

THE SPECTRUM

July 1963

June Meeting 1963

At the June meeting the following officers were elected:

President - Ronald Clippinger
Vice president - Edith Geiger
Treasurer - Paul Redding
Secretary - Lewis Reinagel

Bruce Cook has been re-appointed editor of the Spectrum for 1963-64

Notes Concerning Star Parties

It is advisable to wear warm clothing. Even if the weather is warm, bring a long-sleeved shirt, as the bugs seem to love amateur astronomers. Also bring some kind of insect repellent to keep away the bugs.

By all means do not forget to bring a telescope, your eyepieces, mounting and counterweight.

If a star party is clouded or rained out, it will be postponed until the next night at the same time. That is why all parties are scheduled for Friday night first, then Saturday.

Members who attended the June meeting and signed a list indicating that they would be interested in attending some of the star parties will be contacted before each star party by phone. Members of the association who were not at the meeting will also be contacted.

In as much as all of the star parties

will be held out of the city, we realize that a transportation problem may arise. Those members who experience this difficulty will inform Mrs. Geiger at the time they are called. Arrangements will be made to pick them up and bring them back.

Star Parties

The first star party will be held on Friday, June 28th or Saturday, June 29th at 9:00 P.M. at the Newstead Observatory. For directions see map no. 1. Unfortunately the observatory is not equipped for observing, but it provides a place to warm up and study charts. Also electric power is available for slow motions and star drives.

For those who have not seen the observatory, this will afford an excellent opportunity to inspect the fine work done by the observatory committee.

This star party will coincide with the first quarter moon which should provide some fine objects for viewing. Other objects visible include some fine double stars and clusters.

The refreshment committee will provide coffee and doughnuts.

The second star party, also at Newstead, will be held on Friday July 12 or Sat. the 13 at 9:00 P.M. We will see the moon near last quarter,

For those who stay that late, earlier, the planet Saturn will be well placed for viewing; also double stars and clusters will again be on tap. Again bring your own telescope as the observatory is not currently equipped.

Coffee and donuts will be served.

The Third party will be a Solar Eclipse Party and will be held on Saturday July 20th, 1963 at 4:00P.M. E.D.T. at the Kellogg Observatory, Museum of Science. Bring your telescopes, cameras, and other equipment, for details concerning the eclipse see Review of Popular Astronomy, June - July 1963 pages 16-17 and Sky and Telescope check pages 15, 91, 133, 139, 202, 204, 205, 216, 253, 258, 269, 325, 328, 329, 339 January - June 1963.

Coffee and Donuts will again be served. Come properly equipped to view the eclipse and observe all safety rules.

Due to the fact that this is a private party for Buffalo Astronomical Association members and their families, show your membership card to the guard for admission to the observatory.

Star Party no. 4 will be held on Friday the 26th of July or Saturday, July 27th, 1963 at 9:00P.M. at Newstead observatory.

THIS party will coincide with the rich Delta Aquarid meteor shower, the maximum is Monday July 29th but a large number can be observed either side of maximum. At maximum the hourly rate is 10. The limits on this shower extend from July 19th to August 8th, with

a larger rate near maximum.

For additional information check Review of Popular Astronomy June and July issues of this year page 18 and also The Observer's Handbook.

The first quarter moon and Saturn will be in view as well as many fine double stars and clusters. Don't forget your telescope and binoculars.

There will be asusual, refreshments

The fifth star party will be held on Friday, August 9th or Saturday, August 10th at 9:00P.M. at the Home of Ernst Both in North Collins, N.Y. For directions see mapn no. 2. Objects visible include Jupiter and Saturn, the last quarter moon, and many fine double stars and clusters. This is a good time to test your telescope on close doubles and extended surfaces such as planets. Jupiter's moons are always interesting.

Come out to Ernest's and take advantage of extremely good seeing and clear skies to do some observing.

Our final star party will be on Friday, August 23rd or Saturday, August 24th at 9:00 P.M. at the home of Ronald Clippinger 1286 Dodge Rd., East Amherst, N.Y. For directions on how to get to Ron's see map no. 3.

Objects visible will be Jupiter and Saturn, clusters and double stars. The moon will be at 1st quarter and well placed for viewing. Many interesting double stars will be visible providing good tests for 6 inch reflectors and smaller refractors. This will be a good chance for you to compare your

good chance for you to compare your telescope with others of similar size.

Refreshments will be served.

This concludes our summer program of star parties. Our regular monthly meetings will begin at the Museum of Science on Friday evening, September 13th at 7:45 P.M.

Telescope Tips

The last article on Telescope Tips (June Spectrum) described the advantages of mounting your telescope on a pier, and made suggestions as to proper location and sizes for different instruments. If you can permanently install a pier in the location you choose, the problem of erecting the pier is greatly simplified.

Carefully dig a hole about a foot square in size. Make this hole about 30 inches deep and taper the sides so that the bottom is 2 - 3 inches wider than the top. This depth and shape will protect your pier from being mis-aligned by our severe winters.

Place about a 6" depth of fist-sized rocks (or broken bricks) in the bottom of your hole. Pour in a

thin mixture of concrete until the hole is about one half full. Place your pier, letting it settle onto the rocks at the bottom, plum bob it to make sure it is perpendicular, then fill up the hole to the top with a thick mixture of concrete. Unless it is very windy, it will not be necessary to support the pier while the concrete is setting, if your pier is placed plumb to start with. Allow about three days for the concrete to harden before beginning to use your pier.

By making a screw-on top section to your pier you can make it serve the dual purpose of a wash line pole, or even a yard lantern! If you have to have a completely movable pier (ie. down to ground level) you can do this by screwing a pipe flange at the top of the concrete. A thread at the bottom of your pier will allow you to screw it into place when you wish to set it up. This last method would enable you to have a pier in your driveway, for example, if this location proved to be the best.

Our next article will describe ways in which an equatorial can be accurately aligned with the celestial pole.



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