

THANK YOU TO BEAVER ISLAND

August 16, 2021

To my friends on Beaver Island:

I want to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to visit Beaver Island from June 25 through August 2, in support of the Beaver Island Dark Sky Sanctuary. The trip was very successful and rewarding, although we can't control the weather to make every night clear and transparent.

I want to thank a number of groups and individuals: Cynthia Hector Johnson, Bill Markey, Mark Howard, and the BIDSS membership for inviting me out and helping defray some of the expenses. Singling out Cynthia and Bill for getting me into the proposed Sanctuary boundaries, exploring and helping get some potential access points/observing areas proposed. I'll also call out my home astronomy club, the Columbus Astronomical Society, for allowing the loan of the club's 16" Dobsonian for public programs and a visit to the Sanctuary at night (the weather finally cooperated on my last week there!). Thanks also to Alex Mullins, who travelled from Columbus and conducted the astrophotography workshop on June 25, and unfortunately never got to see the Bortle 2-class skies the Island offers due to extended rain that weekend.

Additionally, I'd like to thank St James Township, the Port St James Association, the Beaver Island Resort, Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce, Kevin Boyle, Paul Cole, the Beaver Island Community Center, Lori Taylor and the Beaver Island Historical Society, Cpt. Mike Weede, Charlevoix Count Beaver Island Operations, the Shamrock, the Circle M, and more. I was able to help a half-dozen part- and full-time Beaver Island residents help understand their own telescopes better, and also managed to help get CMU Biological Station to understand and use their own two very nice telescopes. In addition, gave advice when asked to specific individuals as to what telescopes they may wish to consider getting, based on what they hope to do with them! I was also able to hook up one deserving individual with a new scope and tripod, to allow them to resume their harbor- and sky-watching activities after a long hiatus.

To all the other people I met, thank you for helping make Beaver Island the welcoming place it is. As I mentioned often, BI reminds me of my little Ohio hometown, except for the obvious differences like being isolated on an island. People know one another, even if they're not close friends; they pretty much know what you're up to, and news travels fast; and, mostly, everyone looks out for each other.

I hope to be back again. I didn't think I would be there again so soon after last September's visit, but you never know, do you? Thanks again, and clear skies!

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