

STARRY NIGHTS



April, May, June 2006

Volume 25, Issue 2

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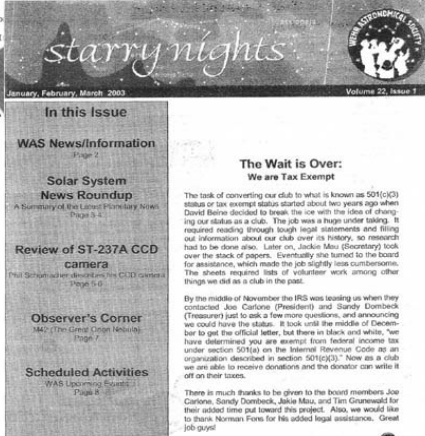
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25 Years of Starry Nights

With the establishment of The Wehr Astronomical Society in 1981, came a newsletter to inform its members of events and news related to the club. Over the years the newsletter has evolved from a letter sent out every two months to our more magazine type quarterly newsletter we call *Starry Nights* today. From the images below you can see how with technology the newsletter's appearance has changed. *Starry Nights* did not become the official name of our publication until the early 90's when it was edited by George Cromos and Dick Adduci. At this time the



newsletter took on its familiar magazine style format. Following George Cromos and Dick Adduci's newsletter followed Dave Stublaski's version of *Starry Nights* in the late 90's until 2000. In 2001, Adam Machajewski took over the formatting and layout of the newsletter and Donna Grunewald took over the proofreading. With the release of the 3rd quarter newsletter in 2003 our newsletter archive began on wehrastr.org, allowing any newsletter from 2001 to the present to be downloaded.



As always this is your newsletter. Articles from the members are always needed and welcome. So, if you have a new piece of equipment to review or brag about, a dark site location to share, or any other amateur or professional astronomical story to share, e-mail it in Microsoft Word format to newslettereditor@wehrastr.org. Thanks to all contributors over the years for your stories and assistance in making it possible. Keep the stories coming for another 25 years.

-Adam Machajewski (Newsletter Editor)



W.A.S. NEWS AND INFORMATION

At the Observatory 2005

Date	Weather	Attendance
Friday, January 14	4°, overcast, then clear	0 people (canceled due to -12° wind chill)
Friday, January 28	29°, overcast then hazy	0 people
Friday, February 11	37°, overcast, then clear	0 people
Friday, February 25	31°, overcast	0 people
Friday, March 4	34°, overcast	0 people
Friday, March 18	34°, overcast	0 people
Friday, April 1	39°, rain	0 people
Friday, April 15	48°, clear!	100 people
Friday, April 29	45°, hazy (cleared up at start time)	0 people
Friday, May 13	57°, hazy then cloudy	0 people
Friday, May 27	55°, mostly cloudy	0 people
Friday, June 10	78°, hazy then partly cloudy	14 people
Friday, June 24	76°, hazy/cloudy	0 people
Friday, July 15	73°, hazy/cloudy to hazy/clear	18 people
Friday, July 29	66°, clear!	25 people
Friday, August 12	76°, mostly cloudy	0 people
Friday, August 26	74°, mostly cloudy	0 people
Friday, September 9	72°, hazy/foggy	15 people
Friday, September 23	60°, overcast	3 people
Friday, October 7	45°, partly cloudy, then clear	4 people
Friday, October 21	47°, mostly cloudy/overcast	0 people
Friday, November 4	50°, overcast	0 people
Friday, November 11	53°, clear with some haze	50 people
Friday, December 2	17°, mostly cloudy/overcast	0 people
Friday, December 9	12°, clear	0 people (canceled due to -4° wind chill)

What a disappointing year! Of all the 25 sessions that were scheduled for 2005, only 9 (36%) were actually viewable, with two of those sessions being too cold. Of those viewable sessions, only about 3 (12%) of the sessions were clear. On the good news side, we lucked out and had a clear night for Astronomy Day on April 15th. Vince Condella of the Fox 6 Weather Team helped us out by promoting our session. We handed out an astronomy quiz and I was amazed at how many people got the answer wrong to the true/false question of "Magnification is the most important specification for a telescope." I guess people really don't listen to the lecture at the beginning of the session. We handed out Milky Way candy bars to everyone who participated in the quiz.

Many of the nights snuck up on us with it clearing up right before the session was supposed to start. Other nights had clear spots between the clouds, but had enough haze or were small enough to not make a session worth while.

Our biggest surprise this year was that the Milwaukee Sports Complex field was still in use. It turns out that the Ironman Football League uses the field every Friday and Saturday evening in the months of August through October. We will be looking at using a different park during this time in 2006.

-Tim Grunewald (Observatory Director)



The W.A.S. Message Board

This is just a reminder that we have a message board on our website. Just go to www.wehastro.org and click on Message Board in the top menu. It is not just an announcement board for the Board Members. The message board is intended for members and non-members to easily communicate with each other.

You can immediately read all postings, but you will need to register to post messages. Registration is easy. Just click on the Register link at the top of the message board page and enter in a user name and password and you are set to post messages. If you have questions, the FAQ (stands for Frequently Asked Questions) link can help you out.

Forums (discussion groups) include Club News, Q & A, Telescopes, Astrophotography, Sightings, Dark Site Observing and Star Parties. If you have an idea for a forum that may be missing from this list, please suggest it to the webmaster, Tim Grunewald.



Astronomy Day, May 5

Astronomy Day is a grass roots movement designed to share the joy of astronomy with the general population - "Bringing Astronomy to the People." On Astronomy Day, thousands of people who have never looked through a telescope will have an opportunity to see first hand what has so many amateur and professional astronomers all excited. Astronomy clubs, science museums, observatories, universities, planetariums, laboratories, libraries, and nature centers host special events and activities to acquaint their population with local astronomical resources and facilities. Many of these events are located at non-astronomical sites; shopping malls, parks, urban centers—truly Bringing Astronomy to the People. It is an astronomical PR event that helps highlight ways the general public can get involved with astronomy - or at least get some of their questions about astronomy answered. Astronomy Week encompasses Astronomy Day starting on the previous Monday and ending on the following Sunday.



More Info at, <http://www.astroleague.org/>

Alternative Observing Field

Oakwood Golf Course has been approved for our use as an observing field. We will use this location when the Ironman Football League is using the Milwaukee County Sports Complex in the fall. The main issues with Oakwood Golf Course are there is a locked gate, there is no electricity and there is development toward the east. We can deal without the electric power as we do this anyway when we don't use the observatory. I am currently working on getting a key for the gate. As for the development toward the east, we will have to see what it looks like once it is completed. Since there are a bunch of trees that line the perimeter, we should be safe from any direct light. So this would make it similar to observing in a backyard, since the new develop-



ment is fairly close by. This shouldn't be a problem as I observe in my backyard and the skies are similar to Froemming Park. Other things that I am working on are access to the restrooms and the building lights if we need to turn them off.

More information and images available at www.wehastro.org/Parks/daytime/OakwoodGolfCourse/index.html

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-Tim Grunewald (Observatory Director)



SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

FOR

THE WEHR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.wehrastr.org>

REGULAR MEETINGS

(FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)



April 11, 2006

Wehr Nature Center

Presentation by physics professor, Dr. Joe Obi Otu from the University of Wisconsin.



May 9, 2006

Wehr Nature Center

TBA, see www.wehrastr.org



June 13, 2006

No meeting planned

OBSERVATORY ACTIVITIES

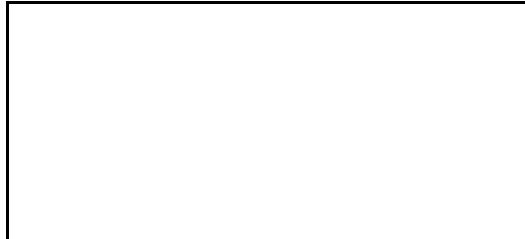
(FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

April 7	8:30	Observing the moon and deep sky objects. See a gibbous moon and the brighter deep sky objects. See Saturn and Mars.
April 21	9:00	Deep sky observing. Locate Hydra, the Water Snake. See Saturn and Mars.
May 5	9:30	Observing the moon and deep sky objects. Celebrate Astronomy Day. See a 1st quarter moon the brighter deep sky objects. See Jupiter (closest to Earth on May 6th) (GRA transit at 10:47pm) Saturn and Mars.
May 19	9:30	Deep sky observing. Locate Bootes, the Herdsman. See Jupiter (GRS transit at 12:16 am), Saturn and Mars.
June		No scheduled sessions for June

Note: All observatory dates fall on a Friday, and are held at Froemming Park, on 51st Street between Ryan Rd. and Puetz Rd.



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Wehr Astronomical Society

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Contact a board member if you are interested in a position.

Starrynights

**The official newsletter of the Wehr
Astronomical Society.**

We are a group of amateur astronomers organized to promote the study of astronomy and further public and members' interest in astronomy. We have been serving the Milwaukee area since 1981 and welcome the public to our meetings. Our aim is to give guidance and information to those who want help in the pursuit of stargazing.

Back issues of starrynights can be requested or downloaded from our website at: www.wehrastro.org