



## 1972 ASTRONOMICAL NEWSLETTER

### MADISON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INC.

No special preparation is needed to join the Society. The only requirement is a genuine interest in all phases of astronomical observation and study.

The Society meets once a month between September and June on the second Friday of each month. Meetings are held at the Luther Memorial Church, located at 1021 University Avenue. They are conducted in the recreation room, which is in the basement of the church. Two highlights of the Society's season are the annual banquet and the spring picnic at Pine Bluff Observatory.

Annual dues to the Society are as follows:

Student Membership	\$ 5.00
General Membership*	\$ 5.00
Observing Membership	\$10.00
Sustaining Membership	\$15.00
Patron Membership	\$25.00 (and up)

\* This membership classification, unlike others, is not entitled to use of the Society's telescope. This instrument is located at the rear of Bjorksten Research Laboratories on Fish Hatchery Road.

#### 1971 - 1972 PROGRAM

December 10	Film presentation: "The Universe from Palomar" Hostesses: Doris Koster and June Franktin
January 14	To be announced Host: Mr. and Mrs. David Caulkins
February 11	To be announced Host: Mr. and Mrs. Roger Balliette
March 10	To be announced Host: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baillie
April 21	Banquet at Nino's in the Nakoma Plaza Speaker: Dr. Donald Osterbrook, Dept. of Astronomy
May 12	To be announced Host: Mr. and Mrs. Jon Buschke
June 9	Picnic at Pine Bluff Observatory

#### OFFICERS

President: Dr. Helmut F. Prah1, 271-4567  
Vice-Pres: Mr. Arthur Koster, 271-6770  
Secretary: Mr. Roger Balliette, 222-6642  
Treasurer: Mr. Jon Buschke, 271-8020

The members of the Society are people representing a wide variety of interests: business men, state employees, professionals, retired "young men and women", teachers, housewives, and students from both college and high school circles.

*No special preparation is needed to join it's ranks.* The only requirement is a genuine interest in all phases of astronomical observation and study. The annual fee is \$2.00 a year per family. The Society encourages the cooperation of its members but never requires it officially.

The members of the Board of Directors are seven in number : president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and three directors. The Society also has several standing committees whose function is to expedite business and social matters with minimum impositions on the members of the group.

The Society meets once a month between September and June on the second Friday of the month. The meetings are held at 8:00 p. m., either at 6515 Sterling Hall (under the auspices of the University of Wisconsin's Astronomy Department), or at the Oscar Mayer Observatory, the Society's official residence, located at the Fitchburg Research Park (Bjorksten Laboratories), on the Fish Hatchery Road.

Two highlights of the Society's activities are the yearly banquet in the spring and the annual picnic in June. The regular programs include formal lectures by experts, viewing and discussion of films, and informal talks and reports by the Society's members. Of particular importance are the star parties held at private homes or at the Oscar Mayer Observatory for the purpose of observing or instructing new members and visitors in the use of astronomical equipment.

The society now operates a 6 inch clockdriven reflector, a variable frequency oscillator, three astrocameras (7 inch, 12 inch and 24 inch focal length), five apogee instruments (SAO Moonwatch), and timing equipment.

Among the Society's plans for the immediate future are the installation of a four and one-half inch refractor donated by the Oscar Mayer Company, and the erection of a ten inch reflector and mount. The Society also owns one 6 inch and two 10 inch mirrors, which will become part of the equipment to be used by members on a loan basis.

The Society has grown into a double group of amateur astronomers -- the Junior and Senior Divisions.

#### JUNIOR DIVISION

The Junior Division, composed of enterprising young "astronomers" of high school age, has functioned under the guidance of Mr. Edward P. Baillie, senior member advisor. It meets regularly and schedules its own special activities. Among these have been the publication of a mimeographed bulletin, Star Trails, the drawing up of questionnaires on astronomical matters, and the organization of educational programs to provide school children from the fourth through the eighth grades with an opportunity to observe the skies

#### SENIOR DIVISION

Among its outstanding activities are the preparation of timely articles for local newspapers and the tracking of visible satellites. The team predicted on the UW extra fast CDC 1604 computer many visible passes; it also developed techniques for photographing satellites down to 8th magnitude (astrophotography projects, 1961-62). Several of its members own professional or semi-professional telescopes and at least two have their own private observatories.

*How To Reach The Oscar Mayer Observatory (M. A. S., Incorporated)*

1. Go to Park Street
2. Follow Fitchburg Street and Fish Hatchery Road
3. Turn left at the Bjorksten property

Our meetings are open to the public. All people -- young and not-so-young -- are invited to join! For information on membership, call the Society's president: