

BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL
ASSOCIATION

THE SPECTRUM

NOVEMBER, 1959

EDITOR P. REDDING

The third meeting of the Fall season will be held on Wednesday evening, November 4, 1959 at the Buffalo Museum of Science, Humboldt Park, Buffalo, New York.

The speaker for the evening will be Mr. Walter Semerau noted Solar Observer who will speak on his recent work in Solar Observation.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:00 P.M. The public is invited.

* * * *

Members Don't forget your annual dues are due by December 15, 1959. Your membership entitles you to the cut rate on Sky and Telescope and also your subscription to the "Spectrum". So pay your \$5.00 to Miss. Meyer at the next meeting or send your check or money order to: BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION 12 Manhardt St. Buffalo 15, New York.

* * * *

The Fall session of the B.A.A.'s Telescope Making Class began on October 9, 1959 in the Museum's Craft Shop under the direction of Ed Lindberg. At the first meeting Mr. Lindberg went over the fundamentals of telescope making with the beginners and helped them get started on the road to completion of their first 6 inch telescope. Ed later worked with the members of last spring's class who were back to finish their mirror and were experiencing difficulty with the final stages of grinding and polishing. So come next summer we hope to see many more scopes at the star parties than we did last summer, which reminds me, if anyone has any ideas on how to run a successful Star Party next summer send them to me.

* * * *

A few months ago a poll was taken to how many members had telescopes and out of 40 polls sent out 30 were sent back, showing that the club had a total of 33 telescopes, the break down is as follows:

2 inch	6	6 inch	8	10 inch	2
3 inch	4	7 inch	1	11 inch	0
4 inch	7	8 inch	2	12 inch	1
5 inch	1	9 inch	0		

* * * *

A few months later another poll was taken to find out whether or not the members liked the way the meetings were being conducted. The ans. to the following three questions were the ones we wanted most:

1) What type of meetings do you prefer? Formal, Informal, Social.

70% felt that the meetings should be Informal.

2) What type of program do you prefer? Speakers, Films, Observing.

60% felt that the program should consist of Speakers.

3) How long do you feel the business meeting should last?

10 min., 20 min., 30 min., until the business is completed.

30% felt the business meeting should last until completed, 25% felt

10 min. was enough, another 25% felt 30 min. was enough, and another

20% felt that 20 min. is enough for the business meeting.

So on the strength of this poll the program committee is planning to keep the meetings Informal, have more speakers, and not to limit the business meetings to a specified time.

* * * *

The Chairman of the Observatory Committee Mr. Herman Elson reports that progress is being made in the completion of the plans for the telescope itself, 60 pounds of aluminium was purchased from Linde Aire thru Walter Semerau this will be used for the mount itself and will follow the design of the mounting used by Mr. Semerau for his 12 inch Solar Telescope. But all that glitters is not gold, we have run into snags on the money angle, we contacted a few people in the Buffalo area and the usual answer was quote " Our funds are not available for small specialized groups or small projects" Presently all we can do is keep trying and hope for the best.

* * * *

At the last meeting (Oct.) Secretary Lou Reinagle mentioned that the B.A.A. should be Incorporated before any actual work is started on the telescope or the housing thereby protecting the Association against suits arising out of possible accidents that may occur during construction of the Observatory or after it is in operation.

By the time of the meeting this month Incorporation proceedings should be well under way. As to the cost it is well known that the state charges a fee of \$25.00 for the issuing of the Charter and the small Lawyer fee if any should bring this to a total of \$35.00. Members will be notified as soon as the Charter is recieved from the State.

* * * *

Don't forget the November Meeting on Nov. 4, 1959 Mr. Walter Semerau noted amateur Solar Astronomer will speak to the association on his recent work at his Observatory in Kenmore N.Y. All those who have heard Mr. Semerau speak before know that his talks are always very interesting and contain many new ideâs instruments for solar observing that can be built by the amateur.

* * * *