

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ASTRONOMY CLUB and the
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA, Kingston Centre
NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 1, 1977
Room 222 Ellis Hall
Queen's

Hopefully, some members will
have presentations ready to
give for the meeting.

For those who weren't at the last meeting, the T-shirts are in!!!
They cost \$3.50, and lots of people think that they are worth it.

As voted on last meeting by members of the R.A.S.C., Paul
Brown will present the following to a meeting of the National
Council of the R.A.S.C. on January 29, 1977:

"On January 18, 1977, the Kingston Centre, of the R.A.S.C. passed
the following motion

—That a committee be set up to formulate, by March 15, 1977,
a detailed proposal to build or acquire a telescope and observing
site of suitable quality for the members of this club to work
on worthwhile projects and that the proposal be submitted
to the National Council of the R.A.S.C. with the suggestion that
the club be given financial aid."

This was partly done for the purpose of getting our feet in on
the ground floor early, in case some of the money from the sale
of the old National Centre Office is to be divided up among
deserving Centres. The committee has already been formed,
but I am sure they would welcome suggestions from anyone who has
them. If we can get more enthusiasm generated, this club may
even growwwww!!!!!!!

The Sky For February

wed.	2	05	Saturn at opposition
Thur.	3	22 56	Full Moon
		23	Saturn 6°N. of Moon
Fri.	4		Mercury at descending node
Thurs.	10	05	Uranus 0.9° S. of Moon, Occ'n*
		07	Pallas at opposition
		23 07	Last Quarter Moon
		.23	Moon at perigee (370,250 km)
Fri.	11	14	Ceres stationary
Sat.	12	14	Mercury 0.1° S. of Moon
		15	Neptune 2° S. of Moon
Mon.	14		Mercury at aphelion
		17	Uranus stationary

*Visible in parts of North America--even where we are!! Check your
Handbook, if you don't believe me.

"Since observing occultations is rather easy, provided the weather
is good and the equipment is available, timing occultations should
be part of any amateur's observing program". Also from the
Handbook, although I am certainly not saying that we are all
amateurs.... Again, thanks to Leo for the rest of the Newsletter.

Some people may think that awareness of electric light pollution of the night sky is quite recent.

Several days ago, while glancing through a copy of Canadian humourist, Stephen Leacock's book, *Winnowed Wisdom*, (published in 1926,) I came across the following passage. You may enjoy it.

The moon, situated quite close to the earth but of no value, revolves around the earth, and can be distinctly seen on a clear night outside the city limits. During a temporary breakdown of the lighting plant in New York City a few years ago the moon was quite plainly seen moving past the tower of the Metropolitan Life Building. It cleared the Flatiron building by a narrow margin. Those who saw it reported it as somewhat round, but not well shaped, and emitting an inferior light which showed that it was probably out of order.

In our column this week we ask you:

Did you know that

a) If you have ever observed the planet Mercury, you are actually much luckier than a large number of professional astronomers, and even some famed astronomers who are important in the history of the science. Quite a number lived a whole lifetime without seeing it.

b) The Aurora borealis (our Northern Lights) has not only been seen in its grand magnificence by many Canadians, but has also been heard by many of them. Reports have been given of distinct snapping and crackling sounds emanating from the Aurora.

BOOKS TO BE READ IN 1977

Here is a list you should not miss:

1. Madame Hogg's The Stars Belong To Everyone. (Doubleday, Toronto, 1976)
2. J. D. Fernie :The Whisper And The Vision: The Voyages Of The Astronomers. (Clarke, Irwin; Dec. 1976)
3. deCallatay & Dellfus: Atlas Of The Planets. (U. of T. Press, 1974)
4. G. D. Roth (ed.) Astronomy: A Handbook. (Springer-Verlag, 1975)
5. Fred Hoyle: Highlights In Astronomy. (W. H. Freeman & Co., 1975)

The first two, by Toronto astronomers, are excellent. The first one especially should be read by everyone, young or old, beginner or expert, as the saying goes. The last two are fairly comprehensive texts that should be of great interest and value to all serious amateurs.

---A PERIODICAL YOU SHOULD READ ALSO

While on the subject of reading, I would like to mention a magazine - the current issue of National Geographic (Jan.) for two reasons: 1) the colour photos of the Martian landscape, 2) the article on astro-archeological sites, many of which are found in western Canada (in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.).

A LIST OF WISHES
FOR 1977

(Continued from last issue)

- that R.A.S.C.-K.C. acquire more members.
- that if the great pie ever gets to be divided, R.A.S.C.-K.C. gets its fair share plus 2 or 3 sheckels for good measure.
- that R.A.S.C.-K.C. acquire more members.
- that an astronomy column (weekly, semi-weekly, bi-weekly, or whatever) make its way into the local paper.
- that R.A.S.C.-K. C. acquire more members.
- that most of the plans we talked about at the last meeting get put into action.
- that R.A.S.C.-K.C. acquire many more full-fledged, paid-up members.

CONTEST

WIN

CONTEST

WIN

CONTEST

WIN

CONTEST

WIN

Send in your completion of the following statement:

On the coldest night I have ever been out observing, it was so cold that.....

.....

25 words or fewer.....

WIN

WIN

WIN

WIN

WIN

WIN