

Local Man Elected to Royal Society

William M. Dembowski, a resident of Elton, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of England for his work in lunar research. The R.A.S. is a prestigious organization of professional and advanced amateur astronomers that was created in 1820 under a charter by the King of England. He was nominated and sponsored by Robert A. Garfinkle and Ewen A. Whitaker, both internationally recognized astronomers and authors.

Mr. Dembowski is President of the American Lunar Society and Editor of its quarterly journal, *Selenology*. He also publishes an online monthly newsletter, *The Lunar Observer*, at <http://users.adelphia.net/~dembowski> He is an active member of both the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, and the International Occultation Timing Association. He was the organizer and is now Coordinator of the International Bright Lunar Rays Project, a group of approximately three dozen astronomers around the world who are studying bright splash patterns around lunar impact sites. In addition to numerous articles in scientific journals, he has contributed to the writing of a book on lunar observing and performed preliminary editing on three others. At NASA's request, he assisted in the Lunar Prospector Mission by having his personal email address on the NASA website for the purpose of answering questions from the general public about observing the Moon. More recently he helped in the compilation of a series of lunar maps published in Australia for distribution worldwide.

Mr. Dembowski conducts his lunar research from his backyard observatory, The Elton Moonshine Observatory, where he studies the Moon by photographing its surface and mapping lunar materials ejected from asteroid collision sites. Perhaps best known locally through the exhibition of his black & white photographs, Mr. Dembowski also engages in nature studies in and around his Elton residence. He is a 1958 graduate of Johnstown High School, holds an Associate of Science Degree from St. Francis College, is retired from the Pennsylvania Electric Company, and is married to the former Judith A. Miller also of Johnstown.

