



# The Eyepiece

## Neville Public Museum Astronomy Club

Volume 31, Issue 3

April 2019

### Messier Marathon 2019 Review by Bill Hennessy

April was the first major club observing event of 2019, the Messier Marathon. The event was held at the Brillion Nature Center. The day started out with the some hope for observing, but unfortunately the weather did not cooperate.

I arrived around 4:00 pm to start setting up the tables, chairs, and the red lights. I was soon joined by Wayne who helped me with the setup. About 12 hopeful NPMAS members showed up and we had a wonderful pot luck meal. The feast included chicken soup, chili, chow mien casserole, salads, wraps, and two desserts and cookies.

The weather started out cloudy, with a little clearing towards sunset. Sadly, the clouds closed in as it grew dark, with some drizzle later. The temperature was about 40F, and there was a light east breeze. Not the best night for observing.

Undaunted by the gloomy skies, several club members did some birding before dark. Wayne used his phone to start a conversation with a woodcock or two, and a bluebird put in an appearance.

The night was not a complete shutout, however. I persisted and managed to see M42, the Orion Nebula, through a sucker hole in the clouds using my binoculars, at about 9pm. It was the only Messier object spotted this evening as the holes quickly closed up.

Most people called it a night shortly after 9. We cleaned up and I hung around until Louie, the Naturalist, showed up at 9:45 to close up the building.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the success of this event by attending and for your delicious food. In return for letting us use the Nature Center for the Messier Marathon, we will be providing a public observing event on September 21.

#### Upcoming Events

##### Board Meeting

- TBD
- NO SCHEDULED MTG

##### Monthly Meetings

- MAY
  - TBD TALK BY GERRY SCHAFER
- JUNE
  - PLANETARY DEFENSE

#### Regular Features:

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**Night Sky Network**

Astronomy Clubs bringing the wonders of the universe to the public



# Brightest Galaxy Challenge

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If you are looking for a good list of interesting objects to attempt to observe, here is a collection of 30 of the brightest Galaxy's. These objects should be visible in almost any scope. So get out and try your hand at observing all 30.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Constellation</b>	<b>Magnitude</b>
1	Large Magellanic Cloud	Dorado	0.9
2	NGC 292	Tucana	2.2
3	Small Magellanic Cloud	Tucana	2.7
4	M31	Andromeda	3.4
5	M33	Triangulum	5.7
6	NGC 3148	Ursa Major	6.6
7	M81	Ursa Major	6.9
8	NGC 5128	Centaurus	7.0
9	NGC 253	Sculptor	7.1
10	M83	Hydra	7.5
11	M101	Ursa Major	7.9
12	M104	Virgo	8.0
13	M110	Andromeda	8.1
14	M32	Andromeda	8.1
15	NGC 300	Sculptor	8.1
16	NGC 55	Sculptor	8.2
17	M94	Canes Venatici	8.2
18	M51	Canes Venatici	8.4
19	M82	Ursa Major	8.4
20	M106	Canes Venatici	8.4
21	NGC 1291	Eridanus	8.5
22	M64	Coma Berenices	8.5
23	NGC 1316	Fornax	8.5
24	M63	Canes Venatici	8.6
25	M87	Virgo	8.6
26	M60	Virgo	8.8
27	M77	Cetus	8.9
28	NGC 247	Cetus	8.9
29	NGC 2403	Camelopardalis	8.9
30	M86	Virgo	8.9

Courtesy of: In-The-Sky.Org

# New Member Welcome

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Scott Thompson  
Daniel Thompson

## CLUB PUBLIC OUTREACH

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Periodically, the club will receive requests to do public outreach events. These events may be giving a talk to a local club or organization. Presentation for a school, Cub Scout or Girl Scout meetings, Public observing requests, etc.

Many times the board members can fulfill these requests, but we are interested in knowing if there are others in the club that have interest in doing these type of events.

If we have more people that can help, we can accept more of these requests. For instance we just had to decline a local church scout group request as no one could make the date they were looking for.

These events don't need to be complicated presentations and often if there is observing involved, just having another person there to help out is often more than enough.

The club is working on trying to assemble some canned presentations so we don't need to come up with anything new every time one of these requests comes in.

Let one of the board members know if you are interested in helping out at one of these upcoming events. Let us know at one of the upcoming club meetings or via email.

Thank you in advance for your help!

## Eye in the Sky

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May	
4th	New Moon
6th, 7th	Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower
18th	Full Moon

June	
3rd	New Moon
10th	Jupiter Opposition
17st	Full Moon
21st	June Solstice
23rd	Mercury at Eastern Elongation

<http://www.seasky.org/astromy/astromy-calendar-2019.html>

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

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

# 2019 Schedule of Events for NPMAS

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## JANUARY

- 9 NPMAS Holiday Party—Mackinaw's
- 18-20 Camp U-Nah-Li-Ya Winter Weekend
- 20 Total Lunar Eclipse

## FEBRUARY

- 2 Einstein Science Expo—Shopko Hall
- 6 Monthly Meeting—NCRAL Convention

## MARCH

- 6 Monthly Meeting—The Moon
- 23 Sheboygan Swap-n-Sell
- 29-30 Kroes Observing Weekend

## APRIL

- 3 Monthly Meeting—SW Astronomy Trip
- 6 Messier Marathon
- 13 Public Observing—Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary
- 28-5 Texas Star Party

## MAY

- 1 Monthly Meeting—Gerry Schafer
- 3-4 Parmentier Observing Weekend
- 3-5 NCRAL—Moline, IL
- 30-2 Wisconsin Observers Weekend, Waupaca, WI
- 31-1 Parmentier Observing Weekend

## JUNE

- 5 Monthly Meeting—Planetary Defense
- 28-29 Parmentier Observing Weekend

## JULY

- 3 Monthly Meeting—Aurora
- 5-6 Parmentier Observing Weekend
- 25-29 ALCon, Kennedy Space Center/Cruise
- 28-2 Nebraska Star Party—Valentine, NB

## AUGUST

- 2-3 Parmentier Observing Weekend
- 2-4 Northwoods Starfest, Fall Creek, WI
- 7 Monthly Meeting—Surprise Topic
- 28-2 Northern Nights Starfest, Palisade, MN
- 30-31 Parmentier Observing Weekend

## SEPTEMBER

- 4 Monthly Meeting—Mayan Astronomy
- 21 Public Observing—Brillion Nature Center
- 21-29 Okie-Tex Star Party, Kenton OK
- 25-29 Pike River Starfest, Amberg, WI
- 27-28 Parmentier Observing Weekend

## OCTOBER

- 2 Monthly Meeting—Elections, Mosquito Hill Observatory
- 5 Public Observing—Bay Beach Wildlife
- 25-26 Parmentier Observing Weekend

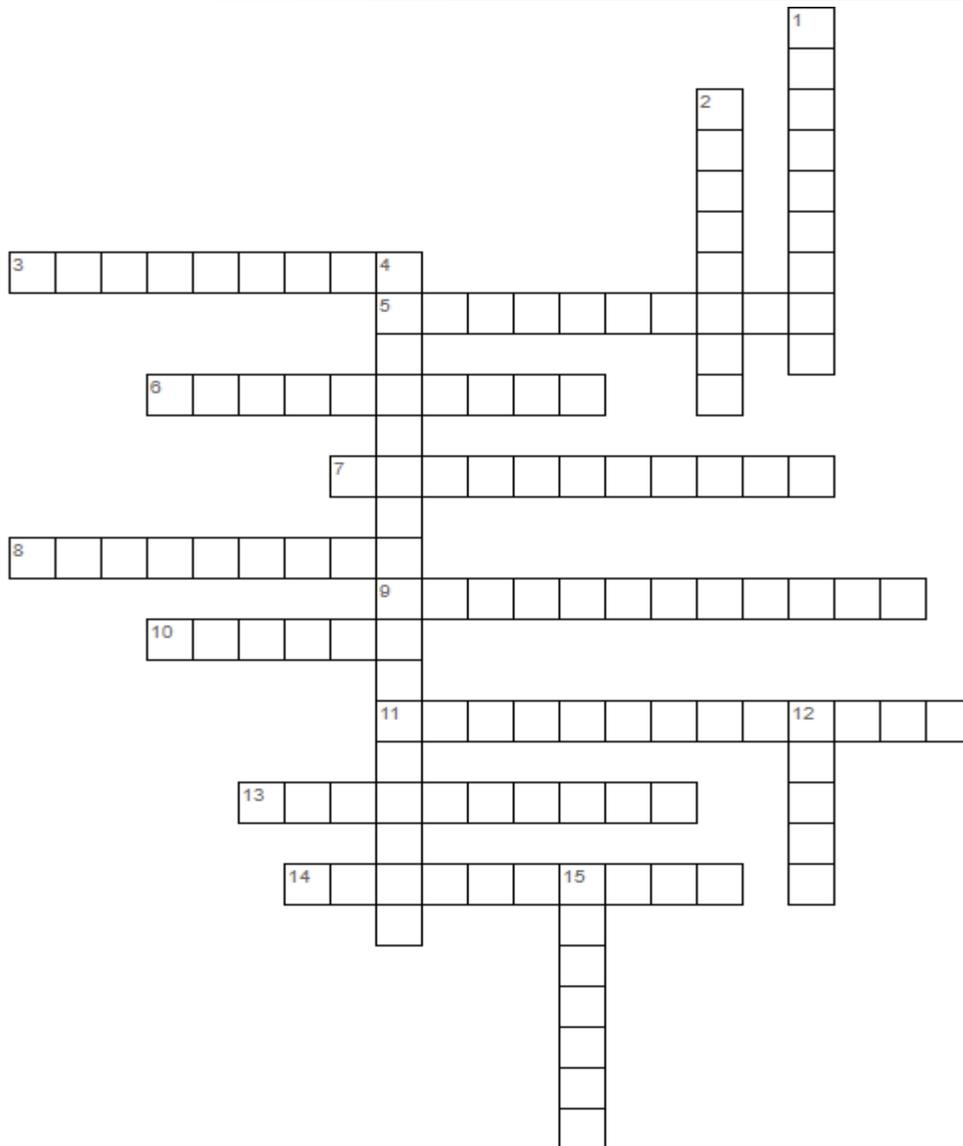
## NOVEMBER

- 6 Monthly Meeting—Jim Sentowski
- 11 Transit of Mercury
- 22-23 Kroes Observing Weekend

## DECEMBER

- 4 Monthly Meeting—Year in Review

# ASTRONOMY CROSS WORD (Courtesy of www.whenwecrosswords.com)



## Across

- 3 explosion of dust and gas
- 5 remaining carbon from a white dwarf
- 6 brightness of the star
- 7 end of the life cycle of star with a mass 4 times greater than the sun
- 8 vacuum with a gravatational pull so strong light cannot escape
- 9 'adult life' of the star
- 10 cloud of dust and gas
- 11 2 hydrogen atoms combining into a helium atom
- 13 dim core star
- 14 diagrams that compare celestial bodies based off of absolute magnitude, luminosity, and surface temperature

## Down

- 1 created when an object in space moves toward from the observer
- 2 gaseous shell formed after the main sequence
- 4 measure of light stars generate from the surface
- 12 celestial bodies that emit light and heat
- 15 created when an object in space moves away from the observer

# In-The-Sky.Org - WHAT IS IN YOUR NIGHT SKY

Here is a very nice web based application for finding out what is in the sky at any time. It is free and can be accessed anywhere you have a link to the web.

Set your location, time and level of brightness.

The wheel shows everything easily observable at that time. Rotate the Sphere or change the time and see the object list update.

The screenshot displays the In-The-Sky.Org website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with a home icon and menu items: News, Charts, Spacecraft, Objects, Data Tables, Resources, Links, and Shop. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs: Sky diagram, Planets, Comets, Asteroids, Deep Sky, Rising/Setting Times, and Altitude/Time. The main content area includes several interactive elements: a 'Show objects visible on' section with dropdowns for magnitude (4), month (Feb), and year (2019), and a time range (20:15 to 15:15); a 'From location' field set to 'Green Bay'; a 'Time slider' with markers at 18:15, 19:15, 20:15, 21:15, and 22:15; and a 'Date slider' with markers for 16 Dec, 10 Jan, 04 Feb, 01 Mar, and 26 Mar. A 'Limiting magnitude' dropdown is set to 'Bright', with a note 'Showing stars down to mag 3.5'. On the left, a sidebar titled 'The Sky on 5 Feb 2019' provides instructions on object listing and contains three lists: 'Planets' (Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Uranus), 'Open Clusters' (C41, M45, NGC 1980, M44, M42), and 'Galaxies' (M31, M33, NGC 3148, M81). The central feature is a circular sky diagram with a green border labeled with cardinal directions (S, SE, E, W, MS). The diagram shows various constellations and stars, with a tooltip for 'Elnath' (β-Tau, 112-Tau) in Taurus, listing its magnitude as 1.6. A 'Double click for more information' prompt is visible at the bottom of the tooltip.

## TELESCOPE WORKSHOP—RETURNS !

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Many of our long time members will remember that for many years, Gerry conducted a telescope work shop out of his home office/shop here in Green Bay. After moving to Amberg, he had stopped offering this assistance to the club and the community at large.

We are excited to announce that Gerry will be offering his services again every month.

Prior to the start of the Wednesday Club meeting Gerry will be here in town early (5PM) to help people with their telescope questions and issues. He plans to bring along a set of tools and equipment necessary to do minor repairs and adjustments. If there are major repairs, he may need to take the scope home and work on it there.

Anyone who would like to meet with Gerry is asked to reach out to him prior to the meeting to let him know you would like to meet early at the Neville. He will make sure that he has plenty of time to work on the scope or answer your questions.

If anyone else would like to volunteer to help out during the workshop, please let Gerry know.

Please contact Gerry at:

[gerryk@kockenwi.com](mailto:gerryk@kockenwi.com)



# Club Member Services

## LOANER TELESCOPES

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

Address:

N4175 Doell Road

Luxemburg, WI 54217

Observatory Representative

Mike Monfils—920-435-7350



### 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.

## NPMAS BOARD

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Holiday Party

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