

Sim Low

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
Montreal Centre

Comet & Nova Search Section

Progress Report # 5.

February 1967.

Last month's report (January) was late, so that this month the report is early. If you did not receive a copy of last month's report don't panic; you were not supposed to have received a copy anyway. As the budget of the section ('s Co-chairman) expands, so will the mailing list of the monthly report. Its purpose is to give you an idea of how well you and your confreres are faring in our joint quest for a comet or a nova.

Comments on the phenomenal increase in your observations at the end of this report. By the way, if you'd like to see a copy of any former report (i.e. one through four) let me know.

Here follows our happy story:

I. Summary of Observations by Area.

<u>Observer</u>	<u>Area No.</u>	<u>Observations</u>	<u>Observer</u>	<u>Area No.</u>	<u>Observation</u>
David Levy	Dome	23	Ella Daek	92	7
"	Sun Vicinity	11	Steven Ashe	94	13
"	Twt. Horizon	23	K. Zerge	101	11
Jim Low	Twt. Hsh.	2	"	102	11
Steven Simon	1	3	Steve Ashe	343	10
Carl Jorgensen	3	3	"	344	10
"	4	3	Carl Jorgensen	345	3
Douglas King	6	16	David H. Levy	369	11
"	7	16	III "	377	14
Steve Ashe	9	6	"	383	11
David H. Levy	16	13	"	384	11
Douglas King	17	16	"	404	14
Terry McMilligott	19	3	Richard Gregory	406	15
David H. Levy	23	21	David H. Levy	419	15
"	31	7	Douglas King	422	21
Vic Williams	34	8	Steven Ashe	423	6
David H. Levy	40	11	Stephen Simon	425	3
H.B. Berrys	71	7	Stephen Simon	426	3
Isabel Williamson	82	11	David H. Levy	428	15
		Vic Williams	429	8	
		Stephen Simon	430	2	
		David H. Levy	438	11	

Total for February, 1967: 408 (Four hundred eight) observations!

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II. Summary of Observations by Observer.

Observer	Number of Areas	Number of Observations (Total)	
David H. Levy	12 + 3 miscellaneous	201	
Douglas King	4	59	
Steven Ashe	5	45	
Katherine Zergo	2	22	
Vic Williams	2	16	
Richard Gregory	1	15	
Stephen Simon	4	11
Isabel K. Williamson	2	11	Telescopic Comet Hunt:
Carl Jorgenson	3	9	D. Levy hunted for 11 hours,
H. B. Berrys	1	7	36 minutes this month, bring-
Ella Dack	1	7	ing his total to
Terry McElligott	1	3	76 hours, 4 minutes.
Jim Lew	1 miscellaneous	2
		<u>408</u>	obs.

Number of Observers: 13

Number of Areas: 37

III. Late Reports from previous months.

You're all prompt:

There are no late reports from previous months this month.

Comments.

Look how well our section is moving along:

Progress Report No. 1, for October 1966 :	Total Obs.	176
No. 2, November :		141
No. 3, December :		158
No. 4, January 1967:		206
No. 5, this month :		408

Two false alarms have occurred recently, and, since the people involved should be proud, not embarrassed, I'd like to mention them. In February (Feb. 13) Boyd Ramsay reported sighting a possible bright comet in the immediate sun vicinity. Though some observers, when alerted, said that "There might be something," Boyd's sighting has not as yet been confirmed officially.

A couple of weeks later Steve Ashe reported the possible eruption of a nova in Canis Minor, of about 7th magnitude. This has not yet been confirmed. (The area is no. 94).

A false alarm shows that the observer is watchful, unless, of course, he has made a careless error. So you must, in addition to observing every (or almost every) clear night, check very carefully. After carefully checking the reports of the two above mentioned people we can conclude that they are both effective observers, trying to do the best possible job. A tip of our astronomical hat to both of them.

My phone number is 488-0270 and I live at 818 Upper Belmont Avenue,
Westmount, P. C., Canada.

David H. Levy
Co-chairman,
Comet & Nova Search Section