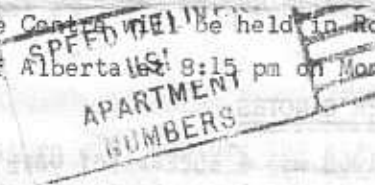


STARDUST

A monthly publication of the

EDMONTON CENTRE, ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

The next General Meeting of the Centre will be held in Room V 107,  
Math.-Physics Building, University of Alberta at 8:15 pm on Monday,  
January 13, 1969.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As we look back in 1968 there are a number of events which we will remember.

Our trip to Meanook in June and the hospitality of Jack Grant had to be the highlight of 1968.

We were sorry to see Bob Allin leave for Vancouver but at last report he is very happy.

Two past faithfuls of our Centre opened their Planetaria in the fall, Dave Rodger at MacMillan in Vancouver and Ian McLennan, Strassenburg in Rochester. Both are doing great and we send them all the best for 1969.

Everyone enjoyed our guest speaker, Dr. Jacobs, at our banquet meeting in October.

To the contest winners David Roles and Bredan Veilleux and all those who entered the contests, we hope that you keep up the good work.

The success of the centre is dependant on its members. On behalf of your Executive I would like to congratulate all of you for making 1968 a great year for the Edmonton Centre and all the best to you in 1969.

Angus Smith,  
President.

OBSERVER'S NOTES:

1968 was a successful year for telescope building as there were several completed. The telescope sessions at the Planetarium are proving very popular when the conditions allow us to take instruments out. The Observers that come out regularly on Fridays despite the weather conditions, have been having interesting sessions discussing mutual problems.

Chris Gainer reports that he now has a supply of Observing Kits for those interested in recording Auroral displays.

During the past month strong winds, below zero temperatures and cloudy evenings made observing impossible. At the time of writing I do not know of a person able to observe the Occultation of the Pleiades. Better luck next time!!

D. Bruner.

SPACE NOTES:

It has finally happened!! Man has studied the Moon from close quarters, Astronauts Borman, Lovell and Anders will remember this

event with pride for a job exceptionally well done.

The flight of Apollo 8 was made with a precision that I believe surprised many people; after six days in deep space to return  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the recovery ship was one of the most dramatic events in the space program to date.

To see the earth from the moon on the I.V. screen and at the same time look out a window and see the moon, made one feel very small. No longer does the moon have a cold and remote enchantment about it but our nearest neighbor in space has become very close to home. It has been very interesting to hear comments of people visiting the Planetarium, that while they have been aware of the moon there is now a new and unexplained feeling when they gaze at it.

PLANETARIUM NOTES:

The present program at the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium is "The Gift of Light". Light is taken for granted and yet man has always made use of it, assisting him in his day to day living. Light is a valued scientific tool as all knowledge of the stars is gained from the light we receive from them.

REMEMBER--Friday evening is 'Telescope Night' whether observing, discussing construction or astronomical subjects at the Planetarium at 7:00 pm.

JANUARY SKY:

During the evening Venus and Saturn will capture the attention of observers. Venus is visible in the day-light hours if you know where to look. The Constellation of Orion holds a wealth of objects to aid you in becoming familiar with the sky. The Constellation has the famous Orion Nebula as well as a wide variety of color in stars. Within the boundaries of this star group are many other nebulous objects to test your observing skills.

A letter has been received from the National Film Board enquiring about the obtaining of photographs from amateur astronomers across the country, with the idea of making a national display. Those of you who may be interested, please contact the secretary for further details.

FOR SALE:

TASCO  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " Reflecting Telescope; 900 mm F/L; 20 & 6 mm eye pieces \$85.00 or best offer.

POLARSCOPE: 60 mm diam., 900 mm F/L; 6, 12.5, 20 mm eye pieces and barlow; \$150.00 or best offer. Both have mounts.

CONTACT: Art Baker at 474-1146.

PHOTOGRAPHING THE NIGHT SKY: Continued from December issue:

Exposure time will vary depending on what and how much you wish to capture on film. The longer the exposure the more stars that will be recorded but the danger of fogging due to the general illumination of the sky becomes greater. Exposures longer than ten or fifteen minutes should not be attempted since there is a danger of paralyzing the eye muscles. Become accustomed to driving with both eyes open as this helps to relieve fatigue. Exposures of this length should be carried out only in a good location, preferably in the country or protected from nearby lights. This brings out another point to which some thought should be given, portability, a feature that is lost if your instrument is on a permanent mounting. Use a tripod, also if you are able, make it short enough to sit at the eye piece while driving, then you are free to go where you please.

The choice of film is up to you, just remember, if you choose a fast film there is heavy grain. Fine grain film will require longer exposures but will result in a sharper print. Color is also worthwhile but is costly, experiment with black and white. If you are able to process your own film you can control the end result, if the film is sent out for finishing make a note and the processing person may be able to help. If you start a roll for stellar work try to use it only for that if possible as other pictures and these do not mix when being developed, this applies if you do your own finishing. Photography through the telescope proper is best done on the sun and moon since the exposure time is short and driving is not required.

Do not look for success on the first try, don't let failures dishearten you, with each error a little more knowledge will be gained and soon you will be taking interesting pictures of which you will be proud to show others.

NOTE!!! Hopefully January's film presentation will be "Makers of Science".