

# SKYNEWS

December 1995

No. 169

*Published by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
Victoria Centre*

RASC Meeting – Wednesday, December 13, 1995  
7:30 p.m., Elliott 061, University of Victoria

## Members' Night

Presentations on ScienceWeb,  
other astronomical web sites,  
and ... ?



**RASC Home Page**

<http://www.freenet.victoria.bc.ca/rasc/rascvic.html>

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Don Dundee  
Dr. James Hesser  
John Howell  
Frank Jones  
Jack Newton  
Frank Ogonoski  
John Pazder  
Keith Rawcliffe  
Mae Shearman

**COMING EVENTS:**

- December 14: The telescope-making group meets every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Sandy Barta's house. Come and see how mirrors are made. Everyone is welcome; call 479-0259 for more information.
- December 22: Winter Solstice
- January 10, 1996: Regular RASC meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Elliott 061, University of Victoria. Program to be announced.
- January 12: New Observers' Group meets on second Friday of each month at the home of Sid Sidhu, 1642 Davies Road (off Millstream Lake Road), at 8:00 p.m. For more information or directions, call 391-0540.
- January 17: CCD Observers' Group meets at the Newtons', 640 Cains Way. RR 1, Sooke. All are welcome.
- February 9: New Observers' Group (see January 12 above).
- February 14: Regular RASC meeting. Program to be announced.
- February 21: CCD Observers' Group (see January 17 above).

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**FOR SALE:**

Omcom 813 5-inch reflector with single eyepiece  
and Omcom equatorial mounting,

\$400.00 or best offer.

Call Dave Staples at

383-4495 (home) or 387-0195 (work)

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The deadline for the next issue of Skynews is January 6, 1996.

## A Message from our New President

Dear Members,

I'm honoured to accept the position of President of the Victoria Centre, and I hope that you'll give me plenty of feedback during the time I have this responsibility. The last couple of years have seen the Centre develop its resources due to the vitality of its members and leadership under Gary. So much is going on that it might be useful to make a partial list, in no particular order:

- \* The establishment of the Pearson College Observatory, a robotic telescope and CCD at your disposal,
- \* Sid's and George's efforts at making "loaner" telescopes available and building a 20" Dobsonian for the Centre,
- \* The visual observers group,
- \* The establishment of a Centre Web page, with features by members,
- \* The telescope-making group,
- \* The continued popularity of Jack's and Alice's CCD observing sessions, and
- \* An influx of new participants at the DAO open houses.

In my mind, the common threads through all of these facets of centre life are the opportunities for participation in addition to the regular meetings, the many ways of getting to know other members, and the incredible value of a membership.

On the other hand, a complaint that I have heard from some of our speakers and members -- and some former members who are absent for this reason -- is that the meetings are sometimes a little stiff, and that the business section takes too long. Reports are necessary to let people know what is happening, but we might want to see them submitted to the newsletter instead and have those responsible for them "hit the highlights" at meetings and take questions (two minutes per presentation), keeping the entire business section to a brisk ten minutes. It would also give Betty something to put in the newsletter! The lack of material for the newsletter is

an ongoing problem. [*Editor's note: Please read the last two sentences again!*] We haven't discussed this in a council setting yet, so I don't know what the feeling is about the amount of writing involved, but thought I would bring up the subject anyway. Please let us know what you think.

And while you're at it, let me know what we could be doing to make the Centre more fun and a better overall value, and how we can make a membership more worthwhile for kids.

On a less general note, is anyone willing to participate in a January viewing session for the public? It would be great to show people the Orion nebula and other winter wonders. Please call me!

If you need to reach me, your best bet is to try me at the office. Either drop by or get in touch with me through your favourite electronic method. Thanks!

**Don Moffatt**

Observatory/ScienceWeb Office 363-0053

(10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. usually)

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### Editor's Corner:

I'd like to add three comments to the enthusiastic and optimistic message from the Victoria Centre's new president.

First of all, I'd like to express continued enjoyment of taking astronomy to schools in addition to the activities listed above. I have written at length about classroom presentations in these pages, and it is always interesting and informative to share experiences with others who have participated in these adventures.

Second, I'd like to remind you that your newsletter should reflect from coast to coast what is happening at the Victoria Centre -- *is this issue a good example?*

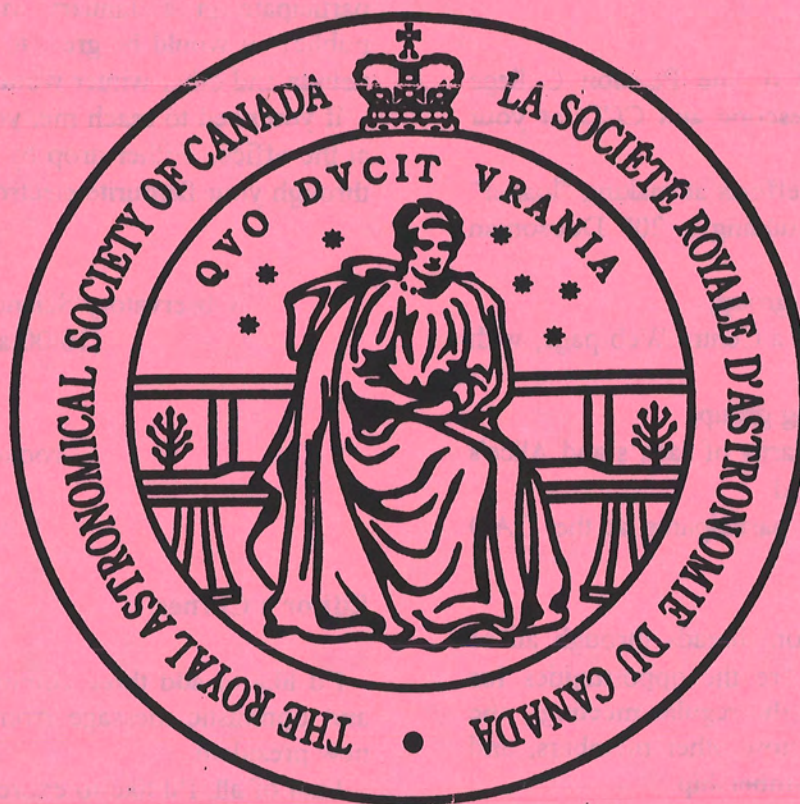
And third, Merry Christmas to one and all!

**Betty Hesser**

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