

the Spectrum

Editor: Ernst E. Both

JULY - AUGUST 1974

SUMMER STAR NIGHTS: As is our custom during July and August of each year, the BAA sponsors a series of star nights for its members and their friends. These usually start at dusk and continue well into the night. Participants are encouraged and urged to bring their own telescopes - programs always consist of informal observations of whatever celestial objects are available and are scheduled for Friday nights with the following night as an alternate should the Friday event be clouded out. Herewith a complete schedule (maps on the following pages):

- July 5/6 Newstead Observatory (near full moon, so don't expect deep sky objects);
- July 12/13 Newstead Observatory (near last quarter, deep sky objects all OK);
- July 19/20 Bill Deazley's (new moon, good dark sky location, see map)
- July 26/27 Kermit Schlitzer's (near first quarter moon, see map)
- August 2/3 Newstead Observatory (again full moon, but good for double stars, etc.)
- August 9/10 Camp sprucelands (last quarter moon, excellent dark sky facility); this date coincides with the telescope maker's annual pilgrimage to Stellafane, Vermont. If any of our members travel to Vermont, please submit an article for this newsletter when you return!! For information on Stellafane call Ed Lindberg at 633-6725.*****
- August 16/17 Beaver Meadows (new moon, excellent for deep sky objects, see map).
- August 23/24 Newstead Observatory (good chance to look at the first quarter moon).
- August 30/31 Newstead Observatory (full moon again, last summer meeting outdoors).

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS: During the June meeting the following were selected as officers of the Buffalo Astronomical Association (2-year term):

President: Darwin Christy; Vice President: Thomas Dessert; Secretary: Mary Beth Gauthier (succeeding John Riggs); Treasurer: Warren Steinberg (succeeding the late Robert Kartyas). Our congratulations and best wishes for two successful years!

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INSTRUMENT SECTION MEETING, May 1974. Reported by Warren Steinberg

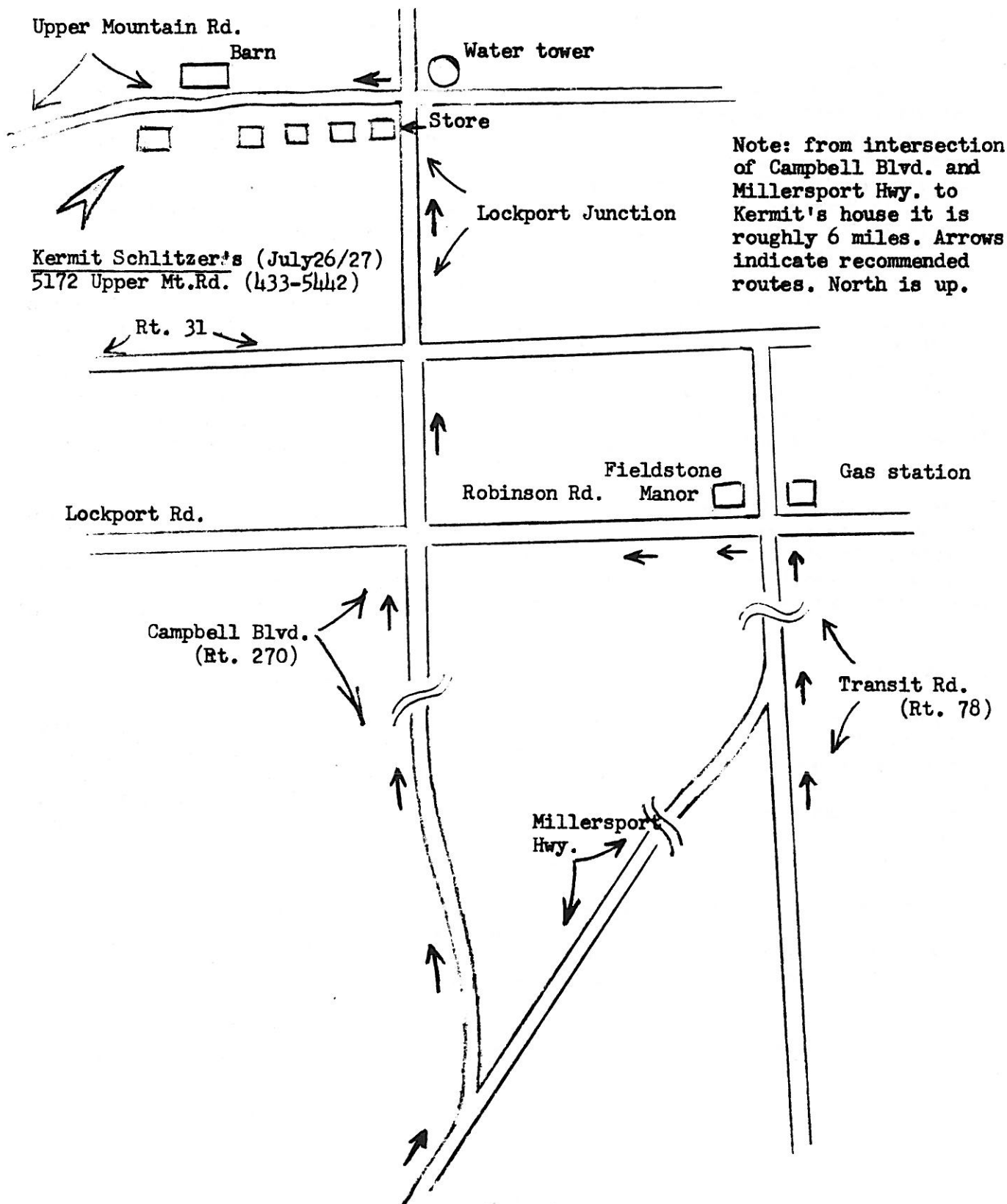
The May Instrument Section meeting got off to a good start - Ed Lindberg brought with him the first telescope mirror he had ever made. Although made almost 30 years ago, it showed a very good figure when tested. Let's hope Ed will bring the entire telescope to one of our star nights so that others may enjoy its good performance. Bill Deazley brought in a 12½-inch Gregorian primary which is now being polished out. Bill says that his ray tracing shows that when finished, his Gregorian will give a performance equal to that of a true Cassegrain system.

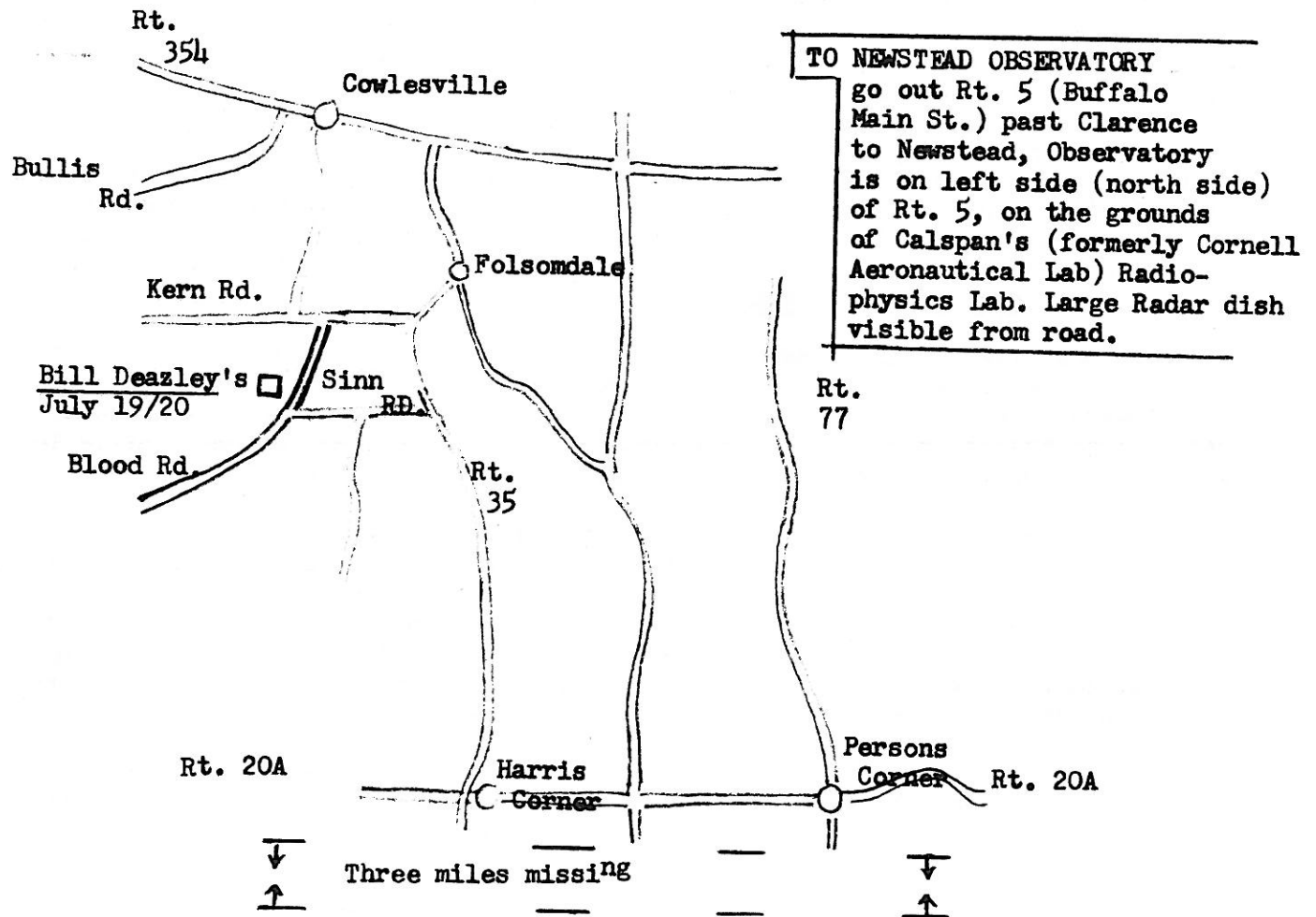
Carl Milazzo had a copy of the Astronomical League's "Reflector" under its new format. He complained to me that he had not received his copy, and after seeing the new format I can understand his displeasure. If anyone has not received a copy (all BAA members should receive one) please let me know.

Tom Dessert used a chalkboard to describe his new mount which Bob Mayer is building for him. He expects that it will enable him to use more equipment on it and possibly a larger telescope in the future.

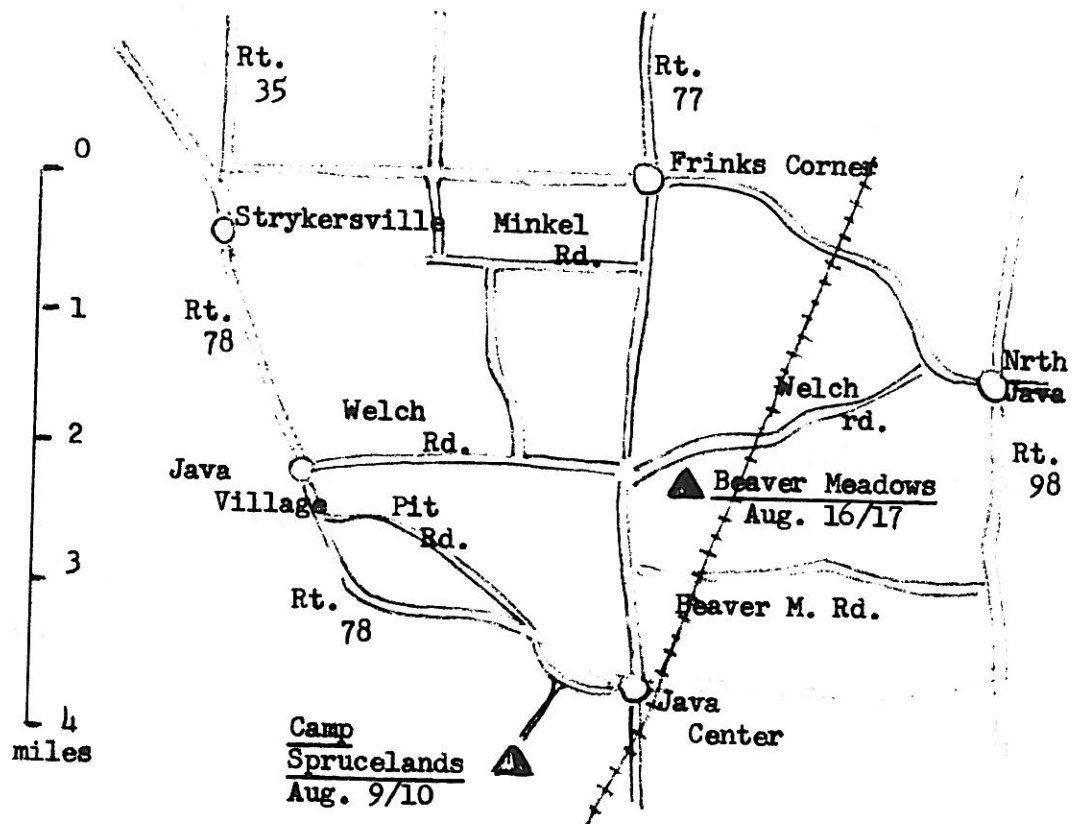
Also under discussion was the refurbishing of our Newstead telescope. Already ordered are components for a 4-inch, f/10 refractor to be used as a photographic guider and as a second telescope. Approved were also parts for right ascension and declination drives, as well as a better method for rotating the main tube. Needless to say this work will require considerable finances and your support through raffles and other means is greatly appreciated.

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North



JULY AND AUGUST METEORS, by Darwin Christy. The Capricornids occur on the 23rd of July, and although not an annual shower, about 20/hour have been counted at maximum, with an average magnitude $m=4.0$, but lesser counts are possible for 12-13 days. The radiant is at R.A. 20h 16m, decl. -15° ; Comet 1881 V is responsible for these meteors. Not to be confused with the alpha Capricornids on August 1. The delta Aquarids with the maximum around July 29 are an annual display, having the radiant at R.A. 22h 36m with two declinations: one at 0° , the other at -17° ; average $m=3.5$ with long, slow trajectories. About 10-30/hour can be seen at maximum, with lesser counts for about 15 days around maximum (they are on record as having been seen as late as August 5). Lesser known showers in July are the Sagittariids on the 6th, the alpha Cygnids on the 14th, the alpha-beta Perseids on the 27th, and the Piscis Austrinids on the 30th.

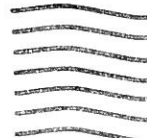
The most famous August meteors are, of course, the Perseids around the 11th, with a duration of about 5 days. The radiant is at 3h 18 m R.A., decl. $+58^{\circ}$, best seen toward midnight. This annual shower produces as many as 70/hour with fast, medium long trajectories having an average $m=3$; it is related to Comet Tuttle 1862 III and at one time this shower was called "the tears of St. Lawrence".

A relatively new shower are the alpha Capricornids occurring on August 1. They seem to be related to Comet Honda 1948 II, and are poorly known. The radiant is located at R.A. 20h 20m, decl. -10° - this shower would be well worth studying to gain more information. The kappa Cygnids make their appearance on August 20. Look for from five to 15 fireballs/hour, from a radiant at R.A. 19h 20m, decl. $+52^{\circ}$. Predicted magnitude $m=0$! Two other showers in August are the omicron Draconids (Aug. 22) and the zeta Draconids (Aug. 26). Best wishes for a good meteor-hunting summer!!

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DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES THIS ISSUE IS AGAIN ONLY 4 PAGES LONG. PROMISES MADE IN THE MAY-JUNE ISSUE WILL BE KEPT IN THE FALL. HAVE A VERY PLEASANT SUMMER *****

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



FIRST CLASS
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John Riggs
255 Grimsby Rd.
Kenmore, NY 14223