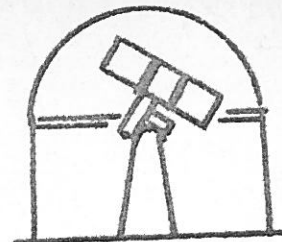


the spectrum



July - August 1965

The Buffalo Astronomical Association Inc.

SPECIAL SUMMER ISSUE

As in the past, there will be no regular meeting during the months of July and August, however, we strongly urge you to participate in our star night programs. This year we are scheduling 7 star nights and 1 solar party. The following is a reprint of the summer schedule.

1. June 25-26
2. July 9-10
3. July 16-17
4. July 23-24
5. July 31 only
6. August 6-7
7. August 13-14
8. Sept. 24-25

Newstead Observatory
Newstead Observatory
Camp Sprucelands
Ed Stoklosa's Ponderosa
Walter Semereau's Solar Lab
Annual picnic at Ernst Both's.
Camp Sprucelands
Newstead Observatory

We have already held our first star night at Newstead Observatory. Those who attended were rewarded by an exceptionally clear and cloudless sky. Twenty two people attended with a total of 14 telescopes and a number of hand held instruments.

An invitation is being extended to the active Lockport Astronomical Society to attend our July 10 star night at Newstead. We should all plan to be there.

On July 16-17 and August 13-14 our location will be shifted south of the city to Camp Sprucelands. We would like to exhibit our instruments to the young campers and we should be prepared to answer a number of curious questions. If you come early, there will be a hike on the splendid nature trail.

On July 23-24, Ed Stoklosa will be host to the star night at his rapidly progressing summer home. Ed's contractor is trying hard to complete most of the house and facilities by this date.

On July 31st, Saturday only, our format will change from night observing to daytime observing, as we visit Walt Semereau's fine solar observatory at his home at 135 Zimmerman Blvd in Kenmore, New York. He is located off of Delaware Ave. just north of Sheridan Dr. The hours are from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Those who plan to attend should bring a box lunch.

We are looking forward to our annual picnic which will be held on August 6-7 at Ernst Both's home in North Collins, N.Y. There will be plenty of hot dogs and drinks for everyone. Those who attended last year may recall a very pleasant picnic.

Anyone in need of transportation should call the following telephone numbers for information regarding trips.

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Ron Clippinger | 634 4718 |
| Edith Geiger | 833 4138 |
| Dick Zygmunt | 877 7625 |

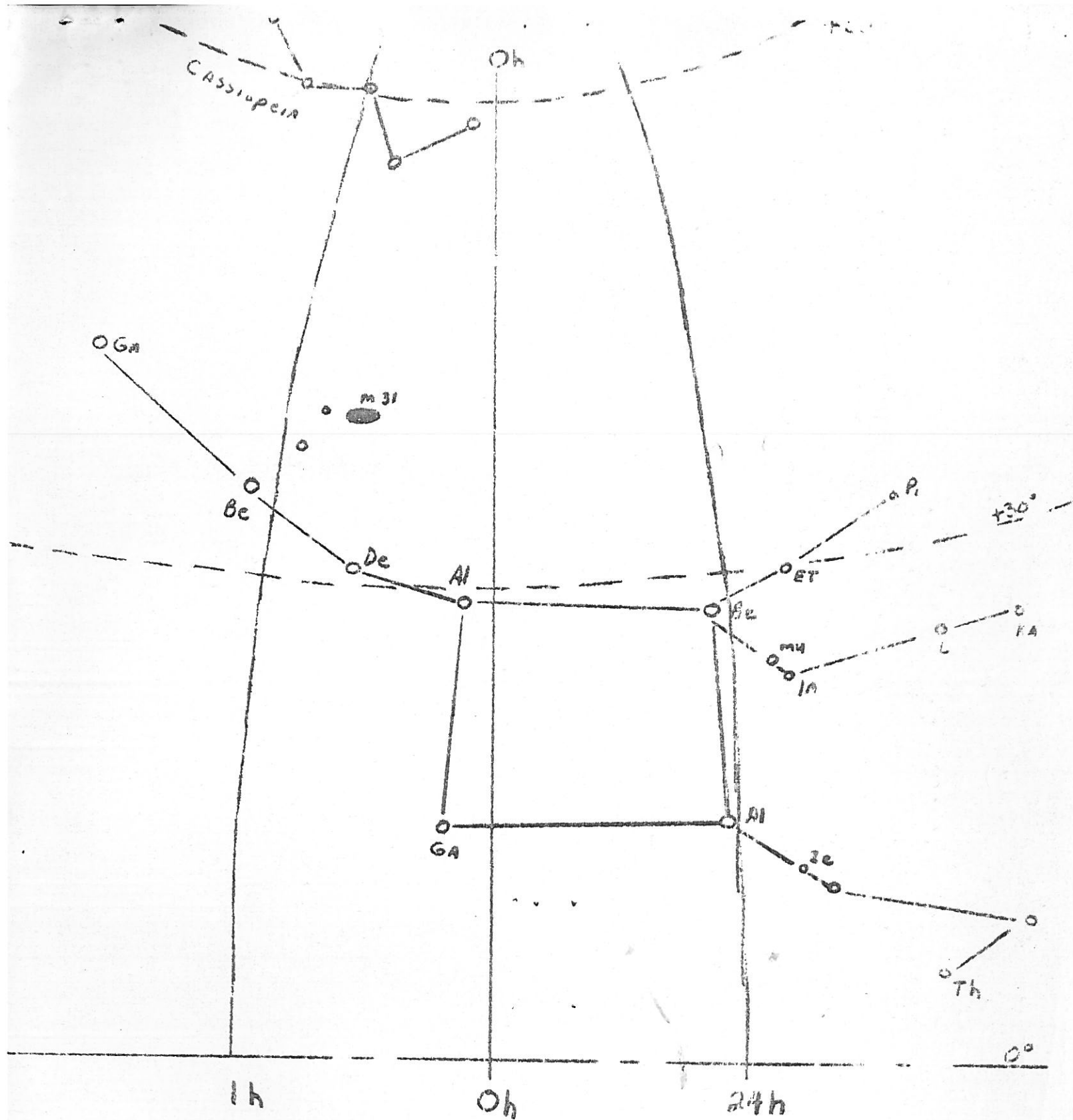
Allegheny Observatory trip

We regret to say that our trip to Pittsburgh was cancelled at the last minute. We were unable to recruit a sufficient number of adventurous members to afford the bus fare. Nevertheless, two carloads of members did drive down and thoroughly enjoyed the observatory and the hospitality of the Pittsburgh amateur astronomers who held a special star night for our benefit.

The next official meeting of the BAA will be held on September 10, 1965 at 7:45 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Along with the planned program there will be nominations for Board members. As you know, our new by-laws require a Board of 9 directors. These are the four officers, the curator of astronomy, one fellow, and three general members.

The officers of the BAA along with the editor of the Spectrum, Bruce Cook, wish you all a good summer.

Included with this issue, is the star charts for July-August.



The Great Square

Andromeda
Pegasus

PLANETARY INFORMATION

| planet | A. U. | million miles | revolution | rotation | diameter miles | Mass | velocity miles per hour | escape vel. miles per second |
|---------|-------|---------------|------------|----------|-------------------|------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mercury | 0.39 | 36 | 87 d | 87.9 d | 3075 | .053 | 5.3 | 2.4 m/s |
| Venus | 0.72 | 67 | 224.7 d | 224.7 d | 7500 | .815 | 5.0 | 6.4 |
| Earth | 1.00 | 93 | 365.24 d | 23h 56m | 7918 | 1.00 | 5.5 | 7.0 |
| Mars | 1.52 | 142 | 686.9 d | 24h 37m | 4215 | .107 | 4.0 | 3.2 |
| Jupiter | 5.2 | 486 | 11.8 yr. | 9h 50m | 86,800 | 318 | 1.3 | 38 |
| Saturn | 9.55 | 893 | 29.46 y | 10h 14m | 71,500 | 95.2 | 0.7 | 23 |
| Uranus | 19.2 | 1790 | 84.02 y | 10h 49m | 31,700 | 14.6 | 1.6 | 14 |
| Neptune | 30.3 | 2810 | 164.8 y | 15h 40m | 31,000 | 17.2 | 2.3 | 16 |
| Pluto | 39.5 | 3690 | 284.4 y | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |

We have spoken of sizes and distances of the planets, but it is difficult to grasp the dimensions involved because they are so large. Mercury is 36 million miles from the Sun and Pluto is about 100 times as far away or 3675 million miles. The Earth seems large to us; and so on reflection, do the other planets. All are complex in their structure and fascinating in details. But what we know of them, even of those we have studied the most, is little compared to the complete picture we would like to have. It is space and distance between the planets that keeps us from this knowledge- distances so vast that even Jupiter, 87,000 miles across, is microscopic in comparison to the 480 million miles that separate it from the Sun or the 3700 million miles that separate the Sun from Pluto.

Buffalo Astronomical Association

July 12, 1965

Dear B.A.A. Member:

Newspaper articles appearing in the Buffalo Evening News of July 10th 1965 and the Tonawanda News of the same date concerning the Neustead Observatory and telescope contained several serious errors as a result of newspaper misinterpretation of poorly prepared statements made by several members of the observatory committee.

1. The Buffalo News article stated that Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory had "donated the grounds and built the observatory's base in 1960." The correct facts are that the B.A.A. was generously granted the use of C.A.L. property and C.A.L. in addition generously built one of their buildings to B.A.A. specifications so that the B.A.A. could readily install a dome and telescope.
2. The above article also stated that Walter Semerau was not a member of the B.A.A.. The fact is that Walter Semerau is one of our most distinguished members and was elected Fellow of the B.A.A. in December 1964.
3. The article in the Tonawanda News gives the impression that the Neustead telescope was built by only one member of the B.A.A. The fact is many members of the B.A.A. were responsible for the construction of this instrument through their generous contributions in time, skill, materials, and money. No one individual was responsible for more than a fraction of the total effort required to build this instrument.

The observatory committee sincerely regrets that the above errors appeared in print and will recommend that the Board of Directors of the B.A.A. take action to establish a policy that will prevent future recurrences of such incidents.

On behalf of the observatory committee,
R. C. Clippinger and E. A. Stoklosa

R.C. Clippinger E.A. Stoklosa

Buffalo Astronomical Association, Inc.

August 13, 1965

Dear B.A.A. Member:

You have recently received or will find enclosed your authorization card for the Newstead Observatory. You are required to show this card to the guard at the Genesee Street gatehouse in order to obtain the key to the gate at the Newstead Observatory on Main Street.

B.A.A. members using the Newstead Observatory are reminded that because of security restrictions and radiation hazards they are at all times to strictly adhere to the following regulations.

1. Do not enter the grounds at all when the light on the top of the C.A.L. Lab building is red.
2. If the light is green, use the call box located near the gate to call to the lab, identifying yourself, and wait for an answering O.K. If you receive no answer after several calls it may indicate that no one is present at the C.A.L. lab, but wait several minutes for a possible answer before entering.
3. If the gate is closed and locked when you arrive, close and lock it again after you have entered.
4. Stay on the west side of the access road to the C.A.L. lab and stay south of the tree line bordering the north edge of the grounds.
5. You may bring several guests with you but remember it's your responsibility to see that they follow all regulations.
6. If you bring a larger group to the observatory for any reason you must first obtain permission by notifying either the president of the B.A.A. or the director of the observatory before doing so.
7. Do not admit any unauthorized* persons to the ground. Authorized C.A.L. personnel have their own keys.

*(i.e. persons unknown to you, not referring to your guests or friends)

Sincerely yours,

R.C. Clippinger

R.C. Clippinger, President B.A.A.