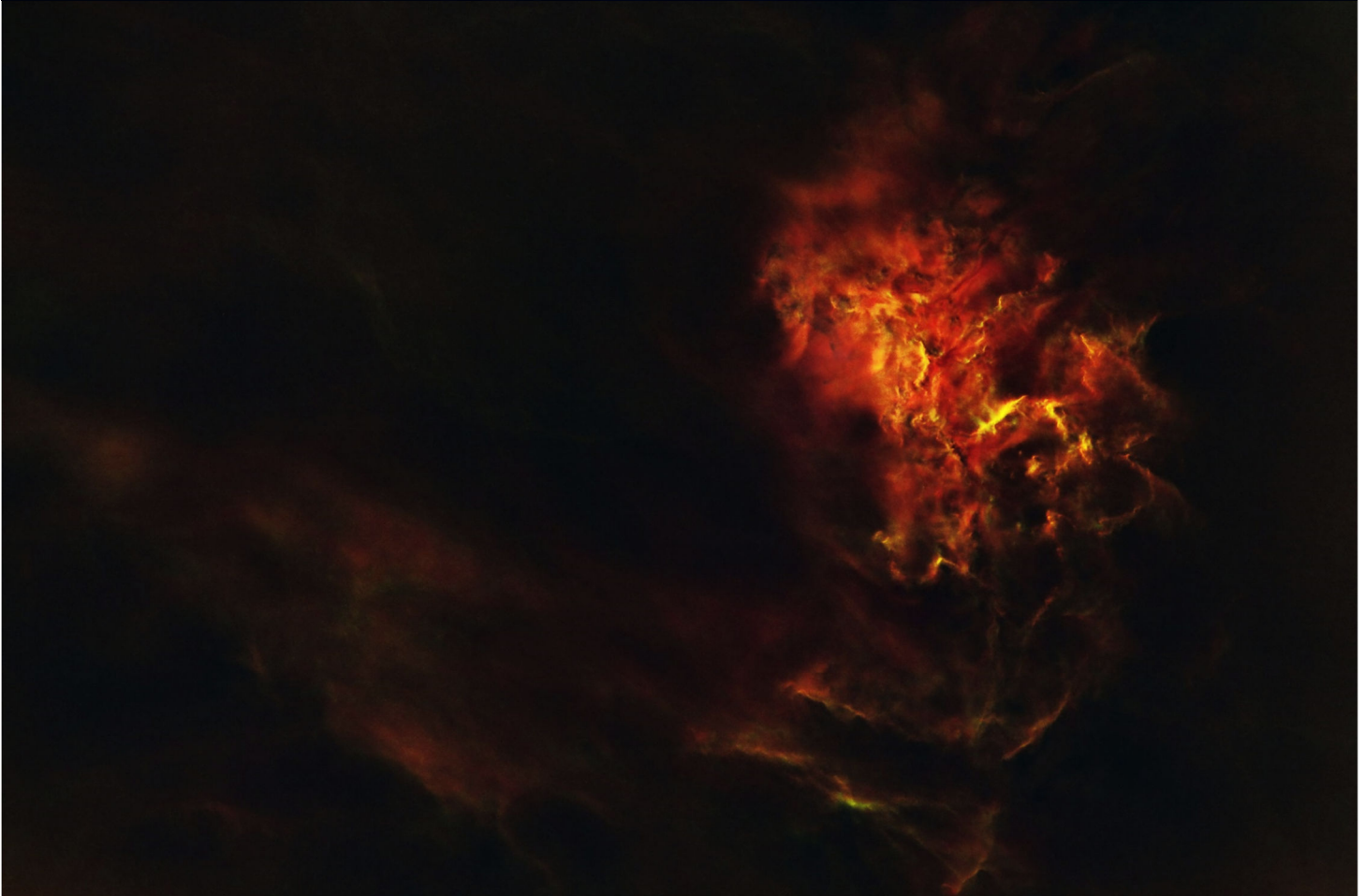


# SKYNEWS



*IC 405, The Flaming Star Nebula. Ken McGill*

## January-February 2025

I'm back from a glorious family trip to Italy. So for a second month, the Skynews schedule is out of kilter. The next one is scheduled for late February to cover the month of March. There are two important events to attend in February, both during the normal Astrocafé time slot: The Annual General Meeting (on-line only) on February 10, and our Social Dinner, in-person only at the Four-Mile Brewpub. Hope to see you there!

The AGM will mark the end of Chris Gainor's 2<sup>nd</sup> tenure as President of the Victoria Centre. Chris is the 4<sup>th</sup> person to take on a second stint as President. There was also Jack Newton (1980-1981, 1990-1991), Don Dundee (1977-1978, 1992-1993), and impressively Kenneth Wright (1945-1946, followed 25 years later in 1971). Chris' two times in the role were separated by only 20 years.

*Randy Enkin, [pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca)*



## President's Message

Between my two spells as President of the Victoria Centre, I spent more than 15 years occupied in the affairs of the RASC at the national level, including five years as our centre's national rep, 10 years on the national executive and board of directors, and more recently on the Editorial Board.

Much of that time was difficult for the National society, notably due to the pandemic, which continues to cast its shadow on the RASC. Although much more work remains to fully restore the RASC, good progress is being made today thanks to leadership from our board and from our executive director, Jenna Hinds, who personifies our hopes for the future.

At the time I joined the national executive, the federal government was imposing a major set of changes in the form of the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act. That law was brought in to deal with problems in other organizations, and it forced the RASC to change its tried-and-true governance structure centred on our National Council. Making the imposed structure work for us has taken more than a decade of effort by several National Councils and Boards of Directors. I'm gratified to see the recent progress made in restoring our tradition of centre involvement in our national governance.

Along with many centres, the national RASC got involved in charitable fundraising. Various initiatives supported by funds raised from contributors and granting agencies were tested by COVID-19, and discipline has been imposed on the use of these funds.

Even before the pandemic, the operation of our publications, especially SkyNews magazine, proved to be challenging due to changes in how magazines are produced and used. COVID delivered the death blow to SkyNews, and complicated the operation of our other publications, first in distribution and more generally in the form of cost inflation. Many tough decisions have had to be made to restore our publications to sustainability.

During my time on the board and as national president, I worked to renew the organization of our General Assemblies. Due to the pandemic, I had to make the obnoxious decision to cancel the 2020 GA in Vancouver. Although we replaced it with a successful Virtual General Assembly and followed it with more virtual GAs and other virtual events, I long for the day when it again becomes possible to hold GAs that bring our members together in person from every part of Canada. Resumption of in-person GAs helps the leaders of our centres make personal connections that help us do a better job. I also consider national RASC meetings to be a small force for Canadian unity.

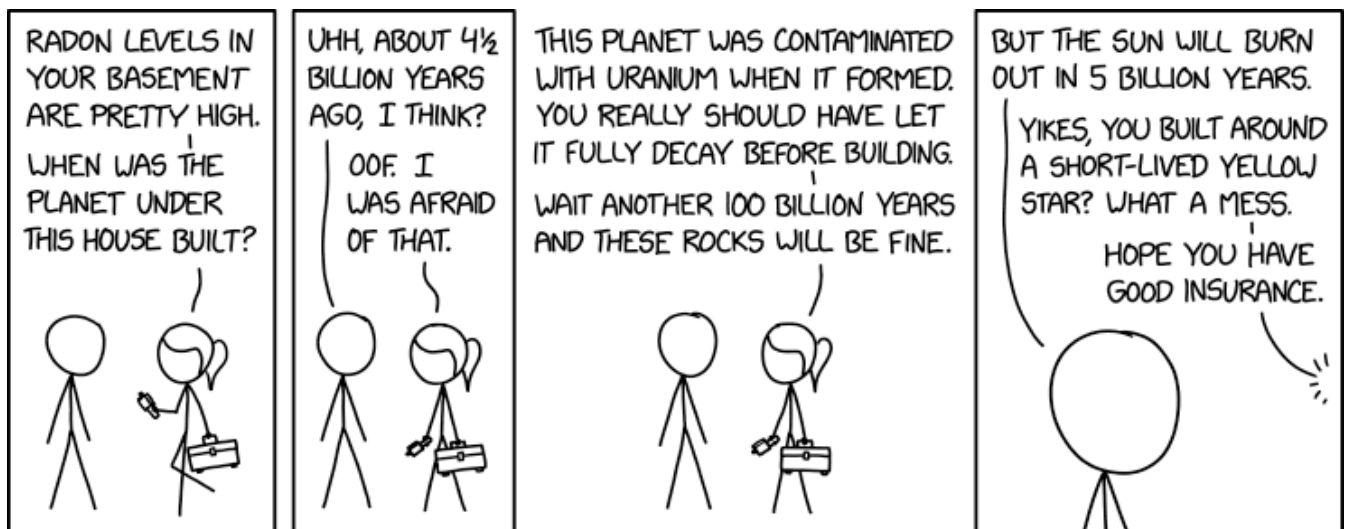
The face of our country is changing, and so is the composition of our membership. Perhaps our most important work in the RASC involves opening our doors to more women and to people from different backgrounds. We have much more work to do at the national level and in all our centres to make everyone feel at home in our society. Our growing knowledge of the universe is the greatest gift we can give to upcoming generations as part of our participation in the RASC.

I look forward to continuing this work in 2025 in Victoria and all over Canada and beyond.

*Chris Gainor, [President@Victoria.RASC.ca](mailto:President@Victoria.RASC.ca)*

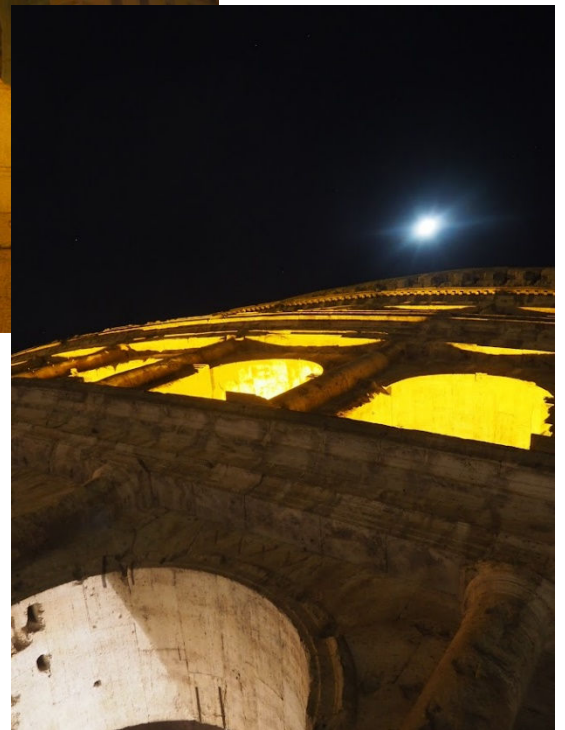
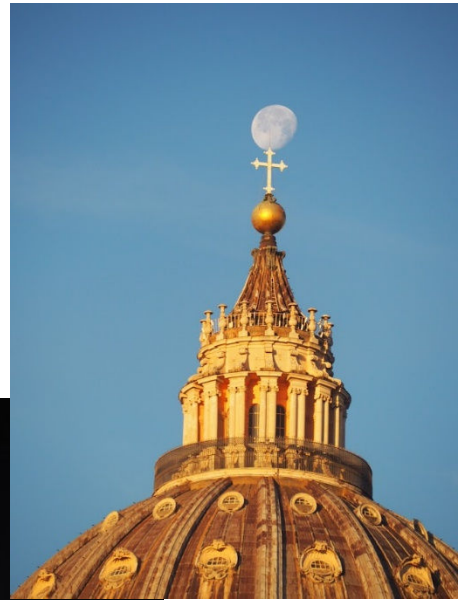


Executive Director of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Jenna Hinds, with Chris Gainor in the Dornier Telescope Museum at the National Office in Toronto.



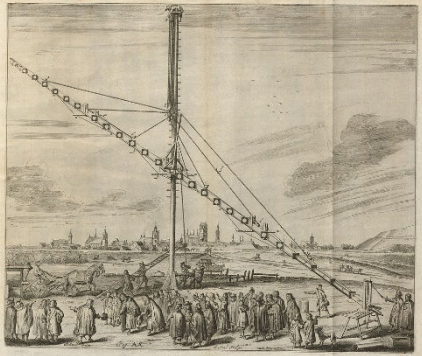
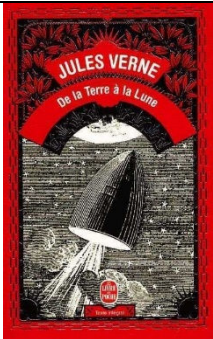
<https://xkcd.com/3037>

Some of Randy Enkin's photos of the Moon over Rome



# January-February-March Astro-Events

(Pacific Standard Time = UT-8)

Jan. 20	AstroCafé hybrid meeting, in person at the Fairfield Community Centre, or on-line on Zoom	
Jan. 21	19:30, Council Meeting. Zoom link in email from <a href="mailto:president@victoria.rasc.ca">president@victoria.rasc.ca</a> on Jan. 16 12:31 Last Quarter Moon	
Jan. 22	Apollo 5, 1968	
Jan. 27	AstroCafé hybrid meeting, in person at the Fairfield Community Centre, or on-line on Zoom	
Jan. 28		Johannes Hevelius, born 1611. He constructed the longest tubed telescope (46 m focal length) in 1645. Recognized as "the founder of lunar topography", for his book "Selenographia, sive Lunae description" (1647).
Jan. 29	04:36 New Moon Chinese New Year (Wood Snake)	
Jan. 31	Saturn about 3 lunar diameters from the fingernail moon at dark around 18:00, and within 2 diameters just before moonset around 20:00. (Occultation visible in Asia.)	
Feb. 3	AstroCafé hybrid meeting, in person at the Fairfield Community Centre, or on-line on Zoom	
Feb. 4	Clyde William Tombaugh, discoverer of the planet Pluto in 1930, born 1906. Apollo 14 moon landing, 1971	
Feb. 5	00:02 First Quarter Moon	
Feb. 8		Jules Verne, born 1828, sometimes called the "father of science fiction" for books like "From the Earth to the Moon" (1865)
Feb. 9	Mars about 6 lunar diameters from the waxing gibbous moon at the time of the setting moon about 06:30. (Occultation visible in Scandinavia.)	

## Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Victoria Centre

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Feb. 10	Annual General Meeting. On-line on Zoom only. PLEASE ATTEND – We need our quorum of 25 members. As well as business and elections, we'll enjoy the annual awards! No AstroCafé :(
Feb. 12	05:53 Full Moon
Feb. 15	Galileo Galilei, born 1564. Developed the telescope, looked up and saw 10 times more stars than any other human being, and then the next night observed that 4 of them around Jupiter moved, thus proving that celestial bodies do not only orbit Earth. The most remarkable scientist ever!
Feb. 17	BC Family Day! No AstroCafé :( 478 BCE, Anaxagora observes a solar eclipse and realizes that it is caused by the moon's shadow.
Feb. 18	Planet Pluto discovered by Clyde Tombaugh
Feb. 19	Nicholas Copernicus, born 1473. Developed the heliocentric model of planetary motion.
Feb. 20	09:32 Last Quarter Moon John Glenn orbits Earth 3 times, 1962
Feb. 24	18:00 Social Evening and Dinner at the Four-Mile Brewpub! Please RSVP with the total number in your party to Marjie Welchframe at <a href="mailto:marjie.welchframe@icloud.com">marjie.welchframe@icloud.com</a> . No AstroCafé :(
Feb. 27	16:45 New Moon
Mar. 3	AstroCafé hybrid meeting, in person at the Fairfield Community Centre, or on-line on Zoom
Mar. 4	Patrick Moore, prolific amateur astronomer, born 1923
Mar. 6	08:32 First Quarter Moon
Mar. 10	AstroCafé hybrid meeting, in person at the Fairfield Community Centre, or on-line on Zoom
Mar. 12	19:30 University of Victoria RASC Meeting Tess Grindlay, on the Europa Clipper Mission 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.
Mar. 13	<b>TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE!!!</b> Penumbral Eclipse begins 20:57:28 Partial Eclipse begins 22:09:40 Full Eclipse begins 23:26:06 Full Eclipse ends 00:31:26 Partial Eclipse ends 01:47:52 Penumbral Eclipse ends 03:00:09

## Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Victoria Centre

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<b>Director Positions</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>
Past President	Randy Enkin	pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca
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2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Kirsten Pedersen	vp2@victoria.rasc.ca
Treasurer	Doug Hardy	treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca
Secretary	Oliver Robinow	secretary@victoria.rasc.ca
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Member at Large	Myles Morrison	mmmmm@telus.net
Member at Large	Jeff Pivnick	
Member at Large	Lauri Roche	lauri@victoria.rasc.ca
Member at Large	Alex Schmid	librarian@victoria.rasc.ca
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Light Pollution Abatement	Dave Robinson	
Webmaster	Joe Carr	web@victoria.rasc.ca
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