

NPMAS is a proud member of the



Night Sky Network

"Astronomy clubs bringing the wonders of the universe to the public"

Monthly Publication of: Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society

THEY EYE-PECE

METEORITE MAKES DEBUT IN WISCONSIN

Jim Miller was just a young teenager back in 1949 when he found an ordinary looking stone that turned into an extraordinary find. You will have the opportunity to hear his story July 31st.

Jim is a resident of Burlington, Iowa whom several members of NPMAS befriended at the regional convention in April after hearing his presentation.

Realizing that his great speaking, or should I say, storytelling, ability and his prized showpiece would be a hit with the astronomical community here in Northeast Wisconsin, we talked to Jim at some length and he graciously accepted our offer to come to Green Bay and tell his story.

Jim is the proud owner of a stony-iron meteorite. What is so unique about this particular meteorite is that it is completely intact, shaped like a football and weighs in at 16 pounds! It is also one of the rarest types of meteorites to exist.

On Saturday, July 31st, Jim will be giving two presentations about his meteorite find. This is your opportunity to see and possibly hold this meteorite in your very own hands.

Don't miss this once in a lifetime chance! The presentation will be held in the Neville Public Museum Auditorium at 10:00 AM and repeated again at 1:00 PM. Seating for these presentations will be on a first come, first served basis.

A special thank you to Gerry Kocken who made the arrangements for Jim and his wife to come to Green Bay.



Guest speaker Jim Miller holds his 16 pound meteorite.



JULY MEETINGS, EVENTS AND STAR PARTIES

July 14th - NPMAS Monthly Meeting. 7:00 to 9:00 PM Topic: *Observing Asteroids* by Anthony Kroes. Happy Joe's pizza to follow. Everyone welcome!

July 16-17th - Parmentier Observatory with NEWSTAR and DPAS Members. Dusk to Dawn. Look through the 30" or bring your own scope and set up on the field below.

July 17th- NPMAS Club Picnic. Bay Beach Amusement Park shelter #7. 2:00

to 9:00 PM. Bring your own food and beverages and a dish to pass. All members and their families are invited!

July 31st - Presentation by Jim Miller. Neville Public Museum Auditorium at 10:00 AM and repeated at 1:00 PM. Mr. Miller found a 16 pound stony iron meteorite while working in the farm field back in 1949. Come listen to Jim tell his tale with the opportunity to hold this exclusive meteorite!



NIGHT SKY NETWORK UPDATE

The next Outreach ToolKit for the Night Sky Network, "*Our Galaxy, Our Universe*" is currently under development and testing by several NPMAS members.

This new ToolKit features materials and activities to convey concepts of distance and scale in our Galaxy and out in the rest of the Universe. Included are at-the-telescope props to expand on the stories you tell about the objects your visitors are viewing.

This toolkit will be available at the NPMAS picnic for demonstration as well as at Parmentier Observatory later that evening.

We need your help with the testing! All you need is to commit 20 minutes to participating in one or more of the projects at the picnic and/or Parmentier Observatory later that evening.

Help make this toolkit a success. Participate and give us your feedback!



SEPTEMBER PLANETARIUM SHOW PLANNING

Our September monthly meeting will be at the Barlow Planetarium for a planetarium show.

The NPMAS treasury will be picking up the tab for all NPMAS members and their immediate families. At the August meeting, I will have a list of the various shows that we are able to see.

Those members at the August meeting will be asked to make their decision by voting for which show they want to see. The show title that has the most votes will be the one we will see.

So plan now to attend the August meeting to cast your vote for the planetarium show to be seen in September!



UPCOMING REGIONAL STAR PARTIES

Northwoods Starfest

The members of the CVAS invite you to the 16th Annual Northwoods Starfest on August 13, 14, and 15, 2004 at Hobbs Observatory near Eau Claire, WI.

Hobbs Observatory has two domes, one with a 24" f/5 reflector the other with a 14" Meade. There is a large meeting area where talks and presentations take place. There is a large field in front of the observatory to set up for observing. The skies are nice and dark.

CVAS has reserved the youth camp for Starfest use. The camp has 5 cabins and the Cedar Lodge. The cabins sleep 20 the lodge up to 40. The cabins have bunk style beds and mattresses. You will need to bring sleeping bags and pillows. Showers are available for all guests, but bring your own towel. Tenting and camper spaces are also available.

The registration fee is \$50.00 per person until July 18th. \$60.00 after that. The fee includes registration, meals and snacks, lodging or camping fees, and speakers' fees.

Registration is limited to 150 people. Pre-registration is required!

Registration forms can be found online at <http://www.cvastro.org> and clicking the Northwoods

Starfest link. Or call Katrina DeWitt 405-8534 and request one be mailed to you.

Astrofest

The Chicago Astronomical Society presents its 25th Anniversary of Astrofest September 16 - 19 located at Vana's (not at Camp Shaw!) near Kankakee, Illinois.

Astrofest has moved to a bigger location - Vana's, about 10 miles west of Camp Shaw - its previous location.

Other new features include a "people mover" - a free shuttle service to and from the observation field, and a better, more expanded food venue.

There will be a 10 acre corn maze at no charge and direct TV will be available in all the buildings for up to date sports and weather.

If you like to shop at Astrofest, then be sure to buy a \$10.00 raffle ticket for your chance to win a \$4000.00, \$2000.00 or \$1,000.00 Astrofest shopping spree!

This year's Astrofest will not have cabins. All attendees must tent, RV or find a room at a nearby hotel. Tent set up will be in the observing field and on a first come, first served basis.

In addition, there are no shower or bathroom facilities.

Port-a-potties will be numerous and spread throughout the site and semi truck showers will be available during limited timeframes for your use.

Also, no open fires or charcoal grills will be allowed. Coleman type gas stoves only.

Besides all the new stuff, Astrofest will have the classics regular attendees have come to know - the numerous vendors, and lots of people with lots of scopes in the observing field to look at.

Registration for the 3 day event is \$48.00 per person. Under age 14 are free. This does not include any meals/food. Registration forms must be postmarked by August 14th. Otherwise the \$100.00 a day late fee applies.

To get your registration form and all the rules and guidelines, visit the CAS website at <http://www.chicagoastro.org> and click the Astrofest link.

Otherwise, info and registration forms will be available at the July monthly meeting.

Join your fellow NPMAS members for a weekend of fun as we help the Chicago Astronomical Society celebrate its 25th year of Astrofest!

More info and registrations for these two star parties will be available at the July meeting!



NPMAS TO HOST TELESCOPE WORKSHOP FOR PUBLIC

By Don DeWitt

Do you or someone you know have a small telescope? Have you ever tried to find something with it but never seemed able to find what you're looking for? Has your telescope ended up in the back of your closet or displayed proudly in a window as a talking piece?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then the *Using Your Telescope Workshop* is designed with you in mind. On Saturday August 28th, you can bring your telescope to the Neville Public Museum from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. NPMAS members will be on hand and to answer any questions you have about your telescope.

If your mirror or lenses are dirty, we'll show you the proper way to clean them. If your optics are misaligned, we will show you how to correct the problem. Are you positive your finder scope points to the same place that your main telescope does? We'll make sure you know how to tell and then, show you how to adjust it properly if it's not.

Do you know which eyepieces are the right ones to use? Let us help you. We will be covering all the basics of using a telescope including how to read star charts and other basic beginner data.

That's not all though. We are envisioning this as sort of a "mini" Astronomy Day event. We are going to have a couple

of tables set aside for kids to color and do some activities. If it's clear, we plan to have some telescopes set up to look at the Sun. In addition, we plan to have a couple of astronomy related presentations in the auditorium.

The best part we saved for last. Everybody that brings their telescope during the day will be invited to come back to the Museum that evening from 8:00pm to 10:00pm with their telescopes. We will be there for the acid test to help you find things in your telescope. We hope to give you the confidence to go and start observing on your own knowing that you can now find objects, or that you don't have to be afraid of a dirty or misaligned mirror.

We are anticipating a large turnout for this event for several reasons. This is something that we feel will appeal to broad spectrum of people, both novice club members and people of the general public that have been afraid to ask or just not know where to turn to. With the help of the Neville Public Museum, we will be promoting this event heavily to the media. That weekend is also Art Street, there will already be hundreds of people in the general vicinity. Our event is just another thing they can take in while they are in the area.

This is where you come into play. If you are a newer club member, we need you there

with your telescope so we can show you how to use it. If you have some telescope time under your belt, we could use your help in showing people how to use their telescope. Please don't feel you need to know everything about a telescope. We are planning on breaking things down into different work stations so we can have an expert at cleaning optics or aligning mirrors, etc.

Even spouses or armchair astronomers are welcome. With the anticipated crowds, we need people that would be willing to help with the kids activity area and with crowd control. Maybe you like speaking, and then we could use your help in the auditorium with an astronomy presentation. The more club members we have, the more successful this event will be. So no matter level of astronomy you feel you are at, there is something here for you.

Of course, that night we will need your help to put into practice what we taught earlier in the day - how to use their telescopes and not get frustrated if something goes wrong. The moon phase is full which would make it an easier target to find. Please come out and help make our first annual *Using Your Telescope Workshop* a success.

Sign up sheets and flyers will be available at the July and August meetings. See Don DeWitt for more details.



THE LONE PUBLIC STAR PARTY

By Gerry Kocken

June 26th was to be your typical Saturday, with clouds. We had a party to attend that evening at Bill and Cindy Bains house south of DePere. This was their annual 4th of July party. They typically have 500 to 800 people attending the big bash. Of course all the food you can eat and all you can drink. They make this a family event with clowns, DJ, and the air tent for kids along with many games. The fireworks is one of the best you would ever see. What makes it great is that it's very personal. We attended this party for as many years that they put it on. I was even the chef for one of the parties. This party is truly a family event.

Jean, my daughter Katie and son-in-law Brian, daughter Jenny and her boyfriend Jason went with me to the party at about 5:30. My other daughter Laura got there at the time the fireworks started.

The party was well under way since it started at

4:00. After assessing the situation and volunteering to pick up 6 cases of soda for the bar, I decided to go home a pick up my scope since the moon was at first quarter and was shining brightly in the daylight hours. I had the scope set up by 6:30 and trained on the moon. The lines started as soon as I took it out of the truck. By the time I had it set up, I already had at least 20 people standing around waiting for a view. The lines never died down until it was time for the fireworks at about 9:45 pm. By then, I would guess about 200 people viewed



through the scope. I was switching back and forth between the moon and Jupiter.

Early evening brought the best viewing I ever had on the moon. The sky was steady. For a while I had my 10" LX200 at 625x and it produced a crystal clear view and in focus with no distortion, it was great. I tried at 833x, but the wind caused some vibration. Even at that power, it was still in focus though. I have never experienced that level of clarity before. Most of the night I did have it at 147x and 312x. After the fireworks was completed, the crowd died down, but I did have quite a few more takers.

I called it night about 11:30 and I guess 250 to 300 people viewed through my scope. I'm hoping that we have a few new individuals at our next meeting. The only regret is I wish I had brought more club brochures.



JUNE 8th TRANSIT OF VENUS



June 8th dawned a hazy, somewhat cloudy, but very warm morning. About 15 members of the NPMAS and an equal number of the general public were on hand at Selner Park to witness the Transit of Venus already in progress as the Sun rose around 5:30 AM.

There were telescopes of all sizes as well as binoculars, welder glasses and eclipse shades available for anyone to look at the Sun safely.



People of all ages braved the early morning hours before school and/or work to get a chance to see this once in a lifetime event. (OK, twice in a lifetime for most of us!).

This fantastic photo was taken near the end of the six hour event by NPMAS member Dan Ankeney. The next transit will occur in December 2012.



Dan Ankeney 2004



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 Gerry Kocken, Properties Chair to make arrangements to use either scope..



10" Dobsonian Telescope



8" Triple Axis Newtonian

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

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Messier Marathon	Mike Monfils
Astronomy Day	Amy Hannon-Drew
	Lynn Ward
	???????
Club Picnic	Katrina DeWitt
October Field Trip	Ty Westbrook

Bay Beach



July
17th

2:00
PM

NPMAS PICNIC

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