

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

HALIFAX CENTRE

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

July 1960

HALIFAX CENTRE NEWS

JULY MEETING NOTICE: There will be no regular meeting of the Halifax Centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Instead a public viewing night will be held on the evening of August 1, 1960, at 9:30 pm. in the "Horse Field" at the westerly end of Jubilee Road. All members are asked to attend and those who have telescopes please bring them along. Also please bring along your friends.

Providing weather conditions are such that viewing is impossible on the evening of August 1, 1960, we will meet on the evening of August 2, 1960.

JUNE MEETING REPORT: Poor viewing conditions, due to fog, forced a postponement of the public viewing night scheduled for the evening of July 4, 1960. This was a great disappointment to all members of the Society and many visitors who planned to attend.

SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTICE: The next scheduled business meeting of the Halifax Centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will be held on the evening of September 28, 1960, at 8:00 pm. in the Planetarium Room of the Nova Scotia Museum of Science.

REPORT FROM METEOR GROUP: Two of the best meteor showers occur in July and August. They are the Delta Aquarids shower of July 29th. and the Perseids shower of August 11th. The Delta Aquarids shower will be free of moonlight but the Perseids shower will be hampered by nearly a full moon. Despite this moonlight many meteors should be seen. The Delta Aquarids shower has been known from antiquity and recorded observations were taken as early as 784 AD. The location of the radiant is R.A. 22h 36m, Dec. 17 degrees south which means that the meteors radiate some 3 degrees west of the star Delta. The meteors are slow moving, yellow in colour and associated with no known comet. Details of meeting time for observing the Delta Aquarids meteor shower are shown in the last newsletter GALAXY and will remain the same except that we will meet one hour later or 12:45 am.

The meeting scheduled for the night of July 23/24 had to be cancelled on account of poor viewing conditions due to cloud, fog and rain.

The Perseids meteor shower popularly known as "The Tears of St. Lawrence" has been known for 1200 years. Its reliability comes from three factors: (1) The meteors are uniformly spread around the orbit, (2) The stream of meteors is quite thick, (3) Its inclination to the earth's orbit is quite high being 114 degrees. It usually has an average of 50 meteors per hour but in 1921 two hundred and fifty meteors per hour were reported while in 1911 and 1912 very few meteors were seen. The radiant is located at R.A. 3h 0m, Dec. 57 degrees north which places it at approximately 5 degrees north of Gamma Persei. The meteors are swift and yellow occasionally leaving a visible trail. They are associated with Tuttle's Comet of 1861.

The Meteor Group will meet on the evening of August 11/12 to observe the maximum of the Perseids shower and again on the evening of August 12/13 or 13/14, which ever is clear, to conclude observations for this shower. All meetings will take place at St Francis School ground at the corner of Inglis and Robie Streets, at 12:45 am, weather permitting.

For further information please contact Group Leader Mr. J. McGuigan, 37 Bellevue Avenue, telephone 2-3259.

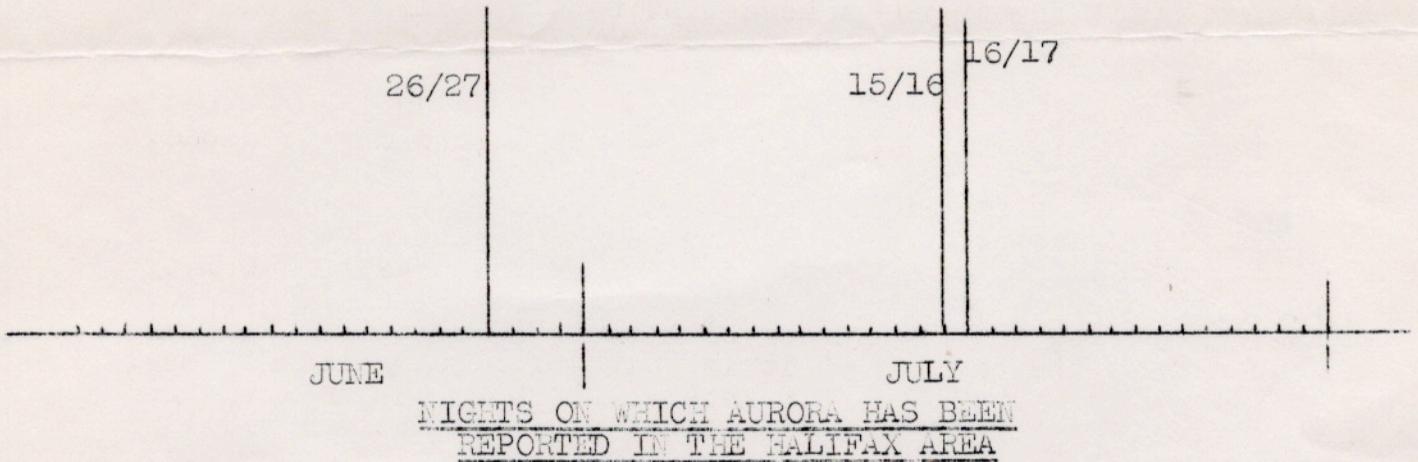
J. McG.

REPORT FROM AURORA GROUP: Up until going to press for the June issue of GALAXY no reported sighting of aurora had been made by any Group Member for the month of June. However Mr. Harold Curran has since reported that aurorae was visible on the evening of June 26/27.

On the evening of July 15/16 Mr. Tom Clahane, Mr. Harry Roberts and Mr. Harold Curran all reported that aurorae was visible in the Halifax area. It also made a brief appearance on the following

evening of July 16/17. To-date there has been eight different evenings on which aurora has been seen in the Halifax area during 1960.

For further information concerning the Aurora Group please contact Group Leader Mr. Bert Allen, 419 Windsor Street, telephone 4-1812.



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THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

List of Members - July 30, 1960

The following name should be added to the list of members which appeared in the June issue of GALAXY.

Mr. T. F. Clahane

31 Wedgewood Avenue, Birch Cove, N.S.