



## Election of Officers

Enclosed with this newsletter is a ballot for the election of officers. We have two candidates for the office of Vice-President and one for Member-at-Large. All of these nominations were made by the nominating committee, since there were no nominations from the general membership. (This was a bit of a surprise; last year there were some nominations from the members.)

The candidates for Vice-President are Gord McKye and Jim McTavish; both are very strong candidates, as you will see from the biographical descriptions which are enclosed. Please mark your ballot and mail it in the enclosed envelope by May 30.

The new Member-at-Large (by acclamation) is John Earnshaw, Chairman of the Physics Dept. at Trent University. John has been very active in Physics education, and has presented papers at conferences held by AAPT, STAO, and CAP. He is a member of the committee working on the STAO Physics Assessment Instrument Pool which is a test bank of physics questions for use in the secondary schools. His experience and expertise will be of great use in the AAPT-Ontario Executive.

There was much discussion within the nominating committee, and with other members of AAPT-Ontario, regarding the number of candidates to be nominated for each office. It was decided, for this year at least, to nominate two people for the office of Vice-President (a most important office) and to nominate only one person for Member-at-Large. If you have an opinion (positive or negative) concerning this decision, please let it be known to the nominating committee (Ernie McFarland, Dean Gaily, and George Kelly).

## Conference Approaching Quickly

There is now less than a month until the AAPT-Ontario conference. We have now (May 18) between 50 and 60 preregistrants, and the number is increasing daily.

Although the preregistration deadline was May 15, a kind eye will be turned to preregistration forms arriving before the end of May. So if you haven't preregistered, do it now!

Registration fees "at the door" will be \$1 more per day than the preregistration fees.

## Membership Renewal

If you haven't renewed your AAPT-Ontario membership for 1980-81, now is the time to do so. Use the top portion (membership renewal) of the conference preregistration form sent with the previous newsletter, or just send your name with a dollar to Doug Cunningham, Bruce Peninsula DHS, P.O. Box 178, Lion's Head, Ont. N0H 1W0.

## Have You Seen ... ?

### 1. PS News

"PS (Problem Solving) News" is a sharing of ideas about problem solving. It is printed bi-monthly by the Department of Chemical Engineering, McMaster University, Hamilton, L8S 4L7. The most recent issue (#7, March-April 1980) has some interesting information from the Doctoral thesis of Herb Lin of the Physics Dept. at MIT concerning the problem solving difficulties encountered by freshman students in physics.

To get on the mailing list for "PS News" contact D.R. Woods at McMaster (address above). It's free.

### 2. Current

"Current" is a component in Ontario Hydro's Energy Education Program; it is published six times per year. The first issue came out quite recently (March, 1980).

From the editorial: "Energy is now perceived by educators as a topic that is an important area for study in the classroom. The question is how to include it? We hope that 'Current' will be a helpful contribution toward alleviating the serious shortage of resource materials and toward providing background information as the basis for lesson planning or to support classroom projects. We will...feature interviews with people concerned about energy, explanations of complex technology and new perspectives on the future of our energy problems."

The first issue featured (among other things) an interview with Tuzo Wilson, a column by Jay Ingram ("Quirks and Quarks"), and a display of postage stamps (related to energy) from the collection of Jim Hunt of the Physics Dept. of the University of Guelph.

To receive a free subscription to "Current" contact P. J. Spratt & Associates, 212 King St. W., Suite 214, Toronto, M5H 1K5



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## SUMMER'S CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Doug Cunningham

The warm summer evenings coupled with vacations away from city lights bring many people closer to the stars than at any time of the year - and what a time to be aware! The beautiful star clouds of the Milky Way, riding high overhead through the constellation of Cygnus, and continuing on through Aquila and down into Sagittarius, are impressive in themselves, yet seen through 7 x 35 binoculars they present the viewer with a sight that is just stunning. The annual Perseid meteor shower peaks on the night of August 11th-12th at which time 50 bright meteors per hour can be sighted. The occurrence of this faithful shower so close to new moon makes this event a viewing must. At the beginning of June the 5 naked eye planets will be visible just after sunset - beginning with Saturn near the meridian and continuing westward through Mars, Jupiter, Venus and Mercury - certainly a striking sight. Mentally connect these planets with an invisible line - you have now traced the ecliptic on the sky and are looking out through the plane of our solar system - neat! All through the summer months the moon, in various phases, will make close approaches to these planets and will, in some instances, actually cover-up the planet - an event known as an occultation. As an aid for those unfamiliar with the summer skies I've enclosed a diagram of the constellations as seen from Southern Ontario during mid July at 10:00 pm.

### Celestial Events For June

June 1 Mercury 0.3° N of Venus  
June 5 Last Quarter Moon  
June 11 Aldebaran 0.7° S of the Moon  
June 12 New Moon  
June 14 Mercury Greatest Elongation E  
June 18 Jupiter 0.01° South of the Moon  
June 19 Mars 2° South of the Moon  
Saturn 0.3° South of the Moon  
June 20 First Quarter Moon  
June 21 Summer Begins  
June 25 Mars 1.7° S of Saturn  
June 28 Full Moon

### Celestial Events For July

July 5 Last Quarter Moon  
July 9 Venus 0.2° S of the Moon  
July 12 New Moon  
July 15 Jupiter 0.6° S of the Moon  
July 17 Saturn 0.7° S of the Moon  
July 20 First Quarter Moon  
July 21 Venus Greatest Brilliancy  
July 27 Full Moon  
July 28 Meteor Shower -  $\delta$  Aquarids 10/hr.  
July 31 Mercury Greatest Elongation W.

### Celestial Events For August

Aug. 3 Last Quarter Moon  
Aug. 6 Venus 0.3° S of the Moon  
Aug. 9 Mercury 2° N of the Moon  
Aug. 10 New Moon  
Aug. 11 Perseid Meteors - 50 per hour  
Aug. 12 Jupiter 1° S of Moon  
Aug. 13 Saturn 1° S of Moon  
Aug. 18 First Quarter Moon  
Aug. 24 Venus Greatest Elongation - W 46°  
Aug. 25 Full Moon

### Lost Member!

Our last mailing (conference programme, etc.) addressed to one of our members was returned by the postal authorities, claiming that there is no such person at the address that we used.

The member is Duncan Edwards; the address that we used is R. R. #3, Stouffville.

If you know Duncan Edwards and can give us his address (or can ask him to send us his address), please help us out. Thank you. The correct address should be sent to Doug Cunningham, Bruce Peninsula, D.S., P.O. Box 178, Lion's Head, Ont. N0H 1W0

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### Coming Up

June 13-14 AAPT-Ontario Conference, Trent University, Peterborough  
June 16-19 CAP Conference, McMaster University, Hamilton  
June 25-27 AAPT Summer Conference, Troy, N.Y.  
Nov. 6-8 STAO 80, Skyline Hotel, Toronto

### The Summer Skies - mid-July ~ 10:00 p.m.

Orientation: Turn the chart until the direction you are facing is at the bottom.

