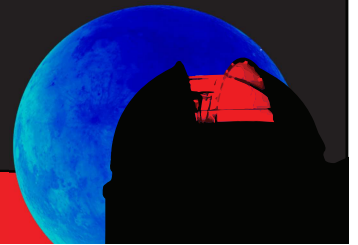


THE BLUE MOON OBSERVER

MAY 2023
Volume 25, Number 5



DOOR PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Promoting the science and public education of astronomy, encouraging observational participation in astronomy, and providing outreach at the Leif Everson Observatory.



The Door Peninsula Astronomical Society is a local club and a chapter of the Astronomical League.

DPAS operates and maintains the Stonecipher Astronomy Center and the Leif Everson Observatory, which is equipped with a PlaneWave Instruments 17 inch f/6.8 Corrected Dall-Kirkham Astrograph telescope on a L-500 mount for astrophotography and research. On a portable mount is a 102mm refractor with a hydrogen alpha filter for studying details of activity on the sun.

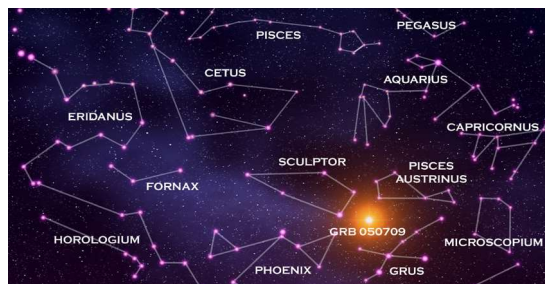
DPAS also owns and operates a portable planetarium with a state-of-the-art computer projection system which is used on cloudy nights, for daytime activities, and for public outreach in local schools and libraries.



**Ray and Ruthie Stonecipher Astronomy Center,
Leif Everson Observatory,
and Star Garden**
PO Box 331
2022 Utah Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235



Leif Everson Observatory under the Northern Lights



MONTHLY MEETING

MAY 9, 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: Define "Constellation"

The word "constellation" means different things to different people. Coggin Heeringa will explain what a constellation is and why it matters. Visitors are welcome. If the sky is clear, the meeting will end in a bonus Viewing Night. In-person only.

Free and open to the public.

**Meet at the Stonecipher Astronomy Center
2200 Utah St., Sturgeon Bay**

MAY 20 starting at 9:00 PM

VIEWING NIGHT

It's "Galaxy Season" so if the skies are clear, our telescopes will be searching for some of our favorites. And members of DPAS will be outside helping folks explore the beautiful night skies. Cloudy? Come any way and enjoy a Planetarium Show in the Stonecipher Center.

**Astronomy Campus
2200 Utah St.
Sturgeon Bay**

OUTREACH IN APRIL

APRIL 11

Monthly Meeting

Dave Lenius presented a fascinating program on the Voyager missions.

APRIL 18

Breakfast Rotary Club

Coggin Heeringa presented a program about DPAS.

APRIL 22

Viewing Night

The father/daughter team of Tim and Amanda Austin presented planetarium shows while Jim Gallt and Tom Gwilym opened the Observatory.



APRIL 23

Display for Every Day is Earth Day at Crossroads

Tom Gwilym and Amanda Austin presenters.

APRIL 27

STEAM Night at Sunrise School

Dave Lenius and Amanda Austin presented planetarium shows to 125(!) Sunrise Students and their families.

AND...THREE OPEN DOME EVENINGS were spontaneously offered.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At our April 11 meeting, DPAS President Dave Lenius shared his very-long term excitement about the twin Voyager 1 and 2 Spacecraft and the amazing story of how they came to be. After sharing a few details about their more-than-40 year journey exploring where nothing from Earth has ever gone before, Dave helped us visualize the probes and the people who made them by screening a fascinating PBS documentary called *Sail On Voyager* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tp4t_5v_y_0

BUT he claimed that there was an even better video available on YouTube—but that it is far too long to screen during a meeting. The video he recommends is *Voyager Mission: Remastered* created by Homemade Documentaries.

Following the meeting, refreshments were served, and it being a clear night...the meeting simply didn't end ...for hours.



DPAS President Dave Lenius



Jim and Amanda Austin

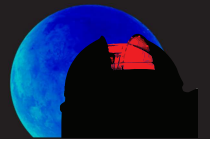
SPOTLIGHT ON DARK SKIES

The skies are a bit darker and more beautiful over Sturgeon Bay, thanks to lighting improvements made at **Culver's restaurant** and **Aurora Health Care** of Sturgeon Bay. If you stop by these establishments, please thank them for helping KEEP THE DOOR DARK.



THANK YOU BARB AND MASTER GARDENERS

For years, we have enjoyed the "space-themed" flowers and shrubs that grow around the Stonecipher Astronomy Center. Beautiful landscaping, careful design, and constant care. We thank and recognize Barb Henkelmann and her volunteers from the Door County Master Gardeners Association for bringing us daytime beauty at the Astronomy Campus.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I took over as President, DPAS was embarking on a journey to replace and modernize our equipment. Today, the days of having an event and struggling to get the dated equipment to operate correctly are behind us. The new state of the art equipment includes a Digitalium Planetarium, PlaneWave telescope and mount, new cameras for imaging, and an 80-inch HD TV for presentations and remote viewing through the telescope. All this new equipment is working nearly flawlessly and is allowing us to spend time sharing the night sky instead of fighting with outdated technology.

DPAS is now looking ahead to come up with ways to increase our visibility in the community and share the wonders of the night sky with more people. We have a goal of increasing membership to 100 members by the end of the year from our current number of 74. This summer we have an intern, Amanda Austin, who will be helping with outreach and programming for DPAS, and will help spread the word about incredible things DPAS has to offer. I encourage our members to come to a monthly meeting or viewing night to see our new technology in action. If you have ideas on topics for monthly meetings or events for the public, please let us know. With the increasing membership we will need additional volunteers to help staff the programs we will be putting in place. See how you can help and become more involved.

As I think about the long-term goals for DPAS, I think back to the vision Ray Stonecipher had when he founded this organization with nothing more than a dream. I think he would be proud of the direction and success we have had in carrying out his vision. Looking ahead, I dream of expanding on Rays vision and increase the size of the Astronomy Center to allow the Planetarium to have a dedicated room for itself along with additional restrooms. While we are dreaming, why not a permanent planetarium with theater seating?

We can take the future of DPAS in any direction we can dream. Please let me know what your dreams for the future of DPAS are.

Dave Lenius
President of the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Lenius
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Tom Gwilym
VICE PRESIDENT

Jacque Axland
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Tom Minahan
GENERAL MEETING SECRETARY
AND OUTREACH CHAIR

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PROGRAM CHAIR

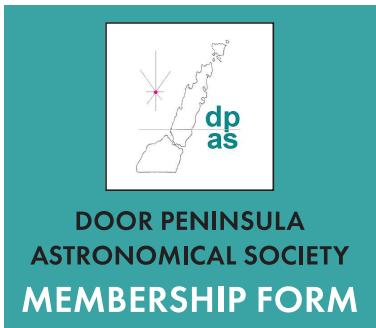
Jim Gallt
MEMBER AT LARGE

Coggin Heeringa
SCHOOL COORDINATOR, EDITOR

Dennis Sundin
MEMBER AT LARGE

Ray Stonecipher
IN SPIRIT

The business of the DPAS is largely conducted at the Board meetings to leave the general meetings open for programs. Members of DPAS are invited to attend Board meetings.



Please print to complete:

ADULTS' NAME (S)

CHILDRENS' NAME (S)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL (REQUIRED TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER)

- Family \$25 per year
- Student \$5 per year
- I (we) wish to make a donation of _____ to help underwrite operation costs of the Society.

Mail payment to: DPAS, PO Box 331, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235



A really awesome job on M51 from our scope. Mark Pressprich, who traveled here for our April meeting from Madison, did the processing. This is about 30 images stacked at 2 minutes each. He really pulled in some wonderful detail, and got a very nice smooth background. REALLY nice work, and illustrates what we can do with our gear!

LEIF EVERSON OBSERVATORY & ASTRONOMY CAMPUS

OPEN DOME NIGHTS



FREE
OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC

2200 UTAH ST., STURGEON BAY

Our new telescope is so fabulous, we hate to wait for our monthly viewing night to share the wonder. On nights when the skies are clear and qualified volunteers are available, we will open the dome and invite the public to join us at no charge.

Open Dome Nights will be announced on The Door Peninsula Astronomical Society Facebook page.

If you follow DPAS on Facebook, (and we hope you do) posts will appear in your news feed.

Announcements will be posted at DUSK.

*“If we announce it too early,
the clouds will find out!”*

Jim Gallt, telescope co-pilot and DPAS Board Member



DOOR PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Meetings of the Society are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Stonecipher Astronomy Center. 2200 Utah Street in Sturgeon Bay

WWW.DOORASTRONOMY.ORG