

FROM

HALIFAX CENTRE R.A.S.C.
1747 SUMMER ST.
HALIFAX, N.S.



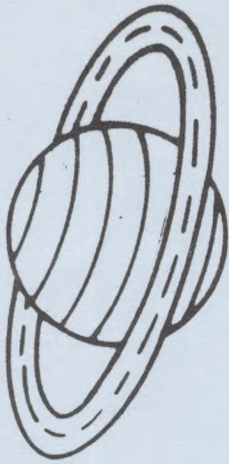
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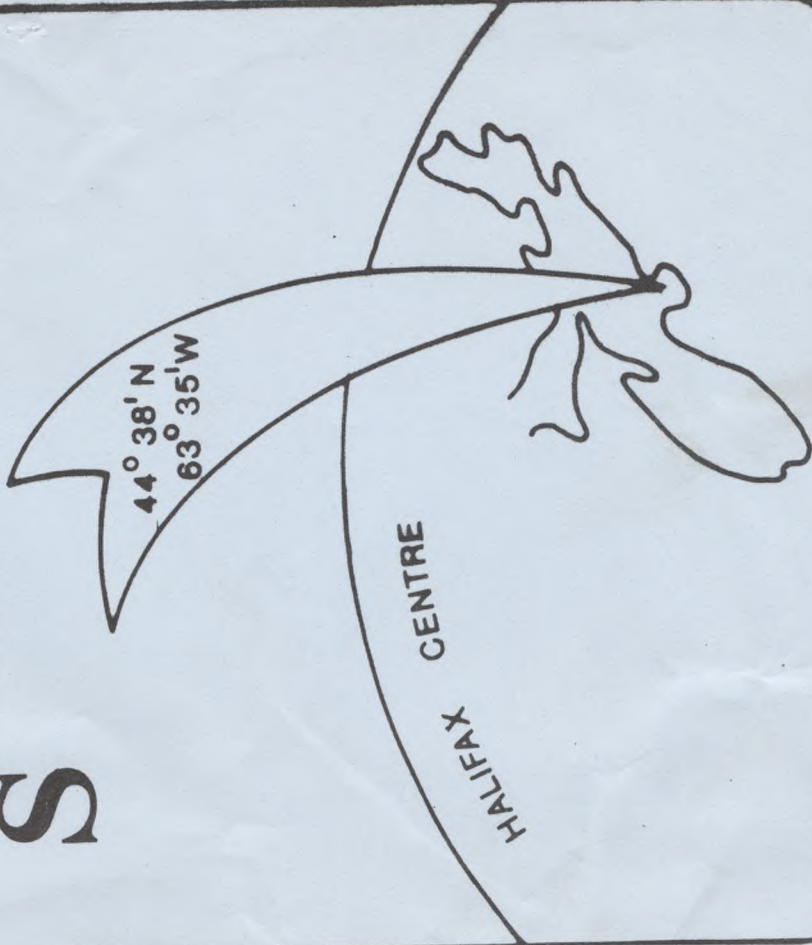
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY,
252 COLLEGE ST.,
TORONTO, ONTARIO.

TO

NOVA NOTES



THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
252 COLLEGE ST. - TORONTO, ONTARIO
M5T 1RZ



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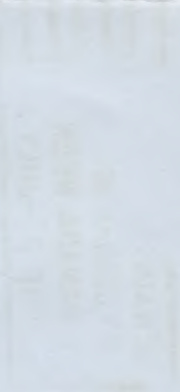
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May 25, 1914
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WORLD'S BEST

WORLD'S BEST



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WORLD'S BEST

NOTICE of MEETING



HALIFAX CENTRE

R.A.S.C.

Date: June 21st, 1974

Place: The Theatre
Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer St.
Halifax, N.S.

Time: 8:00 PM Sharp!

Topic: "Dating the Early Solar System"

Speaker: Dr. P.H.Reynolds
Department of Physics
Dalhousie University
Halifax, N.S.

Refreshments will be served and all members
and guests are most welcome!

Executive Meeting....7:15 PM, June 21st, 1974

Nova Notes are printed, thanks to the goodwill
of the Nova Scotia Museum.

Editor's Page

So you're not getting Nova Notes on time eh?

Well, what can WE do about it? (Yes, that is a "WE" back there!)

Maybe you should throw the Editor out?! Perhaps you could throw your articles in, to me on time! One comment I heard at the May meeting, in reference to the April meeting's announcement, was, and I quote her, "Yea, I'll probably get that next month." I wonder why she didn't offer for the Editor's job in October??

Last month I had TWO contributors... Dr. Cunningham and myself!!! Oh yea... Nebulous too. This month we're one better... Mr. Brooks. Is the Halifax Centre membered by stiffs?! If Nova Notes are to continue through the summer, and it's your choice, I had better receive some articles, but soon. And just because you haven't a string of distinguishing letters after your name, is no reason to stand aloof, feeling inferior! Let's get those articles going. As for that lady, didn't you hear, madame, we had a postal strike!

Dipping down into the suggestion box... what's this?!... alas! a suggestion!

This kind soul suggests that the Halifax Centre might put on a massive observing session for the residences of Halifax-Dartmouth. All members would attend, bringing our telescopes. Members without telescopes would brief the public, in very small groups, on basic Astronomy. It could all be held at somewhere on the peninsula of Halifax. Well, what do you think?

Peter Edwards
The Editor

Minutes of the May 17th Meeting

Halifax Centre R.A.S.C.

Hi! It's your favorite Editor, P.E., sitting in for a beat W.Z. Dr. Cunningham kicked the meeting off by discussing some points on the Annual Meeting of the R.A.S.C. to be held here in 1975. Ideas were heard from the floor concerning sight-seeing and speakers.

Dr. Cunningham then introduced the speaker for the night, Dr. Roy Bishop of Acadia University. His topic was "Observations on Some Unearthly Observations".

Dr. Bishop started by showing the members an outline...

I Information to the Earth

II Man the Observer

- i) Intensity limit
- ii) Acuity "
- iii) Social "
- iv) Time "

III Man's Observations

...but to appreciate his talk, you would have to have been there.

Aided by an overhead projector, various books, a blackboard and his own keen interest, Dr. Bishop continually brought out hidden, yet startling points, which all contributed to one of our best lectures this year!

Did you know that as early as 1611, it was known that the eye was much like the ,yet to be invented, camera? And that it was Kepler, of all people, who revield it!

Dr. Bishop also explained why clouds are white, the sky is blue and why lipstick appears BLACK in moon light!

Dr. Bishop went into some detail to explain the limits on "Man the Observer". To summarize, he drew up five points necessary for effective observation.

- 1) Interest
- 2) Night time
- 3) Clear
- 4) Awake
- 5) ALONE

At the conclusion of his talk, Dr. Bishop pointed out how the distance we can see out into space is proportional to the diameter of the objective being used. Therefore, with the naked eye, we can see about 2×10^6 L.Y.; binoculars, 10×10^6 ; small telescopes, 50×10^6 ; and the 200" Hale telescope can see 2000×10^6 light years! If you consider the volume per cost, it works out to be about 10¢ per 10^{20} cubic light years...a bargain, in any man's language!!

Following Dr. Bishop's talk, there was a short question period, after which, refreshments were served. Informal discussion continued until the meeting broke up around 10:30 P.M.

P.E.

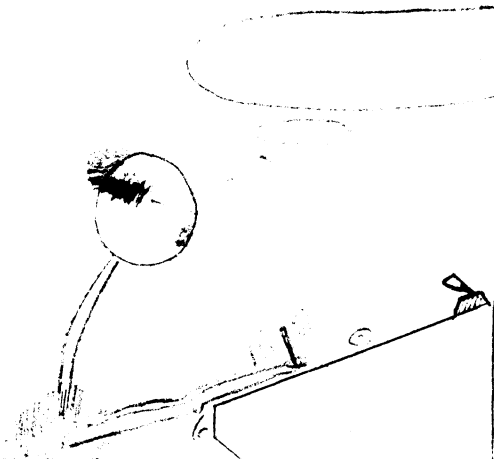
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Nova Note's Astronuts (Part I)

by Nebulous

"THE ~~INERT~~ ETERNAL SPIRAL"
THE ELEMENTS GO 'ROUND THE NUC"

I've got to have this poem ready by tomorrow, for the opening of the Royal Observatory!



Con't,

HOW MANY FLYING SAUCERS CAN FIT IN A THIMBLE ?

In the middle ages there was a learned controversy on how many angels could dance on the head of a pin. This argument I contend is cogent today. I do not wish to criticize angels or the Saints that gained solace from them. What I do wish to point out is the remarkable similarity of angels and flying saucers. Angels have three pairs of limbs (like the insects, remember?) and their wings are quite aerodynamically unsuitable. Mind you the bumble bee should not be able to fly either and it does. The source of locomotion for flying saucers is usually ignored. There is no jet, rocket or even a vapour trail. Conjecture about anti-gravity devices puts them right into the category of angels. Their flight patterns as described ~~are~~ usually quite contrary to Newtonian physics and the velocities required would put them quite beyond Relativistic physics. Angels were and are real to many religious people. This reality puts them outside the realm of physics. Art, philosophy music etc. yes but not to be confused with physical reality. Now flying saucers similarly with the little green men (what manner of copper compounds is in their skin?) could be dealt with in the same manner. Does their communication use something other than the electromagnetic spectrum? Angels have some pazaz or even shall we say sex. Flying saucers seem so sterile. Why are they always saucers? I do a little flying myself and one winter day I flew low over the ice of Grand Lake only to rise abruptly at the end of runway 15. The tower was alarmed and upset. I hope they thought for an instant I was a flying tea-pot. I hope that astronomers retain some sense of humour at this whole business as we have access to the largest visual instruments and quite enormous radio receivers. Funny we haven't heard from them.

My view is that exactly 453 flying saucers of the international size could fit into a thimble.(international size etc.)

murray cunningham

Featured Constellation for June

The intention of this article, over the last year, has been to promote some "active" observation on the part of the armchair astronomers in our Centre. I hope you have, at least, searched out one of the twelve constellations, even if you do know it, if it were up-side-down and in-side-out!

This month is dedicated to those of you with a telescope you can get your teeth into! This month I am featuring Coma Berenices. Heck! just to see this constellation you need a pair of binoculars!! Right now, grab last month's Nova Notes...turn to the last page...right there on the back! See Virgo?... Notice the "Y" configuration and the "Realm of Galaxies". Just west of Arcturus and north of this "Y" you find Coma Berenices and the Coma Galaxy Cluster.

Of course, this area is almost entirely galaxies, but Charles Messier was able to locate a globular cluster as was Dreyer. They are 6th Mag. M 53 and 11.0th Mag. NGC5053. Take note of 9.0 Mag. M 64. This is the famed "Blackeye Galaxy". The "black eye" is very difficult in my 6", but the galaxy is easier than the Ring Nebula in Lyra!

While your in the Coma Cluster, ramble down through the other 5 Messier Objects, but this is definately "star chart territory", and quite a good star chart at that!! You'll find binoculars and a moonless, crystal clear night, invaluable companions!

Good luck, and good hunting!

P.E.

COMA BERENICES

Astronomy for the Hordes - R. C. Brooks

A member of the Halifax Centre, John Mac Neil, has very recently received a \$2300 grant from the Professional Development Fund of the N. S. Teachers Union to support and further develop an Astronomy program at Tantallon Junior High. This pilot project is to determine the feasibility of commencing similiar programs throughout N. S. schools and to test various methods.

The Grade 7-9 classes will be equipped with either ten 2.5" refracting or 3" reflecting telescopes, text books, class reference material such as Palomar slide sets, Norton star atlases, a large classroom reference book, etc. Besides mastering astronomical facts a main aim of the program will be to make the students familiar with and able to find by themselves various types of objects. The course will actually be an expansion of the Astronomy unit that John has taught as part of science courses for several years. Last fall John's observing sessions attracted about 60 people each week including many (about half) very interested parents.

If you would like further details or have materials, equipment or ideas to make his program a success, I'm sure John would like to hear from you. His phone number and address are: 463-6090, 8 Glen Manor Drive, Unit 8, Dartmouth.

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Nova Note's Astronuts (Part II)

by Nebulous

"The Eternal Spiral"

The electrons go 'round the nuclei,
And the atoms, around the matter.
The matter revolves about the Sun
All in sweet accord, wee! what fun...
The Sun circles through that milky batter,
And our galaxy spirals across the sky!
But all this eternal spiral can bring you down,
If you chance to get up, to look around!!

