

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

May 2005

LOOKING UP

May 5 Thursday
General Meeting
6:30 p.m. Astronomy 101
7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

May 13 & 14 Friday & Saturday
Public Viewing
8:00 p.m.—?
Rotary Park, Mequon

May 19 Thursday
Board Meeting
Home of Jeff Setzer
7:30 p.m.

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

Public Viewing Night Leader Information By Jeff Setzer & Kevin Bert

Have the proper handouts for the event. The small case we call the “football” will have all the handout material necessary for a public viewing night. Make more copies of the handout material as needed and save the receipts for reimbursement. Bring along a suitable table to act as an information table. It’s not mandatory that you bring equipment to view objects, but it is highly recommended. Keep an eye on the donation jar when you leave it out.

Put the information table out in front. You don’t want to have to direct people on where to go to get more information; you want it to be obvious. Not everyone is going to be able to get a personal invitation and directions, and some people are hesitant to walk around back or between vehicles, so put that table out in front. Make sure it’s brightly-lit (in red!) so people can see it. The information table should be placed in such a way so guests have to walk around it when going “down the line” visiting the different telescopes.

Attend the event even if it is cloudy. You will most likely be the only member at the event if it’s overcast; however, the public quite often comes out no matter what the sky conditions are. They will appreciate the effort if you are there to give handouts with a schedule for future nights or just talk about the club and astronomy subjects. You do not need to set up equipment or stay for an extended period of time.

Make absolutely sure they get a flyer. Some guests might not be interested now, but a few months down the road they might want to see Mars because of the media hype. Or they might have a friend or relative who they

know is interested in astronomy and could use the information. The flyers are very inexpensive and they really do work to our advantage, but only when they are distributed far and wide.

Fill out the special participation form when going out to Harrington Beach. Record the names of NCSF members that attend and have them give you the total driving time to and from the park along with the hours at the project. This form will be in the football. To keep us in good standing, the park Superintendent is interested in the amount of volunteer participation from the club and needs to report it to his superiors.

Submit an event report to the newsletter editor. It is desirable to have a permanent record of the event in the Spectrum; most of the members are interested in these events and it gives some needed input into the newsletter. Include the number of supporting members, equipment used, approximate public attendance, objects observed, and any other interesting items from your perspective. Check the back cover of the Spectrum to find out how to contact the editor. A small paragraph is all that is needed, but if you feel the need to turn it into a small article go right ahead. E-mail is preferred because it is simply pasted into the newsletter.



May Meeting Minutes By Kevin Bert

The April business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 8:40 p.m. to 36 members and guests.

After Jeff welcomed all members he asked for standard reports.

Secretary Kevin Bert gave a brief treasurer's report and asked members to be sure to get their dues in if they still have not paid. Kevin talked briefly about the upcoming North Central Regional Convention on April 22-24 at Sturgeon Bay. Although he was not able to attend, other members were going and further information could be acquired by talking to Jeff Setzer if interested.

Jeff Setzer went into a detailed talk about planned activities on April 16th at National Astronomy Day. The event will be held at Rotary Park in Mequon. The event will start at 2:00 p.m. under the pavilion with solar viewing and displays and continue at the park for evening viewing. Jeff pointed out the sign-up sheet for activities and encouraged members to participate. Flyers for the event would be available on the web site for downloading and posting.

Under new business Rob Powell told of his activities with the scout merit badge for astronomy. He then said that he could use help with telescopes at the camp outing in Plymouth. He pointed out that the date conflicts with the WOW weekend.

Jeff spoke briefly about the Superfest on April 2nd at Amateur Electronic Supply in Milwaukee. Overall things went well and he anticipated members of the club being there next year too. Jeff also spoke on other upcoming events and Harrington Beach viewing nights this weekend to wrap up the meeting.

With no further new business, Jeff closed the business meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Bert, secretary

Astronomy Day 2005 Recap By Joyce Jentges

Astronomy Day on May 16th at Rotary Park was sunny during the day, but as evening came, so did the clouds.

During the day, we enjoyed the sunny warm weather, and plenty of solar telescopes set up. There was just a small group of sunspots on the sun, but at least we could see that. People seemed to like Jeff's little PST solar telescope, which showed the beautiful prominences on the sun.

Under the pavilion were several different displays. Kevin Koski had free handouts from the Cassini mission to Saturn which the kids seemed to like. Kevin Bert had a poster of the moon hung up, and guests could use the 2 refractors he had set up to attempt to identify some of the lunar features.

The 1,000 yard walk through the solar system seemed pretty popular. It was held at three different times throughout the afternoon.

In the early evening, a joint talk by Kevin Koski and Jeff Setzer was held, and repeated. Koski updated guests on the latest from the Cassini mission to Saturn, and Setzer discussed the basics of astronomy, including the different types of objects we look at, and the basics of buying and choosing a telescope.

Hot chocolate was sold as a fundraiser under the pavilion.

Thanks to Charlotte & Gene DuPree and Carol Nelson, for donating hot chocolate and going on a "sub run" for us for dinner. Thanks to Georjinnie Poulin for the big bowl full of cookies she made for the members to enjoy.

We left about 9:30 p.m. We estimate that we had approximately 100 guests, and 17 members in attendance.



Above: displays in the pavilion.

Below: A shot looking at all the telescopes. 10 "dobs" definitely were popular!



From The Editor**By Joyce Jentges**

The upcoming public viewing nights on May 13 and 14 are at Rotary Park in Mequon. In April's newsletter, I listed the event as being at Harrington Beach. That is incorrect.

For the month of May, my newsletter deadline will be **May 21**. Anything for the newsletter must be submitted by this time to be included. The reason is that a bunch of NCSF members are attending "Mega-Pre W.O.W". I plan to have the newsletter published before the Friday night of Memorial Day weekend.

Speaking of "Mega-Pre W.O.W and

W.O.W., even though part of our members will be in Waupaca for this event, we will still have a meeting on June 2nd.

There is a lot of information in the Current Clack box next to this article. Please make sure that you take time to read the information there.

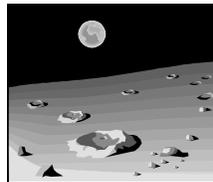
If you have dark skies at your house and are interested in having a members night at your house, please let Kevin Bert know.

Astronomy 101 And Main Program**By Kevin Bert and Joyce Jentges**

The April 101 class is entitled "Preparing for a Nights Observing," by Kevin Bert. If you only have binoculars and are hoping for a clear evening to spend a few minutes viewing, only a little preparation is needed. As you accumulate more equipment, more planning is involved, especially if you are traveling to some site away from home. This class will include a run-down on the steps and considerations that need to be made for a successful nights viewing.

The featured constellation will be Canes Venataici.

The main program for the May meeting is a talk by member, Jerry Davis. His father used to work at NASA, and his program format will be a show and tell of some of the memorabilia he has from when his father was employed there.

**Lifetime Memberships Awarded****By Jeff Setzer**

I am pleased to announce that five members of the Northern Cross Science Foundation have been awarded Lifetime Memberships by the Board of Directors.

Rudy Zarling: Founded the NCSF in 1974 and hosted our observatory on his

land near Cedarburg until its decommission.

Carl Edquist: Early benefactor of the NCSF and founder of Carlson Tool. He used his business resources to enable the construction of the NCSF

(Lifetime on page 4)

Welcome new members: Chris Goodale of Fox Point, and Rebecca Sher of Milwaukee. Welcome!

You can help maximize your dues by viewing your newsletter online. If you would like to view your newsletter online only, please drop me an email, and tell me that you want to go to our website to look at the newsletter, and send me a valid email address. You will receive an email when the newsletter is available for viewing on the website.

Public Viewing Night Leaders:

May 13: Rob Powell?

May 14: Gene & Charlotte DuPree

Help Needed!!!

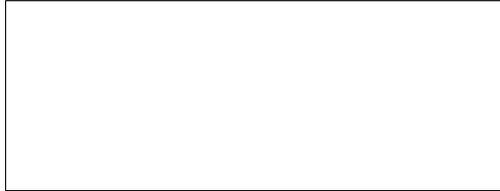
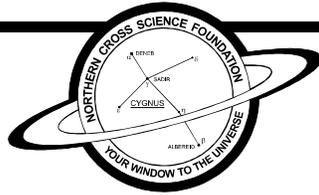
The NCSF is scheduled to hold a brat fry at the West Bend Piggly Wiggly on July 2nd. Sale hours will be from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. We will operate 2 shifts 10—12 and 12—2. The starting cooks will need to be ready to fry by 9:30, so we can have food ready for 10 a.m. We need 2 cookers for each shift to cook the meat, 2 people in the hut to sell the food for each shift, and 1 "gopher" for each shift. The "gopher" will go into the store to get more food as the need arises, and assist where needed. We will need 1 or 2 people to have solar telescopes available for people to look through.

If you want to join Jeff Setzer for "Pre-W.O.W." which is the previous weekend, be sure to let him know.

June 25th is Sunday on Saturday at Kevin Bert's home in Grafton. Bring your solar scopes, and a dish or goodie to pass. Observing will continue after dark providing there is no rain/clouds. Begins 1:00 p.m.



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Monthly Meeting Location
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Help Support
 The NCSF
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556190

(Lifetime from page 3)

observatory, jet engine project, and Panarusky Telescope.

Alvin Panarusky: Principal benefactor for whom the Panarusky Telescope is named.

Robert Sedgwick: Designer of the Panarusky Telescope, as well as the mirror grinding machine that was used to make the optics.

Joe Reibold: Telescope-making mentor of the NCSF whose expertise was instrumental in designing and grinding the optics of the Panarusky Telescope.

All of the individuals above have been key members of the NCSF since its founding days. They join Kevin Bert in receiving a Lifetime Membership, which is the Foundation's highest honor. Formal presentations will occur at a later date.

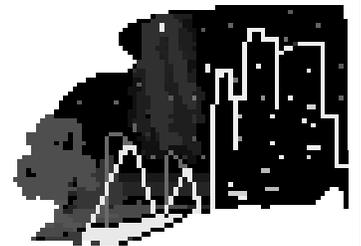
For Sale: One brand new , unopened edition of SkyTools software. Price is \$59.97. See Jeff Setzer if interested.

SPECTRUM

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The NCSF supports the International Dark sky association.



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<http://www.ncsf.info>