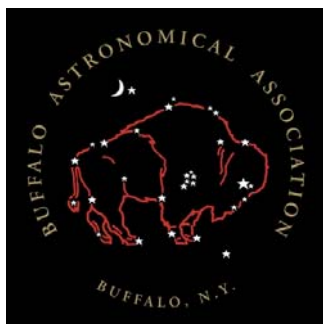


The Spectrum

Volume 10 Issue 2

Messier Marathon Edition

March/April 2008



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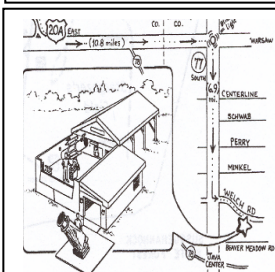
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From the Editor's Desk...

Well spring is right around the corner (it's about @#\$/ time) so it's time to plan your Messier Marathon. This is the time of year that all of the Messier objects can be observed in one evening. You'll need to be quick as some of them set soon after the sun. One good tool is the book, **The Year-Round Messier Marathon Field Guide**, by the late Harvard Pennington. It's published by Willmann-Bell, Inc. and has great charts and is easy to read and follow at the telescope. You can get it directly from the publisher at <http://www.willbell.com/HANDBOOK/mess.htm>.

Good luck in finding all 100+ objects!

And Happy St. Patrick's Day from all the staff here at Spectrum Headquarters!



President's column:

The Speakers Committee is still on the prowl for talks. If you know any good ones, or would like to give one, or you would like to hear a talk on a particular subject please let the board know. The hardest task in this club is finding speakers for the general meetings. If it was not for that, being president would be easy.

On that note **we need a nominating committee for officers** for the June election. Please volunteer before I find a victim to assign it to. We anticipate openings for President, and Treasurer (Secretary and Vice President are also up for reelection). If you want to be on the committee, run for office, or run from office and know of a person who wants it please contact me 773-5015 or DMA3141551@msn.com.

Presidents Wish List:

1-A better computer set up for the 12" Observatory scope. We are currently using a Pentium II with 64mb ram and no USB2 or FireWire ports with Windows 98. If anyone got a new one for Christmas/ Hanukkah/---- and is looking for a home for the old one let me know. We have board authorization to purchase an upgrade for the RoboScope, and are in the process of obtaining one.

2 - It would be especially useful if we could get a legal copy of the XP operating system (original XP box for proof of ownership) on donated computers so we can upgrade the other one to XP.

3 - I am still on the prowl for a cogged belt and gears for putting the encoders on the 12". If you are throwing out an old large style SquareVCR I'll take it and see if it has any parts we can use. I found one set we can use and I'm looking for one more. Still looking for free before I go looking to pay.

4- Anyone have an extra *powered* USB hub? It would be nice to install one on the 12" and run the cord under the floor so visitors (or clumsy presidents) can't trip over them. Nothing like having your equipment ruined by a misplaced foot. That way we can run a laptop on the table.

(continued on page 3)

BAA Officials

BAA Officers

President – Dan Marcus
(716) 773-5015
Vice Pres -- Joe Orzechowski
(716) 839-1752

Project

Secretary – Mike O'Connor
(716) 662-7456
Treasurer – Chris Mullen
(716) 837-5499

At Large Directors

Janice Gardner
Jack Mack
Mike Anzalone

Observatory Directors

BMO – Pat Lannon
(716) 827-8836

Remick – Paul Tabor
(716) 434-7148

Membership

Alan Friedman
(716) 881-4310

Robotic Telescope

(open)

Star Parties

Dan Marcus???
(716) 773-5015

College of Fellows

Rowland Rupp
(716) 839-1842

Spectrum Editor

Richard Fusani
313 Central Ave. Apt 2
(716) 432-3819

BAA Website

www.buffaloastronomy.com

BAA Voice Mail Box

(716) 629-3098

Location/Time of Meetings:

BAA meetings are held on the *2nd Friday of the month* from *September to June* in the *Science Building on Buffalo State College Campus* (Except the March Dinner Mtg). Meetings start at *7:30 P.M.*, in the first floor auditorium near the entrance. See above web site for a map of the location. **Non-members are encouraged to attend.**

Spectrum Deadline

Articles for the next Spectrum are due by: April 21st

BAA Webmaster

Mike O'Connor

BAA Yahoo E Group

Coordinators

Dennis Hohman
Mike O'Connor

Membership Corner

I am long overdue in sharing membership news! We have had many new members join us for 2007-2008, along with long time member, John Riggs, who has come back after re-connecting with the club at Beaver Meadow Observatory last summer. Welcome all! We look forward to getting to know you better at our meetings and public events:

John and Dalene Aylward
Anthony Canney Jr.
Eric Gravert
Craig Kopra
John Riggs
Christopher Scott
Ted Staskiewicz
Malena Villarreal

John Bromley
Tom Dixon
Arabeth Pease and Josh Johnson
Jim Regensdorfer
Bernard Schenkler
Ken Smith
Thomas Treadwell

As always, if you have any questions about your BAA membership please let me know. You can reach me by phone at 881-4310 or by email to info@buffaloastronomy.com

Alan Friedman
BAA Membership Chair

BAA General Meeting Information

March 7 (Friday) 2008 – Robotic Scope discussion group at Beaver Meadow Observatory with Saturday's Dinner Meeting Speaker Wayne Johnson. Starts at 7:30pm (possibly subject to change – see e-group postings for details)
March 8 (Saturday) 2008 – March Dinner Meeting at Classics V. Wayne Johnson to talk on Chasing Solar Eclipses
April 11(Friday) 2008 – BAA general meeting, 7:30 pm at Buffalo State. Dennis Hohman to talk on building his Robotic Observatory
May 9 (Friday) 2008 – BAA general meeting, 7:30 pm. Talk to be announced in the next Spectrum
June 13 (Friday) 2008 – BAA general meeting, 7:30 pm. General Elections – Marilou Bebak will talk on the Mars Phoenix project she has been working on.

President's Column (cont.)

Robo Scope/Imaging group will meet at BMO at 7pm on Saturday March 1 and again on Saturday April 5. We will image if clear, clean the Observatory, practice processing if cloudy. The repaired camera is back at the observatory and appears to be working normally. The Robo Scope probably could use the PEC adjusted, and TPoint initialized to get the scope pointing more accurately. If the weather is really bad call me first to make sure I am heading out there. With the price of gas the way it is, no point in traveling that far unless we have work that can only be done there. We can always meet some place else to practice processing, or even go to Remick if it is clear there, so stay tuned to the e-groups for any updates on time and location. If you are not on the e-group, call me at 773-5015 to get any updates.

We will be having a discussion group with our Dinner Meeting guest speaker Mr. Galaxy (Bruce Johnson) at 7:30 pm Friday March 7 at Beaver Meadow Observatory. This will be an informal meeting on robotic scopes. All Members are welcome to attend. If you have a Robotic setup and wish to have a chance to discuss it with others, and exchange ideas this would be a great opportunity.

In keeping with my usual gotta have fun doing astronomy you might think about attending a Star Party! The commercial ones can be very informative, and as more than one of our members has found out, there is plenty of valuable free advice on spending your money on Astro Toys.

I am looking for volunteers to organize an Astronomy Day. Need to settle on a time and a place, activities, and publicity. So far I have **no** volunteers. So it looks like we will be celebrating it during Beaver Meadows Earth Day Festival on Saturday and Sunday April 19/20 from 10am to 4pm. Since the 19th is also a public night, we are having a "bring a dish to pass" Observatory Star Party! I will bring my grill and some drinks, so come out and join in on the FUN. This is a rain or shine event. Might be a fun time to come and check out what is going on at Beaver Meadow. We will be doing solar viewing in the daytime and lunar observations in the evening. The Moon will be full so bring your Sunglasses.

Start marking your calendar for Star Parties/ Observatory Events.

March 1st –RoboScope/Messier Marathon at BMO Starts at sunset if clear

March 7th – **Robotic Scope discussion group with Wayne Johnson will be held at Beaver Meadow Observatory at 7:30pm.**

March 8th BAA Dinner Meeting at Classics V (it is Saturday, NOT Friday night)

April 2nd BAA Board Meeting at 7:15pm

April 5th RoboScope meeting at Beaver Meadow Observatory 7:30pm

April 11th BAA club meeting at Buffalo State College 7:30pm Speaker will be Dennis Hohman and will be on building his Robotic Observatory

April 19th/20th – 10am-4pm Astronomy Day / Earth Day at Beaver Meadow Observatory. Public night to follow. Will have "a bring a dish to pass" dinner picnic on the 19th before the start of public night. I will bring out a table top gas grill to cook on.

April 26-27th – NEAF: a great place to check out equipment. Best way to go is to carpool with a bunch of friends. For more info check web site <http://www.rocklandastronomy.com/neaf.htm>.

May 3 RoboScope meeting at Beaver Meadow Observatory 7:30pm

May 9 BAA club meeting at Buffalo State College 7:30pm. Speaker TBA

May 31 RoboScope meeting at Beaver Meadow Observatory 7:30pm

June 5 BAA Board of Directors Meeting 7:15pm

June 13 BAA club meeting at Buffalo State College 7:30pm Elections for President/VP/Treasurer/Secretary Marilou Bebak to speak the Mars Phoenix Project.

Do you want to have a star party?? Better put in for it early.

August 7-10 – StarFest Star Party, Mt Forest, Ontario, Canada

<http://www.nyaa-starfest.com/index.php?page=sf.home>

August 30 Starting at 5pm 1st Annual New Moon Star Party at BMO!!!

September 26-28 – Black Forest Star Party, at Cherry Springs
Hmm- do you wish to schedule one for our club at Cherry Springs, BMO, Remick, your home?? Better get on the schedule as space is limited for new moon nights.

One final note: As with anything, unless you document what you are doing, no one will know what is happening. We do things as a club that do not get documented. Several members spent part of their Saturday and Sunday at the Buffalo Museum of Science helping out on the 4th floor showing people the 8” refractor on the roof, and teaching people astronomy. People on the e-groups get to hear about things because it seems more than half the club communicates using that medium. It would be nice if we can get a club reporter to keep track of these things and put them in the spectrum. On that note, we are in the process of getting our web site more accessible to our web master so we can keep it more current. Until our club goes all electronic, we need the spectrum. One advantage of the spectrum over a web site is it is kept as a permanent record of club activities.

See you at the next meeting.

Daniel Marcus

Asaph Hall and His Friends

Here’s a brief anecdote you may find funny, but in a sardonic way. I claim no credit for originality for this little insight into academia; the material is extracted from Joseph Ashbrook’s *Astronomical Scrapbook*.

Most of you know that Asaph Hall discovered the two tiny satellites of Mars, Deimos and Phobos, at the U.S. Naval Observatory in 1877. He discovered the former satellite first, and when he found the latter a couple of days later he told his boss, the eminent Simon Newcomb, about it. He referred to his two newly discovered objects as “Mars stars”. Why he called them that I don’t know, but I suspect he just used a quaint turn of phrase, or maybe he merely displayed a bit of modesty. Anyway, Newcomb decided to claim that he was the discoverer because he, in his wisdom, deduced these objects were satellites. So when the discovery was released to the press, Newcomb took the credit. Now, you might argue that his insight gave Newcomb this marvelous revelation, while poor, befuddled Hall didn’t appreciate what he had seen. To believe this Newcomb had to conclude that Hall, who had studied astronomy at the University of Michigan, had been an astronomer at Harvard Observatory for five years and had worked at the Naval Observatory for another fourteen, didn’t know that an object orbiting a planet was a satellite. Apparently Newcomb, years later, apologized to Hall for the indiscretion.

That isn’t the end of professional one-ups-manship. Newcomb had a young protégée, Edward S. Holden, who was Hall’s aggressive assistant. When Hall set out on his search for moons of Mars, he hoped to get rid of this pain-in-the-neck lest he steal the credit. Fortunately, Holden was called away temporarily to another observatory leaving Hall in peace. In due course, Holden heard about the discovery of the two satellites and promptly found two more. Nobody was going to get ahead of Ed Holden! In spite of Holden’s imaginative effort, Mars still has only two satellites, but seeing things that aren’t there didn’t impede him from later becoming the vexatious director of Lick Observatory.

Rowland A. Rupp

What Time Is It? (Part I)

by Joe Orzechowski

Have you ever wondered who actually decides what time it is and how they do it? I started thinking about this one day when I became curious about the difference between UT (Universal Time) and UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) time. This curiosity led me down a long and twisted path that I thought I would share with you.

Time Zones

Many of you are probably aware that the modern system of standardized timekeeping had its beginnings in the middle of the 19th Century when more modern methods of transportation, notably the railroads, became prevalent. While people were restricted to walking or traveling on horseback, the local time established by every large town or city (typically based on that location's mean solar time or local mean time) worked well enough. However, once people were able to travel great distances in relatively short periods of time, it became inconvenient to constantly adjust your watch each time you arrived in a new town. Train schedules also called for a more orderly method of setting the time of day at points along the track. Imagine having an overnight layover in Syracuse and then missing your train in the morning by 10 minutes because your watch was still set to Buffalo time. The Great Western Railway in England was the first to adopt London time throughout its system in November 1840. Other railways soon followed suit and by 1847 most (though not all) railways in England used London time or what was called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). The GMT time scale was started in 1676 after King Charles II appointed John Flamsteed as the first Astronomer Royal and ordered the construction of the Royal Greenwich Observatory.

The idea of time zones was first proposed in an 1870 publication by American college professor Charles F. Dowd. The idea was later promoted by William F. Allen, Secretary of the American Railway Association and eventually a standard time system was developed which replaced the 49 railroad times then in use with five time zones. On Sunday November 18, 1883 "Standard Railway Time" was adopted by most railways in the United States and Canada. However, like in England, there were a few holdouts. A rather amusing example is the city of Detroit which maintained their local time until the year 1900. In that year the City Council decreed that clocks should be turned back 28 minutes to match Central Standard Time. Half of the city obeyed the decree while half refused to accept the change. What a mess that must have been. Detroit voters finally agreed to adopt Central Standard Time in 1905.

In 1884 the International Meridian Conference was convened in Washington, DC. It was at this conference that the basics of our current system of international standard time were adopted and the prime meridian at Greenwich was established. The actual text of Resolution II that was voted on and passed at the conference was:

"That the Conference proposes to the Governments here represented the adoption of the meridian passing through the center of the transit instrument at the Observatory of Greenwich as the initial meridian for longitude."

As always there were those who refused to go along. In this case it was the French, who abstained from the prime meridian vote. The French continued to use the Paris Meridian for navigation purposes until 1914.

Thus it was that the standard railway time system was eventually extended to civil time for everyone. To remind us how closely our standard time system is tied to the transportation system in this country, the Standard Time Act of 1918 gave the Interstate Commerce Commission the authority to define and to entertain proposals to adjust the borders of the time zones within the US and in 1983 this responsibility was transferred to the Department of Transportation.

GMT and Universal Time

There are a few natural cycles that can be considered as forming the basis of a time interval. These include the day/night cycle, the cycle of the seasons during the year, and the cycle of lunar phases. Of these three the day/night cycle dominates our lives and is the logical choice for a time scale. An interesting fact is that the Earth's

What Time Is It? (continued)

rotation relative to the stars (its true rotation period) is not used for any time scale. The sidereal time scale with which astronomers are familiar uses the Earth's rotation relative to the vernal equinox point which takes into account precession. The mean sidereal day is actually 0.0084 seconds shorter than the true rotation period of the Earth.

The basic unit of time is the second, which then accumulates to minutes, hours, days, months, years, etc. The (mean solar) second is defined as being equal to 1/86400 of a mean solar day. This comes from the familiar breakdown of 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour and 24 hours in a day. A true solar day is the interval between successive transits of the central meridian by the Sun. The length of the true solar day varies continuously throughout the year. In order to make all days equal in length, we must average out these variations over an entire year to get the length of a mean solar day. The mean solar day is a fairly good measure of time and it served as the basis for Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), long a timekeeping standard. The British railroads used GMT as their Standard Railway Time and mariners used GMT for decades before this to keep time and compute longitude during voyages.

Universal Time (UT) was introduced in 1926 to replace GMT because that name had become somewhat ambiguous. There was a GMT that measured time starting at noon each day and also a GMT that started each day at midnight. Universal Time was not really a change in the time scale but rather a redefinition of the time scale. Each new day in the UT system starts at midnight. Even though UT is equivalent to mean solar time for the Greenwich meridian, it is actually derived from sidereal time using a mathematical formula. This formula takes into account the shape of the Earth's orbit around the Sun, the accompanying changes in velocity along the orbit and other factors. But UT is ultimately associated with the length of the mean solar day so, even though it is computed from sidereal time, it does run at a different rate.

As the mechanisms for measuring time improved it became evident that the rotation of the Earth was not terribly uniform. The Earth's rotation is gradually slowing down at a rate of about 1.4 ms per day per century. This means that after one hundred years the day becomes about 1.4 ms longer and the year becomes about 0.5 seconds longer. There are also various random and periodic fluctuations in the Earth's rotation rate. Any time scale that is based on the Earth's rotation is non-uniform. This means that the time interval between 2001-01-01T00:00:00 UT and 2099-01-01T00:00:00 UT is longer than the time interval between 1901-01-01T00:00:00 UT and 1999-01-01T00:00:00 UT because the day is getting longer.

In the mid-1950's UT was separated into three slightly different time systems: UT0, UT1 and UT2. All three time scales suffer from the non-uniformity due to the gradual deceleration of the Earth's rotation but UT1 and UT2 attempt to address some of the other variations and fluctuations in the Earth's rotation. The time scale UT0 is based on the length of the mean solar day as measured at Greenwich, England. The time scale UT1 is computed from UT0 but includes a correction for the effect of polar motion. This is the slight change in the location of the Earth's rotation axis with respect to the Earth's crust. Polar motion causes small changes in the geographical longitude of locations on the Earth's surface with respect to the reference meridian and these changes in longitude lead to changes in the measurement of UT0 time at that location. While UT0 is specific to the location at which it is measured, all locations on the Earth's surface would share the same time in the UT1 system. UT1 served as the official time of the world until 1972. While UT1 is consistent for all places on the Earth it is still irregular since the rotational velocity of the Earth is known to be variable. A correction of UT1 for the strongest and most regular variations yields the time scale UT2. The difference between any two of these time scales is on the order of tens of milliseconds.

Well, that's all the time I have for now (groan!). Part II will appear in the next issue of the Spectrum. In that article I will discuss Ephemeris Time, atomic clocks and the origins of UTC.

BAA ANNALS

5 YEARS GO - Our annual banquet was scheduled to be held at Banchetti's restaurant where Dr. David Chesebrough, head of the Buffalo Museum of Science, was to speak on the renovations at the Museum, including those at Kellogg observatory. In April, Rowland Rupp spoke on the current status of the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. President Joe Orzechowski encouraged members to apply their skills to develop and maintain the robotic telescope.

Tom Bakowski and Bill Aquino wrote a report for *The Spectrum* on their observations of Saturn. They ran into a problem with the 20-inch scope which proved to be seriously out of collimation. The cold weather of mid-December slowed the collimation process considerably, but they got there eventually. Their reward was to find and identify six moons, and to observe the Encke division in the rings, as well as the dim crepe ring

10 YEARS AGO - Melissa Marcus was in charge of our 1998 March dinner meeting at Classics V. The speaker was Buffalo State's John Grant whose subject was Mars. That is, he did his best to speak over the relentless din of raucous music(?) emanating from an unexpected gathering in the room next to ours. Melissa complained to the restaurant and got a partial refund. CCD imaging was Greg Terrence's topic when he spoke in April. Carl Milazzo offered to help start up special sections, such as observing and astrophotography, but apparently no one heeded his suggestion. Cyberspace malaise may have already set in. This was the last *Spectrum* Bill Smith intended to edit; he was looking for a replacement. I guess he didn't get one; Bill edited the next edition too.

Neil Dennis wrote an article on comets, particularly emphasizing historical events and, more recently, comets Halley and Hale-Bopp. Allen C. Goodrich published a follow-up article, "The Universe - Gravity - A Unified Theory", to his one of the year before. The earlier article fostered a number of comments in subsequent *Spectrums*. There was also a book review by Rowland Rupp on Barry E. DiGregoio's "Mars: the Living Planet". Barry is a Western New Yorker who has become widely known for his science writings. Photos of M76 by Frank Chalupka and Dan Marcus, taken with the club's 12-inch scope, were included in their Observation Report.

15 YEARS AGO - Dr. James Birx from Canisius College spoke at the March 1993 meeting on Giordano Bruno. For April, Dr. Carol Lucy presented a multi-media show on her Jamestown Community College students' work in mapping the sky with radio telescopes at the Greenbank National Radio Observatory. Rowland Rupp gave a short, mind-boggling presentation of astrophotography using previously untried methods. One must remember, however - it was April! President Bill Smith commented on our fund raising efforts in support of our purchase of the 20-inch telescope and the expansion of the observatory building. We were granted \$6000 from the Buffalo Audubon Society toward the addition (another \$900 was added later and \$5000 from the Buffalo Foundation for the telescope, plus another \$3300 was raised from our members. We later estimated, at the request of the BAS, that the labor from BAA members expended in the building construction was worth another \$2500.

There was a bunch of articles in *The Spectrum*. Bill Smith wrote on "A Survey of Globular Clusters", Leslie Martin had an article about the effort to find a planet (Vulcan) interior to the orbit of Mercury. From time to time observers claimed to have spotted it, but all were discredited, sometimes severely. Ed Lindberg wrote about chromatic aberrations in his "Instrument Notes", while another article, from an unknown contributor, commented on the advantages and drawbacks of street lighting.

25 YEARS AGO - A member of the Syracuse Astronomical Society, Jesse Eichenlaub, spoke in March on "The Amateur Space Telescope". Dr. Gil Brink, a BAA member and professor of physics at UB, was our April 1983 speaker. His topic was "Lasers and Laser Ranging". A special program, sponsored by the Buffalo Museum of Science, was held on April 29 and April 30 when Dr. Frank Drake, the noted radio astronomer and SETI proponent, gave talks on his specialty - "Extraterrestrial Intelligence".

The BAA's Michael Idem wrote about "Deep Sky Observing and Light Pollution" He claimed to reach 15.2 magnitude objects with a 12.5-inch scope on nights of exceptional seeing. Edith Geiger's candid profile subject was Doris Koestler, who was later to serve as BAA president. Darwin Christy wrote an observation report on light measurements he made during a lunar eclipse, Ed Lindberg wrote about a fireball he saw, and Carl Milazzo reported on several observations, one a bright aurora that Darwin noted as well.

Steve Kramer bought a hand held astrological computer (yes, I typed that correctly). With the technology of the times and the aid of a handbook to interpret the abbreviated display, Steve was able to decipher some limited information for an Earth centered system. I don't think Steve became an advocate either of astrology or of his newly acquired gadget.

35 YEARS AGO - Three speakers highlighted the March 1973 meeting. Ernst Both opened with "Astrophotos (?) Most People Don't Bother With", Orrin Christy followed with a "short, short" movie on an unidentified topic, and Gretchen Shork ended the meeting with plans she had for the forthcoming BAA exhibit at Eastern Hills Mall. For April, John Riggs was scheduled to speak on deep sky observing. President Darwin Christy announced his appointments to facilitate our planned observatory at Beaver Meadow. They were Liaison Committee Chairman - Ernst Both, and Finance and Fund Raising Chairman - Bob Kartyas.

John Riggs contributed another of his "Deep Sky Observing" notes in *The Spectrum*, and Fred Price wrote about William Morley Baxter, a solar observer and former Director of the Solar Section of the British Astronomical Association. Editor Ernst Both filled out *The Spectrum* with a couple of NASA News Releases.

Just a note: I think Irene and I joined the BAA in April 1973.

Rowland A. Rupp

Winter Festival at the Museum

The Buffalo Museum of Science hosted a Winter Festival on February 2nd and 3rd and the BAA was there to help. In attendance on Saturday were Alan Friedman, Mike Anzalone, Jim and Bethel Lehmann, Dan Marcus and Mike Benz. Although it was cloudy that day, visitors to the museum and fourth floor were treated to a demonstration in imaging with a telescope by Alan and they got to look at themselves in the mirror at the bottom of Mike B's DOB. The Sun never peaked out but we had our Solar Filters at the ready in the event it did.

Mike A, Jim, Bethel and Dan took turns holding tours of the roof top observatory for anyone brave enough to take the cold climb to the roof. Alan's demonstration on LRGB imaging was excellent. He took an LRGB shot of a boy (Danny) from across the room and composed this image of Danny,

http://www.avertedimagination.com/images/danny_020208.jpg,

in a short period of time using a black and white camera, LRGB filters and his MAC. Maybe we can get him to show those of us interested how this is done at a BAA meeting. What say ye Alan? You can tell by how quickly he did it that he has done this once or twice in the past. All in all it was a very rewarding day. The crowds were good and the kids were smiling and having a good time.

Mike Benz

The BMO Report

With the winds howling and the snow falling (sideways) it's sometimes hard to think that spring is just around the corner, and that public nights will soon be upon us, but it's a fact. With that in mind my thoughts turn to getting the observatory in shape for the 2008 season.

On February 9th Dan Marcus, Derek Bill, Mike Anzalone and I spent the evening cleaning out the flotsam and jetsam that had collected in the observatory over the past years. Mike Anzalone is providing a home for much of Edith Geiger's collection of charts and lunar photos at his office in Hamburg. Thanks Mike, they will be better preserved in that location. Mike also took a couple of the salvageable telescopes to his office for protection from the extreme elements under the observatory.

On Monday February 11, I purchased a new InFocus digital projector for the Beaver meadow observatory; it came with an 8ft screen. This new addition will hopefully get more speakers to BMO for the summer season of public nights. Speaking of speakers, I haven't gotten any offers as yet but anybody out there who has a presentation they would like to give, all of my first and third Saturdays are open. So don't be shy, give me a call at 827-8836 or 479-0353 to schedule a short talk on any, first or third Saturday from April through October.

As soon as the snow goes away for another year I'll be calling for a work party to re-shingle the rolling roof at beaver meadow. This would be a great opportunity for new members to get acquainted with a lot of senior club members and get the mandatory work party necessary to get access to the observatory out of the way.

Well that about covers everything so far this February.

Pat Lannon, Observatory Director. BMO

Buffalo Astronomical Association Members Astronomy Websites

Compiled by Tom Bakowski

- Tom Bakowski -- www.tomseyeonthesky.com
-- Wide Angle images of the sky thru the seasons, from dark skies of PA, using a dslr camera and lens.
- Thom Bemus -- www.upstateastro.org/stars/index.html
-- Astronomy resource site.
- Anthony Davoli -- www.astro.premcom.com/ADM/index.htm -- www.admaccessories.com
-- Images of deep sky objects using a Takahashi FSQ-106 and a dslr camera.
- Tristan Dilapo and Mike O'Connor -- www.orbitjetobservatory.com
-- Images of deep sky objects and transient events.
-- Tristan uses a fully robotic Meade 12" LX200 and CCD.
-- Mike uses a fully robotic Celestron 9.25", Takahashi TOA-130 and CCD.
- Alan Friedman -- www.avertedimagination.com
-- Highest resolution images of the solar system using a Astro-Physics10"- 6,5,4" refractors.
- Mike Israel -- <http://poochpa.myalbum.net/>
-- Images of solar system and deep sky objects using a TeleVue NP101 and Meade 8" LX200GPS with a webcam or dslr camera.
- Dr. Jack Mack -- <http://facstaff.buffalostate.edu/mackje/>
-- Astronomy resource page.
- Mark Percy -- www.williamsvillek12.org/planetarium
-- Williamsville Planetarium schedule.
- Peter Proulx -- www.gotastronomy.com -- www.ip4ap.com
-- Images of deep sky objects using a Meade 10" RCX and CCD camera.

If you're a BAA member, and not on the club's message board, then you're missing out on communication and current events. This message archive, started in 1999, has 134 members and had over 12,130 messages!

-- http://groups.yahoo.com/group/buffalo_astro_assoc/

The Spectrum The Newsletter of the Buffalo Astronomical Association

Richard L. Fusani, Editor
313 Central Ave. Apt 2
Lancaster, NY 14086
(716) 432-3819

