

NPMAS is a proud member of the



Monthly Publication of: Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society

THE EYE- PIECE

ASTRONOMY DAY & PUBLIC OBSERVING

Our biggest public outreach event of the year is almost upon us - Astronomy Day and Public Observing Night scheduled for Saturday, April 17th!

Day Time Events

Day time events will run from 10 - 3 PM at the Museum. Hands-on activities cover a wide range of astronomical topics. Planned activities include: Building and launching soda bottle rockets, Mini - astronaut training camp, Building and testing a Mars payload, Making a model of Saturn, Lunar jumping, Solar observing, Several presentations by Steve Mofle, Presentation by UWGB students, and, the kids activity room that will host face painting, science demonstrations, making rocket necklaces, astro- karaoke, coloring, games and more.

Our permanent displays will include the Club Booth (with reduced membership rates for new members), Telescopes, Astronomer in the Field, Binoculars, Meteorites, Astrophotography, CCD imaging, Light Pollution, Scale models of the solar system, Cassini mission information and Mars in 3-D.

Night Time Events

During the evening hours we will have member scopes set up at the sanctuary field on Danz Avenue (weather permitting) from 8 - 10 PM. The gates will be open for members only at 7:00.

In addition to showing the wonders of

the night sky, we will also be doing a fun activity from the Night Sky Network entitled "Telescope Treasure Hunt". The general public will be given a list of six objects that relate to star formation to view through the telescopes. Upon finding all six objects, they will receive a certificate of completion.

Anyone that is planning on bringing a scope to the evening event is asked to contact Don DeWitt as he is assigning objects on a first come first served basis. This is to help cut down on the duplicity of objects and to have information sheets on your selected object available for your use. If you are interested in showcasing an object for the Telescope Treasure Hunt, please let Don know!

How You Can Help

As you can see, there is a lot planned throughout the day and night. To make this a success, WE NEED YOUR HELP! While each daytime activity has one volunteer, many require 2-3 more to run effectively. Night time observing can draw 500+ people. Currently, there are only 5 confirmed scopes that will be there.

Please help make this event a huge success - volunteer your time. Help make this day more fun by participating with your fellow club members. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



APRIL MEETINGS, EVENTS & STAR PARTIES

April 7th - Astronomy Day Planning Meeting 7:00 PM Gerry Kocken's office on Grant Street in West DePere.

April 10th - 2005 NCRAL Planning Meeting 10:00 AM Sweet Seasons restaurant, Dykesville.

April 14h - NPMAS Monthly Meeting 7:00 to 9:00 PM Neville Public Museum. Topic: "Best Deep Sky Objects for Scopes 8 inch or Smaller" - Ray Nancoz. Happy Joe's Pizza to follow.

April 16th - Astronomy Day set up at the museum 10:00 - 5:00 PM. Contact Amy Hannon-Drew for details.

April 17th - Astronomy Day. Set up at the museum from 8 -10 AM. Activities from 10 - 3 PM. Evening observing 8 -10 PM at the Wildlife Sanctuary on Danz Avenue.

April 30th & May 1st - NCRAL Regional Convention in Burlington IA.



NPMAS MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to NPMAS member **Dick Francini** who completed the Astronomical League's Binocular Messier Observing Club, certificate number xxx. Congratulations Dick!

Congratulations to NPMAS member **Anthony Kroes** who completed the Astronomical League's Honorary Meteor Observing Club, certificate number 23. Congratulations Anthony!



NPMAS MEMBER ITEMS FOR SALE

FOR SALE

"Turn Left at Orion" \$17.50

A great beginner's book

8" planisphere \$ 7.00

Contact Wayne Kuhn
at 920-468-0765
waylin98@gbonline.com

FOR SALE

8" Meade LX50 Schmidt Cassegrain with tripod and Universal Wheelie Bars for easy maneuvering. There are 2 lens, but I don't know the sizes. Telescope is in its original packaging. Price to be decided.

Contact Jim or Dixie Tubbs
At 920-494-4754
JDTUBBSGB@aol.com



ALL NPMAS PROPERTY IS BEING RECALLED FOR INVENTORY

Attention all members! Anyone holding any club property regardless of how big or small must return it to the club by the May membership meeting.

If you cannot return it during the April or May monthly meeting, arrangements must be made with Gerry Kocken to drop the items off at his office.

Our property committee is beginning the process of our yearly inventory and reevaluating our check out policies.

Please help us out and return any club property you have in your possession as soon as possible.

Once all items are accounted for, logged, and fixed or replaced if needed,

items will once again be made available to our members for check out.

On behalf of the property committee, I thank you for your help in the prompt return of all NPMAS property.

Besides, you wouldn't want this committee paying you a visit would you?



MEMBERS ASKED TO HELP PLAN UPCOMING NPMAS EVENTS

The Board is in need of several club members to help plan, coordinate several upcoming club activities .

First off, we are in need of a member who is willing to coordinate the club picnic set for July 17th. A shelter at Bay Beach has been rented for our use from 2:00 -9:00 PM. However, there are several smaller details that need to be coordinated and finalized.

The board is also looking for several volunteers to help coordinate the 2005 Holiday Dinner Party scheduled for Wednesday, January 12. We are asking now, as we want as much time to find a suit-

able restaurant and plan for dinner entertainment.

The Board also approved to incorporate some new additions and events.

The membership is being asked to submit any photos, 35 mm or digital, of any activities, star parties, conventions etc. that NPMAS members participated in. We are going to start a digital library.

We are also in the process of implementing an informal mentor type program for the benefit of all club members. Details and the structure of such a program are still being worked on.

Several committees have also

been established to provide more member involvement and to allow overdue projects the attention they need to be completed.

The board has also decided to incorporate a "Telescope Workshop" for the general public to be held this summer.

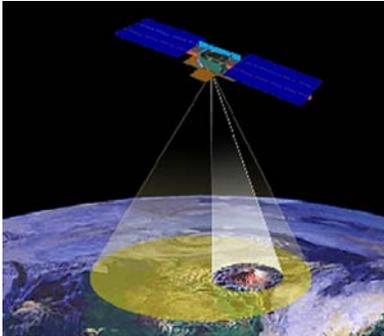
At this workshop, the general public would be able to bring their telescopes to learn how to use them and have it checked over for alignment and, if needed, a cleaning. We will then invite them back later that night for an observing session with their scopes. Look for more details in the coming months!





SCIENCECRAFT

By Patrick L. Barry and Tony Phillips



Probes that can distinguish between “interesting” things and “boring” things are vital to deep space exploration say JPL scientists.

Along with his colleagues in NASA’s Space Technology 6 Project (ST6), JPL’s Steven Chien is working to develop an artificial intelligence technology that does just that. They call it the Autonomous Sciencecraft Experiment, and it’s one of many next-generation satellite technologies emerging from NASA’s New Millennium program.

As humanity expands its exploration of the outer solar system - or even neighboring solar systems - the probes we send suffer from two unavoidable handicaps. First, commands radioed by mission scientists on Earth take a long time to reach the probe: six hours for the planned New Horizons mission to Pluto, for example.

Second, the great distance also means that data beamed back by the probe trickles to Earth at a lower bandwidth - often much less than an old 28.8 kbps modem. Waiting for hundreds or thousands of multi-megabyte scientific images to download could take weeks. And often many of those images will be “boring”, that is, they won’t contain anything new or important for scientists to puzzle over. That’s certainly not the most efficient way of using a multi-million dollar probe.

But how can a probe’s computer brain possibly decide what’s “interesting” to scientists and what’s not?

“What you really want is a probe that can identify changes or unique features and focus on those things on its own, rather than just taking images indefinitely,” says Arthur Chmielewski, one of Chien’s colleagues at JPL.

Indeed, that’s what Chien’s software does. It looks for things that change. A mission to Jupiter’s icy moon Europa, for instance, might zero in on newly-formed cracks in the ice. Using artificial intelligence to set priorities, the probe could capture a complete movie of growing fractures rather than a single haphazard snapshot.

Until scientists can actually travel to deep space and explore distant worlds in person, they’ll need spacecraft “out there” that can do some of the thinking for them. Sciencecraft is leading the way.

Learn more about Sciencecraft at: nmp.nasa.gov/st6 Kids can make a “Star Finder” for this month and learn about another of the ST6 technologies at: spaceplace.nasa.gov/st6starfinder/st6starfinder.htm

This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.



NPMAS CLUB LOANER TELESCOPES

NPMAS members are eligible to use, free of charge, for a one month period, one of the two club telescopes available. Please contact the person in charge of the telescope you wish to use to make arrangements.



10" Dobsonian Telescope

Don DeWitt 920-405-8534
ddewitt@tds.net



8" Triple Axis Newtonian

Ron Parmentier 920-336-5878

NPMAS OBSERVING SITES

NPMAS members have access to two observing sites. Both are located on private land and belong to members of our club.



Parmentier Observatory is home to the largest private observatory in Wisconsin housing a 30" classical Cassegrain. Members may view through the 30" or bring their own scopes and set up in the field below.

Observatory Number: 920-845-5626
Ron Parmentier Home: 920-336-5878

Crivitz Observing site is the private residence of Dave & Carol Jorgenson. Located in the Northwoods of Wisconsin on 100 acres of land, this site offers some of the darkest skies around. The field is equipped with electricity and a cabin is close by available for your use. Call ahead to make arrangements.

Dave & Carol Jorgenson Home: 715-757-3296

NPMAS Board

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2004 Committee Chairs

NPMAS Staff

AL Awards Coordinator	Tom Cashman
ALCor	Ron Parmentier
Website	Don DeWitt
Night Sky Network	Katrina DeWitt

Gerry Kocken
Steve Mofle

Committee Chairs

Program	George McCourt
Membership	Wayne Kuhn
Properties	Gerry Kocken
Observatory	Gerry Kocken
Public Outreach	Katrina DeWitt
Messier Marathon	Mike Monfils
Astronomy Day	Amy Hannon-Drew

Lynn Ward

Club Picnic
October Field Trip

Katrina DeWitt
Ty Westbrook

ASTRONOMY DAY



Saturday, April 17th

10 - 3 PM @ the Museum

8 - 10 PM @ the Sanctuary

The Eyepiece Info

The Eyepiece is a monthly publication of the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society. Material in *The Eyepiece* may be reprinted for non profit use with proper credit and consent from both the editor and writer. The editor reserves the right to accept or refuse, edit for content etc., any article or image submitted for publication. The cut away eyepiece diagram is used with permission from Orion Telescopes and Binoculars.

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