

SKYNEWS



Heart and Soul Nebulae
by
Charles Banville

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OCTOBER MEETING

**Wednesday 10th, 2012
7:30pm**

University of Victoria
A104 Bob Wright Bldg.
3800 Finnerty Rd.

www.victoria.rasc.ca

On the Cover

The Heart and Soul Nebulae

IC1805 and IC1848 captured with a hydrogen alpha filter.

Date: October 5, 2012

Constellation: Cassiopeia

Location: Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, BC

Optics: Borg 77EDII, f/4.3, with Baader Planetarium

Narrowband 7nm H-Alpha filter

Mount: Takahashi EM-11, guided using PhD

Camera: Hutech modified Canon EOS 5D Mark II

Exposure: 48 light frames of 300 seconds, ISO 1600

Processing: Light frames calibrated with dark and flat frames in ImagesPlus. Light frames normalized and combined using MinMax Excluded. Image cropped.

October Speaker

Oct 10, 2012

Canadian Astronomy – An International Star - Dr. Dennis Crabtree, astronomer with the NRC's Dominion Astrophysical Observatory

Abstract: Canada performs extremely well on the stage of international astronomy. This talk will explore the origins of Canada's excellence in astronomy and show various measures of Canada's performance

Bio: Dennis Crabtree is an astronomer with the National Research Council at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria. He received his PhD in 1982 from the University of Toronto. Dennis arrived at NRC in 1986 to help start the Canadian Astronomy Data Centre (CADC) and was head of the CADC from 1993 – 1996. In 1996 Dennis was seconded to CFHT in Hawaii where he was responsible for science operations for 2.5 years, Upon returning to Victoria he was head of the Canadian Gemini office for over 7 years before moving to Chile to become Associate Director of Science Operations with the Gemini Observatory. Dennis returned to Victoria in 2010 and is responsible for the running of time allocation process for CFHT, Gemini and JCMT.

Presidents Report

by Lauri Roche



I hope you are continuing to enjoy this magnificent weather we are having and that you have spent many of your now longer evenings and cooler nights looking up. The past few nights have been dark and delicious,

with great transparency and “seeing” that makes us realize how great it is to be an amateur astronomer. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it lasted for many months more but, alas, it is October and we know what is coming!

There are lots of interesting events happening in the next few weeks here in Victoria and farther off. I encourage all of you to participate in as many as you can.

I was particularly excited to go to the opening of the new exhibit at the Royal B.C. Museum called “Envisioning the World: the First Printed Maps”. I quote from the RBCM website: “This collection of the earliest printed maps of the world reveals the rapidly unfolding understanding of geography and our place in the universe from the early Renaissance through the scientific Age of Enlightenment. The 30 rare and stunning maps, drawn from the extensive Wendt collection, also portray the first attempts to come to grips with the shape, size, and nature of the Earth and our solar system.” The maps, from 1472 to 1700, are grouped according to the astronomical knowledge of their time and place, from Ptolemy through to Edmund Halley. The maps are beautiful and detailed and I will be visiting this exhibit many times over. Take a magnifying glass with you when you go. I am looking into the possibility of having the RASC group visit in a special viewing perhaps in December or January before the exhibit closes and, as Dr. Wendt (who owns the collection) lives just in Friday Harbour, we may

be able to get him to come and give us a presentation. Please try to get to this exhibit this fall.

If you can hop over to Vancouver, Sir Martin Rees is speaking at the Vogue Theatre on Monday, October 15th. His presentation is "A Cosmic Perspective for the 21st Century". Our website has all the details to get the free tickets.

Of course, I invite and encourage everyone to come out to our Annual Dinner, this year in a new place and on a new date, Sunday November 18th, but just at the same price as last year. There's lots more information later in the newsletter so read on and then sign up to join us.

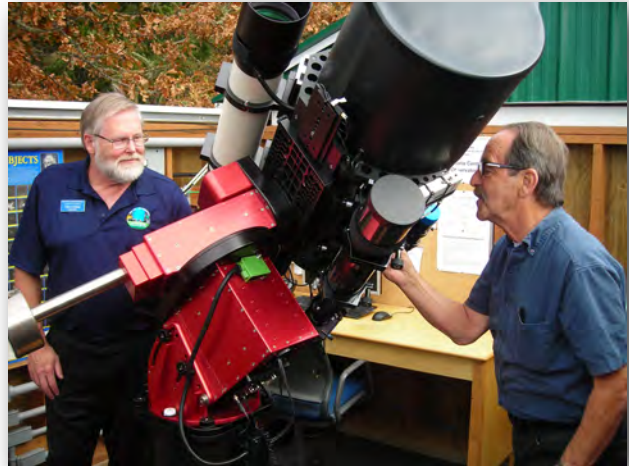
Later on in the fall, on November 24th the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra is performing "The Galileo Project, Music of the Spheres", an interactive program of music and Hubble images at the Alix Golden Hall. This has now been presented around the world and we are lucky to have it here in Victoria. Not enough? Then get up and out to the Victoria Centre Observatory on super Saturday's with our trusty MIC's who will be happy to show you around. If you haven't already, sign up to be an active observer with Sherry Buttner. Her contact information is on the last page of Skynews.

My next and, somewhat sadly, last president's report will be written as I fly from New Zealand to Cairns to take in the Solar Eclipse in the early morning of Wednesday, November 14th. I will be joining up with the RASC group from Toronto, including Dave and Sue Bennett from our club here in Victoria for that morning and I am looking forward to it. I will officially be able to call myself an "Eclipse Chaser". Joe Carr will be viewing the eclipse from the high seas off Fiji and will have the longest viewing time (but maybe a bit rockier!) We will all send pictures and stories your way, though. Meantime, many happy clear nights to

everyone and have a great fall here in Victoria.

National President Visits Victoria Centre

by Chris Gainor



Glenn Hawley, who became national president of the RASC in July, visited west coast centres on the last weekend of September, including an action-packed Saturday in Victoria meeting members of the Victoria Centre.

Glenn, who comes from the Calgary Centre, started his day in Victoria with a guided tour of the Victoria Centre Observatory from Sherry Buttner, Matt Watson and Bruno Quenneville. In the afternoon, he joined Victoria Centre members who were running a booth at the Fairfield Fall Fair. In the evening, he took in a lecture at the University of Victoria on the 50th anniversary of Physics and Astronomy at UVic, followed by a tour of the new astronomy facilities at the Bob Wright Centre.

Accompanied by the writer, who is now national second vice-president, Glenn had dinner with a number of Victoria Centre members. At dinner and during the day, Glenn talked about upcoming constitutional

changes being made at the national level because of new federal legislation.

In the coming year, the new constitution will mean several changes to the RASC structure, including the creation of a board of directors for which all members will have a vote. Information on these changes is available on the national RASC website or from the writer.

Education and Public Outreach

by Sherry Buttnor,

For most of this year, Kim Rempel (William Head Institution librarian) and I have been grinding away, jumping through the administrative hoops to hold an astronomy outreach session with the residents of William Head Correctional Institution, which was realized this evening with myself, Mark Wheen (of Pearson College), Michael Wheatley, Michel Michaud and Sid Sidhu. Thanks guys!

After signing in and clearing security, we started off doing an indoor powerpoint presentation for the residents for about an hour before heading out onto the grounds for sky viewing. During the PP presentation, several residents asked some really great questions, and seemed to be genuinely interested in --and enjoyed learning about-- astronomy. About 20 residents attended; more wanted to attend but were in rehearsal with the institution's theater.

We then had our scopes ferried out to the observing site, which was pleasantly dark considering where we were. Coffee was offered to us, and we were joined by the residents who attended the indoor presentation, and another 15 more or so after their rehearsals were over. These guys were really into it! We viewed the old standbys: M31, M13, Albireo, etc, and the waxing crescent moon which was rapidly sinking into

the trees. At my telescope, I think the residents most enjoyed just manually cruising through the Milky Way overhead! The ooohs and aaahs were very good to hear. The depth of their questions was inspiring, and their respectful attitude, admirable.

After almost 2 hours, it was time to pack up and leave, but not before almost every resident offered their sincere thanks, and shook our hands. It was a very unique and rewarding outreach experience. I hope we are invited to return...it was fun!

2012 Annual Meeting of the RASC Victoria Centre

by Laurie Roche

Last year we had a great dinner at the Cedar Hill Golf Course for our 2011 Annual Dinner but, unfortunately, that dining room has closed and we have had to find an alternate venue. After searching quite a bit, and with thanks to Jim Hesser for bringing this place to our attention, we have chosen to change things up a bit and head to a local brew pub on Bay Street called, appropriately for our group, "**Moon under Water**". It is an intimate, comfortable, informal pub with great food, an attentive staff and, for those interested, an invitation to take in the tour of the brew-making facilities. The address is **350 Bay Street** and is found to the west of Government Street on the north side before you reach the Bay Street Bridge. There is ample parking but I would encourage you to keep the spaces nearest the door for those of us with mobility difficulties and the rest of us can park to the side of the building.

They are shutting down the restaurant exclusively for our use. In order to facilitate this we are holding the Annual Dinner on **Sunday, November 18th** beginning at 6:15 pm for drinks and conversation and a chance

to do "the tour" if you wish. Dinner will be at 7 pm, our speaker (as yet to be confirmed at time of writing but stay tuned) will begin at 8pm and our meeting at 9:00pm. If all goes well we will be finished by 9:45pm or so.

There will be prizes!

As per last year the dinner will be served at the tables and you will be able to choose between two options for the first course and two options for the main course. Have a look at the menu and see what you would like. We have been able to keep the price at exactly the same as the last two years: **\$35 per person**. Please contact Li-Ann Skibo at 250-595-5201 or email liann.skibo@telus.net to place your order. We need to have confirmation of the numbers and entrée dishes by Monday November 12th so please check out your social calendar and plan on joining us on November 18th.

**Menu for the
2012 RASC Victoria Centre AGM**

Choice of Soup or Salad

Roasted red pepper and pesto soup with a roasted tomato base

or

Tender spinach topped with blue cheese, roasted pears and candied walnuts. Drizzled with house-made rosemary cider vinaigrette

Choice of Entrée

Walnut crusted Pacific salmon served with potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables

or

Roast round of beef served with a Yorkshire pudding, mashed potato and fresh seasonal vegetables

or

Or Stuffed jumbo Portobello mushroom caps served with mashed potato, country cream gravy and fresh seasonal vegetables

Desserts

Choice of either:

Apple crumble with vanilla ice cream
or

Carrot Cake with cream cheese frosting

Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea provided

Specialty coffees available at cost

Various Reports

by Sherry Buttner, VP2

Membership: New / Returning and Renewed: 19 Dropped/Expired/Grace Period: 0 (Yay!) Imminent Expirations: 11 (do consider renewing!)
Total Membership: 168.

HIA/CU Liason: Nothing to report from Eric at the CU. Clyde at the HIA reports there have been a couple of cougar and bear sighting on the Hill this past weekend. Please keep a lookout and use good wildlife avoidance practices while on observatory grounds. Here are a couple of links FYI: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/cougsf.htm>
<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/mtn/ours-bears/sec7/og-bm7.aspx>

Plaskett: nothing to report at this time. I have sent an email to Dave, our awesome T.O. and hope to have an update for you shortly.

Transport Canada: nothing to report. Just a reminder: If you are planning to use a Green Laser Pointer, even if it is just a private session and not an official RASC-sanctioned

event, I would encourage you to refamiliarize yourselves with the RASC and TC guidelines for their safe and legal use:

<http://rasc.ca/education/green-laser-pointer-usage>
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/civilaviation/standards/aerodromeairnav-standards-ais-directed-bright-light-menu-1068.htm>

The Sky for October

by Malcolm Scrimger

October skies can be most rewarding for deep sky observers because the days become shorter and the nights start earlier. By 8 pm it it's usually dark enough to start observing or photographing deep sky objects and as an added bonus for those dedicated to stay up all night it is possible to see the Summer and Winter constellations in one night, especially when you can sleep in the following day till noon. When the sky gets dark look towards the southwest to find Hercules, Lyra and Cygnus before they set, as they have some splendid deep sky objects to look at.

In Hercules M13 and M92 can be spotted in binoculars as a fuzzy little patches but the best views come in small and large telescopes.

The famous "Ring Nebulae" or M 57 In Lyra should be your next object to find. It needs a small telescope 4 inches or larger to see as it shines at about 9th magnitude. It will appear as a small oval ring with a dark centre but with more magnification and aperture show much more detail. In telescopes 10 inches and larger and with high powers details can be seen within the ring itself, which can provide the observer with the "Wow" factor. Before leaving Lyra swing your telescope to epsilon Lyra which lies at a distance of only 162 Light years. In a telescope it looks like a double star but at high powers and steady seeing each of those double stars are doubles themselves. Each have a separation of ~2.5 seconds of

arc each. This double - double star system is a good benchmark for determining atmospheric seeing steadiness and telescope performance.

Albireo is your next target and in the constellation Cygnus. It is a multi-coloured double star and has some nice contrasting colours of yellow and blue and is only 380 light years away. While visiting Cygnus pan on over to Omnicron 1 and 2. These two stars are blue and yellow and are a treat to see in any small telescope.

Around midnight the Eastern constellations will start to show themselves and within them are many jewels of clusters and glowing nebulae which make up our Galaxy the Milky Way. Many constellations such as Cassiopeia, Perseus, Auriga, and Gemini hold many deep sky splendors. There are many star clusters and nebulae to find for the early morning viewer. The best one to start with is the Double Cluster in Perseus. This star filled beauty is best viewed with 7x50 binoculars since it is so large. Other objects to look at include M38, M36 and M37 in Auriga which when looked at can all be seen within the same field of view. This can be quite an amazing sight under a dark sky!

In the feet of Gemini is M35. This cluster can be a bit fainter than the previous clusters mentioned but is spread out over a larger area which can be as wide or larger than the full moon.

To truly enjoy your viewing pleasure always try to mount your binoculars on a tripod to remove the shakes from handholding them and try to remember to bring a chair to relax on. When you're relaxed your eyes relax and it becomes more enjoyable and you may even see more!



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Comet 168P-Hergenrother

Comet 168P-Hergenrother gliding through Pegasus. The image was taken at the Victoria Centre Observatory, Victoria BC with a QSI 540C camera and C14 SCT telescope on a Paramount ME mount. It was the first of a sequence that started at 9:41 PM and ended at 11:04 PM PDT (GMT -7). A video of the sequence is on line at <http://vimeo.com/51110478>

ASTRONOMY CAFE



Fairfield Community Centre

1330 Fairfield Rd. Victoria,
7:30pm - 10pm

Call Malcolm at (778) 430-4136 for directions and information.

New comers are especially encouraged.



New Observers Group

Hosted by Sid Sidhu
1642 Davies Road, Highlands. Call (250).391-0540 for information and directions.



Email Lists

Observer / CU Volunteers / Members

Contact Joe Carr to subscribe
web@victoria.rasc.ca

NEXT MEETING IS OUR AGM

Sunday, November 18th @ 6pm - 350 Bay Street at the "Moon Under Water" Brewpub & Restaurant

RASC Victoria Council for 2011 / 2012

Past President John McDonald pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca	Secretary / Recorder Mark Bohlman secretary@victoria.rasc.ca	National Representative Chris Gainor nationalrep@victoria.rasc.ca
President Lauri Roche president@victoria.rasc.ca	Librarian Michel Michaud librarian@victoria.rasc.ca	Light Pollution Abatement Mark Bohlman lpa@victoria.rasc.ca
First Vice President Nelson Walker vp@victoria.rasc.ca	Website / E mail lists Joe Carr web@victoria.rasc.ca	New Member Liaison Sherry Buttner NewMembers@victoria.rasc.ca
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