

SPECTRUM

Northern Cross Science Foundation Newsletter

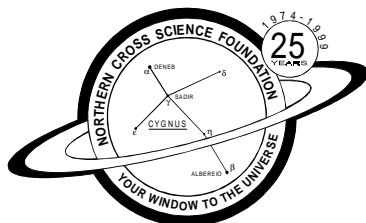
January 1999

LOOKING UP

Jan. 7 Thursday
Astronomy 101
7:00 PM
General Meeting
Telescope Clinic
8:00 PM
Carlson Tool & Mfg.

Jan. 20 Wednesday
Board Of Directors
7:30 PM
Jeff Setzer's House

Feb. 13 Saturday
Ski and Stars
5:00 PM
Pike Lake State Park



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The Northern Cross
Science Foundation

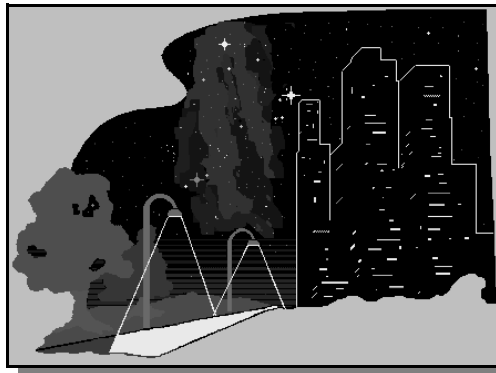
International Dark-Sky Association

By Kevin Bert

The Northern Cross Science Foundation is now a member of the IDA, The International Dark-Sky Association. They have been in existence for over 10 years and have a lot of helpful information regarding what astronomers call light pollution. The following data was taken off of their information sheet number 68. It gives you the basic information about this association. A lot more material can be found on their web-site at <http://www.darksky.org> I will be using some of it from time to time in the Spectrum.

We are losing our heritage of starry night skies. Terrestrial lights shining inefficiently into the night sky threaten to destroy the spectacular views the heavens offer. Even worse, this "light pollution" wastes energy and provides no benefit to society.

City and suburban dwellers today (which is now most of us) have lost sight of most of the universe. The spectacular view of



the sky offered our ancestors on dark, clear nights no longer exists. The outdoor lighting accompanying urban population growth has overwhelmed the stars with its glow. The problem, however, is not the outdoor lighting, but rather the light sent needlessly upward into the night sky. This light pollution provides no

useful benefit, wastes significant amounts of energy, and threatens astronomical research and everyone's enjoyment of the night sky.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), a membership-based non-profit organization, serves the public and astronomy community through information,

(See IDA on page 2)

Supporting Members 1998

By Kevin Bert

A special THANK YOU on behalf of the Northern Cross Science Foundation board members, to all of the NCSF Members who voluntarily pay double the dues to help support the club and it's activities. The Northern Cross would like to recognize the following Supporting Members for 1998. They are.....

Carl Edquist

Bernice Maertz
Harold Rogers

As a reminder to the entire NCSF, 1999 membership dues are due at the January meeting. See Brad Plaumann at the meeting or mail him your dues if you can not attend. This time, consider a Supporting Membership if at all possible.

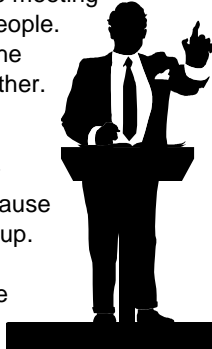
December Minutes

By Kevin Bert

The December meeting of the Northern Cross Science Foundation was held in the conference room of Carlson Tool & Mfg. in Cedarburg. President Jeff Setzer (wearing shorts and sandals) opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. to over 28 people. He blamed his attire on the unseasonably warm weather.

Jeff explained that there would be no elections for new board members because no members terms were up.

Jeff welcomed one of the club's newest members, Jozef Makohon.



Brad Plaumann made available a financial statement for the 1998 checking account. He reminded members that the renewal rate for Astronomy Magazine had gone up to \$29.00. Brad then went over the latest financial transactions. He reminded members that membership dues could be paid after the business meeting or at the January meeting.

Kevin Bert reminded members of the Pick'n Save program and explained that he had not received the special 6 digit number for the club. He said it would be included in the next Spectrum.

He noted that there were no observing sessions scheduled for the public at this time, and said that the board would elect new officers and start to plan for 1999 events. The December 16th board meeting date also was confirmed.

Kevin reflected on the percentage of clear public viewing nights scheduled for 1998 and encouraged members to take advantage of the clubs loaner telescope program as outlined in the last Spectrum.

Kevin welcomed Nolan Zadra and Tim Burrus, new members to the club. He then reported on the progress of the Panarusky 20-inch Telescope. He announced that he would give a tour of Carlson Tool and the telescope after the business meeting.

Jeff recognized Rudy Zarling, founder of the organization who was in attendance and noted that 1999 would be the 25th anniversary of the club. He also recognized Carl Edquist, who was in attendance. Carl was very active in the early years of the club and had founded Carlson Tool and Manufacturing.

The business meeting was closed by Jeff Setzer at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Bert, secretary

(IDA from page 1)

education, and research on outdoor lighting and related issues. IDA is active in sharing knowledge and facilitating communication at the local, national, and international level. While the IDA was organized to preserve dark skies for astronomy and the general public, solutions to the problem of light pollution will promote the best outdoor lighting designs, thus reducing energy use and helping preserve the Earth's natural resources. Visibility impairing glare will also be minimized, resulting in a safer, more secure, and more aesthetically pleasing nighttime environment. Please help us as we work to protect the night sky both for ourselves and for future generations.

Pick'n Save "We Care Program"

By Kevin Bert

It was late in coming, but I now have the club's 6 digit number for the club to get credit when you use your Advantage Plus card. The original information to set up the account was mailed to the wrong address and the automated answering system at Roundys never returned a call to me from the messages I left. I finally was able to speak with someone who was able to clear things up in a few minutes. The number you need is

556190.

The use of the card will start on January 1st. If you have already filled out a form to get a new card, you can return to the service desk to record the change in charitable organization. It

does not require you having to get a new card!



Telescope Clinic for January Meeting

By Kevin Bert

Following the January Astronomy 101 topic and a brief business meeting, a telescope clinic will take place. This had been done on nights other than meeting nights in the past, but will be the clubs main program this month. Members and non-members can bring in their telescopes and equipment in for advice on how to set them up and use them. If you're expe-

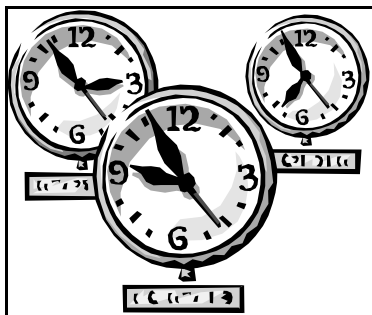
rienced in using a telescope please be willing to help out if needed. You might want to bring some tools in case any adjustments are needed. There will be no special talk or presentation prior to the clinic. Groups will form at the start of the clinic. I believe that members that do not have a telescope will find many of the conversations interesting.

Astronomy 101

By Kevin Bert

The January 101 topic will be "Time" by Kevin Bert. There are several types of time used by astronomers. The one to use depends on the subject and type of work you are doing.

The highlighted constellation will be Ursa Minor.



From The Editor

By Kevin Bert

Happy New Year! We have another exciting year to look forward to. We are getting a lot of new members. The club has over 70 members if all previous members continue their membership. A membership card and roster will be coming in an upcoming issue of spectrum. For those who might not have noticed, this will be the club's 25th anniversary.

Be sure to note the 6 digit number in the We Care program article. Shoppers at any Pick-N Save store can support the club in an easy way.

The lead article this month is about the International Dark-Sky Association.

The NCSF has become a member of this organization. A nice overview on

the IDA is contained in this article.

I am reaching the point where we have covered all the Astronomy 101 topics listed in the original outline. Topics of the Moon and Asteroids remain to be presented. The board's recommendation is to start the process over some time early this year. This will give new members a chance to hear all of the information presented in the classes and give another chance for members to catch a class that they might have missed. An outline of all the classes will be listed in an upcoming Spectrum.

One thing that we have been neglecting the past year are the main programs. Astronomy 101 class had been the main thrust, but the original plan had been to have both. To facilitate in expanding

(See **EDITOR** on page 4)



Welcome New Members

Nolan Zadra from Cedarburg

Tim Burrus from Brookfield

Denise and David Krebs from Fond Du Lac

David, Gregory, and Robert Roland From Cedarburg

Andrea Ferrier from West Bend

Panarusky 20-Inch Telescope

The NCSF would like to send a special thank you to Carl Edquist for his generous donation to the Panarusky 20-Inch Telescope. After the last meeting I was informed that Carl was the anonymous contributor that would match fundraising efforts up to \$2,000. In addition, Carl included an extra \$1,000.

Election Of Officers

At the December 16th board meeting, officers were formally elected. As you can see by the back cover of the Spectrum there were no changes in the positions. All officers were content and comfortable with their position.

1999 Calendars

Brad Plaumann will make available the Kalmbach 1999 calendars at the January meeting. Only 20 have been purchased at this time. They will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. They will be sold at the discount bulk price of \$6.00.

You can simply include it into the total when you pay your membership dues. Another Calendar option is available. This one is from Astronomy Incorporated. Neighbors Of The Sun is the title of one calendar that will be on display at the meeting. Another title is The Birth And Death Of Stars. Price is dependent on the quantity ordered. If there is enough interest, an order will be placed.

Telescopes For Children

Thank you Jeff Setzer for the great presentation you gave on purchasing your first telescope. It was made to over a dozen people at Carlson Tool on December 10th. Skies were clear to view afterwards.

1998 OFFICERS

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our meetings we will be looking for a program chairperson or persons to line up topics and speakers. Please consider this important position. It does not require the work of a board member to be successful. The board will give advice to help as needed. At the next meeting I would like your input on what topics you would like to hear more about for our main programs. Please spend some time thinking about this. I will be handing out a paper for you to respond, at the January Meeting.

FOR SALE

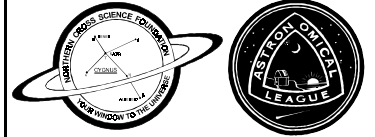
8" f/9 dobsonian. It has an 8x50 finderscope, 2" Low Profile rack and pinion focuser. 2 eyepieces - a 12 Kelner and a 40 Plossl. It's a great planet scope for anybody interested but rather long for a solid tube assembly. Asking \$475.00" See Jeff Setzer.



**Check out our great site
On the World Wide Web
<http://www.gxsc.com/ncsf>**

SPECTRUM

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This Issue, along with back Issues of SPECTRUM, can be found on the NCSF Web Site.

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