

THE SPECTRUM

MARCH 1964

THE BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

EDITOR B. COOK

B.A.A. MEETS MARCH 13

The March meeting of the B.A.A. will be held at the Buffalo Museum of Science on Friday, March 13th at 7:45. The program will consist of a presentation of the sixth lecture in the Millman series, entitled "The Dust and Gases of Space". Mr. Raymond Sulwickski will give the talk and illustrate it with charts that he is making especially for this program. Following the program there will be the usual refreshments and observing if the weather cooperates.

NEW SECRETARY APPOINTED

Miss Marjorie Meyer has very kindly consented to serve as secretary, pro tem, until June, replacing our secretary of many years, Lou Reinagel, who has moved to Rochester, N.Y. We wish to express our gratitude to Lou for the many years of active service to our group, not only as secretary but in many other capacities. Lou intends to remain active in amateur astronomy by joining the Rochester Astronomical Society.

NAME CARDS

Very elegant name cards, with plastic protectors and handsomely hand lettered were donated to our group at the February meeting by Mrs. Elith Geiger, our very capable Vice President. This most practical gift will be sincerely appreciated by all members of the B.A.A.

FOR SALE

Mr. Gilbert Cagne has informed the editor that he has available a large fork type mounting capable of holding a five inch or smaller telescope. If you would like more information call Mr. Cagne at 634-5572.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Carl Kalweit has made it known that the salvage price of a large amount of waste paper will be donated to the Buffalo Astronomical Association Observatory Fund if the B.A.A. will supply the volunteer labor required to sort and bundle this paper. Additional details will be available at the March meeting. Meanwhile we would appreciate it if as many of our members as possible would try to reserve the morning or afternoon of Saturday, March 14th for this worthwhile project.

STUDY GROUPS

We would like to remind you that the Elementary Study group, the Advanced Study Group and the Observing section have just resumed a new series of meetings. It is still not too late to participate in the advantages these groups have to offer.

SYMPATHY

It is with deepest sympathy that we note the death of the father of Ernst Both. Condolences were expressed on behalf of the B.A.A. to the Both family.

ADVANCED STUDY GROUP

The Advanced Study Group will be re-activated under the chairmanship of Ron Clippinger. A new series of meetings will be held beginning with the first one on Saturday, February 29th at 3:00 P.M. in the Buffalo Museum of Science. All former members of this group are urged to attend and anyone else interested in becoming a member will find this an opportune time to join the group.

B.A.A. OBSERVING SECTION

The Observing Section of the Buffalo Astronomical Association is an enthusiastic but serious group which meets on the last Saturday of every month. The members are currently working on the moon measuring the slopes of craters by observing the shadows. They are also studying ray systems and ridge systems.

Work is done by the members at home with their own telescopes and observations are brought to the meetings where they are checked with those of other members of the group.

For any additional information contact the chairman, Mr. Both, at the meeting or at PF7-2970.

OBSERVATORY COMMITTEE

The Observatory Committee is re-opening the Observatory Subscription Fund. Subscriptions will be made available to all B.A.A. members who were not able to participate in the initial Subscription Fund drive of July 1960. We have many new members in our organization whom we feel will want to have a part in the completion of this fine project.

A letter explaining the purpose of this subscription and a subscription form have been sent to all B.A.A. members who are not yet enrolled in our Observatory Subscription Fund.

DEWING, CONT'D

Good seeing often means heavy dewing. It hampers optical surfaces, including eyepieces not kept covered, wets feet, curls charts, warps books and is in general a damn - oops! a damp nuisance.

Next month on Telescope Tips "Local Seeing and its Causes".

TELESCOPE TIPS

Dewing of Optical Surfaces

The deposition of dew on lenses and mirrors is a source of irritation to workers in the open air in damp climates. A few notes on checking this nuisance may be helpful to amateur astronomers in this area.

OBJECT GLASSES; The dew caps provided by the makers are not long enough to give adequate protection for several hours at a stretch. Often a longer dew cap is all that is necessary, but on really damp nights this is not sufficient. In addition, long dew caps cause "dew cap currents" - the same type of currents that disturb the images that are seen in reflectors.

The best ways of preventing dewing are: (1) Keep the outer surface of the objective free from dust around which moisture readily condenses. (2) Line the dew cap with black blotting paper, and (3) Jacket the outside and upper end of the tube with felt. This act directly against the fundamental cause of dewing:- the excessive lowering of the temperature of the glass in relation to the air. If the glass does become dewed, do not wipe it in the dark, but bring the telescope to a horizontal position, lay a roll of warm dry flannel inside the cap, not quite touching the glass, and place a close fitting cover over the end. After a few minutes the dew will have disappeared.

FLATS OR REFLECTORS; If placed some distance from the open end the flat will generally keep dry, but with a metal tube and metal work on the flat mount or its support, dew will sometimes form. Place the warm hand on the back of the support for a few minutes. This is a cure, not a prevention. To prevent dewing jacket the INSIDE of the tube with blackened CORK. This helps to prevent dewing and sometimes checks against tube currents.

THE MAIN MIRROR; The relative immunity of the main mirror to dewing is chiefly due to its relatively large mass. It lags behind the air in its cooling. If it does become dewed, jacket the lower OUTSIDE end of the tube and mirror cell.

Electric dew heaters are a solution but when using house current are unsafe and sometimes impractical.

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