

S T A R D U S T

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, March 10, 1969.

Guest Speaker: Professor E.S. Keeping and the topic will
be " Quasars, Pulsars and Radio Galaxies".



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Those of you who have not been out to the Planetarium on Friday evenings the past month have missed out on some excellent talks by David Roles on photography. David showed his pictures, discussed his methods and spoke a great deal about the films he used. Keep up the great work Dave, and I hope that it has spurred an interest in others.

Our Friday night talks at the Planetarium have been going over very well but we are finding it difficult to come up with a different topic every Friday. At the meeting on the 10th of March we will have more to say about the Friday nights and I hope that those who have topics you would like discussed, will bring them up at the meeting.

It is hoped that some of you have gotten started on the contest, the rules of which are in this Stardust. We have had some clear nights lately so don't put it off too long.

I hope most members have taken in the Radio Telescope display at the Planetarium. It is a dandy by National Research Council and well worth your time spent in studying it.

OBSERVERS GROUP

Observing is still not the best in the world but some Observers have been active. The Friday night meetings have been going well as our President has mentioned.

February 7th, Chris Gainer gave a brief report on Aurora observations. There are about twelve observers in the Edmonton area. Mr. Roles gave a talk on Astro-Photography, showed pictures, slides and a movie, all we done by himself.

February 14th, David gave a very interesting talk and demonstration on processing and developing of films, particularly in relation to Astro-Photography. As these meetings are very informal many questions were asked and many good hints were obtained.

As the weather was fairly clear Mr. Haeckel set up his 6-inch telescope and the visiting public took a look at Venus and Saturn.

February 20th, David brought out his equipment to demonstrate how it was assembled and used for Astro-Photography.

PRESIDENT'S CONTEST

The time has arrived for the members of the Observer's group and others to give thought to this annual contest. There are a few objects well within the range of the most modest equipment. This year those who enter must complete the following list and their efforts will then be judged.

1. A diagram of Saturn not less than 2 inches in diameter.
2. A diagram of Jupiter not less than 2 inches in diameter.

3. A description and drawing of 7 Messier objects.

4. Observe and time 3 Lunar Occultations. Details of Occultations are in your handbook.

You must give complete details of your observations, the time, date, sky conditions and the instrument used.

SPACE NOTES

Monday, February 24, 1969 saw the launching of Mariner VI. This probe has started on its journey to Mars. On March 24, Mariner VII will be launched to Mars. The two will fly past with a separation of five days. The flypast will occur on July 30th and August 4th. Both will photograph Mars at about 2 000 miles distance and will show features down to 300 yards in diameter. One will fly by the equator and the other over the pole.

Both will have expedients on board to study the Martian atmosphere and temperature variations to help Scientists determine what possible forms of life could exist there.

At the time of writing the countdown for Apollo IX has started. This 13-day Earth orbital mission will make extensive use of the Lunar module and could lead to the first manned Lunar landing during Apollo X.

I hope we are not stealing from the talk to be given by Professor Keeping, but a news item was forwarded to us by Mr. Sid Lancaster of CFRN regarding Pulsars. The first photograph of a Pulsar was taken February 5, 1969 at Mount Hamilton, using the 120-inch reflector. The particular star photograph was near the centre of the Crab Nebula. Some Physicists have theorized that a Pulsar weighing as much as the Sun would only be six miles in diameter.

MARCH SKY

The March sky is going to be extremely interesting in view of the range of Planets that can be observed. Venus will be at its greatest brilliance and also (we hope) spring will arrive.

The Constellation of Leo is becoming prominent in the East. This star group is one of the few that does bear a resemblance to the object for which it is named. The most prominent star is Regulus and it lies at a distance of 84 light years. Algeiba is a binary star and a small telescope will show the companion. The stars revolve about each other with a period of 407 years.

PLANETARIUM NOTES

The Queen Elizabeth Planetarium is pleased to announce that Mr. Dave

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Bruner has joined the staff as Technician. Dave who is well known to you has already made his presence felt at the Planetarium with the development of a clear, blue sky when you enter the Star Theatre.

The current presentation at the Planetarium is the "Signs of the Zodiac". The program deals with a few of the zodiacal constellations, their mythology, and the motion of the Sun through the star groups.

FOR SALE

Edmund 6" Mirror Kit.

This has not been used and includes a rubber pitch lap mat. Sale price \$20.00. Call Dave at 455-5658.

FOR SALE

Iasco 4 1/2" reflector, equatorial mount; 900 mm focal length, with accessories and books, \$90.00. Phone Larry 455-5658.
4:00 pm.