

THE SPECTRUM

OCTOBER 1963

BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

EDITOR B. COOK

JOINT MEETING IN OCTOBER

The October meeting of the B.A.A. will be a joint meeting of several regional groups active in astronomy. The meeting will be held on Friday, October 11th at 8:00 P.M. in Room 111 of Hochsteder Hall at the University of Buffalo (Main and Bailey).

Hochsteder Hall is readily identified by its three story tower which is capped by an observatory dome. This dome houses the telescope of the University. The instrument is a ten inch Cassegrainian Reflector. The observatory and its equipment will be available for inspection during a guided tour of the observatory that will follow the meeting proper. 100

We hope to have many of the students of the university who are interested in astronomy at our meeting, along with Dr. Borst, who is head of the University Physics Department and in charge of the astronomy program there.

We also expect to have a representative group from the Rochester Astronomical Association and some visitors from a newly formed group in Lockport N.Y.

The speaker of the evening will be Dr. F.W. Price of the British Astronomical Association who will talk on "Amateur Lunar Observations", an area

with which Dr. Price is thoroughly acquainted. He will also inform us of the state of amateur astronomical activity in Great Britain.

Refreshments will be served by our Refreshment Committee during our informal "Get Acquainted Period" immediately following the meeting proper and prior to the tour of the observatory, which will begin at 9:30 P.M. Remember that the meeting begins at 8:00 P.M. and we expect a full house, so come early if you want choice seats.

PLANNING MEETING REPORTS

At the June 21st planning meeting of the officers and members, the program for the coming year was arranged as follows:

October - Dr. Price at University of Buffalo; Rochester members by invitation.

November - Talk on Unidentified Flying Objects.

December - Christmas Party.

January - Lecture from Advanced Study Group.

February - Panel Discussion.

March - Lecture from Advanced Study Group.

April - Walter Semerau, by invitation.

May - Film from Toronto Observatory.

June - Elections and Lecture from Advanced Study Group.

This meeting also entertained motions setting up a Second Observatory Subscription Drive for those members who joined since the first drive. There will be a series of Observer's Reports to initiate the drive. A perpetuating subscription plan will become effective for all future members when the second drive is over.

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Dues and subscription payments will be made only after receipt of a bill from the association treasurer. These bills will be sent approximately one month before the expiration date of either your subscriptions or dues, whichever comes first. This month is shown in the upper left hand corner of the bill.

This plan eliminates your paying as many as three times - once for dues and once each for the two subscriptions when they come due.

The pink bill you receive MUST be returned with your remittance as this is the only record the treasurer has of what your remittance covers. Your membership card will be mailed to you within ten days after receipt of your remittance. A written receipt covering magazine subscriptions will be issued only upon special request.

A detailed announcement concerning this plan will be given at the October meeting. If you have any questions call Paul Redding at TF4-8219 any evening after 9 P.M.

6" NEWTONIAN TELESCOPE - AMATEUR GROUND MIRROR; KRAFT-BOARD TUBE AND PIPE MOUNT WITH 2 EDMOND EYEPIECES. AN IDEAL BEGINNER'S SCOPE. SEE PHIL MORANA, 333 POTOMAC AVE. TT5-2882

6" F6 TELESCOPE; MIRROR CORRECTED TO 1/8th WAVE LENGTH; 2 EYEPIECES; CLOCK DRIVE; STURDY MOUNTING. CALL KARL KALWEIT TT4-3850.

TELESCOPE TIPS

Adjusting the polar axis of an equatorially mounted telescope NOT equipped with setting circles is often a problem. You can, however, use the finder to aid you. The finder's field of view must be at least 2 degrees.

First adjust the polar axis to point toward Polaris by sighting along the top of the axis. Move the telescope in declination so that it is parallel to the polar axis. Clamp the declination axis, or if you cannot do this, maintain this parallel alignment throughout the rest of the adjustments.

If Polaris is not in the finder's field move the TRIPOD slightly in azimuth to bring it into view. If this does not work, adjust the tripod slightly in altitude. Once polaris is in view in the finder, move the telescope through half the rotation of the polar axis i.e. from east to west or vice-versa. Polaris should describe a half circle and stay within the field of the finder indicating that you have the polar axis in fairly close adjustment.

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