

Hello everyone! This will probably be the last newsletter of the year (unless we have some earth-shaking news to report). As happened last month, things have piled up and this newsletter is being handed out at the monthly meeting (and mailed out to those unable to attend). You should have been phoned for the meeting, however.

OBSERVATORY NEWS

Well, yours truly made a presentation to the Science Council of B.C. on April 29 at the College, asking for up to \$20,000 to finish the observatory. It was well received, and I have been told that we have an excellent chance of getting some or all of the money. With these excellent prospects, we have started the process of planning for the installation of a Hydro power line to the observatory. It looks good at this stage.

The application for a casino licence is still on hold - tentatively, we will have a set of casino nights in the fall.

Incidentally, if you can possibly make it, don't miss the joint meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP), and others in Victoria on 1988 June 25 - July 3. Since this conference is usually held thousands of kilometres away, now is your chance to go to a great, fantastic, stimulating meeting at a reasonable cost. Contact me or one of the directors for further information, but do it soon.

RECENT EVENTS AT TMO

Well, as you know, it doesn't get dark until around 10:30 or 11:00 at this time of the year. This makes observing very late - you have from 11:00 till 3:00, decreasing to 12:00 to 2:00 near solstice. Since I have no classes in May or June, I've been sleeping out there on observing nights - it's very peaceful!! If you'd care to join me, you'd be welcome. Although we have perpetual twilight at this time of the year, you can still see the Milky Way and other good things. After a night out there, you are greeted with a beautiful view in the morning

Lately, I've been able to take pictures of the Moon with the newly-completed Moon shutter and the 4" x 5" camera (and have developed the negatives out there). The camera and shutter are really easy to use, and you get images 75 mm in diameter, suitable for making posters. I made a 16" x 20" print for the Science Council meeting, and it was well received. I've tried other astrophotography, but lack the sensitized film. The sensitizing tank should be ready soon, however.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE SKY

Comet Liller is visible (although I've not seen it yet) at about RA: 4h 34m, DEC: +73 deg 53', moving eastward, and at magnitude 7.4. This puts it at about 10 degrees above the northern sky at 11 or 12:00.

Saturn rises about midnight, and is low in the southeast. Mars rises several hours later and will not be visible in the evening until mid-July. (Don't miss the opposition in September - it'll be the third best this century!!) Uranus is not far from Saturn, and should be visible with binoculars (if you know where to look).

If you get off on these things, the aurora is often prominent, and Earth satellites are visible every few minutes (owing to the fact that the Sun is only a few degrees below the northern horizon). The Eta Aquarid meteors were prominent last week. Watch for the Perseid meteor shower near Aug 12 (in Perseus!!).

NEXT MEETING

The meeting was held May 11 at the College. A talk "How to Observe Variable Stars" was presented by your editor. Transcripts are available.

Clear skies, and have a good summer!

Bob Nelson, President