

The Spectrum

The Newsletter for the Buffalo Astronomical Association

July/August

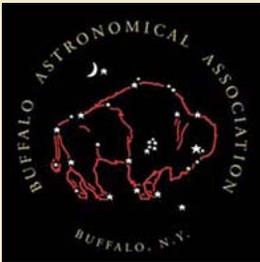
Volume 17, Issue 4



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The Election results are in!



Vice President:

Irene Ziarnowski



At Large Directors:

Dennis Bartkowiak

Steve Smith

Neal Ginsberg



CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL !



BAA Schedule of Astronomy Fun for 2015



Public Nights-First Saturday of the Month through October

2015 schedule of events:

July 4: Public Night BMO

July 10: Star Party

Jul 11: Wilson Star Search

Jul 15: New Moon

Jul 18: Club Star Party at BMO times TBA.

Aug 1: Public Night BMO

Aug 8: Wilson Star Search

Aug 12: Meteor Shower –BMO anyone??

Aug 14: New Moon

Sept 5: Public Night BMO

Sept 12: Wilson Star Search

Sept 11-13: Black Forest Star Party J

Sept 18: BAA Meeting at 7:30pm at Buffalo State College –changed from the normal 2nd Friday!

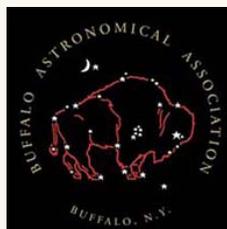
Oct 3: Public Night BMO

Oct 9: BAA Meeting at 7:30pm at Buffalo State College

Oct 10: Wilson Star Search

Nov 13: BAA Meeting at 7:30pm at Buffalo State College

Dec 11: BAA Meeting at 7:30pm at Buffalo State College – Holliday Party!



Observatory Report

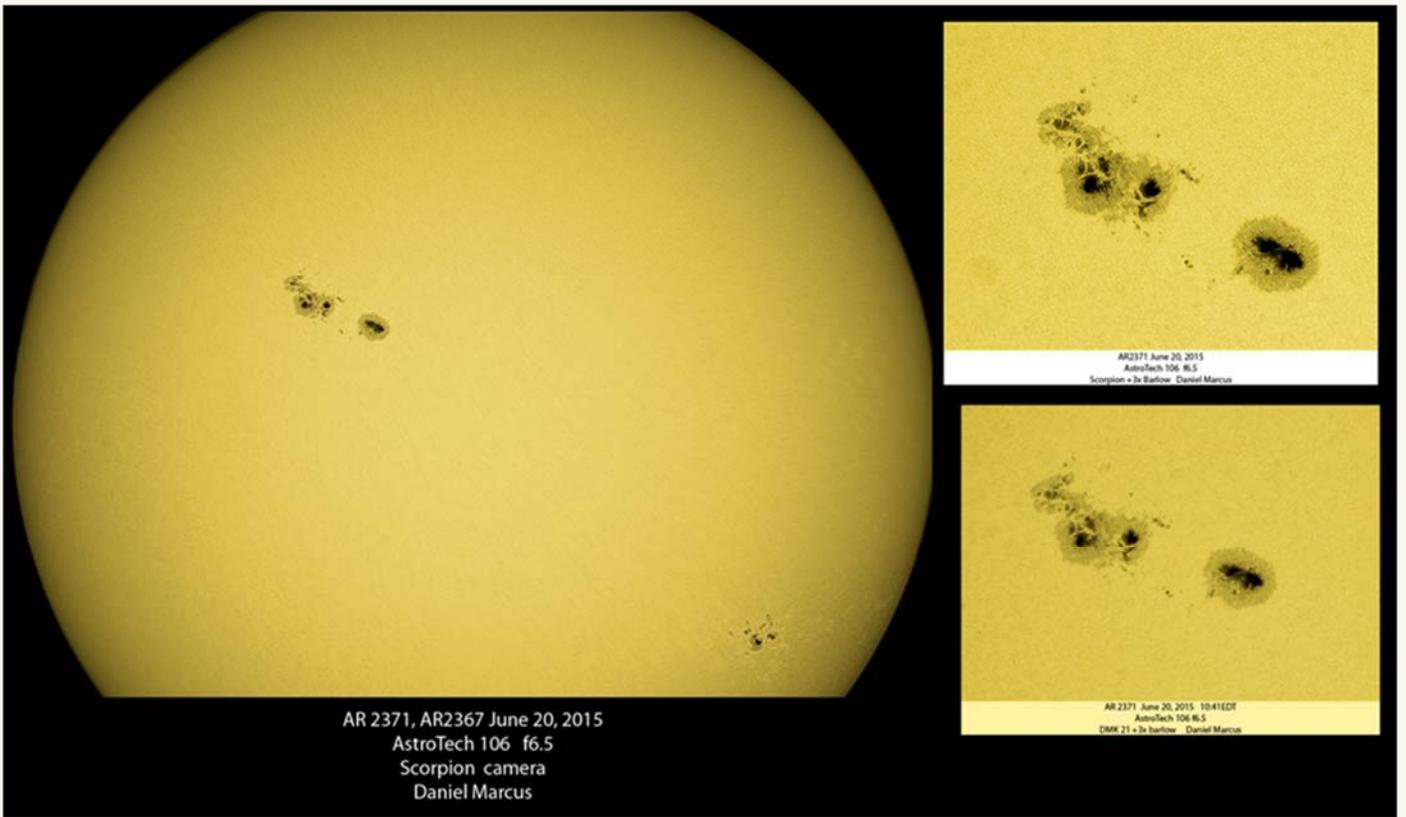
Now that we have the rings to stabilize the C-14 and have been able to take some long exposures with the NP101is, we have noticed some issues with the images. We have pretty much eliminated the flexure issues, but there are some optical problems with the NP101is. When I sent the focuser out for repairs, they zeroed out the tilt on the focuser. We have now gone and readjusted the focuser. The images look MUCH better. Now we need a dark night to test it properly.

Tuesday Night at the Observatory has been great fun. Dennis B. will tell you imaging is easy once you get the hang of it but, the learning curve is less drastic when you have help nearby. With the great equipment that we have at BMO imaging is a snap. We are in the progress of getting the NP101is setup so we can do some longer images. Once we get the focuser fully zeroed in, we can start the fun in earnest. Our new goal is to image all the Messier objects with the C-14 and the ST-9 in B&W and also get them in the NP101is in color with my canon T3i. Getting Astro Tortilla to work is also a goal. Right now we have an issue with Backyard EOS on the telescope computer not letting the camera go to bulb. It works ok with the other computer, so all is good. Will eventually figure it out and get both programs working together properly. All in all we are having way toooooo much fun. I will announce when we are having "Tues" night on the clubs e-groups. We normally plan on arriving around 7/8pm for the Jun/July/Aug sessions as the Sun does not set till late. Got to love the winter months, NO BUGS, and you get 6 hours of astronomy in by midnight! You can also reach me at DMa341551@msn.com or try my phone at 716-773-5015 /cell 445-4991. If you have some young folk that would like to visit us on Tues nights, they are more than welcome to come use the 20" and help image.



See you at the Observatory

Daniel Marcus



I took this image of the large Sunspot group of June 20, 2015. Looking for input – so come visit us on “Tues night”. I used a Baader Solar Filter + a red filter on my Astro-Tech 106 f6.5 scope. For the “full” disk I used a Scorpion camera, for the enlargements, I used a 3X Barlow – one was with a DMK – took 1500 frames, the other was with a Scorpion and was 1000 frames. Both were stacked with Registax and 100 frames were used. Looks like the DMK and 1500 frames wins?? I take it was because Registax was able to stack better frames since it had more to pick from?? Let me know your opinion!



Cover Image:

Sunspots shot taken June 21 at 18:24 using a 12' LX200GPS, Thousand Oaks solar filter, and a Canon T3. 1/2048sec at ISO1600. No other equipment was used.



Mike H

JULY 10 STAR PARTY

Larry Carlino invites you to a star party from 8PM to midnight on Friday, July 10, 2015, at his home at 7118 Kinne Rd in the town of Lockport. His observing site features relatively dark skies and mostly unobstructed views from various points on the property.

Larry has decades of experience in observing and telescope making and has more than 40 telescopes ranging from 3-inch refractors to 20" and 28" Dobsonians.

The event will be held "rain or shine" with "shine" strongly preferred.

Directions to the site: Take US 78 (Transit Rd.) and turn east at the light on Tonawanda Creek North. Drive appx. 3.4 miles and proceed straight at the stop sign at Rapids Rd. which becomes Wisterman Rd. Drive .75 miles to where Wisterman ends on Kinne Rd. Make a left turn on Kinne and drive .45 miles to 7118 which is on the left side of the road and surrounded by pine and spruce trees.

Contact phone number: (716) 433-3432. E-mail: as-trozelle@verizon.net



Membership Corner

Happy summer to all and hearty BAA welcome to our newest members:

Taylor Cramer, Darrell Davis, Charles Faso, Mark Glofka, Ryan Hallock, Matt Bille & Michelle Kearns, Dennis Lalka, James Maroney, Anthony Pismarov, Mark Syracuse, and Vincent Whitney.

We are happy to have you on board! To all members, new and old, if we can answer questions or help you to get connected with other members or club activities, please let us know.

Clear skies!

Alan Friedman and Dennis Bartkowiak

Membership Committee

info@buffaloastronomy.com

"Pillars of Creation."



Hubble failed Kindergarten
then after teachers urged
"Try harder next time"
it graduated to become
the Spielberg of the Cosmos
spinning credible stories
for eye & mind
beyond noble categories
of truth & fiction

So he whose drought of marvel
was often watered by the heavens
clicked on a link
emailed to him by a friend
& was awed to see what they call the
PILLARS OF CREATION
captured by the camera's eye
of the redeemed telescope

But he thought the clouds of dust & gas
in the Eagle Nebula
6,500 light years away
posed more like the Left Hand of God
index finger crooked not pointing
thus preserving the boneless frame
of Eternal Mystery
no matter what technology or mind or
saint's soul's supernova sought it

Still, he could not contain
the growling wonder
whether spirits or eggs
or *De Profundus* engines
wheeling somewhere inside the residents
on this time-ticked planet
were advancing if not a cause
at least an effect of a paradise
felt by all / invisible to all
but the infra-red wisdom of ancient
pulses & promises
constantly renewed

Gerald Wild
Jan 2015

"Luna Over Lake Erie"
Friday, June 19th
8:00 pm - 11:00pm
 Lake Erie Seaway Trail Visitor Center
 4968 Lakeshore Road
 Hamburg, NY

Sunset 8:57 pm
 Moonset 11:03 pm



3.5 Day
 Waxing Moon

"Luna Over Lake Erie"

Presented by the Buffalo Astronomical Association in collaboration with Lake Erie Seaway Trail Visitor Center. Telescopes loaned by members of the Buffalo Astronomical Association will be present to allow visitors to view a setting crescent Moon with "satellites", Live Moon Projection, and the planets Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn.

Event is Weather and Skies Permitting



SOLSTICE

NEW! *Soirée*

JUNE 20, 2015 7³⁰-10³⁰PM



BAA Astronomy Performances

Thanks to all the BAA members who helped make “*Luna Over Lake Erie*” and the “*Solstice Soirée*” huge successes.

“*Luna Over Lake Erie*” took place on Friday, June 19th along the shores of Lake Erie in Hamburg, NY at the [Lake Erie Seaway Trail Visitor Center](#) which provides a great venue to view some gorgeous sunsets, moon sets (which many visitors don’t think happens), the Buffalo Skyline, as well as telescopic views of the Sun, Moon, planets and brighter deep sky objects. Fortunately the skies did clear sufficiently to see the sunset as well as to provide views of the 3½ day waxing crescent Moon and the planets Venus, Jupiter and Saturn. Of course the BAA “live” theater provided large screen projections of the Moon, planets and Buffalo skyline.

Once again the “BAA Traveling Rooftop Astronomy Players” performed flawlessly at the Buffalo Museum of Science’s “Solstice Soiree on Saturday, June 20th. 100’s of visitors were delighted with stellar views and as a sign of their appreciation stood the entire performance (well there were only a few chairs up on the roof). Stormy afternoon weather partially cleared out by “show time” and all were treated to views of a beautiful 4½ day old waxing crescent moon, binary stars, and the planets Venus, Jupiter and Saturn when the skies opened up. Additionally, when not at the telescopes, visitors visually feasted on the spectacular 360° views of the surrounding skyline as well as enjoyed our “live” large screen projection of the Moon, planets and surrounding Buffalo architecture.

Thanks again to all that attended.

Clear Steady Skies,

Mike Anzalone



Spectrum Classifieds



Brand new 12 Inch Truss Dobsonian. Never in the field. Orion XXI 12 Intelliscope. Comes with all of the items as described in the Orion catalog plus I purchased the case set for the equipment. Cost for all approximately \$1600. Will sell for \$900. Please note this is the push to object locator and not the GoTo model.

Please call if interested at 716-868-6168



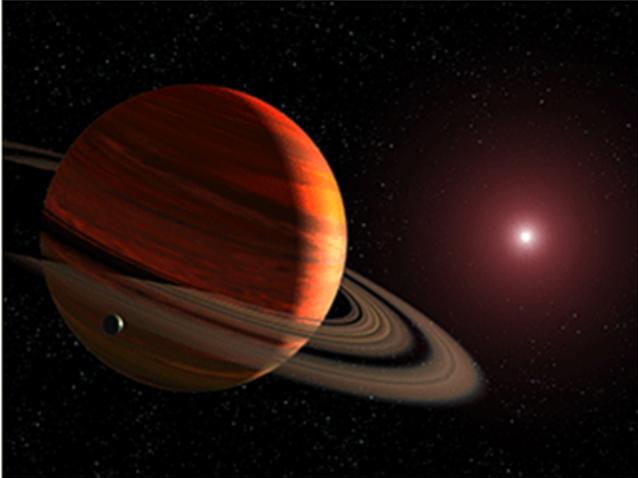
Astro-Fashion.

The latest in fashion accessories for the discriminating astronomer is the Celestron Baseball Cap. They come in any color scheme you like as long as you like cream with brown lettering. One of these fine accessories can be yours for *FREE* (as long as supplies last). I have a number of these caps and will be giving a cap to anyone who submits three articles that are printed in the Spectrum. Hurry—supplies are limited. (Although when these are gone, I have other stuff!)





Outreach Resources



Telecon 50 Years of Exoplanets

NSN Members: You are invited to join us for a special members-only telecon on July 21, 2015 at 6:00 pm PDT/9:00 PM EDT. Our guest will be Dr. Charles Beichman, the Executive Director of the NASA Exoplanet Science institute. His talk will be: 50 Years of Exoplanet Science: the View from 2045.

Access information and slides will be made available prior to the teleconference. If interested in attending, send me an email with "teleconference" in the subject line. I'll send you the material when it becomes available. Mike H



The New Horizons Pluto-Kuiper Belt Mission, launched in January 2006 and due to arrive at Pluto in 2015 (7/14/2015 at 7:49am), will help us to understand the icy worlds at the edge of our solar system. The mission will then visit one or more Kuiper Belt Objects beyond Pluto. New Horizons made a close flyby of Jupiter in Feb. 2007 in order to get a gravitational boost enroute to Pluto, shortening its cruise time by about 3 years. The instruments were exercised successfully and returned exciting Jupiter science to earth, including images of a 200 mile high plume from the active Tvashtar volcano.

Our solar system has three classes of planets: the rocky "terrestrial" planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars); beyond them the giant planets (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune); and the third zone, of primitive icy bodies that are found principally in the Kuiper Belt beyond Neptune. These objects are believed to be representative of the material which condensed to form the other planets. Their growth into full sized planets was arrested early in the history of the solar system. Hence they hold clues about the distant past of the solar system and the chemical endowment of all the planets including our Earth. There may be as many as a billion of these objects of greater than 10 km in diameter. The National Academy of Sciences placed the exploration of the third zone in general - and Pluto-Charon in particular - among its highest priority planetary mission rankings for this decade. As the first mission to investigate this class of planetary bodies, New Horizons will fill an important gap in our knowledge of the solar system. Following its visit to the Pluto/Charon/Nix/Hydra system in July 2015, the spacecraft will proceed deeper into the Kuiper Belt to study one or more of the icy mini-worlds in that vast region, up to a billion miles beyond Neptune's orbit.

BAA Officers and General Information

President: Mike Anzalone

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Vice President: Irene Ziarnowski

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Neal Ginsberg ngpilsung@gmail.com

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Spectrum Editor: Michael Humphrey

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Star Parties: Dan Marcus

BAA Yahoo E Group: Dennis Hohman

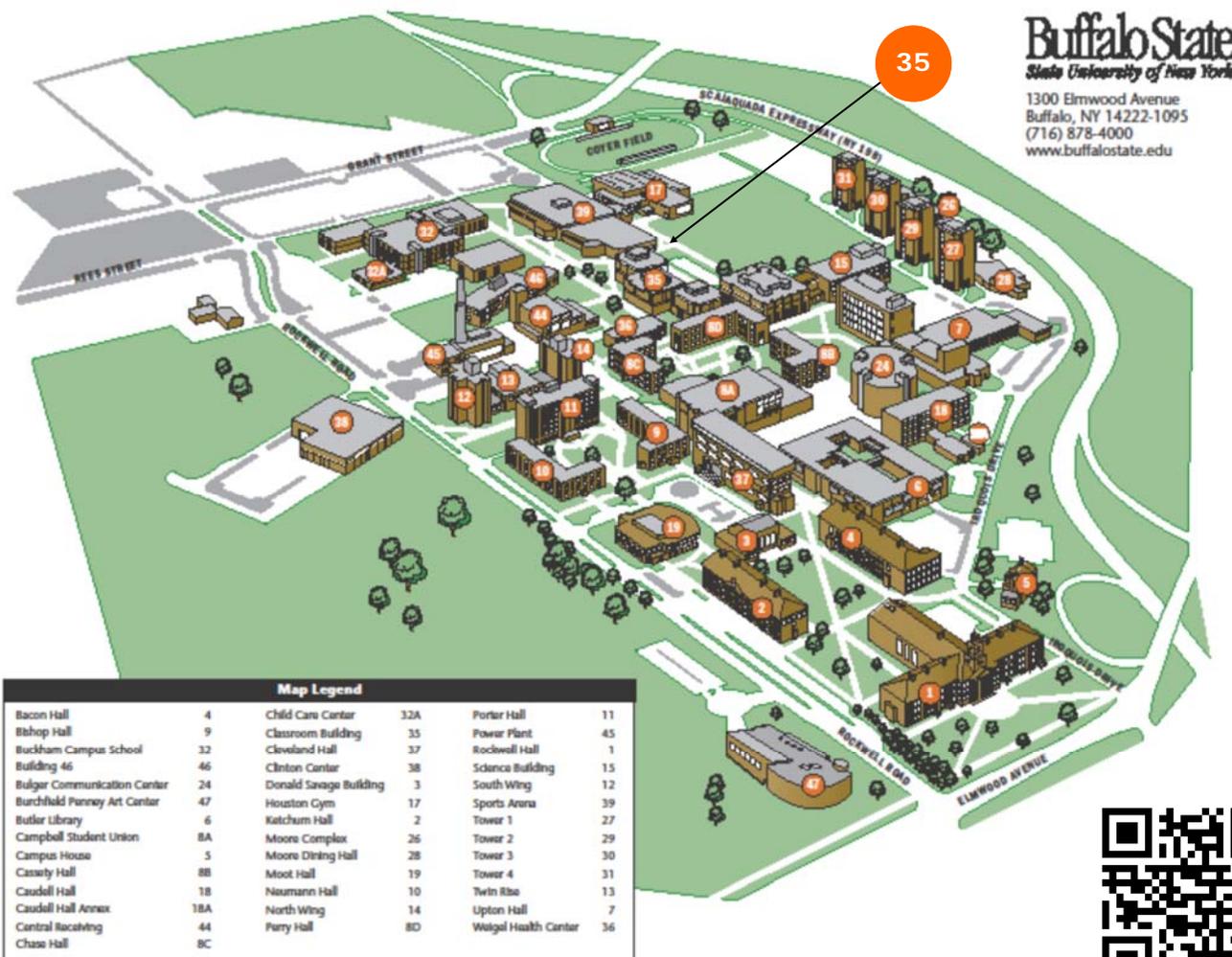
BAA Website Webmaster: Gene Timothy

BAA voice mail box: (716) 629-3098

Website:

www.buffaloastronomy.com

Location / Time of Meetings: BAA meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of the month from September to June starting at 7:30pm. Our meetings are held in room C122 of the Classroom Building at the Buffalo State Campus. See map below, building 35.



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