

# THE SPECTRUM

FEBRUARY 1964

THE BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

EDITOR E. Took

## FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the B.A.A. will be held on Friday, Feb. 14th at 7:45 P.M. in the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Ernst Both will present a report on the lunar eclipse of Dec. 30th 1963. This report was originally scheduled for the January meeting, but Mr. Both was unable to be present at that time. The report this month will be more complete because there is more information available now than there was in January.

The second part of the program will be a panel discussion of Catadioptric telescopes. This type of instrument has become increasingly popular of late and the panel will describe and discuss their essential characteristics, advantages and disadvantages. Panel members will be Ed Lindberg, Paul Redding and Ron Clippinger.

Observations with the Kellogg Observatory Refractor will follow the program if the skies are clear. Coffee and doughnuts will be served by our refreshment committee.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP LISTS OUT

The 1964 B.A.A. membership lists have been included with this month's issue of the "Spectrum". Members are asked to check them over for accuracy with regard to spelling, addresses, zip code and telephone numbers. If any errors are found, please inform the editor of "The Spectrum" at TF9-1396.

## OBSERVERS HANDBOOKS

There are still six Observers Handbooks available. They will be sold on a first come, first served basis. The price is \$1.00.

## GROUP REORGANIZATION

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on January 25th, it was voted to reorganize the various group divisions in the B.A.A. This action was prompted by the regrettable resignation of Lou Reinagel as chairman of the Advanced Study Group which has provided the Association with many fine talks at our monthly meetings.

At this meeting it was voted to appoint Ronald Clippinger as chairman of the Advanced Study Group, Paul Redding as chairman of the Elementary Study Group, and to change the name of the Advanced Observing Group to the B.A.A. Observing Section.

It is hoped that these changes will assure the continuity of these fine special interest sections in the B.A.A.

For information on each of these sections see the following reports from the chairmen.

## ELEMENTARY STUDY GROUP

The B.A.A. Elementary Study Group under the new direction of Paul Redding will meet on Saturday Feb. 29th at 2:00 P.M. at the Museum of Science. This meeting will consist of an "Introduction to the Heavens" with a brief survey of the popular and amateur literature available for the beginner. Also at this time any problems concerning meeting times and dates will be ironed out.

People wishing to join with this group are asked to fill out a yellow slip which will be available at the Feb. meeting and leave it with the chairman, Paul Redding.

## ADVANCED STUDY GROUP

The Advanced Study Group will be re-activated under the chairmanship of Bob Clippinger. A new series of meetings will be held beginning with the first one on Saturday, February 29th at 8:00 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 FF7-2970.

## 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, wet 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.

**DEW CAPS:** 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 acts 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 OF 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.