



the Spectrum

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

Editor:
Lawrence M. Carlino

JULY - AUGUST 1979

SUMMER STAR PARTIES: The traditional summer star parties are scheduled for each Friday night during the months of July and August. In the event of inclement weather, Saturday will become the designated day. All star parties will begin at sunset and last until ?? Whatever the date and wherever the location, bring along your telescope, binoculars, or other equipment in order to take full advantage of some of the fine viewing locations available to us. Looking at a "pet" deep-sky object through a telescope of different type or aperture invariably adds much interest and excitement to the observing.

Members of the BAA are invited to be guests at star parties at the homes of the following members:

July 6 or 7

Darwin and Ruth Christy
216 Kohler St., Tonawanda 692-0305

August 3 or 4

David and Gilbert Brink
139 Segsbury Rd., Williamsville 632-7481

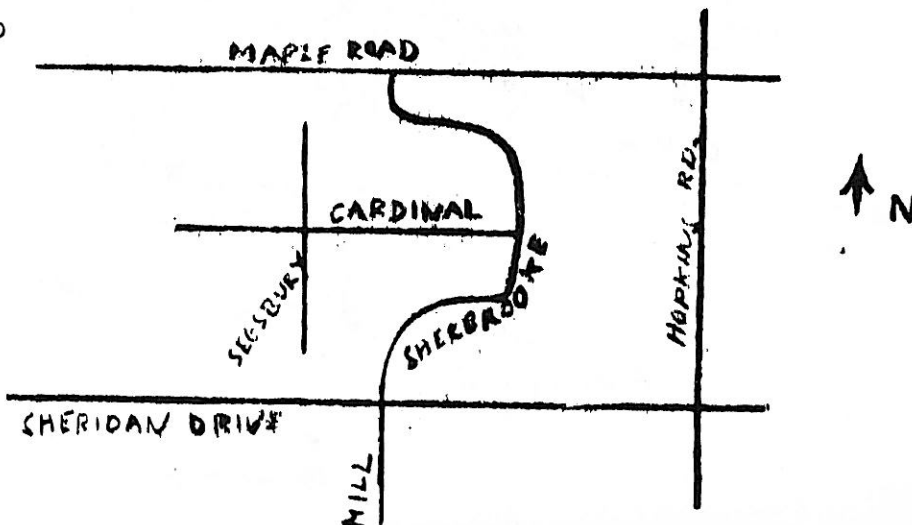
August 31 or Sept. 1

Miro and Joanne Catipovic
545 Delaware St., Tonawanda 695-1131

** Star parties will be held at the Beaver Meadow Observatory on all other weekends.

Directions: Kohler Street runs between Military Road and Niagara St. in the City of Tonawanda. Miro's home is on Delaware Street, also in the city of Tonawanda. The map below illustrates the location of Segsbury Rd. Miro has a swimming pool and invites you to come early (around 7 PM) and bring your swim suits.

Our thanks to Carl Milazzo for helping to arrange these star parties.



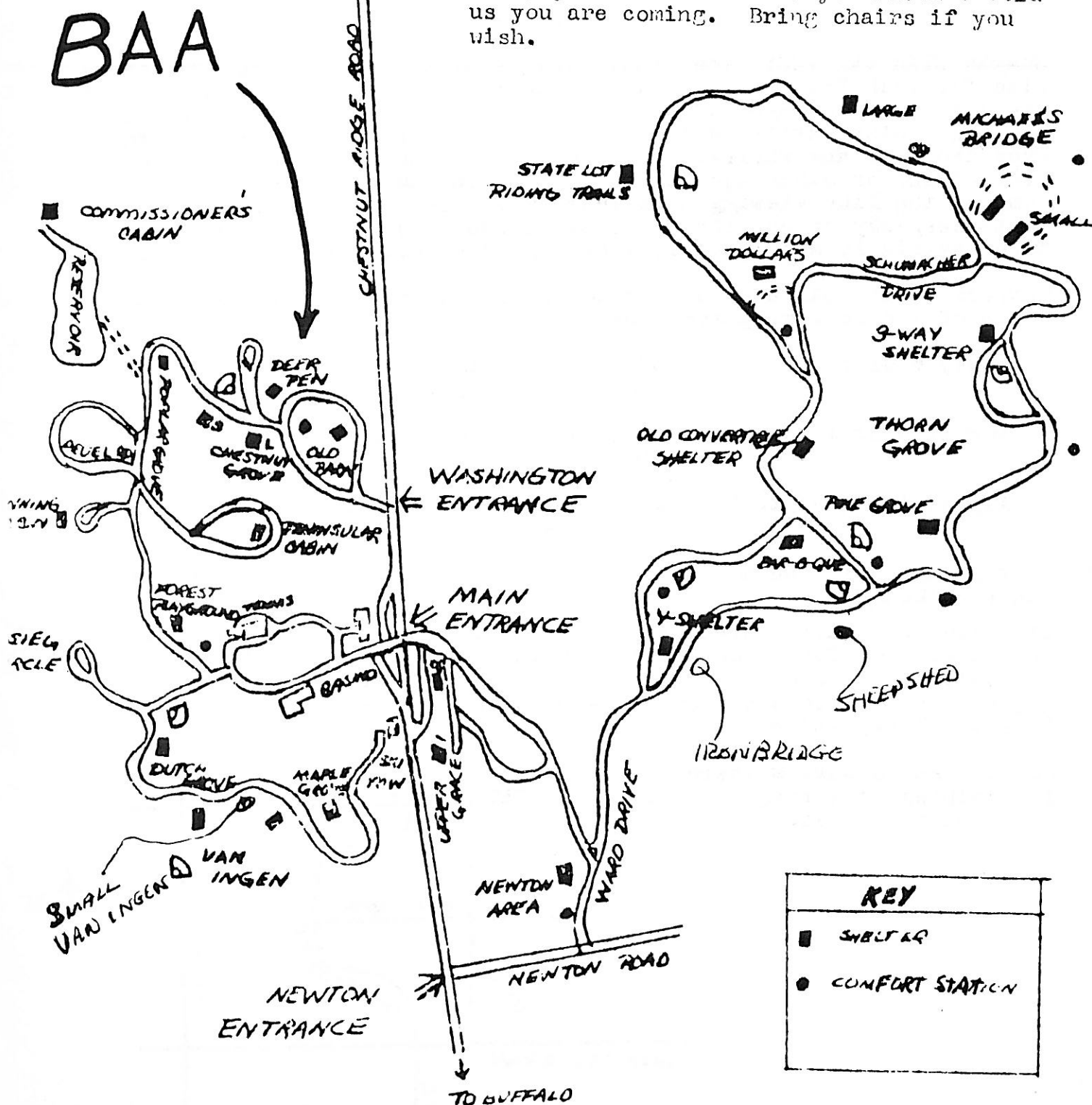
Town of Orchard Park
662-3290

For reservations call:
Tom Dessert, 652-5530
or
Rowland Rupp, 839-1842
before August 13th.

**ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT
of PARKS AND RECREATION**

BAA PICNIC: All BAA members and their families on Sunday, August 19, 1979, 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Deer Pen Shelter, Chestnut Ridge Park.

Bring your own meat and charcoal and a dish to pass (salad or dessert). The BAA will provide drinks (beer & pop) for all who make reservations before August 13th. Bring your own drinks if you haven't told us you are coming. Bring chairs if you wish.

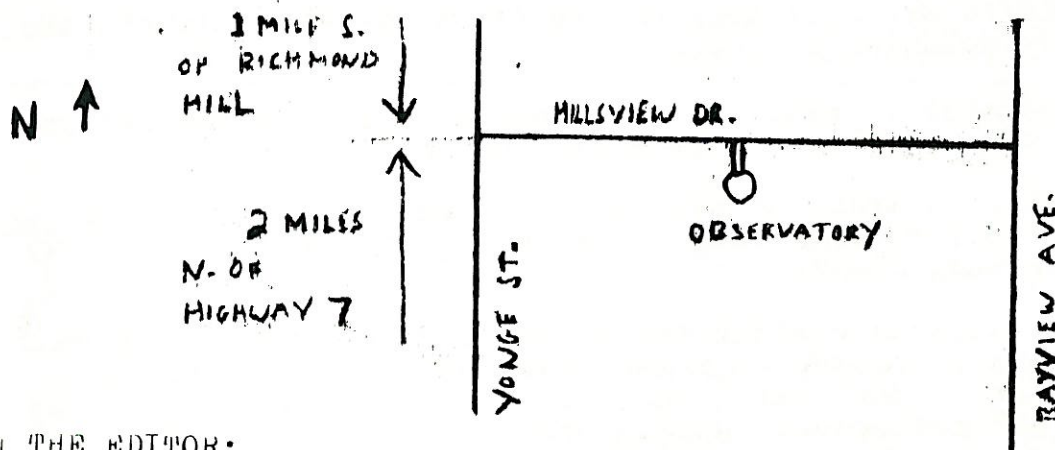


OTHER EVENTS

The BAA has scheduled a tour of the University of Toronto's David Dunlap Observatory on Saturday, July 14. The observatory is located at Richmond Hill, (just north of Toronto) Ontario, Canada.

The tour begins at 9:30 PM and is held whether it's clear or cloudy. There will be no twilight or moonlight interference.

Along with the tour, a lecture or film will be presented. If reasonably clear skies prevail, observation through the 74-inch reflector is planned. Reservations have been made for 30 people. Everyone planning to attend should contact Phil Cizdziel at 674-3539 to reserve a space on the tour. A sketch of the observatory's location is provided below.



FROM THE EDITOR:

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as your Spectrum editor for the past two years, but it has now become time to "pass on the torch" to the new editor. Darwin Christy has graciously consented to assume the editor's duties. I wish Darwin the very best of luck in this endeavor and urge each and every BAA member to earnestly consider making some sort of active contribution to our newsletter in order to make his job easier and more productive. Any and all contributions to the Spectrum will, I'm sure, be accepted by Darwin with open arms.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many members who have been such a great help in the production of the Spectrum during my tenure: Elaine Deazley for her skilled layout and typing work, Tom and Marty Dessert for their distribution and mailing prowess, Rowland and Irene Rupp, Carl Milazzo, Edith Geiger, Darwin Christy, and others too numerous to mention for their consistent flow of high-quality articles for the publication. To all of you, my sincere thanks.

LWC

BAA ANNALS

5 YEARS AGO - Summer issues of the Spectrum were thin in years past; mostly they just listed sites for star parties. Parties hosted by members were scheduled at Bill Deazley's, Kermit Schlitzer's, and Camp Sprucelands. Newstead Observatory was the site for the remaining weekends with one exception -- we met at Beaver Meadow - a new location for us. This was before the days of our new observatory when we were still trying to raise money to build it. We brought our own telescopes, set them up in the parking lot or field, and had a great time.

Officers were elected for a two-year term in June. They were: President - Darwin Christy, Vice-President - Tom Dessert, Secretary - Mary Beth Gauthier, and Treasurer - Warren Steinberg.

10 YEARS AGO - A visit to Walter Semerau's solar observatory was scheduled for July 1969. We also went to Camp Sprucelands, Darwin Christy's Honeyhouse Observatory and to Les Stoklosa's. Ed Lindberg was invited to speak before the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada in Toronto. His topic - "Story of Stellafane."

Rowland A. Rupp

SPY and TELL

Congratulations to Dr. Jack Mack who received the Chancellor's Award for outstanding teaching at SUCB.

Congratulations also to Ernst Both who has been re-elected for another term on the school board at North Collins.

Tom Dessert had an astrophoto published in the June issue of Sky and Telescope (pg. 595) showing Pluto's closest approach to the galaxy NGC 5248 on February 27-28.

On May 13, Carl Milazzo visited the second largest amateur observatory in the world, located at North Royalton, Ohio, twenty miles south of Cleveland. The telescope, which is the result of a group project, is a 31" reflector. Norman Oberle is in charge of the observatory as it is on his property. For further information, see Sky and Telescope, Sept. '77. The largest amateur telescope is the 33" reflector in Jamestown, New York.

The Hewitts will be vacationing in New Hampshire at the end of June. Bob and son Bill have purchased a used Celestron.

With Tom Pasek working in the Post Office until midnight, and brother Jim busy with school, there has been very little time for observing.

Dave Junkin has had a Sunday class in bird-banding at Beaver Meadow, and though the class is officially over, Dave and as many of the class who can attend, will continue with bird-banding through the summer.

Tom Giasomo is busy painting his house. He is going to New York City on a business trip in June.

Dave Maul is a ski lift operator during the winter months at Swain Ski Resort near Dansville. During the summer he has a trailer at the resort and does repair work in preparation for the following winter. He is also building a canoe.

The Nicholas George family is hoping to do a little camping at Allegany State Park this summer.

Fred Price will be spending the summer months at his home in England.

Ken Biggie is involved in insulating his garage. He's also gone in for a big garden this year (four tomato plants). He may not have known what poison-ivy was before May, but he sure knows now, after blossoming forth with a spectacular rash. And where did he run into this little beastie? Weeding right along the fence in his own yard. Tsk! Tsk!

Edith L. Geiger

BOOK REVIEW

Anyone interested in observing the heavens will be fascinated and maybe overwhelmed by Burnham's Celestial Handbook. It lists, according to the author Robert Burnham, Jr., over 7000 objects and is illustrated by more than 250 astrophotographs. It is "... intended primarily for the serious observer and advanced amateur..." but also includes descriptions and explanations of astronomical objects that makes it something of an easy-to-read textbook as well.

Robert Burnham Jr. started this handbook by compiling a list of interesting celestial objects for his own use. He increased the scope of his effort when he joined the staff of Lowell Observatory in 1958. There he gained access to plates taken with the 13-inch wide-angle camera (the one used to discover Pluto) which are used as illustrations throughout the handbook. Burnham feels that the older handbooks were designed for observers using small refractors which were common earlier in this century. This new handbook is intended to help today's observers with large reflectors up to 12-inches find objects not previously listed in common atlases.

This handbook is organized into three paperback volumes costing \$8.95 apiece. Each constellation has a section dedicated to it. The constellations are presented in alphabetical order, so all three volumes are needed to get a comprehensive observing guide.

Andromeda is the first constellation listed and has 57 pages of information. There are 128 double and multiple stars listed for Andromeda alone. And this isn't just a list of every double star known; the limiting magnitude I've found is 13.5, and 108 of these stars have separations of one second of arc or more. So these objects are truly visible in a 12-inch scope, and generally can be seen in much smaller instruments. Contrast this with 7 doubles given in the Norton's Star Atlas, 15th edition.

Do you like variable stars? Burnham lists 47 for Andromeda with 15.2 the limiting magnitude. Norton gives one in the 15th edition. Burnham gives 12 objects under the title "Star Clusters, Nebulae, and Galaxies" compared to Norton's two.

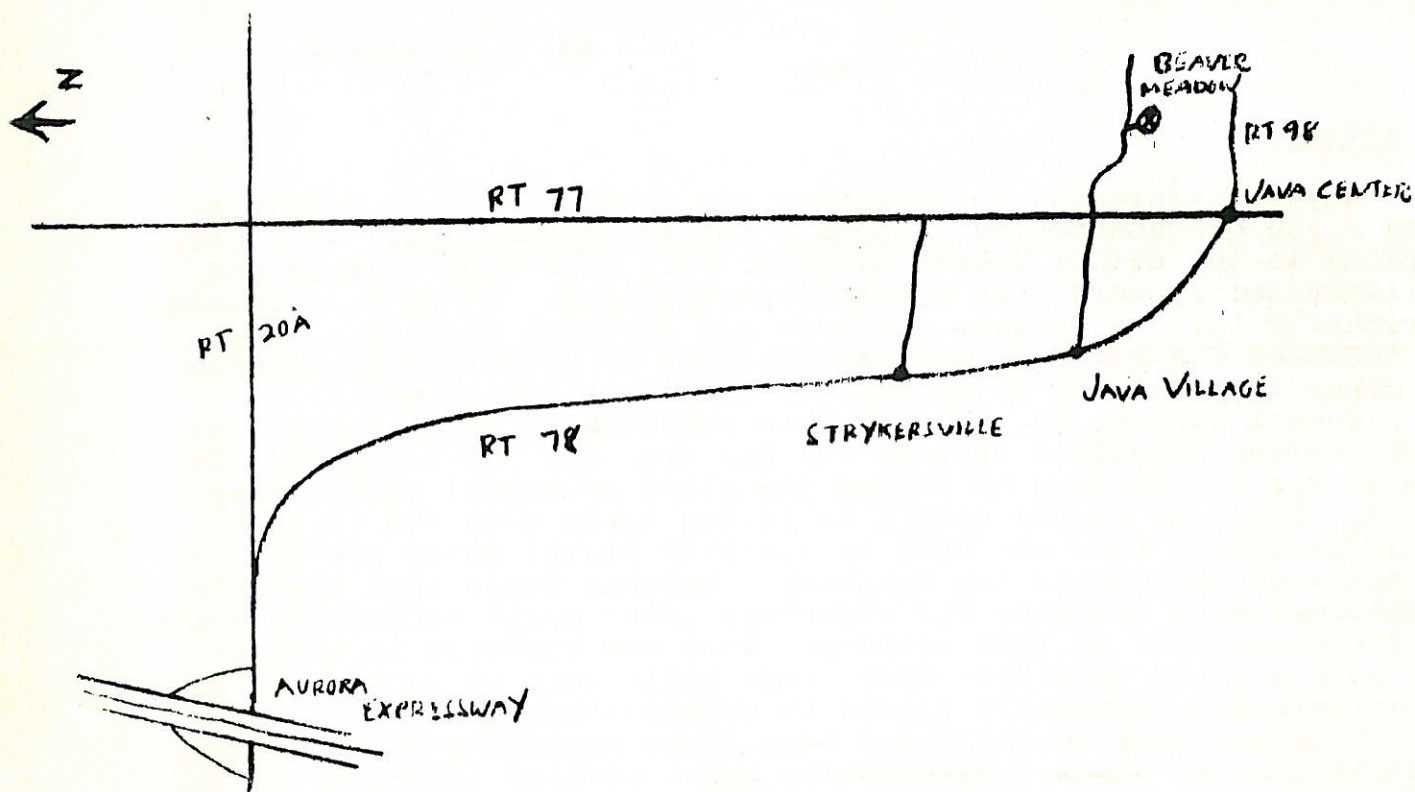
In addition, there are detailed descriptions of 16 objects including selected double stars, variable stars, and nebulae. These descriptions contain historical as well as technical information and casually develop concepts that relate to general classes of these objects. In addition, there are 9 line drawings, 5 finder charts, and 18 black and white photographs.

A more detailed review of Burnham's Celestial Handbook by Kenneth Hewitt-White can be found on page 570 of the June 1979 issue of Sky and Telescope. Suffice to say-- he likes it too!!

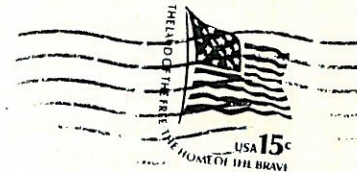
Rowland A. Rupp

CONGRATULATIONS to Darwin Christy, Alphonse Kolodziejczak, and Robert Mayer (incumbant) on there election to a two-year term on the BAA Board of Directors.

DIRECTIONS to Beaver Meadow Observatory



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c/o Lawrence M. Carlino, Editor - The Spectrum
453 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Buffalo, New York 14226



FIRST CLASS

Mr & Mrs. Rowland Rupp
132 Burroughs Dr.
Snyder, NY 14226