

# THE Eyepiece

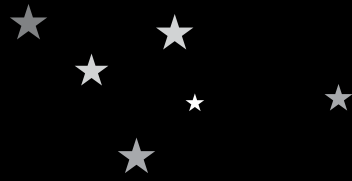


May 2007  
Volume 19 Issue 05

Monthly Publication of the Neville Public Museum Astronomical Society

## Telescope Viewing Night

At the Wildlife Sanctuary on Saturday, April 28



### What's up:

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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.



NPMAS is a proud member of the

**Night Sky Network**

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

Member Society



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# Meetings, Events & Star Parties

## May 5

Eta Aquarids Meteor  
Shower Peak

## May 9

NPMAS Meeting  
Topic: Phases of the Moon,  
by Katrina DeWitt

## May 13-20

Texas Star Party,  
near Fort Davis, Texas

## May 16

NEWSTAR Monthly  
Meeting

## May 25

RTMC Astronomy Expo -  
Big Bear, California

## May 31

BLUE MOON !!  
Second FULL MOON of  
May! - 8:04 p.m. CDT

Asteroid 4 Vesta At  
Opposition (5.4 Magnitude)  
Potentially Naked Eye  
Visible!

## Looking Ahead:

### June 14-17

Wisconsin Observers  
Weekend

### July 8-15

Epoch 2007  
Star Party (IN)

### July 13-14

Midwest Astro-Imaging  
Conference (IL)

# April Meeting Minutes

by Ed Smith



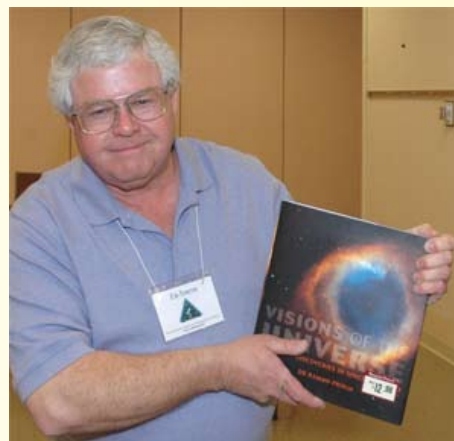
The March meeting was held at the usual time, 7 pm, at the Neville Public Museum. Gerry Kocken, club president, chaired the meeting. Reports of recent activities included the Messier Marathon and an update on the telescope mirror grinding class. Gerry Kocken also showed off three of his newly acquired, and as yet unrestored, antique telescope tubes. If you've never seen his impressive collection of antique telescopes you should hurry on down to the next Tuesday night session at Gerry's shop. Be careful though, he will probably put you to work polishing brass.

Upcoming events reported included:

- The Big Event for Little Kids at Shopko Hall on April 14
- Observing at Pulaski Middle School by Dave Landers on April 25
- Public observing sessions on April 27 & 28 at the Wildlife Sanctuary
- Parmentier Observatory weekend on May 11 & 12
- May 19 Sidewalk Astronomy Day
- NCRAL at Fargo/Moorehead on May 18-20
- Wisconsin Observer's Weekend (WOW) June 14-17
- EPOCH Star Party, Beaver, Indiana July 8-15

Tom Cashman presented a Messier Marathon Certificate to Dick Francini for observing 68 Messier objects.

The presentation at the May meeting will be on the Phases of the Moon, by Katrina DeWitt. There will also be a presentation about EPOCH 2007, The 21st Century Midwest Star Party in Beaver City, Indiana, sponsored by 20/20 Telescopes and Binoculars.



# Planet Watch For May

Courtesy Arkansas Sky Observatories <http://www.arksky.org>

**Mercury** — The elusive planet Mercury swings into the evening skies for May, making its finest debut for 2007; look for the bright planet very low on the horizon and just to the west of (below) the very thin waxing crescent moon during twilight of dusk on May 17. In North America, the closest planet to the sun will attain an altitude of about 10 degrees above the western horizon after sunset; on the 31, Mercury will be poised very close to the “feet of the Gemini twin, Pollux - In Gemini.

**Venus** — Now in a waxing gibbous phase, Venus is an evening star with some spectacular highlights during May 2007; look for the brightest of all objects in our sky except the sun and moon to grace the evening skies during dusk and long after dark throughout the month. At its brightest, magnitude minus 4 (-4), the planet will be poised a full 40 degrees above the western horizon at sunset. On May 9, the planet will pass very close through the large open cluster Messier 35, the “Beehive Cluster”, making a spectacular wide field telescopic photo-opt and a visual impression not easily forgotten; ten days later, on May 19, Venus will pair with the crescent MOON near the belly of the constellation Gemini and be less than one degree apart for viewers in the western hemisphere. And, on another 10 days later, May 29, look for Venus to have moved eastward to be very close to the first magnitude star Pollux. - In Gemini.

**Mars** — Mighty in 2005, Mars is now a prominent yet faint reddish “star” in the constellation of first Pisces and then moving eastward into Aquarius; the red planet is poised for a very good late autumn show, but is still very distant and very difficult to observe telescopically.

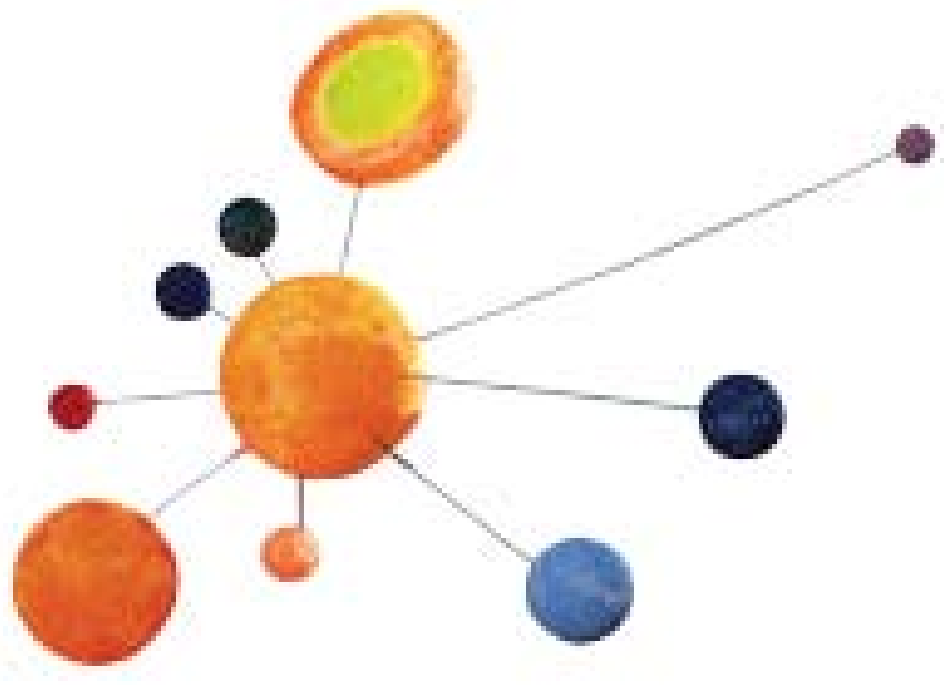
**Jupiter** — The mightiest of planets, Jupiter now rises about 11 p.m. local time and is high overhead at dawn. The gas giant is very difficult to observe telescopically from northern latitudes since its elevation above the southern horizon never reaches a positive declination in 2007. Still, observers in southern latitudes and very far south in the United States can get favorable views on some steady mornings... I have found that the best views under such circumstances occur just before the break of dawn’s first light. - In Ophiuchus/Scorpius.

**Saturn** — Now moving ever-further from Earth, the ringed planet decreases its apparent angular size from 18 arc seconds to barely more than 17 by month’s end. The rings are now “closing” in their tilt relative to our sight and this provides a good peek at the northern pole of the planet; recent high resolution images from advanced amateur astronomers using simple webcams have revealed remarkable electrical storms shocking the southern hemisphere of this wonderful world; the rings can be seen in even the smallest telescopes. Note that a partial occultation by the moon of Saturn’s rings will take place for European observers near sunset on May 22. - In Leo.

**Uranus** — A very poor time to attempt to spot the two giant outer worlds, Uranus and Neptune; both rise only slightly ahead of the sun in the southeastern sky during dawn. - In Aquarius.

**Neptune** — Not practical for observation this month - In capricornus.

**Ceres** — Has returned to the morning sky this month rising about 4:38 am on





# Big Event For Little Kids



# Astronomy Photo Gallery of the Month



**Venus Through Trees**

Taken April 16 with a digital camera • by Amy Hannon-Drew



**Venus and Moon Conjunction**

Kodak digital camera on a tripod. Auto setting. • by Gary Baier

## NPMAS Board

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ALCor Ron Parmentier

Web site Anthony Kroes

Night Sky Network Gerry Kocken  
George McCourt  
Steve Mofle

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Wayne Kuhn

Properties Gerry Kocken

Observatory Gerry Kocken

Public Outreach Gerry Kocken

Messier Marathon Mike Monfils

Astronomy Day Gerry Kocken

Club Picnic Amy Hannon-Drew

October Field Trip Ed Smith

Holiday Party Julie Mofle

## 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 SW of Pulaski on 10 acres of land. Members welcome anytime, but please call ahead to make arrangements.

Tony Kroes Home: 920-822-4959



# May NPMAS Meeting

May 9, 2007

Phases of the Moon  
*Katrina DeWitt*


starting at 7:00pm



**The Eyepiece**  
W2175 Cedar Dr.  
Pulaski, WI 54162

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## May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> DPAS Monthly Meeting	<b>2</b> Full Moon	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower Peak
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	 Meeting	<b>9</b> Last Quarter Moon	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> New Moon NEWSTAR Club Meeting	<b>17</b> 25th Anniversary (1982), Salyut 7 Space Station Launch	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Texas Star Party, near Fort Davis, Texas						
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> First Quarter Moon	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> RTMC Astronomy Expo - Big Bear, California	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> BLUE MOON !! Second FULL MOON of May! Asteroid 4 Vesta At Opposition		