

# SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

March 2005

## LOOKING UP

March 3 Thursday  
General Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Astronomy 101  
7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

March 11 & 12 Friday & Sat.  
Messier Marathon  
Dusk  
Harrington Beach S. P.

March 17 Thursday  
Board Meeting  
7:30 p.m.  
Home of Jeff Setzer

April 2 Saturday  
Superfest  
8:30—3:00 p.m.  
Amateur Elect. Supply

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

April 16 Saturday  
Astronomy Day  
Time TBA  
Rotary Park, Mequon

April 21 Thursday  
Board Meeting  
Home of Jeff Setzer  
7:30 p.m.

## President's Chatter By Jeff Setzer

If you read about astronomical research projects in magazines and the Internet, there's a word you've been seeing a lot lately: outreach. It's fashionable these days for space scientists and astronomers to include an outreach component in their project proposal; NASA calls it "E/PO" (Education/Public Outreach). They've even started a specific program for amateur astronomy clubs called "The Night Sky Network" which enables NASA to hook into the outreach activities of amateur astronomy clubs.

Why is outreach so important? Outreach allows people to know about your organization. It builds goodwill in the community, and provides valued educational opportunities to the public at large. This builds support for your efforts and allows for expansion in many ways. Just take a look around at the next NCSF meeting. You'll see a lot of people from all walks of life and different ages; many have been members for less than two years. However, not long ago, our group was half the size and we had very few young or new members. That is the power of outreach – and we have only begun to realize its potential.

Our public viewing season started early this year, with the "candlelight hike" events at Harrington Beach and Pike Lake. Each event was a success, and even the one night that was clouded out afforded us the opportunity to talk stars with several dozen people. The last event at Pike Lake had an estimated 150 people look through our telescopes!

As we head into the warmer weather, I would like to invite each and every NCSF member to participate in our public observ-

ing events. Actually, I *challenge* every person to attend at least one public viewing event this year. There are 17 more opportunities to do so, starting with the "Superfest" event at Amateur Electronic Supply on April 2.

April 16 is National Astronomy Day. This year we are celebrating it at Rotary Park in Mequon. This is a very special event, which will run from 2:00pm through late evening. As I write this column, preparations are being made. Publicity will be unprecedented, and we are planning on having well over 100 guests. Do you have an idea for a display or activity? Let me know! My contact information is on the outside cover of this newsletter.

The NCSF was created to educate the public and promote astronomy; essentially, it was created for outreach. I look forward to doing just that – alongside all of you – in 2005.



## You Might Be An Amateur Astronomer If: From: <http://www.perseus.gr/Astro-Jokes.html>

You think that not getting enough sleep at night is a good thing.

You ask your optometrist about the availability of H-Alpha Sunglasses.

You center your vacation time around the New Moon.

You don't buy a house until you've had a chance to see how dark the neighborhood gets at night.

You build your dream home with a roll-off roof (or optionally, a rotating dome roof).

All the night lights in your house are red.

Somebody asks you where you live and you tell him the latitude and longitude of your house.

Somebody asks where your town is and you pull out a map and show him how to "starhop" from town to town to find it.

You've named your kids and pets after stars or constellations.

A pair of binoculars and a small refractor are always in your trunk, just in case.

Your neighborhood seems to always have more than its share of non-functioning streetlights and porch lights.

You can hand-draw your own star charts down to the 7th magnitude -- from memory!

When you take a new vehicle for a test drive, the first thing you do is run by home to see whether your telescope will fit in the trunk.

During droughts, farmers in your area collect donations to allow you to buy more telescope equipment (to make it rain).

You spend more money per year at your favorite optics store than you do at Wal-Mart.

You plant and trim hedges (especially evergreens) and erect yard art to block nearby lights.

Your friends and colleagues tell just you about the beautiful sky they saw the other night.

You have a propensity for buying toys that glow in the dark.

You rewire your house to 12VDC so that it's compatible.

Your spouse complains about always having to turn the brightness up on the monitor in the morning.

Editors note: I was looking around on the internet recently, and found these. I hope that you enjoy them. As I read these, a few of our fellow members came to mind. Enjoy!

**astronerds** - bringing you the silliness of astronomy



(C) Dawn Baird-Chleborad [www.astronerds.com](http://www.astronerds.com)

Comic provided free of charge by [www.astronerds.com](http://www.astronerds.com).

## February Banquet By Joyce Jentges

The annual banquet in February was very nice. It was attended by a total of 22 members. Once again it was held at Klug's Creekside Inn in Cedarburg. We had a chance to kickback and socialize with other members, meet spouses, and just catch up with other's who were present. I have included 2 pictures taken at the banquet.



## From The Editor

### By Joyce Jentges

I am excited about the prospect of warmer observing weather coming. As you can see from our calendar on page 1, we do have some activities coming up in March and April.

I hope that you will consider joining your fellow members at Harrington Beach for the March Messier Marathon. Maybe the weather will be more promising than last year. The object of this night is to attempt to view all 110 objects in the Messier catalog. In order to do this, you have to be out from dusk till dawn. Now if you can only stay a short time, don't let that prevent you from coming. You can still tackle a portion of the list. Just be aware, that others may be doing some serious viewing, and are on a timeline as they look for objects.

I enjoyed the recent night at Pike Lake State Park for the Ski and Stars in Feb. We had a great crowd, even though skies were mediocre. I had one child who saw Saturn through my scope and exclaimed, "It's beautiful!" I wholeheartedly agreed with him. That's why I enjoy showing people things in my telescope. I want them to see, that they can see this with their own eyes. It's not just something you see in a textbook. As Jeff mentions on the first

page, one of our primary purposes is outreach. Sometimes we need to seek those opportunities to reach out and help teach others about astronomy. You never know when you will make an impact on a future astronomer.

Being that I work in a school, I have those opportunities come my way sometimes. I enjoy the challenge of sharing my knowledge, and experience with the students. This week I will be doing a presentation to our second grade class. Years ago, we used to do more presentations in schools, and I would love to see someone in the club who has time during the school day, to go to schools and do presentations to students. This is another way we can promote outreach to the public.

I would like to thank Paul Kamikawa for volunteering to take the position of Historian. You may forward any news clippings, or photographs to him.

Planning is underway for National Astronomy Day which is April 16th. Plan to join us at Rotary Park in Mequon for a fun day of promoting astronomy.

### Volunteer Help Wanted:

The NCSF needs someone to arrange monthly programs for the general meetings. This would involve arranging speakers (club members or outside people) to speak on a variety of topics, or finding videos that can be used for a program. If you like a challenge, or have a lot of local contacts, this would fit you to a tee!

See a board member if you are interested in this position.

Belated welcome to new members: Kathleen and Frederick Bates of Grafton! They attended one of our telescope buying workshops before the holidays.

**If you have not paid your 2005 membership dues, and are not on a pro-rated schedule, this will be your last newsletter. See Rob Powell at the March meeting to take care of your obligations.**

### NCRAL Convention

April 22nd—April 24th

Jointly hosted by the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society and Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society, this year's convention is in Sturgeon Bay, WI. Go to [www.npmas.com](http://www.npmas.com). Choose the link for the Northern Lights newsletter. The registration form is imbedded in the newsletter. While you are there, don't forget to read the rest of the newsletter!

### W.O.W. Registration Is Open!

Wisconsin Observers Weekend will take place on June 2—5. You can go to [www.new-star.org](http://www.new-star.org) to print off the registration form. Registration is only \$9.00. This is a great weekend getaway. If you want to join Jeff Setzer for "Pre-W.O.W." which is the previous weekend, be sure to let him know.

## Astronomy 101 And Main Program

### By Kevin Bert and Joyce Jentges

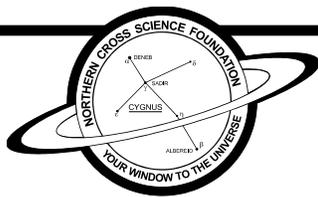
We are all familiar with time and use it every day. Set the alarm to wake up in the morning, watch the clock at work to know when it is time to go home, and check your wristwatch to know when your favorite television show is on. This is only one type of time and it is based on the movement of the Sun. There are a number of types of time used in astronomy. The one to use depends on the type of work you are doing. Please attend the next meeting to get the basics on time. Remember to be on time. 6:30 pm.

The featured constellation will be Orion.

There will not be a Cygnets class at the March meeting. This will resume at the April meeting.

The main program for the March meeting will be done by member Scott Nehring. His topic will be Planetary Motion. He will be discussing planetary orbits and other topics related to planets.

SPECTRUM  
211 W. Jefferson St.  
Port Washington, WI  
53074



## 2005 OFFICERS

**President - Jeff Setzer**  
1418 Trillium CT  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262/338-8614  
jeffrey.setzer@gxsc.com

**Vice President/Newsletter  
Editor- Joyce Jentges**  
211 W Jefferson St.  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
(920) 254-6705  
joycehaussler@hotmail.com

**Secretary - Kevin Bert**  
2292 Ridgewood Road  
Grafton, WI 53024  
262/375-2239  
kevin.bert@mixcom.com

**Treasurer - Rob Powell**  
1429 W. River Oaks Ln.  
Mequon, WI 53092  
262/243-5141  
robert.powell@metavante.com

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



Help Support  
The NCSF  
Every time  
You Shop

556190

For Sale:

Meade Barlow lens 1.25" 2X-3X variable  
power \$30 (several available)

Meade Barlow lens 1.25" 2X Telenegative  
Multi-coated \$25 (only 1 available)

Meteorites \$5 to \$25 sizes, including some that  
have fixtures so they can be worn as necklaces

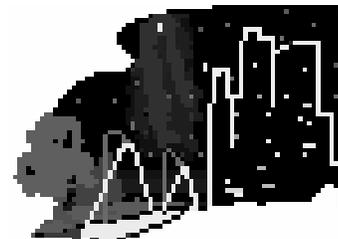
If anyone is interested please call Nick Nichols @ 262-  
628-4059 & we can bring them to the March meeting.

## 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  
211 W Jefferson St.  
Port Washington, WI 53074

This Issue, along with back  
Issues of SPECTRUM, can be  
found on the NCSF Web Site.

<http://www.ncsf.info>