

**STARDUST**

A monthly publication of

EDMONTON CENTRE, ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

**MEETING:** Monday, April 14, 1969

8:15 pm

Room V 107  
Math-Physics Building  
University of Alberta

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Fry,  
University of Alberta, Calgary

**TOPIC:** Yardsticks to Measure the Universe

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Plans are going along very well for our STARNIGHT on April 25/26 and by the number of members helping it should turn out very well.

Ralph and myself will represent our Centre at the General Assembly in Toronto and if you have any problems be sure to let us know. Those of you who can make it are urged to do so as it sounds like it will be a great Assembly.

Mr. Haeckel and myself will accompany Dr. Cumming to Calgary where he will be the Guest Speaker on the 8th and it will give us an opportunity to see the Calgary Centre in action.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Dr. Fry from Calgary will be our Guest Speaker at the April meeting. He will speak on Yardsticks to Measure the Universe and how accurate they are. Mr. John Howell, who is no stranger in Edmonton and is the President of the Calgary Centre will accompany Dr. Fry.

STARNIGHT:

Plans for Starnight include modified shows in the Planetarium Theatre, Space and Astronomy films in the Community Hall, Radio Telescope display, Satellite Tracking display by Canadian Forces at Cold Lake with two members of the Armed Forces from Cold Lake to describe the display, and a Tracking Antenna display by Northern Electric.

Telescope making, Photography with Telescope, Aurora, Galaxies and Clusters, Occultations, Planets, Apollo and other displays manned by members of our Centre.

Telescopes will be outside for viewing if weather permits.

OBSERVER NOTES: Dave Bruner

The Friday night meeting of the observers continue to be active and well attended. Several good talks and presentations have been enjoyed by the members. One particularly good one was a talk and photograph presentation by Jim Clevette on "Man in Space". It consisted of a complete run down on space shots up to Apollo 9. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The last two meetings have been primarily used for organizing "Starnight" and that effort seems to be coming along well and should prove to be the big event of the year. All members can help by talking to their family and friends and by selling tickets. The more people who hear or

read about it the better the public response and this will put dollars in our Society Treasury. Keep up the good work and let us all work toward making Starnight a success that people will talk about with high praise.

Contact Mr. Haeckel for mirror grinding or getting a mirror silvered.

The next meeting is the deadline for Photography enteries to be sent east. Make 8 X 10 prints, attach information on separate paper and this is open to all Astro-Photography.

AURORA REPORT: Chris Gainer

After a lull in Auroras, a few appeared in February and in March, however, nothing spectacular. With spring and a cloud decrease, hopefully, more Auroras will appear. Keep up the good work, Observers.

PLANETARIUM NOTES:

The Queen Elizabeth Planetarium is currently presenting "The Changing Poles" dealing with precession. During the course of 26,000 years there are various stars occupying the Pole position. We will find that the seasons change, what are now our summer months will become the winter months. Other changes also take place in the stars visible at our latitude.

SPACE NOTES:

With the flight of Apollo IX now history we are all awaiting Apollo X scheduled for launch May 10, 1969. This is to be another Lunar Orbital mission where two astronauts will descend to within 50,000 feet of the Lunar surface, thus paving the way for Apollo XI later this year.

Mariner 6 & 7 are both well on the way to Mars and due to fly past July 30 and August 4. It is also interesting to note that at the McDonald University Observatory of Texas the astronomers have found the first conclusive proof of water vapor in the Martian atmosphere. While the amount is very slight as indicated in the spectra this will add a greater weight and meaning to the Mariner flypasts.

FOR SALE:

8-inch reflector and mount with 7 X 50 finder. \$125.00 or best offer. Phone Mike 599-7391 evenings or 469-1870 days. May be seen at 14 Grandora Crescent, St. Albert.

Tasca 4.5 Reflector, equatorial mount, accessories and books. \$90.00 or best offer. Phone Larry Gagnon 434-4050.