

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

October 2009

LOOKING UP

October 1, Thursday

General Meeting

7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101
Business meeting to follow

October 9, Friday

St. Mary's Star Party

7:00 p.m.
Kohler-Andrae State Park
(Rain date October 10)

October 16, Friday

Public Viewing

7:00 p.m.
Quaas Athletic Field, West Bend

October 17, Saturday

Members Night

Sunset
Home of Gene and Charlotte
DuPree

October 22, Thursday

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.
Home of Joyce Jentges

October 23 & 24, Fri & Sat

Galilean Nights

7:00 p.m.
Harrington Beach

October 31, Saturday

Sidewalk Astronomy

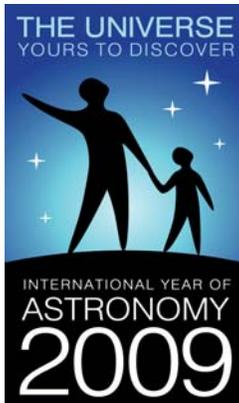
6:00 p.m.
Bayshore Town Center

October 31, Saturday

Haunted Hike

6:00 p.m.
Harrington Beach

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



I am writing this the day after 100 Telescopes In The Park. To make a long story short, it was a massive success! But it didn't start out that way.

Friday night was rain, rain, rain; however, we still had about a dozen volunteers show up and help six people who brought in their telescopes for the clinic -- all done under

the rain canopies! People packed up and were out of there by 7:30pm since it kept raining and visitors stopped coming.

Saturday was completely different. There was no rain, and by the time the telescope clinic started at 6:00pm the sky was partly cloudy and the first quarter Moon was available. As darkness fell we had more than sixty telescopes set up, and guests streaming in non-stop. A journalism grad student from Chicago drove up with her husband to write a story on the event, and then they went and got their own telescope out of their car to join in the festivities! Vivian Hoette from Yerkes Observatory spent the entire night under the NCSF canopy, helping people put together their very own Galileoscopes. By the end of the eve-

ning, there were nine very happy families who completed their instruments, one at a time.

The Moon and Jupiter were the main sky attractions, with Io casting a shadow on the Jovian disk for much of the evening -- a perfect lead-in to the IYA2009 story. People also used the Starlight Scavenger Hunt cards to prompt a little deeper exploration of the sky as their curiosity desired.

By the time we wound things up at 11pm, several estimates put us at upwards of a thousand people between volunteers and attendees throughout the evening. At least two dozen telescopes were brought in for the telescope clinic, and probably more. We actually did have 100 telescopes officially tagged on the field that evening; fittingly, the last one brought onto the field was a Galileoscope assembled earlier in the evening.

We had volunteers from 12 different astronomical organizations work together on this event. Not only did we have a lot of fun doing the outreach, but we also learned a great deal from each other. It is important to note that the NCSF accounted for 39% of the volunteers, with 19 people coming out to help between Friday and Saturday nights. I think all members of the NCSF can be very proud of the Foundation's role in supporting this most worthy and historic Wisconsin astronomy event -- I know I am.

SSSP *By Kevin Bert*

The Small Scope Star Party (SSSP) was a huge success. The skies were clear and the moon came up late for plenty of dark viewing. Dew was a bit of a problem but that did not hold back members from enjoying the views. All kinds of scopes were represented from twenty-two members bringing 29 telescopes to the event. The smallest was a cute .03 meter refractor. (Sounds bigger stated that way). Some members pushed the envelope with 6-inch reflecting and refracting light buckets. No members had to be escorted out by bringing larger scopes. The Galileo telescope were picking out dozens of Messier objects

including the Pinwheel Galaxy M33. Very impressive for that small scope. Jupiter received a lot of attention that evening as there was fairly good seeing. Thanks to Jeff Setzer for donating a 4.5 inch equatorial reflector to the loner program. The Observatory was only used for refreshments and I want to thank all who contributed. All members in attendance gave favorable comments about the event and hoped that it would be an annual event. Thanks again to all the members that attended. I am continually amazed how well small scopes can perform.

September Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The September business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. President Joyce Jentges opened the meeting at 7:55 pm and welcomed over 27 members and guests. She commented on an astronomy class she was taking for school and wished that there was more of an observational component. She then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Gene Dupree reported a balance of \$354.39 in the general fund and \$924.24 in the Observatory account.

Secretary Kevin Bert acknowledged newest member Teddy Krol. There was no new Astronomical League information.

Jeff Setzer updated IYA activities along with the "100 Telescopes in The Park" set for Greenfield Park on September 25 & 26. Volunteers continue to be needed to bring telescopes for this important activity. Details about the event can be found at the Wisconsin Astronomy site <http://www.wisconsinastronomy.org/> or check with Jeff.

Jeff and Rich Sauve each had a Galileo telescope on display. More telescopes are starting to be delivered. The club will place an order when the Bayshore check is in our hands. They will be around \$15.00 each.

Under old business, attendees of the WOW weekend at Waupaca gave a follow-

-up report on how things went. 2 out of 3 nights were clear and the Jupiter impact mark was seen. Several members won door prizes. Next years event runs from July 8 through the 11th.

Tom Schmidtkunz reported that details for an Adler Planetarium trip will be finalized at the next meeting.

Under new business Joyce noted that members that shop at Pick & Save can help the NCSF by having the club's account number (556190) added to their shopping card. She encouraged all to do so by going to the service desk.

On another topic Joyce also encouraged more members to attend the public viewing nights. We are often short of additional telescopes to complement the Observatory telescope. Even with clouds a number of people from the public show up. A simple tour of the building, astronomy talk or DVD playing can entertain those that show up. To go along with that message she reminded members that campers will now make regular appearances to our activities through October 31 of this year. For those that use the Observatory or parking lot for private use, make an effort to entertain them if they interrupt you. We need to keep a good relation with the park.

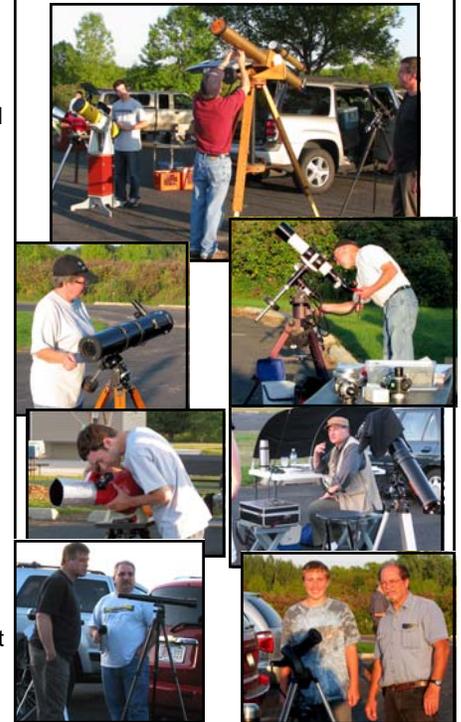
Kevin Bert said that boy scout Trevor Mextoxen has finish landscaping around the observatory with shrubs and will continue working on his Eagle Scout service project by picking up materials in anticipation of concreting in the piers. After Diggers Hot-

line completes the layout, drilling the holes for the piers is the next step. If all things cannot be finished before he leaves for school, his scout troop will finish any remaining work.

Joyce gave a rundown of the upcoming events for September. She encouraged members to participate.

With no further new business, Joyce closed the business meeting at 8:25 p.m

"Small Scope Star Party"



Things to See In the October Night Sky By Don Miles



Jupiter & Neptune: Brilliant Jupiter (mag. -2.7) will already be high in the east-southeastern sky as the sun sets throughout the month, and will set by about 2:30am and earlier as the month progresses. Neptune (mag. 7.9) will be above and to the left of much brighter Jupiter by about 6 degrees, and will remain at that distance for October. Neptune will look like a blue-gray "star".

Venus, Mercury, & Saturn: Early in the month Venus rises about 5am, Mercury about 5:30, and Saturn about 6am...while the sun will rise shortly afterward (about 7am). Venus is still the brightest object (mag. -3.9) in the eastern sky, with Mercury shining at (mag 0.1), and Saturn at (mag 1.1). By months end, Venus and Saturn will put some distance between

themselves and the sun with Saturn being furthest ahead. Mercury will lose ground, and slip very close to the sun. Watch the change of Saturn's rings over the next couple of months from the current nearly edge-on view to their maximum tilt by around late January.

Mars: Rises in the southeastern sky about midnight early in the month and by about 11:30pm later in the month, and is the highest in the sky sunrise. Mars moves from the "hip" of the easternmost twin of Gemini, and will continue to move eastward to end up within ½ degree of the Beehive cluster in Cancer.

Uranus: Rises in the eastern sky about 6pm early in the month, but by 4:30 at months end, and will set around 5:30am to 3am respectively. Uranus (mag 5.7) is

still in the constellation Pisces (below the right "fish"), and will slowly move westerly towards Aquarius. Look for a blue-green "star".

Pluto: Probably your last chance to see this outcast as it is already low in the sky and sinking daily.

Moon:

October 4th: Full Moon
October 11th: Last Quarter
October 18th: New Moon
October 25th: First Quarter

Special Events:

Meteor Showers: Watch for the Orionids in the early morning hours of Wednesday the 21st. These will be very fast meteors with predicted peak rates of up to 30 per hour.

October General Meeting

101 Class

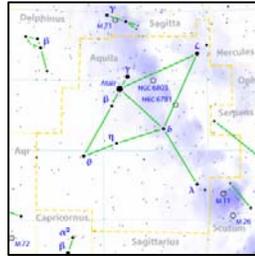
For October, the class will be given by Kevin Bert and is entitled:

“Telescope Optics”

It will primarily cover the properties common to all telescopes. Learn the basics of the types of telescopes found in today's market.

Featured Constellation:

“Aquila”



September Events

Public Viewing

August 28th

Ernie and Dave reported in the Observatory log sheets a total of 4 visitors.

Public Viewing

August 29th

Dan Bert reported that the weather was overcast and drizzling, but in addition to 7 club members a dozen people (mostly campers) still showed up. Kevin Bert gave a nice narration about the 20" to the group and other discussions continued until closing shortly after 9 p.m.

Cedarburg Bog

September 11th

Dan Bert reported that a total of 6 members helped at this private event that drew around 40 people. As the skies got dark around 8pm, a brief program about our group, telescopes and the night sky with a laser guided sky tour was given by Kevin Bert. Observing then followed of a variety of objects in a dark moonless sky.

The Bog split the night's proceeds with our Club.

Small Scope Party

September 12th

(See Kevin Bert's article, [page 1](#))

Community Campfire

September 19

Charlotte DuPree reported this Pike Lake event was under clear, moonless skies.

Five members hosted approximately 50 guests.

Moonlight Hike

September 19

Dan Bert reported that skies at this Harrington Beach event were clear and moonless. A huge procession of people came to view through our scopes. For over an hour there was a line backed up outside the observatory running down the south hill. Someone suggested the wait was almost like a ride at Six Flags. An estimated 200 people attended the event.

Sidewalk Astronomy

September 23

Jeff Setzer reported partly cloudy skies and about 100 visitors at this event. The Moon and Jupiter were the primary targets.

Mequon Historic Day

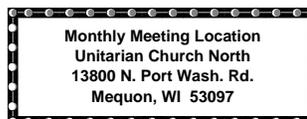
September 26

Don Miles was the leader of this Solar Observing event. Cloudy skies gave way to some sun after 1 p.m., and 3 club members hosted 50 guests.

100 Telescopes

September 25 & 26

(See Jeff Setzers article, [page 1](#))



CURRENT CLACK

New Members

NCSF welcomes new Club Members

Kristie & Mike Anderson

Christopher & Rosalie Tocco

Leaders for Public Viewing

October 9

St. Mary's Star Party

Joyce Jentges

October 16

Quaas Athletic Field

Gene and Charlotte DuPree

October 23 and 24

Galilean Nights

Leader Needed - 23rd

Gene & Charlotte DuPree - 24th

October 31

Sidewalk Astronomy

Jeff Setzer

October 31

Haunted Hike

Gene and Charlotte DuPree

Members Night

October 17

Charlotte and Gene DuPree

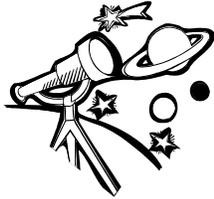
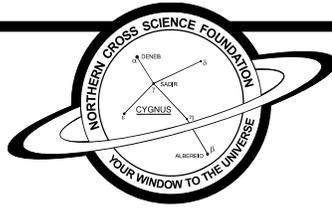
Maps will be provided at Oct. Mtg.

Special Note

Mary Halleback, the event coordinator with the friends of the Cedarburg Bog sent this thank you.

“It was a pleasure meeting you and the other members of Northern Cross at the Sky Spying at the Bog program last Friday night (9/11). Your entire group did a wonderful job of sharing their knowledge of telescopes and the night sky. The Friends of Cedarburg Bog would like to thank you all for your marvelous presentation. You've inspired many more people to take up the hobby of star gazing.”

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Observatory Notes

Camping has now begun at Harrington Beach state park. Please be aware if you are stargazing, especially on non-public viewing nights that you will get more visitors than in the past. Unless serious work is being done please welcome any visitors and offer our schedule.

The planting of shrubs and stone/mulching around the observatory has been completed by eagle scout Trevor and his troop. In addition, work on the 6 concrete circles to the east of the observatory has begun and will soon be finished.

“Landscaping Project Update”



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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