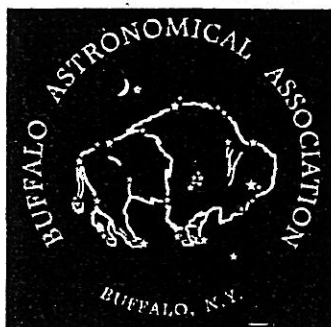


# THE SPECTRUM

Volume 3 Issue 4

Summer Star Party Edition

July / August 2001



## President's Column

There were not enough voting members to make a quorum at the June 8 elections. Elections have been rescheduled for the September Meeting. For further information please see article on elections. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me at 773-5015, or send me an E-mail.

It's time for Astro fun! Come on out to the club Star Parties!! These are great opportunities to meet other club members, learn about astronomy and in general just have fun. I will be holding a Venus Occultation Party at my house starting 1:30pm on Tuesday July 17 (bring your swimsuit). See article on Star Parties. Let me know if you are going to Starfest August 16-19 and need directions, or need to car pool.

Looking back on some of the things we have accomplished this last year.

We have upgraded Beaver Meadow Observatory by: Adding 3 permanent piers to make set up easier for members who bring their own scopes. One of the piers is set up for the Clubs LX200 10". The cables are now in place so it can be operated remotely from inside the warming room. This allows you to use the clubs Astrovid camera to image, or for guiding piggyback cameras. This setup is perfect for video imaging of the Sun, Moon and the Planets.

The 12" has a set of encoders that are in the process of being installed to facilitate the use of the Cookbook camera on the 12" (as well as for viewing). We are working on correcting the periodic error on it's clock drive. Bill Aquino has found a temporary cure - he uses the Astrovid to guide with, and is in the process of getting the 12" to operate from the warming

room.

A new Secondary mirror and holder have been ordered to make it easier to collimate the 12 and to hold the mirror more rigidly.

There is a committee working on a robotic scope setup that can be accessed by club members. They are currently working with UB on the feasibility of the project.

Ground by piers has been graded and seeded. Path lights going to the Observatory are now working.

Rowland Rupp has been coordinating our outreach program to the school systems in the Buffalo area. Various members have talked to over 500 students. If you have an astronomy talk you can give to students, please contact Rowland.

Astronomy Day was held with around 400 people attending. We had a forest of scopes that night, as we had over 75 people for public night.

### Things for the Future!

We need someone to organize the Telescope Clinic at the Buffalo Museum of Science for November 11, 2001. Someone is also needed to organize and plan Astronomy Day for 2002!!

Finally - make sure you have a safe and enjoyable summer with lots of clear skies when you are off and can enjoy them, and rain only when you are not able to view. See you at the Star Parties!

— Dan Marcus —

Board Elections

Star parties

Star party Maps

Spy & Tell

BAA Annals

Education Program

Astro Stuff For Sale

## WHAT CAN I DO ON MY SUMMER VACATION ?

I am sitting outside as I write this getting a starburn. Summer is astronomy time in Western New York. The excuses for why we never got out to observe during the long deep freeze fade quickly and we are out with our scopes and our friends on every favorable occasion. The feeble attendance at last night's annual business meeting reminds us why we don't hold regular BAA meetings over the summer. The warm weather visits for too short a time - we want to spend our evenings under the stars!

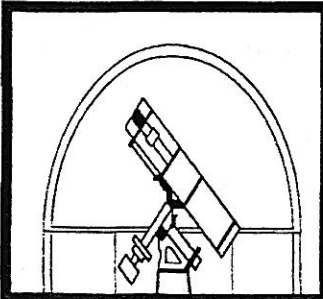
The summer is also the time to enjoy the fruits of your membership in the BAA. With our snowsuits and hoods put away - we can actually see what each other looks like. Following are a few suggestions for summer activities:

Get out to public nights at BMO. We have a great time

at these bi-monthly events. And we need all the member help we can get. On a good clear night we might be host to a hundred eager neophyte observers each with a hundred questions. You will have answers to most of them. And you can help us spread the word about the BAA and encourage the mesmerized to join (or at least make a donation). This is the best way to get to know your fellow club members better.

Bring a friend. Spending time observing is a great way to get to enjoy quality time with friends. I'll bet you have three friends who are interested in your hobby who would love to tag along and get a guided tour of the Nature Center and the night sky. Bring 'em with you. Have a fine dinner at the Strykersville Village Inn before and get to BMO in time for an early evening walk before observing. Remember that BAA member you

Continued on page 2 "summer"



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**SPECTRUM  
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tion in the Spectrum!!!!

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astrotim\_2000@yahoo.com

MS Word or Wordperfect ok

scanning available

DEADLINE FOR Sept./Oct.

ISSUE IS August 15

**Summer cont.**

spoke with a few months back that you thought would be nice to get to know better? Call them up and drive out together. The membership directory will be in your hands shortly – if you are looking for an email address or phone number before it arrives, give me a call.

Attend star parties. Bring your scope along. We all understand the need to buy a new telescope at least every other month – and there is no better therapy for the tugs of aperture fever than the opportunity to star test a pile of instruments and see what they really can provide. Our members have some fabulous equipment that you won't see at Wal-Mart. Some of it is handmade with inspiring innovation and craftsmanship. And this stuff shows up on a regular basis at our summer star parties – with the rare opportunity for a guided test drive under the stars. Plus you will find a member or two who owns your scope and can give you some tips on how to use it to better advantage.

Hold a star party yourself. Make it a pot-luck and it will be one less meal you have to prepare this summer. BAA members party with gusto. Check with Jeff and Janice Gardner for an open date.

Write a memo or a masterpiece. A really nice way to see more at the eyepiece is to make notes of your observations. Drawing is also fun and a very useful technique to help you focus on what you are seeing and to keep you out looking long enough to really see something. Mars will be a great and challenging subject during July. And it's a lot easier to sketch with the mittens off. Put your observations down on paper and submit them to the Spectrum or take a few minutes and share them as an observation report before a BAA meeting in the fall. Bring a

video camera out to the observatory and capture some footage at a public night for the next BAA video festival. You don't have to be a writer or an artist. We are all interested in what you have to say and in comparing notes.

Get to know each other. Our club has fascinating people in it with a lot to offer. But most of us are shy at heart. The club needs your energy. It's always an energy crisis at the BAA. You don't need to run for an office to make a difference. You don't need to head a committee. (But both of these are noble tasks!) There are many things you can do to help build our collective energy. Wear your nametag out at the observatory so it is easier for others to get to know you. Think of something you would like to see the club do and put it out there. Brainstorm, informally, at a public night. Get others interested. Being active just means getting off the bench and getting on the field to play. We don't always have a coach to send you in. So you have to send yourself in. If there is a project that seems interesting to you and you'd like to get introduced to those doing it – give me a call.

I plan to host an informal welcome to new members before the first meeting in September. My thought is to have a light dinner pot-luck at my home which is very near the meeting location at Buff State. Everyone is welcome. Details will follow with the membership directory mailing. I hope many of you will be able to make it. In the meantime, see you out at the Observatory – and have a wonderful summer. As Studs Terkel used to say – Take it easy... but take it!

Collimated Optics,  
(I'm getting tired of clear skies!)

Alan Friedman  
Membership co-chair  
881-4310

**BOARD ELECTIONS**

Shame on us ! We were three or four members short of the 20 % quorum needed to conduct business at our June meeting. We plan to have a new election at the September general meeting , a decision that will be made firm at a coming Board meeting . Meanwhile, the current Board Members – at — Large will continue in their positions until the September elections ( their terms don't expire until September 1st anyway ), and nominees Frank Chalupka, Alan Freidman and Bob Titran are invited to attend Board meetings as transition members as is customary until then. Let's do a better job of getting out the vote next time.

———— Rowland A. Rupp ————

**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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## IT'S STAR PARTY TIME !

Star parties are a great opportunity to get out and meet other club members while sharing the fun astronomy has to offer. All club members are welcome to host their own star party. If anybody is interested, there are still open dates this summer and fall. Check your BAA calendar for the moon phases and any public night conflicts.

Contact Janice and Jeff Gardner at 639-0866 or [MMDAWG@AOL.COM](mailto:MMDAWG@AOL.COM)

Current star party schedule:

### July 14:

Jack & Jayne Mack; 1 Hunter's Lane, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221 (H) 632-6210  
Sheridan Dr. to the Village Green (between Hopkins Rd. & North Forest Rd.) left on Bridle Path,  
left into circle, house on left. Star party begins at 8:00pm.

### July 17:

Venus Occultation Party: Venus Occultation 2:27pm - 3:29pm, followed by swimming, and a Finger Food Mediterranean Meal, at home of Dan and Melissa Marcus at 23 Riverdale Drive, Grand Island. The occultation will occur when they are 30 degrees above the western horizon. We will try to catch the event on tape. Those who are not able to make the Occultation are welcome to come for a finger food meal, a swim and hopefully view the tape! Directions - take the I 190 to Grand Island. Use the Exit for Beaver Island Park (if coming from Buffalo it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit after coming on the Island, and from Niagara Falls it is the last exit on the Island) You will then be on South Parkway, go past the traffic light (Love Road) and under a pedestrian walkway, there will be a school on your left. At the next intersection which will have a yellow blinking light (Broadway), make a left onto Broadway. Take the next possible right which will be Enola. Take Enola to its end, you will then have no other choice but to turn left on to Riverdale Drive as there will be no other way to go. If you come to Stoney Point, back up and our house will be 3 houses from the end on the left hand side #23. If you get lost call 773-5015!

### July 20-21:

Interclub Stargaze @ Cherry Springs, PA. \*

### July 21:

Larry Carlino has all the cool astronomy gear one could imagine. If you like gear and decent skies, don't miss this one! Don't forget to bring your scope. 7118 Kinnie Rd. 433-3432. North on Transit Rd. 1 mile past Millersport hwy (263). Right on Bartz Rd. (heavy equipment dealer on corner) go 3 miles, house on right. Road changes names several times, just continue straight. Call for detailed directions. Party from 8:00 -12:00 rain or shine.

### August 10-11:

Griffis Sculpture Park: Join Tristan & Carl for 2 nights of dark skies, persied meteors and zero degree southern horizons! The Sculpture Park is located 15 miles south of Springville N.Y. A-frames are available for \$30.00/night and tent sites are available for \$15.00/night. These are primitive sites so come prepared! Remember it gets cold at night! This is great opportunity to enjoy astronomy and have fun with the whole family! Solar viewing isn't the only thing you will be able to enjoy during the day. Hiking trails meander around hundreds of metal sculptures as well as through the woods and meadows. Enjoy quiet time to reflect, bird and animal watching, wild flowers and even a small stream. Hope to see you there! Any questions please call Carl at 688-4869 or Tristan at 941-5613 (H) 861-6756 (cell). SEE MAP NEXT PAGE!

### August 16-19:

Starfest 2001 Sponsered by the North York Astronomical Association. Starfest will be held at Riverside Campground, Mount Forest Ontario For more details: [www.nyaa-starfest.com](http://www.nyaa-starfest.com)

### August 17-18:

MMMAA/BAA/ORAS Campout Weekend @ Cherry Springs PA. \*

### September 14-16:

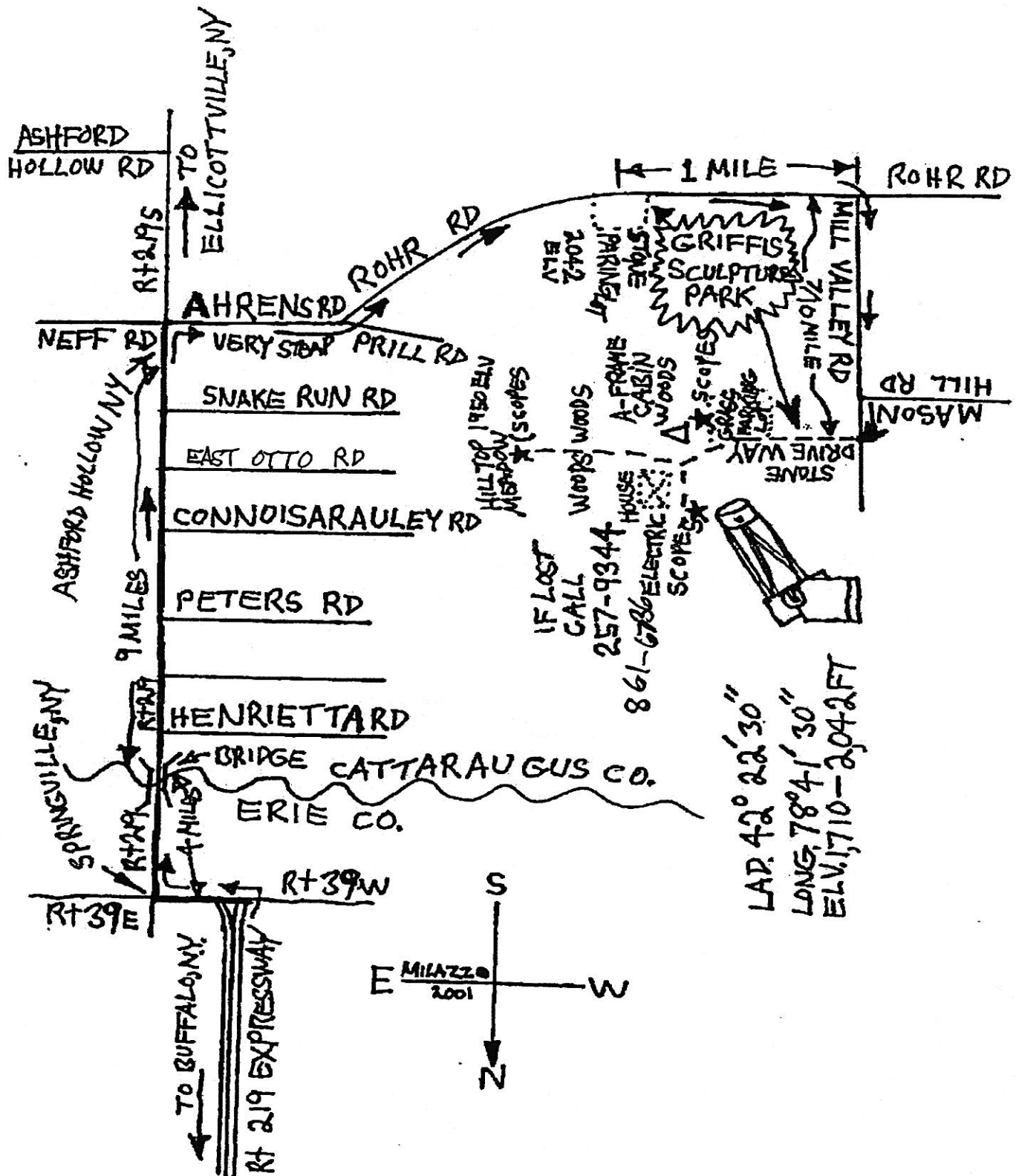
Black Forest Star Party \*

### Febuary 10-16 2002:

Cedar Key Star Party ! Need a break in the middle of winter? Head down to Cedar Key Florida for a little warm weather observing. Tom Bemus has organized a week of astronomy activities at this wonderful dark site. All BAA members are welcome to come on down. For details: [www.members.aol.com/bemusabord/cedarkey.html](http://www.members.aol.com/bemusabord/cedarkey.html)\*

\* Contact: Tom Bemus (H) 386-7150 (W) 483-0343 e-mail: [BEMUSABORD@AOL.COM](mailto:BEMUSABORD@AOL.COM)

# SCULPTURE PARK STAR PARTY MAP





## BAA ANNALS

by Rowland A. Rupp

**5 YEARS AGO** – "Star Party Issue" was the heading for the July-August 1996 SPECTRUM. Parties were scheduled at Jayne and Jack Mack's home, at Beaver Meadow hosted by Dave Fliss and at Bill Smith and Carol Lorec's home. And, just to keep the record straight, Irene and I hosted one at Lime Lake in June. Bill Smith wrote an article encouraging members, especially new ones, to attend star parties as a great way to meet other members and to find out more about astronomy.

Membership stood at 109 according to Membership Chairman Joe Orzechowski. A new slate of officers was elected at the June meeting. They were: President – Bob Hughes, Vice-President – Gene Witkowski, Secretary – Lynn Sigurdson, Treasurer – Bev Orzechowski. If you want a comparison (now five years dated) between Stellafane and Starfest, see Joe Orzechowski's article in this issue.

**10 YEARS AGO** – Star parties for 1991 were held by: Irene and Rowland Rupp, Larry Carlino, Jayne and Jack Mack, and Melissa and Dan Marcus. Dave Fliss submitted an article telling how to build a solar projection screen that he claimed was capable of showing solar granulation and other phenomena, like the depression seen when a sunspot is near the sun's limb. His scheme produced image sizes as large as 14 inches. Ed Lindberg reported that the Instrument Section had nine members at a recent meeting. He included a brief history of the construction of Newstead Observatory. Rowland Rupp wrote a none to favorable review of an essay received by the BAA on the "Lighton Theory" by Barney I. T. Doyle. Darwin Christy continued his series on Ancient Constellations with Cerberus and Taurus Pnoiatovii.

**15 YEARS AGO** – Ken Biggie was President in 1986. He and Diane held the year's opening star party at their home in West Seneca. Other star parties were hosted by Brian Fallon, Jack Empson, Dan Marcus and Tristan DiLapo. Carl Milazzo resigned as Observatory Director; the post was taken over by John Yerger. The Niagara Frontier Council of Amateur Astronomical Associations (NFCAAA) met at Toronto's McLaughlin Planetarium. Slide shows and a banquet were features.

SPECTRUM editor Darwin Christy wrote an article on the Oort Cloud, a source of comets at the outer fringe of the solar system. Edith Geiger's profile was on Dan Marcus. Ed Lindberg's Instrument Notes highlighted several innovative design features incorporated into John Malona's telescope that were evaluated at the section's May meeting. Brian Fallon brought in a troublesome binocular that Bob Mayer fixed after he found a loose screw, a common problem in the BAA. There were observation reports by Michael Idem and Carl Milazzo.

**25 YEARS AGO** – We elected new officers for the 1976 to 1978 term. Fred Price was elected President, Ken Biggie – Vice President, Rowland Rupp – Secretary, and Tom Dessert – Treasurer. Of course there were star parties; Bill Deazley hosted one, Time Dessert hosted another and there was the annual event at Camp Sprucelands. Carl Kalweit finished teaching his introductory course in astronomy at BMO. One benefit to the students taking the class was membership in the BAA. Eleven new members were acquired, but I'm dubious about how many stayed past the first year. Becoming a member without choosing to do so is not likely to result in a lasting commitment. Tom Dessert was preparing to teach a course in astrophotography at the Fred T. Hall building in the summer. He did – I took it.

Here's an anecdote from that old SPECTRUM: A little girl, after visiting BMO with her grandmother, reported to her mother: "I saw a house out there with a roof that comes right off". The mother thought the girl was confusing fantasy with reality until the grandmother confirmed her report.

**35 YEARS AGO** – There was no Spectrum for July and August 1966, at least none appears in the archives. The June issue gave a list of star parties however. Three were scheduled at Newstead Observatory, two at Camp Sprucelands, others were hosted by: Darwin Christy, Walt Semerau, Ernst Both and Ed Stoklosa.

## SPY &amp; TELL

by Edith Geiger

On Palm Sunday, Darwin Christy and his grandson Mike, age 17, went on a great trip to one of Darwin's favorite spots, the Battlefield of Gettysburg. They returned on Good Friday from a highly successful jaunt. Darwin photographed five additional monuments, which is in the process of receiving a new base. He will return in August to photograph the monument on its new base. Darwin is busy working on a new project. He is writing his autobiography.

The Niagara Invitational Figure Skating Competition was held at Buff State, March 23-25. Hannah Sigurdson (7), won 1<sup>st</sup> place in Beginner 2, and Lynn Sigurdson won 1<sup>st</sup> place in Adult Intro. Ryan Sigurdson (10), and friend, Jimmy Moore, participated in the Science Congress also held at Buff State. Congratulations to all!

James DiLapo, son of Triston and Debbie DiLapo, played cello in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade string orchestra in the Orchard Park Middle School Music in May concert on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. A talented young musician.

Lawrence Mead is employed at Roswell Park in breast cancer research. Larry and Aurie have a happy family. Larry has two children, an Aurie has four, and between them they have six grandchildren. The summer will be a busy one as they visit children in San Francisco, and later, Aurie's daughter and family in Tampa, Florida. They also have two weddings to attend one in Chicago and one in Rochester. It's going to be a family summer. Larry enjoys golf, and perhaps he can squeeze in a game, here and there.

Gary Rotella is a pharmacist at Vix. He has an exciting hobby. He is a member of the Buffalo Yacht Club, and races sailboats every Wednesday throughout the summer. His wife, Denise, is a medical sci-

entist liaison for Bio Technology in upper state New York and Pennsylvania. Gary and Denise have two children, Nick 12, and Laurie 9. The family delights in camping in the fine area state parks. Gary gives generously of his time with astronomy seminars in the elementary schools of Lancaster.

Joseph Sullivan got a computer and frequently E-mails his uncle, Paul Besieger, who is working on the Genesis Mission for NASA. The launch is scheduled for July 30. The purpose of the project is to collect particles emanating from the sun. His uncle is also working, through a company, on space suits for NASA. For further information on the on the Genesis Mission: [www.GenesisMission.org](http://www.GenesisMission.org). In May, Joe visited the Kennedy Space Center and was greatly impressed. The next thing on his list is to buy a telescope.

Patrick Lannon, who is a water treatment plant operator, likes working with computers, getting the pool ready for summer, along with the pleasures of landscaping. His wife, Jackie, is the Secretary at the Middle School in West Seneca. They have two daughters, Kelly and Kate. Kelly Yung, who has lived in Alaska for the past two years, brought great joy to family with a visit in June, along with her 10-month-old baby, who stood the 16-hour trip very well. Kate is going into pharmacy. She spent her first year at U.B., and in the fall will be enrolled as a student in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Arizona, and we wish her the best. The family also includes Guinness, a 10-month-old chocolate lab.

Steve Kramer reports that he is still trying to keep up with Bill Gates!

Have a wonderful summer!

## ATTENTION:

Senior Citizen Astronomers. Are you allergic to cold, bugs, and cloudy skies? Are you restricted physically, hearing-impaired? Short attention span? Help is here. Sky & Telescope's promotion of "Starry Night Pro" covers everything from soup to nuts for armchair astronomical practitioners. Of course it's great for active astronomers. Starry Night Pro will install on Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, & Macintosh. It can be installed on Windows Me using other programs. Give Jim Lemen a call for further questions.

## SCHOOL LECTURE PROGRAM

Another year of the BAA's in-the-classroom program of astronomy talks to grammar and high school students has drawn to a close. This year we gave sixteen talks to over 500 students, bringing out total since the inception of this program in 1998 to 54 talks to almost 2500 students. Our speakers went to Buffalo City Honors, Clarence High School (thanks go to Anthony Davoli for arranging it), Davinci High Schools, Lafayette High School, Orchard Park High Schools, Transit Middle School and West Seneca High School.

We should thank our speakers for participating in this program; it gives us recognition when the time comes to apply for grants and to advertise the BAA. The are:

Darwin Christy	"Comets"
Carl Klingenschmitt	"Earth Satellites"
Dan Marcus	"The Heavens through Astrophotography"
Jack Mack	"What is a Star"

Joe Orzechowski	"Scale of the Universe"
Rowland Rupp	"Voyager" and "Extraterrestrial Intelligence"

We also gave two seminars for Earth Science teachers through the Regional Earth Science Teachers (REST) organization at their meetings held at Buffalo State. Dan, Jack, Joe and Rowland handled the presentations.

This program is available for all schools in the area, and is appropriate for students from fifth grade through high schools. If you have kids in school, or if you can offer our program to schools in your area, please let them know what we are doing. This is another way to further the efforts of the club and, who knows, might even pave the way for future members. Anyone interested in arranging a talk should contact me at 839-1842

— Rowland Rupp —

## ASTRO STUFF FOR SALE !

**Two excellent telescopes:**

**Celestron C8 Schmidt-Cass optical tube (no mount) Like-new condition, exceptionally fine optics. 6X30 finder, visual back, star diagonal, and 25mm eyepiece. Starbright coatings, Compatible with Fastar ccd imaging system. \$500.00**

**Orion 130mm (5.1") Newtonian reflector on light-weight equatorial mount. 6X30 finder, 2 eyepieces. F/5 parabolic mirror with fine image quality for deep-sky and planetary/ lunar/double star high-power observing. Pristine condition. \$250.00**

Larry Carlino ph. 433-3432

**ETX 90EC Astro Telescope —Auto StarControl Erecting Prism 3 Eyepieces: Meade Super plossl Meade Wide Angle 20mm Barlow Lens Moon Filter Hard Fitted Case Soft Carrying Case Tripod T Adapter for SLR Camera \$995.00 for everything.**

Rev) Herbert G. Engelhardt ph. 674-1402

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