



# Capitol Skies

*Lite - for February 2004*

## **From the President's Desk**

by Neil Robinson

Greetings Fellow MAS'ers, January and February are shaping up to be paperwork cleanup months for MAS; first- we're mailing out copies of the updated YRS usage procedures and rules, second- we amended the bylaws to permit the banquet to be held in March instead of April (since the April date would have fallen on Good Friday this year), thirdly- we're mailing out the membership survey that the Ad Hoc YRS Committee has composed to find out what the membership actually wants to see happen at its observatory. I urge all MAS members to take the time to thoughtfully fill out the survey so as to improve the fidelity of the results with respect to what members wish to gain at YRS.

New Years Eve saw several members at the UW Space Place with telescopes to showcase amateur astronomy and the wonders of the night sky to the Madison area public.

Several members who requested (and paid for) RASC Observers Handbooks have not yet taken delivery of their handbooks. I will bring them again to the March meeting, but if that's not soon enough for anyone, feel free to call me to set up a discrete delivery plan.

Remember the March meeting is the annual banquet at JT Whitney's on Whitney Way in Madison at 7 pm (cocktails at 6). Y'all come!

PS. We didn't have enough material for a full newsletter this month so here's a one page flyer. This, of course, prompts an auto-nag soliciting contributions from the membership for publication in upcoming newsletters.

## **Notes From Your Treasurer**

by Mary Ellestad

A warm welcome to the following new members - Douglas Watson, Keith Kahle, Tom & Jeff Solberg, Brian Mork. If you are an observing member, remember to contact the Observatory Director, Tim Ellestad, for your YRS orientation.

At the last meeting, it was voted that we would include the MAS membership list with this newsletter. This list will only be sent to current members and is for their use only. It is not to be shared with any third parties or used for mass mailings of any kind.

## **MAS Annual Banquet**

The annual banquet is coming up next month. Make your reservation now!

When?	Friday, March 12
Where?	JT Whitney's, 674 South Whitney Way, in Madison.
What?	Social hour starts at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m.
How much?	Dinner choices are: chicken cordon bleu for \$18, prime rib for \$18, or vegetarian pasta for \$13.

Send your check payable to MAS for your selection(s) to Mary Ellestad, 2810 Mason Street, Madison, WI 53705 before March 5, 2004.

The Banquet speaker will be Astronomy Professor Chris Anderson, speaking on "Renaissance Astronomy: setting the date of Easter"



Capitol Skies  
2810 Mason Street  
Madison, WI 53705

First Class

MAS would like to thank:

**PRINT-TECH**

and Tim Stanton for printing  
the newsletter and

**IDC**

for hosting our web presence

This resource list is made up of people who have special interests which they are willing, even eager, to share with others in the Society. Many members, not listed, also are interested in particular aspects of astronomy and have considerable expertise in viewing and imaging the skies. Members are encouraged to come to the monthly meetings, not only to get to know the other members, but to discuss and enjoy their special or general interests in various aspects of astronomy. This is a Society of beginners and experienced amateurs. From time to time we have seasoned professionals attending. The meetings are a good time to meet these people as well. See you there.

### Resource People and Special Interests

The resource list is currently being revised and rebuilt. If you would like to be listed as a club resource, please submit your name and contact info to darksky25@charter.net.

Possible areas of expertise include:

- Variable stars
- Planetary and lunar observing and imaging
- Deep space object observing and imaging
- Solar observing and imaging
- Observatory design and construction
- History of astronomy
- Computers and software
- Comet and asteroid astrometry and photometry
- Occultations and grazes

<b>MAS Membership Form</b>	
Name:	_____
Address:	_____
City/State/Zip:	_____
Phone:	_____
Email:	_____
Please circle membership type: <i>Enclose check and make payable to the Madison Astronomical Society. Mail to MAS Attention: Mary Ellertsd, 2810 Mason Street Madison, WI 53705</i>	
Student (\$5.00)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular (\$25.00)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observing (\$60.00)	<input type="checkbox"/>