

# THE EYEPIECE

Volume 14 Issue 3. Mar. 2002

The Newsletter of the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society



## A GLANCE INSIDE

<u>What's Up in April</u>	Page 1
<u>From the Editor</u>	Page 3
<u>Planet Watch</u>	Page 3
<u>A Look Back At March</u>	Page 4
<u>Astronomy Day Poster</u>	Page 5/6
<u>Comet Ikeya-Zang Observing Chart</u>	Page 7
<u>Comet Watch</u>	Page 7

## A GLANCE OUTSIDE - April

- 04 - Last Quarter moon**
- 07 - Daylight Saving Time Begins**
- 12 - New moon**
- 16 - Saturn 0.8 degrees N of Moon
- 18 - Jupiter 1.6 degrees S of Moon
- 20 - First Quarter Moon**
- 22 - Lyrid Meteors Peak (5:00 AM)
- 28 - Full moon**

## **WHAT'S UP IN APRIL**



### **APRIL 10 MONTHLY MEETING**

Please join us from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Neville Public Museum for the club's monthly meeting. Our April meeting topic is "Aurora Spectacular". Club member **Duane Clausen**, who will be giving the talk, described it this way:

"I will be attempting to entertain the Astronomical Society for about 20 - 30 minutes with a selection of photographs and commentary from my personal archives of comet Hale-Bopp, Aurora Borealis and other astronomically related subjects. My photographs are intended to be artistic rather than technical in nature. I have been published in The New York Times, Astronomy Magazine, numerous local newspapers and NASA web publications as well as Earth Science Picture of the Day, Astronomy Picture of the Day and 2 time winner of Nordlys International Northern Lights Photography Contest."

You don't want to miss this one! Happy Joes to follow.

### **APRIL 12 & 13 POW WEEKEND**

The first Parmentier Observing Weekend is finally here! Dust off your binoculars and telescopes and join your fellow amateur astronomers for two nights (hopefully) of observing bliss. You can set up your own equipment in the field below the observatory or join

Ron for views through his 30 inch telescope. This is Wisconsin's largest permanently mounted amateur telescope!

New members will find a map to Parmentier Observatory in their club folders. Anyone else that needs a map can pick one up at the club meeting or contact Wayne Kuhn .

Parmentier Observatory is THE biggest benefit of NPMAS membership. Take advantage of it by spending an observing session away from city lights with other "nocturnal naturalists."

### **APRIL 17 ASTRONOMY DAY MEETING**

The last planning meeting for Astronomy Day will be held on Wednesday, April 17 at 7:00 PM. It will be held once again at the offices of Kocken & Associates, 2079 D Lawrence Drive in De Pere. If you need directions call Gerry at 920-338-9720 (work) or 920-336-8594 (Home).

This meeting will put the finishing touches to a great day of fun and excitement. We still could use several more volunteers to step forward and help man the displays and activities. This is the perfect opportunity to get more involved with the club and the community. Please sign up to help out if you can.

### **APRIL 20 ASTRONOMY DAY**

NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM: Early setup starts on Friday afternoon (April 19th). There will also be one hour of set-up before the show begins on Saturday the 20th starting at 9:00 am. Doors open to the public at 10:00. The exhibits end at 2:30 pm

# THE EYEPIECE

## The Monthly Publication of the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society

The *Eyepiece* is mailed directly to each member who requests it as a benefit of membership. Please submit comments, articles, and other material to:

Editor  
Wayne Kuhn - (920) 468-0765  
2142 Spring Creek Circle, Green Bay, WI 54311  
Email - [waylin98@gbonline.com](mailto:waylin98@gbonline.com)

Written and graphic material from this publication may be reprinted only for non-profit use, provided credit is given to the writer(s) and The Eyepiece. Any other use of material is subject to the express permission of the author or the editor.

NPMAS WEB PAGE: [www.npmas.com](http://www.npmas.com)

<p><b>NPMAS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS</b></p>	<p><u>PRESIDENT</u> Don DeWitt 1081 Raleigh Street Green Bay, WI 54304 920-405-8534 <a href="mailto:ddewitt@venomtech.com">ddewitt@venomtech.com</a></p>
<p><u>VICE PRESIDENT</u> Raymond Nancoz 3446 Big Creek Road Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 920-746-0428 <a href="mailto:rayn@itol.com">rayn@itol.com</a></p>	<p><u>SECRETARY</u> Julie Mofle 2431 N. New Franken Rd. New Franken, WI 54229 920-866-3523 <a href="mailto:juliemofle@gbonline.com">juliemofle@gbonline.com</a></p>
<p><u>TREASURER</u> Dick Francini 1805 Christie Court De Pere, WI 54115 920-338-8504 <a href="mailto:dfrancini@pollycello.com">dfrancini@pollycello.com</a></p>	<p><u>BOARD MEMBER</u> Katrina DeWitt 1081 Raleigh Street Green Bay, WI 54304 920-405-8534 <a href="mailto:kdewitt@venomtech.com">kdewitt@venomtech.com</a></p>
<p><u>BOARD MEMBER</u> Gerry Kocken 1357 Sand Acres Drive De Pere, WI 54115 920-336-8594 <a href="mailto:gerryk@kockenwi.com">gerryk@kockenwi.com</a></p>	<p><u>BOARD MEMBER</u> Tony Kroes W2175 Cedar Drive Pulaski, WI 54162 920-822-4959 <a href="mailto:akroes@venomtech.com">akroes@venomtech.com</a></p>
<p><u>BOARD MEMBER</u> George McCourt 548 Cornelius Drive Green Bay, WI 54311 920-468-9296 <a href="mailto:mccourtga19@prodigy.net">mccourtga19@prodigy.net</a></p>	<p><u>BOARD MEMBER</u> Mike Monfils 1145 10th Avenue Green Bay, WI 54303 920-435-7350 <a href="mailto:wd9ege@gbonline.com">wd9ege@gbonline.com</a></p>

# CONTACT PAGE

If you have questions or need help, here's who to call:

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY: **SM**  
AUTOSTAR COMPUTER SYSTEMS: **WK**  
BINOCULARS: **KD, WK**  
CCD IMAGING: **TK**  
CONSTELLATIONS: **SM, WK**  
DEEPSKY OBJECTS: **SM, TK**  
DIGITAL SETTING CIRCLES: **DD**  
DOBSONIAN TELESCOPES: **DD, SM**  
DOUBLE STARS: **KD**  
LX200 COMPUTER SYSTEMS: **TK**  
SCHMIDT-CASSEGRAIN TELESCOPES: **TK, WK**  
REFRACTOR TELESCOPES: **SM**  
NEWTONIAN TELESCOPES: **SM**  
NEXSTAR COMPUTER SYSTEMS: **TJ**  
PLANET OBSERVING: **KD, SM, TJ**  
SOLAR OBSERVING: **KD, TJ**  
STAR HOPPING: **SM, WK**

## LEGEND

DD - Don DeWitt / 920-405-8534 / [ddewitt@venomtech.com](mailto:ddewitt@venomtech.com)  
KD - Kat. DeWitt / 920-405-8534 / [kdewitt@venomtech.com](mailto:kdewitt@venomtech.com)  
SM - Steve Mofle / 920-866-3523 / [moflephoto@gbonline.com](mailto:moflephoto@gbonline.com)  
TJ - Tom Jorganson / 920-722-2829 / [tjorganson@new.rr.com](mailto:tjorganson@new.rr.com)  
TK= Tony Kroes / 920-822-4959 / [akroes@venomtech.com](mailto:akroes@venomtech.com)  
WK - Wayne Kuhn / 920-468-0765 / [waylin98@gbonline.com](mailto:waylin98@gbonline.com)

## PARMENTIER OBSERVATORY

Observatory Phone: 920-845-5626  
Ron's Home Phone: 920-336-5878  
Ron's Mobile Phone: 920-609-3858

## CRIVITZ OBSERVING SITE

Dave & Carol Jorgenson  
N8764 Caldron Falls Rd., Crivitz, WI 54114  
Phone: 715-757-3296 Email: [djcycles@cybrzn.com](mailto:djcycles@cybrzn.com)

## CLUB TELESCOPES

All club members are eligible to use the club telescopes. To make arrangements, contact:

**10" DOBSONIAN** - Ray Nancoz, 3446 Big Creek Road, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 Phone: 920-746-0428  
Email: [rayn@itol.com](mailto:rayn@itol.com)

8" TRIPLE AXIS - Ron Parmentier, 161 Rosemont Dr., Green Bay, WI 54301 Phone: 920-336-5878

## CLUB PATCHES, VIDEOS & BOOKS

Sew-on patches with the NPMAS club logo are available for \$4.00 each. They are four inches long on all sides. Also there is a small selection of video tapes and books available to loan to club members at no cost. Please contact Dick Francini at:  
Phone: 920-338-8504 email: [dfrancini@pollycello.com](mailto:dfrancini@pollycello.com)

which will give us an hour and a half to tear down and clean up.

**THE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:** The gate to the field on the east side of Danz Avenue will be open around 6:30 pm for telescope set-up. The public observing is scheduled to run from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm. Please bring your telescope or binoculars and your red flashlight.

Some of the objects that should be available include the moon, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, Mars, M42, M41, M44, M45, M35, M36, M37, M38 and M51. The **Ikeya-Zang** comet may be too low to get a good view but we can try. As usual we need to make an effort to spread out the different objects among the telescopes to give the public non-repetitive views.

For both the daytime and nighttime activities to work we need you. Please mark your calendar and set aside some time on Saturday the 20th to help out.

If you have any questions please contact Gerry Kocken at 920-336-8594 or email [gerryk@kockenwi.com](mailto:gerryk@kockenwi.com)



Over the past few years my business, Commercial Laundry Sales, has been dealing more and more with dairy farms. Dairy farms aren't like they use to be: small mom & pop affairs with 40 to 80 cows. Many of them have grown in size to 1000 cows or more and have a "Henry Ford" type attitude toward milk production.

Each cow's udder needs to be wiped with a cloth before the milker is attached. A thousand cows

## PLANET WATCH *by Dave Klund*



**Mercury** will be visible for approximately three weeks, beginning around mid-April. First Mercury spots up for superior conjunction on the 7th. April 30th will bring the gathering of all five naked eye planets, watch for them about an hour after sunset on the 30th for the best view this month.

**Venus** can be seen dancing around the sky with Mercury around the latter part of the month. Venus shining brightly during the early evening, as twilight gives into darkness, at  $-3.9$  magnitude by far the brightest of the planets.

**Earth** North America will be switching to daylight savings time on the 7th. Watch for the Lyrids on the 22nd of this month.

**Earth's Moon:** Last Quarter Moon is at 9:29 AM CST on the 4th. Moon reaches apogee (252,530 miles from the Earth) on the 10th at 12:30 AM CDT. New Moon is at 2:21 PM CDT on the 12th. First Quarter Moon is on the 20th at 7:48 AM CDT. Moon reaches perigee (223,746 miles from Earth), on the 25th at 11:24 AM CDT. Full Moon is on the 26th at 10:00 PM CDT.

**Mars** traveling through Aries shines a dim 1.5 magnitude compared to the other planets. Compare Mars and Aldebaran when the group of planets get together towards the end of the month.

**Jupiter** will be the highest of the visible and second brightest of the group. It should offer some great telescopic views. Jupiter shines brilliantly at  $-2.2$  magnitude and will dim to  $-2.0$  towards the end of the month.

**Saturn** can be seen traveling to the upper right of Aldebaran. Saturn shines at 0.1 magnitude throughout the month. Saturn still offers magnificent views of its glorious rings.

**Uranus** will rise well after midnight, at least an hour after Neptune. Uranus shines at 5.9 and will brighten to 5.7 as it heads for opposition during August.

**Neptune** will rise after midnight. Neptune shines at 7.9 as it heads for opposition during the first part of August.

**Pluto** lies in Ophiuchus and radiates at a dim 13.8 magnitude. You need at least an 8" scope to track this guy down.

means a thousand cloths every milking that need to be washed. That's were I come in.

In order to peddle my washers and dryers I had purchased booth space at several of the farms shows this year. At one I noticed a booth that had all sorts of lighting, including a four foot florescent fixture with **Red** light bulbs! Curious, I took some literature and found the reason why.

A cow that is given bright light followed by a darkness "resets" their seasonal biological clock so she gives 7 to 10% more milk. Most large farms are milking 24 hours a day, so how do you supply dark periods? The answer: "*Dim red bulbs (about four watts) can be used to facilitate cow movement and observation during darkness.*" Cows can easily see to get back to their pens without having the main lights on and red light from one pen doesn't pollute an adjacent pen.

The company selling these light fixtures has written software to calculate sunset/sunrise at any latitude and longitude. Each pen is lighted separately. The red lights allow cows to get feed and water which is important because many schedules call for darkness right after the cows milk, which is when they want to eat. The cows are also less anxious when there is some light at night.

I guess amateur astronomers aren't the only segment of the population that understands the value of red light. The distributor's literature stated that they supply many types of red lights: pure ruby red fluorescents, red tinted tube guards, small incandescent bulbs, easy to install string lights, red compact fluorescents, tinted high pressure sodium, and metal halide. If you think you might have a use for any of these contact:

Wisconsin Energy  
Box 247, Fall Creek, WI 54742  
715-877-3221

### LOST & FOUND

Several items were left at Neshota Park following the Messier Marathon. They include:

1. beige salad bowl ( 12") with cover and ladle.
2. stainless steel knife (8") with wooden handle.
3. Ziploc bowl (6") clear with blue cover.

These items can be claimed at the April club meeting or contact Mike Monfils at 920-435-7350 or wd9ege@gbonline.com

## A LOOK BACK AT MARCH



### MONTHLY MEETING MARCH 13

A good crowd of 38 people showed up for the March club meeting. Club business was done in the first hour and club member **Ted Kordes** presented his talk on "Meteors & Meteorites" in the second hour. Ted discussed the different types of Meteorites and shared his own private collection with us. Good job Ted!

Our regular stop at Happy Joes for food and drink followed the meeting.

### MESSIER MARATHON MARCH 16

*By Mike Monfils*

I arrived at 4:30 PM to open up the Neshota Park pavilion and found a number of people already there setting up their scopes. A person from the Parks Department was supposed to show up to shut off the parking lot, outside, and building lights but that didn't happen. With the help of a screw driver and a pocketknife we were able to shut off the unnecessary lighting.

The food was great. We had a good variety to please most palates. I don't think anyone left hungry, there sure was plenty for all.

I thought the sky and temperature were cooperating quite nicely for the first half of the marathon. As the night went on, the sky seemed to brighten up a bit and the temperature dropped.

I didn't take an actual head count but I estimate about 30 people were present. Around midnight, I noticed that the participation dwindled to about 10 people, but I believe these people stayed until dawn. Just before dawn, the sky began to cloud up.

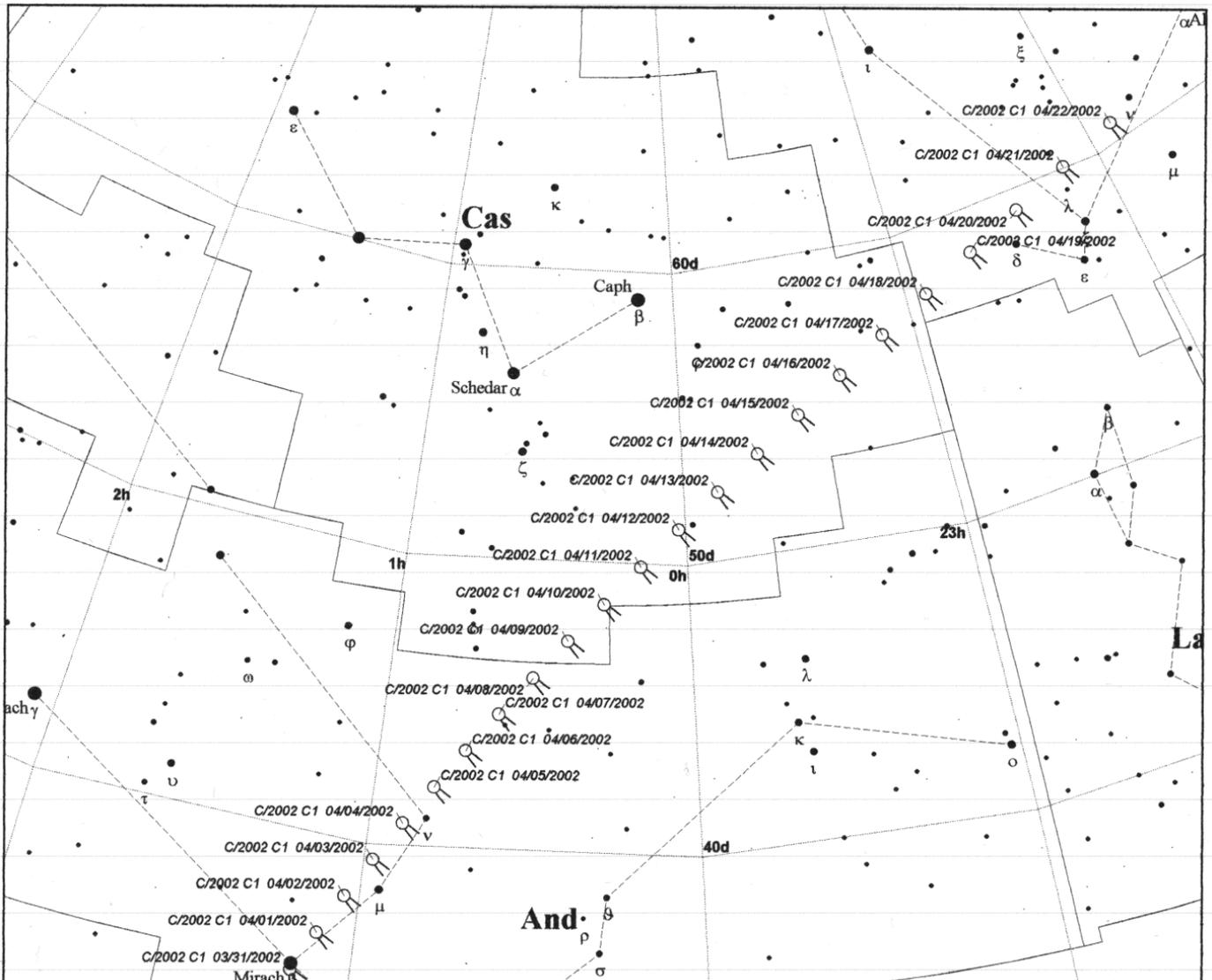
Cleanup was a snap with all the help. It took about 15 minutes and we were on our way home.

I received 7 Messier Marathon check sheets. All are eligible for award certificates, which will be issued at the April meeting. Come and see who observed how many objects.

In closing, I would like to say thank you all for making the 14<sup>th</sup> Messier Marathon a memorable event.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: If you have an observing sheet that you did not hand in yet bring it to the April club meeting.*

[Click here to see the Astronomy Day Poster](#)  
**(separate link to ease time of downloading...)**



## COMET WATCH by David Klund



**C/2000 WM1 (LINEAR)** At the present time, this comet is 9.7 magnitude. The comet is back for Northern Hemisphere observing. Look for it just inside Aquila around the first of the month and watch as it travels by Lyra, just inside the border of Hercules.

**C/2002 C1 (IKEYA-ZHANG)** Here is an excellent opportunity to view a binocular comet. This comet is presently shining around 4.1 magnitude as it travels in the vicinity of the Andromeda galaxy around the first of the month. Then will head into Cepheus/Cygnus border and fade to 5.5 magnitude.

**C/2001 Q4 (NEAT)** may become a binocular object (or brighter) in 2004. Currently about 10 AU and faintly visible at 17.0 magnitude, this comet does have some potential.

There are other comets out there, but none brighter than 13th magnitude. Assuming that the majority of the scopes are in the 8" range, I will leave these comets out, unless someone requests them.