



The Eyepiece

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JUNE AT A GLANCE

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FOR SALE-WANT ADS

For sale, 10" F4.5 Meade Starfinder Equatorial Telescope with clock drive. Extras include: Full aperture solar filter; Type 2 by Thousand Oaks, Zero shift focuser; NGF DX3, from JMI, three Kellner eyepieces: 25mm, 12mm and 9mm plus a Chesire alignment eyepiece. Used only three occasions. Asking \$875.00. Call (920) 498-8958 After 5:00 PM and ask for Rudy.

Free to good home, I have a 7.5' diameter, approximately 4' high wooden observatory dome in my garage that if any club member wants to take it off my hands, is welcome to it. It needs some wood work but is easily restorable. I have most of the work done but it could use some more depending on how wild one wants to get with it. If someone doesn't want to use it, it would make a good template for a new one. It includes the hardware also.

Call Shaun Stammes at 432-3319.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME CENTER

We had two new people join the club in May. First is Beth Schultze, 3196 Valentine Road,

Abrams, WI 54101. Next a familiar face is rejoining, Bonnie Turner, 1422 Cook Street, DePere, WI 54115. Welcome to the club Beth and Bonnie!

JUNE IN DETAIL

MONTHLY MEETING

Our June monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, June 10th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Neville Public Museum. This month our topic is Satellites and the speaker is our own Gary Baier. Hope to see you there!

NEWSTAR MONTHLY MEETING

The NEWSTAR monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, June 17th, 7:00 PM at the University of Wisconsin, Menasha Center. Call Don DeWitt if you are interested in going.

WISCONSIN OBSERVERS WEEKEND (W.O.W.)

It's almost impossible to believe but Wisconsin Observers Weekend (W.O.W.) is just a few weeks away. This year's dates are June 19-21 (Fathers Day Weekend).

W.O.W. is sponsored by our friends in the fox cities area-NEWSTAR. It is a weekend of camping and observing at Hartman Creek

(Continued from page 1) State Park, which is located just to the west of Waupaca on highway 57. The park offers many biking and hiking trails, swimming,

After dinner we journeyed to the the local club's observatory. It was a nice site that reminded me of the Hobbs Observatory in Chippewa Falls.

fishing, canoeing or just plain relaxation. Please note that you must bring your own equipment as none is provided.

NEWSTAR has reserved the parks group site 1 for Thursday night and sites 1-4, for the rest of the weekend. In addition to the daytime camping activities, the telescopes will be pointed skyward to pick off some of the summer nighttime wonders with other amateur astronomers from around the state. It really is meant to provide a good balance between a "family weekend" and an "observing weekend".

Pre-registration is not necessary and the cost is \$4.00 per person per day. You will also need a State Park sticker for your vehicle if you are staying overnight. Contact Don DeWitt for more details.

PARMENTIER OBSERVATORY WEEKEND

The weekend after W.O.W. June 26-27 is scheduled for another Parmentier Observatory Weekend. All club members are welcome to come out. For more information you can contact Ron Parmentier at 336-5878 or at the observatory at 845-5626.

CRIVITZ SITE WEEKEND

Of course you may also choose to go to our site in Crivitz on the weekend of June 26-27. If interested all you have to do is call Dave Jorgenson at 715-757-3296 and let him know you are on your way.

A LOOK AT OUR PAST

NCRAL CONVENTION REVIEW

Des Moines Iowa is a fair drive from Green Bay but for George McCourt, Ron Parmentier, Katrina and Don DeWitt it was time for another NCRAL convention. Joining us for the first time was Ray Nancoz.

Upon arriving at the convention site, we ran into long time friends Dave and Julia Bachtell. After signing in and collecting our convention information, we proceeded to dinner to renew old friendships.

(Continued from page 2) Also confirmed was the site for our Holiday Party to be held Friday 11 December at The Rite Place with dinner time being 6:00 P.M. sharp.

Don DeWitt, treasurer, submitted a financial report on the club's monetary standings. It was accepted as submitted by those in attendance. I am happy to report that the club will still have a positive balance after the current year expenses are paid. A large part is due to our new electronic newsletter; saving printing and postage costs.

Ron Parmentier made a proposal to the board for labor to repair the front door frame to his observatory. Critters have eaten through and therefore it needs to be replaced. The bill for any/all materials is to be sent to and paid for by Ron as long as we have some club members willing to volunteer to help with this project. Gary Baier and Steve Wicker elected to oversee the start-up and completion of this project. This proposal was unanimously accepted by

There was a central meeting area with two domes, one on either side of the complex. One contained a 10" Schmidt Cassegrain with a CCD camera mounted to it. It was broadcasting live images of the Moon.

The other dome housed a 12" Newtonian on a fork mount. There were also 10-15 other telescopes set up on the grounds.

Saturday was convention day and there were a total of five speakers. The main topic was Solar evolution and each gave interesting talks ranging from Massive stars to variable stars.

At the NCRAL Business Meeting, elections were held for the offices of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. Steve Peters was once again elected as Secretary, Don DeWitt was re-elected for another one year term as Vice Chairman and George McCourt was elected as the new Chairman of the region.

After the banquet dinner, the NCRAL Award for outstanding service was presented. This years recipient was Warren J. "Nick" Nichols of Richfield Wisconsin. The evening speaker was Louis Frank from the University of Iowa and he talked about his "Small Comets" theory, or comets that are constantly crashing into the Earth, supplying our planet's water.

It was a fun convention and the Des Moines Astronomical Society should be commended for the great job they did. Next year's convention will once again be in Iowa but this time it will be in Cedar Rapids. Hope to see you there.

BOARD MEETING REVIEW

We had a general board meeting on Wednesday, 27 May 1998. Those in attendance were: Katrina DeWitt, Don DeWitt, Gary Baier, Steve Wicker, Ron Parmentier, Ted Kordes, Tom Cashman and Tammy Wicker. Those excused were Steve Mofle, George McCourt, and Wayne Kuhn. The meeting began at 7:03 P.M.

Minor business discussed was the confirmation of the Club's picnic to be held on 15 August at Perkins Park. A shelter has been reserved for our use from 2:00 P.M. until 7:30 P.M.

Updates will be given at the next board meeting. The meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Katrina DeWitt,
President NPMAS

DOWN THE ROAD

RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

As summer is getting close at hand, and the weather is turning warm, many thoughts are turning to all night observing sessions. When was the last time you attended one? Or even tried a dusk till dawn observing run? Well if you are like me, I'm sure its been a while.

There are many nights scheduled and even a few that are spur of the moment in the coming months. Why not come out and take in the experience. Not only will you get a chance to observe from some dark sites, but you get the

those in attendance.

Another proposal was made to the club by Don DeWitt and Katrina DeWitt to host the 2001 NCRA regional convention. After some discussion about the pros and cons, the board unanimously agreed to host the convention. This proposal will be put before the general membership at the June meeting for ratification. A proposal letter stating our desire to host the convention will be sent to the Regional Chairperson upon acceptance of this proposal by the general membership.

Astronomy Day 1998 was reviewed- highlighted by a summarization of all turned in evaluation forms of those attending. Many recommendations were made to improve and expand on next year's event. These ideas will be further pursued at that time. Also, the Sky & Telescope Astronomy Day Award is being worked upon by Katrina DeWitt and Don DeWitt and will be finished and submitted before the due date of 13 June.

Other business that was discussed and approved unanimously: Wayne Kuhn will chair the club logo committee; and Katrina DeWitt will chair the Club By-law committee. These committees need 3-4 people each. Anyone interested in serving on one of these committees is asked to contact the appropriate chair.

camaraderie of fellow club members to share with. Can you get that feeling sitting at home or observing by yourself?

While the choice of where to observe and what to observe are a personal one, why not get giddy about it with a fellow astronomer? Who else can get as excited as you about seeing the Milky Way stretch from horizon to horizon or the thrill of finding an object for the first time? Even if you don't want to observe, how about coming out then and listening to some of the tales your club members love to share? Especially if it's over a nice warm bowl of popcorn and cold soda.

I hope that you all will try to attend at least one observing session this summer. Whether you're a beginner or a pro, there is something for everyone at these gatherings. After all, there is said to be something about a bunch of people and the friendships that are formed among those who stay out all night to observe the splendors of the universe. But don't take my word for it, try it yourself.

EYEPIECE FEATURES

BOOK CORNER

by Wayne Kuhn

The Backyard Astronomer's Guide
Authors - Terence Dickinson & Alan Dyer
Sky Publishing - \$39.95
less 10% NPMAS discount - \$35.95

There is something deeply compelling about the night sky. Those fragile, flickering points of light in the blackness beckon to the inquisitive mind. So it was in antiquity, and so it remains today. But only in the past decade have large numbers of people decided to delve into stargazing - recreational astronomy - as a leisure activity. Today, more than half a million people in North America call themselves amateur astronomers.

Not surprisingly, manufacturers have kept pace with the growth of the hobby, and there is now a bewildering array of telescopes and accessories to meet the needs of the hundreds of thousands of backyard astronomers. This development has produced a gap in the reference material available to stargazers, a gap that this book attempts to bridge.

I have just read the first two paragraphs of the introduction titled "A New Stargazers Guide Book". As stated by the authors, this book focuses on practical information concerning telescopes, binoculars, and accessories available in our hobby today. This includes

Full chapters are devoted to binoculars, telescopes, eyepieces and filters, accessories, naked eye observing, observing conditions, observing planets, and exploring the deep sky. Three chapters are devoted solely to astrophotography.

No matter what your particular interests are in astronomy, *The Backyard Astronomer's Guide* offers something for everyone.

Next Month - Star Atlases for the beginner.

PICTURE GALLERY

SCENES FROM ASTRONOMY DAY



comparing different brand names and types of telescopes to help the reader select the appropriate equipment to fit their style of observing.

The book also acts as a guide on how to best use this equipment, how to avoid buying unnecessary gadgets and, most important, how to feel comfortable that we are using the equipment we have as well as we can.

In many respects this book is a sequel to Terence Dickinson's *Nightwatch: an Equinox Guide to Viewing the Universe*, which emphasizes preliminary material for the absolute beginner. *The Backyard Astronomer's Guide*, on the other hand, provides extensive reference material for enthusiasts who have already decided that amateur astronomy is an activity worth pursuing.

The book was first printed in 1991 and updated in 1994, so most of the information on particular brands and models is still valid and relevant.

