

Stardust

Monthly Newsletter,
The Edmonton Centre,
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

The Christmas season can have a very special meaning to those of us who have been blessed with the gift of appreciating the beauty of the night sky.

We look up into the starry pageant unfolding before our eyes, and cannot fail to be inspired by the immensity of what we see. This has happened to men long before our time; it happened to the Wise Men nearly two thousand years ago when they followed a 'star' to the Manger where Christ was born.

With the music of Christmas in our hearts, and with our eyes filled with the beauty of the Universe as only the astronomer can see it, the meaning and warmth of this season is, indeed, very special.

I sincerely hope that all members and friends of the Edmonton Centre may share this experience during the 1961 Christmas season, and in many others to follow.

Merry Christmas!

-- Ian McLennan,
President.

The December meeting of the Edmonton Centre, R.A.S.C. promises to be most interesting, as Dr. G.L. Cumming, Assistant Professor of Physics at the University of Alberta has kindly consented to be our guest speaker for the evening. His topic will be "The Age of the Solar System."

Among other items to be discussed during the meeting will be the General Assembly of the R.A.S.C. to be held in Edmonton from May 18-21st; and observations made by the Observers' Group since the last meeting: These include the Leonid and Geminid Meteor Showers, and the occultation of Aldeberan, eloquently described elsewhere in this issue.

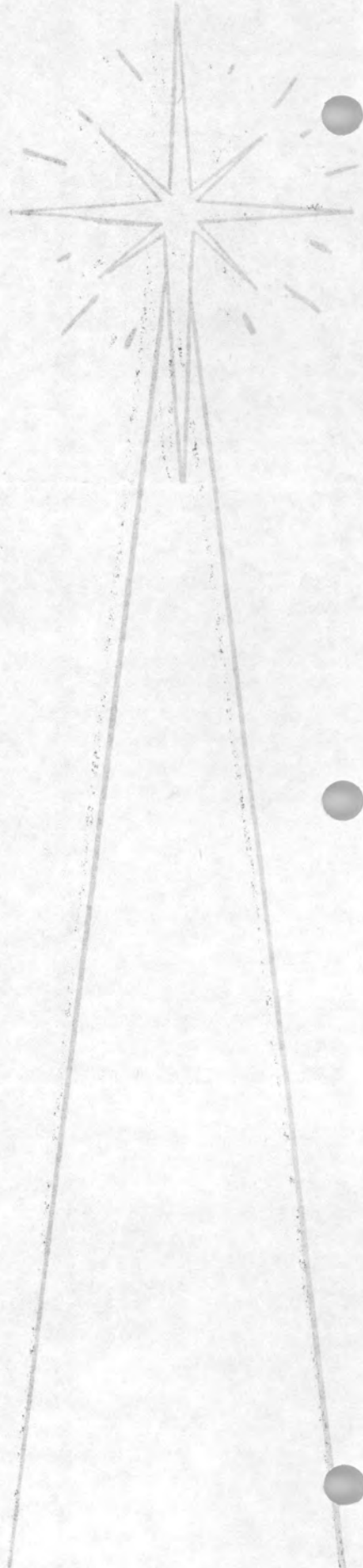
In addition to the regular Handbook Talk by Professor E.S. Keeping, Honorary President of the Edmonton Centre, S.F. Page will present this month's "Featurette."

* Meeting Date and time: Thursday, Dec. 14th, 8:15 pm.

* Meeting place: The Queen Elizabeth Planetarium.

We hope that you will be able to attend this last meeting of 1961.

Starburst



Monthly Newsletter
The Edmonton Centre

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

The Christmas season can have a very special meaning to those of us who have been blessed with the gift of appreciating the beauty of the night sky. We look up into the starry, peaceful unfolding before our eyes and cannot fail to be inspired by the immensity of what we see. This has happened to me many times; it happened to the Wise Men nearly two thousand years ago when they followed a 'star' to the manger where Christ was born. With the music of Christmas in our hearts, and with our eyes filled with the beauty of the Universe as only the astronomer can see it, the meaning and warmth of this season is, indeed, very special.

I sincerely hope that all members and friends of the Edmonton Centre will share this experience during the 1991 Christmas season, and in many others to follow.

Merry Christmas!
-- Ian Molnar,
President.

The December meeting of the Edmonton Centre, R.A.S.C. program to be most interesting, as Dr. G.L. Gendage, Assistant Professor of Physics at the University of Alberta has kindly consented to be our guest speaker for the evening. His topic will be "The Eye of the Solar System".

Among other items to be discussed during the meeting will be the General Assembly of the R.A.S.C. to be held in Edmonton from May 18-21st, and observations made by the Cassini Group since the last meeting. These include the Leonid and Gemind Meteor showers, and the occultation of Aldebaran, eloquently described elsewhere in this issue.

In addition to the regular Handbook Talk by Professor S.S. Keppel, Honorary President of the Edmonton Centre, S.R. Page will present this month's "Feature".

* Meeting Date and time: Thursday, Dec. 13th, 8:15 pm.
* Meeting place: The Queen Elizabeth Planetarium.

We hope that you will be able to attend this last meeting of 1991.

Calgary Dinner Meeting:

The Annual Dinner Meeting of the Calgary Centre, R.A.S.C. is being held this week, and members of the Edmonton Centre have been invited to attend.

The Dinner will be held in the Engineering Building of the University of Alberta in Calgary, at 6:15 pm, Wednesday, December 13th.

A number of members from the Edmonton Centre have already expressed an interest in attending this meeting. Following the Calgary meeting, the group will return late in the evening. If anyone is interested in attending, please phone the Planetarium, and arrange for transportation and other details. Phone GL5-0119.

"In Memorium to the Frozen Astronomer."

by Franklin Loehde

The cold winds beneath a cloud-smattered heavens failed to dampen the enthusiasm of our Observers' Group on November 22nd, when the moon was scheduled to cover ("occult"- - if you wish to be scientific) the bright star, Aldebaran.

The Planetarium grounds served as the meeting place for nine cold, but dedicated amateur astronomers. The freezing of eyelashes to the telescope was soon forgotten when the moon broke from the clouds for the first time. This was a sight they would not soon forget - the image was frozen on the retinas of their eyes. Nervous hands clutched stop-watches for the timing of this glorious event. Beads of perspiration soon froze, permanently attaching the watches to their hands. We surmised this when seven observers failed to press the stop-watches on time. Four telescopes stood like monuments to the Ice Age.... they were frozen, too.

Despite the hardships, our fearless nine dutifully recorded the event for posterity. While some have not yet thawed out from this escapade, they are all anxious to partake in future astronomical events.

Observers were: Earl Milton, Bill Cable, Rickey Salmon, Gerd Goselwitz, Ian and Adrienne McLennan, Franklin Loehde, and Michael Tait.

Geminids: If the previous article has discouraged any potential observers... they're smart, let's face it! However, those who keep coming back for more punishment should have an ideal opportunity on Tuesday evening, December 12th. Anyone interested in observing the Geminid Meteor Shower is welcome to join members of the Observers' Group, who will gather at the planetarium, following the evening presentation of "Star of Christmas." The Observing meeting will get underway at 8:30pm. BRING WARM CLOTHES!

NOTICE: There will also be an observing meeting this coming Saturday afternoon, at 2pm, in the Planetarium. Bill Cable will chair this meeting. (Sat., Dec. 16th.)

AURORA REPORT:



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Galaxy Dinner Meeting

The Annual Dinner Meeting of the Calgary Centre, R.A.S.C. is being held this week, and members of the Edmonton Centre have been invited to attend. The Dinner will be held in the Engineering Building of the University of Alberta in Calgary, at 6:15 pm, Wednesday, December 13th. A number of members from the Edmonton Centre have already expressed an interest in attending this meeting. Following the Calgary meeting, the group will return late in the evening. If anyone is interested in attending, please phone the Planetarium, and arrange for transportation and other details. Phone 615-0112.

"In Memoriam to the Frozen Astronomer" by Franklin Johnson

The cold winds began to blow as the cloud-mattered heavens failed to dampen the enthusiasm of our Observers' Group on November 2nd, when the moon was scheduled to cover "Rosette" - if you wish to be scientific! The bright star, Aldebaran. The Planetarium grounds served as the meeting place for nine cold, but dedicated amateur astronomers. The freezing of eyelashes to the telescopes was soon forgotten when the moon broke from the clouds for the first time. This was a night they would not soon forget - the image was frozen on the retinas of their eyes. Nervous hands clutched stop-watches for the timing of this glorious event. Beads of perspiration soon froze, permanently attaching the watches to their hands. We surmised this when seven observers failed to raise the stop-watches on time. Four telescopes stood like monuments to the Ice Age... they were frozen, too.

Despite the hardships, our fearless nine dutifully recorded the event for posterity. While some have not yet tumbled out from this escapade, they are all anxious to participate in future astronomical events. Observers were: Earl Milton, Bill Cable, Hickey Salmon, Gord Gosselwitz, Ian and Adrienne McIsaac, Franklin Johnson, and Michael Fair.

In the previous article has discouraged any potential observers... they're smart. Let's face it! However, those who keep coming back for more excitement should have an ideal opportunity on Tuesday evening, December 13th. Anyone interested in observing the Gemini Meteor Shower is welcome to join members of the Observers' Group, who will gather at the planetarium following the evening presentation of "Star of Christmas." The observing meeting will get underway at 8:30pm. BRING WARM CLOTHES!

NOTICE: There will also be an observing meeting this coming Saturday afternoon, at 8pm, in the planetarium. Bill Cable will chair this meeting. (Sat., Dec. 10th.)

AURORA REPORT

