



The Eyepiece

NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY - WWW.NPMAS.ORG

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May 2015

27th Annual Messier Marathon By Wayne E. Kuhn

The NPMAS has three public observing nights on its 2015 schedule and the first one was a great success! It was held April 25th at the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in the parking lot near the Observation Building. Club members present included Dick Francini, Mike Monfils, Richard Brancecum, Robert Nelezen, Gary Baier, Tom Cashman, Amy Drew, Bob Lundt, George McCourt, Rodrigo Roesch and myself.

This new site turned out to be very positive on several levels. The Wildlife Sanctuary staff helped promote the event with public notices and advertising on their own calendar of events. Because they are one of the better attractions in the Green Bay area they can generate additional attendees. The first four cars that showed up weren't even aware of the astronomy event but stayed and participated. We guesstimate over 100 people attended the event.

As the public arrived we parked their cars in the lot near the manager's residence and had them walk a short way over a bridge to the lot at the Observation Building. There we had parked our own cars and set up our telescopes with plenty of room to spare. The night cooperated with exceptional views of the Moon, Venus and Jupiter as well as a few deep sky objects as the evening got darker. There were no glaring lights to contend with



and we had access to the bathrooms and water cooler in the building.

The line at my telescope was 20 people deep for awhile and I am sure the other members were swamped as well. We could have used a few more scopes and some additional club members to help park cars and point out stars and constellations to those waiting in line. Several club members made the comment that both the children and adults that came to look through our telescopes were very patient and well behaved. In the future I would suggest club members to arrive at least one hour before the time scheduled for the event. This will give plenty of time to set up, coordinate our sky targets and be ready in case we get some early arrivers. We should also make sure

we have handouts and club brochures available as well.

Our next public observing event is Saturday, May 23rd at the Brillion Nature Center. Start time is 9:00 pm so please try to arrive by 8:00 pm to set up. As you may recall, this event is "payment" for our using their facilities during our Messier Marathon this past March at no charge. Please come out to help whether you have a telescope or not. Even though the public observing ends at 11:00 pm we can stay as long as we want to do our own observing.

Our last scheduled public observing event of the year will be back at the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on October 17th.

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting

- TBD

Monthly Meeting

- JUNE 3RD

-TEETERS

TELESCOPES

Monthly Meeting

- JULY 1ST

- MEGAN PICKET

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Night Sky Network

Astronomy Clubs bringing the wonders of the universe to the public



The NPMAS Historian

A Photo From The Past

By George McCourt

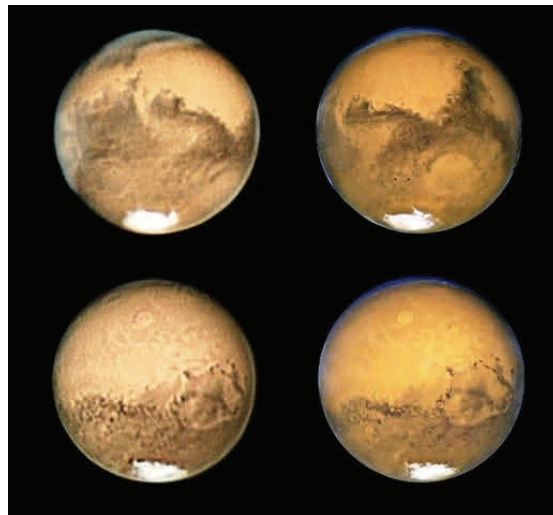


This Month's Photo Trivia

1. Where was the photo taken? Place, event, etc.
2. What date or year was the photo taken?
3. What telescopes were housed in the domes?
4. Who built and used the observatory and what observations were made?



Donald Parker 10/31/2005



Answers to Last Month's Photo Trivia

1. Question: What Solar System object is this?
Answer: Mars.
2. Question: What date or year were the photos taken?
Answer: The two photos on the left were taken in April 2003, four months before Mars' closest approach to Earth.
3. Question: Who took the photos and from where?
Answer: The two photos on the left were taken by Donald Parker in Coral Gables Florida. The two photos on the right were taken by the Hubble Space Telescope.
4. Question: What size telescope was used and what is the significance of the photos?
Answer: Don Parker used his 16" reflector telescope (photos on left). The photos on the right were taken by the HST 94.5" telescope. The remarkable amount of detail in Don's photos rivals the HST photos taken above the Earth's atmosphere with a telescope 6 time larger! Even the 200" Palomar Telescope in the 1960's and 1970's couldn't come close to the details in Don's photos. Don was the keynote speaker at the 2003 NCRAL Convention in Sturgeon Bay co-hosted by DPAS & NPMAS. Don Parker gave a talk on his 70 years in astronomy at the 2015 Winter Star Party including these and many other photos of Mars & the other planets. Regretfully, Don passed away four days after his talk. He will be missed.

New Member Welcome

No New Members This month

Dawn Spacecraft Closet Views Yet of Ceres

NASA's Dawn spacecraft has entered orbit around the dwarf planet Ceres. This has provided the best views yet of the interesting bright spot found in one of the many craters that cover the surface. The closer view has provided a more detailed image that reveals the spot to actually be a series of spots. Scientists are still uncertain of the origin for the reflective material. The leading theory at this time is ice formation in the crater reflecting the sunlight. Why this crater contains such reflective material while others do not still remains a mystery. Dawn has started its descent to the mapping orbit which is roughly 3X closer than this view. When the craft reaches its new orbit, the mystery of the reflective material may finally be solved. At the new orbit, the images Dawn sends back should be much more detailed.

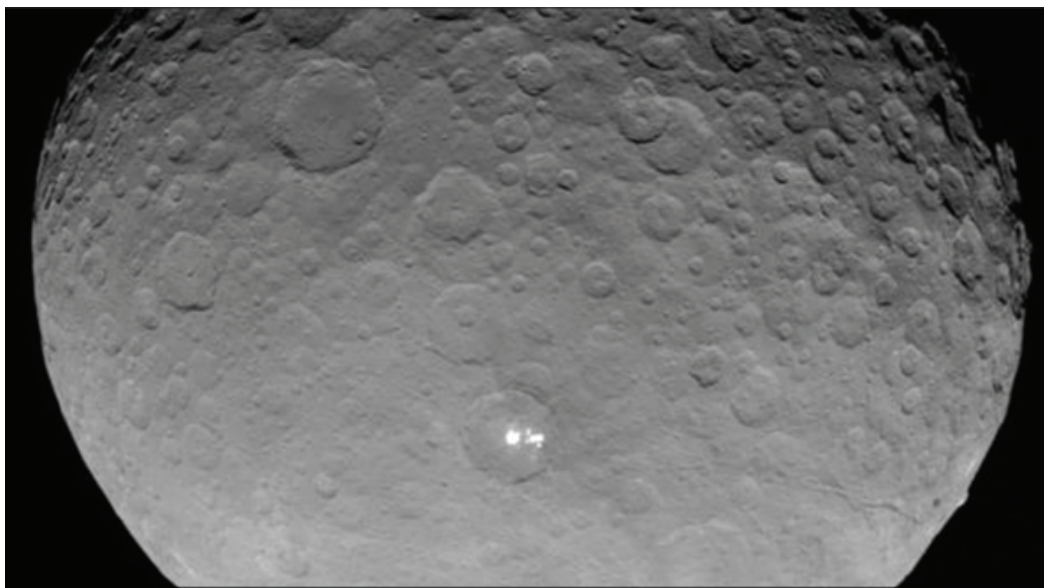


Image Courtesy of NASA/JPL-Caltech

Eye in the Sky

May 2015	
4th	Full Moon
5th,6th	Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower
18th	New Moon
23rd	Saturn at Opposition

June 2015	
2nd	Full Moon
6th	Venus at eastern elongation
16th	Mew Moon
21st	June Solstice
24th	Mercury at eastern elongation

<http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2015.html>

<http://www.nightskyinfo.com/>

<http://www.astronomytoday.com/skyguide.html>

Interesting NASA Webpages By Dave Wagner

Here are a few interesting links to various NASA sites I have visited recently. There is a wealth of information and data available to anyone willing to spend the time to dig. If you come across any interesting sites that others in the club may enjoy, send me the link, I will put it in the newsletter.



Image by Norman Kuring, NASA GSFC

<http://planetquest.jpl.nasa.gov/>
Focus on exoplanet discoveries

<http://www.diskdetective.org/>
Help discover stellar nurseries

<https://www.zooniverse.org/>
Collection of citizen science projects for you to join

<http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/>
Collection of images and animations of our home planet

Telescope Workshop—Open Again For The Season

If you have any telescope repairs, questions about telescopes, mirrors to grind, or just a general interest in astronomy and observing stop by Gerry's place.

Watch your email or call to verify the workshop is on before going.

This is an excellent source for newcomers to the group. Gerry has a large collection of antique and modern telescopes and all the hardware, equipment and knowledge to help you get going in observing. Plus it is an excellent way to meet others in the NPMAS club.

Head to far rear building on the south side of the property. Use the back door to enter.

Phone: 920-676-6363 to confirm the workshop is still planned

Location

1519 Grant St.
Deperre, WI 54115



2015 Schedule of Events for NPMAS

JANUARY

- 7 NPMAS Holiday Party—Tittletown Brewery
- 10 Einstein Science Expo—Shopko Hall
- 16-18 Camp U-Na-Li-Ya Winter Weekend

FEBRUARY

- 4 Monthly Meeting—Gary Baier
- 16-22 Winter Star Party—Florida Keys

MARCH

- 4 Monthly Meeting—Astronomical Sketching
- 21 Messier Marathon
- 28 Sheboygan Swap & Sell

APRIL

- 1 Monthly Meeting—How the Earth Formed
- 17-18 Kroes Observing Weekend
- 25 Public Observing—GB Wildlife Sanctuary

MAY

- 6 Monthly Meeting—At Barlow Planetarium
- 10-17 Texas Star Party, TX
- 15-16 Parmentier Observing Weekend
- 23 Public Observing—Brillion Nature Center

JUNE

- 3 Monthly Meeting—Teeters Telescopes
- 11-14 Wisconsin Observers Weekend—Hartman Creek State Park, WI
- 12-13 Parmentier Observing Weekend
- 19-20 Parmentier Observing Weekend

JULY

- 1 Monthly Meeting—Megan Pickett
- 12-17 Nebraska Star Party—NE
- 17-18 Parmentier Observing Weekend

AUGUST

- 5 No Meeting
- 12 Monthly Meeting—Picnic at Parmentier Observatory, Perseid Meteor Shower
- 12-16 Northern Nights Starfest, Palisade, MN
- 14-15 Parmentier Observing Weekend
- 14-16 Northwoods Starfest, Fall Creek, WI

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Monthly Meeting—Nominations
- 11-12 Parmentier Observatory Weekend
- 27 Total Lunar Eclipse—Parmentier Observatory

OCTOBER

- 7 Monthly Meeting—Elections, Meteorites
- 9-10 Parmentier Observatory Weekend
- 17 Public Observing—GB Wildlife Sanctuary

NOVEMBER

- 4 Monthly Meeting—Jim Sentowski
- 13-14 Kroes Observing Weekend

DECEMBER

- 2 Monthly Meeting—Year in Review

Club Member Services

LOANER TELESCOPES

NPMAS members are welcome to use, free of charge for a one month period, one of the seven club telescopes available. Please contact one of the board members to make arrangements. The seven telescopes available are:

- 10 inch Dobsonian Telescope
- 60 mm Bushnell Voyager
- 12" Orion Sky Quest Intelliscope (Object Locator)
- Meade ETX125 Cassegrain Telescope with Auto Star
- 4" Meade Schmidt Cassegrain
- 8" F10 Celestron Schmidt Cassegrain

Club Library

NPMAS has a collection of astronomy related books and videos covering a wide variety of topics including observing, the solar system, stars and more. Items can be checked out at monthly club meeting or by contacting Tom Cashman at 920-432-2261.



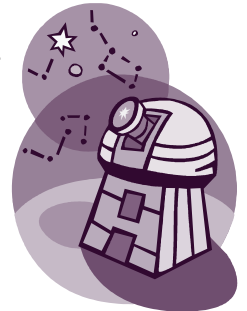
NPMAS OBSERVING SITES

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

Parmentier Observatory

Parmentier Observatory is home to a 30 inch classical Cassegrain telescope, the largest private observatory in Wisconsin. Members may view through the 30 inch or set up their own telescopes in the adjoining field.

Observatory Representative
Dick Francini—920-338-8504



Crivitz Observing

This is the private residence of Dave Jorgenson and Carol Eggleston. Located in the north woods of Wisconsin on 100 acres of land, this site offers some of the darkest skies around. The field is equipped with electricity and the far cabin is available for use. Please call ahead to make arrangements.

Dave Jorgenson and Carol Eggleston Home—715-757-3296

Cedar Drive Observing

This is the private residence of Tony and Tara Kroes, located Southwest of Pulaski on 10 acres of land. Members are welcome anytime but please call ahead to make arrangements.

Tony Kroes Home—920-265-9290.

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Object of the month
Astronomical Events
Club Trip Coordinator

Dick Francini
Bob Nelezen
Amy Hannon

