



# THE SPECTRUM

BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION INC.  
BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE  
HUMBOLDT PARKWAY  
BUFFALO NEW YORK 14211

M A R C H 1 9 6 9

MARCH MEETING: For our meeting on March 14, 1969 (8:00 PM-EST) we welcome back our own Walter Semerau, who will present an illustrated talk entitled "Simultaneous Photography of the Solar Disk and Solar Prominences." Walter, who is known far and wide for his solar work, has recently developed a technique to record both disk features and prominences on the same film-frame. While similar techniques have been in sporadic use for some time, it would appear that his version promises interesting results, particularly if only a solar spectrograph is available. The nice thing about Walter is that he never rests on his accomplishments. He is at present busy constructing a new and more powerful solar spectrograph-spectroheliograph combination, and perhaps he will say a few words about his latest venture. At any rate - it is always good to welcome our own WALTER SEMERAU. Don't miss this opportunity to meet one of the finest instrument makers and observers.

NOTICE: IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES, PLEASE DO SO PROMPTLY. OTHERWISE THIS WILL BE THE LAST ISSUE OF THE SPECTRUM YOU WILL RECEIVE. SEE EDITH GEIGER AT THE MEETING.

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\* DEEP-SKY OBJECTS IN MARCH.\* By John Riggs.

The March skies bring into a favorable position the galaxies in Ursa Major. Besides the more notable M-81 and M-82, I have selected some of the galaxies in the bowl of the dipper which might be of interest to observers with a six-inch telescope or larger. Starting at beta Ursae Majoris and then moving about a degree and one half east the observer can easily find M-97 (the Owl Nebula) and M-108. With the 6-inch reflector at 32 X, M-97 appears as a large grayish disk, but the "eyespots" (of the Owl) are not visible. An 8-inch reflector will probably reveal these. Almost in the same field of view M-108 is an interesting object, appearing as a long, hazy streak with a mottled texture.

About one degree south of gamma Ursae Majoris NGC 3953 is fairly good and can be seen as a faint fuzzy glow (\*) with a mottled appearance. North of Gamma can be found three more galaxies, NGC 3998, 3982, and 3899. The best is NGC 3898, seen as a fuzzy patch with a brighter nucleus. The other two, NGC 3998 and 3982 are merely faint fuzzy little balls of light.

\*) The wonder of young eyes! Personally, all of these objects look fuzzy to me. Seriously, though, beginners in the art of deep-sky observing might want to search for the objects mentioned here and in future issues. eeb.

IN MEMORIAM: Mrs. Lois Golding, a devoted member for a number of years, died recently after a long and painful illness. Hers was a deep and abiding interest in astronomy and the B.A.A. A gentle and friendly person whom we shall miss greatly. Our sincerest sympathy goes out to her husband and her family.

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OBSERVING SECTION: The observing section at its February meeting adopted a plan to systematically search for lunar domes - low, roundish objects with very small slopes, ranging in diameter from a few miles to over 50 miles. They can only be observed in the immediate vicinity of the terminator because of their small slope (generally less than  $5^{\circ}$ , typically between  $2-3^{\circ}$  or even smaller, around  $1.5^{\circ}$ ). Hence they will exhibit a shadow when they are about this distance from the terminator) and would-be observers of these intriguing features simply "sweep" the terminator north-south and in reverse. Those of our members who possess telescopes in the 6-inch range and larger are urged to join the observing section and participate in this interesting and rewarding project. Our next meeting will be on April 4, at 7:30 PM-EST at the Museum. Members who have made observations of domes should prepare short reports for this meeting.

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Buffalo Astronomical Assoc., Inc.  
c/o Buffalo Museum of Science  
Humboldt Park  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14211

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*Mrs. & Mrs. Duane Sundell  
68 Warwick Ave.  
Buffalo, N.Y.*

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*4495 E. Overlook  
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