

BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION INC

MARCH

THE SPECTRUM

1962

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THE MONTHLY MEETING

The next meeting of the Buffalo Astronomical Association will take place on Friday, March ninth at 8:00 P.M. at the Museum of Science. The meeting will be held in the Humboldt room.

The program will be as follows:

Edward Lindberg will give a talk on the Porter Garden Telescope. As it was designed it was functional in the garden not only in that it could be used as a telescope, but also as a sundial. He will bring one of these telescopes to illustrate his talk.

Herman Elson will talk on the subject of Star Magnitude.

Lyn Hemmings will tell about the Constellation of the Month.

After the meeting refreshments will be served. The committee consists of Ron Clippinger-coffee, Karl Kalweit-doughnuts, Paul Redding-cups & sugar. Weather permitting there will be observations with the Museum's 8 inch reflecting telescope.

ASTRONOMICAL ITEMS SALE

The Buffalo Astronomical Association is to have a sale of Astronomical items. The sale is to be held at a closed monthly meeting on May 11, 1962.

Members are asked to make a "Spring House Cleaning" of their collections of books, charts, photographs, drawings, eyepieces, prisms, mirrors and any other items that might be of use or interest to members of our association.

We hope that members will find items that they are willing to donate to this club sale, the purpose of which is to raise funds for our hard pressed treasury. Arrangements will be made with donors with regard to the percentage of the sale price he is willing to have the club take.

The exact type of sale - auction, fair or other, has not as yet been determined.

MOONWATCH SCOPES

Moonwatch scopes will be available to owners at the March, April and May

meetings. If they have not been picked up by the May meeting they will be included in the sale to be held at that time.

ELEMENTARY STUDY GROUP

The second February meeting of the Elementary Study Group was cancelled due to bad weather. The first March meeting is scheduled for March ninth at 6:30 P.M. in the Museum of Science.

ADVANCED STUDY GROUP

The Advanced Study Group will have its next regular meeting on March 17th at 2:00 P.M. at the Museum. The guard will direct members to the proper room.

At last month's meeting a report was given by Fred Flatobach on the book entitled "Between the Planets". A lively and informative discussion followed the talk.

ADVANCED OBSERVING GROUP

The Advanced Observing Group has begun preparatory work to enable it to establish a program of observations of the planet Mars at the coming opposition late this year.

OBSERVATORY

Work is expected to be resumed on our Newstead Observatory with the arrival of spring. Information about work schedules and visiting hours will be available in the near future.

Plans and work schedules for the completion of the club's large reflector are being drawn up by members of the observatory committee. It is hoped that some fairly definite target dates can be arrived at.

NUGGETS OF INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Twinkling of Stars

Though purely atmospheric in its origin, this phenomenon is of interest to astronomers, as it is affected by the nature of light emitted by each star, I.E. by its spectrum. White stars (Types A and B) twinkle most; yellow stars (Types F to K) slightly less, and red stars (Type M) least of all. Twinkling is least at the zenith, and in settled and calm weather. There is also a seasonal waxing and waning from mid-winter to mid-summer and vice versa. Planets do not usually twinkle except when near the horizon, due to the fact that they have discs of an appreciable size.

Paul Redding

Contributions to the Nuggets of Information Department will be gratefully received, and will be published, space permitting. Send any nuggets two weeks before the next meeting to your editor at 33 Burbank Dr., Snyder 26, N.Y.

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