

THE Eyepiece

November 2005
Volume 17 Issue 11



Monthly Publication of the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society

Please welcome our new NPMAS Board of Directors!

by Anthony J. Kroes

The election for the club Board of Directors was held at the October meeting. The members listed below will be our club administration for the next 2 years! They are already hard at work setting up events and planning the schedule for the next year.

Please give them a hand and a 'thanks' next time you see them, and if you can, volunteer a bit of YOUR time next time they are asking for a few bodies to assist at some event somewhere! Being on the board is more than just showing up a to a few meetings. It show a level of dedication to the club that we can all aspire to.

Your new Board of Directors and their new positions:

Gerry KockenPresident

Ed Smith Vice President

Amy Hannon-Drew Secretary

Dick Francini Treasurer

Tom Cashman.....Awards Chair

Joe Celmer

Bill Hennessy

Julie Mofle

Ray Nancoz

While not 'on the board', club member Ron Parmentier will also continue to hold the position of the Astronomical League Coordinator (ALCOR) for the club.

As the new schedule of Board meetings is decided, we will post it to the web site as well as publish it here. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings to see what is going on with the club or to address issues or concerns they may have. Exercise your rights and get involved!

Congratulations to all, and good luck over the next two years!

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NPMAS Club Loaner Telescopes

NPMAS members may use, free of charge, for a one month, one of the two club telescopes available. For more details, please contact Gerry Kocken, *Properties Chair*, at 920-336-8594.



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Meetings, Events & Star Parties

November 3

Taurid Meteor Shower Peak

November 7

Mars at Opposition

November 9

NPMAS Monthly Meeting,

November 17

Leonid Meteor Shower Peak

Looking Ahead:

December 2-3

**Kroes Observing Weekend
(Cold KOW!)**

Astronomy Photo of the Month



Photo by Peg Zenko

Mars shines through a misty sky on 2005/10/19. There is also a faint corona around the moon.

Taken with a Canon EOS Digital Rebel ISO-400, f5.6, 4 seconds.

October Meeting Minutes

by Amy Hannon-Drew

The October meeting was held on October 12 at the Neville Public Museum. Gerry Kocken chaired the meeting with the help of Ray Nancoz. Three visitors joined us this month! We reviewed past events, which included COW and POW. COW was a great weekend of observing with clear and steady skies at night and relaxing days! Six club members attended the event. Don DeWitt is in the process of rebuilding his 8" scope with a beautiful mahogany tube and base. Gerry kept us up to date on the construction of two observatories, one for Camp Unie and one for the Wildlife Sanctuary. Both are still in the planning phase. Mike Monfils shared his Coronado for the scope of the month (photo at right courtesy of member Ed Smith). Gerry is looking for pictures from any star parties attended by club members. Please send him photos in either paper or digital format. Please give a description for each photo. Upcoming events include a partial lunar eclipse on the 17th and of course our big Mars event on October 21-22. On Friday the 21st we have Professor Steven



Dutch from UWGB to give a talk on Mars. We will have a number of scopes set up for public viewing. We had a great turnout two years ago. I hope we have a repeat this year! Well – the votes are in and here are the results for our board election. Gerry Kocken will remain club president, Ed Smith will be Vice President, Dick Francini will continue to be Club Treasurer, Amy Hannon-Drew will be Secretary and Tom Cashmin will be our awards coordinator. The rest of the board members are: Julie Mofle, Ray Nancoz, Joe Celmer and Bill Hennessy. Welcome new members Ed, Joe and Bill! Our first board meeting will be held at Gerry Kocken's on October 27 at 7pm. Board meetings are open to all members. Our first order of business will be the 2006 calendar of events.

Planet Watch For November

by Wayne E. Kuhn



Mercury is in the evening sky this month but not easily observable. It is in inferior conjunction on November 24. If you can spot it early in the month it will shine at magnitude 0.0 and be 7.8" in apparent size.

Venus sets about 2.5 hours after the Sun and continues to improve its visibility. It stands about 10 degrees in the southwest just before evening twilight. It is at magnitude - 4.3 and is 27.2" in apparent size.

Earth's Moon: New Moon is at 8:25 PM CDT on the 1st. First Quarter Moon is on the 8th at 8:57 PM CDT. Moon reaches perigee (229,914 miles from Earth), on the 9th at 7:00 AM CDT. Full Moon (the Hunter's Moon) is on the 15th at 7:57 PM CDT. Moon reaches apogee (251,264 miles from Earth) on the 23rd at 1:00 AM CDT. Last Quarter Moon is on the 23rd at 5:11 PM CDT.

Mars remains in Aries and is at opposition on November 7. When it transits around 11:00 PM it will shine at magnitude - 2.2 and be 19.6" in apparent size.

Jupiter is in Virgo and slowly rises from the twilight of dawn. It shines at magnitude -1.7 and is 30.8" in apparent size.

Saturn is in Cancer and rises in the east-northeast around 10:00 PM. It stands about 60 degrees high as morning twilight begins. It shines at magnitude 0.3 and is 18.6" in apparent size. During the first quarter of 2005, the tilt of the rings had increased slightly from 22.5 degrees to 24 degrees. It will then decrease to 17.4 degrees by mid-October.

Uranus is in the constellation Aquarius all year. It shines at magnitude 5.8 and is 3.5" in apparent size.

Neptune is in the constellation Capricorn. It dimly shines at magnitude 7.9 and is 2.2" in apparent size.

Pluto is in the constellation Serpens Cauda and was at opposition on June 14. It shines at magnitude 13.8 and is 0.1" in size.



Hi to all,

I have a few new Mars images on my web site, most recently a great one by Tom Jorgenson (image above, imaging details on the website listed below) taken on October 29 with Tom Eby assisting. Tom J. has also been getting some great video. I also put together a 4 frame rotational sequence from last month at Prairie Skies.

Hopefully more and better to come. The key is a steady atmosphere and that's a waiting game requiring determination. Tom has been keeping a lot of late nights.

It's at: <http://www.frontiernet.net/~celstar/mars.html>

Clear Skies!

Joe Celmer

celstar@frontiernet.net

<http://www.frontiernet.net/~celstar>

from the editor: The image below is a capture of one of Joe's animation frames that closely matches the view we had at KOW:



KOW Review

by Anthony J. Kroes

It was a mixed bag for weather this year, but overall, the KOW 2005 event was a success and a good time was had by all attendees.

Things started out right on Friday night with extremely clear skies, moderate temperatures, and no wind. Chris Schroeder was the first to arrive shortly after 6:00 pm. He set up his 8" Celestron on the concrete pad near the house. Ed Smith popped in shortly thereafter and set up nearby with his binocular mount. As I was running around setting up the 12" and playing Host, Kevin Nasal showed up and set up his 10" Meade near the observatory. Tara joined us later after some activities with the Girl Scouts.

As darkness progressed, other folks came out, including my friend Jon Plank and his daughter Marya, as well as club members Amy Hannon-Drew, Lynn Ward, Dan Sheber, Darcy Varona, Kevin Kienholz, and new members Dick and Gail Sarnwick from Shawano. It was a pretty good-sized group for an October evening with temps in the low 40's. Everyone enjoyed taking turns looking at -and through- all the other's equipment.

Mars was the topic of the night, of course. Early views of it as it rose were acceptable, but not outstanding. Later views around 2:00 am were much steadier, as they should be – it was even a bit beyond the zenith by that point. Various colored filters were tested on different scopes. Over the course of the evening there were some good surface features visible, namely Syrtis Major, but only as a large dark smudge. The lighter colored 1300 mile-wide Hellas impact basin was also visible. The Earth-facing polar cap was extremely elusive, and only seen by a few people during the course of the evening. While the views improved later, they were never 'spectacular' – the finer detail was just not there, but at least Mars wasn't covered in global dust storms like a few apparitions ago!

We couldn't look at just Mars all night, not with such a nice sky, so many other objects were put in the crosshairs. Some naked eye observing & locating with laser-pointers helped out the members newer to the skies. Ed Smith's large 15 x 70 binocs gave outstanding views of the Pleiades and other objects. My 12" was set up on Neptune and Uranus for a while. There was also an unusually large number of very bright meteors with long trails visible – probably some precursors of the Taurid meteor shower. Various telescopes were also enjoying the dark night on different deep sky objects.

During break times, we enjoyed the warmth of the house and tea, coffee, and popcorn. While a good selection of Mars movies was available, the clear skies and mild temps kept the breaks short – people wanted to observe! Later, after things wound down quite a bit, the few remaining observers did come in for a viewing of the much belittled and harangued 'Mars Needs Women' – a sci-fi classic turkey from 1968. No expense was spared (or was that 'spent'?) on the spacesuits (wetsuits decorated with duct tape and peeling spray paint) that the Martians sported before changing into Earth clothes when they went out to score some Earth babes!

Unfortunately, Saturday was completely clouded out. We had 2 club members that missed the Friday viewing come out to at least try to observe, but there was no let-up in the overcast. The following weekend (Nov 5 & 6) was scheduled to be KOW part II, but it also was completely cloudy. At least the one night we had was a great one! We are looking forward to hosting the last observing event of the year on December 2 & 3 with the Winter KOW. Hopefully clear skies will prevail!



First Light

by Gerry Kocken

My brother Tom had found this old scope in 2001 at Fox Valley Lutheran High School. He told me they were going to tear out the scope and take the dome off the school. Since I was in the process of building an observatory in my back yard, I thought it might be good to take a look at it in lieu of installing my 10" LX200 in the dome.

I drove to Appleton to look at it and photograph it. The dome and scope were in pretty rough shape. I brought the photos to the next meeting to show Ron and George. Being relatively new to the club and not having much experience in scopes, especially a reflector style, I thought it would be a good idea to get a second opinion. Ron Parmentier immediately identified the maker, (Carl Elias) and indicated it was Carl's personal scope and was made in 1930. Carl Elias was one of Ron's mentors.

The scope is an 8" f/9 Newtonian style scope mounted on a heavy equatorial mount. The scope and mount were made by Carl Elias in his basement and garage. Ron indicated if I didn't buy it, he would. Well, I guess I thought if the scope were good enough for Ron, it would be good enough for me, so I returned to buy the scope. Instead, I made an agreement to purchase a new usable and portable scope for them and trade the new one for the old since the school was moving to a new facility and the new school didn't have an observatory planned.

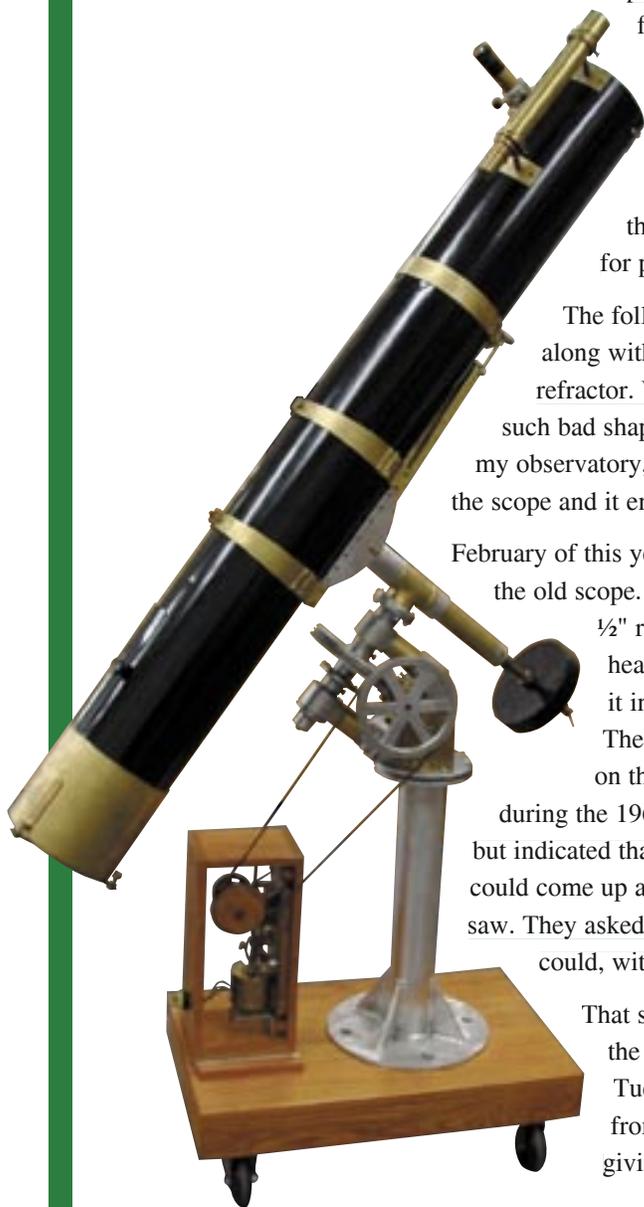
I went to several local shops and was able to pick up four new scopes to test free of charge. I set them on my back deck at home along with my 10" LX200 and tested them. I recorded my comments and submitted them to the school. They chose a Meade Refractor with go-to capabilities for portability and ease of use. I purchase the scope and made the trade.

The following weekend, I took the scope down from the roof top observatory along with the drive unit and miscellaneous eyepieces and a small 2" - 1950ish refractor. We discussed the dome as part of the deal, however the dome was in such bad shape, it crumbled while trying to lift it off the roof. I installed the scope in my observatory, but soon realized it needed a lot of cleaning and rework. I dismantled the scope and it ended up in storage for several years.

February of this year, I was contacted by the Outagamie County Museum in reference to the old scope. At the time, I was working on a scope from St. Norbert College and a 7 1/2" refractor mount, along with the mirror grinding class at my office. They heard I had acquired the old scope and were wondering if they could display it in their museum for a three-year period starting around June of next year. They are putting a display together of the 1960 era with some information on the space race and lunar landings. Apparently, the public used the scope during the 1960's, viewing the lunar landing sites. I agreed to let them use the scope, but indicated that the scope was in parts and needed a lot of work. They asked if they could come up and look at it. I invited them up two weeks later and they liked what they saw. They asked if I could have it ready by March or April of next year. I indicated I could, with the stipulation that the scope will not look like it did in the 1960's.

That started me off on another tangent. Putting the St. Norbert scope and the refractor mount aside, I proceeded to work on the new project. Every Tuesday night starting on May 10 I worked on the scope. I had assistance from George McCourt, and Don DeWitt occasionally with Ron Parmentier giving me advice. After a few weeks into it, Don and George were working

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on a scope for Don so Gary Baier took over and helping me out when I needed four hands. There were several coats of paint on the telescope which had to be remove. We found that many of the parts were actually brass. Bird droppings had accumulated on the mirror over many years thus staining the coating. The scope in the school, I was told, wasn't used for about 15 to 20 years. I took the mirror out and sent it in for a recoating.

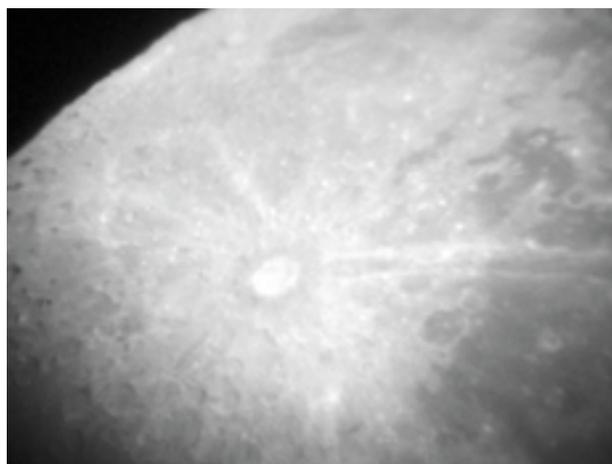
Meanwhile, Gary and I removed every screw and bolt, and dismantled every part. We polished them up one by one and reinstalled them. I had a new pedestal made out of aluminum and mounted it to an oak base that made the scope portable. The base is not made for viewing, only for display in the museum and to move it around in the shop. The pedestal however can be mounted permanently. I made a new motor control box out of oak with a slide base to accommodate the original clock drive system. The wood base and motor control box have 4 coats of varnish on each.

In total, we worked 24 weeks on the scope and I also put in a number of Saturdays and Sundays working on it for a total of more that 120 hours. Between us all, I would guess, we have 160 to 180 hours on it. On the weekends, I did the work that I couldn't during the Tuesday night classes, like buffing the old paint off the tube, and repainting parts. Most of the mount is made out of aluminum with some steel parts like the bearing and housings. I left the aluminum exposed on all the parts and repainted the steel parts. I ended up buffing the paint off the tube and repainting it three times due to scratches. I did bring the scope to the September NPMAS meeting, which itself was a chore due to its size and method of transportation.

I finished the scope over the next week and got a chance to view for the first time on Tuesday, September 20. That night I viewed the Mars and the moon. Mars was low in the horizon, so the viewing was not the best. I took some shots of the moon through the eyepiece with a digital camera set on automatic exposure. I did not have the scope tracking at all that night. The scope is now finished and covered for storage.

I am now back working on the 1887 Loomis 7 ½" refractor with the help of Gary Baier and Mike Monfils on the collimating. This scope is posing some real challenges due to the thinness of the lens and the warping of the lens brass cell, but it has been fun.

If anyone in the club has a scope with mechanical problem, a scope that needs a cleaning, or is in need of instructions on use of scopes, you are more than welcome to join us at my shop on Tuesday nights from 7 to 10.



NPMAS New Members

New memberships to NPMAS in October:

Peter Bauer
120 Acreview Dr.
DePere, WI. 54115
920-339-8603
p_bauer@tds.net
10" f-6 home made reflector

Valdimir Swerchowsky
N1792 County V
Denmark, WI 54208
920-863-1792
vswerchowsky@gte.net

Allan and Carole Fromm
(family membership)
1680 Careful Dr.
Green Bay WI 54304
920-499-0002
allan.f@pipeline.com
4 1/2" Orion Dob

Diana Pollock
1181 Stuart St.
Green Bay WI 54301
920-819-8195
diana-pollock@hotmail.com

New Member Info from Peter Bauer

How did you find out about the club? I went to a public observing session at the Wildlife Sanctuary about 20 or so years ago, then not again until August of 2003 at the Neville Museum.

Do you own a telescope or binoculars? Yes, I started building a 10" Dob shortly after that 2003 visit.

How long have you been interested in Astronomy? I always wanted to learn more about it, but until I really started that project, I knew only a few stars and constellations.

Do you have a favorite area in Astronomy (deep sky observing, planets, cosmology, etc)? I find most all areas pretty interesting.

What can you tell us about yourself? Who are the other members of your family? I am happily married with two wonderful boys, the oldest was with me at that 2003 Mars viewing at the museum. I always have been building or taking apart things from a young age, and I have a web site showing the contraption I built and a few meager attempts at astrophotography. <http://pbauer0.tripod.com>.

What would you like to get out of your membership? To learn more about the hobby from other people that know a lot more about it than I do, and have fun at the same time.

New Member Info from Allan and Carole Fromm

How did you find out about the club? I learned about NPMAS by searching on Google for an astronomy club in the Green Bay area and have learned a lot from the club's excellent web site.

Do you own a telescope or binoculars? My telescope is a beginner scope – a 4.5" Orion Dobsonian reflector with a few extra lenses and filters.

How long have you been interested in Astronomy? I am 67 years old but not retired and have been interested in astronomy for years and recently read an article in Sky and Telescope re good beginner / budget telescopes so decided to buy one of them.

Do you have a favorite area in Astronomy (deep sky observing, planets, cosmology, etc)? We live within the city limits of Green Bay and have trees in our back yard and a street light directly in front of our house so my interest right now is observing the planets and moon and brighter objects.

What can you tell us about yourself? Who are the other members of your family? My wife is a nursing instructor at Bellin College of Nursing and I own a telephone answering service business. We have two grown children and three grandchildren who do not live in the Green Bay area.

What would you like to get out of your membership? There is so much I don't know that would help me to enjoy astronomy more and I hope learn by participating in club activities.

NPMAS Board

Gerry Kocken, *President*
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Ed Smith, *Vice President*
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(920-494-5944)

Dick Francini, *Treasurer*
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(920-338-8504)

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Board Members:

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Bill Hennessy fbhenn@sbcglobal.net
Joe Celmer celstar@frontiernet.net
Julie Mofle mofle.2001@sbcglobal.net
Ray Nancoz alcor@doorastronomy.org

2005 Committee Chairs

NPMAS Staff:

AL Awards Coordinator

Tom Cashman

ALCor Ron Parmentier

Web site Anthony Kroes

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 Katrina DeWitt

October Field Trip Katrina DeWitt
Ty Westbrook

NPMAS Observing Sites

NPMAS members have access to three observing sites located on private land and belonging to members of our club.

Parmentier Observatory — largest private observatory in WI 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 — 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 available for use. Call ahead to make arrangements.

Dave & Carol Jorgenson Home: 715-757-3296

Cedar Drive Observatory — private residence of Tony Kroes and Tara Adsit. Located in Pulaski on 10 acres of land. Members welcome anytime, but please call ahead to make arrangements.

Tony Kroes Home: 920-822-4959

November NPMAS Meeting

November 9, 2005

Mars Observing

On the grounds of the Neville
Public Museum.

Last chance for a view this close
for 13 years!



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November 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Moon DPAS Monthly Meeting	2	3 TAURID Meteor Shower Peak	4 KROES OBSERVING WEEKEND	5
6	7 Mars at Opposition	8 First Quarter Moon DPAS Board Meeting	 Meeting	10	11	12 Voyager 1 passes Saturn, 25 years ago
13	14	15 Full Moon	16 NEWSTAR Monthly Meeting	17 LEONID Meteor Shower Peak	18	19
20	21	22	23 Last Quarter Moon	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			