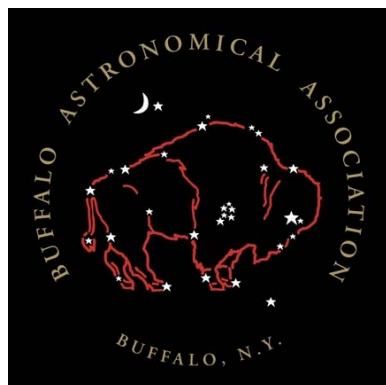


The Spectrum

Volume 10 Issue 4

Edith Geiger Memorial Edition

July/August 2008



From the Editor's Desk...

Here is the Summer edition (finally!) of the Spectrum. It's a little late this time since I had to re-learn Microsoft Word. I used Word 2007 for the first time and it took a little getting used to. Sorry for the delay.

There is a wonderful article below about Edith Geiger written Ernst Both, (writing as Kurt Erland). It was written in 1967 (when I was just two years old!) but describes her well.

Congratulations from the editorial staff to our new officers. Alan Friedman will serve his first term as president. Congrats also to my good friends, Janice Gardner, who has been promoted to VP, and to Mike Israel, our new banker. Mike O'Connor was re-elected secretary by an overwhelming margin.

I hope everyone is enjoying this summer. June had some unusually unstable weather, but July is looking pretty normal to me. I actually saw hail storms twice in June. I only saw hail a couple of times before that. See you in September (or at BMO).

In this issue...

The Many Talents of Edith
Page 1

General BAA Info
Page 2

President's Column
Page 4

BAA Annals
Page 6

Member Website Listing
Page 7

**Coupon for a free
Tele Vue NP 127**
Page 9

The Many Talents of Edith

by Kurt Erland (aka Ernst E. Both)

(originally published in THE SPECTRUM, December 1967)

Darkness slowly settles on the grounds of Newstead Observatory and gradually, one by one, the stars emerge out of the evening twilight. Somewhere car doors are slammed and shadowy figures lug heavy equipment into the fields. From time to time the uncertain gleam of a pocket flashlight briefly illuminates the busy hands of a proud telescope owner, struggling to adjust here and there. A slapping sound somewhere signifies the demise of another mosquito - suddenly a brilliant camera flash, eyes blinking, a muffled "darn that Edith" - and another B.A.A. star night is under way.... Months later, at the annual Christmas party, that same muffled voice roars with laughter as Edith unmercifully displays the fruits of her flashing career.

Continued on page 3

BAA Officials

BAA Officers

President – Dan Marcus
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Secretary – Mike O'Connor
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Treasurer – Chris Mullen
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Janice Gardner
Jack Mack
Mike Anzalone

Observatory Directors

BMO – Pat Lannon
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Remick – Paul Tabor
(716) 434-7148

Membership

Alan Friedman
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Robotic Telescope Project

(open)

Star Parties

Dan Marcus???
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Rowland Rupp
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BAA Voice Mail Box
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Location/Time of Meetings:

BAA meetings are held on the **2nd Friday of the month** from **September to June** in the **Science Building on Buffalo State College Campus** (Except the March Dinner Mtg). Meetings start at **7:30 P.M.**, in the first floor auditorium near the entrance. See above web site for a map of the location. **Non-members are encouraged to attend.**

Spectrum Deadline:

Articles for the next Spectrum are due by:
August 22nd

BAA Webmaster
Mike O'Connor

BAA Yahoo E Group
Coordinators
Dennis Hohman
Mike O'Connor

Memorial Gifts to Edith Geiger

Edith Geiger loved the BAA, and she showed it even in her passing. Her family suggested that memorial gifts in her name be given to the BAA Observatory Fund to support observational astronomy, and the outpouring was strong. \$620 has been contributed, including gifts from:

Richard Janas
Ernst Both
Rowland Rupp
Orchard Park Schools
Richard and Florence Meyers
Howard Pradee and Lorraine Bell
Gary and Patty

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this thoughtful memorial to Edith.

The Many Faces of Edith (cont.)

As everyone knows from experience, one of the many talents of Edith Geiger, our Vice President, is photography. Perhaps not so well-known is the fact that she is also an accomplished musician, composer, lunar observer, painter, teacher, organist, as well as a first rate cook, devoted mother, and adored wife - a woman of unlimited interests ranging from people to paleontology! In high school she was undecided between art and music. She chose the latter as a career but carefully cultivated the former at the same time. At the Eastman School of Music she met Carroll Geiger and they were married one year after her graduation, from then on her interests, as would be expected, closely paralleled his. When he returned to Eastman to work on his master's, she went along to study organ. When he conducted a church choir, she accompanied on the organ. When he became connected with the Board of Education, she became a teacher.

Two years after their oldest son, Loren, was born, the Geigers moved into their new home on Jasper Drive where they have lived ever since. Three more children, Ronald, Bruce, and Karen followed in fairly close succession, all of them inheriting a gift for music and art from their parents. Although Edith had studied Piano, Voice and Trombone at Eastman, her other interests blossomed while she raised her children, including paleontology, philosophy, poetry and photography, and her interest in art, which had never waned, was also continued and expanded. Her work in ceramics brought her prizes in the State Amateur Division, and her teaching talents turned to private students.

At home the Geigers share their talents playing concerts for their own enjoyment (Carroll and Karen play the clarinet, Loren plays the tuba, Bruce with the baritone horn, and both Ronald and Edith play trombone). Never at a loss for something to do (this summer, for example, she tried her hands at raising infant bunnies with better success than Roswell Park Institute), Edith became involved with the Head Start program two years ago and returned to composition, with children's songs for these pre-schoolers. She has also set to music Superintendent Joseph Manch's "Tribute to Teachers." About eight years ago Edith also became interested in astronomy, perhaps by way of her concern with philosophy. As with her other talents, she became deeply involved, concentrating on the Moon and on her work with our association. As a skilled recorder of the lunar scene she has few equals, and few in our group or elsewhere can compete with her observing schedule. Her lunar drawings are masterpieces of artistic skill and scientific accuracy. We need not remind anyone of her contribution to our association - suffice it to say that if any work needs to be done, Edith is always ready to do it efficiently and excellently.

When this reporter talked to her husband recently, a quiet pride and admiration shone through as Carroll recounted some of the details of her active life. He singled out her deep concern with people, her enthusiasm and her energy which knows no bounds. Hers is a rare kind of personality, always ready to give of herself and of her many talents. Whatever she tackles, she does so with a thoroughness and passion which ensures success. And if you talk to her friends, they speak of her with that same kind of pride and admiration - we are all fortunate to count her as one of our own!

President's column

This will be my last President's column! [Yeah! (just kidding)- Editor. ☺] Unfortunately I do have some sad news. One of our long time members Edith Geiger passed away this May. Edith was a serious astronomer with a sense of humor. Her Christmas slide shows are legendary, and will be missed. Edith was a huge supporter of our club and Beaver Meadow Observatory. Instead of flowers, her family asked for the money to be donated to the Buffalo Astronomical Association. The next time you are showing people the sky, think of Edith and help them enjoy the wonders of the Universe.

Elections are done and the results are in! - Alan Friedman is now President, Janice Gardner is Vice President, Mike O'Connor is Secretary and Mike Israel is Treasurer. I would like to thank all the Members of the Buffalo Astronomical Association Board of Directors, for all the help with running the club. Club members do not get to see all the work that goes into running a club our size. Being a Board Member sounds cushy, but our decisions can affect the survival of the club. A special thanks to Mike Anzalone for putting together an informational display for our public gatherings, and carting it around.

There will be an election for Board Member at Large at the September meeting. We will have to find a candidate to replace Janice Gardner who has moved up to Vice President. If you are interested in running for this position, give me a call at 773-5015, or email me at DMa3141551@msn.com.

Presidents Wish List – hate to sound like a broken record, but if you don't keep asking, you will never get. So start digging in that junk pile!! The stuff is out there-

1-Still trolling for computer parts for the 12" computer upgrade. We will be moving the one from the robo scope to this spot for now.

2 - I am still on the prowl for a cogged belt and gears for putting the encoders on the 12". If you are throwing out and old large style Square VCR, I'll take it and see if it has any parts we can use. I found one set we can use and are looking for one more. Still looking for free before I go looking to pay.

3- Anyone have an extra *powered* USB hub? It would be nice to install one on the 12" and run the cord under the floor so visitors (or clumsy presidents) can't trip over them. Nothing like having your equipment ruined by a misplaced foot. That way we can run a laptop on the table.

Thanks to my nephew Kyle Marcus who graciously donated his old 17" monitor we now have one! See if you keep asking sooner or later parts show up!

BAA Calendar

August 7-10 – StarFest Star Party, Mt Forest, Ontario, Canada

<http://www.nyaa-starfest.com/index.php?page=sf.home>

August 30 Starting at 5pm 1st Annual New Moon Star Party at BMO!!!

September 12 BAA club meeting at Buf State, 7:30 Speaker- Dr. Alice

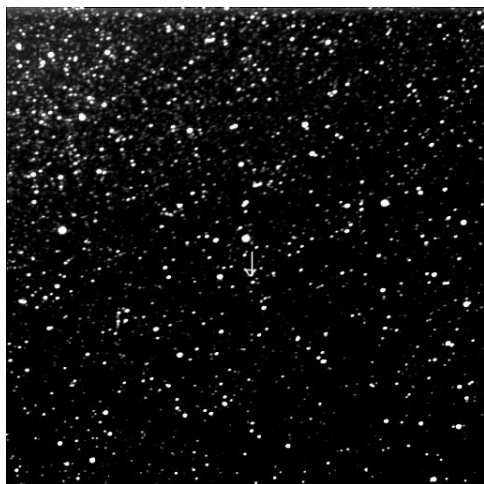
Quillen collaboration with NASA on the Centaurs A galaxy

September 26-28 – Black Forest Star Party, at Cherry Springs

October 10 BAA club meeting at Buff State, 7:30pm Talk will be on "What We Did Last Summer" by various members who wish to share the fun they had.

Note: Robo Scope meetings will be held on clear nights give me a call if clear; if I can make it out I'll be there. The Robo Scope is way too much fun to use. Here are a couple of pictures of Pluto taken with the full moon in the sky. [See next page, Ed.] Makes you wonder why we bother to go to dark skies when photographing stars. The first image was taken on June 11, 2008 and the second was taken June 14, 2008. I autoguided for 5 minutes and took 4 frames for a total of 20 minutes of exposure. Also the roof got in the way on the June 14 shot. But there is no problem picking up a 14th mag star. This scope makes an **AWSOME** platform for checking for asteroids, GRBs, and variable star work. We are still messing with the autoguiding with the 12" which seems to be reasonable for use with DSLR's. See you at the Observatory and have a great summer. P.S. If you are having a bad summer, remember having fun is contagious, so come out to the Observatory with a lawn chair (and bug spray) and watch the rest of us having fun, and sooner or later you will join in, and the next thing you know you will be enjoying yourself.

Dan Marcus



Pluto June 11, 2008



Pluto June 14, 2008

Meet the Neighbors

The Astronomy Section of –Rochester Academy of Science will host their annual Star Party: **RocheStar Fest**, July 25-27 at their Ionia, NY observing site (about an hour and a half from Buffalo). This should be a nice opportunity to meet our neighbors and enjoy some socializing and observing time together. I will be one of their speakers on Saturday (planning to drive down on Saturday and return Sunday morning.) I hope some of you might have the time to journey east with me.

Here is a general agenda for the Star Party – more details will be posted as they are confirmed at <http://www.rocheasterastronomy.org/> and I will share info on the BAA e-group.

Friday July 25th

7:00 pm Arrival for camping, informal trivia program at 8:00 PM □
Observing begins at dark, weather permitting

Saturday, July 26th

12:00 (noon) Registration begins; bring your own lunch, drinks available at modest cost
1:00 – 4:30 Short talks, demonstrations including laser collimation and digital photography, bird watching, hiking, general camaraderie and children’s activities including astronomy scavenger hunt and rocket launches
5:45 Silent auction, door prize raffle
6:00 pm Barbeque Dinner cooked on-site □ Beef brisket, pulled pork, smoked turkey, potato salad, baked beans, greens, veggies (hamburgers and hot dogs by request)
Dessert competition (bring a dessert and enter to compete for the “Out of This World Dessert” award)
7:00 pm Awards and Door Prizes
7:45 pm Featured speaker, Dan Watson: “Black Holes are Real and Living Among Us” □
Observing to follow, weather permitting

Sunday, July 27th

9:00 breakfast
10:00 – 12:00 clean-up and departure

Alan Friedman

BAA ANNALS

5 YEARS AGO - With no general meetings scheduled for July and August, we relied on star parties for getting together. I found a couple of star parties for the coming year, mentioned in Joe Orzechowski's "President's Message." One was at the Rupp's cottage at Lime Lake, the other at Larry Carlino's home in Lockport. Another was planned by Alan Friedman at the Tri-Main Center in Buffalo. There were plenty of public nights at BMO to make up for the lack of meetings. Alan was also our membership Chairman. He announced that we closed the year with 142 members.

We had a brief article from Rowland Rupp about some peculiar views held by an early 20th century author, Arthur M. Harding, who mixed astronomy with a dose of religion. Besides Edith Geiger's "Spy and Tell" and Rowland's "BAA Annals," there wasn't much in the way of BAA-generated articles. Editor Jamie Seibert resorted to including a couple of NASA articles to fill the pages.

10 YEARS AGO - There were a lot more star parties scheduled for the summer of 1998 than for 2003. Hosts were: the Macks, Larry Carlino, the Winfields, Gary Baldwin and Gary Hanley. The Rupp's party was held in June. Carl Milazzo recommended attending the Stellafane and the Starfest astronomy conventions during the summer. Just for comparison with 2003, Membership Chairman Joe Orzechowski reported there were 121 members at the end of the year. That's a sixteen percent increase in five years.

"If You Were A Babylonian" was the title of an article that was part of a series on ancient astronomy by Leslie Martin. It highlighted the views and achievements of these early Middle East observers. Tom Bemus gave a list of deep-sky objects he had seen with either his 4-inch Astroscan or with his 10x50 binoculars. The observation of a supernova, 1998AQ, was reported by Tim McIntyre, Don Knecht, Dennis Hohman, Tim Leary, Bill Aquino and Maurice Melaney. They used the 20-inch Dobsonian at BMO to observe the new object in Ursa Major.

15 YEARS AGO - Star parties for 1993 were at the Mack's, the Rupp's, Bill Smith and Carol Lorenc's, and Mark Reville's. There was a two-day telescope clinic and computer demonstration scheduled at the Museum of Science.

"A Full-Sized Subaru", authored by Rowland Rupp, reported on the 8.3 meter Japanese Subaru telescope then in work, and on the twin 8.1 meter Gemini telescopes scheduled to be installed in Chile and in Hawaii. Rowland also reviewed John Sanford's book "Observing the Constellations". For the most part, he liked it. Bill Smith wrote "A Binocular Tour of the Virgo Cluster," in which he gave advice and hints for viewing faint extended objects with binoculars. Darwin Christy's article was on the variable star Mira. He explained how two telescopes set up as an interferometer can provide a detailed picture of the star's shape. Mira turns out to be non-circular. Its picture, shown in *The Spectrum*, looks like a reasonably symmetrical potato.

25 YEARS AGO - Once again star parties were an important ingredient for BAA summer activities. Miro Catapovic Steve Desmond, Pat Loebel, Tristan DiLapo (at his night club in downtown Buffalo), Claudia Bielinski, the Rupp's, John Yeager and Marylou Bebak (at the museum) provided venues for our summer gatherings. Carl Milazzo was in charge of the scheduling.

Fred Price contributed an article "Is There a Miniature 'Straight Wall' On the Moon?" Fred seems to think he saw evidence of it; possibly it was a fault on the floor of the crater Proclus. Most other lunar observers don't mention it in their observing guides. Ken Kimble responded to an inquiry by "Tungin Cheek" in a preceding *Spectrum* about the effect of the speed of light on observations of very distant objects. Ken addressed look-back time in his response. Ken was also writing the "BAA Annals" in 1983, and headed the Study Section as well. Ed Lindberg reported on the variety of gadgets that were evaluated and topics that were covered at the monthly meetings of the Instrument Section. There were observation reports by Carl Milazzo, Michael Idem, and by John Riggs in his capacity as Observatory Director.

35 YEARS AGO - For 1973 we had star parties scheduled at Bill and Elaine Deazley's home and at Camp Sprucelands, where Octavia Black opened her camp and kitchen to us annually. We also planned to hold sessions at our observatory which was then at the Calspan site in Newstead, and also at Beaver Meadow, long before our observatory was built there. We were checking out the site at the time.

We had just two contributions to *The Spectrum*. One was "Two Hours With Alvin Clark, Sr." by Charles S. Palmer. Palmer was not a BAA member; the article was borrowed from a 1926 issue of *Popular Astronomy*, long before there was a BAA. Clark and his sons were famous nineteenth century makers of excellent refractor telescopes. The other article was another of John Riggs's summaries of deep-sky observing for the coming months.

Rowland A. Rupp

Buffalo Astronomical Association Members Astronomy Websites

Compiled by Tom Bakowski

- Tom Bakowski -- www.tomeyeonthesky.com
-- Wide Angle images of the sky thru the seasons, from dark skies of PA, using a dslr camera and lens.
- Thom Bemus -- www.upstateastro.org/stars/index.html
-- Astronomy resource site.
- Anthony Davoli -- www.astro.premcom.com/ADM/index.htm -- www.admaccessories.com
-- Images of deep sky objects using a Takahashi FSQ-106 and a dslr camera.
- Tristan Dilapo and Mike O'Connor -- www.orbitjetobservatory.com
-- Images of deep sky objects and transient events.
-- Tristan uses a fully robotic Meade 12" LX200 and CCD.
-- Mike uses a fully robotic Celestron 9.25", Takahashi TOA-130 and CCD.
- Alan Friedman -- www.avertedimagination.com
-- Highest resolution images of the solar system using a Astro-Physics 10"- 6,5,4" refractors.
- Mike Israel -- <http://poochpa.myalbum.net/>
-- Images of solar system and deep sky objects using a TeleVue NP101 and Meade 8" LX200GPS with a webcam or dslr camera.
- Dr. Jack Mack -- <http://facstaff.buffalostate.edu/mackje/>
-- Astronomy resource page.
- Mark Percy -- www.williamsvillek12.org/planetarium
-- Williamsville Planetarium schedule.
- Peter Proulx -- www.gotastronomy.com -- www.ip4ap.com
-- Images of deep sky objects using a Meade 10" RCX and CCD camera.
- Derrick Bill -- <http://homepages.roadrunner.com/astropics/>

If you're a BAA member, and not on the club's message board, then you're missing out on communication and current events. This message archive, started in 1999, has 134 members and had over 12,130 messages!
-- http://groups.yahoo.com/group/buffalo_astro_assoc/

For Sale

I have a few things for sale:

Celestron Super Polaris Mount:

This mount is in very good condition. It has a few dings and the Dec slow motion control is slightly bent, but everything is functional. It comes with a RA drive w/ controller, battery pack, 12v connector and a polar alignment scope. I have the original tripod but the tray is a replacement (it's white) and 3 counterweights. It also comes in a Pelican waterproof case (I think it's a model 1600) for easy carrying and storage. The case holds everything except the tripod and tray. \$275

Heavy-duty wooden surveyor's tripod:

This is an excellent tripod that I used for both my Super Polaris and Unistar mounts. It also comes with an adapter that allows attachment of a Vixen GEM. This is in excellent condition and is sturdy enough to hold a C11 on a Unistar. \$ 145

Orion 1.25" variable polarizer filter: \$20

If interested in any of these, call Rick Fusani at 432-3819

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