



Jan. 2018  
Feb. 2018

Volume 04,01

Events for  
Jan. 2018  
Feb. 2018

General Meeting  
Jan 10th  
Feb 14th  
Board Meetings  
Jan. 24th  
Feb. 28th

#### **OFFICERS:**

##### **President:**

**Gary Nelson**

##### **Vice President:**

**Brian Ceci**

##### **Secretary:**

**Richard Carlson**

##### **Treasurer:**

**John Anderson**

##### **Board members:**

**Randy Brown**

**Walter Pickut**

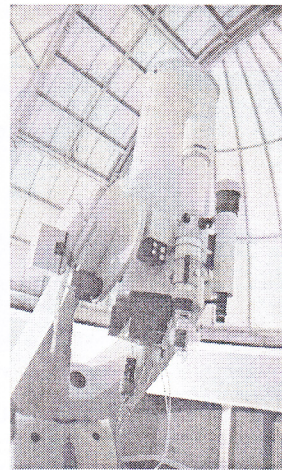
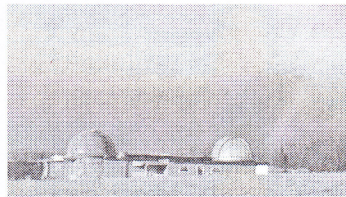
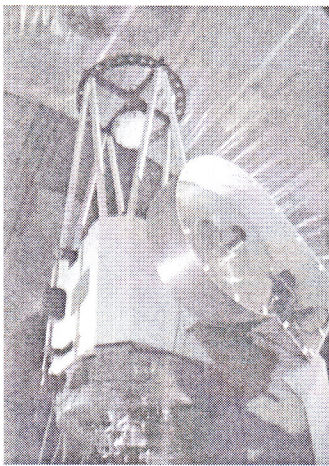
**Tom Traub**

##### **Editor Newsletter**

**Richard Carlson**

##### **Proof Reader**

**Randy Brown**



### **THE JOURNEY**

The observatory has made significant changes since Mary Martz made a decision to hopefully see her husband, Marshal Martz' observatory evolve into the hub of astronomical activity it has become. In recent years the observatory has undertaken a whole new appearance that signifies it has become a leading public astronomical observatory that attracts many visitors annually.

The fully functional robotic .6 meter fork mounted telescope, located under its dome saw its first light in 2007. This was followed by a succession of improvements throughout the observatory that attracted attention from many sources. Major changes to the facility took place during the time of the relocation of the donated Dr. Ronald Kohl Observatory from Lakewood, NY with its large fork mounted telescope to the Martz Frewsburg location. This addition attracted positive attention of several community leaders, educators, and local residents who became part of and celebrated this phase of the observatory's upgrading program in November 2014.

2015 became a pivotal year to update the interior of the observatory with improvements that included construction of a new control room, hallways, restrooms, kitchen and office. These major improvements were followed by the construction of a roll off roof addition that became a unique addition available for outdoor visual and small telescope observations from the convenience of the interior of the building. This welcomed addition was followed by construction of a storeroom to contain necessary items including portable telescopes, training materials and items not in regular use previously stored in the oldest part of the observatory scheduled to be demolished due to its deteriorated condition.

Most of 2017 was taken up by several committees working on equipment improvements, including the hosting of many hundreds of people throughout the year and during the June solar eclipse day when an estimated 700 plus people attended the special event that attracted so much attention in the news. The year included many meetings to discuss the next two important upgrades and the fund raising effort that would be required to improve the facility recognized as a resource for public education. The addition of a reception/gift shop, a new work shop and garage will culminate the last of the major improvements to the observatory.

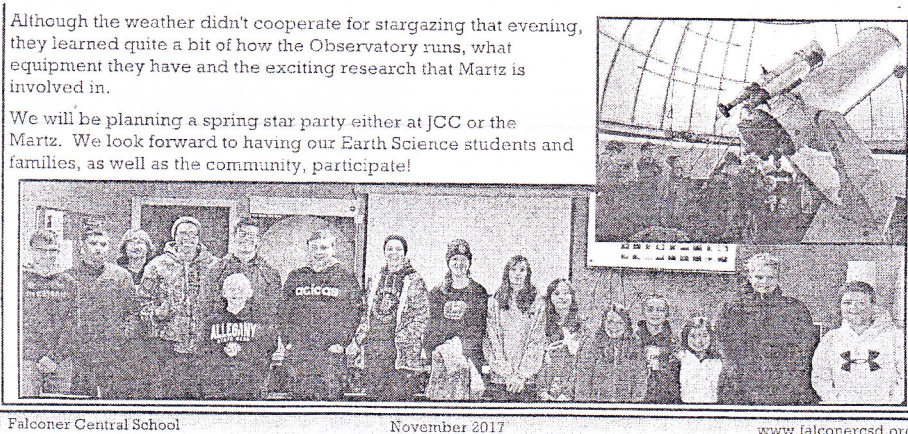


## NOVEMBER 2017 REFLECTIONS

November had been another fine example of the observatory's effort to inform educate and inspire the general public and support teaching in the sciences of astronomy and physics both on and off site.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> Michelle Pitts, Falconer Central School Science Instructor, brought her 10<sup>th</sup> grade Earth Science students on a field trip to the observatory where they learned about different types of telescopes, exciting happenings in space and about the research the observatory is involved in. The 15 students and their family members were taken on a tour of the facility although the weather did not cooperate for telescopic observations.

A follow up letter was received thanking the observatory members who welcomed them and a recount of how the families really enjoyed their visit and were all abuzz about it the next day. Mention was made that a scheduled return visit was looked forward to in the springtime for stargazing.



On the evening of November 2<sup>nd</sup> the observatory was host to members of the Friday Morning Networking Group. The FMNG consists of a group of business leaders from Jamestown and surrounding communities who share a common vision: working together to gain knowledge and understanding of the business needs of their fellow members and the resources of the communities in which they do business, thus helping each other to thrive. The Network opened their special field trip with a brief organizational meeting including several members communicating about their business activities.

Gary Nelson, observatory president, took the podium to welcome the FMNG members and their friends to the observatory. He spoke about the Martz/Kohl organization and proceeded to guide the group on a tour of the facility with the aid of observatory members as docents. The FMNG members discovered the complex is fitted with three surprisingly large telescopes and an array of computers required for their operation, research and maintenance. The findings of the observatory are the mainstay of information provided during discussion and video programs which were presented to the visiting group.

On November 4<sup>th</sup> the observatory's off site presence was requested by Jenny Burroughs. Travel to the Plassman Hall at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York, took place to collaborate with 200 scouts and leaders who had signed up to learn about astronomy and to aid them in acquiring merit badges. A video program consisted of the observatory's astronomical images and included information about the observatory which attracted much attention and possibly new members.

November 15<sup>th</sup> played a big part in the excitement of 10 Celoron Tiger Scouts under the leadership of Jennifer Sherman. Initially, a scheduled visit had been requested in January or February of 2018. Although the observatory is opened year round, it was explained that a visit by 6 and 7 year old scouts during one of the two coldest months of the year would be better if rescheduled in November. Taking into account possible snowy conditions might be present during January and February, the request was changed.

The parents and sisters enjoyed the program about the moon and telescopes. During the program, hands went up to ask questions, something that is always encouraging. An educational event took place when the scouts dropped stones into a baking pan of flour to simulate the formation of moon craters. Hands on experience is always a good learning tool, Jennifer Sherman explained, because it is something the scouts will most likely remember. During the tour of the observatories, several loud voices were heard to say WOW! The excitement of voices rose to a loud crescendo when they first stepped under the dome to see the 24-inch telescope. Viewing of the telescopes appeared to have taken preference over a very short viewing of selected images taken through them. The scouts were given pictures of the moon upon their departure and several of the parents offered their handshakes upon leaving.





On November 16<sup>th</sup> Walter Pickut, Martz/Kohl Observatory board member and current editor of the Jamestown Gazette was the guest speaker at the Marvin House in Jamestown during a luncheon.

The Marvin House membership had an opportunity to hear Pickut's topic about the "Planet Earth: The Most Dangerous Planet in the Universe – Enjoy the View" Pickut included in his talk information about the Martz Observatory's mission to serve the public and public education at all levels.

The Marvin House was left to the women of Jamestown in 1951 by Mrs. Elizabeth Warner Marvin to provide a place for women's groups whose purpose is the moral and mental improvement of women engaged in literary, musical, educational or historical work.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, President Gary Nelson presented an informative program about the Martz/Kohl Observatory to members of the Chautauqua Lake Region Antique Automobile Club during their Club's general meeting that was held at the Jamestown War Vets Club on Fluvanna Avenue.

It was reported some weren't aware of the observatory and can't wait until spring to schedule a meeting at the observatory.

On November 18th the observatory hosted 17 members from the Unitarian Church who came to learn about the observatory led by John Anderson a member of the church.

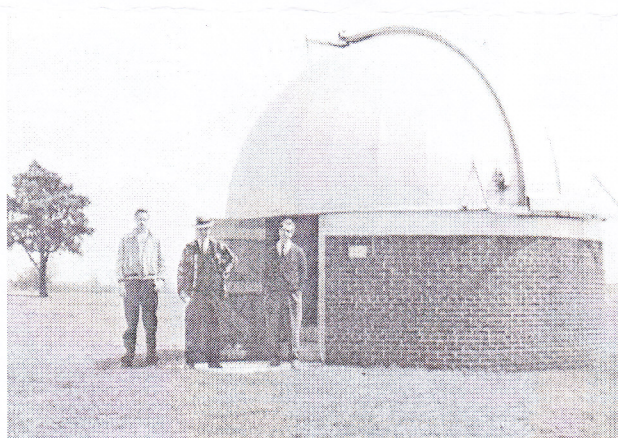


## WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

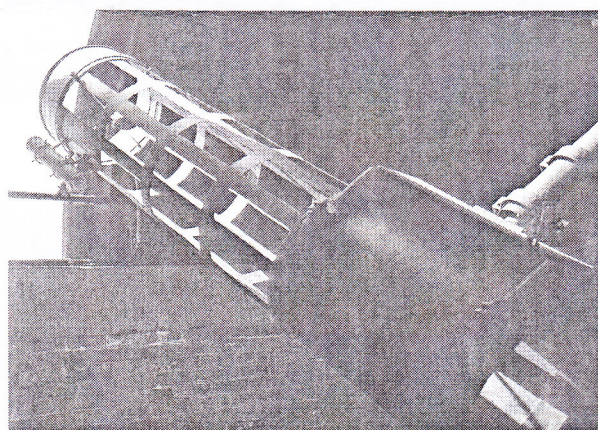
A November 8, 2017, letter was received from Michelle Gray, Managing Director of the Warren, Pennsylvania Historical Society, as a thank you for support in preserving information about the Hearts Content Observatory. This donation of Warren County history can be found at the society located at 210 Forth Avenue in Warren, Pennsylvania. It can be identified by accession # 2015.66 when making inquiries.

In 2015, your editor, with the assistance of Martz/Kohl observatory members Mary Putnam and Tom Traub, contributed an archival history about the no longer existing Hearts Content Observatory that was located south of Warren in the National Allegheny Forest.

The round well constructed brick building was covered with a heavy steel dome. This observatory was home for a 16-inch German mounted reflecting type telescope. The telescope that served the community for many years can be found at the Warren Historical Society as an archived item.



Standing L to R: Richard Carlson; Harry Grandquist; Curator; and Marshal Martz, circa late 1950's



Historic 16-inch Hearts Content telescope

## WELCOMED ADDITION TO THE OBSERVATORY

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017, the observatory took possession of a 6-inch f-10 reflecting telescope that was donated by Marilyn and Neal Anderson who reside in the Chicago area. The Andersons were visiting relatives Garry and Sandy Campbell who are observatory members. The Campbells had recommended the telescope made by Mr. Anderson's father Arvid, a self taught engineer be donated to the Martz/Kohl Observatory where it would receive proper care and be used for observations at its new home on the observation deck protected by a roll off roof when not in use.

Five members were on hand acting as guides who took turns providing the Andersons with a tour of the observatory that concluded in a showing of a selection of astronomical images to enjoy before leaving to be with friends and relatives. The Andersons were graciously acknowledged for their donation.



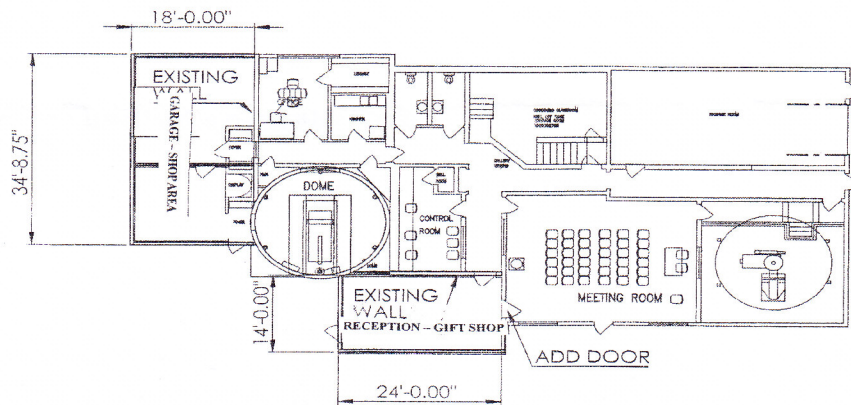
**SITE OF THE MONTH**  
**JOHN DOBSON**  
**SIDEWALK ASTRONOMER**  
<http://www.sidewalkastronomers.us/id32.html>

**POLARIS THE NORTH STAR**  
**THE 49TH BRIGHTEST STAR**  
<https://www.universeguide.com/star/polaris>



## PRESIDENT'S REQUEST

President Gary Nelson has requested all available members to attend the January 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 General Meeting. This meeting is expected to become one of the most crucial meetings for our members to become a voice in the observatory's decision to make major changes and improvements; since the addition of the Kohl observatory in 2014. Your board has brainstormed many concepts to bring to the membership two planned phases that will greatly improve the observatory. Concept one would reduce the congestion during the arrival guests' by constructing a modest addition that would allow entrance into a reception area that would include, by popular request, a gift shop. The flow of visitors would continue into the classroom, thus preventing a bottleneck when entering the building. The second part of the plan calls for removal of the dilapidated structures extending to the road from the observatory and to be replaced by a new garage and workshop addition adjoining the observatory. The removal of the present structures would allow for the benefit of additional off road parking and for use as a school and tour bus turn around. The proposed MARTZ ADDITION 2018 drawing is shown below.



<div>PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DRAWING IS THE SOLE PROPERTY OF INSERT COMPANY NAME HEREIN. ANY REPRODUCTION IN PART OR AS A WHOLE WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF INSERT COMPANY NAME HEREIN IS PROHIBITED.</div>		UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED:		NAME		DATE		TITLE:  MARTZ ADDITION 2018	
		DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES		DRAWN					
		TOLERANCES:		CHECKED					
		FRACTIONAL: 1/8" BEND ±		ENG APPR.					
NEXT ASSY		ANGULAR: MATCH ±		MFG APPR.				SIZE DWG. NO. <b>A</b> Martz Addition 2018	
		THREE PLACE DECIMAL ±		G.A.					
		INTERPRET GEOMETRIC TOLERANCING PER MATERIAL		COMMENTS:					
		FINISH							
APPLICATION		DO NOT SCALE DRAWING		SCALE: 1:500		WEIGHT:		SHEET 1 OF 1	

## PRESIDENT'S APPEAL

President Gary Nelson, recognizing the observatory is approaching its final phases of construction, has suggested its members submit recommendations for future funding for the Board to review. The main focus has been to insure funding would be available to cover the final improvements to the building while other important needs were put on hold. Early suggestions for additional funding include a well water filtration system, a snow blower for the Kubota tractor, a lighted observatory road side sign, additional security cameras, computer updates and a solar array installation to reduce the cost of energy for sustainability of the observatory. Suggestions for funding are accepted and may be submitted electronically or by calling President Nelson at 716 483-1955.