

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

July 2019

Looking Up

Note

Meeting Date & Time Change

July 11, Thursday

General Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Main Program

(See Page 3)

No Astronomy 101

No Business Meeting

July 5, Friday

Public Viewing

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

July 6, Saturday

Public Viewing

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Harrington Beach

July 6, Saturday

Public Viewing

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Pike Lake Campground

July 18, Thursday

Board Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Home of Jeff Setzer

July 27, Thursday

NCRAL Meeting

7:30 p.m.

Home of Rick Kazmierski

Note

Meeting Date Change

August 8, Thursday

General Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Astronomy 101

7:30 p.m. - Main Program

Business Meeting to Follow

Apollo 11 Moon Landing - 50th Anniversary Library Events *By Joyce Jentges*



Earth from Moon - Apollo 11 - 1969

The 50th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing is fast approaching. In conjunction with this, the libraries that are part of the Monarch System have chosen a space theme for their Summer Reading Program: A Universe of Stories. Many libraries are having astronomy/space themed activities for kids and adults. The adult events as well as a few non-library events are listed below.

July

Oscar Grady Library - Saukville

Tuesday, July 16th, 6 pm. Brian Ewenson of Spaceport Sheboygan will speak about the moon landings and future programs at NASA.

****Registration is required.**

www.oscargradylibrary.org

Mead Library - Sheboygan

July 26th, 6-9:30 pm - Late @ The Library: A Night Full of Stars. Brian Ewenson of Spaceport Sheboygan begins with a 6 pm talk. Randy Griffin of the Sheboygan Astronomical Society speaks at 7:15 pm and there will be other activities as well. Contact Ann Miller, Kelly Rhohde or Molly Goltry at: 920-459-3400 extension 2002 with more information. Stargazing at Maywood in Sheboygan with the SAS follows the event if interested. NCSF members will be attending this.

West Bend Public Library

July 5th, 10:00 am - 12:05 pm - Movie Hidden Figures

July 9th, 7-8 pm Celestial Sights in the Summer Sky, presented by Jeff Setzer. Stargazing to follow after the program, weather permitting.

www.westbendlibrary.org

W J Niederkorn Library - Port Washington

July 8th, 1 pm Meteorites Presented by Mike Borchardt of the NCSF. **Note: This is a program for kids, but is included because it is presented by an NCSF member.**

Cedarburg Public Library

July 9th, 5:30 - 8 pm Movie - Apollo 13

July 18th, 6 pm - 50th Moon Landing Celebration Snacks and viewing of several documentaries.

July 23rd, 5:30 pm Movie - The Right Stuff

July 30th, 5:30 pm Movie - Hidden Figures

Milwaukee Public Museum

Apollo 11 Stargazing in the Daniel M Soref Planetarium: Short film: A 50th Anniversary Tribute to Apollo 11. Stargazing will follow. Throughout the month of July. See www.mpm.edu/moon for details.

The museum is also hosting a Lunar Film Festival with films such as Hidden Figures and Apollo 13 and First Man July 18-20. See www.mpm.edu/moon for details.

July 20th - Moon Day 11 am - 3 pm A variety of activities including solar viewing with NCSF members Gene & Charlotte DuPree.

July 21st - 1 pm Spark, a presentation by Planetarium Director Bob Bonaduerer about the Apollo 11 voyage and view NASA artifacts. Rocket launching weather permitting.

Manfred Olson Planetarium at UWM

July 20th - Lunar Party 12:00 - 3:00 pm <https://uwm.edu/planetarium/event/lunar-anniversary-party/> Talks from space experts, planetarium shows, kids activities.

Discovery World

July 20th - 10 am - 4 pm 50th Anniversary Moon Landing Celebration Nasa memorabilia, demonstrations and a rocket design challenge. <https://www.discoveryworld.org> Look at the calendar of events

August

Mead Library - Sheboygan

August 10th 12:00-4:00 pm Planetarium on the Green - Located on the City Green

June Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The June 2019 Business meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held at the GSC Technology Center in Germantown. President Jeff Setzer called the meeting to order at 9:00pm and welcomed 16 members and guests. He then asked for standard reports.

Treasurer Gene Dupree tells the membership that the checking balance is \$11,734.62 and the Observatory balance is at \$394.18

Secretary Kevin Bert reports that the roster is at 52 members with the addition of Jason Kazmeirski last month. Under the Astronomical League elections for two officer positions will be coming next month.

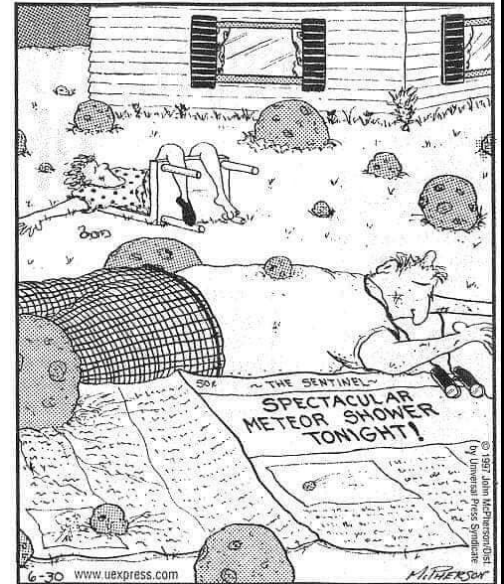
The observatory Director Dan Bert had nothing to report.

Jeff Setzer did a brief follow-up report on Astronomy Day saying he was happy with

the outcome of daytime and evening activities.

With no new business Jeff reminded members of upcoming events. June 7th and 8th are public viewing nights at Harrington Beach. Rob Powell is leader for both nights. Pike Lake State Park is scheduled for evening viewing on the 8th too. With next month's meeting postponed one week, the July 5th and 6th PVN's at Harrington Beach will take place along with another Pike Lake evening on the 6th.

With no further business Jeff closed the meeting at 9:15 pm.



Astronomy and Astrophotography By Mike Borchert

One of the benefits I got out of going to the Regional convention in the Quad Cities this year, was to sit in a discussion on astrophotography. While these types of discussions are sometimes way over my head, if I can pick up one little bit of wisdom, it will have been worth it. One of the discussion panel members mentioned post processing his images in a program called Darktable. Later I asked him about it. The program is a free, "open source" program. It was compatible to my MacBook. Google open source, but I understand the free part (and yes, there is usually a place to leave a donation).

While I have tried to use a free program called "Gimp" as an alternative to Photoshop, the frustration level is there. Let me discuss another issue. Photoshop, these days is a rental item. While I am just getting into astrophotography, I am not sure I want to invest in photoshop as such.

While Darktable is not a full-blown Photoshop program, it does have some very robust controls used in post processing raw images. There are also a few good tutorials on YouTube to help get started. The format is not like a Microsoft program, so you may need to fool around importing and saving images. But, once you have an image to work on, it is slightly addictive. There are modules, I believe that are similar to Photoshop. These modules include light levels, curves, exposure control, color control to name a few. The work is done on a copy of the picture you imported, and the history of what you are doing is recorded. You can go back to any point, at any time to un-edit if needed. Again, this goes back to an original topic I had, and that was choosing software in

astrophotography. I am continually trying to upgrade my software list.

By the way, I was visiting my daughter in Tempe Arizona during May. Was able to get out of town, about 50 miles east, to a park site and photograph. The place is called Picket Post. You can see by the shape of the mountain in the background that it looks like a picket fence. Was able to get Jupiter and Saturn in the shot. The before picture was a stacking of 50 images, @3200 ISO, for 15 seconds, @F2.8, with an 11 mm wide angle Tokina lense, in Nebulosity. The image was then exported to Darktable to play with the modules.



July General Meeting

Main Program from Setzer Library



Buzz Aldrin & Neil Armstrong - Apollo 11 - 1969

"Apollo 11 - CNN Documentary"

Apollo 11 landed on the moon 50 years ago July, 1969. In celebration of that monumental achievement, NCSF will present the CNN documentary, "Apollo 11". Directed by Todd Douglas Miller, this cinematic space event documentary features rare and never-before-seen large-format film footage of one of humanity's greatest accomplishments.

The film will begin promptly at 6:30pm and is 1 1/2 hours in length. As a result, there will not be an Astronomy 101 Program or a Business Meeting.

Related Info

Leaders for Public Viewing

July 5, Friday

Harrington beach

Mike Schactner

July 6, Saturday

Harrington beach

Kevin Bert

July 6, Saturday

Pike Lake

DuPree

Newport State Park, Wisconsin International Dark Sky Location

by Gene R. DuPree

July Public Viewing Events

June 1, Discovery Day , Pike Lake

by Al Steinberg

I drove to Pike Lake with off and on rain. About 70 people stopped and looked at the Sun in-between the clouds. What stood out was a family interested in astronomy and space, with three children. The three old could name all of the planets in order! The family is going to try and get Pluto designated a planet again.

June 8, Public Viewing Night, Pike Lake

by Al Steinberg

There were clouds, and you could see Moon, but not very clearly. People stopped by while I was setting-up and said they would return but they never did, probably because of the cloudy sky. So I left about 10:15. Rick D. stopped by, but he didn't stay long, due to the cloud conditions.

June 29, Monarch Library System Event, Horicon Marsh Education Center

By Gene DuPree

We were again asked to do solar viewing for this event. The a.m. started out perfectly clear, and by late morning the clouds started to arrive. Which was alright, as the feel like temp, the hottest day of the year, was 87. We were using the club's H-alpha Coronado solar scope, and our C8 with a solar filter, but there were no prominence's or Sun spots to be seen. Several families told us they had telescopes but did not know how to use them. We gave them our schedules, and told them to stop by Pike Lake on one of the nights we are there. Thanks to Jeff for his assistances.

Star Parties

Northwoods

August 2 - 4

Hobbs Observatory

Beaver Creek Reserve

Fall Creek, WI.

www.cvastro.org



The Milky Way sets over Newport State Park, Wisconsin. Photo by Denny Moutray

Charlotte and I were camping at Potawatomi State Park. It was Friday night with a clear sky, so we took the one hour drive, to the other end of Door County, to Newport State Park. We arrived at the designated parking lot around 10:00, and assembled the 12.5 inch dob, and attached the wheels. The paved path is marked with glow in the dark lines, which we followed to find the viewing area. There was about a four day moon, so we took the direction towards the beach, and set-up so the trees blocked the Moon.

The sky was very good, but not Nebraska dark. The Milky Way looked great, going down into the lake. The path leads to the backpack-in camp sites, and we had a dozen or so people stop. They were wowed with the objects we were seeing. We viewed for a few hours, then headed back to camp. In September, when the nights are longer and no Moon, we hope to make another trip to Newport. We can camp at Peninsula state park, which is closer, and go during the week, when there are less people around. This is a nice, close, destination for club members to visit a dark sky site.

KEEP LOOKING UP

Thought to Ponder

The rotation of the Earth really makes my day!

NCRAL 2020

May 1-2

Port Washington Country Inn and Suites

Hosted by Northern Cross Science Foundation.



2019 Board of directors

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SPECTRUM

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



DuPree's at Horicon Marsh Education Center



Saturday On Sunday

Sun-Day on Saturday

by Kevin Bert

The day started out warm, looking clear and an early look through the solar Dobsonian revealed a featureless disc on the sun. Clouds rolled in as the day progressed and no other sun viewing could be done. With increasing clouds there came a big drop in temperature. Sweat-shirts and jackets were in order as the rest of the day was spent in the garage talking astronomy. The conversations were entertaining and food was great. Thanks to my wife Kathy, Rick Kazmierski, Gene and Charlotte DuPree, Charlotte's mom Carol, Jeff Setzer and Joyce Jentges for making the day a success.

Sky and Telescope Magazine Files for Bankruptcy *Rick Kaz*

At first glance, this announcement really disturbed me. I was really excited to hear AAS had acquired the Magazine. I have been subscribed to S&T magazine for the last 45 years, shortly after developing an interest in Astronomy. It has been my lifeboat through the hobby and I've even had an article published some years ago. *(If I hadn't mentioned that before, don't get too excited. I got a whopping payment of three free magazines for my efforts.)*

Quoting from their website, <https://www.skyandtelescope.com/press-releases/american-astronomical-society-to-acquire-sky-telescope/> Sky and Telescope was put up for auction in March of this year after seeking chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The American Astronomical Society (AAS) has agreed to acquire *Sky & Telescope (S&T)* magazine and its related business assets, including the skyandtelescope.com website, *SkyWatch* annual, digital editions, astronomy-themed tours, and S&T-branded books, sky atlases, globes, apps, and other stargazing products.

The AAS anticipates that S&T's staff of editors, designers, illustrators, and advertising sales representatives will become AAS employees but will continue to work out of the magazine's offices in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The AAS is headquartered in Washington, DC, but already has about a dozen remote staff members scattered from coast to coast. As it accomplishes the operational transitions needed to publish *S&T*, the Society anticipates making few if any changes to the editorial content or the way the magazine operates, and subscribers should see no interruption in its monthly delivery schedule. Enhancements and new products and services are likely in the future; these will be developed in partnership with the magazine's editors and readers and with the Society's members and other stakeholders.



Monthly Meeting Information

7:00 p.m. Astronomy 101 Mtg.
7:30 p.m. Main Program
Location at the -

GSC Technology Center
W189 N11161 Kleinmann Dr
Germantown, WI 53022

Spectrum Newsletter
5327 Cascade Drive
West Bend, WI 53095

Please send your Questions,
Suggestions, Articles, and
photos to:
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