

# the Spectrum

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

Editor: Ernst E. Both

JULY - AUGUST 1976

**NEW OFFICERS (1976-1978):** At our June meeting the following were elected officers of the Buffalo Astronomical Association for a two-year term starting in September: President: Dr. Fred W. Price; Vice President: Mr. Kenneth Biggie; Secretary: Mr. Rowland A. Rupp; Treasurer: Mr. Thomas Dessert. On behalf of our membership we wish them a successful term in office and look forward to meeting them in the fall.

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**SUMMER PROGRAMS:** Until August 20 we will have weekly star nights at our new observatory at Beaver Meadow, each Friday night beginning at dusk. If Friday's weather is poor, the meeting automatically takes place on Saturday. Two exceptions to this routine are: June 25, Bill Deazley's (see map on next page), and August 6, Camp Sprucelands (also on map). A star night is also scheduled for August 27 at Tom Dessert's house, S-1286 South Anne Dr., Alden, N.Y. (phone 652-5530). To get to Tom Dessert's, follow these directions: Go east on Clinton St. (Rt. 354). From the intersection of Clinton and Transit (US 20) proceed east on Clinton for about 10 miles to 4 Rod Road. Turn right on 4 Rod Road and proceed south for about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to South Anne Drive. Turn left into South Anne Drive. Tom's is the first house on your right. If you plan to attend any star night please save this issue for directions and schedules.

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**NOTE OF THANKS:** On behalf of myself and Mr. David Bigelow I would like to thank all those who assisted me in giving the Introductory Astronomy Course this past spring at Beaver Meadow Environmental Education Center. Many thanks should go to Ernst Both, Bill Deazley, Dr. Fred Price, and Dr. Fred West. Special thanks go to Tom Dessert, whose valuable advice allowed the course to run so smoothly. Sincerely, Carl A. Kalweit.

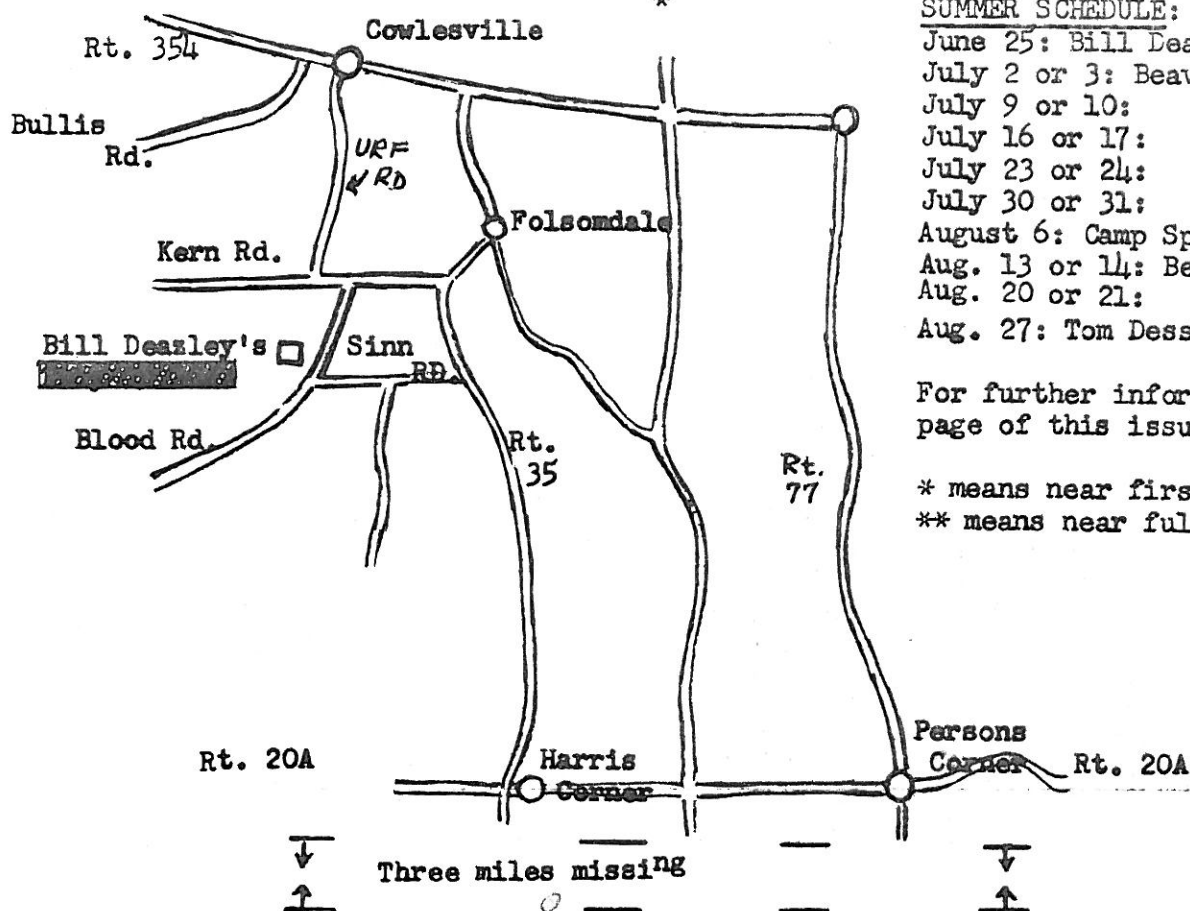
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**A NOTE OF WELCOME:** The following have completed the Introductory Astronomy Course at Beaver Meadow as of June 12, 1976. We welcome them as members: Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Stroke (Java Center); Ms. Dortha Duttweiler (Holland); Dr. Marilyn Fiegel (Buffalo); Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jason Sr. (West Falls); Ms. Michelle Levaway (Colden); Mr. John O'Dea (Williamsville); Ms. Connie Hendershot (Lockport); Mr. David Maul (Elma); Mr. Gilbert Donner (East Aurora); The following have joined our Association while visiting Beaver Meadow: Mr. Art Wroblewski (Cheektowaga); Rev. Robert Gilbraith (Java Center). WELCOME ALL - WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

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**IT HAPPENED WHEN** a group of about 30 members of the Buffalo Hiking Club gathered at Beaver Meadow on April 24th to plant two trees in memory of Mabel James, founder of that club. After the tree planting, I took the group to visit the BAA observatory. The visitors were impressed by the telescope and its mounting and by the building and all its features. One little girl who came with her grandmother, Mrs. Fred Barrick of Hamburg, was impressed most of all by the roll-off roof. When she got home she exclaimed to her mother: "I saw a house out there with a roof that comes right off." The mother, thinking that the girl was confusing childhood fantasy with reality, questioned the grandmother. "She didn't see anything like that, did she?" But Mrs. Barrick confirmed the girl's story. "They have a building out there with a roof that rolls off so that you can stand inside at night and look straight up at the stars."

Maybe this proves that we don't know which features of our handiwork most impresses people! Ed. Lindberg.

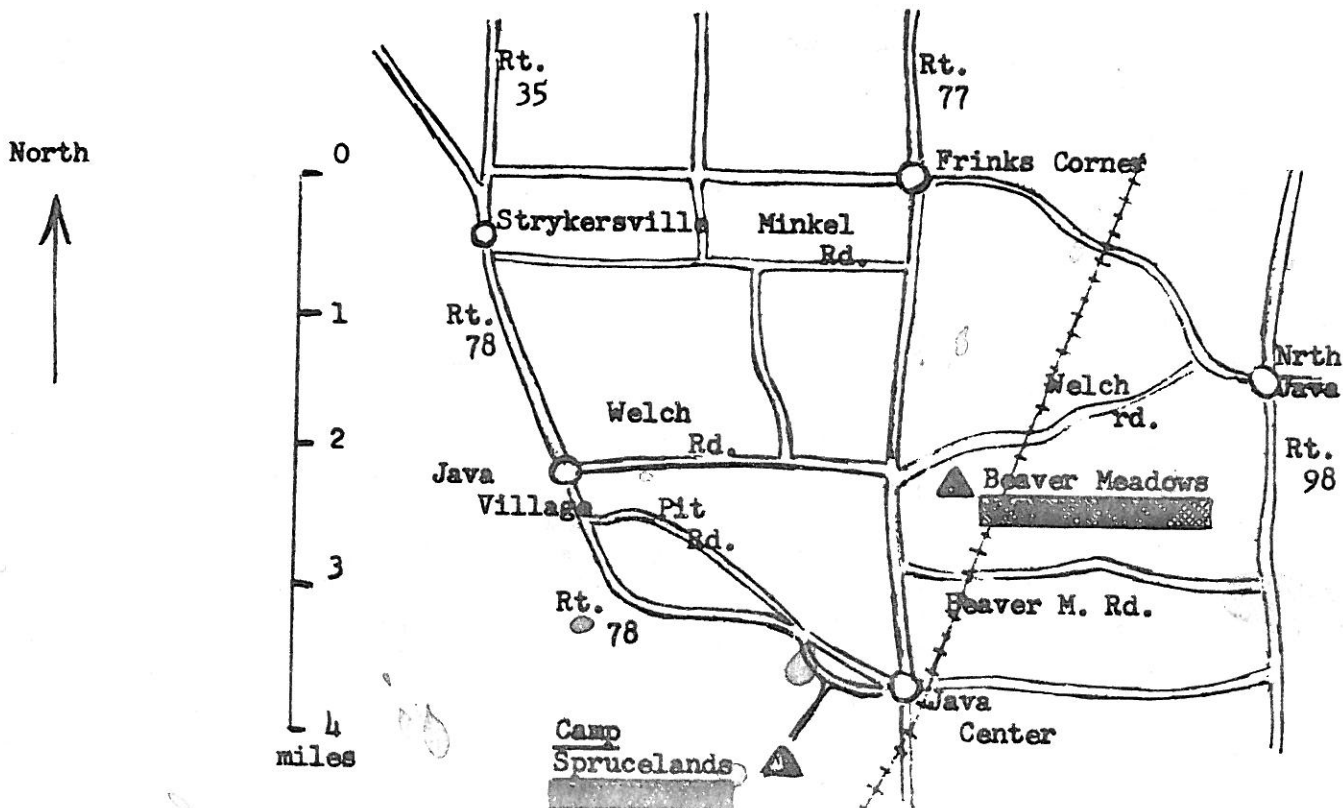


#### SUMMER SCHEDULE:

June 25: Bill Deazley's  
 July 2 or 3: Beaver Meadow \*  
 July 9 or 10: " \*\*  
 July 16 or 17: "  
 July 23 or 24: "  
 July 30 or 31: " \*  
 August 6: Camp Sprucelands \*\*  
 Aug. 13 or 14: Beaver Meadow  
 Aug. 20 or 21: "  
 Aug. 27: Tom Dessert's

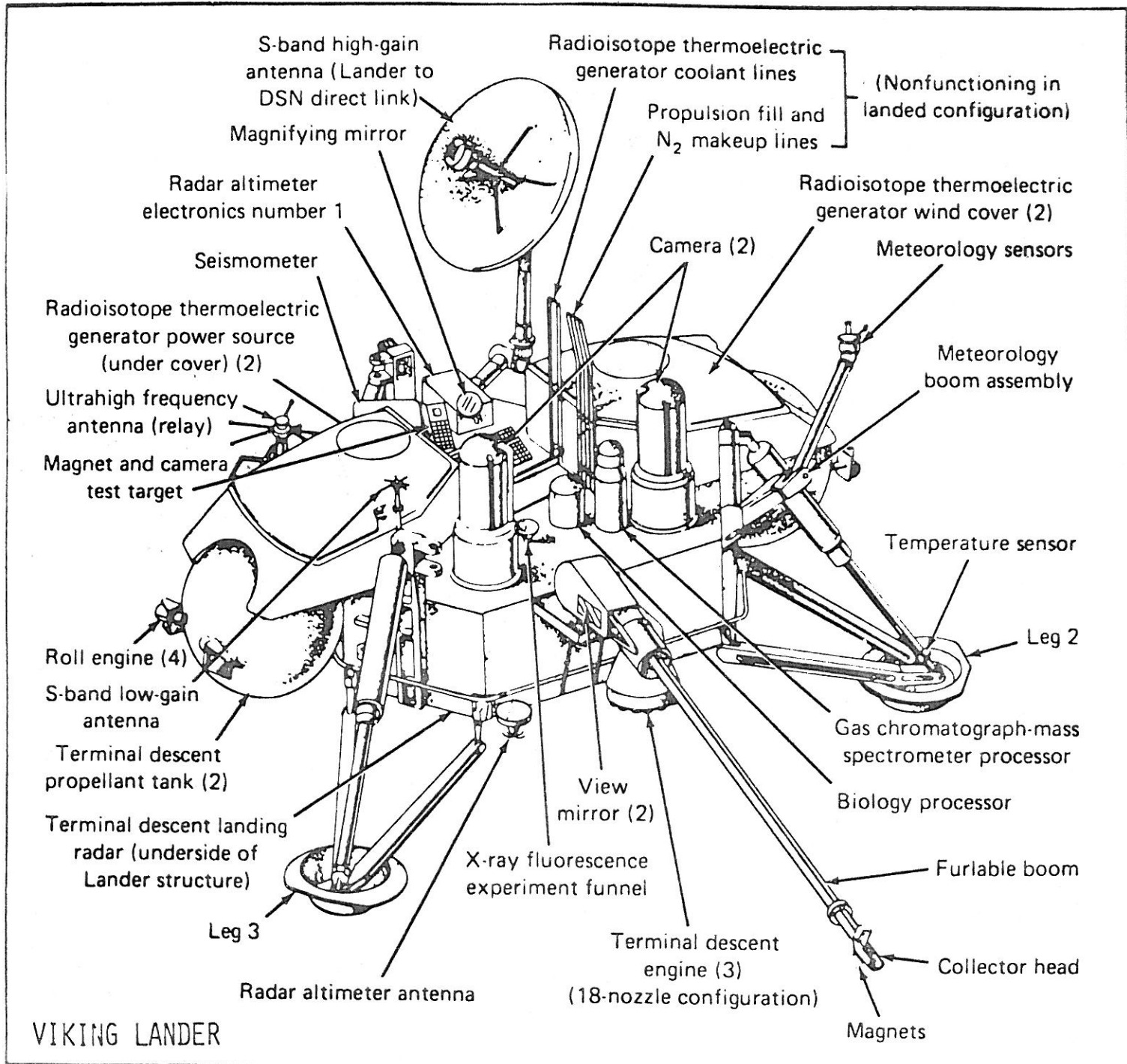
For further information see first page of this issue.

\* means near first quarter moon  
 \*\* means near full moon



THE YEAR OF THE VIKINGS - HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!! 1776 - 1976!!!

On July 4, 1976 part of America's most ambitious unmanned space probe will land on the surface of Mars. Its primary mission: to test the soil of our neighboring planet for signs of life. Launched during August and September of 1975, Viking 1 and Viking 2 are now in the vicinity of Mars. Viking 1 was inserted into an orbit around the planet on June 19, 1976 and is now scanning the Martian surface in preparation for dispatching its lander to the surface on July 4, 1976. Its sister craft, Viking 2, is now approaching the planet and will reach Mars orbit on August 4, 1976. Its lander will descend to the planet's surface about one month later, on September 4, 1976. Assuming success, our ideas concerning our neighbor may well be changed by the time we meet again in the fall. HAVE A SAFE, PROFITABLE SUMMER.



MORE NEW MEMBERS: We also welcome the following to membership in the BAA: Mr. Mike Ortner (North Java); Mr. John Sojka (Cheektowaga); and Mr. Ronald J. Whyte (Egbertsville).

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ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE AMATEUR: A course by Thomas L. Dessert at the Fred T. Hall Building, Beaver Meadow Environmental Education Center, Welch Road, North Java, N.Y. Every Friday, July 9, 1976 to August 13, 1976, at 8:00 p.m.

Fee: \$ 20.00 for non-members; \$ 15.00 for members of the BAA and members of the Buffalo Audubon Society. At course completion the participants will be qualified and have access to the BAA Observatory at Beaver Meadow.

NOTE: Due to course requirements this class will be limited to the first 25 who sign up. Call or see Mr. or Mrs. David M. Bigelow at Beaver Meadow: 457-4228.

Photographic subjects and topics to be covered in this course include: constellations; the milky way; moon; planets; sun; star clusters; nebulae; galaxies; darkroom procedures. FILM AND PROCESSING WILL BE SUPPLIED FREE DURING THE COURSE.

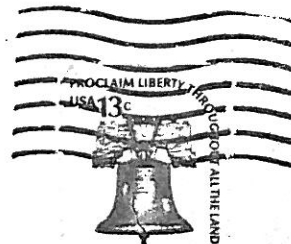
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OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION for their unselfish service during the past years is expressed to the out-going officers: President: Darwin Christy; Vice President: Tom Dessert; Secretary: Marybeth Gauthier; Treasurer: Warren Steinberg. THANKS!!!

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TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WE WISH BALMY DAYS AND CLEAR NIGHTS DURING SUMMER '76.

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



FIRST CLASS  
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Mr. & Mrs. R. Rupp  
132 Burroughs Dr.  
Snyder, NY 14226