

BAA CLUB BULLETIN

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JUNE 4 : ELECTION MEETING

Although this meeting is being held primarily for the purpose of elections, it will contain an organized program. This program will consist of an informal report of Buffalo in I.G.Y. Included will be a quick presentation of the typical problems encountered by those working the Moonwatch Committee and a progress report from the Semerau Solar Observatory.

If fillin is needed, there will be a fifteen minute talk on the light properties of crystals and their applications as prepared by your editor. After adjournment of the meeting, weather permitting, there will be observing on the museum roof.

Mr. Lindberg will return in the Fall to give a formal report on the advances of Operation Moonwatch in Buffalo. At that time, he will bring specimens of the equipment used in his program and explain their uses and complications.

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS there will be no meetings at the museum at instead, Star Parties at the homes of club members for the purpose of enjoyment.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE RESULTS

After much deliberation within the members of the committee, we finally arrived upon the list of those people who will act in the capacity of club officers during the club year of 1958 - 59.

These people will be listed at the meeting and votes called.

I cannot stress the need of full cooperation on the part of the members in this effort. According to the laws of the B.A.A. in order for elections to be passed, a quorum of 30% of the club's roster must be present. Since this list as some 43 people listed, this means that at least 15 people on the list must be present for this meeting.

After election, the new president will be called upon to make official two committees a Program Committee and Star Party Committee. The Program Committee, will consist of the club officers while the Star Party committee will have three members along with the Corresponding Secretary. The sole purpose of these two committees will be to insure a properly organized year, making their plans known through the club publications.

THE MINOR PLANETS OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

Scientists have, for hundreds of years, studied the presence and positions of thousands of small bodies of matter and have, for an equal time, tried to explain their existence.

Although the study of these minor planets is too difficult for the observer with his instrument, they are fascinating objects when recorded on a photographic plate.

The amateur astronomer these days can study the minor planets, however, with a minimum of effort and money. A basic requirement, however, is a well mounted telescope from 4 to 6 inches in aperture. A small plateholder can be built to fit the eyepiece tube and, by using Royal X Pan Film, surprising results can be obtained without a clock drive. With a 6" mirror of f8, a 30 second exposure will record down to +10 while giving a star trail of about 1/8" long.

Positions of minor planets can be obtained from Sky and Telescope. By taking two or three photographs on different nights, the orbits and angular speeds of these planets can be found.

The real fruit of this work is the extension of it into the search for new minor planets. The discovery of such a body will result not only in your own personal satisfaction but the recording of your name on the tables of science for all time.