

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

September 2006

LOOKING UP

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

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

September 21—24
Astrofest
Near Kankakee Illinois

Sept. 29 & 30 Friday & Saturday
Public Viewing Nights
7:00 p.m.
Harrington Beach State Park

September 30 Saturday
Brat Fry
10:00 —2:00 p.m.
Piggly Wiggly—Saukville

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

October 27 Friday
Public Viewing Night
7:00 p.m.
Harrington Beach State Park

October 28 Saturday
Haunted Hike
7:00 p.m.
Harrington Beach State Park

August Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The August business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon. President Jeff Setzer opened the meeting at 8:50 p.m. and welcomed 26 members and guests. Jeff asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Rob Powell reports a balance of \$1,629 in the club's checking account and \$8,668 in the observatory account. Recent observatory purchases include a 18mm Radian eyepiece.

Secretary Kevin Bert had nothing to report on club membership or the Astronomical League. Kevin continued with a brief report on the 20-Panarusky telescope. The sub-plate was in position and leveled in the observatory. Accurate alignment of the plate to coincide with celestial north still needs to be done to make it ready to accept the telescope. The optical tube assembly still needs some work and should be ready to move shortly after the telescope mount is moved. Date for moving the mount is August 19th. The ladder status has been resolved and it is safe to use.

Jeff Setzer then gave an update on the Jim & Gwen Plunkett Observatory. Some binding of the roof prompted a call to Backyard Observatories. They were out at the end of last month to address the problem. Centering the gear rack and adding supports resolved the problem. This was done at no extra charge.

Under old business chairperson Rebecca Sher informed the membership that she will be looking for ideas and volunteers for the 2008 NCRAL at the August 21

meeting. She asked to get in touch with her if you are interested and could not attend. Under new business, Joyce Jentges spoke about the August 26 Brat Fry at the West Bend Piggly Wiggly. Volunteers could still be used on that day and for the second fry on September 30 at the Saukville Piggly Wiggly. Joyce said that there are available members night dates listed in the last Spectrum. They could be hosted by any interested members and are not limited to having them at their home. Harrington Beach is another option.

Jeff Setzer ran down the upcoming events for the month. Northwoods Starfest has a number of attendees going and others that reconsider could still get in at the last minute.

With no further new business, Jeff closed the business meeting at 9:30 p.m.

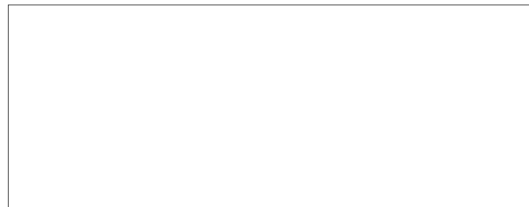
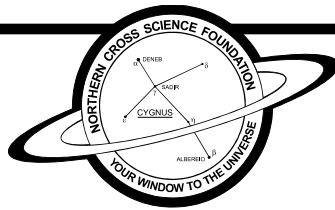
Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Bert, secretary



Picture courtesy of Don Miles

SPECTRUM
102 N Montgomery St # 1
Port Washington, WI
53074



2006 OFFICERS

President - Jeff Setzer
1418 Trillium CT
West Bend, WI 53095
262/338-8614
astrosetz@hotmail.com

**Vice President/Newsletter
Editor- Joyce Jentges**
102 N. Montgomery St. Apt #1
Port Washington, WI 53074
(920) 254-6705
joycejentges@hotmail.com

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

Treasurer - Rob Powell
1429 W. River Oaks Ln.
Mequon, WI 53092
262/894-9756
rkfmpowell4@wi.rr.com

Other Board Members:

Gene DuPree
262/675-0941
Rick Poulin
920/474-3064
Don Miles
262/675-2796

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

September 101 Class

By Kevin Bert

The September 101 class is entitled "Celestial Yardstick," by Kevin Bert. Fill in the blank. At night when you try to point out to someone where an object is in relation to a known celestial object, the standard unit of measurement is _____. If you guessed Light year, you are wrong. Degrees are the answer. I will not take you back to your high school geometry class, but during the 101 class I will show you some simple ways to measure your way around the sky using degrees.

The featured constellation will be Capricornus.

August Recap

By Joyce Jentges

The August 18 public viewing turned out to be cloudy. The Kazmierski's were leaders this night, and informed me that skies were completely cloudy. They were joined by member Paul Kamikawa who entertained them with his banjo.

Skies were overcast for August 19, but broke about 10 p.m.. No visitors came. Skies were cloudy at Northwoods Starfest Friday night. We had a great time in Fall Creek, listening to the talks, and a nice clear night for observing Saturday night. We counted 13 attendees from our club. Well represented as usual!!

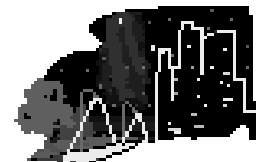
The August 26 brat fry only gave us a profit of about \$100.00. Thanks to all who gave their time for this venture. Skies were cloudy for the August 26th night at the Ice Age Center but broke for about an hour. Charlotte DuPree reported about 2 dozen people showed up.

SPECTRUM

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Send inquiries to:
SPECTRUM
102 N. Montgomery St. # 1
Port Washington, WI 53074

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