



AAPT-ONTARIO NEWSLETTER

Doug Fox, Editor

Volume II, No. 3

March 1981

CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PAPERS

CONTEST

NOMINATIONS

Individualized Physics Project

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CALL FOR PAPERS

This is a call for papers for our June conference. Papers are invited on any topic pertaining to the teaching of Physics: innovations in teaching methods, new ways to teach old material, interesting tangential topics, etc., etc.

Papers will be 10 minutes in duration, with 5 minutes afterwards for questions. 15 minutes (instead of 10) may be requested by the contributor, to be allotted at the discretion of the Program Chairman. We hope to have at least one poster session; if you are interested in this mode of presentation, please indicate this with your abstract. (In a poster session, each contributor makes a display on his/her topic and the displays are arranged in a room; people who are interested in a particular presentation can then interact personally with the contributor.)

An abstract of about 150 words should be submitted by April 23, 1981

to Gordon McKye
Etobicoke Board of Education,
1 Civic Centre Court,
Etobicoke, Ontario,
M9C 2B3

Please indicate any requirements for audio-visual equipment.

A useful article "How to present a paper at an AAPT meeting" appeared in the November 1978 issue of The Physics Teacher. If you do not have access to this article and would like a copy, simply request one when you submit your abstract.

In addition to our nominating committee we also receive nominations from the membership.

With the lengthening of the terms of office of the Section Representative and Secretary Treasurer to three years, there are only two offices open for nomination this year: Vice-President and Member-at-Large.

The Vice-President must be willing to undertake a three-year commitment, the first year as Vice-President (conference programme chairman) the second as President, and the third as Past-President. In these first few years of our organization we clearly need someone with initiative who will open new areas of activity for AAPT - Ontario.

The Member-at-Large will sit on the Executive Committee for one year offering advice and support in many ways and doing special tasks as assigned.

Do you know a member who can make a useful contribution to our Section? Send in a nomination. Are you eager to help out in the administration of the Section? Great! Have a fellow member nominate you.

Send nominations to

Ernie McFarland,
Department of Physics,
University of Guelph,
Guelph, Ontario.
N1G 2W1

Include the following information:

1. Position (Vice-President or Member-at-Large)
2. Name of Nominee
3. Nominated by
4. Brief biographical sketch of about 100 words

Election Timetable

Nominations received by	April 24, 1981
Ballots mailed week of	May 6, 1981
Ballots returned by	May 29, 1981

GRADE ELEVEN PRIZE PHYSICS CONTEST

Plans are in high gear for this event Tuesday, May 12, 1981. Posters, letters and order forms are in the mail now addressed to the Physics Teacher in each high school in Ontario. If you did not receive a copy by the middle of April contact:

Doug Fox,
Belle River DHS,
Belle River, Ontario.
NOR 1A0

An unseasonably mild week in late January in New York City greeted attendees at the 1981 winter meeting of AAPT. Four section officers (President Fox, Vice-President McKye, Past President McFarland and Section Rep. Gaily) were among those present at the four day meeting. This meeting featured the expected number of diverse workshops, always filled to capacity long before the start of the meeting and there were interesting and well-attended daily sessions. A special 50th anniversary session featured several outstanding talks on past and future directions of AAPT and these together with other join-with-APS sessions were the high points of the meeting.

Hands-on applications sessions involving computers in Physics education, specifically in the laboratory environment; how to set up a micro computer facility; the biannual apparatus competition and a session on training graduate student teaching assistants were all well attended features of this meeting. Besides all the contributed and invited presentations this meeting is always associated with various organizational committee meetings. In the Section Representatives meeting a new chairman was elected, Howard Voss of Arizona. Bob Bauman, the past president has become the national V.P. of AAPT. We all congratulate Ernie McFarland on his election to a post on the Apparatus Committee and hope to see lots of nuts & bolts from him.

Overall, an interesting and lively meeting as usual, highlighted by the personal contacts made, old friends revisited and the thrill of Broadway.

T. Dean Gaily.

CONFERENCE

Gordon McKye is busy planning this year's conference to be held at the University of Toronto, June 12 and 13, 1981. We will again offer our popular pre-conference mixer on Thursday evening, June 11, 1981. Dr. Donald Ivey of the University of Toronto will give the keynote address at the banquet Friday evening at the Faculty Club. Also on Friday, Doug Bannister of the Ministry of Education will speak about the new senior guidelines. A special lunch will also highlight Friday.

On Saturday both Jay Ingram of CBC and Jearl Walker will speak. They will also tape segments of Quirks and Quarks live. Our popular demonstration session will also occur so get your latest invention polished and perfected. Gravity paint?

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in AAPT - Ontario continues to grow. We are now well over three hundred in number. This is full evidence of the value of the services we provide: conference, newsletter, contest and more.

If you are not now a member but have received a copy of this newsletter then send your one dollar membership fee to

Doug Cunningham,
Bruce Peninsula District School,
Lion's Head, Ontario,
N0H 1W0

This fee will enroll you until June 1982. You will save more than this in reduced membership registration rates at the conference as well as receiving four editions of the newsletter during the 1981/82 year.

COMING EVENTS

- April 25, 1981 Waterloo Saturday Seminar in
Science details: Dr. G.E. Toogood
Department of Chemistry
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario,
N2L 3G1
(519-885-1211 ext. 3774)
- May 7, 1981 Sir Isaac Newton Physics Contest
for details Phil Eastman
Physics Department
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario
N2L 3G1
- May 12, 1981 AAPT - Ontario Grade Eleven Prize Contest
- May 10-17, 1981 Canada Wide Science Fair
Waterloo, Ontario
- June 12, 13, 1981 AAPT Conference
University of Toronto
for details contact
Gordon McKye,
Etobicoke Board of Education,
1 Civic Centre Court,
Etobicoke, Ontario.
M9C 2B3
- June 17-19, 1981 AAPT National Summer Meeting (*)
University of Wisconsin,
Steven's Point, Wisconsin
- October or November York University Science Olympics
- January 25-28, 1982 AAPT National Winter Meeting
San Francisco (*)
- June 1982 AAPT National Summer Meeting
Ashland, Oregon (*)
- January 24-27, 1983 AAPT National Meeting
New York City (*)

(*) for details contact AAPT Executive Offices
Graduate Physics Building
SUNY at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY, 11794

PHYSICS BUMPER STICKERS

From the Society of Physics Students,
American Institute of Physics,
335 East 45th Street,
New York, NY, USA.
10017

40¢ each (US funds) plus 50¢ handling on orders
of less than 10

Physics Makes The World Go 'Round
Join the Physics Generation
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Physicsits Do It With Charm
Beware of Quantum Ducks Quark! Quark!
Support Your Local Physics Department
Physics is Good for You
Legalize Physics

STAR GAZING IN SPRING

- by Doug Cunningham

One of my students has just received a 13" Dobsonian reflecting telescope and during a night of observing, turned the large cyclops toward the Realm of Galaxies on the border between the spring constellations of Virgo and Coma Berenices. He excitedly described to me his elation at capturing fourteen galaxies in a single field of view. As I felt his enthusiasm I could not help remembering Robert Burnham's remark that the appeal of astronomy is both intellectual and aesthetic - one sees with both the eye and the mind. These faint patches of light, although not particularly impressive in small telescopes, become fascinating objects when one contemplates their actual nature. Here on the border between Virgo and Coma are literally hundreds of vastly remote stellar cities each composed of suns and shining across millions of light years of space and time. This Virgo cluster as it is called, measures at least 40 million light years in diameter and may contain 10 000 individual galaxies. It now appears that our own Milky Way Galaxy is gravitationally associated with this Cluster. Take a trip in space and time this spring. All you need is a 6 inch telescope, clear dark skies and adapted eyes.

In addition to the splendid views of these island universes the spring skies offer many other attractions. The giant planets Jupiter and Saturn, both in Virgo, will be visible for most of the night and during selected times will make close approaches to the waxing gibbous moon. Two meteor showers are due: the Lyrids on April 22 and the Eta Aquarids on May 4. The occurrence of the full moon close to the Lyrids will hamper observation but the Eta Aquarids are favourably placed near the new moon. For those with access to moderate sperature telescopes two observations of occultations by asteroids will be visible. In both cases the light drop due to the occultation will be greater than three magnitudes. Interested observers may obtain up-to-date information on occultations from Dr. David Cunham, IOTA, P.O. Box 596, Tinley Park, Illinois, 60477, USA. In light of the current debate concerning the existance of satellites of asteroids, observations of these occultations may provide important

Suppliers and Publishers are welcome advertisers in this Newsletter. It is mailed directly to over three hundred teachers of Physics in Ontario. There is no better advertising value. Camera ready copy must be supplied. Ads are reduced to 70% of the submitted size. The cost of an ad such as the one in this newsletter is \$ 6.00. Send the ad and a cheque payable to AAPT - Ontario to

Doug Fox,
Belle River District High School,
Belle River, Ontario.
NOR 1A0

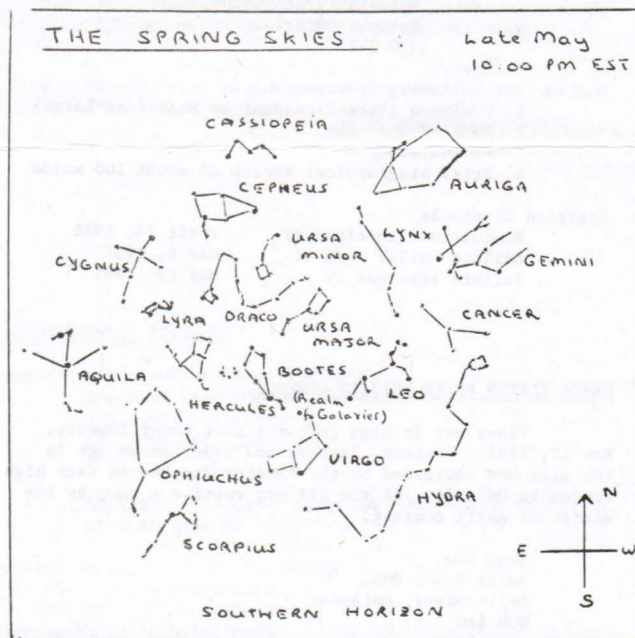
SPRING'S CELESTIAL EVENTS

APRIL

- Th Apr 3 - Mercury 1.1° north of the Moon
- Sa Apr 4 - Occultation of SAO 158864 (8.8^m star) by the asteroid Aegina. Visible in southern Ontario
- New Moon
- Sa Apr 11 - First quarter Moon
- Th Apr 16 - Jupiter 3° south of the Moon
- Fr Apr 17 - Saturn 1.7° south of the Moon
- Su Apr 19 - Full Moon
- We Apr 22 - Lyrid Meteors, 15 per hour, max at 3:00 am EST
- Mo Apr 27 - Last quarter Moon

MAY

- Su May 3 - New Moon
- Mo May 4 - Eta Aquarid Meteors, 20 per hour max, best viewed early Monday morning before sunrise.
- Su May 10 - First quarter Moon
- We May 13 - Mercury 8° north of Aldebaran
- Jupiter 3° south of the Moon
- Th May 14 - Saturn 1.8° south of Moon
- Mo May 19 - Full Moon
- We May 20 - Venus 6° north of Aldebaran
- Tu May 26 - Last quarter Moon
- Mercury at greatest eastern elongation





American Association of Physics Teachers

ONTARIO SECTION

ORDER FORM: AAPT - ONTARIO GRADE ELEVEN PRIZE CONTEST

Name of Teacher: _____

Name of School: _____

Address of School: _____

Postal Code: _____

Please send _____ papers at 50¢ each = \$ _____

*Please include _____ memberships at \$1.00 each = \$ _____

Cheque payable to AAPT - Ontario in the amount of \$ _____

*(As a convenience you can join AAPT - Ontario at the same time as you order papers. If more than the teacher listed above wish to join) (list the names on the other side of this form and include one dollar) (for each.)

Mail this form and your cheque immediately to:

Doug Fox,
Belle River DHS,
Belle River, Ontario,
NOR 1A0



American Association of Physics Teachers

ONTARIO SECTION

GRADE ELEVEN PRIZE PHYSICS CONTEST

TUESDAY 1981 05 12

The purpose of the Contest is to generate interest in Physics and to give scholar level students an opportunity to measure themselves against others in the provincial.

The contest will be made up of about twenty-five multiple choice questions. The questions will be based on the grade 11 curriculum, current events, general knowledge, history and novel physics trivia.

Prizes and certificates will be offered at the school level and for the top students in the province.

You must be enrolled in grade 11 physics to be eligible to write the contest. (In semestered schools you may write if you were enrolled in the fall semester.)

Contact your Physics Teacher for more information

Teacher

Room



American Association of Physics Teachers

ONTARIO SECTION

Belle River DHS,
Belle River, Ontario,
N0R 1A0

1981 03 31

Dear Colleague:

On May 12, 1981, the Ontario Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers will sponsor its first Grade Eleven Prize Physics Contest. The purpose of the Contest is to generate interest in physics and to give scholar level students an opportunity to measure themselves against others in the province.

The Contest will consist of about 25 multiple choice questions. Most of the questions are based on the content of the current government guideline. In addition there are a few questions concerning physics history, current events and general knowledge. The Contest will be written in a two hour period under local school supervision on Tuesday, May 12, 1981.

Prizes and certificates will be awarded at both the school level and the provincial level. Each school will purchase a prize for its own top student. AAPT - Ontario will supply certificates for first and second place winners in each school. Special certificates and special prizes will be awarded by AAPT - Ontario for the top ten students at the provincial level.

Here are the steps to follow:

1. Fill out the enclosed entry form. Coordinate your school so that only one entry comes from each school. Include a cheque payable to AAPT - Ontario at the rate of 50¢ for each student entry. Mail entry forms immediately. They must be received by April 16, 1981. Students who write the Contest must be currently enrolled in grade eleven physics or were in the term immediately preceding in semester schools.
2. Order your school prize now! We suggest a copy of Jearl Walker's Flying Circus of Physics with Answers. Write to the Order Department, John Wiley & Sons, 22 Worcester Road, Rexdale, Ontario, M9W 1L1. If you order by school purchase order or on school letterhead the cost is only \$13.56. Postage costs will be added to the invoice which will be shipped with the book. No need to include money at the time of ordering.
3. Reserve an appropriate room and arrange for the supervision of the exam Contest on May 12, preferably in the morning. Then stand back and watch the stampede of enthusiasm!

Yours sincerely,

Doug Fox
Doug Fox.

DF:jd