

THE SPECTRUM

B.A.A. NEWSLETTER

MAY 1962

ASSOCIATION MEETS MAY 11TH

The monthly meeting of the Buffalo Astronomical Association is to be held on May 11th, the second Friday, in the Humboldt Room at 8:00 in the Museum of Science. Our program will consist of:

1) A talk by Herb Elson on "Aberations of starlight - first proof of the earth's revolution around the sun".

2) A film - "Voice to Mercury" - the preparation for John Glenn's orbital flight around the earth.

3) The presentation of the Constellation of the Month - Ursa Major by Paul Redding.

Refreshments, consisting of coffee and doughnuts will be served after the meeting, and as usual, there will be observations in the Museum's 8 inch telescope, weather permitting.

ADVANCED OBSERVING GROUP

The Advanced observing Group under the direction of Mr. Both has been meeting every first and third Friday evenings at 7:30 P.M. They

are presently engaged in drawing sketches of Mars from photographs. The purpose of this is to obtain experience in drawing surface details under simulated observing conditions. This has proved highly successful. With the coming of warm weather they will begin double star observations and begin to work with the micrometer.

ADVANCED STUDY GROUP

At the April meeting of the Advanced Study Group, Bruce Cook's report on "Stars in the Making" by Cecilia Payne-Gaposhkin was read. The next meeting will be held on the third Saturday, May 19th at 2:00 in the Museum of Science. The meeting will be led by Lou Reinagle who will instruct the group in some of the basic aspects of physics related to the study of astronomy.

ELEMENTARY STUDY GROUP

The elementary study group will meet as usual on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month under the direction of Ron Clippinger.

Walter Semerau invites us all to a picnic - observation party in his yard, sometime in July, at which time he will demonstrate his new solar instrument. The exact date will be announced later.

NUGGETS DEPARTMENT

Many persons are confused by the meaning of the word EPOCH. This term is used in most astronomical catalogues, and usually lists dates for every ten years.

A good definition for EPOCH is: The date for which an astronomical catalogue, chart, or position etc., has been calculated, as sooner or later, precession, proper motion etc., perceptibly change the positions given, and comparison at future epochs would be of little use without this date. The usual date is January 1st of the year: that of 1950 is a standard one.

3 inch Refractor, F/17, Right-angle Prism, Tripod, Case, Equatorial Mounting, slow motions on both axes. Brass tube and brass castings in equatorial head. Two eyepieces of unknown magnification.

3 inch Objective lens made in 1920 at Spencer Lens by a Mr. Conrad.
PRICE \$80.00

For further information call:

Mr. G. A. Randorf
278 Hirschfield Dr.
Williamsville 21, N.Y.
WF2-7642 after 6 P.M.

ADDED ATTRACTION

Starting in next month's issue of "The Spectrum" there will be a series of articles by Paul Redding entitled "YOUR TELESCOPE AND MINE". It will deal with common problems of telescope building, mainly refractors, and observing techniques.

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