

SKYNEWS



The Christmas Tree Nebula, and the Cone Nebula are designated NGC 2264. This is cluster of stars energizing hydrogen clouds, in Monoceros. There are some interesting textures, including the Fox Fur Nebula. I had a limited opportunity to image this last year, but only got a few hours and produced a mediocre, over noise reduced result. This year I got lucky with weather and managed to get enough time to make something decent. I used a Celestron Edge HD 925 with a 0.7 reducer, an ASI 2600MC Pro, and NBZ filter. I managed to get 12 hrs 40 minutes total exposure time, with 76 x 600s subs. I processed it in Siril, Starnet, GIMP & G'MIC.

Brock Johnston

October 2024

This newsletter will be quite bare. September is always a very quick month as we transition for summer to normal life. At least the nights are getting longer and the moon is getting high enough to clear the trees. Anyway, now it is the end of the month, and I'm doing the quick version!

Do know that submissions for your newsletter are always welcome.

Randy, pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca



President's Message

The COVID-19 Pandemic affected the Victoria Centre and its members in many ways, most of them negative. In a positive vein, our weekly Astronomy Cafés were transformed from small in-person gatherings to larger get-togethers on Zoom, and today they are popular hybrid events, although most still attend on Zoom.

A year ago this month we were finally able to resume our monthly meetings at the Bob Wright Centre at the University of Victoria after three-and-a-half long years without them.

The unfortunately long pandemic interruption in monthly meetings has meant that our monthly meetings since then have not been as well attended as they were before the pandemic. I find this very regrettable.

We are losing something important due to the diminished attendance at our monthly meetings. Throughout our history, these meetings were the place for members and friends to get together and chat informally, something that isn't so easy on Zoom.

Our monthly meetings feature speakers from the UVic Astronomy Department, the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory and elsewhere, with occasional celebrity speakers. These talks often provide the latest information available on astronomical research. One of the most important jobs in our executive involves organizing speakers for upcoming meetings.

Many of the speakers are younger scholars who gain great experience in public outreach by addressing our meetings. It's a way for us to repay UVic and the DAO for the help they give to the Victoria Centre.

Then there is the human connection. As I mentioned, there's the chance to spend time with our fellow members. These opportunities are too rare these days, in part because our council meetings have moved to Zoom (maybe it's time to resume in-person council meetings?). Ideas and plans for our centre need to be discussed both inside and outside formal meetings. We need more informal discussion time.

Even more importantly, these informal discussions are the place where potential members and new members get to know our senior members and get answers to their questions about observing. We need these informal contacts to make our centre attractive to new people.

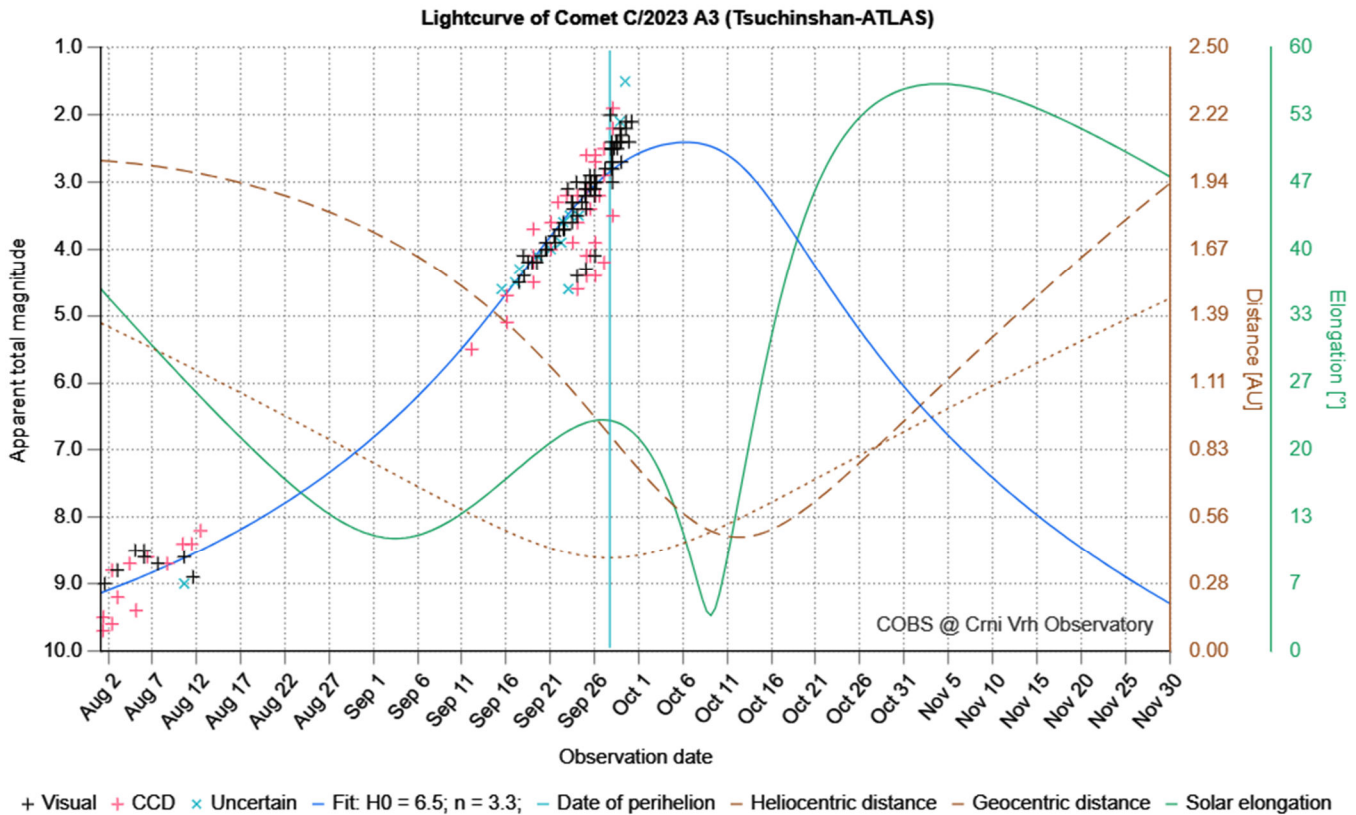
An important part of our monthly meetings is the informal gathering time after the meeting in the fourth-floor lounge of the Elliott Building. There's not only discussion, there's coffee and cookies, and our Centre Library there is open and available to all. At recent meetings, our Librarian Alex Schmid has shown up with a delicious Apple Pie he has cooked. Not to be missed!

In September we enjoyed a terrific talk from Jess Speedie of UVic on the wombs of pregnant stars. On Wednesday October 9 at 7:30 p.m., Breanna Cromptvoets of UVic will speak to us about Star Formation. We meet in Lecture Theatre 104 at the Bob Wright Centre.

See you there. And bring your appetites.

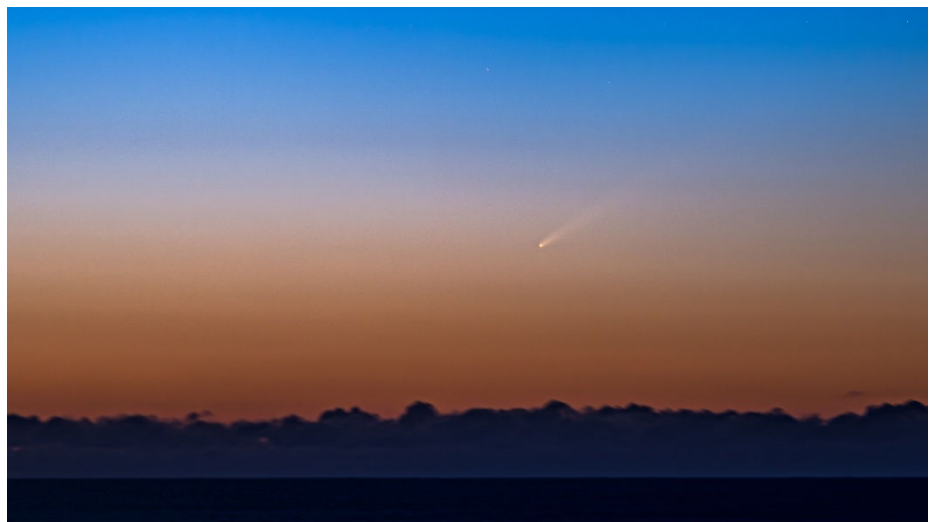
Chris Gainor, President@Victoria.RASC.ca

Naked-eye comet coming!



Comet Observation Database, <https://cobs.si/comet/2410/>

Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) appears to be exceeding expectations! The blue curve displays how bright the comet was expected to shine; peaking around M2.5, which is hard to see before dark. Until October 2, the comet will be visible in the east just before sunrise. We'll catch it again after it passes behind the sun starting around Oct. 12, in the west just after sunset. Will it be as bright as first magnitude star like Aldebaran, Pollux, or Spica?



C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) from Halifax, NS. September 29, 2024, at 06:15. Jason L. Dain

October Astro-Events

Oct. 1	19:30, Council Meeting. Zoom link in Sept. 28 email from president@victoria.rasc.ca
Oct. 2	Annular Solar Eclipse. South Pacific Ocean, across Patagonia, and into the South Atlantic Ocean.
Oct. 5	10:00-15:00, Geodiversity Fest: Celebrating Everything that Makes and Shapes the Earth. In the Royal BC Museum. Just like International Astronomy Day, but looking down instead of up!
Oct. 7	Ejnar Hertzsprung, the co-developer of the Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram (which helps astronomers understand the life sequence of stars), is born in 1873 in Copenhagen, Denmark
Oct. 7	AstroCafé hybrid meeting, in person at the Fairfield Community Centre, or on-line on Zoom The Russian Luna 3 spacecraft takes the first photos of the back side of the moon in 1959.
Oct. 9	19:30 University of Victoria RASC Meeting Beyond the Veil – Hidden Stars in Molecular Clouds – Breanna Cromptvoets Bob Wright Centre, Lecture Theatre A104 Followed by Coffee, Cookies and Conversation in the Astronomy Lounge on the 4th floor of the Elliot Building. Alex Schmid will open up the Centre RASC Library which is located in this lounge.
Oct. 10	First Quarter Moon, 11:55 PDT
Oct. 11	Heinrich Olbers, astronomer and doctor, is born in 1758 in Arbergen, in what is now Germany. He discovers asteroids and comets, devises a new method of orbit calculation, and proposes the dark night sky paradox.
Oct. 14	Saturn 0.1°S of Moon. Occultation visible in S. Africa, Arabian Peninsula, India (No Astrocafé. Happy Thanksgiving everybody)
Oct. 17	Full Moon, 04:26 PDT
Oct. 21	AstroCafé hybrid meeting, in person at the Fairfield Community Centre, or on-line on Zoom.
Oct. 22	Creation of the Earth at 06:30, 4004 BCE, according to Archbishop James Ussher of Armagh. In 1975, the Russian Venera 9 mission to Venus sends back the first ever images from the surface of another planet.
Oct. 24	Last Quarter Moon, 01:03 PDT
Oct. 25	American astronomer Henry Norris Russell is born in 1877 in Oyster Bay, New York. He goes on to create the Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram and make many other contributions to astronomy
Oct. 28	AstroCafé hybrid meeting, in person at the Fairfield Community Centre, or on-line on Zoom.
Oct. 29	Edmond Halley was born in 1656 (according to the Julian calendar, still in official use in England at the time.) Halley discovered much more than the periodicity of the comet now named for him. He found proper motion among the stars, figured out how a transit of Venus could give us the size of the solar system

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