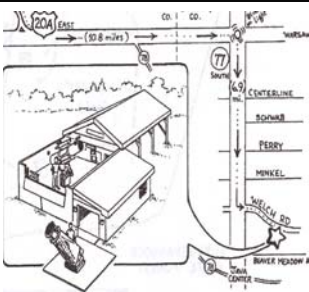


The Spectrum



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BAA Observatory (BMO)

BAA Group Photo

Tom Bakowski

To increase turn out for the June Business meeting we will have free pizza, wings, and drinks. We will also have a BAA group photo at the June meeting. Show up and be seen! This may be the start of an annual or every five year BAA group image.

Observing Training Program

Learn Observing Techniques From Experienced Observers

Tom Bakowski

There will be a sign up sheet at our general meetings. The idea is to share techniques and skills related to observing. This program will be held in an informal atmosphere similar to what active members do already at the BMO. We can meet after normal public night activities and or whenever it is clear, if one wants to journey to BMO. The discipline of this program depends on turn out. I don't miss a clear night and assume most already have their own agenda of fun for active astronomy. Let's keep the schedule for this program our public night schedule for BMO and we can also have some dates at the Remmick observatory in Lockport. Below are web sites that must be seen before any plan for observing begins:

http://www.accuweather.com/adcbn/public/sat_index_large.asp?type=sti11&sattype=ir&getArea=NY_&btnGet=btnst

<http://www.cleardarksky.com/c/BvrMdwObNYkey.html?1>

Updates for the program will appear in the spectrum and be announced at the meetings.

Certificate Of Recognition

Bill Aquino

The Board of Directors is initiating a "Certificate of Recognition" program for BAA members. The purpose of the certificate is to recognize members who have accomplished an outstanding astronomical achievement, published the results of this achievement, and then lectured about the achievement at one of the clubs general meetings. Qualified candidates must be nominated by another club member in writing to the clubs secretary within one year of the completion of the **three qualifying steps** (accomplish, publish, lecture). The written nominations will be reviewed by the board of directors on a yearly basis prior to the dinner banquet in order to determine if the nominees are qualified to receive the award. The President or a designate will present the certificates to qualified candidates at the yearly dinner banquet.

(continued on page 5)

Attention All Club Members

Janice Gardner

Please be sure to join us for our last club meeting of the season on June 10, 2005.

As well as our usual club business, we will be voting for up coming Board of Directors positions. Remember your attendance is important and your vote counts!

This would also be a good time for all members, new and old alike, to get together and finally meet.

Following our general business meeting and voting, we will be serving a selection of fun foods and beverages. This will be followed by our first, and hopefully annual, group photo -- to be published in the Spectrum. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

BAA Officials	
<p><u>BAA OFFICERS</u> President – Peter Proulx 731-2808 Vice President – Ted Bistany 885-0003 Secretary – Joe Orzechowski 632-7091 Treasurer – Bev Orzechowski 632-7091</p> <p><u>AT LARGE DIRECTORS</u> Janice Gardner Tom Bakowski Alan Friedman</p> <p><u>COLLEGE OF FELLOWS</u> Rowland Rupp 839-1842</p> <p><u>OBSERVATORY DIRECTORS</u> Bill Aquino 731-9366 Paul Tabor 434-7148</p>	<p><u>MEMBERSHIP</u> Alan Friedman 881-4310</p> <p><u>ROBOTIC SCOPE PROJECT</u> Anthony Davoli</p> <p><u>STAR PARTIES</u> Bill Smith</p> <p><u>SPECTRUM STAFF</u> Editor: Gus Cenker Jr. & Mailer 625-8343 jandgjr2@aol.com Labels: Alan Friedman Peter Proulx Rowland Rupp Paul Tabor Articles: various authors</p>

BAA Web Site						
www.buffaloastronomy.com						
Location /Time Of Meetings						
BAA meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of the month from September to June in the New Science Building on Buffalo State College Campus . Meetings start at 7:30 P , 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 will be due by: June 16, 2005						
Managers Of BAA Computer Sites						
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>BAA Web Site</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>E-Spectrum Web Site*</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>YAHOO E-Mail Group*</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Timothy Finucane</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Timothy Finucane</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Dennis Hohman Mike O'Connor</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">* members only</p>	<u>BAA Web Site</u>	<u>E-Spectrum Web Site*</u>	<u>YAHOO E-Mail Group*</u>	Timothy Finucane	Timothy Finucane	Dennis Hohman Mike O'Connor
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Timothy Finucane	Timothy Finucane	Dennis Hohman Mike O'Connor				

President's Message

Peter Proulx

I have to admit that I am a "Warm" weather astronomer. I guess warm is relative, as Amateur Astronomers I think that we would all consider anything above 32 degrees Fahrenheit "Warm". Let me qualify my first statement, it 's that not that I never get out when the temperature dips, I'm just much more selective about my choice of targets. In reality once I get to the eyepiece I generally forget about the temperature.

Well as I write this (April 16th) I am a little bleary eyed; we have just completed 7 consecutive clear and warm nights. I have been able to observe and image on 5 of these! I am finding some new favorites in this early spring sky: the Leo Triplet, the many Galaxies of the Virgo Cluster and M104. Also, it's great to see Cygnus rising early in the morning because you know that it will only get better. The laws of physics are in our favor!

Our public nights started this month. Winters last vestiges spoiled our first night; but this evening looks spectacular. I know that Bill Aquino, Paul Tabor and the rest of observatory crew have a great season planned and would love some help. Also, we are finally ready to get to work at the Remmick Observatory in Lockport. The plan is to have a separate pubic night schedule for this location. It will be an opportunity for those who live in the north towns or those who can't make the trek out to Beaver Meadow to participate in a public night. More to come on this project.

Just a few quick reminders:

1. The May general meeting will include the nomination of 3 At-Large Board members. If you are interested in running contact Rowland Rupp or any of the current board members. This is a great way to be active and help the club.
2. The June general meeting will be a "Pizza and Wings" party! And more importantly our Election meeting. We need to get as many members to this meeting as possible. We need a quorum (20%) of the membership to hold elections. We are hoping that Buffalo Wings and Pizza will entice you to attend, we need your attendance!

One last item; the clubs Yahoo E-group is a great way to keep in touch with everyone in-between our meetings. It is also a great place for Armchair Astronomers to see some of the great images that are being taken by other club members. Tom Bakowski, Mike Israel, Rick Pason and Alan Friedman have been doing some great work. One of Tom's wide field shots of the Summer Milky Way is my current desktop background (thanks Tom). It is easy to join and a great way to share your passion for Astronomy. Just go to the following link to sign up:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/buffalo_astro_assoc/
Hope to see you at our next meeting.

Clear skies! :)

BAA Policy

Meeting Cancellation Policy

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

Beaver Meadow Telephone

The is no permanent telephone at the Beaver Meadow Observatory. For emergency use, contact a member to use their cell phone.

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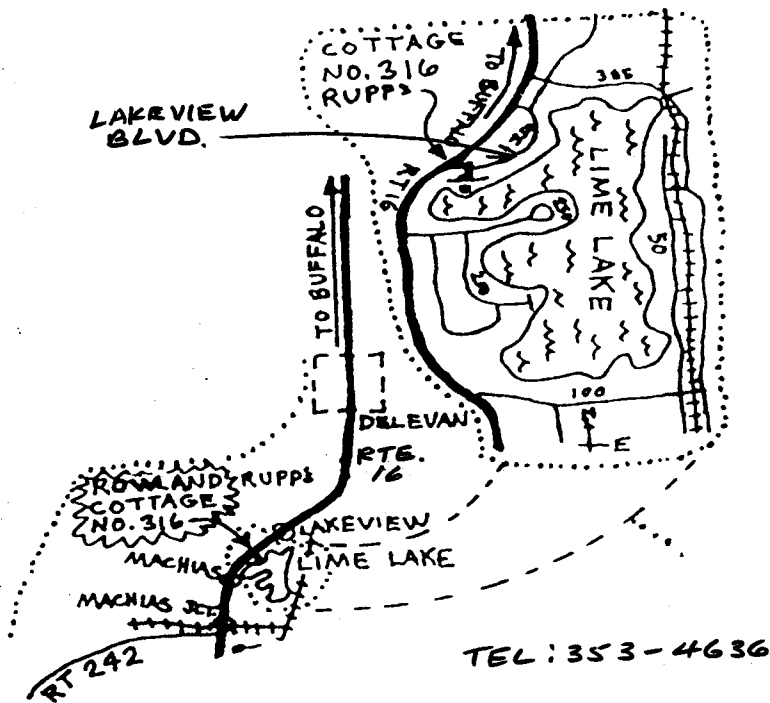
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LIME LAKE STAR PARTY

Irene and Rowland Rupp

We're holding our annual star party starting at 1:30 PM on Saturday, June 25 at our summer cottage at Lime Lake. Plan to do some boating, swimming and eating. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be supplied as well as soft drinks, beer and utensils. Bring a dish to pass. Give us a call, even at the last minute, to let us know you're coming. Our home phone is 839-1842, at the cottage it's 353-4636.

The cottage is easy to find. Take route 16 to Lime Lake, (about 20 miles past the exit from route 400). Drive past Lime Lake Marine, which will be on your left. Turn left on the first road (Lakeview Boulevard), go about 150 feet, then veer right on the dirt road, and you're there after another 200 feet. If you get to Machias you went a mile too far on 16.



BAA Photos From The Past

Edith Geiger

Joseph Orzechowski stands at attention



Intercepted Transmission From Earth To The Andromeda Galaxy

I have photographic proof that semi-intelligent creatures live on the third planet from the sun! This is the leader of the BAA species. They appear to be punishing him, by making him stand at attention while they dance around him. Notice that they are all horribly deformed – they have no tails, only two eyes and only two arms. They are putting disgusting looking food into their mouths, as they dance around their leader.

This BAA species is nocturnal. They prowl the world at night, in groups or alone, carrying long tubes. They sometimes point their tubes toward the sky and then jump up and down, as they point to the sky. This appears to be some type of a religious ritual.

They do not know that I am here. I will keep observing them and report back later. They do not know that our colonization fleet is fast approaching.

Fleetlord Atvar signing off

(With A little Cash And continued from page 6)

around the inner tube was just right - a good mixture between too tightly jammed in and too loose and wobbly. Though not ideal, this has been practical and has functioned well, being as stable as necessary for the task at hand.

As I previously wrote, one of the nice things about the tube was that the aluminum had a 1/4"-20 socket already attached. Since this finder was destined for a square-tubed Newtonian, the up/down right/left mount was easily made from 2 pieces of wood glued and screwed at a 90 degree angle.

So as may be seen, even a disappointment can be turned into something of worth when given a few hours attention. This surprise project was worth it as for minimal cash layout and little effort I now have a finder that, qualitatively, is worth more than I paid and has given me much enjoyment to boot.

Note:

Bill Halbert is a former BAA member who moved to Ulm, Germany 9 1/2 years ago to study opera. Bill has been married to his wife Eleanor for 5 1/2 years and they have a 2 1/2 year old son, Alexander Konstantine. Bill performs professionally in 6 or 7 works per year ranging from "musicals and light operettas to the really heavy stuff as well as a modern opera now and then." Bill can be contacted at: William D Halbert / Eberhardtstrasse 73 / 89073 Ulm / Germany or at HalbertMusik@aol.com.

5 YEARS AGO - Steve Barnes from the Hamilton Astronomy Club spoke on astrophotography at our May 2000 meeting. The following month we saw a planetarium show presented by our own Fred Gordon. Bob Hughes was in charge of Astronomy Day activities to be held at Tift Farm in May. We were planning to raise funds by producing a calendar for 2001, highlighting astronomical images produced by BAA members. The project was coordinated by Bill Aquino and Dan Marcus and the excellent result was formatted and printed by Alan Friedman. The first star party of the season was scheduled to be hosted by Anthony Davoli.

This *SPECTRUM* was the first to have the newly adopted BAA logo. It included the second part of Carl Klingenschmitt and Rowland Rupp's article on radio communication with ETs. Their conclusion was essentially - don't hold your breath waiting. Joe Orzechowski wrote on the stars nearest to us, noting that many of them are too faint to be seen without optical aid. He briefly explained the complex stellar class designations. Tom Bemus and Bill Smith commented on light pollution. They're against it! Bill Aquino reported on the travels he and others took to avoid clouds in order to observe the total lunar eclipse of January 20. They wound up in a gas station parking lot, but succeeded in viewing the eclipse.

10 YEARS AGO - "Four Giant Steps of George Hale" was Rick Albrecht's topic presented at our May 1995 meeting. Hale was the motivator for the Palomar, Wilson and Yerkes observatories. Albrecht hails from Rochester. Dean Oberg, an amateur rocket enthusiast, spoke on the subject in June. Membership chairman Joe Orzechowski reported that membership had been rising steadily for the previous three years.

Rowland Rupp wrote an article on the state of astronomical knowledge as of 1879 as described by an informed amateur, Henry White Warren, a Doctor of Divinity. Rowland also supplied a book review, "Masters of Time" by John Boslough, who proposed that the Big Bang was soon destined to be replaced by some revolutionary new theory of creation. Bill Smith reviewed what various books had to say about planetary nebulae, and Orrin Christy reported on a computer program entitled "Redshift" that he bought for his son, but seemed to fascinate Orrin as well. Edith Geiger's member profile was on BAA President Terry Farrell.

15 YEARS AGO - Our dinner meeting for 1990 was held in May at the Lord Amherst restaurant. The BAA's Ernst Both spoke on "Voyager", the spacecraft that had just completed its survey of the outer planets. In June, Marilou Bebak also talked about Voyager, and Bob Hughes spoke on "How Sunspots Affect the Ionosphere". An NFCAAA meeting was scheduled in Rochester in May where the speaker was to be Rick Albrecht on "George Hale's Last Giant Step". Sounds familiar! The Rupp's' annual star party at Lime Lake was announced for late June. Ed Lindberg wrote about heading to Massachusetts to see a solar eclipse, but it was fogged out. He was somewhat compensated by visiting the Starrett tool manufacturing plant where he was given a tour. Ed, always intrigued by precision instruments, was fascinated by the products and test facilities he saw. Darwin Christy picked Sextans and Ophiuchus for his constellation article. Included in this *SPECTRUM* was a detailed article by Jeff Lichtman on radio astronomy extracted from the Journal of the Astronomical Society of the Atlantic. There was also the obituary for Esther Goetz, our resident poetess.

25 YEARS AGO - Dr. J. Gibson Winans was our speaker in May 1980. His subject was his observations made in India of the total solar eclipse of February 16. Miro Catipovic and Tom Dessert teamed to report on the Riverside, CA meeting they attended. It was described as the Stellafane of the west.

Tom, an accomplished astrophotographer, wrote an article on how to design a guiding telescope. An article by an unidentified author on the planet Mercury was in this *SPECTRUM* also, as was an article by Jack Mack on "Astronomical Distances". In it Jack presented yardsticks astronomers rely on to measure distance: parallax, proper motion, angular size, brightness and radial velocity. Edith Geiger wrote "A Tribute to Robert S. Mayer" in which she itemized the extensive machine work he did over the years for BAA members and others. The BAA's Dr. Gil Brink was offering a non-credit course at UB on "Descriptive Astronomy".

35 YEARS AGO - Dr. Martin Green's topic at our May 1970 meeting was on "Television Astronomy". His expertise resulted from his employment at the Westinghouse Tube Division in Elmira. The May 1970 *SPECTRUM* had the conclusion of Fred West's article on "Transits of Mercury", a note on Comet Bennett by Ernst Both, and a summary of some of the historical coincidences attributed to apparitions of Halley's Comet by Kurt Erland.

John Ruiz of Erie, PA spoke in June on "Photoelectric Observation of Variable Stars". Things do change in thirty-five years, don't they? Fred Price wrote about the transit of Mercury seen on May 9. Unfortunately clouds obscured third and fourth contacts. Ed Lindberg reported on mirror testing at the Instrument Section, where mirrors by Frank Fronczak, Irv Goetz and Wayne Johnson all passed with flying colors. Others present were: Bob Hoffer, Walter Johnson, Rudy Nuehauser, Ron Poling and Warren Steinberg.

Observatories Built And/Or Used By BAA Members

Gus Cenker

Information is being collected for a Spectrum article(s) on observatories that were built, purchased, or liberated by BAA members. Anyone interested in being included in the article should contact me. The article(s) will be broken up into sections, with each section being authored by a BAA member who submitted a write-up about their observatory.

Your write-up should include a picture of your observatory, with the observatory open so that the telescope can be seen. Feel free to get in the picture yourself, so everyone knows who you are. You may want to include the following information: why you selected the design, the type of telescope(s) you use, any problems you've encountered with the design, how you would improve on the design if you would build another one like it, and anything else you think would be of interest. The intent is to help new members decide what type of observatory they should build. So far, I'm aware of seven different types of designs.

If you also built your own telescope(s), you may want to include information about them, along with a picture.

Now's the time to get the recognition for the masterpiece that you've built!

Telescope Views

Rowland A. Rupp

I didn't expect to get much response from my request in the January-February *SPECTRUM* for an explanation about why it took from the end of the thirteenth century, when eyeglasses first came into use, until the beginning of the seventeenth century to invent the telescope. How could it have taken over three hundred years for someone to put one lens behind another and observe that objects appear closer, and appreciate that that was a useful outcome? To my surprise, several people responded with ideas, some of which I'll pass along here.

One idea was that the telescope **was invented numerous times** during that interval, but it was **never disseminated either because of poor communication back then, or because its usefulness was not recognized**. I find the first a bit improbable though not impossible, but the second may have more merit. In my original article I alluded to the possibility that people just thought differently then; maybe they did, though it's hard to believe they thought that differently. Two other ideas were quite the opposite of the latter conclusion. That is, if the telescope was **invented repeatedly** but the discovery was deemed so important that its invention was **kept secret**. For instance, it may have provided such a significant military advantage that it was given Top Secret status by all those who employed it. It would appear that military innovators of many nations repeatedly made the discovery, since it's hard to believe it happened only once. One must suppose that military secrets could be maintained for centuries back in those distant days, and haven't even been made known to us in this enlightened era, while keeping them for a couple of months is a challenge presently. How strange that no one other than those developing military technology uncovered the secret!

More innovative than that cause for secrecy is the suggestion that the telescope was **invented over and over again by ardent young men intent on spying on ladies** disrobing in their bedrooms. Obviously these innovators would be reluctant to announce their discoveries lest the subjects of their fervor pull down their shades - at least some of them might. Clearly these inventors found views of the boudoir more stimulating than views of the heavens, a concept surely foreign to BAA members.

Another idea having promise is that policies of the **Church might have discouraged inventions**, or at least discouraged bragging about them. It was suggested that even using spectacles to improve vision was frowned upon on the basis that doing so thwarted God's will. If God wanted us to suffer from poor vision, who were we to remedy it? I suppose it follows that if God wanted us to see objects at a distance, He would have fashioned different eyeballs. I've read the view that the Church's punishment of Galileo following his telescopic discoveries suppressed subsequent scientific investigation in countries where the Catholic Church held sway. Perhaps it even discouraged discovery before that, bizarre as it sounds.

Another response from a non-member was clearly given with his tongue firmly planted in his cheek. He suggested that since we had only recently emerged from the Dark Ages at the time spectacles came into use, that those ages were truly dark and **no optical aid would enlighten them**. In reflection, perhaps that's just a metaphorical way of saying that which was mentioned earlier -people really did think differently back then.

I'm still looking for other ideas regarding this question, though one of the above may really be the answer. Let me know.

(Certificates of Recognition -- continued from page 1)

An **outstanding astronomical achievement** is a somewhat vague statement deliberately so because the award is meant to encompass the entire spectrum of amateur astronomical activities. Including such diverse activities as observing, researching, photography or imaging of any kind, telescope and equipment making, writing books or articles, creating a web page, teaching, public lecturing, etc, etc... Because amateur astronomers are involved in such a wide variety of astronomically related activities it will have to be up to the person who submits the written nomination and ultimately the board of directors to determine if the achievement is both outstanding and astronomical on a case-by-case basis.

Publish the results of the achievement is also meant to encompass a broad spectrum of activities. This could include such things as formally publishing a book, document, or article, as well as publicly displaying photographs or images, presenting a public lecture or interview, publicly demonstrating the use of hand-made telescopes and equipment, etc, etc... The main idea for this particular requirement is that the achievement the candidate is being considered for must have somehow been openly shared with the public.

The final requirement is that the candidate must have **lectured about the achievement at one of the clubs general meetings**. Unlike the first two steps this requirement is very specific. Lectures and presentations outside of the general meeting do not satisfy this requirement. The achievement must be presented to your peers at a general meeting for their review, consideration, and questions. There are no requirements as to the length of the presentation; it could be a full hour-long talk, a short five-minute slide show, or even a brief mention of the achievement as a normal part of a longer talk or presentation.

By necessity some achievements suitable for recognition may take several years or more to complete. Eligibility for consideration expires one year from the time all three of the requirements have been satisfied. The written request for consideration must be submitted to the clubs secretary within the one year between completion of the 3 requirements and expiration of eligibility. The written nomination must detail how the three requirements have been satisfied and must be submitted by a club member other than the candidate.

We have to choose a starting point for this program and move forward from there, so only achievements which meet all three requirements after the publication of this announcement in the Spectrum will be eligible. **Any achievements that met all three requirements prior to the publication of this announcement are not eligible.**

College Of Fellows Report

Rowland Rup

The College of Fellows Award for 2005 was presented to Alan Friedman at the annual dinner meeting held at the Fairdale Banquet Center on March 11. His award was presented for "contributions to public astronomy at the Buffalo Museum of Science and throughout Western New York". Dr. Warren Marcus spoke following the dinner on "The Cassini/Huygens Mission to Saturn".

I've been asked by several BAA members to compile a list of College of Fellows Award recipients in years past, a task easier said than done. Up to 1992 that's not so hard because they are listed in the club history that was published in 1993, but thereafter it gets harder, since records are incomplete. Here's the best reconstruction I can do at this time.

- 1986 Dan Marcus - Comet Halley Photography
- 1987 Darwin Christy - Micrometeorite Studies
- 1988 Bob Mayer (posthumous) - Design and Machine Work
- 1989 Fred Price - Book Publication - "The Moon Observer's Handbook"
- 1992 Steve Kramer - Antikythera Device Studies
- 1994 Fred Price - Book Publication - "The Planetary Observer's Handbook"
- 1997 Gene Witkowski - Lunar and Planetary Video Imaging 1999 Tom Bemus - Promotion of Astronomy
- 2000 Rowland Rupp - Astronomy Education in WNY
- 2001 Bill Aquino, Tom Bakowski, Frank Chalupka, Dennis Hohman - Gamma Ray Burster Observations
- 2004 Marilou Bebak - Community Education in Astronomy
- 2005 Alan Friedman - Contributions to Public Astronomy

Some years there is no award which explains why there are gaps. If anyone has been missed, I'm sorry. Please let me know if there are any omissions or corrections in this list; I'll straighten it out in a later *SPECTRUM*.

Currently, active members in the College of Fellows are: Bill Aquino, Marilou Bebak, Larry Carlino, Darwin Christy, Edith Geiger, Bob Hughes, Steve Kramer, Jack Mack, Dan Marcus, Beverly Orzechowski, Joe Orzechowski, Rowland Rupp, Lynn Sigurdson, Bill Smith and Bob Titran.

With A Little Cash And A Little Effort

William D. Halbert

We have all been there: winning something on your favorite internet auction house; you excitedly open the box only to find that what you wound up with was not that which you expected. Looking for a cheap replacement finder for a 'department store' 60 mm refractor, I purchased a 10-30x30 'scope from Revue. As this was made some sixty years ago, I was fairly confident that the optics would be of decent quality and that there would be very little, if any, plastic in this 'scope. Of this I was right. Unfortunately, I was disappointed by two other factors, namely the small field and dullness of the view. The Pleiades were not crisp and at only 30x took up more than the field. *M42* was almost a challenge to see and Saturn was, at 30x, just an indistinct oval.

As this was designed as a terrestrial telescope, the space between objective and eyepiece was filled with an added optical assembly whose purpose was to zoom the magnification in and out as well as to give an inverted (correct) image. Both of these options are naturally unnecessary for a finder scope, therefore allowing for the removal of the zoom/erector assembly. (More lenses - another eyepiece to be made at a future date?) Fortunately, the various parts of the tube came apart easily, either by simply unscrewing by hand or by screwdriver. The trick here is to work on a large piece of white paper, slowly and carefully laying the removed parts off to the side. This process took me only 45 minutes to go from optical tube to parts on paper.

Examining the lens of the finder left me with an impression of quality. The glass was coated with a light purple-blue tint and was without scratches. This has the making of a good objective -- would the eyepiece be as qualitatively good? The eyepiece, easily unscrewed from the body, seems to be similar to a Kellner type, though I did not open it as the top and sides are sealed and the threaded ring on the bottom is thin enough to warrant caution vis-a-vis scratching on the field lens. Having the objective in one hand and the eyepiece in the other, I proceeded outside to take a look. The Pleiades were well up, affording a lovely view, which this 30 mm scope took in. The stars were points of light to the edge of the field, appearing as diamond dust on velvet! Clearly the optics were decent, if not downright good.

But now for the mechanics. The aluminum tube was very thick and sturdy. Unfortunately, it was now much too long! I suppose that I could have thrown it away and made my life easier by crafting a new tube from PVC or such, but I liked the original tube. It was not a cylinder, it was conical, it still had the hard green finish AND it had a tripod socket integral. This socket made mounting the finder much easier as no mounting rings would be necessary -just a right, left, up, down mount would work -also much easier to make.

One of the technicians at the theater where I work performed the amputation on the front of the tube. Coincidentally, the tube was cut at a point possessing the same diameter as the objective cell. The cell was originally attached with a good quality 2-part epoxy, though this has been augmented with a brass band and small screws.

The eyepiece end was much easier. The eyepiece was originally fixed, the focusing function being performed at the objective end of the tube by a rotating collar which was now removed. Removing the zoom assembly revealed an inner tube to which the eyepiece was simply screwed in. The threaded tube-eyepiece arrangement could be used as a focusing mechanism once this inner tube was set inside the outer, heavy aluminum tube. This was not so easy, however. There was a significant difference between the tube diameters. This provided for a simple, low-tech solution: PVC electrical tape. After much trial and effort, it became clear that 5 and 1/3rds turns of the tape

(continued on page 3)

BAA Beaver Meadows And Lkpt Remmick Observatory News

Paul Tabor

Our first Public Night for this year was not so great, because of the weather. Bill Aquino and Tom Bakowski were there to do some maintenance and, they had two visitors. The second Public Night looks more promising, as of the writing of this article we are looking at clear skies and not too cold temperatures. So we, as usual, encourage everyone to visit the BMO as you are able. If you have not yet been out there, you are missing something good.

The Lockport Observatory is coming along. The school now has proof of our insurance, which is what they needed in order to let us use it. Bill Aquino, Pat Lannon and Paul Tabor will be meeting there Saturday afternoon April 16 to have a more pragmatic look at the observatory. We need to be sure the roof works, and also what else needs to be done to get it ready for public nights. Frank Movelli, the school principal will be going on radio and TV to advertise the opening and use of the observatory. Will keep you up dated.

We have not as of this date arranged for Public Nights in Lockport. Will inform everyone by e-group as soon as that information is available. Looking forward to a clear sky summer.

Public Viewing Nights At BAA Beaver Meadows Observatory (BMO)

Public Viewing	Speaker	Topic	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Phase Of The Moon (% visible disk illuminated)
7 May	Paul Tabor	This Summers Sky	8:24 p.m.	5:30 a.m.	8:00 p.m.	Waning crescent (1% illuminated)
21 May	???	NEED SPEAKER	8:38 p.m.	6:27 p.m.	4:44 a.m. following day	Waxing gibbous (94% illuminated)
4 June	Gus Cenkner	A Visual Tour Of The 200" Hale Telescope/Observatory	8:50 p.m.	4:26 a.m. following day	6:58 p.m.	Waning crescent (5% illuminated)
18 June	Paul Tabor	Galileo at Jupiter	8:58 p.m.	5:18 p.m.	3:09 a.m. following day	Waxing gibbous (84% illuminated)
2 July	Fred Gordon	The Constellations	8:58 p.m.	3:00 a.m. following day	8:58 p.m.	Waning crescent (14% illuminated)
16 July	???	NEED SPEAKER	8:52 p.m.	4:11 p.m.	1:37 a.m. following day	Waxing gibbous (71% illuminated)
6 August	???	NEED SPEAKER	8:30 p.m.		9:34 p.m.	Waxing crescent (2% illuminated)
20 August	???	NEED SPEAKER	8:10 p.m.	9:01 p.m.		Waning gibbous (99% illuminated)
3 Sept	???	NEED SPEAKER	7:46 p.m.		8:00 p.m.	
17 Sept	???	NEED SPEAKER	7:22 p.m.	7:24 p.m.		Full moon at 10:00 p.m. EDT
1 Oct	???	NEED SPEAKER	6:57 p.m.		6:24 p.m.	Waning crescent (3% illuminated)
15 Oct	???	NEED SPEAKER	6:33 p.m.	5:47 p.m.	11:56 p.m. moon transit	Waxing gibbous (95% illuminated)

Check Weather At BAA Observatory At Beaver Meadows (BMO)

http://www.accuweather.com/adcbn/public/sat_index_large.asp?type=still&sattype=ir&getArea=NY_&btnGet=btnst
<http://www.cleardarksky.com/c/BvrMdwObNYkey.html?1>

Spy & Tell

Edith Geiger

Bill Smith and **Tom Bemus** are going to New York City to do a big swap meet. People come from near and far for the Big Sale. **Bill and Carl** and a friend are going to Budapest. Bill is planning on some great photos. They will be there from May 16 to June 3.

Claudia Balinski, for all she and her husband have been under the weather from time to time, keeps her happy disposition. Claudia is a very artistic person. For many years she did tole painting, which is highly creative and enjoyable.

Tom Bakowski and his father (Tom), go to Cherry Springs to enjoy the beauty of the heavens. Tom will be graduating from Buff State next year. His major is Earth Science.

Carl Ericson and his lovely wife will journey to Arizona in May. They are looking forward to many memorable sights: Mammoth Caves, high mountains, deep valleys and especially to Kill Peak.

Upcoming BAA Meetings

Peter Proulx

May 13 – BAA Director-At-Large board nominations (Three positions open)

-- "**Did It Take 300 Years After The Invention Of Eye Glasses For Someone To Think Of The Telescope?**" – Tom Frank

In the Jan/Feb 2005 Spectrum, Roland Rupp posed this question and he cited unproved claims for Bacon and daVinci as prior inventors of it.

That led to a very interesting review and search of the literature about ideas and events spanning two millennia and ranging from Persia to the British Isles, culminating with the telescope. My talk will be an anecdotal report of the findings, including an intriguing array of morsels and tidbits collected along the way for enjoyment, all with an eye towards answering Rowland's question.

-- "**Orbital CCD Image Of Russian Space Station With Docked Shuttle**" -- Gus Cenknier
(taken by Ron Dantowitz using Meade 12" LX200 Schmidt-Cassegrain)

June 10 -- Director-At-Large Elections

-- Pizza and Wings say "Hello" to summer party! ! ! !

-- Group pictures for the Archives

A SERIES OF BRIEF TALKS:

-- "**BAA Beaver Meadows Observatory Robotic Scope Update**" -- Bill Aquino

-- "**Stars**" -- Bill Aquino

-- "**Imaging Techniques And Travails (Agony, anguish and tribulation!)**" -- Peter Proulx

-- "**New Techniques For Webcam Imaging**" -- Alan Friedman

-- "**CCD Image Of Helix Nebula, With Interpretation**" -- Gus Cenknier

(taken by BAA member Rick Pason using Celestron 8" SCT at f3.3)

Buffalo Astronomical Association Newsletter

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