

NOVA NOTES



44° 38' N
63° 35' W

HALIFAX
CENTRE

E.H. 70

COME TO THE ATLANTIC
WINTER FAIR
VISITEZ LA FOIRE D'HIVER
DE L'ATLANTIQUE
OCT. 28 - NOV. 4



Out to

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WINTER FAIR
VISITEZ LA FOIRE D'HIVER
DE L'ATLANTIQUE
OCT. 28 - NOV. 4

HALIFAX
FROM
OCT 15 1972

HALIFAX CENTRE R.A.S.C. N.S.

1747 SUMMER ST.

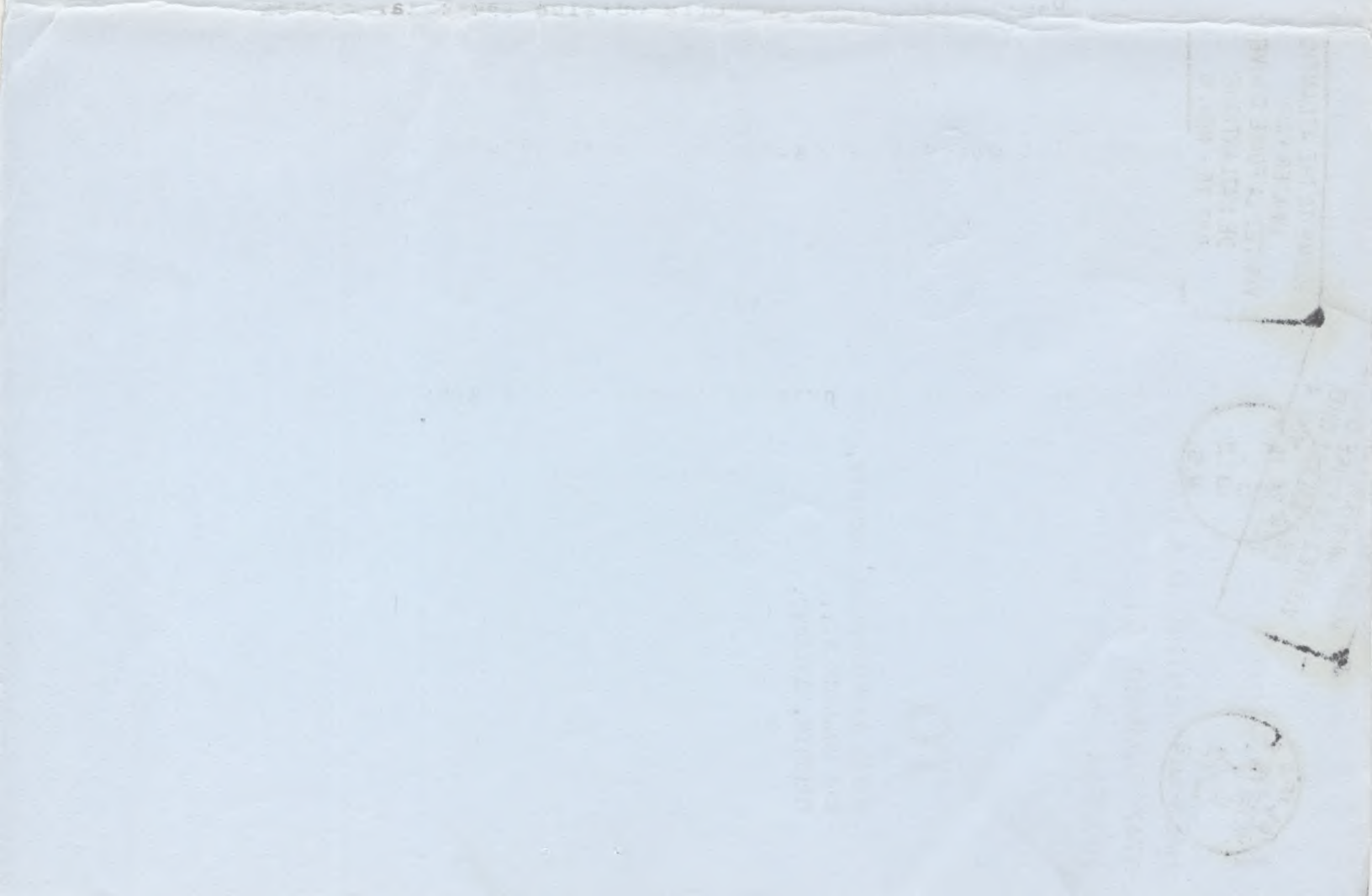
HALIFAX, N.S.

TO

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY,
252 COLLEGE ST.,
TORONTO, ONTARIO.



WYOMING
CHAMBER



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RECEIVED
JUL 10 1910

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: October 20, 1972

Place: The Theatre
Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Time: 8:00 p.m. sharp

Speakers: Walter Zukauskas and Peter Wangerski.

Panel discussion on "Life Outside the Solar System"

All members and guests are most welcome

The Nova Notes are printed thanks to the goodwill of

The Nova Scotia Museum

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE

We mourn the passing of a dear colleague and friend, Dr Robert I Aikens. He had not been to the society in recent years but was up to date on all happenings. Father Burke-Gaffney has expressed our feelings elsewhere in this issue.

Since our Centre has shelved the idea of a major telescope for the present, your executive have considered other proposals. We thought that a cheap telescope would add little to the society. On the other hand a lens and mirror grinding machine could be used by several in turn to make optics up to eight inches in diameter. This will be proposed at the October meeting for your approval.

The observing night was a modest success and is reported in detail elsewhere.

A newcomer to Halifax has just made himself known and we hope will stimulate all to get the planitarium going again. Mr. Ron. Wadsworth was operator and commentator for the Winnipeg Planitarium and we will be fortunate if we can get our lovely little machine out of "moth balls" for the cultural benefit of Nova Scotia. Lets all put our heads together to accomplish this.

The CONTEST has had only one submission so far--- Lets have other contributions. See last month's NOVA NOTES

Remember to bring \$5.00 or \$10.00 for your membership to the October meeting. If every regular attender joins then we will be cble to do many exciting things. Sit if you must but JOIN !

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Murray Cunningham

Robert L.Aikens
B.Sc.,M.D.,C.M., F.R.C.P.Can,

Dr Aikens was secretary of the Halifax Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada from 1960 to 1964. During much of this time he was also acting as treasurer of the Centre. Before, during and after holding office, Dr.Aikens' presence at meetings added warmth and friendliness. It was with regret that his resignation as secretary was received, but his reason for resigning was valid. His medical practice had so grown that to attend meetings of the Centre was becoming increasingly difficult. He refused the office of president as well as any other office which he deemed he could not conscientiously fill.

Dr Aikens participated in group observations of meteor showers and lunar eclipses, and in demonstrations in the grinding of lenses and the making of telescopes. In early 1964, five years before man landed on the moon, Dr.Aikens gave a timely and much appreciated lecture to the Centre on "Some Medical Problems of Space Travel"

It was with great sorrow that we learned of the death of Dr.Aikens on September 20th. To his widow, sons and daughter we tender our sincere sympathy.

M.W.Burke-Gaffney

NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting features two speakers, Mr Walter Zukauskas and Dr. Peter Wangersky. The subject we hope to look at during this meeting is the question of life beyond the Earth. In some respects this appears to me to be a continuation of the previous meeting (The Evolution of Man's View of his place in the Universe.). We have gradually evolved less egocentric views of the Universe untill now we live on an ordinary planet in orbit around an ordinary star at the edge of an ordinary galaxy etc., we have only one possibility left to ourselves, maybe we are unique. I doubt that myself, and perhaps our speakers can shed some light on this matter.

Walter Zukauskas has had a long standing interest in the Physical problems involved, and so will present a short discussion of these problems, existence and uniqueness of planetary systems etc. Dr Wangersky has had a similar interest in the biological aspects of the problem, and will present a short talk on the origin of life and so try and find out whether or not life will necessarily evolve if physical conditions are suitable. Each will speak for about half an hour, and we will then try and turn the meeting into a panel discussion. Half an hour is a very short time for such wide ranging topics, and so if we are to extract the maximum amount of information from our guests, then we will need some lively and imaginative questions. So all are welcome, but be prepared to join in the meeting actively, and come prepared to ask questions and enter into discussion.

H. J. FREELAND

The October Observation Night

for the October Nova Notes

An observation night of the Halifax Centre was held on October 6th on the roof of the Oceanographic Section of Dalhousie University's Life Sciences Complex. Thanks are due to Howard Freeland who arranged for our use of this location, which, it was generally agreed, is one of the best for our purpose within the city limits.

By nine o'clock proceedings were well underway as the eight of us got down to business with the four telescopes that had been brought. Jupiter initially was the centre of attention, as we all watched an eclipse of a small area of the giant planet by one of its moons. During the evening many objects were observed, the highlights being observations of M.57, the Ring Nebula in Lyra, M.31, the Great Galaxy in Andromeda and M.13, the Globular Cluster in Hercules. In addition, the telescopes were pointed at the Pleiades and the Double Cluster in Perseus for the benefit of us novices. At ten o'clock, we retreated indoors to get warm, and awaited the rising of Saturn. Unfortunately the reasonably good (for Halifax) atmospheric conditions deteriorated after this time, so that by the time Saturn was above the horizon, the combined effect of the fog and the container pier lights made observations impossible.

In spite of this disappointment, I think each one of us spent an enjoyable and instructive evening. As always, we invite and encourage each one of you who could not come this time to make the effort to join us on our next observation night.

MINOR PLANETS 1972

The following is a list of the positions of some of the brighter asteroids. All are brighter than 11th magnitude, and should pose little difficulty in following them. It is suggested that you plot their positions on a chart (Norton's Star Atlas is a good one), then start from a bright star and find your way through star fields until you find the asteroid. Use a low power telescope, (less than 40x if possible), or large binoculars. Try drawing the star field when you think you have found the asteroid and then try again a few days later to see if the thing has moved. (It should move noticeably in less than a week.)

DATE	R.A.	DEC.	MAG.
<u>HEBE</u> (6)			
Sep 10	20h 27.3m	-21 20'	8.7m
<u>EUNOMIA</u> (15)			
Sep 10	00h 59.2	21 39'	8.5
20	23h 59.2	21 47'	
30	23 49.9	21 25'	
Oct 10	23 41.5	20 38'	
20	23 35.2	19 34'	
30	23 31.8	18 25'	
<u>JULIA</u> (89)			
Sep 10	20 32.9	-11 56'	10.2
<u>EUPHROSYNE</u> (31)			
Sep 30	03h 22.9m	23 54'	10.9
Oct 10	03h 17.4	25 30'	
20	03h 08.8	27 00'	
30	02h 57.6	28 21'	
Nov 9	02h 44.6	29 26'	
19	02h 31.4	30 14'	
29	02h 19.6	30 47'	
Dec 9	02h 10.3	31 10'	
<u>ARIADNE</u> (43)			
Sep 10	22h 28.2m	-2 16'	10.6
20	22h 20.7	2 -3 12'	
30	22h 16.0	-4 00'	
Oct 10	22h 14.5	-4 34'	
<u>VESTA</u> (4)			
Oct 30	04h 59.1m	15 27'	7.4
Nov 9	04h 52.5	15 18'	
19	04h 43.4	15 10'	
29	04h 32.9	15 06'	
Dec 9	04h 22.0	15 07'	
19	04h 12.2	15 14'	

Minor planets - Vesta continued

<u>DATE</u>	<u>R.A.</u>	<u>DEC.</u>	<u>MAG.</u>
Dec 29	04h 04.4	15 29'	
Dec 29	04 04.4	15 29'	7.4
Jan 08	03h 59.4m	15 52'	
<u>MASSALIA (20)</u>			
Oct 20	04h 12.5m	20 42'	mag ?
30	04h 07.8m	20 24'	
Nov 9	04h 00.1m	19 58'	
19	03h 50.4m	19 24'	
29	03h 40.2m	18 48'	
Dec 9	03h 31.1m	18 14'	
19	03h 24.4m	17 49'	
29	03h 21.2m	17 36'	
<u>NYSA (44)</u>			
Nov 9	06h 08.8m	18 17'	9.8m
19	06h 06.7	18 11'	
29	06h 01.0	18 10'	
Dec 9	05h 52.4	18 14'	
19	05h 42.2	18 25'	
29	05h 31.9	18 41'	
Jan 8	05h 23.3	19 02'	
18	05 17.7m	19 28'	
<u>DEMBOWSKA (349)</u>			
Oct 30	04h 59.8m	28 52'	Mag ?
Nov 9	04h 53.8m	29 23'	
19	04h 45.4m	29 45'	
29	04h 35.4m	29 56'	
Dec 9	04h 25.1m	29 57'	
19	04h 15.0m	29 48'	
29	04h 08.3m	29 34'	
Jan 8	04h 03.6m	29 19'	

The predictions for the minor planets were made by the Minor Planet Centre.

Note for beginners:-

R.A. is the 'Right Ascension' in hours and minutes, the horizontal co-ordinate on the celestial sphere; DEC is the 'Declination', or the vertical co-ordinate. These are marked on any map of the sky just like latitude and longitude on an Earth map. MAG is the 'magnitude' of the object, nothing to do with size, but a measure of the brightness of the object. Vesta, at mag 7.4, should be just visible to the naked eye on a fairly good night.

M EMBERSHIP DUES.

Membership dues are supposed to be paid in ~~fx~~ fairly soon so here is some information so that you know what is going on.

There are three types of membership

- (i) Regular members. Cost \$10. per annum
- (ii) Student members. Cost \$5. per annum
- (iii) Life members. Cost \$ (I'll have to look that up.)
(I think it is \$50.)

The Halifax centre keeps 40% of all membership dues, the rest goes to the National Centre in Toronto.

Benefits of membership:-

- (i) Members handbook (1973 version for memberships paid now.)
- (ii) Journal of the R.A.S.C. published monthly received by members starting in January.
- (iii) Nova Notes, the newsletter of the local centre.
- (iv) A membership card which gives the ~~xxx~~ owner the right to attend meetings at any local centre in Canada.
- (v) Use of Halifax Centre 'library' which includes a few books and two small telescopes.
- (vi) You can come to our regular meetings in the N.S. MUSEUM.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (Return completed form to H. J. FREELAND at society meeting)

NAME

STUDENT ?

(If applying for student membership please give below name and address of institution attending at present.)

ADDRESS

TEL #

AMOUNT DUE

AMOUNT PAID

