

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

March 2000

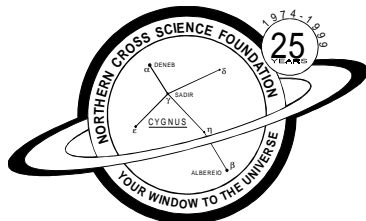
LOOKING UP

Mar. 2 Thursday
Astronomy 101
7:00 PM
General Meeting
8:00 PM
Carlson Tool & Mfg.

Mar. 4 Saturday
Messier Marathon
6:00 PM
Neshota Park near
Green Bay
(Contact Jeff Setzer)

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

Mar. 18 Saturday
Adler Planetarium
All Day!
Chicago
(Contact Jeff Setzer)



A Publication Of
The Northern Cross
Science Foundation

NCRAL 2000 Meeting

By Robert Allen <http://perth.uwlax.edu/planetarium/index.html>

The La Crosse Area Astronomical Society will host the annual meeting of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League May 5 and 6, 2000 ("The Great Gathering"). The meeting will be held at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse.

Group rates for rooms are available at the Midway Hotel (Best Western), 1835 Rose St, La Crosse, WI 54603. A block of rooms is being held until April 5th. Group room rates are \$79 per



night (1, 2, 3, or 4 persons). Make reservations by calling the hotel directly at (608) 781-7000 and refer to group code 1202. The Night Saver Inn (1906 Rose St.) is also holding a block of rooms until April 5th at \$62. Their phone # is (608)-781-0200. They are located a couple minutes south of the I-90 Hwy. 53 South exit. It is about a 10-minute drive to UW - La Crosse from them. Other nearby hotels/motels will be added to this site at a later date.

(See *NCRAL* on page 2)



Public Viewing Nights 2000

Here is the Public Viewing night schedule for 2000 so far. Watch for changes in the LOOKING UP section.

Feb. 12: Pike Lake State Park.

Apr. 8: National Astronomy Day! Jansen Family Park West Bend.

May 12: Pike Lake State Park.

Jun. ?: Family Fun Night at Concordia

Jun. 10: Riveredge Nature Center

Jul. 8: Concordia University WI

Jul. 26- 30: Ozaukee County Fair.

Aug. 20: Pike Lake State Park.

Sep. 2 & 3: Pike Lake State Park.

Oct. 6: Concordia University WI

Oct. 28: Harrington Beach State Park-
Haunted Hike

February Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The February meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held in the conference room of Carlson Tool & Mfg. in Cedarburg.

President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. to over 26 people. He asked for the standard reports.

Treasurer Brad Plaumann reminded members to turn in their dues. The usual kind of activity took place in the checkbook with income from several membership renewals and the usual printing and copy costs for the newsletter.

Secretary Kevin Bert reported that the dues for membership in the astronomical League will be going up in the near

future, even though it will not be very much. The League thought that an advanced warning might be appreciated.



Kevin reminded members about building an LED flashlight for the March 101 class. He explained what the purpose was for such a light for the benefit of the newcomers.

Jeff sent around a sign up sheet for members interested in an Adler Planetarium field trip. Details would be worked on at the next board meeting.

Jeff went over some of the upcoming events. Pike Lake Ski and Stars, and

National Astronomy Day were devoted the most time.

Joe LaPiene volunteered to be the programs chairperson. He also will work with Don Miles to provide refreshments at future monthly meetings.

The business meeting was closed by Jeff Setzer at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Bert, secretary

Members Events 2000

By Kevin Bert

Here are the Members Nights schedule for 2000 so far. We would like to see a few other volunteers to host a night. Contact Kevin Bert if a night would work for you. Watch for changes in the LOOKING UP section.

Mar. 18: Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society's Messier Marathon.

May 5-6: NCRAL Convention in La Crosse, WI

May 26-28: NCSF Camp out at Ledge

Park near Horicon

Jun. 2-4: W.O.W. Hartman Creek State Park, Waupaca, WI

Aug. 4-6: Northwoods Starfest in Beaver Creek Reserve Eau Claire, WI

Sep. 22-24: Astrofest Camp Shaw-wa-nas-see Kankakee, IL

Sep. 28-Oct. 1: Great Plains Star Party Scopeville, KS



(NCRAL from page 1)

The meeting registration fee will be \$25 until April 5th, \$30 from April 6th to May 4th, and \$35 at the door. Lunch (choice of baked fish with lemon and butter or stir fry vegetables; both entrees include tossed garden greens, green beans almondine, wild rice blend, rolls, carrot cake and coffee or tea) will be \$9 and the banquet dinner (choice of

Beef Wellington, Chicken Oscar, or Vegetarian Lasagna; all 3 entrees include spinach salad, sugar snap peas, potatoes Anna, rolls, turtle cheesecake, and coffee or tea) will be \$15. A registration form is available by clicking on the link below.

The meeting will begin with a reception and planetarium program at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Planetarium in Room 20 of

Cowley Hall Friday evening. An observing session will be held that evening on the Cowley Hall rooftop platform, if clear. Saturday's activities will be held in Room 100 of Cowley Hall and will include a keynote speaker, papers, a business meeting, and a banquet speaker.

The Keynote Speaker will be radio astronomer Dr. Eric Wilcots of the

(See NCRAL on page 4)

Adler Planetarium Trip

By Jeff Setzer

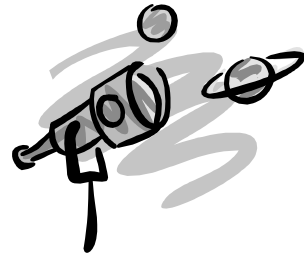
March 18 is the date set for the Adler Planetarium Field trip. If you haven't been there for some time your in for a real treat. It has undergone extensive renovations over the last few years.

The reluctance of people wanting to drive persuaded us to look at other means of transportation. As of now, Am-trak is the plan followed by a taxi drive. The normal Saturday hours for Adler are 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

MUSEUM ADMISSION PRICES

\$5.00 for adults
 \$4.00 for children age 4 - 17
 \$4.00 for senior citizens age 65 and up
SHOW TICKET PRICES \$5.00
 Blueprint for the Red Planet and Jour-

ney to Infinity are the two Star Rider shows. Millennium Mysteries and Clouds of Fire are the two Zeiss Sky shows.



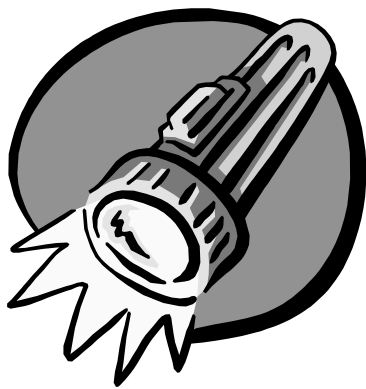
If you can, check out the web site at

<http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/>

If you are interested and did not sign up at the meeting call Jeff Setzer now!

Astronomy 101

By Kevin Bert



This months 101 class will conduct a workshop for making a red LED flashlight. All participants that have access to a soldering gun should bring it to the workshop. All of the components have been purchased and I am pleased to say that we held the cost to \$8.00 each. Be sure to bring it to the workshop. Remember to bring a 9 volt transistor battery along to finish the project. Each flashlight will be personalized with your initials so we can tell them apart..

From The Editor

By Kevin Bert

I will have to start off by apologizing to you about getting you the March newsletter late. Just too many things going on and poor planning on my part contributed to it being late.

The lead article this month contains information about the Astronomical League's Regional Convention in La Crosse. Give me a call if



you intend to go. I have the proper form to fill out.

This Spectrum contains the clubs schedule of public and members events.

You will find your membership card and a membership roster enclosed too. Please disregard the Ex-

Welcome New Member

Bob Johnson from Cedarburg
 Paul Kamikana from Port Washington

For Sale.

Meade 10 Inch SCT Telescope Model 2120 LX5 on field tripod. Includes..... Lumicon NGC Vector, Meade dew shield, Dec. Motor, Auto Focus, full aperture solar filter, Orion dew zapper, 2X Barlow, Rear cell Sky Glow Filter, #905 Polarizing system, Tele-extender tube, Nikon T adapter, 1 1/4" eyepieces..... 26mm Super Plossl, 9mm "old", 24.5mm Super Wide angle, 8.8mm Ultra wide angle (1 1/4 or 2"). Tube Assembly in good condition, includes a steamer trunk. Tripod in fair condition. \$1750.00 for entire package. Call Steve Schowalter 262-677-4719

National Astronomy Day

April 8th will be National Astronomy Day for 2000. The last board meeting decided to go with the national day date even though it is a bit early this year. Loren Krug has volunteered to be chairperson for this event. The event will take place at the Jansen Family Park in West Bend. For those that remember, this is the same location as last year. Daytime activities include telescope displays, the impact crater demonstration, Lunar identification and mirror grinding will take place, along with telescope viewing in the evening if weather permits. This year we will give away door prizes to the public attendees. Volunteers are needed. Please call Kevin Bert or Loren Krug if you would like to help with any of the activities.

pires date. It has not been updated.

Don't waste any time in getting in contact with Jeff Setzer if you would like to go along to the Adler Planetarium this month.

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

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University of Wisconsin - Madison Astronomy Department. The title of his talk is "Making Galaxies".

Dr. Frank Barmore of the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Physics Department will give a talk titled "The Earth's Climate: The Last 4 Gigayears and the Next 4 Gigayears".

Dick Greiner (Madison) will give a talk titled "The Role of CCD Cameras in Amateur Astronomy". His web page is at <http://www.mailbag.com/users/ragreiner/>.

Greg Gonia of the Wehr Astronomical Society will give a talk titled "The Lost Legend of Carl Elias".

We are very fortunate to have Dr. Peter Chen of NASA's Goddard Spaceflight Center as our banquet speaker. His talk will be on "Ultralite Optics". He is working on space and ground-based ultra-lightweight composite mirrors. For a look at his work, visit <http://snoopy.gsfc.nasa.gov/~lunartel/>.

La Crosse is located on I-90 on the Mississippi River. Approximate driving times are 3 1/2 hours from Milwaukee.

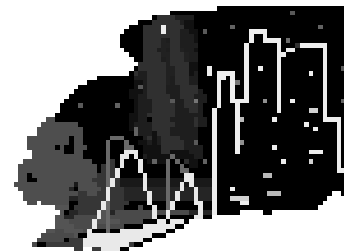
For more meeting information, contact Robert Allen at (608) 785-8669.

SPECTRUM

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