Focal Point

July, 2012

The MAS Summer Schedule

There will be no General Membership Meeting in June, July, and August. The September Meeting will be announced in August issue of this newsletter. The use of the Observatory is not affected by the summer schedule. Remember - Saturday nights are the keyholder nights! See you there.

Inside this issue:

The MAS Picnic

The Milwaukee Astronomical Society is organizing the Annual Picnic for MAS members and their guests. The event will be held on **August 4th, 4:00pm** at the MAS Observatory in New Berlin. Beverages and charcoal grills will be provided, the members should bring the food. We will do solar observing weather permitting. Please join us, and have fun! Bring along your family or friends.

Star Party at Yerkes Observatory

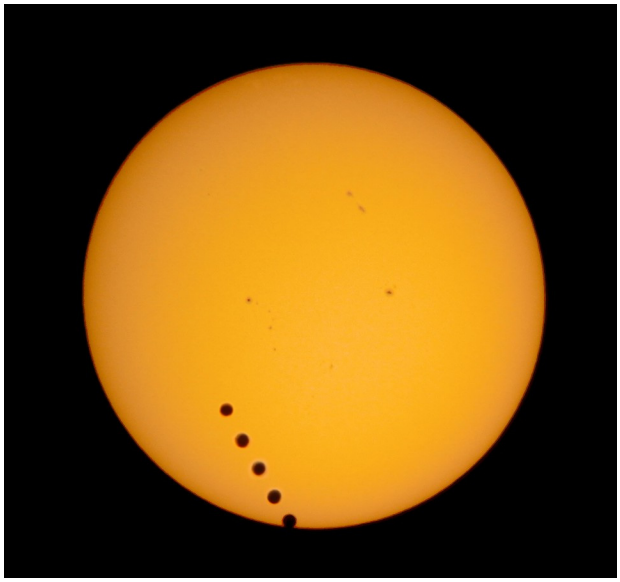
The MAS has been invited by the Kavli Institute for Cosmological Studies to help out with the Summer Institute's star party. The Summer Institute is part of a larger program that the University of Chicago has to provide support to high school students in the surrounding communities who are interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

The star party that we have helped put on for over a decade will be on Sunday night, **August 5th starting at sunset**. Those members who have telescope please consider coming out to show the sky to these students. Those without a telescope, find someone who has a scope to tag along with, or possibly use one of the loaner scopes from the club. T-shirts are provided by the institute as a thank you. If you are planning to participate please email you intention along with the size of your t-shirt to Sue Timlin at potatosue@wi.rr.com.

The Yerkes Observatory is located at 373 W. Geneva St, Williams Bay, WI. Take Highway 43 all the way to the Highway 67 Elkhorn/Williams Bay exit.

Members' Photos

The Venus Transit



Mike Smiley: I used my 6" Starblast which has a 750mm focal length, with a 25mm plossl eyepiece. I just put my Sony Cyber-shot 4-megapixel digital camera up to the eyepice (afocal method) for these shots of Venus transit. I was really just experimenting, so I was pretty happy with how they turned out.

Conjunction

Neil Simmons: On the night of July 28th a couple of us were at the observatory, when I noticed that the planets Saturn and Mars were in a nice near-isosceles triangle with the star Spica.

Normally, out of focus pictures aren't that appealing, but in this case we have a good demonstration of color in the sky. (I wish I could say that I planned that, but I didn't.) Saturn at top-left is a nice brownish-yellow. Spica, which is beneath it and to the left shows off its blue-giant classification. Lastly, Mars is easily recognizable for its red/dark-orange complexion.

This was taken with a Canon T2i with a 17mm-55mm zoom lens set to frame the trio as they dip behind the line of pine trees on our western border. The exposure time was 5 seconds at f/5.6.

M13

Scott Jamieson: Image of M13 taken with my 7.5 inch Mak/Newt telescope and Cannon SLR. It was 5 images 90 seconds apiece combined with autoguiding. I was running tracking tests on the drive on my homemade fork mount at the time. This is my best resolution yet in a long exposure color image. Yes it is color but there isn't much actual color in the field. On the top left corner is the NGC 6207, a 12.1 magnitude spiral galaxy.

Announcements

13.1” AstroSystems Telescope for Sale

I'm selling my 8-year old truss-style Dob. Asking price: $3,750.00

Rob Powell
1429 W. River Oaks Ln.
Mequon, WI 53092
cell: 262.894.2737
email: archerychampion@gmail.com

Facebook link with photos & captions: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.233334130961 8.65031.1732351961&type=3&l=898047177b

Meade LX200 Classic 8” f/10 For Sale

My name is Leon Yu, I attended a couple meetings of the MAS several years ago. I have a Meade LX200 Classic, 8" f/10 telescope with field tripod, 8 piece Meade Super Plossl eye piece set and metal accessory case that I'd like to advertise through MAS before I try ebay or Craig's List. I have only used it about 15-20 times since I've owned it and it is in excellent condition. Pictures of the scope can be seen here: https://picasaweb.google.com/105271318382928972372/LX200Telescope?authuser=0&feat=directlink. Interested parties can contact me at leonyu13@gmail.com, and to try it out in my back yard (I live in Mukwonago). I purchased the scope for $2,400 in Sept. 2001, I'm asking $1,200.

12” Zhumell Dobsonian For Sale

I have a two years old 12" Zhumell Dobsonian on a mobil base (4"castors). Eyepieces are: Meade 4000DS 26mm plossel, Meade 4000DS 9.7 mm plossel, eyepieces that came w/scope - Zhumell 30mm wide field, Zhumell 9mm. Also it has a Zhumell collimator. The scope is in very good condition, used roughly 30 hours. Reason for selling: I got it for my youngest son while he was a junior in High School. He's now in the Air Force in Louisiana and I have other hobbies to work with. I am asking $585.

Rick Griffith (Cell: 414-232-0714; E-mail: Rick.Griffith@unilever.com)

In the Astronomical News

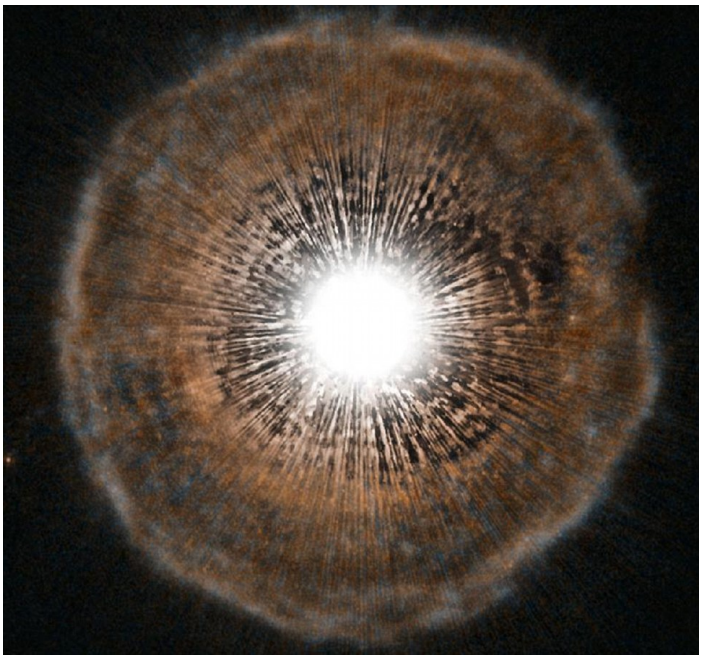
Eye in the Sky: Hubble captures eerie “cornea” Staring at Us from the Cosmos - but it’s actually the Last Breath of a Dying Star

The Hubble Space Telescope has captured what looks like a human cornea staring at us from the cosmos, but it's actually one of the last 'breaths' of a distant, dying star.

The rings around the burning core 'bubble' of gas blasted out of a dying star clearly visible as its core begins to burn out.

The star, Camelopardis is nearing the end of its life - but is so far away that it would normally appear as a single pixel in an image of this size.

But the brightness of the shell of gas erupting from its core means Hubble's sensors capture this spectactular image.



Every few thousand years, the star coughs out a nearly spherical shell of gas as a layer of helium around its core begin to fuse.

Camelopardalis, or U Cam for short, is a star nearing the end of its life. As stars run low on fuel, they become unstable. Every few thousand years, U Cam coughs out a nearly spherical shell of gas as a layer of helium around its core begins to fuse.

The gas ejected in the star’s latest eruption is clearly visible in this picture as a faint bubble of gas surrounding the star.

U Cam is an example of a carbon star, a rare type of star with an atmosphere that contains more carbon than oxygen. Due to its low surface gravity, typically as much as half of the total mass of a carbon star may be lost by way of powerful stellar winds.

Located in the constellation of Camelopardalis (The Giraffe), near the North Celestial Pole, U Cam itself is much smaller than it appears in this Hubble image.

In fact, the star would easily fit within a single pixel at the center of the image. Its brightness, however, is enough to saturate the camera's receptors, making the star look much larger than it is. The shell of gas, which is both much larger and much fainter than its parent star, is visible in intricate detail in Hubble’s portrait. This phenomenon is often quite irregular and unstable, but the shell of gas expelled from U Cam is almost perfectly spherical.

by Rob Waugh

Adopt a Telescope Program - Signup Sheet

	Adoptee	Scope	Location
1	Sue Timlin	18" F/4.5 Obsession	Wiesen Observatory
2	Neil Simmons	12.5" F/7.4 Buckstaff	B Dome
3	Russell Chabot	12.5" F/9 Armfield	A Dome
4	Dan Yanko	18" F/4.5 Obsession	Albrecht Observatory
5	Tamas Kriska	25" F/15 Zemlock	Z Dome
6	Henry Gerner	12" LX 200	Tangney Observatory
7	Jeffrey Fillian	14" Z-Two scope	Ray Zit Observatory
8	Kevin & John McCarthy	10" LX 200	Jim Toeller Observatory

At Your Service

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Vice President	Brian Ganiere	414-961-8745
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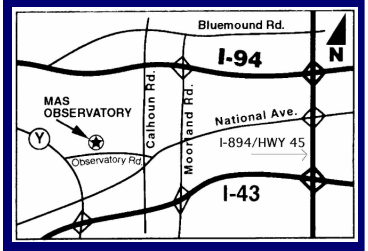
Tamas Kriska	414-475-6267
Neil Simmons	262-889-2039
Michael Smiley	262-825-3981
Sue Timlin	414-460-4886
Dan Yanko	262-255-3482

July/August Key Holders

8/4	Tim Hoff	262-662-2212
8/11	Scott Jamieson	262-592-3049
8/18	Lee Keith	414-425-2331
8/25	Tamas Kriska	414-475-6267
9/1	Scott Laskowski	414-421-3517
9/8	Jill Roberts	414-587-9422



MAS Observatory

18850 Observatory Rd
New Berlin, WI
Phone: (414) 477-6220

www.milwaukeeastro.org