

THE SPECTRUM

NOVEMBER 1963

BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

EDITOR B. COOK

OPEN MEETING IN NOVEMBER

The November meeting of the B.A.A. will be held at the Museum of Science at 7:45 P.M. on Friday Nov. 8th. The topic for this month's program is rather unusual. It is "Unidentified Flying Objects" (U.F.Os.) The speaker will be Mr. Norman Weiss, who has for many years been a serious student of these phenomena. During this time Mr. Weiss has collected a very impressive amount of information from many sources.

In addition to his collection of articles and publications on this subject Mr. Weiss has added a large amount of new material gathered on a recent extended tour of the western United States. He personally interviewed many people who claim to be witnesses to U.F.O. phenomena. While on his tour Mr. Weiss was also able to attend a convention on U.F.Os, where he contacted many authorities on this subject. Because of the controversial nature of this topic, we will have a prolonged question period following the address by the speaker. Also, because of the widespread interest in this subject our meeting will be open to the public. If you know anyone interested in U.F.Os, please invite him on our behalf to this month's meeting. We expect a large attendance, so come early and stay late.

OBSERVATORY NEWS

Work is progressing at the observatory site in Newstead. Leaks in the roof of the building (not the dome) have been repaired. Nearly all the finishing on the inside of the office has been completed and a start made on the interior finish of the observing room. All members are invited to share in this project. Any contribution you can make will be appreciated. Contact Ron Clippinger at NT4-4718 for information about the nature of the work and work schedules.

TELESCOPE TIPS

What power of magnification (abbreviated X) should I use with my telescope? What type eyepieces should I use? These are questions often asked by the amateur. Because telescopes vary in size, the rule to follow in selecting the X of your eyepiece is to multiply the size of your lens or mirror (Aperture in inches) by the following factors: for high power 60, medium high 45, medium 30, medium low 15, low 5. The above are only a rough guide and should not be considered an exact rule. However, telescopes cannot profitably use X much higher than 60 per inch aperture, or lower than 4 per inch aperture. It is also unprofitable to have a series of eyepieces with little difference in X, unless one or more are to be used for a special purpose (ie. solar work).

For example, let us consider the X to be used with a 4 in. aperture. Multiplying the above factors by 4 we arrive at the following: high X=240, medium high =180, medium =120, medium low =60, low =20.


To find the size (focal length) of the eyepiece that will give you a given X on your telescope, divide the X you want into the focal length of your telescope's objective or mirror. For example, if the X wanted is 120 and the focal length of the telescope is 60in. then $60/120 = \frac{1}{2}$. This is the focal length in inches needed to give you 120X.

If you can afford only 1 eyepiece buy Medium X; for 2 eyepieces - Medium high X and low X; 3 eyepieces - high X, medium X, low X; 4 eyepieces - add medium high to the above 3; and for 5 eyepieces add medium low X to the above four.


Next month we will describe types of eyepieces for various powers of magnification and for special purposes.

short focal length instruments with a field of 65 degrees at fl. 6. It is fine for sweeping the starry Milky Way and bright clusters. \$12 - \$15.

The Kellner, Orthoscopic, Apochromatic and Erfle should not be used to observe the sun as the heat will melt the cement between the achromatic lenses. For this work use only the Ramsden or Huygenian. The latter is best for projection and there should be an audible rattle of the lenses in the eyepiece to allow for expansion of the heated glass.



"GOODWILL TOWARD MEN"



Harlow Shapley recently wrote* "the 6th President of the United States is credited with the rather astonishing statement that one can judge the culture of a nation by the condition of its astronomical observatories". Later on in the same chapter he observed that "the stars are supranational....The "One World of Stars" is, in fact, a reality and its significance should not be ignored in other fields....Cooperation across national boundaries is so simple and effective in the sciences that we have a clear responsibility to lead the way into an era of peace and human progress".

At this season when we hear and sing about "Peace on Earth", it is appropriate to think about the universality of the contemplation of the heavens and its contribution to universal goodwill.

*"The View from a Distant Star"- Basic Books, Inc.

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