope, LLC "business" to secure a line of credit with which to keep production going without cash in hand. What this means is that they have to take orders and get payment up-front until they reach enough to do another run, which means in turn that orders take longer to fulfill. That being said, the NCSF is ordering 150 of these telescope and there will be some for members to purchase from the club. I already have some orders from members but if you want some let me know as we'll have a few extra on this order.

Our local event, called "100 Telescopes," is shaping up nicely. Our latest meeting of local astronomy groups was at Yerkes Observatory on May 19, and we spent a lot of time discussing the "100 Telescopes" event. The date has been firmed up, so mark your calendars for September 25 and 26. The location is TBD, but it looks like it will be in a Milwaukee park with the goal of showcasing all South-eastern Wisconsin astronomy organizations, as well as showing the sky to as many people as possible.

Following the unprecedented success 100

Hours of Astronomy, another weekend of astronomy events has been highlighted for October 23-24. This new IYA2009 Cornerstone Project is called "Galilean Nights" and will see amateur and professional astronomers around the globe taking to the streets, pointing their telescopes to the wonders that Galileo observed 400 years ago. The project's focus is sidewalk astronomy featuring Jupiter and its moons, as well as observations of the Sun, our own Moon and other celestial marvels akin to what Galileo did 400 years ago. Stay tuned for details on our plans to participate here in the NCSF.

Be sure to remember the Wisconsin Astronomy website when you talk to people outside of the NCSF area. The URL is [www.wisconsinastronomy.org](http://www.wisconsinastronomy.org) and it contains links to all astronomy clubs, planetaria, and observatories in the state.



100 Hours of Astronomy at Bayshore Town Center. Outreach at it's Best! Photo by Ernie Mastroianni

## Top 10 List - "Things You May Hear At The Small Scope Star Party"

*By Kevin Bert*

No. 10 Images never quite looked the same after I took the lens out to clean it.

No. 9 Here, hold my beer while I show you how fast I can find the Budweiser nebula. (Special note: this comment was not taken from our star party)

No. 8 Are you kidding me! There is a telescope inside that beer bottle. (Special note: this comment was taken from our star party)

No. 7 I kept telling the kids to "stop touching the scope!" because every time I came back

to look through it the object was out of the field. After further review, a clock drive is now on my wish list.

No. 6 I can't believe dew could do so much damage with the lens cap on since the last time I used it.

No. 5 I just look for the brightest glow in the finder when locating the moon.

No. 4 With the Barlow at 600x the view is so dark, I don't think I could even find the sun.

(continued on pg 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 Joyce Jentges opened the meeting at 8:55 pm and welcomed over 25 members and guests. She then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Gene Dupree reported a balance of \$494.97 in the general fund and \$2429.26 in the Observatory account.

Secretary Kevin Bert asked Jeff Setzer to talk about the North Central Regional meeting of the Astronomical League. Jeff enjoyed the tour of the VLBA radio telescope and tour of OMI. Jeff was told to continue to remind OMI's Jim Mulherin about the club's cassegrain secondary mirror. He was impressed with the Cedar Amateur Astronomers, Palisades-Dows Observatory which was a truly remarkable facility. Jeff said that Katrina Dewitt is our Regional Representative and Gerry Kocken Chairperson. The Vice Chair is now Rebecca Setzer from the Northern Cross. During the Council meeting it was nice to hear of a profit for a change at last year's convention. That of course was due to the fine job of the Northern Cross. Jeff then finished with mentioning next year's convention location at Twin Cities Illinois. Kevin then told the membership that membership cards were available to take along while the remaining cards would be mailed

in the next Spectrum.

Under new business Joyce Jentges informed the membership about the rising rent for use of the UCN facility that we have been using for meetings. Over the last several months the board has been looking for other alternatives. One in particular has looked very promising. That is the Logemann Community Center in Mequon. Jeff Setzer talked with the person that ran the facility who was very excited to hear that we were considering their facility. Jeff was given the grand tour and reports that it has everything that we would need for meetings. Our cost would be \$15.00 per night, which is 1/2 of what we pay now per meeting, providing that we would do an occasional program for some of the local groups that also use the center. The only negative aspect is that we would have to change our meeting nights to either Mondays or Wednesdays. A show of hands preferred Wednesdays by 10 to 1. The overall response of the members in attendance was very favorable. A move could be made this fall once the board members check out the center and a final decision is made. Stay tuned for more details.

Joyce gave a list of upcoming events. Yesterday's Bayshore sidewalk event was postponed to tomorrow. Astronomy Day will start at 2:00 pm at the Jim and Gwen Plunkett Observatory on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Jeff will be looking for volunteers to help with a special project for kids as

well as the usual activities, Solar System walk, Solar Viewing, Laser constellation tour & Evening viewing. Be sure to contact him before he contacts you. Jeff and Becca will host the May 23<sup>rd</sup> members night at the Observatory. If cloudy, a get together will take place at the Setzer's home. Observatory Director Dan Bert is still looking for leaders for the May 29 & 30 events. Contact him if interested.

Jeff Setzer gave a report on the latest IYA happenings. Because of the success of the 100 hours of astronomy an additional IYA Cornerstone project called Galilean Nights will be held some time in late October. It would run for two nights and have similar activities to the 100 Hours. Jeff is waiting to hear about saving shipping costs and sales tax by having the club pick them up in Racine. Some of the first Galileo scopes might be ready to ship in June. The club Google web site is a place to order your own scope at a quantity discount price. Contact Jeff if you are interested.

Kevin Bert reported that a work party has been scheduled for the upcoming Saturday. Seeding/Landscaping and observatory clean up are in the schedule.

With no further new business, Joyce closed the business meeting at 9:45 p.m.

## Things to See In the June Night Sky

By Don Miles

**Mercury:** Look above and to the right of the rising sun about half an hour before the sun actually peaks over the horizon. It will be fairly bright (0.4 mag), and will stay a morning object thru the month, but will pass behind the sun again in July.

**Venus, Mars, & Uranus:** Venus is still the brightest object (mag. -4.4) in the eastern sky before sunrise. Mars and Uranus are also morning objects, but much dimmer. Mars (mag 1.1) will be within 2 degrees above brilliant Venus on the 22nd. Look for Uranus (mag 5.8) in the southeast in the constellation Pisces as a blue-green "star".

**Jupiter & Neptune:** Jupiter (mag. -2.6) will rise about 1am early in the month, and by midnight later in the month. Look

in the southeast for Jupiter as it rises. It will be highest in the sky before the sun rises. Jupiter is still about 1/2 of a degree (the width of your baby finger held at arms length) below and to the left of much dimmer Neptune (mag. 7.9). The pair will be close all month. Neptune appears as a blue-gray "star", and if it wasn't for the brilliant Jupiter, would be much more distinct.

**Saturn:** Look higher in the southwest as the sun sets. Saturn is the bright yellowish "star" below and almost equally spaced as the stars in the "hind legs" of Leo. Saturn will be highest in the sky as the sun is setting, and will set about 1:30am. **Pluto:** Still viewable early in the morning, but as usual, only at about 14th magnitude, and low in the southeast.

**Moon:**

June 7th: Full Moon  
June 15th: Last Quarter  
June 22nd: New Moon  
June 29th: First Quarter

**Special Events:**

**Meteor Showers:** Watch for the June Bootids the early morning hours of Saturday the 27th. The moon sets before midnight so won't be a factor. Predictions have been hit-and-miss for the quantity of these meteors, so if you can get out and watch, do so...you may be rewarded with a memorable event. Besides, it's not as uncomfortable temperature-wise as some of the colder weather showers.



## June General Meeting

### Solar Viewing

Weather permitting, the Club's new Solar Scope (Solar Max 90) will be set up in the church parking lot for Sun viewing prior to the start of the meeting.

By Kevin Bert

### 101 Class

The June 101 class is entitled:

**"H-Alpha Sun Viewing"** by Kevin Bert.

A good number of club members have enjoyed viewing the sun through a telescope with a standard integrated white light filter. Watching the changing groups of sun spots make their way across the solar disk is fascinating and fun to see. With the club's latest purchase of a Coronado dedicated H-alpha telescope an even more fascinating view of the sun is now possible. What strange new details can now be seen with this remarkable telescope? Kevin will cover the basics on what it is you are seeing

through an H-alpha telescope. Prior to last month's meeting the skies cleared for observing the sun through the Coronado. If weather permits, we will try another viewing session starting at 6:00 pm. at UCN and continue up to 6:55 pm. The 101 class will start promptly at 7:00 pm.

### The Featured Constellation:

**"Coma Berenices"**



### Main Program:

**Meteorites 101**

*Presented by John Helm*

### Note Worthy

We will be voting for Astronomical League officer positions at this month's meeting. Joanne Hailey is running unopposed for Treasurer. Bill Bogardus and Robert Burgess are running for Secretary.

## May Events

### Public Viewing

May 2nd

Dan Bert reported clear skies and 30 visitors at the Harrington Beach event. Ernie Mastroianni took photos of the moon through the Panarusky and the "Straight Wall" was visible. Rich shared views through his new Ethos eyepiece which he won at this year's 2009 Winter Star Party.

### Sidewalk Astronomy

May 6th

The Sidewalk Astronomy event at Bayshore was rescheduled to May 8th due to bad weather. May 8th provided overcast skies so set-up was inside. An estimated 20-25 people visited the display.

### Members Night

May 23rd

Jeff and Becca Setzer sponsored Members Night. Originally scheduled to be held at the Observatory; the event was moved to their home due to overcast skies. Members attending enjoyed light snacks and

screened the documentaries "400 Years of the Telescope" and "Journey to Palomar."

### Observatory Landscaping

May 18th

The area around the Observatory was successfully tilled, raked and seeded for grass. The sides of the building were prepared for the planting of decorative bushes; type to be determined and installed by the Park. Members on site were Kevin Bert, Paul Kamikawa, Don Miles and Rick Kazmierski.



Observatory Landscaping.

## CURRENT CLACK

### New Members

NCSF welcomes new Club Members

Marcia Crompton

Jerry Kohlmann

### Leaders for Public Viewing

June 7

#### Solar Viewing

Gene and Charlotte DuPree

June 20

#### Solar Viewing

Leaders Needed

June 27

#### Sidewalk Astronomy

Jeff Setzer

### Star Parties

#### Wisconsin Observers Weekend

July 23 - 26

Hartman Creek State Park, WB

[www.new-star.org](http://www.new-star.org)

#### Northwoods Starfest

August 21- 23

Fall Creek, WI

[www.cvastro.org](http://www.cvastro.org)

#### Prairie Skies

September 17-20

4H Camp near Bourbonnais, IL

[www.prairieskies.org](http://www.prairieskies.org)

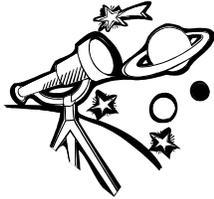
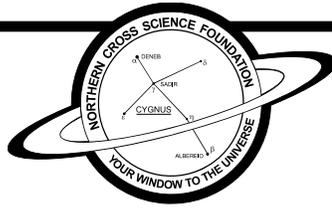
### For Sale!

Orion Starseeker 80mm (GoTo)	- \$250
Meade ETX-125PE (GoTo)	- \$600
Meade LX75 6" Refractor	- \$900
Celestron 25x100 Super Binoculars with Tripod	- \$300
Meade 4000 Series Eye pieces with Case	- \$150

All in Excellent Condition!

John Wedemeyer - 262-268-1352

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(Top 10 List cont'd from pg 1)

No.3 This handy graph I made plots wind speed against upper limit magnification.

No.2 I prefer a sand bag on the tripod for added stability. An added benefit is that it softens the blow when you run your knee into it.

No.1 With GoTo, I have the satisfaction of knowing that I am pointing at it, even if I can't see it.

### Jim and Gwen Plunkett Observatory



**Observatory Director:**  
 Dan Bert: 262-375-2239

### "Did you know"

Our club has a Discussion Group on Google! Want to get in on the chatter?

It's easy as 1-2-3.

1. Go to our website: <http://www.ncsf.info/> and scroll down to the Google link
2. Create a Google Account (if you don't have one)
3. Then "Sign in and Apply for Membership"

## SPECTRUM

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Send inquiries to:  
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