



I.H.E.



SPECTRUM

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BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Jul SEPTEMBER - 1994 - OCTOBER *Aug*

SUMMER ISSUE

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Bob Hughes - Vice President
Lynn Sigurdson - Secretary
Steve Kramer - Treasurer

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Rowland Rupp - Fellow Representative
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Joe & Bev Onzechowski - Memebeeship
Dan Marcus - Observatory Director
Darwin Christy - "SPECTRUM" Editor

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The telephone at BEAVER MEADOW (716 457 3104) is for emergency use only at no cost. There is however, a box placed near the phone for which we ask that you deposit 50¢ for the first three minutes and 10¢ per minute thereafter for domestic calls. Please abide by this ruling. THANK YOU!

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

If for any reason there might be cause for cancellation of the meetings of the B.A.A., tune your radio to WBN (930) or WGR (550). Also, if Buffalo State College has been closed because of inclement weather, so will the meeting of the B.A.A. be cancelled.

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"SPECTRUM" DEADLINE

The deadline for the September/October 1994 issue of The "SPECTRUM" is the 15th of August, a Monday. Please have your articles in on or before this date.

>>> BOARD AT-LARGE POSITION ELECTION <<<

Rowland Rupp moved to the College of Fellows board member position this past Spring so he had to vacate his former member-at-large board seat. An election to fill this spot will take place in September. There is 1 year remaining in this term. Call Edith Geiger (649-7965) if you would like a place on the ballot.



>>> MEETING NOTICE <<<

General meetings at Buffalo State will resume on September 9th. Member sponsored star parties and public nights (many preceded with members only picnic cookout) are held all summer. Check with Dan Marcus (773-5015) if you don't know when or need further information.



Beaver Meadow Observatory / Star Parties

☎ 457-3104 ☎

The Observatory addition is **COMPLETED!** Our next task is to organize it and get the 12" set up for the CCD Camera that Joel Stuckey has built. By the time this goes to press we will have an electric focuser along with a stepper motor upgrade for the declination drive. We will be working on these upgrades on the Saturdays that public nights are held, so if you wish to help, or just watch, give me a call at 773-5015 to find out what is under construction. I will try to keep the telescope operable for evening viewing during this upgrade period.

Public Nights: The last couple have been exceptionally clear, and well attended by public and club members alike! Eugene Witkowski brought his CCD surveillance camera which we promptly put on the 20"! He then gave us a guided tour of the Moon. It is much more fun lunar observing off a TV screen than trying to figure out what the heck they are talking about. The public has the advantage of pointing at the screen to ask questions. Can't wait to get the club CCD operational for public nights, it should be a real blast!

Star Parties, and Observatory Events:

What is a star party? some are informal observing events, others are full fledged parties. The club gets together at someone's house, or Beaver Meadow Observatory and we do astronomy. These events are normally scheduled on Saturdays, and are rain or shine. These events are for all ages, and are a great way to learn about all aspects of astronomy, from the practical nuts and bolts hands on, to theoretical. Note: If you are interested in learning

about CCD cameras, and how to image process, come join us at Observatory star parties, and we can all learn together!

June 25: Irene, and Rowland Rupp invite you to their cottage #316 at Lime Lake starting at 1:00pm. This is a bring a dish to pass picnic. The Rups will provide the drinks, and the hot dogs. as usual Rowland will be happy to take on all comers in horse shoes, so bring your lucky set. There will also be volley ball, swimming, and the romantic early evening boat ride around Lime Lake. There phone there is 353-4636.

July 2: Public Night, we will be having fun with the New CCD camera!

July 9: At Beaver Meadow Observatory starting at 8:00pm., **ONLY IF CLEAR!** Joel Stuckey (phone #896-6835) will be there with the CCD camera, should be a great time to learn how the new camera works

July 16: Public Weekend at Beaver Meadow Observatory. We will be doing the usual things ie. computer demonstrations, Solar viewing checking out Venus in the daytime. There will be a bring a dish to pass picnic starting at 5pm. There will be a gas grill to cook on. Bring the family to the picnic. note: Beaver Meadow charges admission for daytime activities, so if you are coming out to help with the observatory, let me know, and inform them at the parking lot. **Public Night, "COMET CRASHES INTO JUPITER"** Be there, or miss out!!!

July 17: Public Weekend at Beaver Meadow Observatory. We will be continuing on from the 16th. There will be a picnic/star party starting at 5pm, and Dan Marcus (phone #773-5015) will be hosting a bring a dish to pass dinner. The Jupiter saga continues! We will start around 8pm by trying to find Jupiter in the daytime using setting circles. Note: this is on Sunday!

July 23: At Beaver Meadow Observatory, Joe and Beverly Orzechowski (phone #839-9109 or 632-7091) are hosting a star party starting at 5pm. This is a bring a dish to pass party, there will be a gas camp stove and the microwave to cook on.

July 30: Bill Smith and Carol Lorenc invite you to their home at 184 Creek Road, Jamestown (phone #664-0841). The party starts at 3pm, and there is a bring a dish to pass dinner starting at 6pm. Bill and Carol will supply the hot dogs, burgers and the drinks. This is a working farm with horses, miniature horses, donkey, cats, dogs, trees, and grass! Bring the family and enjoy the country. You are welcome to bring your camping gear and stay overnight!

August 6: Public Night

August 13: Reception at Beaver Meadow Observatory for people who have donated money and time for the new additions to the Observatory! I will be needing all the help I can get. I need people to help out with the food and to run the observatory. The Buffalo Audubon Society is invited to come check out our new facilities, and I would like to give them the Warm welcome they justly deserve.

August 20: Public Night

There might be a public night scheduled for August 11 for the meteor shower, so stay tuned and have a great summer!
Daniel Marcus



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

SUMMER IS HERE: LOOK UP!

We have had quite a few clear nights in May, perhaps that will continue this summer. Late sunsets and warm nights mean folks will be outside longer. Use this as an opportunity to get reacquainted with the sky. I'm talking about the sky as seen in daytime, twilight and nighttime - morning and evening, not just the dark night sky.

Much can be seen and learned by using just your eyes - no instruments! By not involving scopes, binoculars and other "stuff" that gets between you and the sky or act as an impasse ("I just don't have time...") you will find yourself glancing upwards more often. These more frequent glances will turn into downright viewing and staring as you get back in touch with the sky. The sky to eye to mind bond will reform as you watch the motions of the sky's inhabitants.

There's plenty to see: type, style and movement of clouds and cloud layers; following the appearance of the Moon in the daytime sky on a daily basis; subtlety of sunset colors with time; combination and changing appearance of planetary groupings; varied horizon positions of the Sun and Moon; identifying constellations and their relative positions to one another; forming your own patterns of stars (asterisms) that aid you in remembering positions; observing star colors; watching meteor showers; recognizing lunar maria; ...

The spell of observing with just your eyes is captivating. It's also easy to do and becomes second nature once you rediscover the sky above us.

SUMMER STAR PARTIES

Plan to take part in our summer star parties hosted by fellow members and in public nights at Beaver Meadow. These are held for your benefit and are a lot of fun. They are a great place to get equipment questions answered, get help in getting the most out of your instrument and a chance to try out all sorts of gear before purchase. Mark your calendar today!



- Bill Smith

STAR PARTY maps on page 8

STELLAFANE

1926-1994

Saturday, August 6, 1994

The 59th Convention of Amateur Telescope
Makers on Breezy Hill in Springfield, Vermont.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

This year's Saturday afternoon program begins under the tent in the central camping area at 2:00 PM. Scott Milligan of the Springville Telescope Makers is the master of ceremonies.

"The Hubble Space Telescope": an Amateur's Odyssey -- by Pete Kandefer, New Hartford, CT

"Composite Construction Technica for Telescopes" -- by John Dethoff, Reading, PA

"Even You Can Assemble a Telescope" -- by Peter Talmadge, Kennebunkport, ME

EVENING PROGRAM

Robert (Bob) Morse of the Springfield Telescope Makers will be the master of ceremonies for the evening program, which begins at 7:30 PM. Saturday in the hillside amphitheater in the main camping/parking area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

STELLAFANE KEYNOTE TALK

New Results from the Hubble Space Telescope



STARFEST '94

The Thirteenth Annual
Astronomical Observing Convention

August 5, 6 & 7, 1994

The River Place, Mount Forest,
Ontario, Canada

For more information, write Andreas Gada,
26 Chryessa Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Can. M6N 4T5

ASTRONOMICAL HAPPENINGS

JULY

- 2 - Jupiter stationary
- 3 - Moon at apogee (404,676 km)
Dog Days begin
- 5 - Conjunction - Mars & Moon
Mars will be occulted by the Moon, but can be seen from South Africa, through the Indian Ocean and bordering countries to Australia.
Earth at aphelion (152,100 Mm)
- 6 - Mercury stationary
Sagittariid meteors
- 7 - Conjunction - Mercury & Moon
- 8 - New Moon
- 10 - Conjunction - Venus & Regulus
- 12 - Conjunction - Venus & Moon
- 14 - Neptune at opposition
Alpha Cygnid meteors
Phoenicid meteors
- 15 - First Quarter Moon
- 16 - Conjunction - Jupiter & Moon
Uranus at opposition
Omicron Draconid meteors
- 17 - Mercury at greatest elongation, 21° West
- 18 - Moon at perigee (367,865 km)
Conjunction - Mars & Aldebaran
- 19 - Sun leaves Gemini and enters Cancer
- 22 - Full (Buck) Moon
Conjunction - Neptune & Moon
Conjunction - Uranus & Moon
- 23 - Capricornid meteors ***
- 25 - Conjunction - Saturn & Moon
- 27 - Alpha-Beta Perseid meteors
- 29 - Delta Aquarid meteors ****
- 30 - Last Quarter Moon
Moon at apogee (404,086 km)
Alpha Capricornid meteors
Piscis Australid meteors
- 31 - Conjunction - Mercury & Pollux

AUGUST

- 2 - Conjunction - Mars & Moon
- 6 - Iota Aquarid meteors
- 7 - New Moon
- 9 - Pluto stationary
Sun leaves Cancer and enters Leo
- 10 - Conjunction - Venus & Moon
- 11 - Dog Days end
Upsilon Pegasid meteors
- 12 - Moon at perigee (369,464 km)
Mercury at superior conjunction
Iota Aquarid meteors (northern)
Upsilon Pegasid meteors of 1975
- 12-13 - Perseid meteors *****
- 13 - Conjunction - Jupiter & Moon
- 14 - First Quarter Moon
- 18 - Conjunction - Neptune & Moon
Conjunction - Uranus & Moon
- 20 - Kappa Cygnid meteors (Fireballs) **
Iota Aquarid Meteors (southern)
- 21 - Full (Sturgeon) Moon
- 22 - Conjunction - Saturn & Moon
Omicron
- 22 - Conjunction - Saturn & Moon
Omicron Draconid meteors
- 24 - Venus at greatest elongation, 46° East
- 26 - Zeta Draconid meteors
- 27 - Moon at apogee (404,342 km)
- 29 - Last Quarter Moon
- 31 - Conjunction - Mars & Moon
Conjunction - Vesta & Moon
Conjunction - Venus & Spica



BAA ANNALS

5 YEARS AGO - Star parties occupied the front page of the July-August 1989 SPECTRUM. They were scheduled to be hosted by the Rupps, Halberts, Bill Smith and Carol Lorenc, Larry Carlino, Doris Koestler and Jack Empson, the Marcuses and Conrad Stolarski. Several star parties were held at Beaver Meadow Observatory.

The BAA's Study Section was meeting then, and was apparently discussing the Voyager encounter with Neptune. Rowland Rupp had an article in the SPECTRUM on "Neptune's Moons". Most of the SPECTRUM was devoted to maps for finding star parties, and to regular features like Ed Lindberg's "Instrument Notes", Rowland Rupp's "BAA Annals", Darwin Christy's "Astronomical Happenings" and Edith Geiger's "Spy and Tell".

10 YEARS AGO - Our star party hosts for 1984 were John Riggs, the Biggies, Claudia Bielinski, the Macks, Miro Catipovic, Tristan DiLapo, the Rupps and Clare Owen. Carl Milazzo's article "Double Stars with Contrasting Colors" was one in a series on the subject by various authors. He included a list of seventy-four objects. Carl reported on the total solar eclipse that Adrienne and Jerry Morris and he viewed from Atlanta.

Observatory Director John Riggs reported that a new Dakin Barlow lens, contributed by BAA member John Liptak, was now in service at Beaver Meadow. Riggs also scheduled an astrophotography workshop at the meadow to prepare for the coming apparition of Halley's comet.

15 YEARS AGO - There weren't so many star parties in 1979 as there have been more recently. Hosts back then were the Christys, the Brinks and the Catipovics. We did have a family picnic at Chestnut Ridge Park and a mid-July tour of the University of Toronto's David Dunlap Observatory.

A book review of the newly published "Burnham's Celestial Handbook" was submitted by Rowland Rupp. I wonder how many copies are now owned by BAA members. Larry Carlino, SPECTRUM editor the the past two years, announced he would "pass on the torch" to Darwin Christy, who has been doing it ever since. Larry thanked Elaine Deazley for doing the layout and typing, and the Desserts for handling distribution.

25 YEARS AGO - The star parties were listed prominently on the front page of the 1969 SPECTRUM. Here's the list:

- July 12 - Walter Semerau
- July 18/19 - Camp Sprucelands
- July 25/26 - Newstead Observatory
- August 1/2 - Darwin Christy
- August 9 - Stellafane
- August 15/16 - Camp Sprucelands
- August 22/23 - Les Stoklosa
- August 29/30 - Newstead Observatory

That was it. Nothing else appeared in the SPECTRUM except for a brief "Spy and Tell" that mentioned something about Apollo 11 — whatever that was.



Rowland A. Rupp

BAA HISTORICAL BOOKLET

The History of the Buffalo Astronomical Association, Inc. booklet, 1947-1993 is now ready and may be purchased for \$7.50 from Rowland Rupp at any meeting or star party. If you wish to have one mailed, the cost will be \$8.50. For more information, call rowland Rupp - 839-1842.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

This issue marks the end of another year in the BAA. We had an excellent membership year, gaining about twenty-five new members and breaking the 100 member mark. Of course, the Astronomy Day activities and that little show put on by the Sun and the Moon in early May went a long way toward spotlighting the BAA. Now it's up to all of us to make sure these new members join in the learning and the camaraderie offered by our club.

Our most recent members have a wide range of interests and use an assortment of "weapons" to attack targets of opportunity in the sky ranging from the naked eye to small refractors to 10.1" Coulter reflectors. In spite of the large apertures available to amateurs these days, many of our new members still list naked eye observing, constellations, or both as interests of theirs. Don and Evelyn Swarts are in the process of selecting their first pair of binoculars for observing the night sky; we're sure that any suggestions or recommendations would be appreciated. Scope building is also still alive and well although it has probably changed a bit from the mirror grinding days of yore. Terry Farrell, John & Charlotte Kanrowski, and Ronald Malec & Jean Crump all listed scope building as one of their interests. And for you "mouse"cateers and keyboard jockeys, fully 6 of the 12 members joining since February indicated an interest in computers including Gerry Rising, Paul & Pamela Avery, and Jack & Mary Canzoneri. Perhaps one or more of them could be persuaded to help demo Skyglobe during our public events at the observatory. The Canzoneri's also have an interest in variable stars, cosmology and radio astronomy. Anyone have a used TV satellite dish for sale? Bernie Gajewski, Terry Farrell and the Kanrowskis also have an interest in amateur radio. In fact, Bernie was well acquainted with Ed Lindberg, a BAA member who recently passed on, through this hobby. Perhaps some of our other "hams" might swap call letters with these newcomers.

Summer is here and that means Star Parties. These get-togethers are a great way for new members to become acquainted with the BAA and its members and we encourage all of you to attend. They are great fun and are a most painless way to learn a little astronomy. Have a great summer everyone!



Joe and Bev Orzechowski

SPY and TELL

BAA members became TV stars as they helped the public understand the ring eclipse, and gave advice for safe viewing.

May 7 Ch. 4 Dan Marcus was seen on Astronomy Day at Beaver Meadow talking about the best way to observe the eclipse.

May 8 Ch. 2 Bob Tritan gave instructions for making a pinhole projection box.

On May 10, the following were seen on Ch. 4:

Steve Kramer explained the workings of the Antikythera in predicting eclipses.

Ernst Both illustrated the phenomenon of the eclipse, and spoke about the televised images of the eclipse in the museum solar lab, and solar filters.

Gil Brink (former member) was shown at UB explaining the eclipse to a number of students. A telescope he made would be used to view the event.

Marilou Bebak was busy during the eclipse as she commented on its progress.

Gene Witkowski helped the people at Beaver Meadow to understand what was happening, and directed some of the viewing.

continued on pge 6

It is with profound sorrow that we report the death of Walter Whyman, an outstanding member of the BAA who attended our meetings until a stroke in 1983 and a more extensive stroke in 1985 left him partially paralyzed and speechless. He was able to communicate by tapping out the old Morse code. When Ed Lindberg paid him a visit they would carry on a discourse in this manner. Walt passed away in a nursing home on May 5th.

He was born in East Pembroke, N.Y. and was one of seven children. When he was five years old the family moved to Batavia, the town where Walt would be educated, married, raise a family, have a career, and live out his life.

He worked for the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for almost 46 years, where he did testing and maintenance of long-distant telephone lines and equipment. Walter obtained a commercial first class radio telephone license in 1946, under which he maintained the telephone company's microwave equipment between Buffalo and Syracuse until 1959. He maintained mobile and base radio-telephone equipment for fire departments, hospitals, sheriffs, contractors and others, and retired in 1978.

Walt was an avid reader and was very interested in science, especially astronomy. He built a 6" Newtonian reflector in 1948. He met Ralph Dakin of the Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science, who extended an invitation to him to attend their meetings. Walt joined the group in 1951, and eventually held offices of secretary-treasurer, vice chairman, and secretary. He also served as secretary of the North-eastern Region of the Astronomical League. In late 1952, he learned of the BAA, attended a few meetings, and joined our association and continued his membership for 42 years, until his death.

Walt became a charter member of a Moonwatch team which the Rochester group organized in 1956 to look for artificial earth satellites. The late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, well-known astronomer, came to instruct the group. Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, which sponsored Moonwatch, decided to use individual observers at scattered sites. From May 1960 to May 1969, Walt submitted over 450 observations, covering 70 or more individual objects. Because of this accomplishment, he was elected as a Fellow of the Rochester Academy of Science in May 1968.

In 1963, he joined the Lockport Astronomical Society. In 1970, he was elected to the College of Fellows of the BAA "for his work with amateur associations in this area, for his long and distinguished membership in the BAA and his service as a member of the Board of Directors, for his work in satellite observations, and for his often novel, yet simple designs in portable instrumentation."

In September of 1933, Walter married Gertrude Courtney, and they were blessed with twelve children, and many grandchildren. The family enjoyed traveling and camping, and searching for covered bridges. Walt had over 1150 colored slides in his file of covered bridges taken throughout the country and two Canadian provinces.

He enjoyed listening to fine music; the classics, semi-classics, and some older popular music. His love of music was inherited by his children as they all played at least one instrument. The two youngest sons were music majors in college, and two other children play or have played in symphony orchestras.

Walter had exceptional creative ability and produced some very interesting, useful, and amazing objects, too many to enumerate. He was a quiet, very pleasant, sincere, kind human being, and a highly esteemed member of the BAA.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his widow, Gertrude, and the members of his family, and his many friends.

elg

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing, on April 27, of Edward Lindberg, who was a well-known amateur astronomer and telescope maker. It is difficult to capsule the life of one who was so skilled and accomplished in many areas.

Born of Swedish immigrants, his first home was in Pittsburgh. Moving to Mayville, N.Y. at age five, he spent his boyhood on the farm his parents had purchased. He was an enthusiastic "ham" radio operator at an early age, working with a radio he had made by himself. After graduating from high school, he found work in a radio shop in Buffalo. He went on to learn railroad telegraphy, and was employed by the Lackawanna Railroad, after which he became telegrapher at the New York Central Terminal. At a state convention in Rochester, he won the speed championship for western New York in receiving Morse code.

Electronics was a subject in which Ed was intensely interested. After taking some courses, he was employed as an electronic technician at the Wurlitzer Company. He became an engineering student at UB while working a full-time job on the side, and received his B.S. degree in physics with a minor in electrical engineering.

His interest in astronomy began as a child, inheriting his father's appreciation of the heavens. Ed learned the constellations while lying on his back on the ground on crystal clear nights, gazing at the brilliant star-studded firmament. Years later, he learned about optics and telescope making in the Telescope Makers club at the museum, and continued to build several scopes. He became the leader of the Instrument Section of the BAA, and taught a highly successful class at the museum for over 25 years, where members produced excellent telescopes. Working in his spare time, Ed spent more than two years, making a mirror-grinding machine, and perfecting a 21-pound mirror for the BAA built telescope at our Newstead Observatory. Moving to a new site, that telescope is now in our observatory at the Beaver Meadow Environmental Education Center, where it has been in use for many years. As Ed's knowledge of telescope making was widely known, he became a judge at Stellafane Conventions over a long period of time.

Ed was also a fine photographer, and his photographs, in color, and black and white, appeared in local papers, and several magazines on mechanics. In 1964, he was an assistant physicist at Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, and was sent with a team to Thailand on a special Air Force contract to test the effects of tropical environment on photographic films and cameras.

Languages were easy and fun for Ed, who spoke two languages as a boy. In high school he became interested in Esperanto (international language), and taught himself the language. Later in life he became president of the International League of Esperanto-speaking Radio Amateurs which he had founded in 1963, numbering over 300 ham-radio operators in 40 countries, with whom he conversed over the miles.

He was a member of numerous local and national organizations including: the Radio Association of Western New York; Kenmore, Buffalo, and Tonawanda radio clubs; American Radio Relay League; Photographic Society of America; Optical Society of America, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, plus a local hiking, and photographic club.

Articles by Ed appeared in Popular Mechanics, Popular Science, Radio News, and Radio World. A history of astronomy in the Buffalo area was written for Science on the March, the former magazine of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Ed was a speaker on astronomy before many societies in the northeast, and at conventions, and annual dinners. He gave a paper at the Northeast Regional Convention of the Astronomical League, in Buffalo in 1967, and was a speaker at the National Convention of the RASC in Toronto. He also spoke before the Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science, of which he was a member.

Ed and his wife, Olga, were avid travelers, taking four trips to Europe, and visiting about 25 countries. Around 25 trips were made to Stellafane, with each year including visits to New England and other northeastern states to view historic sites.

Ed was a past president of the Buffalo Astronomical Association, and a long time member of the Board of Directors. He was honored by the BAA in being one of the first four members elected to the College of Fellows. We will miss this fine, kind, highly skilled gentleman who has been such an important member through many years of devoted service.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Olga, his brother, Elmer, and to the myriad of friends he made throughout the world.

elg

Sheridan Simon, who was a member of the BAA in the mid-'60s, died April 8th at age 46, after a lengthy illness.

He graduated from Amherst High School in 1965 and enrolled at the University of Rochester where he received his bachelor of science degree in astrophysics in 1969, and his doctorate in physics in 1978.

In 1974, he joined the faculty at Guilford College in Greensboro, N.C. as a physics professor. He received the excellence in teaching award from the college in 1976, and again in 1987. In 1989 he won a bronze medal in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Professor of the Year Program, and in 1993, he was named to the Jefferson Pilot Chair of Physics.

His articles appeared in numerous publications including: Astrophysical Journal, Collegiate Microcomputer, and Omni. He also authored a biography on Stephen Hawking, Unlocking the Universe, and wrote science fiction, and created educational software.

Sheridan was a very knowledgeable young man, and was enjoying a highly successful career. We send our sincere sympathy to his widow, Rose (nee Schrader); sisters Esther and Beth, and brothers David and Joseph.

elg

Gene Smith, the father of our president, Bill Smith, passed away on June 11th. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Bill.

OBSERVATORY PARKING

Two parking areas are now available at Beaver Meadow Observatory. One is the lot to the west of the observatory where we have always parked in the past; the other is the small lot to the southeast of the building. The Audubon Center will keep the grass cut between this lot and the observatory to provide us with a path.

We have been asked not to park in this lot when the Audubon Center is having a special event. We can still use it for unloading equipment, but we should park in the large lot to the west.

Also, we have been asked not to leave cars on the grass leading from the small lot - it is intended as a foot-path, not as an access for vehicles or a parking place. Under special circumstances, where very heavy or awkward equipment is being unloaded, the path can be used to drive closer to the observatory, but the vehicle should then be moved to the lot. In general, we should carry our telescopes from the lot to the observatory.

Rowland A. Rupp



On May 8, the Sunday Buffalo News carried a large article on Steve Krammer and the Antikythera Mechanism, which was able to predict the May 10 ring eclipse. This ancient mechanism went down in a shipwreck off the Greek island of Antikythera near Crete in 89 B.C., and was pulled up in broken corroded pieces by sponge divers. Steve, who is a horologist, spent almost 12 years researching the device, and made the first complete reconstruction of the gears and dial rings. Steve and the late Bob Mayer worked together to produce a fine replica in brass, aluminum, steel, and bronze in a beautifully finished mahogany frame. Steve hopes to publish his research and work on this remarkable eclipse mechanism.

Former member, Phil Cizdziel, arrived in town April 9, for two weeks. He is now a CCD technician for the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (144-inch) at the Mauna Kea Observatory.

Carl Milazzo saw a bright meteor April 17, at 9:51 P.M. It was 7th magnitude, and blue-green, traveling at 70° across the sky. He spotted it at the zenith going toward the northwest. It was at 20° when it broke up into pieces, and was in the sky 4 seconds, and vanished at 15° above the horizon in the northwest.

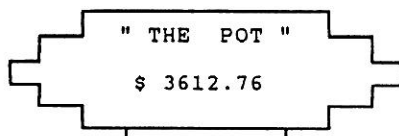
One of Carl Milazzo's photographs appeared in the May issue of Astronomy magazine on page 116. The photo shows Auriga, Taurus, and Perseus.

Gene Witkowski had a most unusual sighting at 10:44 P.M. (local time) on May 19. He caught on video tape a small "bubble-like" object passing over Jupiter, which was in sight for about 1 second. He is anxiously trying to find out what it might be. If you saw this object or know what it is, contact Gene.

Edith L. Geiger



TREASURER'S CORNER



B.A.B. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Sep. 1, 1993 - Jun. 3, 1994

BALANCE, Sep. 1, 1993 2449.63

DEBITS

~ Spectrum print	264.00
~ " mail, &c.	184.12
Supplies	.00
Expenses	38.69
Bank Chg	25.90
Telephone, BMO	202.37
Insurance	306.72
Donation	.00
~ Refreshments	195.86
Annual Dinner	399.00
Speaker	.00
~ Mag. Subscrip.	537.37
Group Offers	105.00
Other Db. *	75.42
General Fund	2334.45
Beaver Med.Obs.	605.53
New Scope Fund	615.65
Obs. Bldg. Fund	1416.10
TOTAL DEBITS	4971.73

CREDITS

~ Dues	1215.00
Sales, raffle	106.00
Donations	73.75
Bank Interest	4.70
~ Kitty	73.50
Annual Dinner	490.00
Mag. Subscrip.	539.87
Group Offers	105.00
Other Cr. *	138.50
General Fund	2746.32
Beaver Med.Obs.	404.70
New Scope Fund	.00
Obs. Bldg. Fund	2983.84
TOTAL	6134.86
BALANCE, Jun. 3, 1994	3612.76

THE "FUNDS"

For most of the BAA history, we have had two operating funds: the General Fund and the Beaver Meadow Observatory Fund.

In Sep. of 1991 we started a new one - the New Telescope & CCD Fund. It has taken in \$8655: including \$2871 from members, \$5000 from the Buffalo Foundation and \$400 from the Textron Charitable Trust. Expenditures have been \$6274: \$5749 for the Obsession Scope and \$525 for the CCD project.

Then in May of 1993 we started another one - the Observatory Addition Building Fund. It has received \$6552 from the Buffalo Audubon Society. Expenditures have been \$6837.

The four Funds are collectively in the BAA checking account and savings account.



Steve Kramer

Joseph E. Orzechowski

This efficient, conscientious, energetic, pleasant member, was born in Lackawanna, where he attended St. Michael's grade school through 8th grade, and went to Father Baker's for high school. On graduating, he received awards for academic achievement, and a Regents scholarship. In high school he enjoyed science, math, and especially chemistry.

He went to UB for one year, majoring in chemistry, and left to go into the army. After six months of basic training at Fort Dix in New Jersey, he spent two and a half years in Germany as a truck mechanic. When his army service ended he returned home and worked as an auto mechanic for three years. During that time he took a two weeks vacation and went to Montana to see an army friend who was working at Snowy Mountain Ranch. He had a chance to work on the ranch while he was there and found it most enjoyable.

He enrolled at Buff State where, after three years, he received his bachelor of science degree in physics, graduating summa cum laude. He then returned to UB for two years and earned his electrical engineering degree, which he received magna cum laude.

After college, a company asked that he apply for a position at Amherst Systems, Inc., which he did, and was accepted. It was there that he met Beverly Thomas, and they were married October 12, 1985. They worked there until 1987, when he and Beverly formed their own company, Niagara Systems & Software, Inc., located in the Calspan Corporation building across from the airport. While Joe was with Amherst Systems, he was doing some work for the U.S. Navy in California, and had a chance to visit both Mt. Palomar and Mt. Wilson observatories.

Joe became interested in astronomy in his early teens. His parents bought him a 2" telescope for Christmas, and the first object he saw through the eyepiece was a crescent Venus. He enjoyed his telescope through high school, then put it aside. After his college days were over, he dug out his old scope, and with a renewed interest, purchased a 3" Celestron refractor. In 1990, he and Beverly attended an Astronomy Day celebration at Buff State, and they decided then and there to join the BAA. They list their astronomical interests as: planetary, lunar, solar, comets, variable stars, and deep sky. He and Beverly are now in charge of membership, and are doing a superb job. In February, they, along with Tom Bemus and Bill and Carol Smith, attended the Winter Star Party hosted by the Southern Cross Astronomical Society of Southern Florida.

Joe is a great traveler. He has been to Europe six times, his first trip being when he was eight years old. He has been to Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, and Italy, and visited his relatives in Germany and Poland. He likes hiking and climbing, and in '82-'83 he climbed Mt. Marcy, highest peak in the Adirondacks (5,344 ft.), and in '84-'85, Joe and Beverly hiked up Whiteface Mt. (4,867 ft.).

The Orzechowskis are ardent campers and backpackers. They have hiked in the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, and trudged the arduous trail to the floor of the Grand Canyon; gone canoeing in Algonquin Park, and camping in Allegany State Park. They hope someday to drive to Alaska on the Alaska Highway which passes through a region said to be one of the most beautiful in North America.

When Joe has time, he likes to read science fiction, and astronomy articles. He is very fond of the comic character, Peanuts, both in cartoons and paperbacks, and Snoopy is his hero. He even has Snoopy and Woodstock dangling from the mirror in his truck.

Joe is a very amiable gentleman who is involved in endless activity. He has a fine sense of humor, a deep appreciation of nature's wonders, and finds great joy in living.



Edith L. Geiger

Collision Course

A comet, or at least parts of a comet, formerly Comet Shoemaker - Levy 9, is scheduled to hit Jupiter over a period of several days starting July 18th. The original comet apparently was broken into mile-size pieces when it approached too closely to Jupiter and was disrupted by the strong gravitational influence of the huge planet. It is expected to strike Jupiter on its night side near the terminator, just an hour or less before the planet's rotation brings the impact site into view. Astronomers all over the world are said to be alerted for the forthcoming event.

What will happen when the collision actually takes place has been a subject of some uncertainty. Three possibilities have been considered; they are:

- * The fragment may disintegrate in Jupiter's upper atmosphere.
- * The fragment may stay intact until it reaches much deeper into Jupiter's atmosphere and disintegrate there.
- * The fragment may shed its energy over a long path through Jupiter's atmosphere.

Astronomers are also uncertain about the exact time and location of the impacts. It has even been suggested that the collisions may occur on the daylight side of the planet - the side we can see from Earth. In other words, they don't know!

Suppose astronomers have it wrong, or worse yet, are intentionally concealing the bad news from us. Suppose the fragments graze right through Jupiter's rarefied atmosphere on their way toward the inner solar system. Suppose Jupiter's powerful gravitation coupled with the resistance of its atmosphere directs some of these flying mountains toward - US! What then? Would we have another Tunguska "event"? Would it be worse?

Suppose a fragment's new course directs it toward a major city instead of the Siberian hinterland. According to a recent Sky and Telescope article, the Tunguska projectile must have been absolutely dinky compared to the size of these cometary remains. Imagine being hit by something that is a thousand times bigger than the object that devastated Siberia.

Remember that some scientists believe that a planetesimal striking Earth some sixty-five million years ago caused the dinosaurs, along with many other species, to be wiped out. This time these missiles from space can't kill off dinosaurs - they can just kill off us! Well, maybe not all of us - just most of us.

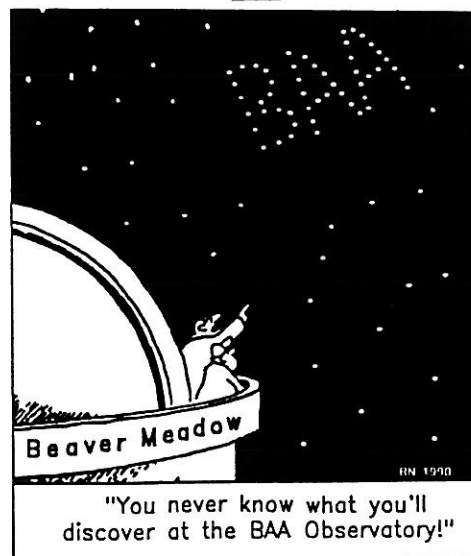
Ridiculous, you say! We would surely have been told by now if an impact on our planet was likely, you say. Don't forget about government conspiracy. After all, everyone (at least almost everyone) is sure that the government has captured UFOs and even the aliens who drove them, but are keeping it from us. Why, we've even seen pictures of aliens in the tabloids. And, don't forget, we still haven't been told who really shot Kennedy. Think how much easier it would be to keep the secret of this impending disaster from us.

What will happen? Will the government wait to admit that destruction is imminent until after the comet passes through Jupiter? No! More likely they will tell us the comet pieces were swallowed up by Jupiter, and never tell us of the danger we face. What, if anything, should you, as an amateur astronomer, do about it?

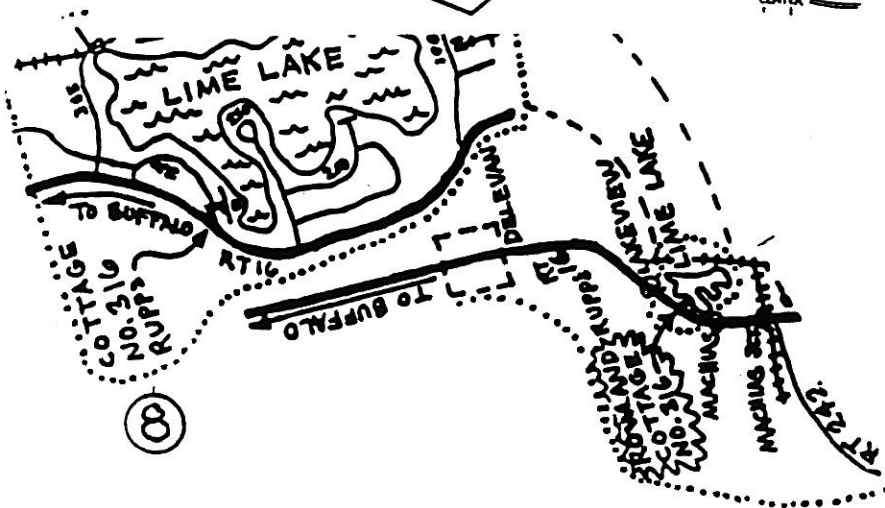
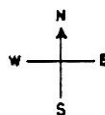
Observe - that's what you should do - keep on observing. Not those unimportant things you normally observe like stars, planets and galaxies. Observe really important things like these on-coming engines of mass destruction. Look to the sky until these rushing mountains come close enough to be visible in amateur telescopes. Once their existence is confirmed, alert the world! Perhaps the site of impact can be calculated and strategic evacuations can be made to save some of us. Perhaps nothing can be done to save us, and we can spend our final hours watching re-runs of When Worlds Collide.



Concerned



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