

Club News:

This is the first addition of the Newstar Newsletter. The intent of this document is to allow people to keep up on club activities and general topics of astronomical interest and is available to anyone that wants to receive it. It is in PDF format so that photos, maps etc can be included in the future. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please send any additions to [Nate Jones](#).

Upcoming Club Events:

Group Observing night planned for February 16th at Ertl Road.

Weather and wind permitting, February 16th will be the first group observing session scheduled to be held on Ertl Road, east of the High Cliff State Park in Sherwood. The site has no restroom facilities near it, but offers good sky horizons and few nearby ground lights. It is probably the best "dark sky" site we can hope for that is near the Fox Cities area.

The road enters the High Cliff State Park, and to use the road, a Wisconsin Park sticker is required, (available and usable at any state park facility for the entire year).

Directions to the Ertl Road site will be posted in the files section of the newsgroup. It is fairly simple though. Ertl Road is where highway 55 and county S intersect east of the state park. County S runs off to the east and Ertl Road goes west from that intersection. Turn onto Ertl Road and drive approximately 2/10ths of a mile west, then turn north. The observing area is another 3/10ths of a mile in a cul du sac.

Scope setup is scheduled from 7:00 o 8:00 PM. If you arrive after this time, please use parking lights only on the last section of Ertl Road and use caution not to run down anybody or their scopes.

-Jim W-

Monthly club meeting at UWFV, February 21st.

The featured presentation this month will be "Refurbishing Telescopes", presented by by Jerry Kocken.

Club business to discuss:

- Selling the club's Edmund 8" newt
- Website ideas?
- Telemark and Driftless Zone star parties.
- Bills paid

-Jim W-

Astronomical News:

Saturn at Opposition.

Saturn will be in opposition around February 10th.

-Jim W-

Driftless Zone Star Party, March 16th -17th

A first ever star party is brewing for March 16th and 17th. This is the "Driftless Zone Star Party near... It doesn't look like it's really near anything which is good! Actually it's west of Milwaukee near the Iowa boarder. The hosting group got together to find the darkest site in the Midwest. This is their first attempt to hold a star party there and are limiting the attendance to 30 people. It looks very interesting. Be sure to check out their website for more details, <http://www.dzsp.org/>

-Jim W-

Bright Meteor over Wisconsin.

A bright Leonid meteor was seen by many including a couple of club members on February 15th about 7:10pm. It was reported to be seen from Milwaukee all the way north of Green Bay. I couldn't find much more details other than it appeared green in color and broke up leaving a trail.

-Jim W-

Observing Contributions:**Observing Challenge**

On Sunday, March 3rd, The moon will rise during a total eclipse. We in the central part of the US will see the last half of the event. But, have you ever seen a really 'young' new moon? You have a good chance next month! New moon is at 8:43PM *cst* on Sunday, March 18th. At 30 minutes past sundown, 6:29PM *cst* Monday, March 19th, the moon will be just over 20 hours 'young'. In the Appleton area it will be 7° above the horizon and just 2° north of due west. It should be a fairly easy target in binocs or a telescope and possible even visible to the bare eye. The youngest moon I have seen was at 19 hours. It was oh so faint and slim! I was living in Florida at the time. As I recall, it was located in a scope and then seen without aid.

QUOTE: "At any age under 24 hours the Moon is breathtakingly thin and barely brighter than the sky around it. At 18 hours it is quite difficult to see even with binoculars and in near perfect conditions." The Astronomical Calendar 2007

Note: Since the earlier change to 'Summer' time will cause some confusion this year - you will have to do a manual on your computer and a lot of other things - I have used *cst!*

-Bob Peterson-

New Equipment Reviews:**Canon Image Stabilized Binoculars**

Recently I wanted to pick up a pair of cheap binoculars for birding with Terri. She has a nice set of 8X42 Nikons. I wanted to check out IS (Image Stabilized) binos and ordered a set of Canon 10X30s. The optics weren't the best, but I was really impressed with the image stabilization. I took them out at night and turned them on Orion. IS is really cool, it's like viewing with a tripod, just rock steady. Well, I ended up returning the 10X30's and picked up their 10X42 "L" series IS binos. The optics are on a par with Terri's Nikons, have a little more magnification, and the IS difference is dramatic to say the least. Just tonight, looking at Venus, it was a wiggly line without IS, when I turned it on, it settled down to a smooth, easy view. If anyone is looking for small binos for birding or light duty astro, I'd definitely recommend looking into IS binos.

-Jim W-

Equipment for Sale:**The club's 8" fork mounted Newt**

One of the club telescopes is an Edmund Scientific 8" Newt that is fork mounted. This scope is probably not the best choice for new users. At the next club meeting we'll discuss its disposition.

-Jim W-