

H T T P : / / V I C T O R I A . R A S C . C A



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ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA ✦ VICTORIA CENTRE

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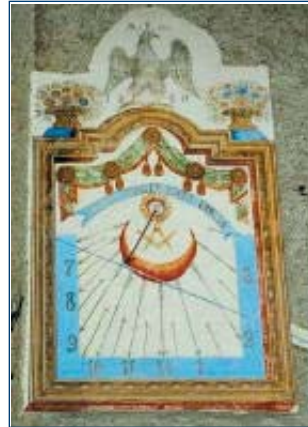
this month

Roger Bailey Zarbula's Sundials

Wed, March 8th, 7:30 pm, Elliot Lecture Theatre, Rm 060, UVic

Roger Bailey is amazed by how much you can learn from the shadow of a stick. His curiosity about sundial time has guided personal explorations in astronomy, mathematics, history, anthropology, art, and crafts.

Roger Bailey graduated with an honours BAsC in 1966 from Queen's University and is a registered Professional Engineer (Chemical). Recently Roger retired as Executive Director, Energy Research and Development, Alberta Innovation and Science. As the principal of Walking Shadow Designs, Roger is now offering consulting services on energy technologies and sundial design.



next month

Speaker to be announced

April 12th, 7:30 pm, Elliot Lecture Theatre, Room 060, UVic

Checkout out web-site for further details as they become available.

TRIUMF lecture series

Centre of the Universe

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - free of charge

March 18th

Searching for the first stars - Paul Hickson
Asteroids and us - Brett Gladman

April 22nd

We are all stardust: Nuclear physics in the cosmos - Barry Davids
History of Canadian Nuclear physics - Erich Vogt

RASC victoria council

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Members at Large

Bill Almond, Jim Hesser, Ed Maxfield,
Frank Ogonoski, Blaire Pellatt, Colin Scarfe,
Rich Willis

New Member Liaison

Sandy Barta
sbarta@shaw.ca

this month

monday nights

Astronomy Cafe

Hosted by Bruno Quenneville
2019 Casa Marcia Crescent
Victoria, BC

Call 477-2257 for directions or more information.

New comers are especially welcome. Come and enjoy!

second wednesday of the month

Monthly Meeting

7:30 PM, Elliott Lecture Theatre, Rm 060, UVic

third wednesday of the month

Astro Imaging

Hosted by Bill Almond
354 Benhomer Drive
Only if the sky is clear.
Call Bill to confirm: 478-6718

as sky and interest dictate

New Observers Group

Hosted by Sid Sidhu
1642 Davies Road, Highlands
Call 391-0540 for information and directions.

by email

Observer/CU Volunteers/ Members email lists

Contact Joe Carr to subscribe to these email lists for important, timely, member-related news.

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This change in the delivery method of the Journal will be phased in as follows:

- Regular and Youth members will continue to receive a paper copy until your membership expires. You will be offered the paper subscription at the time of your next membership renewal.
- Regular and Youth members who have paid more than one year in advance will continue to receive a paper copy until the August 2006 issue. You will be contacted and offered the paper subscription in advance of the October 2006 issue.
- Life members will continue to receive the paper copy until the August 2006 issue. In advance of the October 2006 issue, you will be offered the paper subscription on your annual Life Member Statement.

On the same day as the Special Meeting, the National Council of the Society approved a budget for 2006. Unfortunately, a significant deficit is again projected. In light of this, to save the Society some money I ask you to consider either of the following options, similar to what I described in my article in the October, 2005, issue of the Journal:

1 If you prefer not to receive the paper version of the Journal, please go to <http://www.rasc.ca/journal/optout.html> and choose to stop receiving the paper version of the Journal immediately.

2 If you intend to subscribe to the paper version of the Journal, please consider donating about \$3 for each issue between now and when your membership expires. You can either send a cheque with a note to the National Office or donate with your credit card using the eStore (\$10 or more). Access the appropriate item on the eStore from <http://www.rasc.ca/journal/optout.html>

We are very excited about the future of the Journal in the electronic medium. At the same time, we are pleased that we can continue to make the Journal available on paper to those members who wish to receive it in the traditional way. I hope you will continue to share your enthusiasm for astronomy with us.

Clear Skies,
Peter.

on the cover

Orion Nebula

by Victoria Centre Member, John McDonald

On Friday Feb. 10/06 Joe Carr invited us to Observers Hill for what turned out to be a clear night with some good views. There was a nearly full moon but the clear air was a treat after a long period of muck. I spent the whole evening collecting photons of the Orion Nebula region with my wide angle setup. The image represents a combination of the material I got on Friday evening with previous shots from October 11, 2005.

John McDonald

Camera - Pentax istDS shooting in raw 16 bit format.

Exposure - total of 19.5 minutes as follows:

- 1) ISO 200, 17-30sec shots at f2.8, Lens 200mm f2.8 Pentax K
- 2) ISO 200, 14-30sec shots at f5.6, Lens 200mm f2.8 Pentax K
- 3) ISO 400, 4-30sec shots at f8.0, Lens 400mm F5.6 Pentax K
- 4) ISO 800, 4-30sec shots at f8.0, Lens 400mm F5.6 Pentax K

Processing - Images Plus used to align, combine, and digitally develop. Fine tuning with Photoshop CS2.

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Huge Gift Shop Sale!

From now until March 17th, the Gift Shop at the Centre is having a massive sale! We've got lots of t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, gloves, and pyjamas at 50% off. Also 50% off are space-themed gift wrap and scrapbooking supplies, selected books and some Starry Night software packages. CFHT posters are marked down to \$10, and magnets, postcards and bookmarks are 5 for \$1. Also check out our \$2 table, with note pad cubes, Gemini virtual tour CD-ROMS, bean bag space shuttles, space-themed gift bags and CU keychains and light-up pens. Quantities are limited, so shop early to avoid disappointment!

Equinox Star Party

Join us for our March Star Party on Saturday, March 18th from 7:00 - 11:00 pm. Our theme is timekeeping and calendars - probably the most practical spin-off astronomy has given the world! We will have a guest lecture from Dr. Florin Diacu, an expert in celestial mechanics and the author of "The Lost Millennium - History's Timetables Under Siege". Is this really the year 2006? Dr. Diacu will talk about how some scientists challenge our common beliefs about historical events and claim we could be off by as much as a millennium! We will also have a special Equinox planetarium show, and of course, telescope tours and observation if the weather permits. We hope to see you there!

Astronomy Courses in March

Sign up now for the Stars night course, running from 7:00 - 10:00 pm on March 21st, 23rd, 28th and 30th. Ever wonder why we see the stars at night? Then join us to discover the mysteries of the stars - how they are born, how they die, and what they do in the meantime.

Course fees are \$120+GST for the four evenings, or \$105+GST for season's pass holders. The first evening of each course will offer a general introduction to astronomy and the seasonal night sky. If students have taken previous courses, this first evening is optional and the course fee will be reduced to \$90+GST for three evenings (\$80+GST for season's pass holders).

Our courses are most appropriate for adult learners. Any interested students under the age of 18 are asked to contact the Centre to discuss their enrolment. All courses will be held at the Centre of the Universe, located at 5071 West Saanich Road. For more information or to register, please call the Centre at 363-8262.

From David Lee**Victoria Centre National Representative**

The following message summarizes the outcome of February 11th Special Meeting in Toronto. As many of you already know both initiatives were passed by the membership.

Please pay special note to the end of the message where there is an appeal to save Journal expenses immediately. Members will continue to receive a paper copy of the Journal without extra cost until their membership expires, in the case of lifetime members the issue date is August 2006. I highly encourage everyone to help in cutting costs by declining the paper version immediately using the website <http://www.rasc.ca/journal/optout.html> If you plan to pay for the paper Journal consider donating as suggested for the remainder of the subscription until your membership expires.

From Peter Jedicke**National President, RASC**

Dear Member,

Both proposed changes to our by-law were accepted by a large majority of the membership at last Saturday's Special Meeting of the Society in Mississauga, Ontario. The two initiatives were:

Initiative One: Proposal to Amend Society Fee Distribution and Adoption Procedures

Initiative Two: Proposal to Enable the Print and Electronically Delivered (PED) Journal

The second initiative will have the most impact on members since it will mean that, after a phase-in period, you will no longer receive in the postal mail a paper copy of the Journal as part of your membership fee.

All members will be able to access the Journal electronically on the Internet, as you have already been able to do for the past year or so. You can also print out a single copy of the Journal for your own use on your printer. However, there will be an optional charge of \$15+GST (\$15US outside of Canada) if you wish to continue to receive the Journal in paper form by postal mail.

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*victoria member wins national award***Ed Majden awarded the Chant Medal**

RASC National Executive MOTION 06103

It was moved by the Awards Committee that **Ed Majden (Victoria) be granted the Chant Medal.**

MOTION 06103 was CARRIED

Guy Walton on Ed Majden

I first got to know Ed Majden back in about 1953 when I was a young boy in Regina and starting out to pursue my interest in astronomy. Ed was older, in high school and had a set of keys to the observatory of the Regina Astronomical Society (RAS). This made him very important to me and my young friends Kent Silzer and Steven Lipton. I am sure Ed will not forget the three of us as we were nuisances with our persistent questions and arguments.

While Ed was in high school, he became president of the club with Johnny Hodges as the observatory director. This society was independent of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada but we had very strong ties with many of its prominent members because Hodges was on the committee of Meteors and Meteoritics of the National Research Council and was frequently visited by Dr. Peter Millman its director and Dr Ian Halliday a member.

This influence had us observing, recording and timing the meteors of the Perseid Meteor Showers. Hodges would attach a prism with heater and a rotating shutter assembly to an old Kodak view camera and photograph spectra of meteors becoming quite well known for them. Also, we had a sky watch program for observing aurora, sketching them and submitting the reports to Dr. Millman. Hodges had an All Sky Night Camera in his back yard for recording large meteors/fire balls/bolides and aurora displays and was the coordinator for chasing and recovering landed meteors in Saskatchewan.

I am sure Hodges and Millman had a profound influence on Ed because Ed has continued their programs by doing meteor spectrographs, operating an all sky night camera and carrying on the exhaustive work that goes into contacting those who have seen fireballs and determining their possible landing spot.

Good work Ed, and congratulations on receiving the Chant Medal.

Ed's websites are: <http://www.amsmeteors.org/spectra/majdenobs.html>
<http://members.shaw.ca/epmajden/index.htm>.

The Sky This Month

March 3	Moon 0.3° N of Pleiades
March 6	First Quarter Moon (02:16 p.m. PST) Mars 3° S of Moon
March 10	Saturn 4° S of Moon Mars near Aldebaran
March 14	Full Moon (03:35 p.m. PST)
March 17	Zodiacal Light is visible evenings for the next two weeks
March 20	Vernal Equinox (10:26 a.m. PST)
March 22	Last Quarter Moon (11:10 a.m. PST)
March 29	New Moon (02:15 a.m. PST)

Spring is finally here! The Vernal Equinox takes place on March 20th at 10:26 a.m. local time. Equinox literally means "equal night". During an equinox, the lengths of day and night are virtually the same - 12 hours each.

Jupiter and Saturn dominate March Skies. Saturn shines brightly high in the Southeast and Jupiter is just off the Eastern horizon later in the month. Both of these planets will look like bright yellow "stars" shining brightly in the sky. Look for the "morning star", Venus, in the Southeast sky low in the horizon during morning twilight.

To see something very mysterious and beautiful, head outside near the end of March about 30 minutes after sunset. Look for a soft glow in the sky in the shape of a pyramid with its base near the horizon. This is the famous Zodiacal Light that poets have described for centuries. This beautiful glow is caused by sunlight being reflected off dust particles left behind by passing comets, asteroids, and the formation of the planets some 4.5 billion years ago. To view this mysterious glow head to a dark site away from as many city lights as possible. For more information on the Zodiacal Light, please visit http://www.space.com/spacewatch/zodiacal_light_021101.html.

Another sure sign that spring is here is the appearance of our favorite springtime constellations. Look out to the East at 8 pm to find Leo, the lion. You'll find a large backwards "question mark", which is the head of the well known lion. Just to the left of Leo, you will find the Big Dipper standing on its handle in the Northeast. Use the curve of the handle to "arc to Arcturus" a beautiful orange star hanging just above the horizon. Arcturus sits in the constellation Boötes, the herdsman.

Clear skies and happy stargazing.

*members' news***Supernova visible - Bill Weir**

I don't know if any of you know it, but there is a Supernova visible in M 100 right now. Here is a link to a webpage on it.

<http://www.supernovae.net/sn2006/sn2006x.html>

It's a pretty easy bag. I'd say it's around 12th mag. I did the sketch using my 12.5" dob at 159X without knowing where the SN was in the galaxy. Later, when I compared the sketch to images, the marked dot seem to be a fit. I suggest next clear night go out and give it a try before it fades. I think finding it would be possible with even a 4 - 6" scope.

May Star Party Ride

Norman Lewis is a member of Victoria Centre who does not have a vehicle, but who wishes to attend our upcoming RASCALs Star Party May 26-28. He is looking for a ride up and back from a central Victoria location, as well as a place to sleep in a camper or RV for Friday and Saturday night. He is willing to share fuel costs and will obviously pay for his own admission, meals etc.

You can contact Norman at 382-1172.

Astro Illustrator Hits the Big Time

If you are checking out the most recent edition of the "other" *Skynews* you'll see a picture of Victoria Center member Bill Weir and his composite sketch of Mars. Bill shared with us how he built his composite at our recent members' night meeting. In response to the comments he's been receiving Bill says, "Thanks all. I was hoping it would be a little bigger but I'm still happy it got in. The funny part was the photo of me with my scope. He asked if I had one to put with the letter. The only one I had was taken with myself and the scope in front of the 16" dome at the Centre of the Universe. It was actually taken on Astronomy Day. He didn't like it. Wanted one of just me and the scope outside with no buildings. The problem was it was during those monsoons we were having in early Feb. There was also a short time line. There was just one day when it was only spitting, that I setup in my yard, snapped the shot and took apart the scope all in 1/2 hr. The sky opened up again and poured as I was bringing in the last bits.

Thanks for noticing. Anyone notice one of my sketches in the Mars article in the last Journal? It's small but there."

Astronomy Café Sets New Record

On February 20th a record 17 participants dropped by the Astronomy Café. Bruno Quenneville, our VP hosts an informal get together at his home every Monday evening.. from 7:30... till... Located in Victoria's Gordon Head area (off of Ferndale Avenue) - a little difficult to find, so check your city map or the maps on our website. Coffee, good cookies, great friends, and some observing when conditions warrant. All are welcome.



Back: Ed Maxfield, David Lee, Chuck Filtress, Sid Sidhu, Jeff Jones, John McDonald, Martin Shepherd, David Griffiths, Brian Robilliard. Middle: Joe Carr, Larry Danby, Frank Ogonoski. Front: Doug, Eric Schandall, Charles Banville, Moe Raven. Photo by Bruno Quenneville, our host

address change? information incorrect

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