

November brings quiet sky, except for powerful meteor show

By **PAUL KONICHEK**
Special to The Gazette

- Sky events for November 2011**
 Nov. 1 – Sunrise at 7:35 a.m.
 Nov. 1 – Sunset at 5:48 p.m.
 Nov. 2 – Moon overhead at sunset.
 Nov. 6 – Daylight saving time ends.
 Nov. 9 – Moon rising with Jupiter tonight.
 Nov. 10 – Moon rises as the sun sets.
 Nov. 17 – Leonid meteor showers.
 Nov. 18 – Moon rises at midnight.
 Nov. 19 – Moon below Mars in predawn sky.
 Nov. 22 – Tight grouping of moon, Saturn and Spica.

- Nov. 30 – Sunrise at 7:13 a.m.
 Nov. 30 – Sunset at 4:20 p.m.

Fall is the time of the quiet sky

The great square of Pegasus looms high in the sky in the evening. A large square of four stars overhead with but three barely visible stars inside. In November the bright stars of the summer triangle are setting in the west and the only bright object in the sky is Jupiter, midway east at 8 p.m., setting about 5 a.m.

The only bright star in the south is Fomalhaut. Stranger yet, the Big Dipper is due north moving east, believe it or not.

All the stars appear to make a counter-clockwise circle around the North Star (Polaris) each day, so any star north of Polaris will



appear to be moving east.

Since Polaris is at Portage County's latitude (about 45 degrees) above due north, you can always find the North Star in Portage County about halfway from due north to overhead. Since Polaris is only one-quarter of the whole way from due north going overhead to due south, three-fourths of the overhead stars appear to be going west.

Winter has the most bright stars

Since it is dark at 7 a.m., many more of us notice the predawn stars this month. In the west after 5 a.m. (or the east after 11 p.m.), the winter stars are an awesome site to behold. Orion's belt and Jack Horkheimer's "Sensation Celestial

six-pack" make up more than one-third of the brightest of all stars. Plus, predawn Mars is high in the sky just east of overhead (by Regulus, the heart of Leo the Lion) and Saturn is just south of due east (by Spica the wheat stalk Virgo the virgin is holding in her hand).

One way to locate Saturn in November is to just follow the curve of the handle of the Big Dipper to the bright star Arcturus and continue the curve to Spica. Thus "Arc to Arcturus, and speed onto Spica" in order to locate Saturn this month.

The Leonid Meteor Shower 2011

If you have never seen a shooting star, watch anywhere in a dark sky after midnight on Nov. 17 until 1 a.m. on Nov. 18 and you should be able to spot at least one shooting star every 10 minutes. The Leonid meteor shower is famous. Historically, this shower has produced some of the greatest meteor storms in history. The last outburst occurred in 1966 with rates as high as thousands of meteors per hour. Since these storms sometimes recur in cycles of 33 to 34 years, we are overdue and may see one this year!

If the forecast is cloudy the night of Nov. 17, just watch the sky after midnight up to a week on either side of the date for some action anyway. The main problem this year is a gibbous moon rises about 11:30 p.m., so you want

to watch for shooting stars before the large moon gets too high in the sky and washes out the show.

Crazy flying birds

On a mid-October evening, I noticed several birds attempting to fly south. With a steady strong due west wind, the birds were beating their wings frantically heading southwest in order to move due south. This was a great example of vector addition as if you draw a first arrow southwest then join the tail of a second arrow to the first arrow's tip (the head) and have this second arrow point due east, the resultant (the end result of the birds flight) will be a third arrow from the tail of the first to the head of the second arrow.

Then there was the bird flying due west, only to end up at a standstill in the air.

Which 1:15 a.m.?

If you are working at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, you realize the one hour longer night since at 2 a.m. it goes back to 1 a.m. and repeats an hour over again. Just think of the mother delivering twins and one is born at 1:59 a.m. and the second a minute later. Who was born first? GNATS

Editor's note: Paul Konichek teaches math, astronomy and physics at Stevens Point Area Senior High School. GNATS is the acronym for "go now and teach someone."

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County Fare

tral Wisconsin Stamp Club will hold its annual stamp show Saturday, Nov. 5, at St. John Episcopal Church, 320 Oak St., Wisconsin Rapids, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission to the show is free. It will include eight stamp dealers, a United States Postal Service Postal Station, stamp exhibits and a silent auction. A children's table will feature stamps and advice for young collectors.

The show will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Project Mercury. A stamp will be available at the show.

For more information, contact J.D. Manville at PO Box 845, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or 715-498-1111.

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AUTHOR WILL HOLD BOOK SIGNING IN PLOVER NOV. 6: Author Mary Anne will conduct a book signing at Beyond Ordinary in Plover on Sunday, Nov. 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. during the store's holiday open house.

Her first book, "Rise Above the Sh**! Down-to-earth Thinking from Wisconsin," gives quick tips to overcome all those common things that hold people back or down in life, and teaches how to have an incredible, happy life, no matter what.

Anne took the book to local retailers and asked them to take a leap of faith in carrying the book without any prior advertising. In return, the retailer could choose any charity they wanted, and Anne would donate \$1 per book and \$2 per audio book to that charity. Her recommendation was to consider a local nonprofit and help their own community.

In the past year, more than 50 stores in Wisconsin have joined forces and have helped generate almost \$5,000 for Wisconsin charities.

More information is available online at AnniePress.com.

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JUNCTION CITY CHURCH WILL HOST FALL DINNER NOV. 6: St. Michael

Catholic Church's Fall Dinner will be held Sunday, Nov. 6, at the church in Junction City.

Mass with the Choraleers and Old Tyme Brass will be held at 9:30 a.m.

Chicken soup, chicken and all the trimmings with homemade pies will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The cost is \$9 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and younger. Carry-outs are available for \$9.

The event will also include a country store and basket raffle.

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RUDOLPH CHURCH WILL FEATURE PANCAKE BREAKFAST, BAKE SALE NOV. 6: The National Catholic Order of Foresters of St. Philip Catholic Church in Rudolph will hold its Annual Pancake Break-

fast and Bake Sale Sunday, Nov. 6, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church.

The menu will include potato and butter-milk pancakes, Pete's pork sausage patties,

applesauce and sweet rolls.

The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and younger.

(See County Fare, page 21)

Carl Huff Benefit

I would like to take the time to express my gratitude and appreciation to the people of the Stevens Point area and everyone who came out to volunteer & support me at my benefit on September 24, 2011 at Stockton Bar.

I want to personally thank the following area businesses for their generous donations:

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Adams Sales & Service | Faith Technologies | Polito's Pizza |
| Adventure 212 | Faith United Lutheran Church | Post Road Pub |
| Amber Grill | Feltz Manufacturing Co. | Premium Brands |
| Americold | Five Star Lanes | Quilting Guild |
| Ameriprise | Flyte Family Farms | R-Store |
| Anchor Bay Bar & Grill | Four Star Restaurant | Ranchito Perez |
| Applebee's | Furniture & Appliance Mart | Red Mill Supper Club |
| Aramark Uniform Services | Furo Racecraft | River's Plus Guiding |
| Arbuckle's Eatery | Gamber Johnson | Rockman's Catering |
| Ashley Bar | Grubba Jewelers | Ron Meyer Marine |
| Baer's Beverage | Harvey's Corner Pub | Ruan |
| BDI | Herrschners | Rusty's Backwater Saloon |
| BMO Harris Bank | Hill Top Pub and Grill | Saint Bronislava Catholic Church |
| Bill's Pizza Shop | Holiday Inn | Salon Envy |
| Boldt Construction | Integrity Bank | Sandy's Bar |
| Bucks & Bulls Archery | Jay-Mar Inc. | Schierl Tire & Service |
| Buffalo Wild Wings | KP Trucking LLC | Scott's Portable Toilets |
| By The Cross | Kenny Wallock's Professional | Second St. Pub |
| Calandra's | Guiding | Shippy Shoe Store |
| Carbo's Junction Bar | Kim's Barrel Inn | Shooters |
| Cedar Crest Properties LLC | Koerten Gallery | Sign Innovations LLC |
| Cee-Dee Acres | Krispykake | Sky Club |
| Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op | Kwik Trip | Smiley's (AJ's BBQ) |
| Citizens Bank | Last Lap | Smokey Spur Bar |
| Clancy's | LEI | Snaps by Serena |
| Club 10 Bar | Ligman & Willy | South Point Restaurant |
| Club Forest Bar | Lindsey Marie Photography | Stevens Point Brewery |
| Copps Eastside | Lensmire's Village Gardens | Stevens Point Tent |
| Copps Westside | Lucky Hammer Entertainment | Stockton Bar |
| Copps Plover | Mariani Packaging Co Inc. | Summer Kitchen Gifts |
| Culver's Restaurants | Mark's The Bar | Sweet Temptations |
| Dago Joes | McCain Foods | Thrivent Portage County Chapter |
| Dan's Liquor | Menards | Trig's |
| Dave's Country Catering | Motomart | Two Wired Sisters |
| Del Monte Foods | Mullins Cheese | Ultra Cut & Care LLC |
| DeWendy's Pub | Nancy Lemke Custom Cakes | Visions |
| Dock of DuBay | No Problem Bar & Grill | Wander Inn |
| Donahue Super Sports | Paintings by Loretta Wojcik | Whitetail Lanes |
| Doug's Sports Bar | Paul Gross Jewelers | Witz End |
| Dunham's Sports | Partner's Pub & Grill | Wood Street Rental |
| Duraclean | Pavelski Painting | Wooden Chair Restaurant |
| Excel Plumbing | Pete's Meat Market | WSPT |
| Fairfield Inn & Suites | Photography by Jen | WYTE |
| Family Video | Point Embroidery | All Anonymous Donations |
| Fahrner Excavating Inc. | Point Heating & Cooling | |

Much love and appreciation goes out to my family and friends and people who gave from their hearts the day of the benefit. Enough cannot be said for everyone involved, including Reed Rossier at Stockton Bar for hosting the benefit, Jamie Simkowski, Jill & Rex Rossier, Cindy Brill, Carol Nygaard and Louise Brill for helping to make this a successful event. The proceeds raised will help with medical bills, travel expenses to Marshfield and lost wages for Kathy & I. Once again, thank you for your love and support during my illness.

With love and gratitude, Carl Huff

Trends

Portage County Library's Hottest Ten Books

- 1) "The Litigators" by John Grisham
- 2) "The Best of Me" by Nicholas Sparks
- 3) "Kill Me If You Can" by James Patterson and Marshall Karp
- 4) "Shock Wave" by John Sandford
- 5) "Lethal" by Sandra Brown
- 6) "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett
- 7) "Son of Stone: a Stone Barrington Novel" by Stuart Woods
- 8) "Feast Day of Fools" by James Lee Burke
- 9) "Robert B. Parker's Killing the Blues" by Michael Brandman
- 10) "Second Nature" by Jacquelyn Mitchard

Family Video's Hottest Ten Movies

- 1) "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides"
- 2) "Captain America: The First Avenger"
- 3) "Transformers: Dark of the Moon"
- 4) "Thor"
- 5) "Green Lantern"
- 6) "X-Men: First Class"
- 7) "Fast Five"
- 8) "Bad Teacher"
- 9) "Horrible Bosses"
- 10) "Bridesmaids"

Radio Kaos' Weekly Top Ten

- 1) Feist – "Metals"
- 2) Bjork – "Biophilia"
- 3) Puscifer – "Conditions of My Parole"
- 4) Ryan Adams – "Ashes & Fire"
- 5) Jane's Addiction – "The Great Escape Artist"
- 6) Primus – "Naugahyde"
- 7) Wayne Static – "Pighammer"
- 8) Grateful Dead – "Europe '72 Vol. 2"
- 9) Mastodon – "The Hunter"
- 10) Five Finger Death Punch – "American Capitalist"

Bookfinder's Top Fiction

- 1) "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett
- 2) "Sarah's Key" by Tatiana de Rosnay
- 3) "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese
- 4) "Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk" by Abraham Verghese
- 5) "Room" by Emma Donoghue

Bookfinder's Top Nonfiction

- 1) "Heaven Is for Real" by Todd Burpo and Thomas Nelson
- 2) "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot
- 3) "Cleopatra: A Life" by Stacy Schiff
- 4) "At Home" by Bill Bryson
- 5) "Unlikely Friendships" by Jennifer S. Holland

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW

The Spirit of the Holidays

November 5, 2011

Time: 9:00 - 3:00

Celebration Church
(Behind Herrschners)

4701 Industrial Park Rd.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Hosted by: **ROCC Point/Community Friends**