



Capitol Skies

The Newsletter of the Madison Astronomical Society

Moon Over Monona Terrace Event October 15

MAS first hosted this event with the Monona Terrace Convention Center in September of 1999. This year will be our 12th Moon Over Monona Terrace event, and though we have been weathered out a few times, this annual fall event has become the cornerstone of MAS's public outreach activities. I hope all MAS members will consider joining us this October 15 (16th rain date). No need to have a telescope or binoculars - just plan to come out and share your love of astronomy with the public on the beautiful rooftop gardens with the illuminated backdrop of downtown Madison providing ambiance.

Crowd estimates for past events have been in the range

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of 400 to 600 people so we encourage members to show up in force. Monona Terrace promotes the event themselves, in their own brochures and in the newspapers. This year presents two excellent observing targets - an eight day moon and Jupiter, both in the south-southeast skies.

Members not bringing equipment will be needed as well to answer questions, take care of hand-out material and generally assist. This will be a happy, enjoyable outing in one of Madison's most spectacular settings, talking with a curious and enthusiastic public about our passion for astronomy.

We can start setting up as early as 5:30 p.m. Members bringing equipment may use the loading dock located on the northeast end of the Convention Center. The drive-up entrance to the loading dock is at the traffic lights on John Nolan Drive just to the northeast of the Monona Terrace parking ramp tunnel. When turning from John Nolan Drive at the traffic light intersection make an immedi-

ate hard right turn. The dock will be in plain sight. Members may use the large cargo carts in the dock area to transport their equipment to the rooftop by way of the service elevator which is also located right in the dock area.

It's easily our most enjoyable event of the year.

The event has been promoted to begin at 7 p.m. and members of the public usually begin to arrive right on time. Space Place educator Kay Kriewald will be doing a family oriented activity starting on the rooftop around 6:30, while observers are setting up their equipment and greeting the public. The announced concluding time for Moon Over Monona Terrace is 9:30 p.m. The last stragglers should be packed and gone by shortly thereafter. If there are no other large events that interfere, MAS members will be allowed to leave their cars in the loading dock area for the evening. If this is not possible, we'll have to revert to paid parking in the Monona Terrace lot. If weather is inclement a mutual go/no-go decision will be made at 4 p.m. by MAS

and Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center. The weather decision can be checked by calling the Monona Terrace events number 261-4042, or John Rummel at 698-5977. Should the event be canceled due to clouds or high winds (the Monona Terrace rooftop can get really, really windy), the following evening, Saturday, October 16th, has been announced as the weather date. The same weather announcement procedure will be used.

We hope to see you all at Moon Over Monona. It's easily our most enjoyable event of the year.



What: 12th annual Moon over Monona Event

Where: Rooftop gardens, Monona Terrace Convention Center

When: October 15 (rain date Oct 16)

From the President's Desk

by John Rummel

The past several months have been busy for many MAS observers. We've had several well-attended star parties at YRS over the summer as well as two wonderful public events at Donald Park, a Dane County park southwest of Verona.



On July 17 the Friends of Donald Park (FODP) invited us to put on a star party for their members. MAS Vice-President Chris Zeltner had originally floated the idea of a star party at this location while chatting with a friend of hers who happened to be on the FODP board. A few conversations later, we had a date and plan for this first star party.

This was exciting news for me.

Back in 2003, several friends and I spent a summer observing the dark skies from this location while the park was still under construction. The site has beautiful southern exposure with a copse of trees to the north, helping to shield observers from the light dome of Madison and Verona. The last seven years have only improved the situation. Donald Park looks like a park that was designed by an amateur sky gazer. The site boasts a small shelter, a restroom facility, and a nice parking lot. The hillside slopes in the correct direction and there's ample room for observers to spread a blanket or unfold a lawn chair, build a fire in one of the pits and roast some marshmallows. Between our spreading the word and the FODP advertising, we drew between 75 and 100 people



that night, including many families with children.

We were back at Donald Park on August 12 for the Perseid meteor shower. This evening was a spectacular success. The crowd was difficult to estimate as darkness fell and people continued to stream in but we pegged the number at around 200 early, with perhaps 30 or 40 staying into the wee hours of Friday morning observing a spectacular Perseid display. It was truly a magical night.

The FODP have expressed interest in having us back. Given our experiences there this summer, I have told them we'd be happy to oblige. I envision us creating one or two yearly events with them to bookend our fall Moon Over Monona event. Possible events include a seasonal winter event combined with a campfire and weenie roast, and a spring event as well. We'll see what develops.

To keep you abreast of MAS happenings, I will send out periodic news updates via e-mail. If you're not getting these, please make sure that treasurer Dan Strome has your correct e-mail address. We also hope to publish a newsletter at least four times per year, but to do so, we need to hear from you. Have you read a good astronomy book lately? Tell us about it (write a review). Did you attend an interesting talk? Write about it. Have you been experiencing challenges in your observing of the night sky? Write about them and invite your fellow MAS members to share how they confront such challenges.

I'll see you at Moon over Monona.



From the Observatory Director

by Mark Hanson

The Madison Astronomical Society Board of Directors have approved the demolition of the KMO. A demolition date has not yet been determined. There will be an opportunity for club members to salvage building materials from this removal project. The building material can be reused and recycled, lessening the impact on our environment.



with a built in steel ring roof support. The entire building is supported by wood posts sunk into the ground and spaced four feet apart. The whole building could be lifted by crane and transported on a flatbed truck to a new location. The building could be used as a roll-off roof observatory, a dome support structure or a nice work shed. It would work best to relocate the structure to a concrete pad.

When the demolition is complete only the concrete pier will remain with electricity to the pier. The height of the pier would allow for easy mounting and viewing. This site could be used with a little modification for a new club telescope or temporary use by members for their larger observatory class telescopes. There have been discussions about cutting down the pines directly to the south of the site.

The steel dome is in the worst shape and has only salvage value for the metal. It would be best not to try and reuse it for another project.

If there are no takers for the whole building it will be demolished and hauled away in a dumpster. The most salvageable parts are the door and two windows. There is a very nice push button lock system on the door. The building was constructed on a wood deck made of treated lumber. The deck could easily be saved for a member to reuse. The aluminum siding could be stripped off and the insulation removed to recycle the metal for cash.

The fate of the KMO telescope has not yet been decided by the MAS Board. Currently, the telescope and mount are housed inside the clubhouse. The telescope is a 16" f/19 Classical Cassegrain. It is a very heavy telescope and fork with a full thickness primary mirror. The mirrors are in surprisingly good shape considering the total lack of upkeep inside the KMO. There are no plans for MAS to restore or reuse the KMO telescope.

The observatory is a 12' x12' wood frame building. The building is structurally sound

Notes from the Treasurer

by Dan Strome

Welcome to new member Rita Hampton, who joined in July.

* * *

Thanks to all those members who have sent in their dues checks (42 out of about 74). It is not too late to get your dues in.

* * *

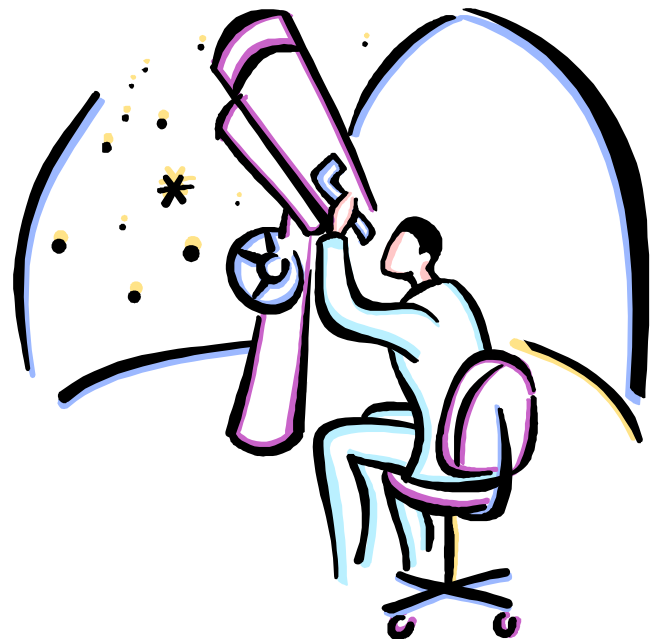
If you did not get a dues statement, email me (djstrome@gmail.com) and I will send you one. (74 statements went out at the end of August.)

* * *

Sometime in the next 6-8 weeks the subscriptions for *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy* magazines will be sent in as group purchases. After that, you will have to renew directly with the publishers.

* * *

The budget for 2010-2011 will be started in October, so it would be good to know how many members we will have for the coming year.



Have a submission for Capital Skies? Send it to kurtisjr@tds.net. Microsoft Word documents work best. Please proofread your submission as thoroughly as possible before submitting.

PROPOSED UPDATE TO MAS BY-LAWS

Below is a proposed update of the MAS by-laws. According to Article IX of the current by-laws, any changes must be approved by a vote of the general assembly, provided that a copy of the proposed changes have been distributed to members at least a month prior to the meeting where the ratification vote is to take place. A copy of the current club by-laws can be found at: http://www.madisonastro.org/documents/documents_index.html

MADISON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Name:

The name of this association shall be Madison Astronomical Society, Inc. a non-profit corporation. The Society is herein referred to as the Society.

ARTICLE II

Purpose:

The purpose of the Society shall be to promote an appreciation of astronomy, to engage in educational activities among amateur astronomers and between amateur astronomers and the public and to promote an understanding and appreciation of astronomy within the public forum. The Society now has and shall maintain its astronomical dark sky site for a variety of astronomical activities..

ARTICLE III

Section I:

Membership:

Each membership shall have one vote at a regular or special meeting of the general assembly. The membership of the Society shall be classified in the following way:

General Membership: Any person or family who has paid the annual dues for this class of membership to the Treasurer shall become a General Member, having one vote per membership.

Student Membership: Any university, technical or high school student under the age of 25 years who has paid the annual dues for this class of membership to the Treasurer shall become a Student Member.

Observing Membership: A General or Student Member shall become an Observing Member upon payment of Observing Dues. Any member who has paid the additional annual fee to the Treasurer shall have the privilege of using the observing facilities operated by the Society. Such privilege shall be conditional on receiving instruction in proper use of the facilities. The Board of Directors shall have authority to establish the scope of these privileges.

Lifetime Honorary Membership: A member whose dedication and devotion has extended over a period of years and who has contributed a work of major significance worth extraordinary recognition may be given a Lifetime Honorary Membership by a majority vote of the General Assembly. Such membership shall be equivalent to an Observing Membership. Such members shall not be liable for payment of dues nor be eligible for any office. If such a member wishes to run for office, that member shall retain Lifetime Honorary Membership and additionally fulfill requirements for a General Membership.

Patron Membership: The Board of Directors shall have the authority to set up special classes of membership for people or corporations that make special contributions to the Society that are above the monetary fee for any of the above membership classes.

Section II

Annual Dues and Fees shall be determined by majority vote of the board of directors, subject to ratification of the general assembly.

ARTICLE IV

The Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Observatory Director and two (2) Directors at Large. All eligible candidates shall be selected from members who have paid their dues. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have one vote at Board meetings. A quorum for a meeting of the board of directors is five (5) members present.

Further, the Board of Directors:

- * Shall hold planning sessions with heads of committees for organizational purposes;
- * Shall have authority to suspend the membership privileges of any member because of misconduct at the observing facilities or at the activities of the Society until such suspension is acted upon in a timely manner by the General Assembly;
- * Shall have the authority to spend up to \$1000 without the consent of the general assembly;

Section I

The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.

Section II

Method of Election of the Board of Directors.

Each membership shall have one vote at the Society's Annual meeting to elect its Board of Directors. Voting shall be by either voice vote or ballot. For the election to be valid, a quorum must be present (see Article VII).

Section III

Vacancies occurring between elections shall be filled by special election at the regular meeting following the meeting at which the resig-

nation or withdrawal is announced. Duties of the office meanwhile reside with the President, or otherwise, at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section IV

Members of the Board of Directors may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE V

Duties of the Directors

Section I: President:

The President shall preside at all business meetings and be Chairperson of the Board of Directors. Shall call extra board meetings as required, preside at the Society's general assembly meetings, make appointments to committees and be ex-officio member of the committees.

Section II: Vice-President:

The Vice-President shall preside in the absence or inability of the President to preside and perform other duties normally required by the office of the Vice-President.

Section III: Secretary:

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors, maintain possession of copies of the Articles of Incorporation, and the Society's By-Laws and minutes of other meetings as appropriate. Upon leaving office, the Secretary shall transfer these documents to the incoming secretary.

Section IV: Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall keep an account of all financial transactions of the Society, receive and accept dues money from members, maintain an up-to-date roster of members, account for bank receipts properly and pay the bills justly accrued by the Society. The Treasurer shall be the Registered Agent to the Secretary of State of the

Continued on page 5

State of Wisconsin, be responsible for all forms and documents required to be filed with the local, state and federal governments and see that the forms are filed in accordance with government regulations. Upon leaving office, the Treasurer shall transfer these documents and other accoutrements of the office to the incoming Treasurer.

Section V: Observatory Director:

The Observatory Director shall oversee the use and maintenance of all facilities and equipment owned and operated by the Society as directed by the Board of Directors and guarantee fair use of the facilities and equipment to members as Directed by the Observatory Rules. The Observatory Director shall have the authority to suspend observing privileges until such suspension is acted upon by the Board of Directors no later than their next meeting following notification of the suspension.

Section VI: Directors at Large:

The Directors at Large shall assist in the general supervision of the affairs of the Society.

ARTICLE VI

Committees and Operational Appointments:

Ad Hoc committees:

Ad Hoc committees may be appointed by the President as necessary for the purpose of considering special topics, performing specific tasks and reporting to the general assembly.

Nominating Committee:

A nominating committee of three members shall prepare a slate of candidates for elected offices who are willing to run for election at the Annual Meeting of the Society. The slate shall be presented to the general assembly approximately one month prior to the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings:

Meetings of the general assembly shall be held monthly unless canceled by the Board of Directors.

Quorums:

A quorum for regular and special meetings shall be no less than 15 % of the membership, of which at least three (3) are members of the Board of Directors.

Meetings of the board of Directors shall be held as required for the fulfillment of its obligations to the Society and in accordance with State of Wisconsin Non-Stock Non-Profit Corporation requirements. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have one vote at Board meetings. Decisions made by the Board to be valid shall require a quorum of five (5) members to be present at such board meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments:

The by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of a quorum of the general assembly provided that the proposed amendment is published and sent to all members one month prior to the meeting at which the action is taken.

Parliamentary Authority:

The rules in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and any rules of order the Society may adopt.

ARTICLE IX

Observatory Endowment Fund:

The Madison Astronomical Society, Inc., has established upon vote of the membership a fund as set out below, to be called the Observatory Endowment Fund. This fund shall consist of amounts donated to the Madison Astronomical Society, Inc., or otherwise set aside by the Board of Directors or the membership for the maintenance and improvement of the facilities of the Madison Astronomical Society, Inc. The corpus of this fund, once established, shall not be used or otherwise invaded, except on approval by three quarters of the general assembly entitled to vote at a general or special meeting of the

membership and where notice of the consideration of the proposal to invade the corpus at the meeting has been given in writing at least one month in advance to all members currently in good standing.

The Madison Astronomical Society, Inc. may elect to use the income generated by the amounts contained in such a fund in the following manner: After interest has been accrued and been paid to the Madison Astronomical Society, Inc. for the immediate past fiscal year, the Board of Directors shall consider the possible use of the interest or other income from the prior fiscal year. The Board of Directors shall determine the present expected inflation rate from the then current Consumer Price Index. The Board of Directors shall then determine the use of the interest or other income earned by the fund in the previous fiscal year, applying such amounts in the following order:

For operating expenses currently due and owing or reasonably projected for the following fiscal year to the extent those expenses cannot be allocated from the dues reasonably projected for the upcoming fiscal year. Operating expenses shall be defined as all expenses reasonably incurred for Insurance and Utility charges for operating the Madison Astronomical Society, Inc. facilities;
To pursue reasonable efforts to preserve the amount of the fund at an amount at least equal to the amount of the corpus of the fund at the start of the prior fiscal year after accounting for the present expected inflation rate as determined by the Board of Directors;
For Capital Improvement to the facilities of the Madison Astronomical Society, Inc. ;
For Materials or Equipment to maintain or improve the facilities of the Madison Astronomical Society, Inc.

The Board of Directors shall report its recommendations to the membership at the next available regular or special meeting of the membership, who will vote on the approval of the Board's recommendations. If the Board's recommendations are

not approved, the matter shall be referred to the Board of Directors until a set of recommendations are submitted to the general assembly which is approved by the general assembly.

The amounts held in the fund shall be held in an account or accounts which are separately administered by the Board of Directors and officers.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these by-laws, this fund shall not be used to carry on any activities not permitted to be carried out by a corporation (a) exempt from the Federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) contributions to which are deductible under Sections 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Dates of Modification and Approval:

These by-laws were amended by vote of the general assembly of the Madison Astronomical Society, Inc. on Friday September 13, 1985.

Article XI was added December 12, 1986 by vote of the general assembly of the Madison Astronomical Society, Inc.

These by-laws were amended, restated, codified and approved by the general assembly of the Madison Astronomical Society, Inc. on January 12, 2001.

The by laws were modified to change the date of the annual banquet to March. This amendment was ratified by the general assembly at the January 9, 2004.

These by-laws were amended, restated (including renumbering of several Articles), codified and approved by the general assembly of the Madison Astronomical Society, Inc. [this modification to be dated upon ratification by the general assembly]



Capitol Skies
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First Class

MAS would like to thank
www.netwurx.net
for hosting our web presence



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Madison Astronomical Society members are active in sharing the pleasures of astronomy with the public, acting as a resource for students and teachers, and exchanging information at Society meetings which occur monthly. The Society continues to pursue its original goal to "promote the science of astronomy and to educate the public in the wonders of the universe." For more information about the Society, please contact one of the officers listed at left or visit us on the web at:

www.madisonastro.org

MAS Membership Form

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Please circle membership type:

Student (\$5.00)

Regular (\$30.00)

Observing (\$70.00)

*Enclose check and make payable to
the Madison Astronomical Society.*

*Mail to MAS, 502 Walton Place,
Madison, WI 53704*