



2023 RASC Victoria Centre Annual General Meeting

February 12, 2024, via
Zoom

RASC-Victoria Centre 2023 Annual General Meeting

2024-02-12 Agenda

1. Call to order, roll call, and approval of agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting (2023-03-13)
3. Reports
 - a. Centre Report – *Randy Enkin*
 - b. Treasurer's Financial Report – Doug Hardy
 - c. National Representatives' Report – *Bill Weir and Nathan Hellner-Mestelman*
4. Awards – *Randy Enkin*
5. Election of Victoria Centre Council Members – *Reg Dunkley*
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

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Motion to Approve the Agenda
and Zoom Poll

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**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Victoria Centre
Zoom 2022 Annual General Meeting
for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES**

Monday, March 13, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Randy Enkin, President Recorder: Jill Sinkwich, Secretary

1. Call to order, roll call and approval of agenda

Jill Sinkwich noted that 53 members were logged on and 3 proxies had been received, exceeding the required threshold of 25, and a quorum was confirmed.

MOVED by Jeff Pivnick and SECONDED by Jim Hesser THAT the Agenda be accepted.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Garry Sedun and SECONDED by Reg Dunkley THAT the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

MOVED by Jeff Pivnick and SECONDED by Dorothy Paul THAT the minutes of the Special General Meeting of May 16, 2022 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

MOVED by Doug Hardy and SECONDED by Marjie Welchframe THAT the minutes of the Special General Meeting of February 13, 2023 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

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Motion to Approve the 2022 AGM

(2023-03-13) Minutes, and Zoom

Poll

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Victoria Centre 2023 Annual Report

Randy Enkin

Summary

Number of members at the end of the year: 246

Down 5.0% (13 members) from one year earlier.

Number of Events: 139

Number of Galileo Moments:

11300 in person, 12000 on line

2023 Social Dinner

March 26, 2023, Moon Under Water Pub.



International Astronomy Day

April 29 and 30, 2023

IAD was in full swing in 2023 with 2 days filled with activities for the public with approximately 150 -200 people per day.



There was a star party night on the Hill and a full slate of speakers and information tables were available on Sunday at UVic. The Bob Wright Observatory was also open during the

International Astronomy Day

THANKS to David Lee and Lauri Roche for their leadership, and to the many volunteers!

Note: this year the IAD will take place Saturday, May 18, at Royal BC Museum, and then the Centre of the Universe for programs organized by the FDAO.

RASC General Assembly

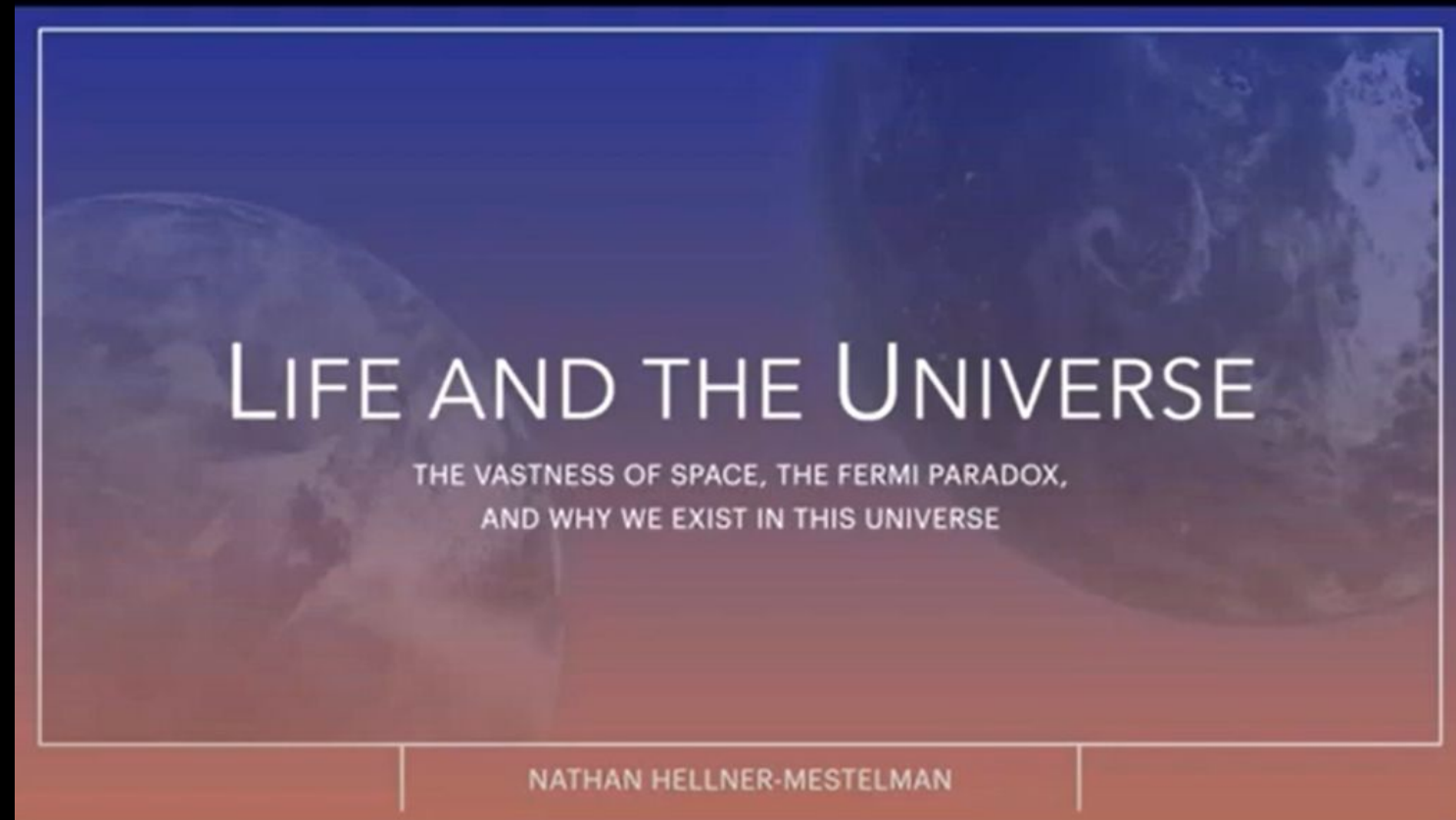
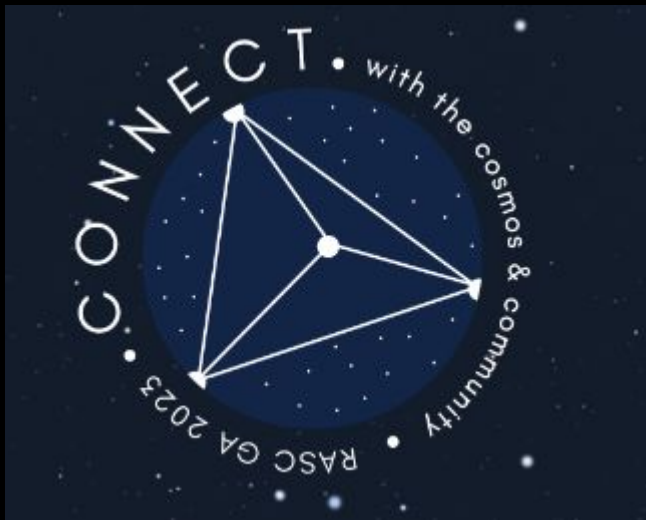
May 5-7, 2023, On Line. Laurie Roche on the organizing committee.

RASC-VC Presentations:

Friday Night Observatory Tour by David Lee, Brian Barber, Dan Posey, and Laurie Roche

Life in the Universe by Nathan Hellner-Mestelman

The Problem with Lunar Eclipse Crater Timing by Randy Enkin



Beaveree



May 27: Bill Weir, Lauri Roche, Jim Cox and Alex Schmid, about 200 + attendees
“It was fun. That’s the report.”

Vancouver Island Star Party



Vancouver Island Star Party

August 11 to 13 at Bright Angel Park, Duncan, 40 minutes drive from downtown Victoria.

After 25 years of sponsorship by the Cowichan Valley Starfinders, the event from now on will be sponsored by the RASC-Victoria Centre. ~25 volunteers, >200 Participants.

“The skies opened up and allowed everyone to see and take great photos of the night sky. The oouws and auws from the crowd let everyone know when a meteor was lighting up the sky. There must have been about 100 door prizes over the 2 evenings and the main feature was a 71 mm skywatcher scope on a Celestron goto mount. If you missed this year’s party, you must make sure you make time for next year’s Star Party. In addition to being fun, I learned so much from this weekend’s event.” (Bert Hendriksen)

THANKS to Dave Payne for his leadership!

NOTE: 2023 Island Star Party: August 9 to 11. Where?!

Saanich Fair

September 3-5 at the Saanich Fair Grounds

Friday - counting RASC volunteers only - 10 hours with 3 volunteers

Saturday - 27 hours, 7 RASC volunteers

Sunday - 36 hours, 10 RASC Volunteers

Monday - 40 hours (includes tear down), 10 RASC Volunteers

We did not make a count but we had over 2500 people

THANKS to Laurie Roche for her leadership!



22 Star Parties – monthly in the winter, biweekly in the spring, weekly in the summer.

Star Parties with the FDAO

5 to 15 RASC volunteers at the Star Parties, depending on the dates and the weather.

Especially Clint and Melissa Tupper (Welcome Table), Ken Mallory, Alex Schmidt, David Lee. Ken reports 40 to 100 observers at his night.

About 3300 attendees total

RASC Speakers for Star Parties:

Several at Games Night in January

David Payne on Astrophotography in July

Evan Warburton on Dual Dipole Radio Telescope in August

David Lee, David Payne, Brock Johnson and others for Telescope Clinic in



Annular Eclipse, October 14, 2023

Hundreds of RASC solar glasses distributed, most returned for future use.

FDAO Eclipse Breakfast

~10 people X 3 hours + prep time = 40 hours

Randy Enkin – 5 talks

Eclipse was also viewed with RASC volunteers at Mount Tolmie (Ken Mallory), Clover Point (Nathan Hellner-Mestelman), outside a Bosey's (Sherry Buttner), and Sid Sidhu's yard



School Visits

Lauri Roche volunteers for both the RASC and the FDAO when she works with school tours.

75 of the total 100 of the programs this year,
2500-3000 kids. ~250 hours of volunteer hours.

Astrocafé



Hybrid Astrocafés in person at the Fairfield Community Centre (with thanks to the Fairfield Community Association), and online via Zoom, with archived replay on Youtube (with thanks to Joe Carr).

Coordinated by Chris Purse, and with volunteers Alex Schmid, Ashesh Bhatt, Brock Johnson, Jeff Pivnick, Jim Cliffe, Ken McCill, Lauri Pocho, Marijo Welchframe, and Pandy Enkin.

Astrocafé

	2021	2022	2023
On-line Meetings	41	13	
Hybrid Meetings		18	28
TOTAL	41	31	28
Total Attendance	1191	992	982
Average Attendance	29	32	35
Average in person		9	10
Average on-line		23	25
YouTube Views	2844	5040	9140
YouTube Average	65	153	338

Victoria Centre Observatory



- ◆ 11 Observing Sessions in 2023
- ◆ ~ 4 to 6 Active Observers Per Session.
- ◆ Numerous Additional Sessions Resolving Technical Issues
- ◆ Digital Setting Circles added to 20 Inch Obsession Dobsonian
- ◆ 5 Inch Tak Refractor Available for both Visual Use and DSLR Photography
- ◆ 12.5 Inch RC Reflector and QHY 600 Camera now has H alpha O iii and S ii Narrow Band Filters

Monthly Speaker Presentations at the University of Victoria



Monthly Speaker Presentations

at the University of Victoria

Restarted, finally, after 3 years, thanks to Alex Schmid and Reg Dunkley

October 11, “The NRC NEW EARTH Laboratory, and the Quest to Develop the Tools to Find Life on Exoplanets”, Dr. Christian Marois, NRC

Nov. 8, “You can’t have one without the other: Circumstellar disks produce and are produced by planets”, Dr. Brenda Matthews, NRC

December 13, “The Need for a Space-Based Far-Infrared Telescope”, Dr Doug Johnstone, NRC

January 10, “Revealing the Invisible Universe with Radio Telescopes”,

Special Interest Groups

There are 3 active SIGs operating within RASC Victoria Centre focusing on building online communities of interest. On line, once a month. Thanks to David Lee for coordinating the SIGs

Getting Started in Astronomy: participants 14 to 18

Astrophotography: 7 to 10 participants

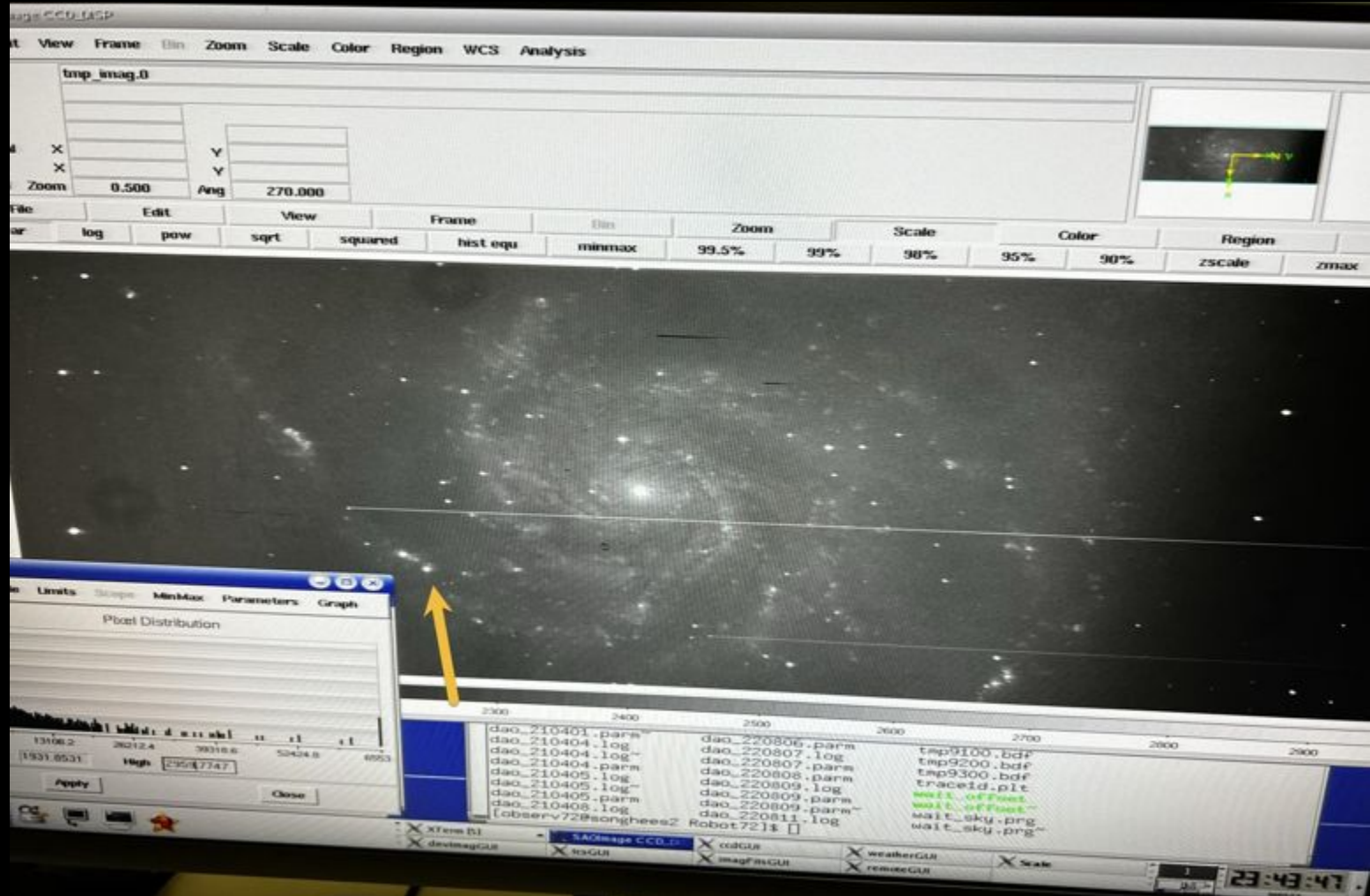
Makers: 3 to 4 participants

Citizen Science: 3 to 5 participants when active

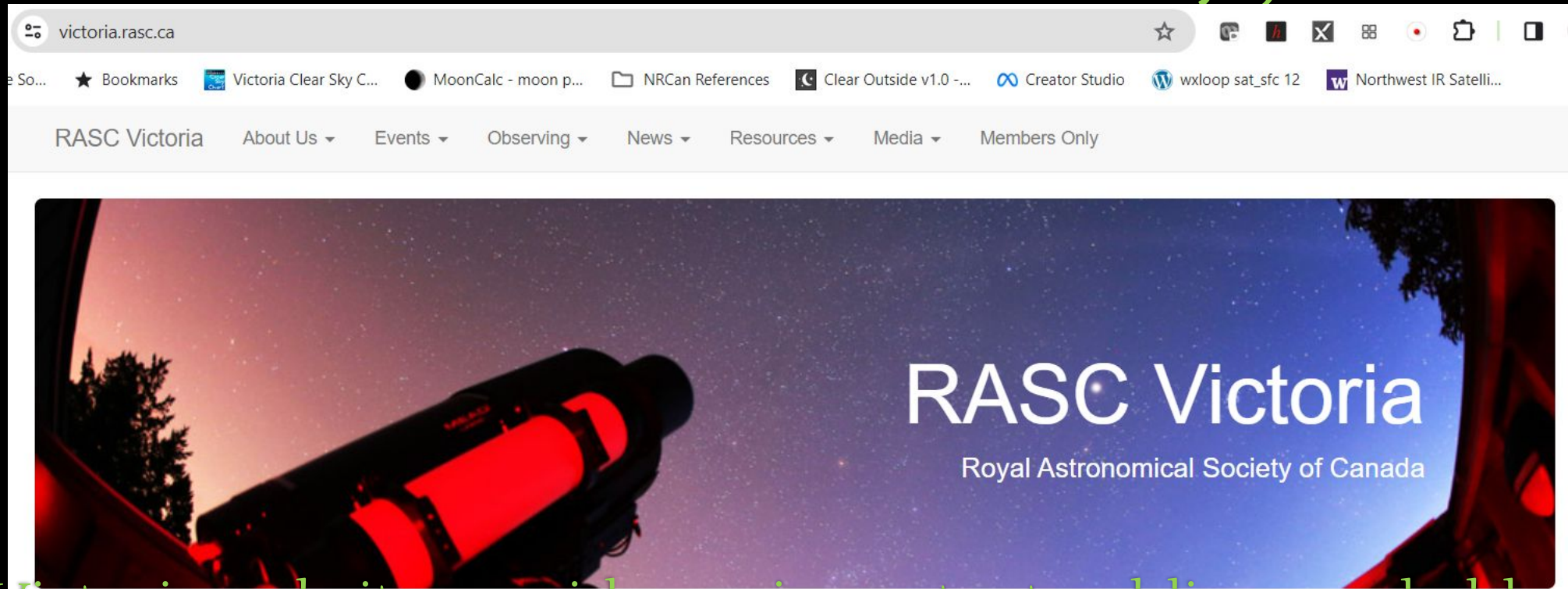
Plaskett Telescope Nights

The National Research Council offers the RASC Victoria Centre about 4 nights per year to use the 1.8m Plaskett Telescope. Thanks to Dan Posey for running these events!

On May 19, 2023, we photographed M101, the Pinwheel Galaxy, only hours after the discovery of 2023ixf



The Intertube, coordinated by Joe Carr



RASC Victoria website provides an important public, searchable platform providing astronomy content of interest to members and the public. Unlike social media, our website serves as a permanent record of Victoria Centre's activities and events, and provides authoritative information about astronomical observing. It is also a valuable platform to publicize our outreach events. Links to our videos on Youtube and photos and sketches on Zenfolio help users find these free services.

The Intertube, coordinated by Joe Carr

Facebook: RASC, Victoria Centre public group

558 members

600 posts, about 2 posts per day

over 300 comments

over 3,000 reactions

Posts include: astronomy news and issues, astrophotography, events, observing and technical tips, new astronomy gear, space mission news

Email lists

SKYNEWS - 105 messages posted - a notification list providing in-reach to members only

RASCVIC - 68 messages posted - general astronomy chit chat - observing, any subject - open to non-members, but mainly used by members

The Intertube, coordinated by Joe Carr

Youtube: RASCVictoria channel

Video recordings of mainly Astronomy Cafe (back to 2020) and other Victoria Centre meetings, but past videos posted on the channel include wide field time lapses, special presentations, tutorials and other media.

33 videos posted during 2023 (256 videos total)

12,000 views

940 hours of watch time, 4:45 average view time

278 subscribers (increased by 84 during 2023)

rascvic Zenfolio photos

Mostly astrophotography and sketches from members with some event photos as well

325 photos and sketches posted in 2023 (over 8,600 photos total)

Over 53,000 visitors to our most popular galleries over the years (not an annual figure)

Miscellaneous

Asteroid (20035) Lauriroche = 1992 SA4

Asteroid (20041) Gainor = 1992 YH

Thanks to Peter Jedicke for shepherding the nominations through the IAU
WGSSBN

Dorothy Paul led our judging at the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair.

Bill Weir Gorilla Observing: solar scope often to the Vancouver Island Music Fest and regularly attend the Metchosin Farmer's Market.

Jill Sinkwich coordinated the "Explore the Universe" group, and led observing sessions at Cattle Point.

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Number of members at the end of the year: 246

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2022 Victoria Centre Financial Statements

Doug Hardy

Budget Summary 2023

The budget summary is attached on the following page.

Income is slightly higher than expected despite the membership income being down. We receive our share of the membership dues monthly from RASC National. Because of this discrepancy these numbers should be correlated with membership numbers. Donations were higher than expected.

On the expense side we budgeted \$12110.00 but only spent \$9930.37. These numbers will be useful in setting the budget for 2024.

The VanCity opening balance (Jan 5, 2023) was \$9454.82 and the closing balance (Dec 8, 2023) \$6494.94. This may not be a completely accurate reflection of 2023 as some cash deposits and cheques came in later and show deposits in 2024 but were attributed to 2023 budget. This will be corrected in the 2024 budget.

Any questions or suggestions can be received by email at treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca or douglashardy51@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted:


Doug Hardy

2023 Summary

Income	Budget	Actual	Expenses	Budget	Actual
Membership	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,436.47	Salary	\$ -	\$ -
Publications	\$ 750.00	\$ 927.85	AC	\$ 800.00	\$ 567.00
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	Insurance VCO	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 905.00
Donations	\$ -	\$ 1,464.00	Directors Insurance	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Interest Income	\$ -	\$ -	Legal	\$ -	\$ 40.00
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	Equipment	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,088.00
Star Party	\$ 500.00	\$ -	Supplies	\$ 300.00	\$ 264.26
AGM	\$ -	\$ -	Printing	\$ 300.00	\$ 235.61
Equipment sales	\$ -	\$ 40.00	Zenfolio	\$ 60.00	\$ -
Lottery	\$ -	\$ -	Zoom	\$ 250.00	\$ 224.00
			Marketing	\$ -	\$ -
			Postage	\$ 300.00	\$ 27.50
			Star Party	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,026.52
			AGM	\$ -	\$ -
			Awards	\$ 500.00	\$ 498.74
			Outreach	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 792.96
			Light Pol	\$ 250.00	\$ 162.98
			GA	\$ -	\$ -
			Newsletter	\$ -	\$ -
			International Astro Day	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 555.04
			Meeting Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
			VCO	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 2,396.58
			Outreach Materials	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 616.14
			Publications	\$ 750.00	\$ 530.04
Totals	\$ 7,750.00	\$ 7,868.32		\$ 12,110.00	\$ 9,930.37

Motion to Accept the Financial Statements and Zoom Poll

National Representatives' Report

Nathan Hellner-Mestelman and Bill Weir

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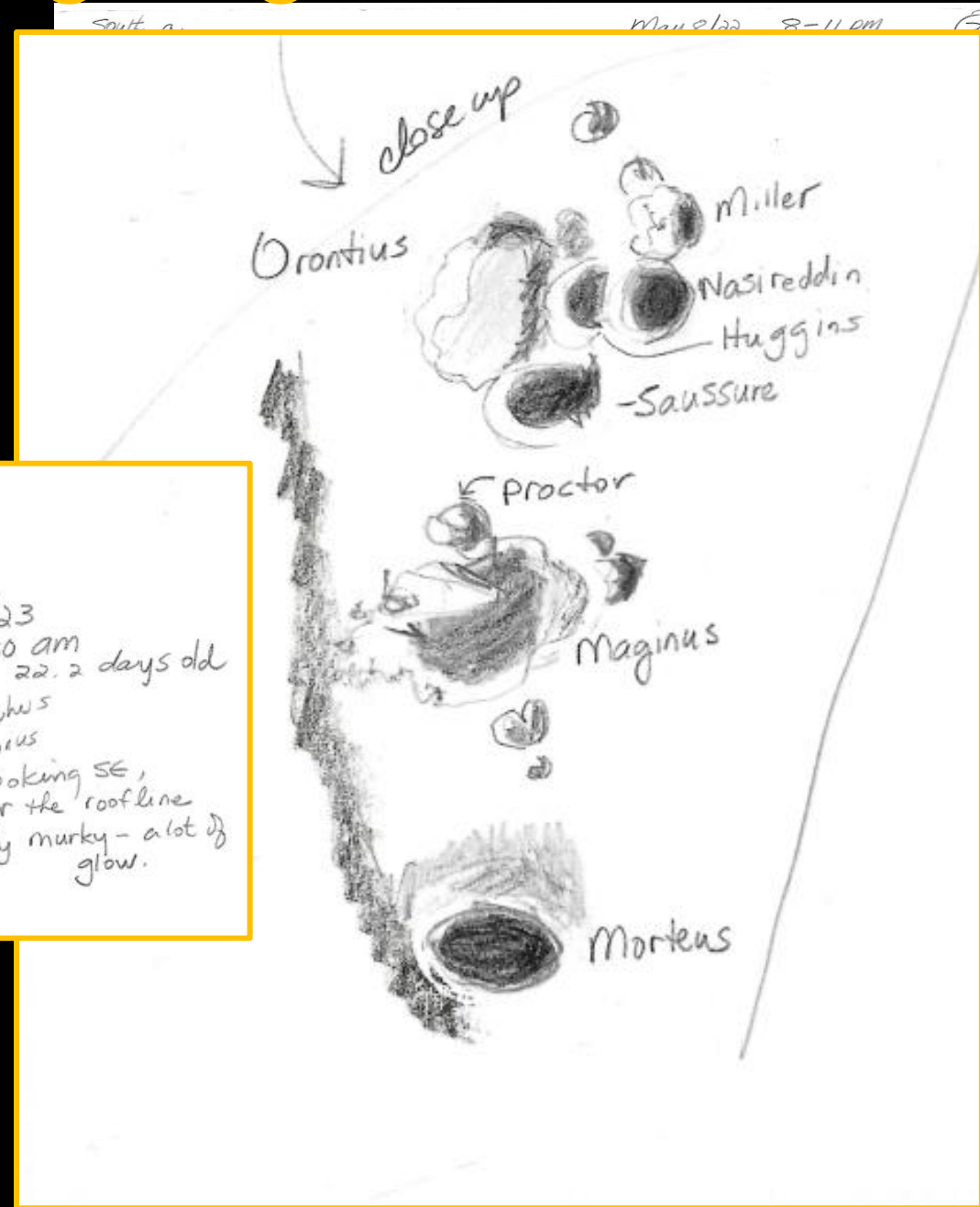
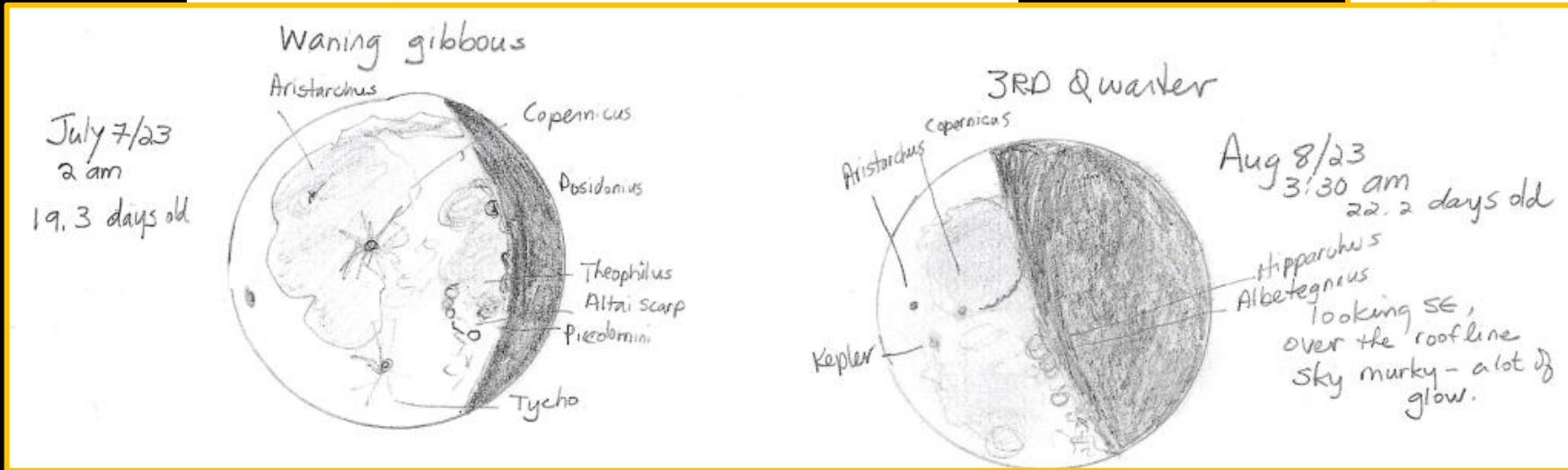
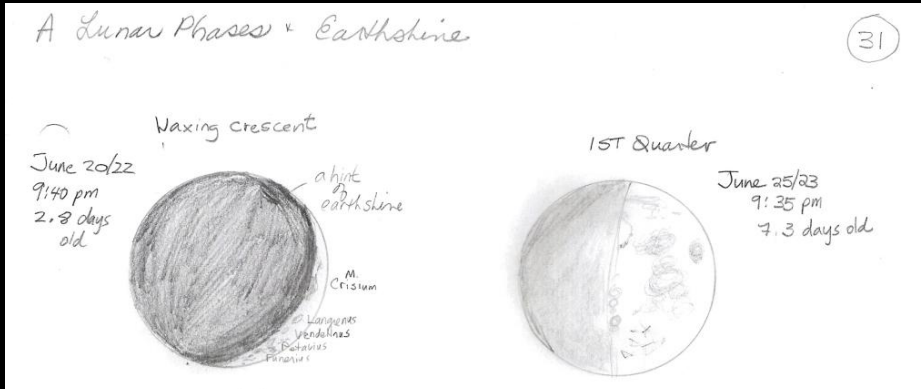
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RASC Observing
Certificate

Certificates of
Appreciation

Awards of Excellence

Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Certificate: TO Jill Sinkwich



Certificate of Appreciation:

TO Chris Purse

Since the outbreak of the Covid Pandemic in 2020, Chris helped implement Astro Cafe Zoom sessions and has scheduled, hosted and coordinated these meetings. This contribution ensured that the Victoria Centre remained active and connected during a challenging interlude and has emerged as a preferred way for many to attend sessions.

Certificate of Appreciation:

TO David Payne

FOR organizing, coordinating, and executing a very successful 2023 Island Star Party at Bright Angel Park. Dave navigated bureaucratic hurdles and logistical challenges along the way. As a result, the many who attended will fondly remember this special event.

Tokens of Appreciation
Starry Night mugs to:
David Lee, the Victoria
Centre “Renaissance Man”,
and Lauri Roche, the
irrepressible Victoria
Centre “Energizer Bunny”,
in recognition of their many
and wonderful
contributions.

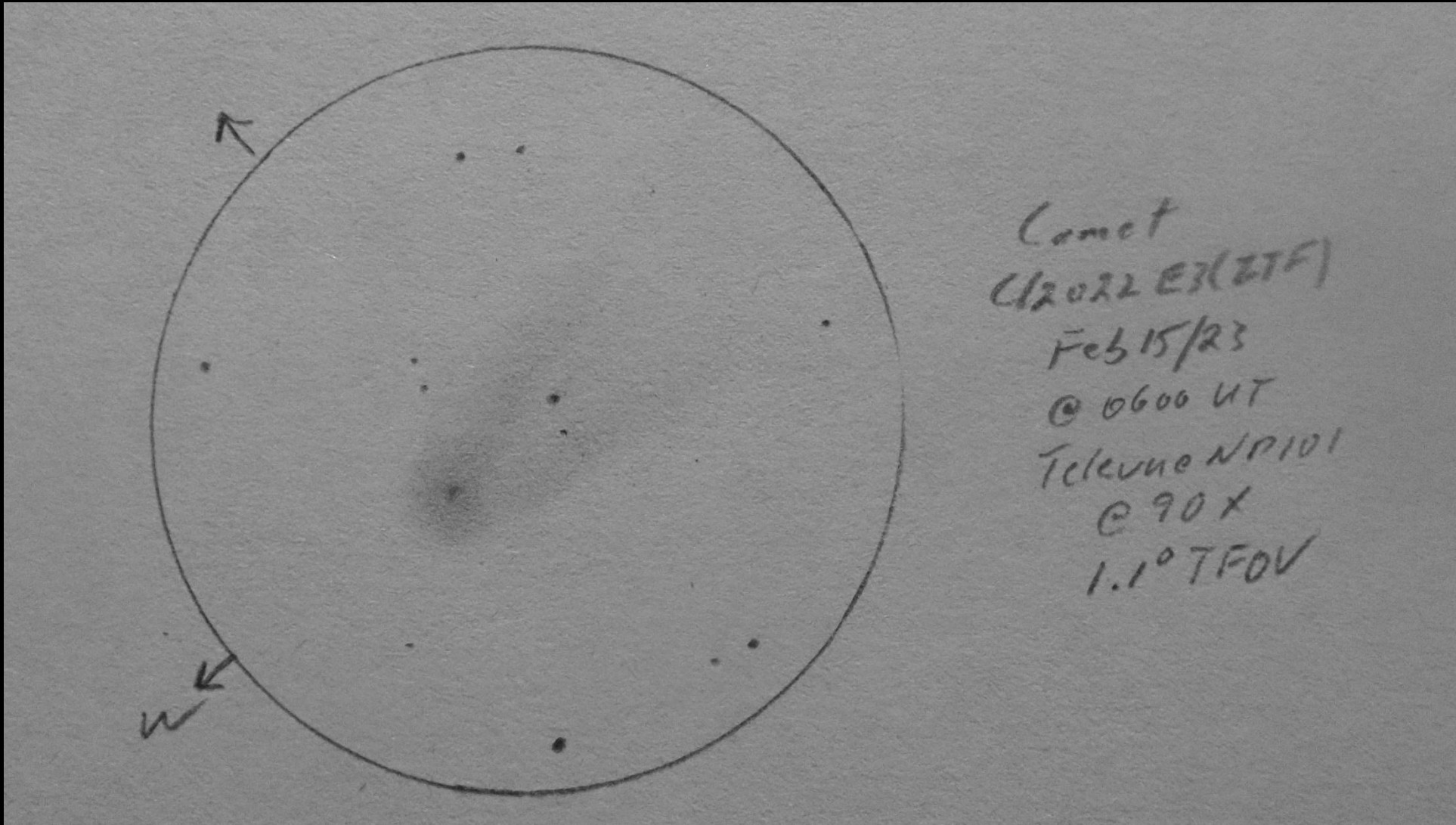


Award of Excellence in Astro-Imaging
TO Ken McGill FOR his black and white
image of the Horsehead Nebula and
Neighbourhood



Award of Excellence in Astro-Sketching

TO Bill Weir FOR his Comet C/2022 E3(ZTF) sketched
on Feb15 2023 Using a Televue NP101 Refractor at 90 X



RASC National Ken Chilton Prize
in recognition of a significant piece of
astronomical work carried out or published
recently.

TO Chris Gainor

Chris Gainor's book, *Not Yet Imagined*, documents the history of the *Hubble Space Telescope* from its launch through its first 30 years of operation in space. Focusing on the interactions among the general public, astronomers, engineers, government officials, and members of Congress, the book reveals the decision making related to service missions that made the *Hubble Space Telescope* a model of supranational cooperation.

The book also covers the impact of the *Hubble Space Telescope* and the images it produces on the public's appreciation for the universe and how the *Hubble Space Telescope* has changed the way astronomy is done.

Ernie Pfannenschmidt Award for Telescope Making TO Miles Waite

FOR many improvements to the VCO 20 Inch Obsession Telescope including attaching digital setting circles and designing bumpers to safeguard these delicate sensors, as well as devising a customized system to stabilize the platform.

The Newton/Ball 2022 For Distinguished Service to the Victoria Centre RASC TO Alex Schmid:

Alex has been an active member of the Victoria Centre for over 30 years. Accompanied by his iconic handmade Newtonian telescope, Alex had been introducing treasures of the night sky to the Public at DAO Star Parties for decades. His custom crafted tray at the VCO allows eyepieces safely stowed and readily available. As the Victoria Centre librarian he also prepares coffee, cookies, and wonderful cakes for monthly meetings at UVic. Alex also provides technical support at the Astro Cafe and serves as a Director at Large on Council. The Victoria Centre is very appreciative for the many contributions Alex has made over the years.

Award Certificates will be handed out at the RASC Victoria Centre Social Dinner, Monday February 26, 18:00



199 Island Highway,

fourmilehouse.com/

RSVP by Tuesday February 20, marjie.welchframe@icloud.com,
250-380-9108

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Election of Victoria Centre Council Members: Reg

Many thanks to our outgoing 2nd Vice President, Garry Sedun, Secretary Ken Atkinson, and Director at Large Brian Barber.

We appreciate your service to the community, and hope to see you lots more!

Election of Victoria Centre Council Members: Reg

Reminder: under the new Bylaws, we now have
a Board of Directors with 11 members:

President

Vice-President 1

Vice-President 2

Secretary

Treasurer

5 Directors at Large

Past President

All other leadership roles will be by
appointment by the Board of Directors

Election of Victoria Centre Council Members: Reg

- President: Chris Gainor
- First Vice President: Dan Posey
- Second Vice President: Kirsten Pedersen
- Secretary: Oliver Robinow
- Treasurer: Doug Hardy
- (Past President: Randy Enkin)

Directors at Large:

- David Lee
- Myles Morrison
- Jeff Pivnick
- Lauri Roche

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Are there any further
nominations?

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Election of the Slate
by Zoom Poll

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Motion to Adjourn
and Zoom Poll

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Look Up!