

the Spectrum

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

Editor: Ernst E. Both

J U L Y - A U G U S T 1 9 7 2

SUMMER MEETINGS: As is our custom we again plan to hold a series of "Star Parties" at various places within reasonable distance from Buffalo. These events are scheduled for Friday nights - if cloudy, then for Saturday nights. The following is a list of these outings. Members are urged to bring their telescopes and friends; starting time is around dusk with the parties going on well into the night; coffeeee is usually provided: July 7/8 = Newstead Observatory; July 14/15 = Newstead Observatory; July 21/22 = Camp Sprucelands; August 4/5 = Les Stoklosa's Summer Home; August 11/12 = Edith Geiger's Home; August 18/19 = Camp Sprucelands; August 25/26 = Newstead Observ. Maps and directions are found elsewhere in this issue. HAVE A NICE SUMMER *****

*

ADVANCE NOTICE: * SEPTEMBER MEETING * For our first meeting of the indoor variety (September 8, 1972, 8:00 p.m., Club Room, Buffalo Museum of Science) we plan to have a "Total Solar Eclipse, 1972 - Roundup" which will be presented by several of our own members. If you plan to "hunt" this eclipse, please keep this program in mind. Contact Ernst Both sometime during August (the sooner, the better after the eclipse).

*

* DEEP - SKY OBSERVING FOR JULY AND AUGUST * By John Riggs

The incomparable beauty of the summer Milky Way, both as a whole and in the rich variety of fine objects it contains, provides one of the best reasons for observers to turn off the late movie on television and get out with a telescope (it's also much more bearable temperature-wise). Regardless of the motivation, however, the combination of beauty and relative comfort should appeal to all and should provide many pleasurable hours of observing. On every map of the Skalnate Pleso Atlas, from the region of Sagittarius to Cygnus, one can find many tempting objects to explore. This is the optimum time of the year for enthusiasts of the star clusters, open and globular, as well as planetary and diffuse nebulae. To select just two or three objects about which to write is difficult when so many are visible that deserve mention.

Instead of the old story of how great M 13 and M 57 are, I'd like to talk about two often neglected objects that by no means should be left unobserved. Almost every astronomer knows of the Double Cluster in Perseus, but how many have heard of the Double Cluster in Vulpecula? More commonly known as NGC 6882-5, it is an object best seen with telescopes of 6-inch aperture and larger. Though not as bright and rich as its counterpart in Perseus, 6882-5 is nevertheless a beautiful object and well repays the effort spent in finding it. Vulpecula is an inconspicuous constellation, with no stars brighter than the fourth magnitude. As a result, locating 6882-5 with a telescope should be an interesting challenge to any observer. With a suitable star map and a pair of binoculars, sweep the area between Cygnus and Sagitta to pick out the various members of this elusive constellation. NGC 6882-5 is located about 7° east of beta Cygni and is situated around the stars 19 and 20 Vulpeculae. Once 19 and 20 are found

in this manner, place a low-powered eyepiece in your telescope and point it at these two stars. No further searching should be necessary to see these two clusters. NGC 6882 is an irregular grouping, 10' in diameter, containing about twenty stars of the 9th to 10th magnitude. NGC 6885 is larger, 25' in diameter, and is composed of a similar number of 8th magnitude stars. Four brilliant 6th magnitude stars highlight the clusters giving quite a striking contrast with the fainter members. The two clusters together in the same field of view form a spectacular sight.

For those who prefer to look for objects which are not so challenging, try globular hunting in Sagittarius. Seven Messier globulars lie within the boundaries of this constellation. One of my favorites among these is M 28, located less than a degree northwest of λ . With such a close proximity to this bright guide star, one would think that it would be seen more frequently than it is. In fact, M 28 can be found without the use of a finder. Just get λ in the field of a low power eyepiece and sweep in the direction of the cluster. With a 10-inch reflector at low magnification it is a fairly bright, fuzzy patch. As more power is applied, the outer edges resolve nicely into many faint stars. It's a splendid sight! Look for it with the Newstead 12½-inch during the upcoming star parties.

*

* The June 17-18 Aurora Borealis * By Warren Steinberg

Arriving at Newstead Observatory shortly before sunset on June 17, 1972, a small group of observers expected to do some galaxy hunting, while Larry Hazel planned to observe variables. Instead we were treated to a brilliant display of Northern Lights. After midnight we saw many variations of auroral glow: rays, arches, and waving curtains, the rays appearing at times like searchlight beams.

All these variations were constantly taking on new positions and divers brilliancies. Toward the corona, which was at our zenith, activity was amazingly rapid and reminded us of lightning. John Riggs commented that even though there was a lack of really deep colors (we saw faint pinks and greens) the vastness of activity was amazing. Stretching due west across the northern and eastern skies, the activity was even seen reaching toward the southern horizon from our zenith. Midway through the auroral activity, Steve Jaworski let out a yell and pointed to a beautiful fireball spitting out its sparks (coming from the Ursa Major area, it seemed to be heading right into the bowl of the radar antenna).

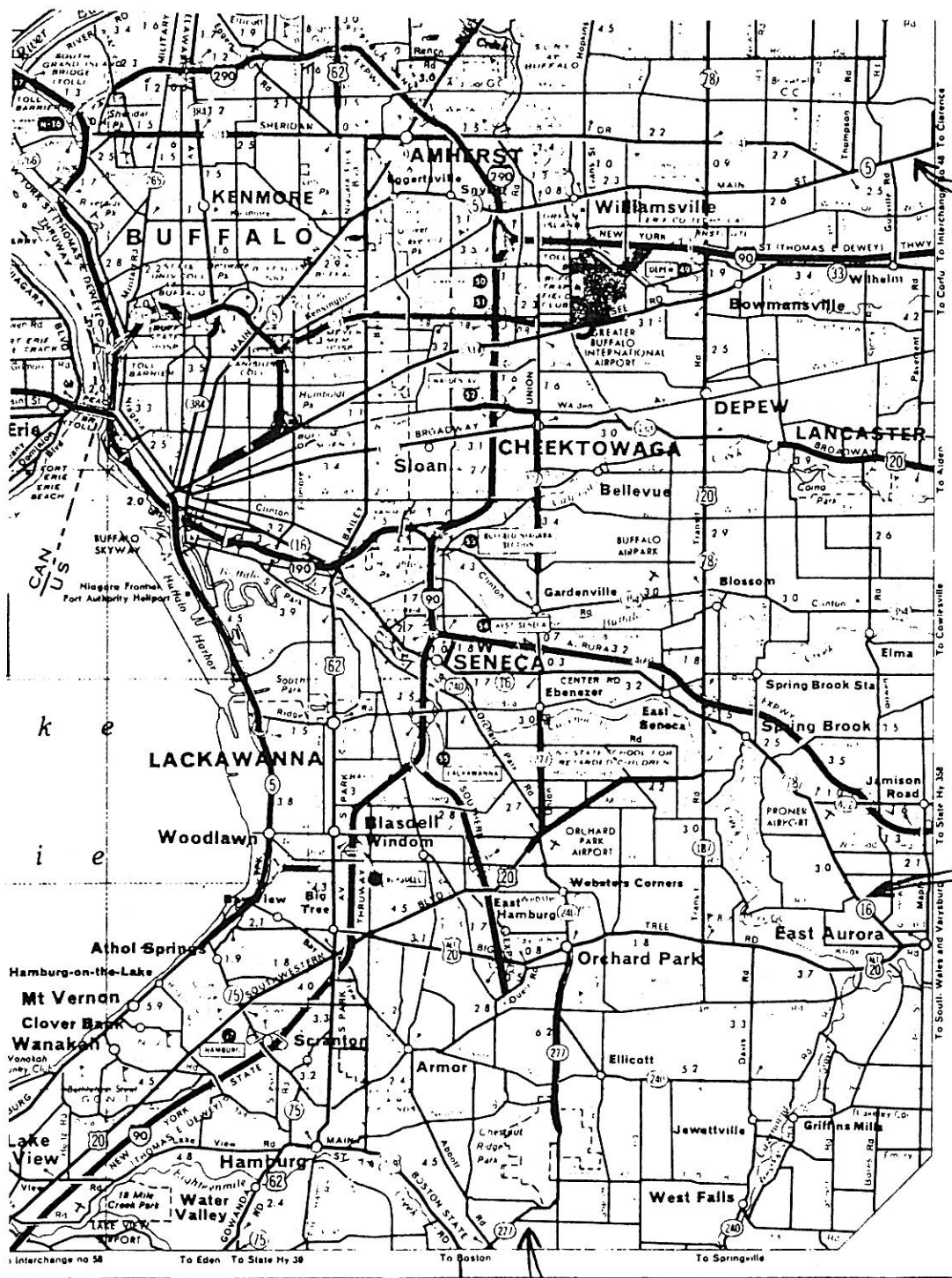
I would personally like to thank Vern Siegal and Tom Dessert, who at 4:00 a.m. (Sunday morning, ~~Monday~~) repaired the dome drive - well enough, I hope, to last for the next 10 years. I thank them because I was one of the many observers who helped push the dome around when the drive was broken.

*

* SECOND SUMMER SEMINAR * By Ed Lindberg

The Second Summer Seminar was held on the hilltop observatory site of the Syracuse Astronomical Society near Vesper, N.Y., south of Syracuse, on Saturday, June 17th. About 75 delegates and visitors from six societies in the NFCAAA attended.

The afternoon papers program included talks on richest field telescopes by Joe Italiano and Ralph Dakin, and a demonstration and description of a unique telescope drive by John Cain. I showed a set of slides from the First Seminar held a year ago.

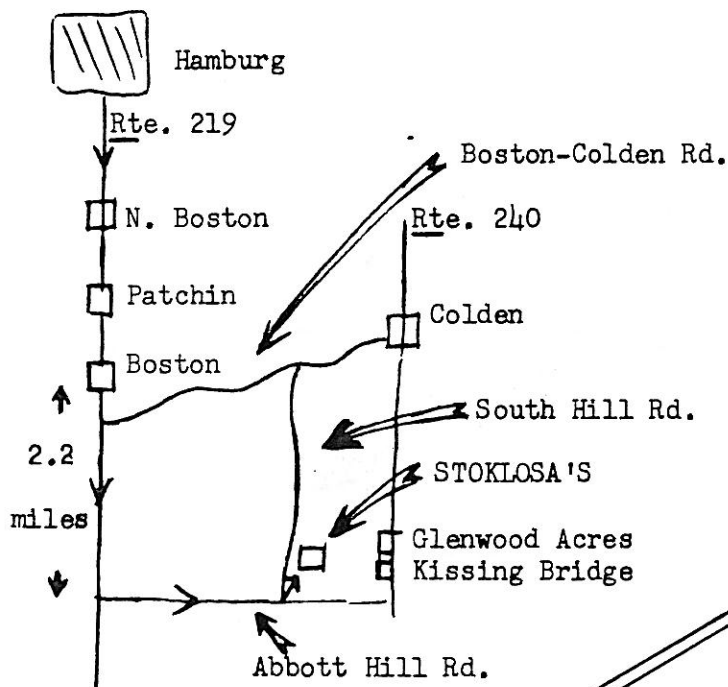


Rte. 5 to Newstead -
watch for radio tel.
on left side of road.
BAA Observatory is on
same property -
July 7/8 - 14/15
August 25/26

Rte. 78 to Camp
Sprucelands =
July 21/22
August 18/19
see detail, next pg.

To Geiger's = August 11/12
see detail, next page

To Stoklosa's = August 4/5, see detail, next page.

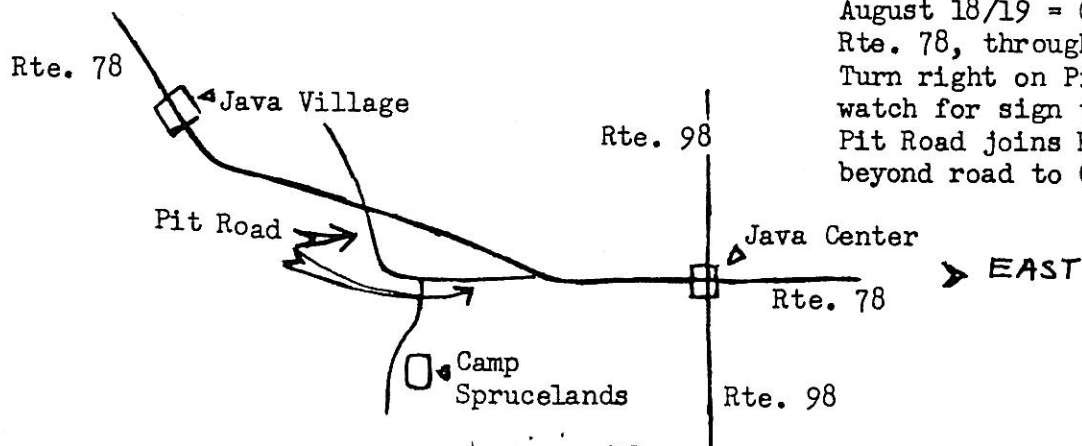
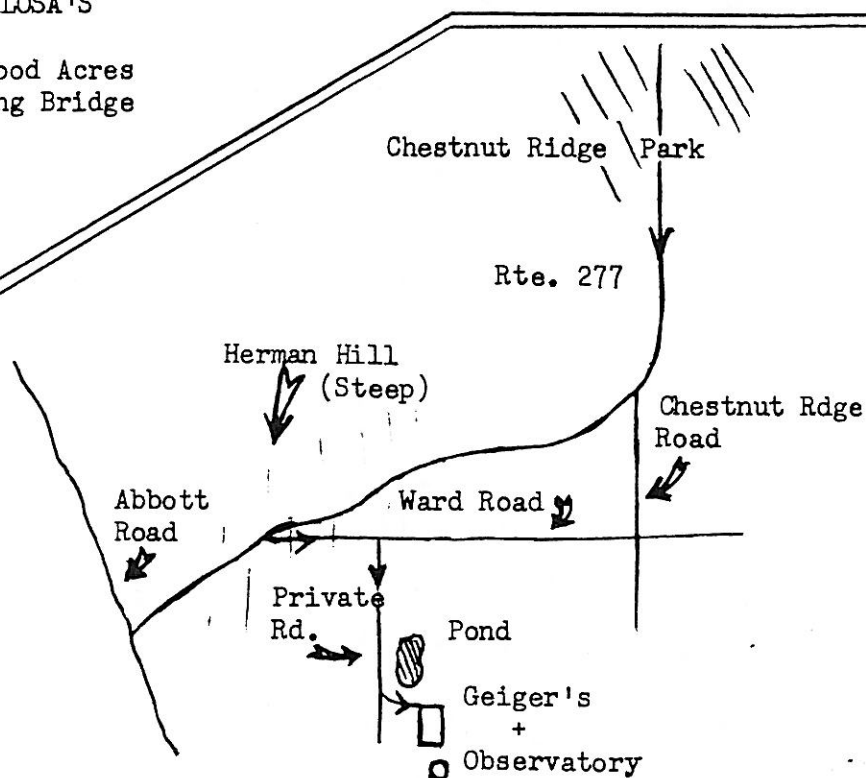


STOKLOSA'S, August 4/5

Go south from Hamburg on Rte. 219, through N. Boston, Patchin, and Boston. From Caution light in Boston = 2.2 miles to Abbott Hill Rd. Left turn there to South Hill Rd. Stoklosa's "A" frame bldg. can be seen from corner of Abbott Hill Rd. and South Hill Rd.

GEIGER'S, August 11/12

Go south on Rte. 277 past Chestnut Ridge Park. As you descend long, +/- steep hill, look for Ward Road on ~~left~~ (this is not a cross-road); turn left. Short distance to private road on right. Geiger's just beyond pond.



CAMP SPRUCELANDS, July 21/22
August 18/19 = Go south on Rte. 78, through Java Village. Turn right on Pit Road and watch for sign to Camp. Pit Road joins Rte. 78 again beyond road to Camp.

There was quite a contrast between the two meetings: last year there was pouring rain and not so many instruments were completed for use.

We then adjourned outdoors to see a dramatic demonstration on how to melt aluminum and pour castings. Bill Minerd made a casting of a mirror cell backing plate right before our eyes and cameras.

The main speaker was Dr. Anthony F. Aveni of Colgate University, who spoke on ancient astronomy in Europe and Mexico. He has extensively studied the archeological ruins of the Mayans in Mexico and he gave well-documented interpretations of these structures.

Then came the photo contest announcement. The judges were Don Bolteron of Syracuse, Dennis O'Connell of Corning and myself. There were only 14 2X2 slides by 5 contestants and no prints, yet it was still difficult to apportion the prizes. There were two gold and 4 silver statuettes, like miniature Oscars. First prize went to John Cain for a beautiful star field in Cygnus; the second gold statuette went to George Keene for "Orion through the Observatory Slit." Two silver statuettes went to Joe Italiano for a pair of planetary slides, one of Jupiter and one of Mars. Judy Schuesler of Corning won with a slide of Mars, while Helen Dakin of Rochester won one for "Aurora".

After the program the group adjourned to the lot outside. But it was overcast and the only viewing was an occasional glimpse of Jupiter. We caught a few flashes of aurora during the late evening, but nothing like the spectacle I understand was enjoyed back home in Buffalo. But the seminar provided a pleasant week-end and a good diversion from the daily routine.

*

* THE STATUS OF NEWSTEAD OBSERVATORY * Editorial

From time to time there is a question as to what the Buffalo Astronomical Association, Inc. owns at Newstead. With the change of ownership of Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory the question has arisen as to the ultimate fate of our observatory. This question cannot now be answered but will have to be examined carefully in the coming months. In the meantime I thought it useful to reprint the agreement made nearly 12 years ago between our Association and Cornell Lab.

"THIS AGREEMENT, made this 17th day of November 1960 by and between CORNELL AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY, INC., 4455 Genesee Street, Buffalo 21, New York, hereinafter called the Laboratory, and BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION, 258 Saranac Avenue, Buffalo 16, New York, hereinafter called the Association. W I T N E S S E T H: WHEREAS, the Laboratory is the owner of certain premises located on Main Road in the town of Newstead, Erie County, New York, and WHEREAS, the Association desires to make use of a certain part of the premises owned by the Laboratory, as an observatory; NOW, THEREFORE, the parties covenant and agree as follows:

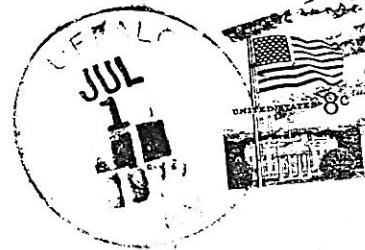
1. The Laboratory hereby grants to the Association the use of that part of the Laboratory's premises upon which there has been constructed a foundation for an observatory including the area immediately surrounding said observatory, together with the right of ingress and egress over a private road on the Laboratory's premises leading from Main Road to a point at or near said observatory area.
2. Said observatory area shall be used by the Association only as an observatory for its members and their guests.

3. The Association agrees to observe and to follow all instructions issued by the Laboratory from time to time in connection with its use of the observatory area and its use of the access road and in particular to comply with any Military Security Regulations.
4. The Association shall be permitted to erect and install on said observatory foundation an observatory dome, telescope, and other related property and equipment. All such items installed by the Association shall remain the property of the Association during the term of this agreement and the Association shall have the right to remove all such items belonging to it at the termination of this agreement.
5. This agreement shall continue until terminated by either party on ninety day's written notice to the other party.
6. The Association agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Laboratory from any and all claims for personal injury, death or property damage occasioned to any party, including members of the Association, arising out of or resulting from the Association's use of the Laboratory's premises.
7. The Association shall be responsible for any damage occasioned to Laboratory property in connection with the Association's use of the premises.
8. No rental shall be paid by the Association to the Laboratory for the use of the premises aforesaid.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this agreement the day and year first above written." * * * * *

BAA ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: We plan to have an astrophotography exhibit sometime in the near future (either fall of 1972 or early spring of 1973). We hope that members will be busily taking photographs during the summer in preparation for this event. Details will be announced in the September-October issue of the SPECTRUM. *****

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



Mr./Mrs. Carroll Geiger
P.O. Box 23
Orchard Park, N.Y. 14127

FIRST CLASS
