

5162 Belmont Ave.  
Montreal 29, Que.  
October 17, 1961.

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for your letter of October 4th and enclosures. The reports have been handed over to the respective chairmen and were received in time to be included in the annual reports. The aura of September 9/10 was seen here too and was the most spectacular display we had had for some time. I have not yet projected your eclipse slides but they look quite good through a viewer and I was very glad to get them and so was Bonstantine.

Regarding the supernova, I'm afraid Mr. DeKender "goofed". It was just Arcturus seen under unusual atmospheric conditions that made it look much brighter than usual. We all looked the next night too but saw nothing. And fortunately Howard had a clear sky that next night too and checked the area. Otherwise they might have sent out an announcement card!

Regarding the national observation programme, Vern Ramsay, as National Chairman, sent out his first bulletin early in September. A mailing list had been drawn up and he sent it to everyone on the list except the committee itself. He intended writing a personal letter, to accompany the bulletin, to each member of the committee, but I guess he just didn't get that personal letter written. (He has had a lot of illness in his family and other problems this past summer) I have had copies made of my copy of the bulletin and have given one to Geoff Liberty and enclose a copy for you. Geoffrey intends to go ahead and send out his first bulletin without waiting to hear from Vern, and I see no reason why you shouldn't do so too. In his first communication Geoffrey simply intends to ask the benches what they have been doing in

planetary work and to send in reports on observations made of Jupiter and Mars. He doesn't intend to do anything about standard report forms, etc. until he sees what the centres are already doing. So his first communication will be simply a letter and he will be sending it to everyone ~~on~~ on the original mailing list (see copy enclosed) but will ask each centre to appoint a Planetary Chairman without delay. You are in a little different position because you want to launch a definite programme without delay. Would you want to send copies of all your instruction sheets and report forms with your first letter? As you will see, there are 57 names on the mailing list and it would be a little extravagant, I think, to send forms to all of them. What do you think about sending the covering letter to all of them but enclosing forms only to one person in each centre, say the Director of Observations or, if there is no such person, the Secretary. I felt that right from the start we should limit our mailing to one person in each centre but Earl Milton thought the first mailing should be more widespread just so that no one could say that their centre knew nothing about the programme. However, regardless of what we do for the first mailing, subsequent mailings should certainly be limited to one person in each centre. (for each field). Therefore, if the centre fails to appoint a contact for comets & novae, you yourself would select a name from the mailing list and advise them accordingly. The point is that even if a centre isn't participating in a programme they should receive copies of all bulletins because they may decide to participate at some later date.

For your section you have five forms, as follows: -

1. Comet and Nova Search - Instructions ~~Sheet~~ for observing
2. Comet and Nova Search - Report Form (monthly)
3. Discovery of Comet or Nova - Instructions for reporting
4. Observations of Comets and Novae - Instructions
5. Chart of Comet and Nova Search Areas.

You already have typed copies of forms 1. and 2. and I am enclosing typed copies of forms 3. and 4. Regarding Form 1, I think you will probably want to re-word the first paragraph, since all forms are going out simultaneously, and also the last paragraph, since the covering letter would cover the appointment of a chairman and the <sup>instruction</sup> form should simply tell the observer to give his monthly reports to said chairman for forwarding to you. Similarly, forms 3 and 4 should state that reports are handed to Centre's chairman for forwarding to you. Otherwise you would soon find that you were getting reports from individual observers.

As I see it, the Centre's chairman would need one copy of Form no. 5, a small supply of Form Nos. 1, 3 and 4 (to give one copy of each to each potential observer), and a fairly substantial supply of Form no. 2. If you would send us copies of the final form in which you want these issued, we shall be glad to run off the initial supply of each. (Later on, when things are running smoothly, we could turn this part of the work over to the National Office but right now I think it would save time if we did it here.) Also,

when you see the length of the mailing list I think you'll decide to have your covering letter reproduced too. After we run them off we could send them to you for signature and you could add a little personal note to some.

To sum up, how about sending your covering letter to everyone on the mailing list, with a copy of Forms 1, 2, 3 and 4 to one person in each centre and to all the National Officers and members of the Standing Committee, and hold back Form no. 5, which will be the most expensive to reproduce, and send it only to centres that indicate an interest. We could look after this first mailing (first sending the covering letters to you for signature, etc.). Then if you get down to Montreal in December, you could pick up supplies of all the forms to take back with you and you could look after ~~it~~ carry on from there.

I am very anxious to get these programmes under way and am sorry that there has been so much delay.

There are a lot of other matters I'd like to talk about but I had better get this letter in the mail.

Best regards and good observing.

Sincerely  
Duke Williamson

P.S. Regarding the chart (Form no. 5), I'm cutting it in half and reproducing it on two sheets. It should be O.K. I'm having it done ~~at~~ work.