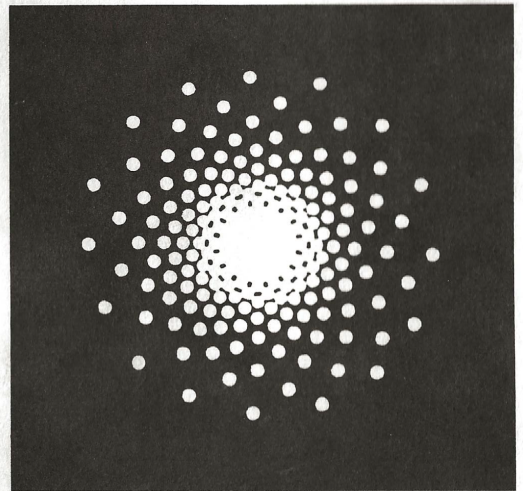


44th Annual Convention
North Central Region
of the
Astronomical League

April 28, 1990
Yahara Center
Madison, Wisconsin

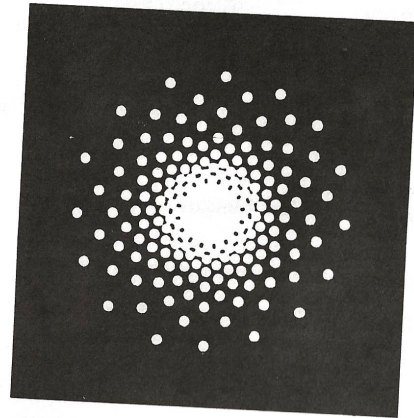




Organizations of the North Central Region

3-M Astronomical Society	Afton MN
Amateur Astronomers of Aurora	Aurora IL
Astronomical Society of Univ. of Illinois	Urbana IL
Cedar Amateur Astronomers	Cedar Rapids IA
Central Illinois Astronomical Association	Alexander IL
Chicago Astronomical Society	Chicago IL
Delta Astronomical Society	Escanaba MI
Des Moines Astronomical Society	Des Moines IA
Fox Valley Astronomical Society	St. Charles IL
Fox Valley Skywatchers	Sleepy Hollow IL
La Crosse Area Astronomical Society	La Crosse WI
Madison Astronomical Society	Madison WI
Marquette Astronomical Society	Marquette MI
Milwaukee Astronomical Society	Milwaukee WI
Minnesota Astronomical Society	St. Paul MN
Moorhead-Fargo Astronomy Club	Fargo ND
Naperville Astronomical Association	Naperville IL
Neville Museum Astronomical Society	Green Bay WI
Northeast Wisconsin Stargazers	Menasha WI
Northern Cross Science Foundation	Port Wash. WI
Northwest Suburban Astronomers	Hoffman Est. IL
Peoria Astronomical Society	Peoria IL
Popular Astronomy Club	Silvis IL
Quad-Cities Astronomical Society	Davenport IA
Quincy Astronomical Society	Quincy IL
Racine Astronomical Society	Racine WI
Rock Valley Astronomers	Beloit WI
Rockford Amateur Astronomers	Rockford IL
Sheboygan Astronomical Society	Sheboygan WI
Skokie Valley Astronomers	Glenview IL
Southeastern Iowa Astronomy Club	Burlington IA
Springfield Astronomical Society	Springfield IL
Twin City Amateur Astronomers	Carlock IL
Wehr Astronomical Society	Greendale WI

The 44th Annual Convention of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League



Hosted by
The Madison
Astronomical Society
April 28, 1990
Madison, WI

North Central Region Officers

Chairman Dan Koehler
Milwaukee Astronomical Society

Vice-Chairman Marion Bachtell
Southeastern Iowa Astronomy Club

*Secretary-
Treasurer* Richard Wend
Racine Astronomical Society

*Regional
Representative* Larry Jahn
Naperville Astronomical Association

The Astronomical League

is a nonprofit federation of astronomical societies. Its mission is to promote the science of astronomy, to encourage and coordinate activities of amateur astronomical societies, to foster observational and computational work and craftsmanship, to provide a medium for correlating amateur activities with professional research.

Door prizes courtesy of Meade Instruments and Questar Corporation.

April 27, 1990

Dear Friends,

It's a pleasure to welcome you to Madison on behalf of the Madison Astronomical Society. It's our pleasure to host the 44th Annual Convention of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League.

We have an exciting convention planned and hope it will be rewarding for you.

We invite you to attend the observing sessions, see our wonderful facility and share in the beauty of the skies enhanced by the glorious darkness at the site.

I want to thank Doris Koster and her committee for all of their hard work to make this convention enjoyable for all.

Sincerely,

David D. Weier
David D. Weier
President

Program Notes

- ★ *Door prizes will be drawn throughout the Convention.*
- ★ *Be sure to vote for your favorite photograph or artwork.*
- ★ *Don't miss the flea market.*
- ★ *Please do not smoke in the public rooms.*

Activities of the 44th Annual Convention

Friday, April 27, 1990

7:30 pm **Observatory Open House**
 Carl Fosmark Jr. Memorial Observatory (CFO) at
 Yanna Research Station

Saturday, April 28, 1990

8:00 am **Registration Desk opens.**
 Set up displays.

9:00 am **Welcome**
 Doris Koster, *Convention Chair*
 Dan Koehler, *NCRAL Chairman*
 Jane Breun, *Paper Chair*

9:20 am **Keynote Address:**
**"The Past and Future of Space Astronomy at
 the University of Wisconsin-Madison"**
 Lowell Doherty, Ph.D.
*Professor of Astronomy,
 University of Wisconsin-Madison*

10:20 am **Group Photograph**

10:30 am **Morning Break**

10:50 am **PAPER SESSION # 1**

"The Great Debate Resolved"
 Larry Jahn
Naperville Astronomical Association

"TLP Phenomena"
 David O. Darling
Madison Astronomical Society

12:00 pm **Lunch**

1:00 pm **Regional Council Meeting**

1:20 pm **Regional Business Meeting**

1:45 pm **PAPER SESSION # 2**

"1991 Regional Convention at Green Bay"
 George McCourt
Neville Museum Astronomical Society

**"Looking for Celestial Needles in a Terrestrial
 Haystack"**

Daniel L. Koehler
Milwaukee Astronomical Society

"The Rings of Saturn -- A Closeup"

Gerry Samolyk
Milwaukee Astronomical Society

3:00 pm

Afternoon Break

3:30 pm

Voting Closes in Photo and Art Contest.

3:30 pm

PAPER SESSION # 3

"Jupiter, Mars, Saturn"

Steve Mofle
Neville Museum Astronomical Society

"Solar System Video"

Daniel P. Joyce
Chicago Astronomical Society

"Observing Mars in '90"

Daniel M. Troiani
*Assistant Mars Recorder
 Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers*

5:00 pm

**Award Presentation:
 Photography and Art Contest**

Group photos available at Registration Desk.

6:00 pm

**Banquet and Address:
 "Chaos and Order in the Interstellar Medium"**

John Mathis, Ph.D.
*Professor of Astronomy,
 University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Observatory Open House

Carl Fosmark Jr. Memorial Observatory (CFO) at
 Yanna Research Station

Car pool to the Observatory will be arranged following the banquet.

Guest Speakers

Lowell Doherty

Our keynote speaker, Lowell Doherty, Ph.D., became interested in astronomy when he was a high school student in San Diego, CA. He built a small telescope using a surplus WW II, 3½" mirror, which he bought from Edmund's Salvage. At UCLA Lowell was one of the first students to graduate in a merged physics-astronomy major. During graduate school at the University of Michigan, he analyzed the spectrum from flashes of light produced in the laboratory by hot gases in shock tubes. These spectra are similar to those from star light.

Next, he spent six years at Harvard on a post-doctoral fellowship and taught before coming to UW-Madison in 1963. Over the years he has continued to study the atmospheres of stars, with occasional forays into solar research. While most of his attention is now devoted to theoretical matters, Lowell says he remains tuned in to which stars are visible as the seasons progress.

John Mathis

Our banquet speaker, John Mathis, Ph.D., was an undergraduate majoring in physics at MIT when he became interested in astronomy. During graduate studies at Cal Tech, his areas of interest were interstellar matter and the composition of the Orion nebula. After receiving a post-doctoral fellowship, he continued his research at the University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory. He taught at Michigan State before joining the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1959.

To his areas of expertise, he added interstellar dust, the chemical composition of other galaxies and the structure of stars. John admits he used to spend more time observing the stars, until the bitter cold Wisconsin winters convinced him that concentrating on theory might be more comfortable, a sensible conclusion for one who was born and raised in Dallas. He's confident that the Hubble Space Telescope will allow astronomers to peer even deeper into interstellar dust clouds and to discover more-distant nebulae and different kinds of stars.

North Central Region Chairmen

1947-49	Dr. C. M. Huffer	Madison WI
1949-51	Ralph N. Buckstaff	Oshkosh WI
1951-52	Edward A. Halbach	Milwaukee WI
1952-54	Joseph A. Anderer	Chicago IL
1954-55	Herbert W. Cornell	Milwaukee WI
1955-56	Roy L. Dodd	Milwaukee WI
1956-59	Harold B. Porterfield	Madison WI
1959-61	George Kocher	Urbana IL
1961-63	Homer DaBoll	Argonne IL
1963-66	Richard Wend	Chicago IL
1966-69	Rollin P. VanZandt	Peoria IL
1969-71	Roger Kolman	Chicago IL
1971-73	Charles J. Thompson	Argonne IL
1973-75	James H. Fox	St. Paul MN
1975-77	William DuVall	Racine WI
1977-79	Thomas Renner	Milwaukee WI
1979-80	Greg Novacek	Racine WI
1980-83	Barry Beaman	Rockford IL
1983-85	Larry Jahn	Naperville IL
1985-87	Frank Roldan	Milwaukee WI
1988-90	Dan Koehler	Milwaukee WI

Conventions (N denotes National Convention)

1947	Duluth MN	1969	Racine WI
1948(N)	Milwaukee WI	1970	Argonne IL
1949	Madison WI	1971	Peoria IL
1950	Oshkosh WI	1972	Milwaukee WI
1951	Chicago IL	1973	St. Paul MN
1952	Milwaukee WI	1974	Chicago IL
1953	Moline-Rock Island IL	1975	Rockford IL
1954(N)	Madison WI	1976	Madison WI
1955	Chicago IL	1977	Fox Valley IL
1956	Beloit IL	1978(N)	Madison WI
1957	St. Paul MN	1979	Racine WI
1958	Milwaukee WI	1980	Sheboygan WI
1959	Argonne IL	1981	Minneapolis MN
1960	Madison WI	1982	Milwaukee WI
1961	Urbana IL	1983	Des Moines IA
1962	Minneapolis MN	1984(N)	Milwaukee WI
1963	Peoria IL	1985	Naperville IL
1964	Racine WI	1986	Rock Island IL
1965(N)	Milwaukee WI	1987	Racine WI
1966	St. Procopius College IL	1988	Marquette MI
1967	Madison WI	1989	Rockford IL
1968(N)	Chicago IL	1990	Madison WI

MAS - Three-Score Years of Star Gazing

MAS in its infancy. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Madison Astronomical Society (MAS). In 1930 Professor C. M. Huffer, then Chairman of the University of Wisconsin Department of Astronomy, met with several amateur astronomers to form the club as an offspring of the Department. The Society's activities revolved around the Washburn Observatory on the University campus.

The Society not only supported activities for a growing number of adult members, but it also fostered a junior program, led by Ed Baillie. In 1975 the Junior Division of the Society evolved into Explorer Post 14, Astronomical Specialty Post, the first in the nation. The Scouts contributed funds to enable the Society to secure the 17½-inch Coultter Dobsonian scope, now housed under a roll-off roof at the Carl Fosmark Jr. Memorial Observatory (CFO).

MAS in the 1960s. The activities moved to Fitchburg, further from city lights, when the State granted MAS an observatory building, Oscar Mayer Sr. contributed a 4½-inch Steinheil refractor telescope, and the Oscar Mayer Foundation paid moving expenses. For the next 30 years, the Society continued to be given great opportunities through the generous gifts of interested individuals and organizations.

MAS in the 1980s. The glow from Madison lights creeping over Fitchburg forced a search for a darker site. Through the gift of Le Roy Yanna, the present observing site, the Yanna Research Station, was developed about 20 miles south of Madison near Brooklyn. In 1984, Dr. Carl Fosmark and his wife, Lucille, gave a building for meetings and research in memory of their son. It was dedicated as the Carl Fosmark Jr. Memorial Observatory.

Two years later, an observatory building and 16-inch Cassegrain telescope built by Art Koster were donated by the Koster family. After Art's death in 1986, a second building, the Koster Memorial Observatory, was given by Doris Koster. It was finished with a dome contributed by Ray Zit. Recently, an 11-inch Celestron telescope was purchased from Art Koster's estate and installed in the original building.

MAS in the 1990s. Regular club activities include star parties and educational sessions for new members and school groups. The darker skies at the present site permit and enhance research on variable stars, occultations and lunar phenomena. In addition to scheduled activities, many of the 80 members pursue individual observation projects at CFO.

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 their Society meetings. The Madison Astronomical Society continues to pursue its original goal to "promote the science of astronomy . . . and to educate the public in the wonders of the universe."

MADISON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

44th Annual Convention Committee

<i>General Chair</i>	Doris Koster
<i>Paper Sessions</i>	Jane Breun, <i>chair</i> ; Bob Manske, David Weier
<i>Publicity</i>	Craig Radi, <i>chair</i>
<i>Observatory Sessions</i>	Craig Radi, <i>chair</i> ; Betty Feldt, Betty Lizik, Eric Norman, Allan Henn, Karl Bethke, Dave Weier, Tom Jacobs
<i>Displays</i>	Tom Eichman, <i>chair</i> ; Rebecca Perkins, Jerry Sullivan
<i>Programs</i>	Phyllis Broadbent, <i>chair</i> ; Jim and Marj Jondrow

With much help from the membership of the
Madison Astronomical Society.

Madison Astronomical Society Officers

<i>President</i>	David Weier
<i>Vice President</i>	Bob Manske
<i>Secretary</i>	Craig Radi
<i>Treasurer</i>	Joe Keyes
<i>Observatory Director</i>	Tom Jacobs
<i>Board Member</i>	Paul Fritschel