

THE

SPECTRUM

JANUARY 1969

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BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION INC.
BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE
HUMBOLDT PARKWAY
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* H A P P Y N E W Y E A R - 1 9 6 9 *

JANUARY MEETING: Our first meeting of the New Year (January 10, 1969, 8:00 PM, EST) will feature a talk entitled "Standard Telescopes" by our former president, Mr. Ron Clippinger. Ron is an authority on the history of telescopes and observatories and we always look forward to his informative dissertations. This program should be especially interesting to our telescope makers and we are happy to welcome our own RON CLIPPINGER!

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As everyone knows, Buffalo is not the ideal location for studying deep-sky objects (it is ideal, however, for the study of low-lying cloud-structures!). It is the more gratifying to find one of our young members devoting considerable time to the study of milky way and extragalactic objects. Recently I had occasion to speak with Dr. Bart J. Bok, the dean of Milky Way research. In the course of our conversation I asked him what advice he would give to a young astronomer starting out in galactic observation. His laconic answer was: "Observe, observe, observe!" John Riggs is such an astronomer and he seems to have found the answer for himself. We hope to present his observations regularly in the expectation that other observers, young and old, will begin to use their telescopes consistently. eeb.

* OBSERVATIONS OF DEEP SKY OBJECTS. * By John Riggs.

In finding the various deep sky objects I use a 6-inch, f/7.5 reflector with an 8 X 30 Unitron finder and a 10-inch, f/7 reflector with a 10 X 40 Unitron finder. I mention the finders especially because without a good one an observer will have a much more difficult time finding many of these elusive objects. A good star atlas such as the Skalnate Pleso Atlas Coeli, Field Edition, is indispensable. A good working knowledge of the constellations goes without saying.

In the actual location of the nebulae, I first begin with the nearest naked-eye star to the object. I then center the star in the finder's cross-hairs and look at the other stars in the same field, noticing the various configurations, such as a triangle, square, chains, etc. Next, inverting the chart, I match up the same

design I saw in the finder ~~with that~~ on the chart. I move along the stars in the direction of the nebula until a new field is seen and then match again with the chart as before. This is done until the field containing the desired object is reached. This is then placed in the center of the cross hairs and examined next with a low power eyepiece on the main telescope.

- M 74 - Galaxy in Pisces: Very very faint and ill-defined; much like M 33 (32x);
- M 78 - Diffuse nebula in Orion: Very faint hazy streak with two brighter stars close by (32-90x);
- M 77-- Galaxy in Cetus: Small fuzzy patch with a fairly bright central core; very good at 32x;
- M 79 - Globular cluster in Orion: Rather faint fuzzy patch due to low altitude (32x);
- M 1 - Crab nebula in Taurus: Rather small and faint fuzzy blob at 32x, but on a very clear night it is fairly bright and conspicuous; /ALL Sept. 17-18, 1966.
- M 38 - Open cluster in Auriga: Fairly bright cluster of many stars; formed like a cross bent over on one side. Very good at 32x. / March 10, 1967.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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FOR SALE: Little used standard 6-inch Criterion reflector with drive, mounting, etc. Donald Gerrie, 510 Glenalby Rd., Town of Tonawanda, Tel. 833-8855. Reasonable.
 — Fiberglass tube suitable for an 8-inch reflector, 49 inches long, 1/4-inch wall. \$ 12.00, Dan Smith, Tel. 634-0570.

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