

**FROM**

HALIFAX CENTRE R.A.S.C.  
1747 SUMMER ST.  
HALIFAX, N.S.

**TO**

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY,  
252 COLLEGE ST.,  
TORONTO, ONTARIO.

*July 73*



RD - N.

# NOVA NOTES



44° 38' N  
63° 35' W

HALIFAX  
CENTRE



MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

10

DATE: 10/10/50  
BY: [illegible]

10/10/50

NOTICE OF SUMMER MEETING

(OBSERVING SESSION)



DATE: July 20, 1973

PLACE: Room 131, Sir James Dunn Bldg.,  
Dalhousie University

TIME: 8:30 p.m.

TOPIC: Summer Observing Session, plus  
informal talk on coordinate systems  
(see this issue for details)

Halifax Centre

R. A. S. C.

All members and guests are welcome!

The Nova Notes are printed, thanks to the goodwill of  
The Nova Scotia Museum of Science

Editor's Page

It's here to stay! Nova Notes that is...

This summer we plan to continue Nova Notes on a regular basis. That means you will have to support your local editor...ME! You should receive our journal around about the same time of a particular month as you did all winter.

I have been asked to mention some of our summer programs to you, in the hope of raising that special "Halifax Centre Interest" of our's. The first idea is the "Telescope Workshop". This has already started...but you're never too late to join! There will also be observing sessions combined with a short talk on observational info which you may find very helpful even if the weather does not permit an observing session afterwards. (so come anyway, rain or clear.) There is still another plan in the offing, perhaps for late August. It would be an "Observing Picnic" at Lorry Park. Enough said...

As you probably know by now, I was your delegate to the Annual Meeting of the R.A.S.C. I would like to publicly thank all those who made this very enjoyably, and successful trip possible. And to all the members of the Halifax Centre, for making our Centre number ONE!! Thanks from your Editor....

Peter Edwards  
The Editor

Minutes of Meeting June 22, 1973

The June meeting of the Halifax Centre was opened by Dr. Cunningham, who introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. Peter Edwards. Mr. Edwards represented the Halifax Centre at the General Assembly in Ottawa on May 25-27. He described the activities of the meetings, including details of several interested papers which were presented. This General Assembly was the first one which had delegates from all the R.A.S.C. Centres. The Halifax Centre wishes to extend its appreciation to Mr. Edwards for his commendable representation of the Halifax Centre.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of topics relevant to our Centre. This meeting was the last regular meeting until September, and several members have expressed the wish to see informal summer meetings. The location of future meetings was discussed, as well as the suitability of Fridays. Methods to better advertise the existence of the Halifax Centre were then discussed, and it was decided to inquire if the Centre could place a display in the Museum of Science. Miss Debbie Burleson will represent the Centre in a meeting with the Museum. Finally, some ideas for observing Comet Kohoutek (1973f) were mentioned.

The meeting adjourned about 9:30 p.m., and refreshments were served. About 20 people were present.

"Letters to the Editor"  
Halifax Centre, RASC  
1747 Summer Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Edwards,

I was thinking of the possibility of having Centre members design covers for NOVA NOTES. In this way the members can display their artistic talent, and as part of the cover, perhaps suggest observing ideas for that month.

Also, it costs quite a bit to run an add of selling a telescope in newspaper, so perhaps members could use Nova Notes to advertize the sale of a 'scope, accessories, etc.

I hope these suggestions will prove useful to you.

Sincerely

John Cunningham

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REPLY:

Dear Mr. Cunningham;

It is my opinion, that the cover of Nova Notes is truly a fitting one for our Centre. When the present Halifax Centre was opened in late '69, a contest was conducted in this, yet nameless, and coverless, journal. The original members of our Centre were asked to submit cover ideas. The winner's submission appears monthly in your mail box. So the contest, you suggest, has already taken place.

As for the ad service, I would like other member's comments on this idea. Keep in mind that Nova Notes is non-commercial. Perhaps by offering the service to paid-up members only, we may get around this problem. However, in the end, I feel it would be an executive decision.

"If you have any comments on tonight's topic, or any other topic, write us, won't you?"

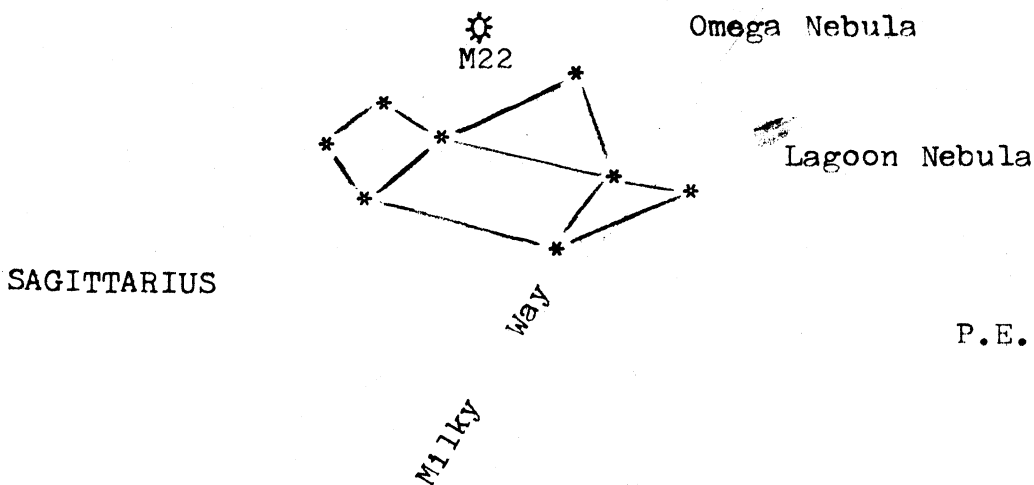
Peter Edwards  
Editor

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Featured Constellation for July...

Sagittarius, the Archer, is my favorite summertime constellation. In fact I could hardly contain myself a few months ago, when I was planning this page, I realized that July would be an ideal month for this constellation, as it crosses the meridian around mid evening, at mid month. The Milky Way passes through the spout of the "Tea Pot", causing an interesting effect of steam coming out of the tea pot! This is clearly visible on nights of good to excellent transparency. Try observing it with binoculars...WOW!

While Sagittarius is the home of some ten (10) Messier objects, three (3) take special mention. They are the Omega and Lagoon Nebulae and the globular cluster, M22.





## HAVE YOU READ ?

In the course of skimming the literature, I am struck by the fact that some articles are easy to read even on a difficult subject and others are exciting and flow along. Two such examples are presented here.

SKY AND TELESCOPE JUNE 1973

On page 359 is the second part on the early evolution of Stars. This was altogether too much for me. Perhaps I should read it several more times. If anyone in the membership understands it, would he please give his name to the next nominating committee in September !

SCIENCE 18 May 1973

On page 701 the Outer Solar System is described in a major article and this is exciting ! Remember there are space probes going near Jupiter and will approach it this December. Other probes are planned so this article is most important to see the state of our knowledge now for comparison. The Great Planets are not just large versions of the earth. Nor are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune very similar to each other. The rings of Saturn are not unique and faint traces of rings are detected on the others. Even the earth with the evanescent zodiacal light has one. If you are looking for a nice place to live the only likely spot might be the satellite Titan of Saturn. Its atmosphere seems good and there may be clouds. 48 references.

Just a little note in NATURE May 4 1973 describes the search for a correlation between gravitational waves and infra-red anomalies coming from the galactic centre.

Murray Cunningham

P.S. See NATURE May 25 Page 207 for the mechanism of Pulsars. Rather complex but exciting. There are 13 features that must be explained to account for the observations !



### The July Observing Session

Since there will be no regular meetings during the summer months of July and August, an observing session and informal talk have been scheduled for July 20. The talk will begin at 8:30 p.m., and last about an hour. The purpose of the talk will be to discuss coordinate systems, sidereal time, etc., in an effort to make it easier to find celestial objects. Several summer constellations will be discussed, with observing sheets prepared, showing a number of interesting objects to look for. If it is cloudy, refreshments will be served afterwards, and the talk will likely extend beyond an hour. If you have some questions (e.g. does the inclination of the equator to the ecliptic vary from  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ ?), write them down and bring them along. If you have a small telescope, bring it along if it is clear; several telescopes will be provided. After the talk, we will move to the roof or somewhere nearby for observing. You may wish to leave your telescope in your car until after the talk is over. Meanwhile, let's hope for a clear night!!

\* \* \* \* \*

### SUMMER TELESCOPE WORKSHOP

The telescope workshop is presently scheduled to get under way on June 29, with an introductory talk. If you are interested, call John MacNeil at 463-6090.

### FILTERS FOR OBSERVING

Various colored filters for lunar, planetary, and double star observations cost usually over \$20 for 4 of them, I prefer red, yellow, blue, and green, so a considerable interest must exist for one to purchase a set, especially on the limited budget of us student members.

However, I found an easy-on-the-budget substitute that works well, too.

The use of plastic strips, normally used to index a binder, has been employed by myself and a fellow observer, David Randall. I looked for a good method to fasten them together, so the desired color and the others are on a fixed strip, moved to change to the necessary color. We now employ filters fastened to stiff cardboard, so that it is the same as having glass ones on a bar, and thus the desired color is slid to, and this permits quick change while observing.

These are perfectly safe for the moon and planets, as well as double star observations, but must not be used for solar observations with the naked eye! For observations of Venus, the moon and Mercury in daylight, used Polaroid filters, which can be purchased for about \$6.

Colored cellophane can also be used, and can be found on candy wrappers. If you find yourself drawn to filter observations, interest can be increased by talking to someone also interested, who has experience. And, if you enjoy it enough, break down and get a set of good glass filters!