

411 Brixton Avenue
St. Lambert, P.Q.

August 21, 1962

Dear Mr. Gillson,

Thank-you for your letter of July 28. I was pleased to hear that the Lakehead Astronomical Society is interested in the Comet and Nova Programme. Enclosed are copies of the forms used in this section, and they are largely self-explanatory. Each interested member should receive copies of these forms, except for the "area" chart, which is kept by the C & N Coordinator. Each time you give out an area, you mark it off the chart. Thus, no two observers in your society should have the same area. If you have any trouble in understanding the chart, let me know, and I will give you a detailed description. As you can see, the chart represents the sky, giving Right Ascension and Declination along the edge. The sky is then split up into areas of approx. 10° square each. It is suggested that each observer should have at least two areas in opposite parts of the sky so that one will always be in view. Four areas would be just about the right number to start with --- the observer then covers a fair region of the sky, but does not find too much time is required to make observations. With a little practice, about three to five minutes per area is all that is required.

All that is required in the way of instruments, is a pair of binoculars. (I usually use 7X35mm, although I do have an 8" reflector). A telescope could be used, but the observer may have difficulty in identifying the very faint stars. Observing to 6th or 7th magnitude would be perfect.

The observer does not have to pick out any particular areas to take part in this programme --- he may scan selected areas of the sky at will, with his telescope or binoculars, and report the area observed. If areas are selected, the observer should pick the ones he wishes, but it is asked that no two observers taking part in the Lakehead C & N Programme should have the same areas.

I may mention that this programme also gives the observer practice in magnitude estimates, and in learning the stars of parts of the sky. Negative reports are important, because if a Comet or Nova is discovered, they can be used in determining when the object was not in view, and how rapidly it appeared.

If you have any problems with this programme, please let me know. More forms will be sent when requested. Best wishes, and good observing to you and the Society.

Yours truly,



Jim Low

P.S. Forms sent under separate cover.