

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

November 2007

LOOKING UP

November 1 Thursday

General Meeting

7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting/
Outside observing

November 10 Saturday

Members Night

Dusk

Harrington Beach State Park

November 15 Thursday

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Home of Jeff & Becca Setzer

December 6 Thursday

General Meeting

7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting/
Holiday party

December 20 Thursday

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Home of Jeff & Becca Setzer

Observatory Operators General Rules

By Kevin Bert

1. Only a qualified Northern Cross Science Foundation member, with proper training, can operate the observatory and equipment. (Operators).

2. Operators will get updates on the north door combination as they are periodically changed by the Observatory Director (Dan Bert) at 262-375-2239

3. The Master Calendar of Observatory activities can be found by contacting the director or by viewing it on line at the Google group site. The monthly Spectrum contains the latest activity just prior to publication.

4. All scheduling of the Observatory is done through the Director prior to the activity. Last minute contact by an operator is not always possible. Operators can still follow through with an activity, but they are required to contact the director promptly thereafter. Home phone 262-375-223, Cell 262-573-7428, e-mail dbertdbert@yahoo.com

5. Operators are required to volunteer to lead or assist for a minimum of one Public Viewing Night per year. It can be done any time after the PVN's have been listed in the February Spectrum. Preferential scheduling will be given to operators who sign-up for 2 or more times.

6. Members must have a state park sticker or day pass and follow all State Park rules.

7. Members' access to the area surrounding the Observatory can be made at any time regardless of the activity in the Observatory. They should be respectful of any activities.

8. Members will be allowed to stay beyond the 11:00 pm. Park closing time.

9. Smoking is not allowed within the Observatory. Eating & drinking is permitted if you can refrain from making a mess and can clean up afterwards.

10. Operators that are in charge (Leaders), must fill out the Observatory Log Book and are responsible to open and close the Observatory.

11. Leaders of Public Viewing Nights should make every effort to attend their scheduled event even if it is cloudy. It is up to the Leaders discretion if displays should be set up or if the roof should be opened.

12. Leaders of PVN's can remain after 11:00 pm and use it as a personal operator's night.

13. The leader of an evening has the say on what activities will take place inside the Observatory, equipment used, objects viewed, etc.

14. All equipment inside the rolling accessory cart should remain inside the Observatory unless it is otherwise identified for another club telescopes. Loaning out eyepieces to members on the observing field premises is acceptable with the leaders permission.

15. Report any problems opening or closing the Observatory, running the telescope or any missing accessories to the Director. Only designated club members will be allowed do maintenance activities on the scope. Optical cleaning, clock drive adjustments, repairs, etc.

(Operator Rules continued on page 4)

October Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The October business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. Vice President Joyce Jentges opened the meeting at 8:35 pm and welcomed 21 members and guests. She recognized the three newest members; Dave Windorski, Tom Schmidtkunz, and Richard Sauve who were all in attendance. She then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Gene DuPree reported \$110 of donations was collected from the donation jar. He had remaining 09 calendars for \$7.00 each.

Secretary Kevin Bert reported that Tammy Plotner was elected to the position of Executive Secretary for the Astronomical League.

Observatory Director Dan Bert reported the need for a leader at the Saturday Oct. 13 members night and the Public viewing night of Friday the 19th. For members that would like to learn how to use the club's 20-Inch Panarusky Telescope, a special training session will be given on Saturday the 20th prior

to the Public Viewing Night at the Observatory. It will be held prior to the public viewing night at 5:30 pm. and conducted if clear or cloudy. Members that are now operators are welcome to participate if they would like a refresher course.

Under old business Ernie Mastroianni gave a follow-up of his PVN on September 14th. The night cleared and he had quite a few show up to the event. On a humorous note, one person in attendance that Ernie knew referred to the Panarusky as the Leviathan of Harrington, after the 4 ton giant 72 Inch telescope of Lord Rosse called the Leviathan of Parsonstown. It was built in the 1840's in what is now called Birr Ireland and for many decades was the largest telescope in the world.

Gene DuPree reported that Charlotte, Carol and himself attended the Harrington Beach moonlight hike on Sep. 29 and opened the Observatory to over 70 people. This was not a scheduled viewing night, but it showed the park how dedicated the club was in reaching the public.

Under new business Joyce explained how to get to the members Google site and what you need to go through to hook up.

Joyce continued on with a list of upcoming NCSF events and encouraged members to attend these viewing opportunities, as we get closer to the start of the cold weather viewing. The club can especially use help at the Observatory on Public Viewing Nights by members setting up the small clubs telescopes that are kept on site or with member's personal scopes.

With no further new business, Joyce closed the business meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Bert, secretary

November Things to See

By Don Miles

Mercury: Never far from the sun, look for Mercury about a half hour before sunrise in the east-southeast. Mercury was recently between the sun and the Earth, so was lost in the glare. Watch for the dramatic increase in brightness over the first week of the month as Mercury moves to the "morning" side of the sun and we see more of the illuminated side.

Venus: Is the brightest light in the southeast rising about 2am. Moves to just east of Spica by months end.

Jupiter: Sets about 2-1/2 hrs after sunset early in the month, but will close that margin to about 1hr by the end of the month.

Mars: Rises before 9pm early in the month, but by about 6:30pm later in the month. Look for Mars between the twins of Gemini. Mars will be the brightest "star" in the sky until about

11:00 when Sirius rises. The moon will pass just above Mars the evening of the 26th.

Uranus & Neptune: Still good viewing this month. Best viewed after evening twilight, but will set by about 2:30 early in the month, but before midnight later in the month. Look for Uranus in Eastern Aquarius, and Neptune in Eastern Capricornus. Use a finder chart and a small telescope or even steadily held binoculars. (One place for the finder charts for Neptune & Uranus is the July 2007 Issue of *Sky & Telescope* magazine (page 60). If you would be interested in a copy of this chart, please contact a board member, or ask at the next meeting).

Saturn: Saturn is still below and to the left of Regulus (the bottom star of the "backwards question mark" that forms the head of Leo. Rises

about 2:30am early in the month, but by about 11:30 late in the month. Saturn will be dimmer than it has in the last 10 years as the rings continue to tip more edge-on.

Moon:

November 1st: Last Quarter
November 9th: New Moon
November 17th: First Quarter
November 24th: Full Moon

**Daylight Savings Time ends early Sunday morning (11/04) **

Note: One location for a free printable sky chart (and other current info) is telescope.com. Pick the "In The Sky" box on the right side of the page for info about the current month.

November Meeting and Viewing List No. 5

By Kevin Bert

The November 101 class is entitled "Viewing List No. 5," by Kevin Bert. From time to time the 101 class will take advantage of clear Thursday meeting nights at UCN to put into practice some of the things that are being learned in the classroom. The focus will be on what can be seen through a telescope or binoculars.

At 7:00 I will give an introduction to the List. Afterwards there will be a business meeting and time to finish setting up

equipment. Viewing of objects on the list will start after 8:00 pm. I would ask any members that are willing to bring a telescope to set it up in the eastern parking lot area. I will set up binoculars on a tripod to help identify objects. I would encourage all members to bring binoculars and dress warm if they intend to stay and view.

Always Looking Up Campout Report

By Gene and Charlotte DuPree

The first "Always Looking Up" fall camp out was held on Oct 12-14 at Hartman Creek state park.

Of course the coldest weekend of the month! We had 14 people total in attendance.

Friday started out in the mid fifties and partly cloudy skies. The skies stayed the same with temps in the 30's for night viewing. We woke up to a temp of 36 because the heater in the camper was not working before we arrived there.

Saturday started out the same with mid 60's, but the wind made it feel

colder than that. It cleared before nightfall.

Seeing was very good and Gene looked at new objects like the NGC 404 galaxy and the old standards, Kimball's cascade was naked eye.

The father/son team of Kevin and Dan Bert were comparing objects with his 8" Cave and a 8" Meade cassegrain.

Charlotte got the 8" Dob going with the digital setting circles. She actually saw the GRS 35 minutes after center with a few seconds of perfect seeing!! And spent the evening looking at the

CURRENT CLACK

Please note: the deadline for submission of items for the newsletter is the 20th of the month. Please get your items to me no later than October 20th.

Public Viewing for Planetary Oppositions

January 12th—8—11 p.m. Mars Opposition

March 8 8—11 p.m. Saturn Opposition

Caroline Hershel list.

Unfortunately Joe and Rick had some problems with their scopes not wanting to work properly.

We are thinking of having a fall camp out next year. Maybe we will see you there to look at the dark Oct. sky.



From the Editor

By Joyce Jentges

In the current clack above, you will see 2 public viewing dates the Board has set for planetary oppositions. Please mark your calendar.

At the November meeting, nominations will be taken for three open positions on the board of directors. The following members terms are expiring: Gene DuPree, Rob Powell, and Rick Poulin. Nominations will continue to be accepted at the December meeting.

Elections will take place at the December meeting.

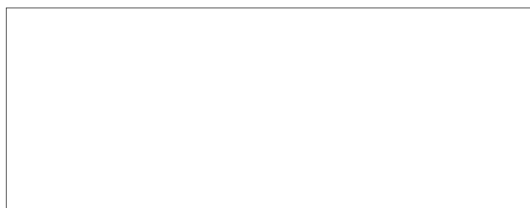
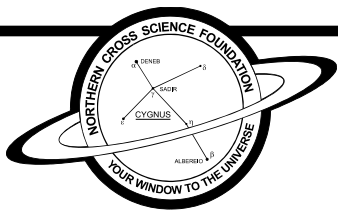
Google Groups

Many of you have been asking how you can participate in our Google Group. Go to our website, www.ncsf.info, and click on the Google Groups link. It will take you to a sign in page. Click on "Sign in" in the upper right hand corner. Then click the blue "Create and Account

Now" link. You will have to create an account if you don't have one, but you can use an existing email address. Then you apply for membership to our group via the link, and you are in! See Jeff Setzer if you have questions.

For Sale: 2008 Astronomy Calendars from Kalmbach Publishing. \$7.00— See Gene DuPree if interested.

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Monthly Meeting Location
Unitarian Church North
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Mequon, WI 53097

(Operator Rules continued from page 1)

16. Any person wishing to make a cash donation to the NCSF for their effort should be directed to the Observatories donation jar. Any donations given to members by a check should be forwarded to the Club Treasurer.

Public Viewing Report for October By Joyce Jentges

The evening of October 20th was a busy evening for astronomers. Charlotte and Gene DuPree went to a boy scout camp out near Pioneer Village in Saukville. Charlotte tells me that the 30 boys spent "20 minutes looking through the scopes and lost interest. The leaders hung around for about an hour."

Others were at Harrington Beach State Park for a public viewing night there. We had a very nice crowd, with reasonably clear skies, although winds were pretty strong. We had a nice array of telescopes set up for the public to view through. We had one large group of several families come through with children. Among the objects viewed were, the Andromeda Galaxy, M13, M15, the Ring Nebula, the Owl Cluster, the double cluster and Alberio.

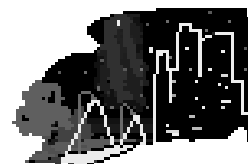
I believe the public viewing for October 19th was clouded out.

SPECTRUM

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The NCSF supports the International Dark sky association.



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<http://www.ncsf.info>



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