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To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to take this opportunity to report my observation of a large fireball last evening, March 5, 1994.

At 2257h local time, 0357h UTC, while looking westward from my location at 44° 14' North, 78° 22' West, in the general direction of Sirius. Alpha Canis Majoris, my attention was caught by a flash of light at the periphery of my vision.

near Keeg, Ont

The fireball's path stretched for approximately 30° from where I first noted it near Zeta Geminorum to its end near Eta Aurigae. However, considering its speed, and the moment taken for me to focus, I estimate that it actually started 3° to 5° earlier. I was able to clearly observe the fireball for approximately 6 seconds, after which the trail lasted for, approximately, 3 seconds longer.

The trail was blue-white in color, until it passed Theta Aurigae, at which point it began to oscillate between blue-white and orange until it ended in a bright white flash near, as mentioned, Eta Aurigae. The fireball broke into 4, or more, fragments with orange trails each lasting less than one second.

I cannot say if the fireball caused any sound, as I was standing by a lake covered with shifting ice, creating its own succession of noises.

Using a reference chart, for comparison, the apparent magnitude of the blue-white portion of the trail was approximately -13, the orange portion -10. Sky conditions for that night were clear, cloudless, slightly breezy, with moderate light pollution from some neighboring houses and a few street lamps.

I hope that this information is, in some way, useful. I am, by nature, very observant, and so trust that my observations recorded here are as accurate as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



Registered Respiratory Therapist
and Amateur Astronomer

cc: Smithsonian Museum of Natural History
American Meteor Society