



The Eyepiece

Neville Public Museum Astronomy Club

Volume 34, Issue 5

May 2022

What's Up May 2022

The morning dance of the planets and the Moon continues this month. Venus and Jupiter had a closest approach on April 30th and they slowly separate in the morning sky this month. Later in the month Mars and Neptune will rise less than a degree apart on the 18th. While red-orange Mars is visible with the naked eye, the blue-green Neptune with a magnitude of +7.9 requires a telescope or binoculars to see this colorful pair of planets in the same field of view. The Moon and Venus rise together on the morning of the 27th. The Moon will be 27 days old and will present a slight crescent while Venus will be close to fully illuminated. Jupiter and Mars are working their way towards each other over the later part of the month with their closest approach on the morning of the 29th. All of these events will only be visible in the predawn sky say between 4 and 4:30 in the morning.

The total lunar eclipse of the night of May 15th could be one of the best of the year. The Moon should start entering the umbra at 9:28 PM and be completely inside the umbra at 10:29 PM. The Moon will start to exit the umbra at 11:54 PM yielding a total eclipse of an hour and fifteen minutes. All of these times are central daylight savings times.

The summer Milky Way will begin to show itself this month. The northern part of the Milky Way begins to rise before midnight early in the month and will be in good viewing position in the eastern sky by midnight at the end of the month. Two good viewing and astrophotography targets in the northern summer Milky Way are the Ring Nebula and the Dumbbell Nebula. If you want to continue viewing planetary nebula in this region of the sky you can try C2, the Bow-Tie Nebula, M76, the Little Dumbbell Nebula, NGC 7354, NGC 7027, the Pink Pillow Nebula, C22, the Blue Snowball Nebula, C15, the Blinking Planetary Nebula, and C55, the Saturn Nebula. Observing or imaging this collection of nebulae will give you a good start on the Astronomical League Planetary Nebula Observing Program.

By the end of the month the southern summer Milky Way will begin to position itself in good viewing position after midnight. The number and diversity of object to observe in the southern summer Milky Way can keep most astronomers busy and challenged all summer long.

Have a good month and enjoy the night skies.

May Meeting

When:
Wed. May 4. 6:30 PM

Presentation by Tom Spirock,
Photographing the Planets

Location: Neville Public Museum

May 13-14

NCRAL
Convention
Vision 2022

Port
Washington,
WI

May 27-28

Parmentier
Observing
Weekend

Public Observing Night At Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in pictures



New Member Welcome Mat

Please join me in welcoming our new members. This month we have introductions from four new members. Please make them welcome at future club activities.

Please Welcome Mike and Veronica Dreckschmidt. He has contributed the following information for the newsletter.

How did you find out about the NPMAS?

-We were google searching events in the area, looking for something to do I saw a post about the monthly meeting, We decided to attend the one this past April 6th to see what it was all about and found all the presentations very interesting and informative.

How long have you been interested in Astronomy?

Both of us have been interested in astronomy since we were kids. Veronica's dad studied physics at Peru's top engineering university and while he did not finish the degree, he still instilled his passion for science in his daughters. For myself, I most remember an astronomy summer school course as a kid with an enthusiastic instructor that left a strong impression on me and have been interested, though never truly dedicated, ever since.

Do you have any particular interest like cosmology, galaxies, planets, constellations?

Veronica likes looking for constellations and is also particularly interested in the structure of galaxies.

I am more interested in learning and viewing planets of our solar system (and also the growing science of discovering exoplanets). I also enjoy making digital paintings of the planets with my Wacom One (using a stylus as the paintbrush) as a hobby.

Can you tell us a little about yourself, your work and other interests?

Veronica was born in Peru where she has lived her whole life until this year, and her hobbies are drawing and painting, hiking, and birdwatching. She has a degree in tourism management from the University of San Marcos in Lima, the oldest university in the America's (founded in 1551!). She has worked as a hotel/living quarters supervisor in mining camps in her home country of Peru until she recently came to the United States.

I am a Wisconsin native, a UWGB alumni and would say astronomy is one of my top interests. I enjoy making art, music, and writing creatively as well. I have worked in city planning projects in Peru when I lived there with Veronica for nearly 4 years, and currently work as a telecommunications route design engineer.

What do you expect to get out of the club?

We seek to learn from knowledgeable and experienced people, and to share in new experiences searching among the stars with others. Also, to learn about telescopes and how to use them and eventually buy our own.

New Member Welcome Mat

Please Welcome Suresh Ramanan. He has contributed the following information for the newsletter.

How long have you been interested in Astronomy?

For as long as I know, even as a kid. My dad kindled this interest in me. Back in India, when we used to go to our terrace and watch the night sky to catch a glimpse of a meteor shower or the lunar eclipse or of Venus. Later as I grew a little older, I was introduced to constellations, my first one being Ursa Minor and my first big star being Polaris. Here in the States, I had a friend Vijay who used to take me on frequent stargazing trips to Door County where we spotted a good number of planets, constellations, star clusters, northern lights and even Andromeda.

Do you have any particular interest like cosmology, galaxies, planets, etc.?

I do not know enough to pick a specific area but I have always felt that humans who have a chance to look at the cosmos, understand how truly insignificant we are in the scale of the Universe and that gives them an opportunity to be better individuals, transcending beyond the usual petty mindedness and look at the big picture.

Can you tell us a little about yourself, your work and other interests?

Suresh Ramanan, 36, from Tamil Nadu, India presently in the States, working as a software engineer. I love collecting diecast cars, building LEGO, reading comics, dabbling in a little art and losing myself in the night sky.

What do you expect to get out of the club?

A group where I can learn many things, ask dumb questions in the process, make friends and create memories. And grow enough to inspire others to Astronomy.

New Member Welcome Mat

Please Welcome Mark Konop. He has contributed the following information for the newsletter.

How did you find out about the NPMAS?

From a friend

Do you have any particular interest like cosmology, galaxies, planets, etc.?

Certainly cosmology. Love learning about things like gravitational waves, relativity, and observing the night sky.

Can you tell us a little about yourself, your work and other interests?

I grew up in WI, college at Point, worked for the Forest Service throughout the Rocky Mtn states and served in Peace Corps Guatemala for three years about a million years ago. I own a small manufacturing company in the Oshkosh area, love to bike (pedal), bird watch, travel.

What do you expect to get out of the club?

I suppose just being able to hang some with people that have a shared interest.



M27 Dumbbell Nebula

New Member Welcome Mat

Please Welcome William Witmer. He has contributed the following information for the newsletter.

How long have you been interested in Astronomy?

50 years

Do you have any particular interest like cosmology, galaxies, planets, etc.? All

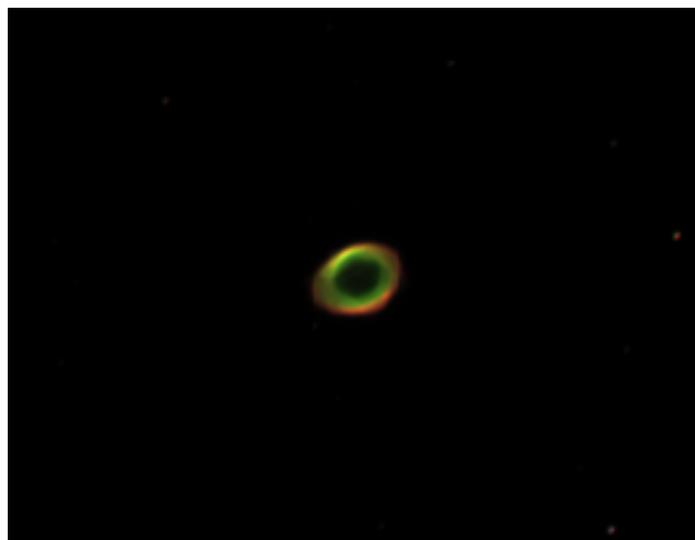
Can you tell us a little about yourself, your work and other interests?

I am a cardiologist. Been in GB for 17 yrs. Have lived in Maine, Vermont, Ohio, Tennessee, and WI. I have three adult children. I grew up in Rochester NY and have been interested in astronomy since a kid. The Strassenburgh Planetarium in Rochester was a frequent haunt of mine and my dad. My dad, who was quite handy in the workshop, built me a 6 inch reflector telescope for Christmas when I was about 13. I used it until it fell apart about 35 years later. I love the outdoors and everything to do with Nature.

What do you expect to get out of the club?

Sharing common interests and continuing to learn more.

Would love to chat with those who have experience with astrophotography.



M57 Ring Nebula



Messier Marathon 2022 occurred under less than ideal conditions, but this group managed to make the most of the evening.

2022 Star Parties

For a complete listing of the 2022 Star Parties go to: (www.go-astronomy.com/star-parties.htm)

January 31- February 6 Winter Star Party, Big Pine Key, Florida Keys Hosted by Southern Cross Astronomical Society.
www.scas.org/winter-star-party/registration.cfm

April 24 - May 1 Texas Star Party, Fort Davis, Texas. texasstarparty.org

June 23-26 Wisconsin Observing Weekend, Waupaca

July 24-29 Nebraska Star Party, Valentine NE <http://www.nebraskastarparty.org>

July 27-31 Pike River Starfest, Amberg WI

Aug. 26-28 Northwoods Starfest, Fall Creek, WI. Hosted by Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society,
www.cvaastro.org/northwoods-starfest/

Aug. 31-Sept. 5 Northern Nights Starfest, Palisade MN Hosted by Minnesota Astronomical Society,

Sept. 23- Oct. 1 Okie-Tex Star Party. Camp Billy Joe. Hosted by the Oklahoma City Astronomy Club, www.okie-tex.com/index.php

2022 Schedule of Events for NPMAS

JANUARY

- 12 Holiday Party
- 14-16 Camp U-Na-Li-Ya Weekend

FEBRUARY

- 2 Monthly Meeting-John Briggs, Antarctica Expedition

MARCH

- 2 Monthly Meeting-Barlow Planetarium
- 19 Sheboygan Swap-n-sell, Aviation Heritage Center, Sheboygan Airport

APRIL

- 6 Monthly Meeting-Dick Francini
- 9 Public Observing, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary
- 22-23 Parmentier Observing Weekend
- 30 Messier Marathon

MAY

- 4 Monthly Meeting-Tom Spirock, Photographing the Planets
- 13-14 NCRAL Convention Vision 2022 Port Washington
- 15 Total Lunar Eclipse
- 27-28 Parmentier Observing Weekend

JUNE

- 1 Monthly Meeting-Amy Hannon Drew
- 3-4 Parmentier Observing Weekend
- 4 Club Picnic
- 24-25 Parmentier Observing Weekend

JULY

- 1-2 Parmentier Observing Weekend
- 6 Monthly Meeting-Brian Chopp
- 29-30 Parmentier Observing Weekend

AUGUST

- 3 Monthly Meeting-Duane Clausen
- 26-27 Parmentier Observing Weekend

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Monthly Meeting-Jerry Schaefer
- 17 Public Observing-Brillion Nature Center
- 23-24 Parmentier Observing Weekend

OCTOBER

- 1 Public Observing, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary
- 5 Monthly Meeting-Gerry Kocken Part 1
- 21-22 Parmentier Observing Weekend

NOVEMBER

- 2 Monthly Meeting-Gerry Kocken Part 2
- 8 Total Lunar Eclipse

DECEMBER

- 7 Monthly Meeting-Year in Review

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.

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



Eye in the Sky

- May 6. Eta Aquarid Meteor shower peaks
- May 9. First Quarter Moon
- May 16. Full Moon
- May 15-16 Total lunar eclipse
- May 18. Mars and Neptune are in close conjunction
- May 22. Last Quarter Moon
- May 29. Jupiter and Venus are in close conjunction.
- May 30. New Moon

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.

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

NPMAS OBSERVING SITES

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

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 BOARD

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