

# BAA CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. VI - No. 6

\*\*

February 1958

\*\*

Editor- L. Reinagel

## UNITED STATES SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES AN EARTH SATELLITE; THIRTY POUND SPHERE

### MEMBERSHIP LIST CORRECTIONS

The following members were not placed on the circulated list:

33) Westland, James F.  
845 Chestnut Hill Rd  
East Aurora, N.Y.  
CY 3283

34) Whyman, walter  
193 Oak St.  
Batavia, N.Y.

These names will also be included in the mid-year listing of members.

### OBSERVATIONAL DATA

During the month of February, the celestial show will be in the morning skies.

Venus becomes a -4.1 object early in the month.

Mars rises in Sagittarius while Jupiter is in Virgo, approaching opposition at -1.8

Saturn rises a little ahead of Mars, being in Ophiuchus.

During February and March, sunset will be the most favorable times to view the zodiacal light. This parabolic shape of light around the sun is just a little fainter than the Milky Way about one hour after sunset making it necessary to have a clear western horizon free from city lights and other interference.

### FEBRUARY MEETING FEATURES NOTED ASTRONOMER

This month's gathering at the Museum of Science in Humboldt Parkway at 8:00 P.M. in the Roosevelt Room will have the honor of hearing Mr. George Davis. Mr. Davis has long been known in Western New York as the curator of Astronomy in the Museum of Science. His Thursday night open houses for those who wish to look through the Kellogg telescope have enlightened many Buffalo people. He is nationally known for his knowledge of stellar name origins. His thorough understanding of Arabian Greek and Latin languages and cultures have made him top authority in this field.

In his talk in the program he will discuss the expanding universe and its changes in form. During the second part of his talk, he will impart some of his vast knowledge of stars and the nomenclature.

After the meeting, weather being favorable, there will be observing on the museum roof.

For best observing, the eyes should be allowed to adapt to the

### JUPITER MISSILE SHOT FROM CAPS CANAVERAL PAD

At 5:00 P.M. January 31, a three stage rocket rose from the launching pad carrying a thirty pound spherical artificial satellite. This marks the first successful firing of an earth satellite by the United States.

On this Saturday morning, Smithsonian Astrophysical Institute, headquarters for Operation Moonwatch, has not yet notified groups of their jobs. We can expect though a big task ahead of us once an orbit has been calculated. It is then the job of Moonwatchers like ourselves to pin down the satellite for the big cameras of satellite stations.

In Buffalo, all is in readiness for the operation. Upon the first signal for alert, all trained personnel in the area will be notified by phone or, in some cases, postcard. At the determined time, we will converge at the Clarence station for our first alert. There are only nine such trained people in Buffalo, leaving a need for more persons, interested in this most necessary phase of I.O.Y. If you are free during an hour of sunset and sunrise and wish to help in this program, contact Ed Lindberg or the editor of this paper for training.