

the Spectrum

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

Editor: Ernst E. Both

JULY - AUGUST 1977

EDITORIAL: This is the last issue of The Spectrum which will "sail forth" under my name as editor. As most of you know, I have resigned as editor because I firmly believe that 10 years in this job is enough and the time is ripe for "fresh blood." I have enjoyed doing this and would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank all of you who have helped in the past. Not to single out anybody, but there are some who deserve special recognition: Edith Geiger, for providing us with "Spy and Tell;" Elaine Deazley, for labels and mailing; Darwin Christy, for the meteor notes and many other contributions; Tom Dessert, for paying the bills, pick-up and other help; John Riggs, for his deep-sky notes of years past - - and many others. Thank you very kindly!!

I am also resigning as a member of the Board of Directors, a position I have held for the past 17 years by virtue of the fact that I happen to be the Museum's Curator of Astronomy. According to our by-laws, the Museum's astronomer is an "ex officio" member of the Board for as long as the BAA meets at the Museum. Since we are still associated with the BSNS but do not meet at the Museum, Dr. Jack Mack can fulfill this "ex officio" obligation since he is a Research Associate of the Museum's Kellogg Observatory.

I am resigning for one reason only: I have not been able to fulfill my obligations as a board member due to increased demands on my time by the renovation work at the Museum and other duties. Any speculation to the effect that I am disenchanted with the BAA because it no longer meets at the Museum or other reasons is absolutely ludicrous. I have and will continue to support the BAA to the best of my abilities and will remain active to the extent that my time permits.

Larry Carlino is the new editor of The Spectrum (453 Niagara Falls Blvd., Buffalo, N.Y. 14226; phone 832-0491). I urge all of you to make his job easier both by sending him your contributions and by letting him know what you would like to see in your newsletter. Once again to all my friends: thank you for the many kindnesses you have shown me over the years. Have a happy, prosperous summer with only excellent seeing!!!

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THE SECRETARY REPORTS - Rowland A. Rupp, Jr.

1. QUESTIONNAIRE: The number of responses to the questionnaire attached to the April-May issue of The Spectrum has been disappointingly sparse; only twenty-one completed questionnaires have been received. If you have not responded yet, please do so. A tabulation is given in the following list as is the number of people who would join a group

	Interest	Group	
1. Telescope building, optical	9	4	Surprisingly, approximately equal interest is evident for the advanced study and observation section as for the telescope building group, yet the latter has continued its activities for years while the study section periodically dissolves for lack of
2. Telescope building, mechanical	6	3	
3. Astrophotography	9	3	
4. Basic Study	5	0	
5. Advanced study	9	4	
6. Observation Techniques	11	3	
7. AstrO-electronics	7	2	
8. INstrument comparisons	1	0	
9. Radio Astronomy	2	0	
10. Astronomy Education	2	0	

attendance. Perhaps too few questionnaires have been received to draw an accurate conclusion about relative intentions in these two specialties.

Suggestions in the questionnaire include starting a lending library of astronomy books, having one or two programs of professional films and slides each year, promotion of reports at our monthly meetings about activities carried out by our own members and the need for increased publicity. There were many favorable comments about Beaver Meadow Observatory and the courses given there. Many other valuable comments were made. Pertinent ones will be brought before the Board at future meetings to determine how the club can be responsive to them.

2. LENDING LIBRARY: The Board of Directors is considering starting a lending library of astronomy books for club members. While discussing the matter, it was noted that the club already possesses a number of books and a large collection of back issues of "Sky and Telescope" but we have lost track of where they are. In fact, we realize that many other club assets have been dispersed among members, particularly a number of the old moon-watch telescopes which would be valuable additions to the equipment of Beaver Meadow Observatory. We ask that any member having these books or club equipment let a Board member know so that we can inventory the items. Henceforth, the club Treasurer will keep a record of these possessions and where they are located.

An alternative, or possibly an adjunct, to a library is to determine what astronomy books are privately owned that could be loaned to fellow members. If a substantial list is obtained, a bibliography could be prepared that would enable us to see what books are available. If you wish to participate, please make a list of books you would consider loaning out and give it to any club officer or mail it to Rowland A. Rupp, 132 Burroughs Dr., Snyder, N.Y. 14226. Any comments or suggestions you have concerning establishing a library or creating this private lending bibliography will be welcomed by the Board.

3. REPORT OF 10 JUNE 1977 GENERAL MEETING: At this meeting, Dr. Jack Mack and Bob Mayer were elected members-at-large of the BAA Board of Directors for two-year terms commencing September 1, 1977. Larry Carlino and Walt Whyman received tie votes on both the first and second ballots for a third seat on the Board and it was motioned and passed to hold a run-off election between these two candidates at the September 1977 general meeting. In other business, Tom Dessert, Edith Geiger, Bob Mayer, and Dr. Fred Price were elected to the College of Fellows. The general membership will also vote on updating the club's by-laws at the September meeting. The proposed changes were read at the June meeting and will be printed in the September-October issue of The Spectrum. A two-thirds vote of the members attending the meeting is necessary to carry these amendments to the by-laws.

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SUMMER SCHEDULE: Evening star parties will take place every Saturday at Beaver Meadow, with the exception of the dates listed on the following page. Note that star parties at Beaver Meadow are Saturdays only (the exceptions are Friday or Saturday if Friday is clouded out). For all star parties, please bring your telescopes! July 8/9: Combined star party at David Steinagle's and Tom Dessert's, 1268 + 1286 South Anne Drive: 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. *** August 26/27: Paul Curtin, 124 Stonehenge Dr., Orchard Park: from the intersection of Rt. 20A and 240 in Orchard Park go east on Quaker Rd. to North Freeman, proceed south on North Freeman about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to Stonehenge, turn left to No. 124 (phone 662-5045). Note: if August 26 is cloudy, there will be a picnic in Chestnut Ridge Park (see p. 4) which will be followed by the star party at Curtin's. Bring telescope.

SUMMER STAR PARTIES:

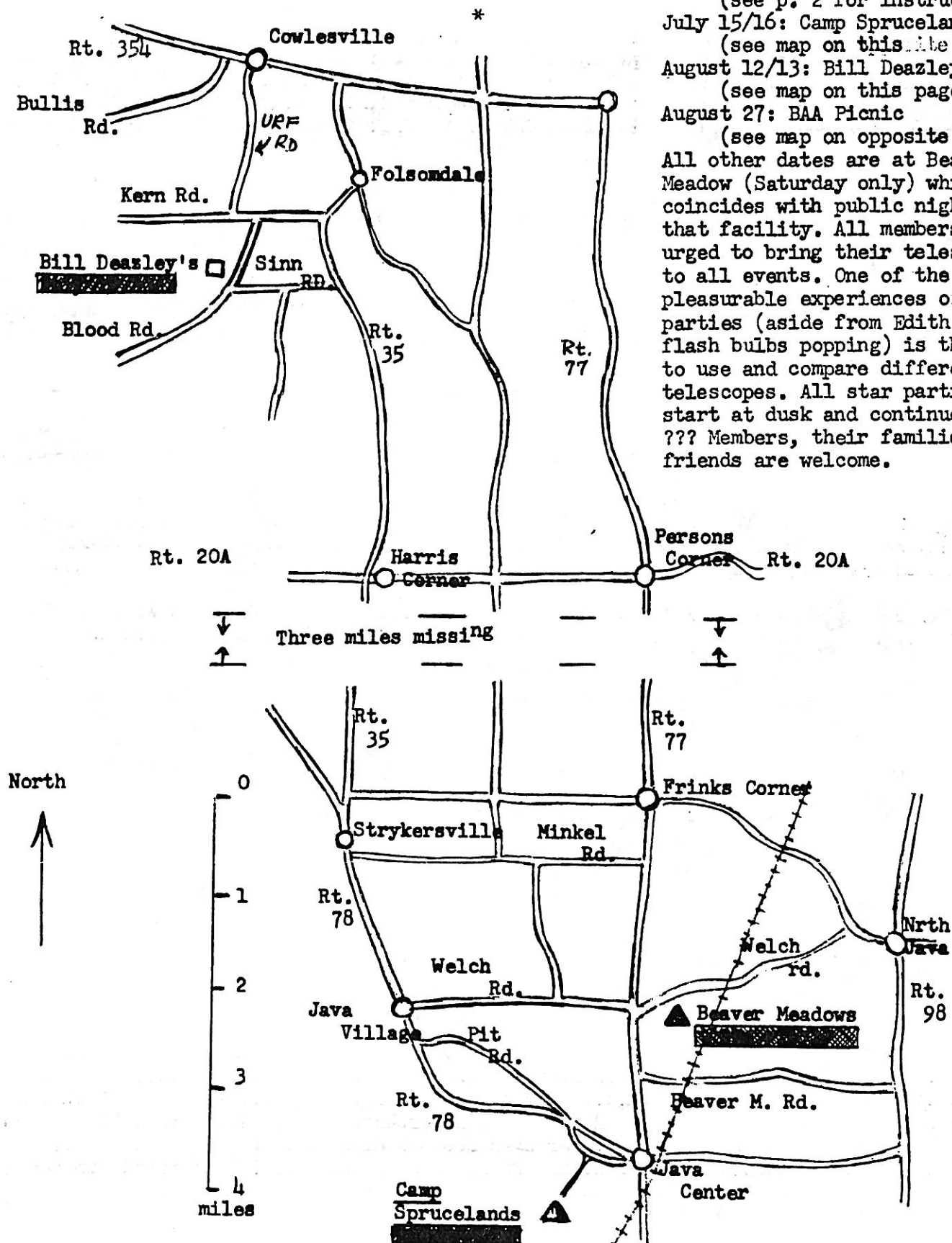
July 8/9: Steinagle's + Dessert's
(see p. 2 for instructions).

July 15/16: Camp Sprucelands
(see map on this page).

August 12/13: Bill Deasley's
(see map on this page).

August 27: BAA Picnic
(see map on opposite page).

All other dates are at Beaver Meadow (Saturday only) which coincides with public nights at that facility. All members are urged to bring their telescopes to all events. One of the pleasurable experiences of star parties (aside from Edith Geiger's flash bulbs popping) is the chance to use and compare different telescopes. All star parties start at dusk and continue until ??? Members, their families and friends are welcome.



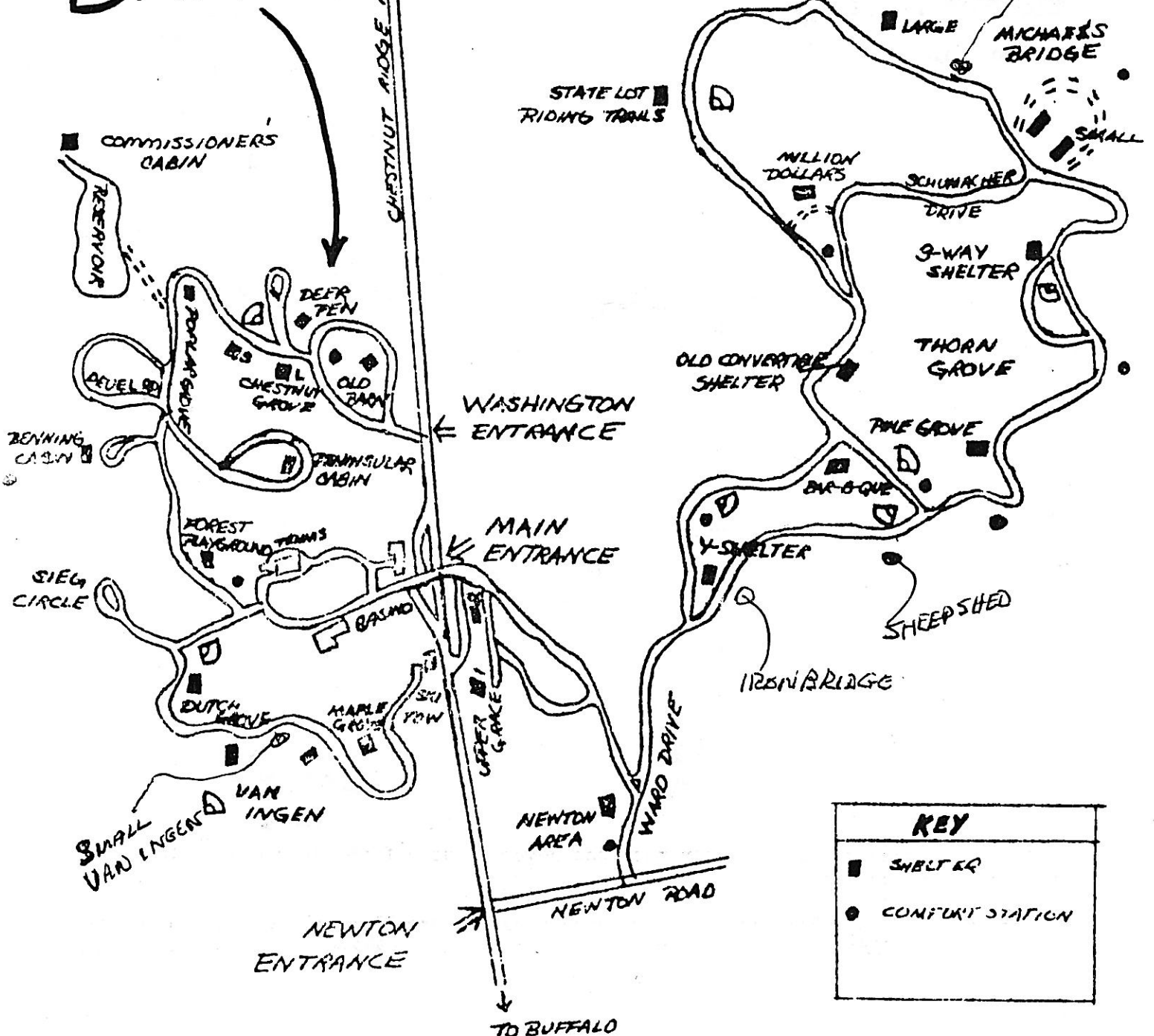
Town of Orchard Park
662-3290

For reservations call:
Tom Dessert, 652-5530
or
Rowland Rupp, 839-1842
before August 20th.

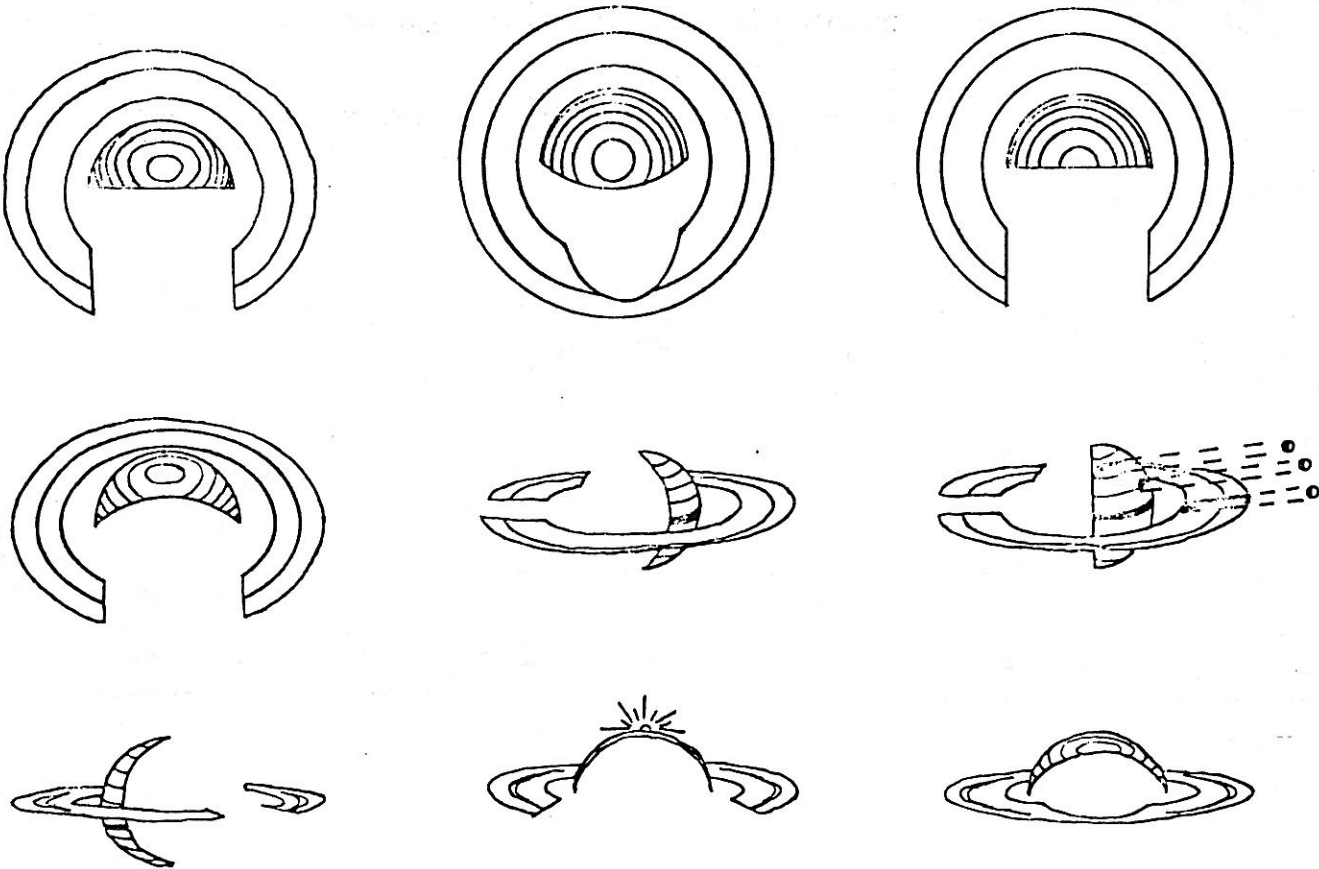
B.A.A. Picnic: All BAA members and their families
Saturday, August 27, 1977, 3:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Deer Pen Shelter, Chestnut Ridge Park

Bring your own food and charcoal. The BAA will provide
drinks (beer + pop) for all who make reservations before
August 20th. Bring your own drinks if you haven't told us
you are coming. Park rules prohibit hard liquor but beer
is OK. Bring chairs if you don't find park benches
comfortable. Bring your telescope if you want to observe
the site is high and open. The park closes at 10 p.m.
but the sun will set approx. two hours earlier.

BAA



VIEWS OF THE PLANET SATURN FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES. By Carl Milazzo



During a two-year period, beginning in August of 1979, three space probes will fly past the planet Saturn and will send back some beautiful and unusual pictures. An unusual sight through Earth telescopes will be the edge-on presentation of Saturn's rings from 1979 through 1980. When that happens the rings are generally invisible and Saturn will have much the appearance of Jupiter. One similarity will be the arrangement of Saturn's moons in a fairly straight line along Saturn's side. Usually we see its moons scattered all around the planet.

When the rings are visible they usually attract the main attention of observers, not the planet itself. Observers rarely notice Saturn's cloud belts which are delicately blue, white, yellow, orange, and brown in color. The poles are flattened, even more so than Jupiter's - a fact which is usually not noticed because of the rings. When the rings are edge-on, occultations of the moons by Saturn should be watched for - they will then also cast shadows on Saturn as we often see with Jupiter and its moons (however, because of the much greater distance, these shadows are much more difficult to observe). The rings have not been edge-on since 1966.

Above are some views of Saturn that can never be seen from Earth but which soon may be seen by space probes.

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On Saturday, June 18, 1977, many of our members had an excellent chance to see the central star in the Lyra Ring Nebula (M 57) with powers between 360 X and 400 X at Beaver Meadow.

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RANDOM NOTES: Our president, Dr. Fred Price, is vacationing in England. He plans to observe there with his 8-inch reflector * * * Bob Burdick's roll-off observatory is complete and he enjoys it greatly * * * The Museum's observatory is still without power until further notice. We hope to have public nights later in the fall * * * Solar activity is increasing steadily, Carl Milazzo has observed some very large sunspots recently * * * Phil Cizdziel is photographing variable stars to determine light curves * * * * *

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A 10-week course, "Wonders of the Sky", is being taught by Larry Carlino at Beaver Meadow. The course started June 18th (Saturdays) - fee is \$ 15 for members and \$ 20 for non-members (the latter fee includes membership in the BAA for one year.

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August 19th is the beginning date for a course in "ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY" to be taught by Tom Dessert, Friday nights for 6 weeks (also at Beaver Meadow. Fees are the same as in Carlino's course). If interested, call Tom Dessert, 652-5530, but register with Mr. Bigelow at Beaver Meadow. Photographic materials will be provided.

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SOME NEW BOOKS WORTH READING: "The Collapsing Universe," by Isaac Asimov, N.Y.: Walker, \$ 8.95 deals with a variety of subjects, but especially with the Big Bang, white dwarfs, black holes, etc. and is eminently readable ... "Man Discovers the Galaxies," by R. Berendzen R. Hart, and D. Seeley, N.Y.: Watson, \$ 15.95 recounts the intricate history of research dealing with galaxies. Profusely illustrated, it is a must for anyone interested in galaxies and the history of 20th century astronomy ... "The First Three Minutes", by Steven Weinberg, N.Y.: Basic Books, \$ 8.95 is a thoroughly enjoyable account of the very beginnings of the Big Bang Universe ... "Black Holes, Quasars, and the Universe," by Harry Shipman, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, (c. \$ 9.00?) is a very readable, thorough account on an intelligent level.

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



FIRST CLASS
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Darwin Christy
216 Kohler St.
Tonawanda, NY 14150