



The Eyepiece

Neville Public Museum Astronomy Club

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January 2021

What's Up January 8, 2021 8:00 PM

In this new feature I will highlight some of the attractions in the night sky looking both East and South. I will pick a Friday night early in the month and a time shortly after astronomical twilight as the conditions for my comments. I hope you enjoy this feature. Let me know what you think.

Looking East to Southeast this region of the evening sky dominated by Capella, nearly overhead, Betelgeuse and Rigel of the constellation Orion, now about 35° above the horizon in the southeast part of the sky, Sirius, rising below Orion, Procyon, 15° south of due east and 22° about the horizon and Pollux and Castor of the constellation Gemini, both a few degrees north of due east and 35° and 40° above the horizon. This region of the sky is full of open clusters. Those that are included in the Messier List are M38, M36, and M37, in the constellation Auriga, M35, in the constellation Gemini, M44 and M67, in the constellation Cancer, M50, in the constellation Monoceros, M41, in the constellation Canis Major, M48, in the constellation Hydra, and M47 and M46 in the constellation Puppis. A good resource for a detailed description and directions for finding these open clusters can be found on the www.messier-objects.com web site.

Looking South, high in the sky is M45, the Pleiades. Mars, the red planet, is 52° above the horizon in the southwest and Orion is in the southeast with its belt about 35° above the horizon. The sky in this region is populated with loads of faint galaxies. The only galaxy on the Messier List in this region of the sky is M77 also known as Cetus A. It will be 44.5° above the horizon and 15° west of due south at this time. It is visible with binoculars as a fuzzy ball and reveals its structure with scopes of 8 inches or greater. The constellation Eridanus stretches across the southern sky at this time of year and is home to both the Eridanus Group and the Eridanus Supervoid. The Eridanus Group is composed of approximately 200 galaxies located approximately 75 million light years from Earth. Of note are galaxies NGC 1395, 1407 and 1332. This group is approximately 25° above the southern horizon at this time. If you have a good view of the southern horizon you may want to try to observe the Fornax Cluster. This is a small but rich cluster of approximately 58 galaxies. The cluster will be approximately 10° above the horizon approximately due south.

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting

TBD

Monthly Meeting

Jan. 6

Kuiper Belt Objects

Zoom and In person. Watch your email for your zoom invitation and information regarding registration to attend in person.

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NCRAL 2021 Convention

Astronomy in Color

The NPMAS will host the 2021 NCRAS Convention at the Bemis Conference Center on the St. Norbert College campus in De Pere, WI on Friday May 7th and Saturday May 8th. Overnight accommodations can be reserved at the Kress Inn adjacent to the campus at a conference rate. Registration information will be available on the NPMAS web page starting in mid January. Gerry Kocken is the Chairman of the conference committee and is always looking for people interested in being part of making this conference a success. He can be contacted at gerryk@kockenwi.com

Preliminary Convention Schedule

FRIDAY, MAY 7TH

2:00 – 10:00 PM - REGISTRATION OPEN

3:00 – 7:00 PM - PARMENTIER OBSERVATORY TOUR

4:00 – 10:00 PM - DISPLAY AREA OPEN

5:00 – 8:00 PM - SWAP MEET

8:00 – 9:00 PM – JERRY SCHAEFER “IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE” or Maybe it came from Planet Earth?

IF SKY IS CLEAR, VIEWING CAN BE DONE AT OBSERVATORY

SATURDAY, MAY 8TH

8:00 AM - REGISTRATION OPENS

8:00 AM – DISPLAY AREA OPENS

9:00 – 9:15 AM - OPENING REMARKS

9:15 AM - WILLIAM DIRIENZO “RADIO TELESCOPES AND SIZE SCALES IN ASTRONOMY”

10:15 AM - GROUP PHOTO

10:30 AM - BREAK

10:45 AM – RICHARD JACOBSEN “30 INCHES, NO LADDER, NO TRAILER”

11:30 AM - DOOR PRIZES, ANNOUNCEMENTS

11:45 AM - LUNCH

1:00 PM - BRIAN CHOPP “SIZING UP THE SOLAR SYSTEM”

1:20 PM - DICK FRANCINI “ASTRO SKETCHING: NOT AS INTIMIDATING TO DO AS YOU MIGHT THINK”

1:40 PM - BREAK

2:00 PM - RODRIGO ROESCH “DEEP SKY IMAGING WITH CMOS SENSOR”

3:00 PM - DEADLINE FOR TRIVIA CONTEST AND ASTROPHOTO BALLOTS

3:00 PM - REGISTRATION CLOSES

3:00 PM - NCRAL COUNCIL/BUSINESS MEETING

4:00 PM - DOOR PRIZES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

4:15 PM - AFTERNOON SESSION ENDS

6:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR

7:00 PM BANQUET DINNER

8:00 PM ALISON KLESMAN (ASTRONOMY MAGAZINE) “COMETS OR ASTEROIDS” “HOW COLOR REVEALS SOLAR SYSTEM HISTORY”

8:45 PM AWARDS AND DOOR PRIZES

9:15 PM CONVENTION CLOSING

2021 Schedule of Events for NPMAS

January

6 Monthly Meeting – Kuiper Belt Objects

February

3 Monthly Meeting – Astronomy in the Movies – Fake Science or Real?

8-14 Winter Star Party – Big Pine Key, FL

March

3 Monthly Meeting – Intermediate Astrophotography

12-13 Kroes Observing Weekend

27 Sheboygan Swap-n-Sell, Aviation Heritage Center, Sheboygan Airport

April

7 Monthly Meeting – Kevin Nasal

10 Messier Marathon

24 Einstein Science Expo

May

5 Monthly Meeting – NCRAL Preparation

7-8 NCRAL Convention, Astronomy in Color – Green Bay

14-15 Parmentier Observing Weekend

June

2 Monthly Meeting – Chandra X-Ray Observatory

4-5 Parmentier Observing Weekend

10-13 Wisconsin Observers Weekend, Waupaca, WI

July

7 Monthly Meeting – Surprise Topic

7-11 Pike River Starfest

9-10 Parmentier Observing Weekend

August

1-6 Nebraska Star Party – Valentine, NE

4 Monthly Meeting – Dick Francini

4-7 ALCON 2021 – Albuquerque, NM

6-7 Parmentier Observing Weekend

6-8 Northwoods Starfest, Fall Creek, WI

September

1. Monthly Meeting – Historic Astronomy Tools

1-7 Northern Nights Starfest, Palisade, MN

3-4 Parmentier Observing Weekend

11 Public Observing – Billion Nature Center

October

1-2 Parmentier Observing Weekend

6 Monthly Meeting – Peter Dzwonkowski & Electrons

9 Public Observing – Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary

November

1. Monthly Meeting – Lynn Ward

5-6 Kroes Observing Weekend

December

1 Monthly Meeting – Year in Review

New Member Welcome

New Members:

Paul Kardish & family



Club Monthly Meetings

The NPMAS monthly meetings are open to the public and are held at the Neville Public Museum on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. We are currently holding our club monthly meetings in two formats. People can attend the meetings in person at the Neville Museum or you can participate in the meeting via zoom.

If you wish to attend the meetings in person, the Neville has set up a on-line registration system. The museum has setup the chairs to maintain social distancing, we encourage everyone to follow the state mandated mask requirement as well. Please use this link to obtain registration prior to attending:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/neville-public-museum-25049488527>

If you would like to attend remotely via zoom, please watch for the email Brian Chopp sends out prior to the meeting with the link to zoom. Here is this months link:

If you have not used zoom yet, you will find it very simple. Click on the link and follow the steps to enter the meeting ID and then passcode when prompted. It may ask you to download some software if you have never used zoom before. After that, you will be put into the meeting. If you have a microphone or camera, you can participate in the conversation, if not, you can still watch the meeting. We do ask that if you have a microphone, please disable it during the speakers presentation unless asking or being asked to answer a question. Being courteous will keep disruptions down to a minimum.

TELESCOPE WORKSHOP

Before each monthly meeting Gerry Kocken is offering to meet with club members who have questions about their telescopes or have telescopes that need adjustments or repairs. If you would like to meet with Gerry for this service he requests that you contact him prior to the meeting so that he knows what he needs to bring and to schedule his time. You can contact Gerry at gerryk@kockenwi.com



M77 with NGC1055 top center and NGC1090 lower left

Eye in the Sky

January 2, 3 Quadrantids Meteor Shower This meteor shower occurs between 12 December and 12 January and should peak the mornings of either January 3rd or 4th. Best viewing should be before dawn from a location with a dark sky. This meteor shower has been very difficult to accurately predict and has a short peak period, typically on the order of hours. Coupled with the bright waning gibbous moon on the mornings of the predicted peak, this meteor shower will be challenging for most shooting star observers.

January 6, Last Quarter Moon

January 13, New Moon

January 21, First Quarter Moon

January 21, Moon, Mars and Uranus are within 10° of each other

January 24 – Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation. Mercury will be an evening star for the month of January. It will be best viewed right after sunset and will be highest in the sky at sunset between 21 January and 30 January. At 5:30 PM on 24 January it will be about 8.5 degrees above the horizon and 28 degrees south of due west. Mercury sets at 6:25 on this day. Mercury will be approximately 50% illuminated on this day.

CLUB PUBLIC OUTREACH

The education of the public about astronomy is one aspect of our mission. Our public viewing sessions are one way we achieve this goal. Another is by accommodating requests from organizations in the region for astronomy related speakers or demonstrations. Types of organizations that have made requests are schools, public libraries, and scout troops. The club is always looking for individuals who would like to contribute to these activities. Ways that individuals can contribute is by preparing or giving presentations, assisting at public viewing sessions or by answering questions from the public. If you are interested in contributing to the club's public outreach activities you can contact any of the board members or the Public Outreach Coordinator Robert Nelezen at robertn330@gmail.com.



Astronomy Buy or Sell

Club Member Kevin Nasal has 2 items he is selling that are well suited for colder weather observing. If you're interested, contact him via email at knasal4@new.rr.com

Carhartt Insulated Bibs

Size 38 x 32

- Boot zips
- Pockets
- Easy On / Off
- **OBSERVE IN COMFORT!**

\$45

Cabela's Heated Vest

- **2 Rechargeable Batteries**
 - Each with approx. 285 charges left
- Charging Plug
- **SIZE Large**
- **3 Heat Settings**
 - Approx. 6 hours on **LOW Heat**
 - 4-6 hours on **MED Heat**
 - 4 hrs on **HIGH Heat**
- **OBSERVE IN COMFORT!**

\$45

Beginning with this issue of the Eye Piece I will be taking over the role of the editor from David Wagner. David has done a wonderful job over the past decade as the editor of the newsletter and I thank him for his service to the club.

John Lyon

Loaner Telescopes

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

- 10 inch Dobsonian Telescope
- 60 mm Bushnell Voyager
- 12 inch Orion SkyQuest IntelliScope
- Meade ETX125 Cassegrain Telescope with AutoStar
- 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 meetings 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 setup 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 Polaski 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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