

THE

SPECTRUM



NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

STAR PARTY ISSUE

Polarissima; the Blinking planetary; Box, Bubble and Veil nebulae, the Sunflower galaxy, ...

What are these things? Are they a list of astronomical oddballs? What do they have in common with the best Messier objects (M's 13, 27, 51, 57, 81, 82, 92 and 104) that can be seen in June and the hardest Messier objects (10, 12, 14, 97, 109) for June evenings? Might they be part of a lifetime astronomical observing "wish list" to be viewed someday?

No. They were the objects seen at the early June member's star party!

All of them? Yes, all these and others (NGCs 457, 4656, 6058, 6210, 6888 ...), some bright meteors, man-made satellites, constellation identification, Jupiter and the almost naked-eye comet Hale-Bopp. Add a cookout, meeting other members, equipment tryouts and general yakking and shop talk and you have yourself about as great an astronomical experience as is possible.

Have you seen a planetary nebula as blue as turquoise? How about spiral arms on a galaxy other than the Whirlpool, M51? If not, take advantage of the club's public events and members-only star parties.

Did you know that there is members only viewing after every public event?

Yes, public events are for members too. Showing off a few bright objects, pointing out some of the more prominent constellations, explaining some of the basics of astronomical objects, answering a few questions and educating our visitors on how they can get started are the 'official' duties of public events. After that, it's time to unwind with some casual stargazing. Come early, come late but do come!

Are you a member and new to astronomy? Attend a few star

parties/public events as a 'visitor' and you'll quickly come up and find your own level of interest and might just find it fun to help public night visitors too. Going to that first event/star party is all that is required. Sometimes that first step can be daunting. We all had to make that step ourselves at one time too. Don't delay — do it today! We can talk and write about the benefits until the sun rises but to experience it you have to make the effort and take that first step.

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

Members have different interests in observing so there's always some member who wants to 'show off' their latest finds or favorite objects. Do you have trouble finding M104? Probably there is someone who views it often and has a short-cut way of finding it. Star parties are a great place to trade ideas. Fun too.

Is there an object you would like to see, one perhaps you heard about, tried to find, saw perhaps a ghostly blur in a small scope or under city lights? Have you ever wondered what different eyepieces, finders, filters and observing techniques can show? What books are best? Why look at the Moon? Where's Draco? Nervous about trying out the club's big scopes? Have an equipment problem or question? All these doubts, fears and questions are easily solved and resolved at star parties! Use the seasoned members' experience to advantage. We want you to have fun with astronomy — not struggle along a solo learning curve!

The "Summer Star Parties" are your best, most enjoyable and easiest route to visual, hands-on astronomy imaginable.

Do yourself a favor and don't pass them by!

- Bill Smith

MEETINGS CANCELLATION POLICY

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

BEAVER MEADOW TELEPHONE

The telephone at Beaver Meadow, 716-457-3104, is for emergency use only at no cost. Local calls may be placed for a small charge - see the collection box by the phone. This phone cannot make long distance calls.

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TAXACOM computer bulletin board - 716-896-7581
for more information call Jack Empson at 716-745-3138

MEMBERSHIP CORNER*Joe Orzechowski*

This issue marks the end of yet another year at the BAA. I'm happy to report that our total membership has once again increased and now stands at 109. The average attendance at our monthly meetings this year was 32. That's about the same as the 31.7 average for last year. The attendance was better at the first five meetings of the year (36) than at the last five meetings (28). This also mirrors last year's trend (36.8 and 26.6). This past year 16 new members joined the BAA and, on behalf of the rest of us, I'd like to welcome you all to the BAA. I hope that you've already benefitted in some small way from your membership but, if you're looking for more, I suggest that you stop by the Beaver Meadow Observatory on a public night or come join us at a star party this summer.

Let me take this opportunity to introduce the BAA's five newest members. Up in East Amherst, **D. Bruce Kindron** and **Brian Kindron** use a 4.5" equatorially mounted reflector to view the night sky. For more panoramic views, they use a pair of 7x50 binoculars. Besides his many astronomical interests, Bruce also includes geology, chemistry, photography and wood working in his list of interests. **Jim Lemen** uses his Questar telescope to scan the heavens from his home in Amherst and a pair of 10x25 binoculars serve to back up this fine telescope. **Don French**, also from Amherst, uses a pair of 20x60 binoculars as his primary observing instrument. Don did mention that as his knowledge and observing skills improve he'll be in the market for a small (i.e., easily transportable) telescope to complement his binoculars. If anyone has a line on such an instrument, be sure to let Don know about it. Finally, **Tim McIntyre** of Cheektowaga searches for galaxies and other deep sky objects with his wedge-mounted 8" SCT.

If you bump into one of these folks or any of our newer members at the observatory, at a meeting, or at a star party, be sure to introduce yourself and make them feel like part of the gang. I've occasionally heard comments from some of our newer members which go something like this: "I don't come out to the observatory (or star party or Messier marathon or whatever) because I'm not really an amateur astronomer. Astronomy is just a hobby for me and I wouldn't fit in with all you experts." Had these same people been out at the observatory last week they would have seen three such experts (including myself) attempting to locate Comet Hale-Bopp with the 20". It finally took a voice vote of four BAA members to confirm that what we saw in the eyepiece was in fact Hale-Bopp. We're not all experts. And we have simple goals: enjoy our astronomical pursuits, learn something along the way, and share that knowledge with others so that they may understand why we find the night sky so fascinating. If you're just starting out, there's no better place to learn than among the members of a group like the BAA.

It looks like the BAA will again be represented at the **Starfest Convention** up in Ontario. I plan on attending and I understand that at least two or three other members are also planning to go. If you don't know what Starfest is, see the article elsewhere in this issue. And in keeping with my earlier pitch to make new members feel welcome, I'd like to issue

If you'd like to go but are afraid to go it alone, give me a call and we'll include you in the BAA contingent.

an invitation to any member who considers himself or herself a novice observer and who is interested in attending Starfest. Join us at Starfest and I'll do my best to give a basic observing course for beginners only; no experts allowed. Since I myself am no expert, the course may be quite short but we'll take a stab at setting up and using a telescope, identifying constellations, finding objects using a star chart, and we'll cover any other topic of interest. We can use your scope or mine. And if it's cloudy you'll still learn a lot from the talks being presented by some nationally renowned

speakers. If this all sounds like a good deal, give me a call at 632-7091 (days) or 839-9109 (evenings) for more details.

And, finally, for those members who did not receive a **1996 Membership Directory** at one of the recent club meetings, a copy has been included with this issue of the Spectrum. If I've made a mistake in my records and you never got a Membership Directory, please contact me and I'll get one out to you right away.

Joe Orzechowski

BAA ANNALS*Rowland A. Rupp*

5 YEARS AGO - No formal meetings are ever scheduled for the summer—just star parties and picnics. In 1991 star parties were held at the Rupp's summer cottage at Lime Lake, at Larry Carlino's site near Lockport and at the homes of the Macks and the Marcuses. And, of course, there were the twice monthly get-togethers at Beaver Meadow Observatory for public nights.

Dave Fliss sent an article to the SPECTRUM giving details on how to build a screen for solar image projection. The SPECTRUM also carried a review by yours truly. It dealt with the "Lighton Theory", an essay that provided another explanation of everything. In addition to maps of how to get to star parties, the last page had a map of how to get to Stellafane, for anyone planning to make a first time pilgrimage.

Dan Marcus' Observatory Report suggested some projects for the future:

1. Finish the Bell Aerospace mount. (Done)
2. Do CCD imaging using a computer. (Done)
3. Get a big scope. (Done)
4. Get filters and diagonals. (In work)
5. Get an H-alpha solar filter. (Not yet)
6. Build a larger warming room. (Done)
7. Build a map table and book shelves. (Done)

This isn't a bad record for projects whose completion depends on a bunch of volunteers and amateurs working in their spare time. We can take some pride in our accomplishments in the last five years, and be grateful to the many people who helped on these diverse projects.

YOU SEE---THINGS DO GET DONE!

10 YEARS AGO - The Biggies, Macks, Jack Empson and the Marcuses hosted star parties a decade ago. Tristan DiLapo held a party at his Club Coco in Allentown, giving us a light-obstructed view of the heavens and a view of night life in downtown Buffalo. I wonder which is fading faster these days.

Edith Geiger's profile was on Dan Marcus who, with Bill Smith, had just completed an assignment from the Museum of Science to photograph Comet Halley from sites in Australia. Speaking of Comet Halley, observation reports and sketches of it by Michael Idem appeared in the SPECTRUM.

The SPECTRUM also featured an article by Darwin Christy on "The Oort Cloud", that source of comets postulated by Opik and Oort earlier in this century. Ed Lindberg reported on the NFAAAA (Niagara Frontier Council of Amateur Astronomical Associations) meeting held at the McLaughlin Planetarium in Toronto on May 24th. President Ken Biggie thanked Carl Milazzo for his service as Observatory Director, and welcomed Mark Schmidt, John Yerger and Dave Williams as tri-observatory directors.

15 YEARS AGO - The summer SPECTRUM of 1981 contained an article, "Celestial Icebergs", in which Carl Milazzo described comets.

(Continued on page 3)

Officers

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

Dr. Jack Mack - Museum Representative

Board members at large

Gene Witkowski - Joe Orzechowski
- Bill Smith

Rowland Rupp - Fellow Representative
Joe Orzechowski - Membership

Observatory Directors

Dan Marcus & Bob Titran

SPECTRUM STAFF

Bill Smith - Editor / Layout
Bev Orzechowski - Circulation

BAA Annals continued from page 2

Rowland Rupp submitted an essay on why we observe, entitled "Observations on Observing". President Al Kolodziejczak thanked those who contributed to the success of the BAA in 1980-1981. I won't list all the names because there were twenty of them!

Oh, yes! There were star parties in 1981. Miro Catipovic hosted one at his home on Grand Island. Larry Carlino held a star party at his site in Colden (he moves sites almost as often as he swaps telescopes), Steve Desmond held another, as did Larry Hazel. Carl Milazzo was arranging a viewing session at Mees Observatory at the University of Rochester as well.

25 YEARS AGO - Les Stoklosa, Newstead Observatory, Octavia Black's Camp Spruceland, Irv Goetz's Observatory, Kellogg Observatory (Museum of Science), Larry Hazel, and Edith Geiger's Observatory were the people and places mentioned in the July-August 1971 SPECTRUM for star parties. By the way, this SPECTRUM was the first to be published bimonthly.

Rowland A. Rupp

SPY AND TELL

Edith L. Geiger

The NFCAAA annual Spring Banquet was held April 27th at the Skylon Tower in Niagara Falls. Eight clubs were represented. **Bob Hughes and Carl Milazzo** were the only BAA members present. Bob gave a report on our association, and Terence Dickinson, well-known astronomer, was the speaker.

An artists' exhibit "John Yerger and Students: Selected Works" was held in Rainbow Connection ... Revisited, on Elmwood Avenue throughout May.

Joel Stuckey finished the semester at Northwestern University with one more to go to receive his Masters in physics. He continues with his full-time job at Argonne National Laboratories where he is highly respected. He rides his bike between Evanston and Chicago every day covering some 25 miles each way. He is fortunate to be able to live at the lab this summer, as it will cut the time he would be spending in bike travel. Joel has found many things to enjoy as he learns more about Chicago and Illinois. He plans to be home for a visit sometime soon, and hopefully we may see him at one of the Star Parties.

Richard Klemann, retired, who formerly was an electrician at National Gypsum, is busy restoring an early Bell helicopter at the Buffalo Airport. When it is completed, in about a year, it will be displayed at the new terminal building at the airport. He also worked on restoring another airplane (GA36), which was built in Rochester and is now on display in the Amherst Museum.

Bob Titran went to Dayton, Ohio, in June, for Part II, a continuation of the Part I visit last November, learning about chemical process pumps. He and his wife, Laurie, work at DuPont in Niagara Falls. Bob is a chemical engineer in equipment reliability, and Laurie is a mechanical engineer, and is supervisor over the maintenance crew. The Titrans enjoy vegetable gardening, and a special visitor this year: a friendly little dove with a nest of eggs near the garden. She occasionally makes herself at home, wandering through the vegetable bed.

Ed Ratajczak with some other members of the Ornithological Society had a memorable trip to Point Pelee, Ontario, in May, where they counted 113 species of birds including 26 species of warblers. Ed is looking forward to birding in Texas in November.

Ed Czapla celebrated his 75th birthday on May 30th. Best wishes for a great year. Ed continues to be involved in the Secular Franciscan Order

in Lancaster, and also serves as guide and overseer of other groups in the Buffalo area.

After a brief visit to England, **Fred Price** will return to be the organist for the July services at the Ascension Episcopal Church on Linwood Avenue.

Gene Witkowski, Bob Hughes, Carl Milazzo, Bob Titran, Bud Abate, and Don Knecht will be attending Starfest on the weekend of August 8-11, at Mt. Forest, 75 miles northwest of Toronto on a 200 acre campground. Several well-known experts will be speaking, including: Peter Brown, President of the Meteor Society, who will be giving an analysis of the Perseid Meteor Showers over the last 8 years; Jack Newton top-notch astrophotographer and CCD deep-sky expert; Don Parker, former BAA member and CCD planetary specialist; Claude Nicollier, three time Shuttle passenger, and also part of the Hubble repair mission; and Ivan Semeniuk, who is in charge of the Planetarium at the Ontario Science Center, who will speak on recent planet discoveries.

There will also be an amateur hour with exciting discussions on such topics as robotic observers, the All-Sky Photo-Bubble Mirror, and deep-sky filters and occultation of stars by IOTA (International Occultation Timing Association).

Former member, **Larry Hazel**, will be a speaker at the Astroblast Convention on August 17th in Oil City, Pennsylvania.

Carl Milazzo has two astrophotos in the Gallery section of the July issue of *Sky and Telescope* pp. 112-113.

Orrin Christy's son, Michael, who is in 6th grade, had his poster on the dangers of alcohol, exhibited at Summit Park Mall.

Edith L. Geiger

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bob Hughes

The recent bright appearance of Comet Hyakutake was an exciting event for amateur astronomy enthusiasts. The widespread news coverage and public attention the comet received put the spotlight on the hobby of astronomy. Now a new possibly brighter comet, Hale-Bopp, will be visible later this year and in the early months of 1997. This appearance will provide a good opportunity to introduce newcomers to the hobby of astronomy and astronomical observing. It is also a good opportunity to promote the BAA and the benefits of being a member to both the novice and the experienced observer who may not know of our organization.

BAA members did benefit from membership during Comet Hyakutake's appearance. BAA members found out about the comet at the February general meeting. A chart of the comet's path was printed in the March SPECTRUM. Many members were able to view the comet's long tail from the dark skies of Beaver Meadow during the March 23rd star party. Some members were able to take long time exposure photographs of the comet by mounting cameras to the 12" telescope. BAA members attending the April general meeting saw spectacular photographs of the comet during a slide show where a number of members displayed slides they had taken of the comet.

BAA members will also benefit from the numerous upgrades to the equipment at the Beaver Meadow Observatory which includes new eyepieces, filter sets and clock drive improvements. A new addition to Beaver Meadow is a 6" refractor telescope which was donated to the BAA. This large refractor will be set up on public nights, (the first and third Saturdays) and will give members and the general public great views of the moon and planets.

I hope to see members at our summertime starparties and public nights which are a good time and give us a chance to stargaze through other members' telescopes.

Bob Hughes

SPECTRUM DEADLINE

The deadline for the Sep-Oct issue is

Aug 10th.

Send all submissions to **Bev Orzechowski**
125 Roycroft Blvd., Buffalo, NY, 14226.

Preferred format is typed or PC readable WordPerfect for DOS 5.1 or earlier, MS Word for DOS or ASCII.

-- scanning available --

Handwritten or other formats are fine too -- we really like submissions!

ASTRONOMICAL HAPPENINGS**TIME WELL SPENT IN ASTRONOMY****Moon**

New Jul 15	1st Qtr Jul 23	Full Jul 30	Last Qtr. Aug 6	New Aug 14	1st Qtr Aug 21	Full Aug 28	Last Qtr. Sep 4	New Sep 12
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Excellent or very pretty events are italicized and bold.

NOTE: After midnight events are listed for the proper day! Thus 1 am on the 10th means you must be prepared be up late on the evening of the 9th.

Date	Time	Elevation	Direction	Evening events left aligned	Event description	Morning events right aligned
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Astronomical Sky Events In July

20	dusk- 10 pm			Public night @ Beaver Meadow Observatory Jupiter - 1st quarter Moon		
22	9:45 pm	23°	SW	Bright star Spica 2.5° down and left of the Moon		
26-30	5:00 AM	18°	ENE	Mars passes by star cluster M35 in Gemini, closest on 28 (0.5°) - BINOS		

July is when the central bulge of the Milky Way is high overhead in the evening. Bright star Vega high overhead in the evening.

Astronomical Sky Events In August

3	dusk- 10 pm			Public night @ Beaver Meadow Observatory Scutum, Hercules and Ursa Minor - No Moon		
3	5:10 AM	49°	S	Saturn 2.5° down and left of the Moon		
7	5:10 AM	45°	ESE	Qtr. Moon right of Pleiades and Hyades star clusters		
8	5:10 AM	38°	ESE	Bright star Aldebaran and Hyades cluster right of Moon		
9	5:15 AM	30°	E	Venus 5° below and left, Orion below and right, Hyades and Pleiades straight up from Moon; Mars 7° left of Venus		
10	5:45 AM	27°	E	Venus 3° above, Mars 6° left of the Moon		
11-12	* *		NE	Superb conditions for the Perseid Meteor shower		
14	5:20 AM	27°	E	Venus is between the feet of Gemini, "The Twins"		
16	7:30 pm			STAR PARTY at Jack Mack's 632-6210		
16	8:45 pm	4°	W	Mercury 2° right of 1.5 day old Moon, very low & difficult.		
17	dusk- 10 pm			Public night @ Beaver Meadow Observatory Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune - 3 day old Moon		

Excellent year for the Perseid meteor shower. Number of meteors has been increasing since 1992. Peak is in daylight for us. This shower is better after midnight.

Jupiter is within 2 degrees of M22 all month — only 1/4 deg. apart on the 17th!

Lots of morning events for the sleepless and early birds.

Check out Comet Hale-Bopp in the Scutum - Serpens Caput area!

Astronomical Sky Events In September

1-11	5:40 AM	29°	E	Watch Venus catch up and pass Mars below constellation Gemini		
4	5:45 AM	61°	SE	Quarter Moon within the Hyades star cluster		
7	dusk- 10 pm			Public night @ Beaver Meadow Observatory Sagittarius, Lyra and Vulpecula - No Moon		
8	6:15 AM	36°	ESE	Venus 5° left of the Moon, reddish Mars 4° above Venus		
9	6:15 AM	27°	E	Venus and Mars straight above thin Moon		
13	7:30 pm			MEETING of the BAA		
16-24	6:00 AM	27°	E	Mars passes within 0.7° of star cluster M44 - BINOS		

Jupiter is within 0.5 deg. of M22 all month.

Get ready for a fabulous lunar eclipse later this month on the 26th.

Comet Hale-Bopp steadily brightens in eastern Ophiuchus.

BEAVER MEADOW OBSERVATORY 457-3104

Star Parties: Here is the Schedule for BAA Astro Events. Please note all events are **RAIN or SHINE!** For public nights, you might like to come early, bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the Nature Center!!!

July 20: Saturday: Public Night.

July 27: Saturday: Beaver Meadow Evening Nature Festival:

Starts at 4pm. Beaver Meadow will be having evening walks, talks, and night walks. They asked us if we would open up the Observatory for this event. What a great opportunity to introduce the family to Beaver Meadow. Come on out and exchange your knowledge of the stars for some down to earth subjects!

August 3: Saturday: Public Night.

August 10: Saturday: Public Night/Meteor Shower.

Starts at 7:30pm. This is the Perseid Meteor Shower (actually

August 16: Friday: Star Party:

Jayne and Jack Mack invite you to their house at 1 Hunters Lane, Williamsville, phone 632-6210, starts at 7:30pm **Children are encouraged to come**, feel free to bring a snack, and/or lots of questions.

This is a nice dark place to view the shower. In the past if the night is good we have had over 100 people visit! So we can use your help, even if it is just for crowd control.

August 17: Public Night.

CCD classes will resume some time in August, see me for more info.

I will be stepping down from my position as Co-Observatory Director at the end of this Public Night Season. I will continue to hold CCD/photo sessions for club members at the Observatory. The Observatory Director's job is mainly to organize public nights, and observatory activities, such as repair parties etc., and write the monthly Observatory Report! If you are interested in coordinating the events at the Observatory please contact Bob or me. You do not have to be an expert in telescope making to be the director, since there will always be club members like myself and Bob who are willing to assist with any repairs to the Observatory.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the Observatory during my 7 year tenure as Director. Special thanks to Beaver Meadow, Buffalo Foundation, Tom Nigrelli, Rowland Rupp, Bill Smith, Carol Lorenc, Joel Stuckey, my brother-in-law Martin Price and the rest of the Membership who cajoled, begged, donated, and worked their fingers to the bone getting the 20" scope, CCD Camera, 12" mount refurbished, computer and building the addition to the Observatory. We have a lot to be proud of. When I first started public nights were not always manned/womanned. With everyone's help we have gone from having a

Sunday is the best day). Observatory will be open to the public

(Continued on page 5)

STELLAFANE OR STARFEST **That is the Question**

This August you have the opportunity to attend one of two excellent and well known astronomy events. Unfortunately, Stellafane and Starfest are both scheduled for the same weekend so you'll have to choose. To help you make your decision, here's a brief rundown on the two events. If you'd like additional information, give me a call at 632-7091 days or 839-9109 evenings. If you'd like some first hand reports of what these events are like from someone who has attended both of them, give Carl Milazzo a call at 688-4869.

Stellafane is being held in Springfield, Vermont from Friday August 9th through Sunday August 11th. It's about an 8 hour drive from Buffalo. The Stellafane Convention is a gathering of amateur telescope makers which was started way back in 1926. Amateurs from all over come to show off their latest creations. There will be mirror grinding and telescope making demonstrations, technical lectures on telescope making and awards for craftsmanship and innovation in telescope designs. Vendor displays and retail sale of commercial products are not permitted but swap tables are available for attendees to sell or trade their unused or surplus equipment. John Dobson (creator of the Dobsonian telescope mount) will be on hand this year to promote the art of telescope making. The Saturday evening program includes a keynote talk by Harvard professor Paul Horowitz titled "The Search for ET", a discussion of technological advancements in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) program. If you plan to attend, you can camp at the Stellafane site but they warn you that "...our camping is very primitive. We have limited drinking water and only portable chemical toilets. There are no showers, no electrical hookups and no isolated campgrounds." There are four private campgrounds within a 20 mile radius of Stellafane and, if you would prefer even more comfortable accommodations, there are several inns and motels in the area. The registration fee for the Stellafane Convention is \$12 per person before July 31 and \$15 at the gate. The camping fee is \$25. For those of you with access to the Internet, Stellafane has a home page at:

<http://www.stellafane.com/~stell/stelfane.htm>

One final word. The emphasis at Stellafane is on telescope making and not observing. Although many people do observe from the Stellafane site, it is not the ultimate dark sky site. The convention is on the outskirts of Springfield, VT and minor light pollution is visible.

The Starfest Convention is held in Canada at the River Place Campground north of Mount Forest, Ontario and is about a 4 hour drive from Buffalo. The dates are Thursday August 8th to Monday August 12th. Starfest is put on by the North York Astronomical Association (NYAA) and is billed as an "astronomical observing convention". The weekend includes observing sessions, slide presentations, workshops and commercial exhibits. As at Stellafane, swap tables will also be available for attendees to sell or trade their astronomy stuff. The feature speakers for this year's event include Terry Dickinson, Jack Newton, Don Parker and Claude Nicollier (an avid astronomer and a European Space Agency astronaut with three Shuttle missions under his belt). Special activities include workshops on basic and advanced observing, a mirror grind-a-thon, a Perseid meteor watch and an astrophotography exhibit and competition. You can camp at the Starfest site or stay at a nearby motel or bed & breakfast. Since the site is a private campground, the facilities are a little less

primitive than Stellafane's and include coin-operated showers (bring Canadian coins), flush toilets, a pool and a convenience store. The registration fee for Starfest is US\$25 per person or US\$32 for a family prior to July 22nd and US\$32/\$40 at the gate. The camping fee is US\$9 per person per night or US\$12 per family per night. A family is defined by Starfest as "...mama bear, papa bear and baby bears. Brothers, sisters, cousins, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, in-laws and Goldilocks do not qualify for the family rate". Starfest information can be obtained from the Internet at

<http://www.unicom.org/~nyaa/nyaa0.htm>

If you plan to attend Starfest be sure to bring the appropriate documentation (e.g., birth certificate, passport, naturalization papers) to get you across the border and back again.

And finally, here are some general comments which apply to both events. Be sure to bring plenty of sunscreen and insect repellent to make your stay more comfortable. Since observing is done during the hours of darkness, absolutely no white lights of any kind are permitted except in case of an emergency. (A Big Mac attack is not considered an emergency!) Red filters must be used on all flashlights, camp lights and automobile lights. If you plan to enter your vehicle at night, be sure to cover your dome light and/or trunk light with a red filter or, better yet, remove the bulbs. Moving your car is frowned upon after dark (for reasons of safety as well as light pollution) so be sure that you have everything you need before the Sun goes down. Then grab your scope or binos and observe. Or wander around and see what other people are observing or observing with. Finally, even though Stellafane sounds pretty uncivilized, you are not cut off from the rest of the world at either event. Pay telephones are available at both Stellafane and Starfest.

Joe Orzechowski

ELECTIONS RESULTS

Officers for Sept 1996-Aug 1998 are:

President - Bob Hughes
Vice President - Gene Witkowski
Secretary - Lynn Sigurdson
Treasurer - Bev Orzechowski

Let's congratulate them and give them our support! Also, many thanks to the outgoing group (some repeating office) for their hard work and service.

Beaver Meadow Observatory continued from page 4

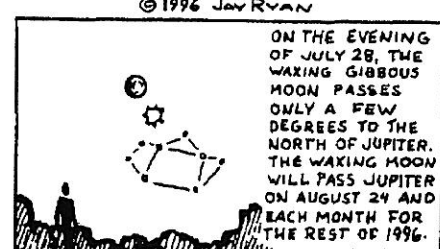
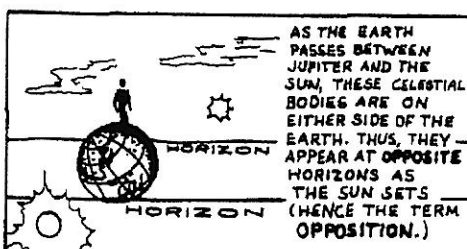
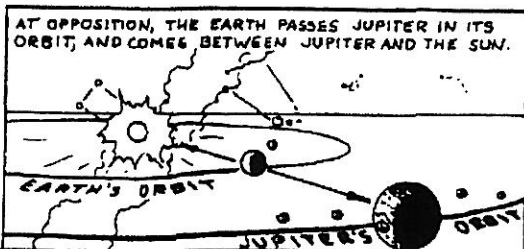
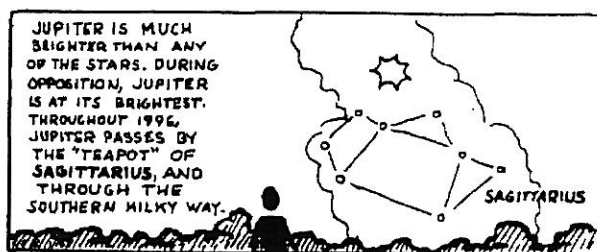
disappointed public on clear nights, to a public that at least gets an informative astronomy lecture on cloudy nights. The Observatory now has a 20" Dob, 12" Newton on a refurbished tracking mount, 8" loaner scope on the Bell Aerosystems equatorial mount, a 6" f15 refractor donated by George Pitcovich (refurbished by Neil Daniels), and a CCD camera. Beaver Meadow knows that if they have a day or an evening event planned at the Meadow, they can count on us as part of the education program. It was my pleasure to play a small part in these additions to the Observatory.

Special thanks to Bob Titran and all the Public Night volunteers, without whose help, I would have had to step down sooner.

Daniel Marcus

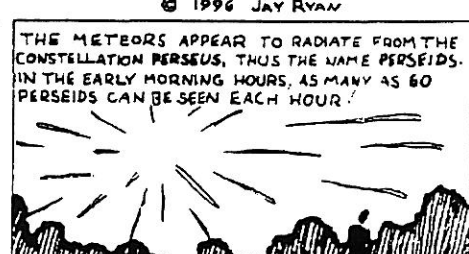
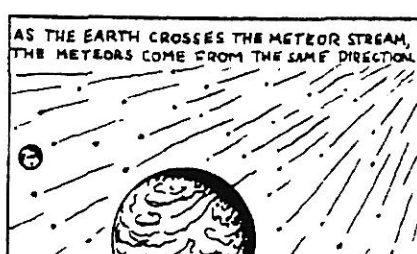
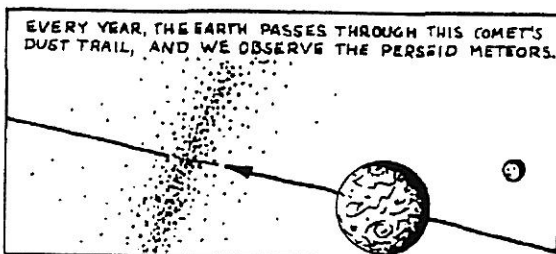
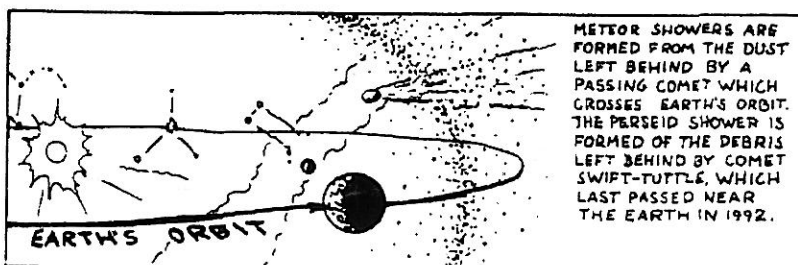
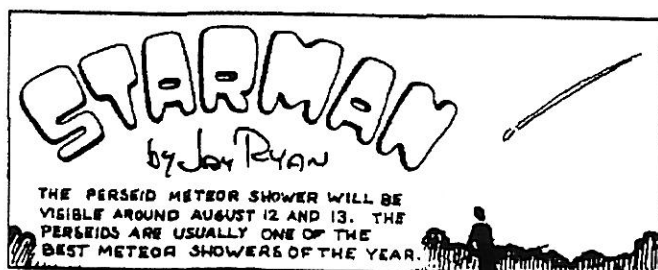
The following 'educomics' are supplied by Jay & Debbie Ryan, two amateur astronomers from Cleveland, Ohio.

For July



<http://www.en.com/users/cygnus>

For August



<http://www.en.com/users/cygnus>

POETRY CORNER:

STAR SONG

We are the stars which sing,
We sing with our light.
We are the birds of fire,
We fly over the sky.
Our light is a voice,
We make a road
For the spirit to pass over.

An Algonquin Song

How Andromeda was Saved

A 5 page story by Darwin Christy, complete with pictures is available by mail from the SPECTRUM editor, Bill Smith. It is too large to fit in a SPECTRUM issue and it would lack continuity to split it up over 2 or more issues so... It will be available for free at the September meeting. To get it by mail send me a note and I'll mail you a copy. An SASE would be appreciated. Bill Smith 184 Creek Rd. Jamestown, NY 14701



BAA History Still Available

The history of the BAA, dating from its beginnings in the early 1930s until 1993, is still available at \$7.50. You can have it mailed for an additional \$1.50. Contact Rowland Rupp (839-1842) if you are interested in having a copy

ANCIENT ASTRONOMERS

GIOVANNI VIRGINIO SCHIAPARELLI

Giovanni Virginio Schiaparelli was an Italian Astronomer born in Savigliano, Italy on March 14, 1835. He studied under Johann Franz Encke and in 1854 graduated from the University of Turin in Berlin. Later he studied under Frederick Geary Wilhelm von Strauve at Polkova, Russia. Upon returning to Italy in 1860, he became assistant astronomer at the Brera Observatory in Milan. In 1900 he returned as director, living another ten years, passing away into the stars above on July 4, 1910.

Some of his astronomical firsts were the discovery of the asteroid Hesperia in 1861. He also showed the relation between meteor swarms and cometary orbits. In 1877 he published the first account of his observations of what he called "CANALI" or channels on Mars. The name Canali was misinterpreted by later astronomers from the Italian Canali to Canals.

He showed that there was a relation between the comet Tuttle of 1862 and the present Perseid meteors. Later on, he demonstrated that Temple's Comet of 1866 moved in a coincidental orbit with the Leonid meteor shower. The Great Leonid Meteor Shower of 1833 prompted these discoveries.

He wrote several works on various phases in astronomy: 'Le Stelle Cadenti (1873); Norme per le Osservazioni Delle Stelle Cadenti Dei Bolidi (1896); L'Astronomia Nell'Antico Testamento (1903); and Elementi di Astronomia Sferica, which was not published until two years after his death, in 1912.

Beside these books, he wrote many papers dealing with orbits of planets and cometary phenomena.

Darwin Christy

You're invited! —

The "Summer Star Parties" and "Public Nights" are your best, most enjoyable and easiest route to visual, hands-on astronomy imaginable. See page 4.

Inside:

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| 2 Membership corner | Elections Results | Poetry corner |
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| 4 Astronomical Happenings | Public Night Classes - Any Interest? | |

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