



May 2018  
June 2018

Volume 05,02

### CONSTRUCTION NEWS

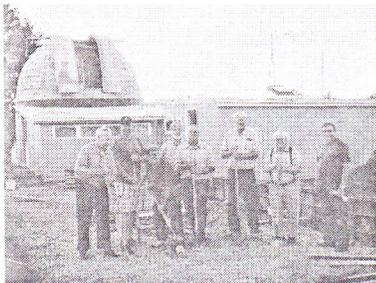
The observatory is excited to have entered into its phases of renewal and upgrades that will conclude construction taking the observatory to the desired level of appearance and accommodation that has long been planned for. This would not have been possible without grants and the support of many businesses including the never ending generosity of individuals who have long recognized the educational value of the observatory has brought to southwestern New York State.

The observatory has selected NuWood Creations, Inc. to culminate its ambition to bring about change to the Marshal Martz Memorial Astronomical Association Inc. in such a way to accommodate the ever increasing interest in astronomy and space exploration. This has become an integral part of the mission the observatory created to inform educate and inspire the general public and support teaching in the sciences of astronomy and physics through its programs, guest lecturers and open houses.

Two phases of construction were determined to improve the observatory's appearance and to satisfy, by popular demand a gift shop. A need for an additional classroom for activities including a maintenance garage for its grounds equipment will be the final phase of construction that will follow the new reception and gift shop addition.

The first phase of construction will commence with the construction of a reception – gift shop addition. The need will be two fold The first will be a welcomed benefit to relieve the congestion that has been experienced upon the arrival of large groups of guests in the past, who will in the future, be directed into the observatory's auditorium through a new doorway. The gift shop is expected to provide an additional source of revenue to help satisfy the observatory's operational expenses in order to become more self sufficient.

The second of the two phases of construction will be to replace the present deteriorated garage and the removal of the original workshop and inadequate classroom additions that had fallen into disrepair long before the acquisition of the property from the widow of Marshal Martz who bequeathed the property to the present organization. A good share of the cleared property frontage will be become available for parking with a small remainder to be used to replace the structures with a new garage and additional activities classroom to be constructed adjacent to the observatory building.



Martin Lydell, general contractor, standing with seven board members breaking ground for the new Kohl observatory addition in 2014



Todd Igersoll owner of NuWood Creations signing contract on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2018

Events for  
May  
June  
General Meeting  
May 9th  
June 13th  
Annual Meeting  
Board Meetings  
May 23rd  
June 27th  
Mike Stafford Lecture  
May 16th

#### 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**

## SITE OF THE MONTH FLAT EARTH

[http://www.popularyoutube.com/video/hLPPE3\\_DVCw/Neil-deGrasse-Tyson-Proves-the-Earth-is-Round](http://www.popularyoutube.com/video/hLPPE3_DVCw/Neil-deGrasse-Tyson-Proves-the-Earth-is-Round)

### MARCH TEMPERAMENT AND EVENTS

March can be an unpredictable month to begin another busy season at the observatory. Following a kaleidoscopic winter with periods of snow and absence of snow, mid March was looked upon as being in the last throws of winter when mother nature had other ideas in mind to prove she had some influence on the weather she wanted to exhibit before opening the door to spring.

Although the observatory is open year round <http://martzobservatory.org/calendar> there are times when inclement weather travel becomes a safety factor that can be a concern during the winter months.

The observatory was expected to have a representation at JCC on March 14<sup>th</sup> during their STEM WARS event that was cancelled when all the local schools were closed due to extreme weather conditions. The event was rescheduled to take place on May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.

The unsettled remainder of the March 14<sup>th</sup> storm created a travel safety concern for 11 students and 6 adults expected from Ashville, New York BOCES on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Their field trip had to be rescheduled to Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am until 1:00 pm.

On March 16<sup>th</sup> the weather had improved. Students from the Jamestown High School astronomy club came as scheduled during the day with their teacher, Stephen Propheter, for instruction on how to utilize the observatory's computer system by our staff members, to obtain astroimages remotely from their school room.

During the evening of March 21<sup>st</sup>, Scoutmaster Butch MacQueen brought his Cub Scout group of 25 to the observatory to learn about astronomy and to enjoy an evening taking a tour of the observatory that concluded with a video slide presentation that has become a hit with visitors of all ages.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, the observatory was host to 30 Troop 285 Boy Scouts from Orchard Park and their leaders at 6:30 pm who had been staying at Camp Olmsted in Pennsylvania. Their leaders requested help from the observatory for the scouts to meet their requirements to obtain their merit badges in astronomy.

Other engagements, included, were Tom Traub who traveled off site to present an astronomy program to 35 people at 7:00 pm at Allegany State Park on April 4<sup>th</sup> during their Outdoor Adventures activities. Tom spoke about it was a pleasure to have met so many people who had excellent questions. It had been another evening of hard blowing snow.

Unfortunately our first guest speaker of the year, Phil Evans' program had to be canceled due to near blizzard conditions on March 14<sup>th</sup> and it became necessary to reschedule Phil on April 11<sup>th</sup> following the 7:30 pm General Meeting. At 8:00 pm Phil Evans took the floor to present his talk about "Astronomy in Everyday Life" taken from his library of collected books and magazines that have become a hallmark of his talks that many have come to enjoy.

The Frewsburg Rest Home activities coordinator had requested she would have liked to have brought several residents to the observatory during March, but rescheduled to a more favorable time on April 18<sup>th</sup> when it would not be as cold and the residents could better enjoy their experience. Consideration had to be taken into account that some of the residents would be using walkers. The talk would be presented by Richard Carlson on the solar system and the planet we live on at 5:00 pm.

The board chose NuWood Construction as our building contractor on March 28<sup>th</sup> to construct a reception area addition that will improve the flow of foot traffic when arriving guests enter the building. The new structure will include a gift shop, by popular request, and is expected to become another source for operational revenue. The removal of the original structures extending out to the road will be replaced by a proper landscaped parking area that will be a welcomed improvement to the appearance of the observatory and a convenience for our guests having not to park on the road.

### GUEST SPEAKER

The observatory is pleased to announce our next guest speaker, Mike Stafford, who will be presenting a program entitled "Birth and Death of Stars" on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm with a special emphasis on the formation of stellar black holes. Included will be an explanation of the work of the well-known physicist Stephen Hawking.

## SPECTACULAR MARS EVENT

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, Mars' distance will be 35.78 million miles from the Earth. This will not happen again until September 2035. This event is expected to attract much attention in the news media due to the remarkable brightness of the planet which will appear the brightest between July 21<sup>st</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the yellow-orange planet Mars will rise above the horizon at midnight and its brightness shortly afterward will exceed that of the mighty king of the planets, Jupiter. On July 27<sup>th</sup>, Mars will be visible from dusk until dawn and will shine four times brighter than the star Sirius and twice as bright as Jupiter, only to be out shown by the moon and the sun in brightness.

The Martz-Kohl Observatory will be prepared to open its doors during clear nights to offer views to guests who come to take advantage of looking through one of the several telescopes available, including the Kohl 20 inch classical cassegrain telescope, dedicated for public observations during the close encounter of Mars.

When asked to name a planet, the first name that usually comes to mind is Mars. What does the average person know about Mars? The answers are vague except that they conjure up an image of it as a world to explore and to possibly colonize.

Today, Elon Musk visualizes sending people to Mars. In his own words "For the people who go to Mars, it'll be far more dangerous. It kind of reads like Shackleton's ad for Antarctic explorers. 'Difficult, dangerous, good chance you'll die. Excitement for those who survive.' That kind of thing."

Not only would the long journey to Mars be extremely hazardous, but after setting foot on the surface of the planet, the colonists would find their destination inhospitable. On Earth we are protected from space radiation by our magnetic field that shields us from harmful radiation from solar flares. Mars lacks a strong magnetic field because of the lack of a spinning iron core. Another daily challenge would be for protection from extreme temperature swings from a summer daytime maximum of 68 F on the equator to a nighttime low of -100 degrees F.

Another obvious danger is the constant threat of meteors not entirely burned up due to a lack of a sufficient atmosphere raining down each day. NASA has tracked about 200 asteroid impacts on Mars striking the surface each year.

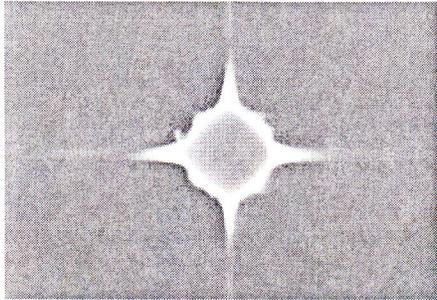
Another detriment would be lasting surface dust storms that would present innumerable problems. Scientists also estimate that roughly 100 metric tons of cosmic dust enters Earth's atmosphere every day and Mars should expect large quantities also.

Read the online article at space.com entitled "The Strange, Deadly Effects Mars Would Have on Your Body" at the address: <https://www.wired.com/2014/02/happens-body-mars/>

On July 27<sup>th</sup> we earthlings can stand outside on our planet, surrounded by our protective magnetic field and a thick blanketing atmosphere for protection from the onslaught of space debris raining down on us, allowing observers to safely enjoy a spectacular view of Mars during one of its closest approaches to earth.

Consult the observatory's calendar at <http://martzobservatory.org/> for special events. A suggested donation of five dollars per adult and two dollars per student would be appreciated during a visitation to help the observatory to maintain itself

## MARCH ACTIVITIES



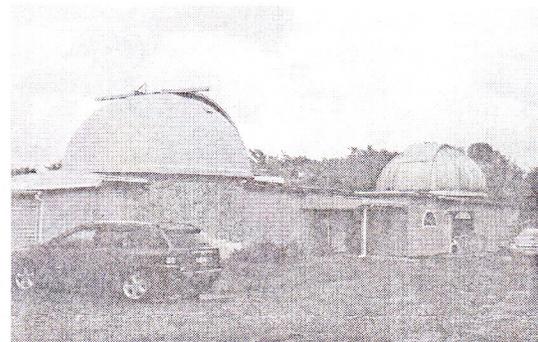
**SIRIUS B – SMALL COMPANION OF SIRIUS A – THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN THE SKY IMAGE BY MARTZ-KOHL OBSERVATORY**



**FICKLE MARCH WEATHER**



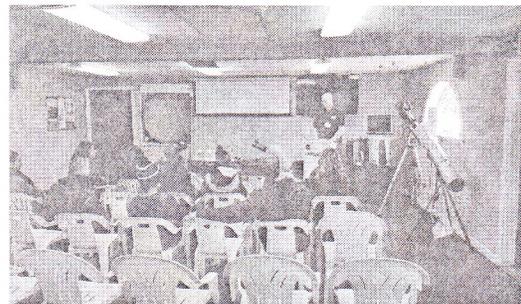
**FUTURE RENOVATION AREA  
new parking and garage area**



**FUTURE GIFT SHOP AREA  
between the two domes**



**LAKWOOD CUBSCOUTS**



**FIELD TRIPBOCES SPECIAL EDUCATION**



**BOY SCOUT TROOP 285  
ORCHARD PARK, NEW YORK**

NO WARREN BOY SCOUT  
PICTURE WHO ALSO  
VISITED THE  
OBSERVATORY

## JUNE ELECTION

The election of officers will take place at the observatory during our annual meeting on 6/13/18 at 8:00 pm. Board members whose terms are ending are Tom Traub, Walter Pickut and Randy Brown. Randy Brown volunteered to be this year's election conductor who will be accepting nominations for officers during the general meetings occurring in May and June.

The observatory will have a buffet dinner at 6:30 pm for members prior to the annual election. Reservations will be required and payment for dinners must be made prior to May 25<sup>th</sup>. The cost of individual dinners will be \$15.00.

The observatory is pleased to announce the dinner will once again be catered this year by our member, Travis Smith, who is employed as the head chef at the Nickel Inn. Last year's outstanding dinner received rave reviews by all who attended and, and this year also, should be marked down as a date to be set aside for another outstanding dinner and a date to attend the annual June election for officers.

# Please RSVP

## No later than May 25, 2018

...for reservations to the annual MKO dinner to be held at the observatory on Wednesday, **June 13, 2018 at 6:30**. Dinner description is found on the May 25, 2018 web calendar, at <http://martzobservatory.org/calendar/>

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for submitting RSVP and \$15.00 per person payment for the for the member Annual Dinner is set for **June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30**. The dinner will consist of a buffet provided by Travis Smith, head chef of the Nickel Inn and MMMAA member.

Items in the buffet will be:

Stuffed Pork Loin

Broiled Tilapia Panko

Italian Chicken Cordon Bleu

Pasta Primavera

Sides include mashed potatoes, rice, bread and butter.

Beverages will be included

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ Total payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or hand deliver to Gary Nelson (483-1955) no later than May 25<sup>th</sup> at  
Hall and Laury Opticians  
707 Fairmount Avenue. Suite 11  
Jamestown, NY 14701