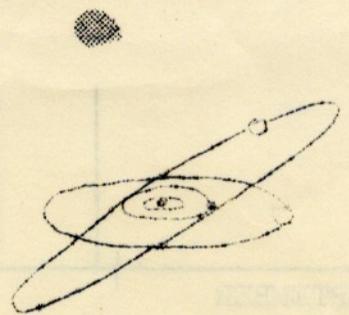


26/11/60



GALAXY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

HALIFAX CENTRE

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

November 1960

HALIFAX CENTRE NEWS

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE: The next meeting of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Halifax Centre, will be held on the evening of November 30, 1960, at 8:00 pm. in the Planetarium Room of the Nova Scotia Museum of Science, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, N.S.

METEOR GROUP: The meeting planned for the morning of November 5/6 to observe the Taurid meteor shower, had to be cancelled due to cloudy weather.

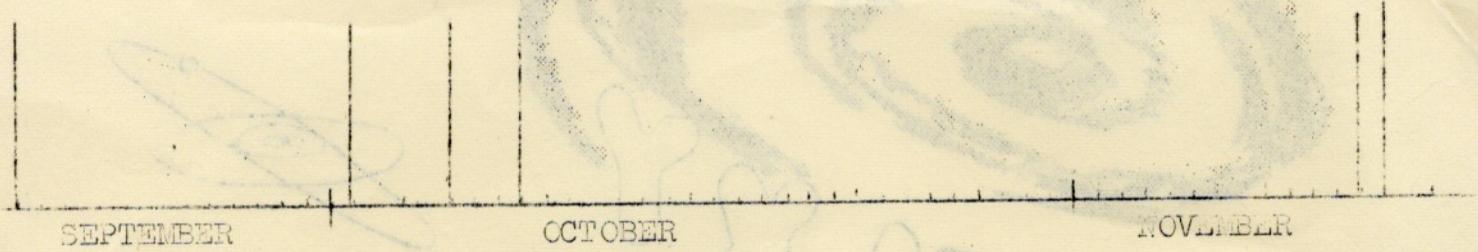
The Group will meet at 5:00 am. at the St Francis School ground on the morning of December 10/11 or 11/12, whichever is clear, to observe the Geminid meteor shower. Up to twelve meteors per hour are expected. The Group will also meet on the morning of December 13/14 at the same place and time when up to 50 meteors per hour are expected.

The Ursid meteor shower will be observed on the morning of December 21/22 at the same place and time when up to 15 meteors per hour are expected.

Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings but please come dressed for the occasion and bring along necessary recording equipment.

J. McG.

AURORA GROUP: Following are the nights on which members of the Group have reported sighting Aurora in the Halifax area.



NIGHTS ON WHICH AURORA HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE HALIFAX AREA

On November 10, 11 and 15 a gigantic series of solar flares, and associated telescopic and naked eye sunspots, erupted on the sun's photosphere and hurled particles into space at speeds up to 1000 miles per second. Nothing approaching them has been reported since February 23, 1956. In this area the result was one of the most vivid displays of Aurora seen in years. Mr Harold Curran reported that at 1:45 am. on the morning of November 12/13 the sky was filled with pulsating rays which extended down to within 30 degrees of the southern horizon. It was reported that radio and telegraph cables felt the effects of this solar storm.

REPORT OF OCTOBER MEETING: The October meeting of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Halifax Centre, was held on the evening of October 26, 1960, in the Planetarium Room of the Nova Scotia Museum of Science, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, N.S.

The attendance at this meeting was discouragingly low being only fifteen both Senior and Junior members. Therefore since there weren't sufficient senior members present to select a slate of new officers the only change was in the position of treasurer. Mr Jim McGuigan was elected to this post replacing Mr Harold Curran.

The programme consisted of the following: A paper was read by the President on "Influence of the Weather on Viewing Conditions", a report on the past years activities of the Meteor Group by Mr Jim McGuigan and a similar report on the Aurora Group by Mr Bert Allen. Two 16 mm films were shown one on The Earth in Motion and the other on Exploring the Universe.

OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK: The Observer's Handbook for 1961, published by The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, have now been received and all members are asked to make sure that they get their copy.

TRANSIT OF MERCURY: On the morning of November 7, 1960, the sky was clear, the barometer 29.92 inches and the temperature 41 degrees F. with the local weather office predicting that cloud would cover the area by early afternoon. Thus only the first half of the transit of Mercury was visible in this area and by 1:30 pm 100% cloud cover prevailed.

Two members of the Halifax Centre, Mr. Jim McGuigan and Mr. Bert Allen, reported that they viewed the transit. Mr. Allen made his observations on a 4 inch diameter reflector by projecting a 3 inch diameter image of the sun on a screen. First contact appeared, as predicted, at approximately 10:34 am. A.S.T. at position angle 148 degrees. Mr. McGuigan observed the transit directly on his 3 1/2 inch diameter reflector, using proper filters, and reported that at 12:15 pm. through increasing cloud cover Mercury was plainly visible.

Third and fourth contacts were not visible, due to cloud cover. The apparent path of Mercury across the face of the sun was approximately as shown below.

