

# SKYNEWS



Comet Panstarrs L4  
by Charles Banville

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## MAY MEETING

Wednesday 8th, 2013  
University of Victoria  
A104 Bob Wright Bldg.  
3800 Finnerty Rd.

[www.victoria.rasc.ca](http://www.victoria.rasc.ca)

## On the Cover

### ***C/2011 L4*** **by Charles Banville**

*Date: March 31, 2013*  
*Location: Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, BC*  
*Optics: Canon EF 135mm f/2L USM*  
*Mount: Vixen Polaris Star Tracker*  
*Camera: Canon EOS 5D Mark III*  
*Exposure: 16 light frames of 60 seconds, f/2, ISO 200*

## Presidents Report

by Nelson Walker

Although somewhat modestly attended, our International Astronomy Day event April 27 at the University of Victoria was a success. It was busy with families and lots of kids of all ages. Pearson College was well represented. University astronomers tended to the "Ask an Astronomer" table. Our own displays were nicely done and informative. Our daylong program of speakers gathered small but attentive audiences. The children's tables hummed with activity.

As is often the case, the weather was not entirely cooperative during the day, so there was no solar observing. But those that returned for the evening session were treated to a comprehensive update on the search for extra-solar planets, complete with a history of the various projects, and a survey of the latest cutting-edge methods. Late-night clearing allowed for some observing at the University's telescope for those with the energy to stay.

It certainly can be said that 250-300 enthusiastic visitors is quite satisfying for an event like this. Which is not to say that a larger crowd of the same sort of visitors would not be nice, too.

## Membership Report

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Dropped           | 2   |
| New/Returning     | 2   |
| Renewed           | 6   |
| Upcoming Expiries | 6   |
| Total Membership  | 167 |

### ***Liasons:***

**HIA (Clyde):** Nothing from my area other than road safety. If anyone is coming up early watch for the cyclists

and if anyone encounters any near misses or unsafe cycling behavior please let me know.

### **Centre of the Universe**

(Eric reports): We are re-opening! Starting May 7th as follows:  
Tuesday – Friday (1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

and

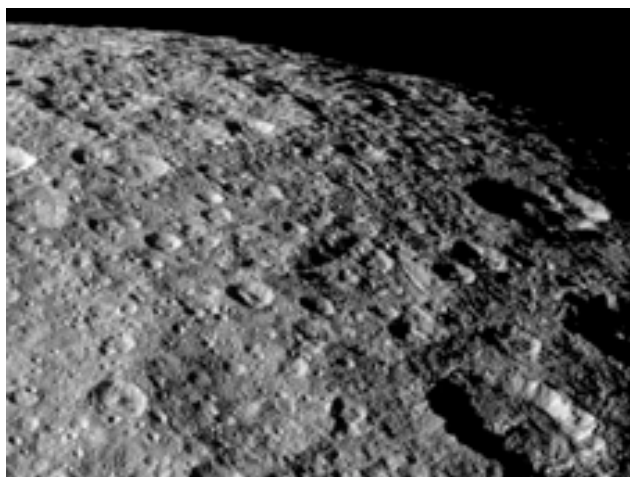
Saturday night (3:30 p.m. – 11:15 p.m.)  
\* the gate closes at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday's \*

**Transport Canada:** nothing to report.

**Plaskett: Saturday June 15. Time TBA.**

Sherry Buttner,  
2nd Vice President

## Cassini Makes Last Close Flyby of Saturnian Moon Rhea



*Cassini looks over the heavily cratered surface of Rhea during the spacecraft's flyby of the moon on March 10, 2012. Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Space Science Institute*

NASA's Cassini spacecraft will be swooping close to Saturn's moon Rhea on Saturday, March 9, the last close flyby of Rhea in Cassini's mission. The primary purpose will be to probe the internal structure of the moon by measuring the gravitational pull of Rhea against the spacecraft's steady radio link to NASA's Deep Space Network here on Earth. The results will help scientists understand whether the moon is homogeneous all the way through or whether it has differentiated into the layers of core, mantle and crust.

In addition, Cassini's imaging cameras will take ultraviolet, infrared and visible-light data from Rhea's surface. The cosmic dust analyzer will try to detect any dusty debris flying off the surface from tiny meteoroid bombardments to further scientists' understanding of the rate at which "foreign" objects are raining into the Saturn system.

Cassini will fly within about 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) of the surface. The time of closest approach is around 10:17 a.m. PST

(1:17 p.m. EST). This is Cassini's fourth close flyby of Rhea.

On Feb. 10, 2015, Cassini will pass Rhea at about 29,000 miles (47,000 kilometers), but this is not considered a targeted flyby. Cassini has been in orbit around Saturn since 2004 and is in a second mission extension, known as the Solstice mission.

The Cassini-Huygens mission is a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory manages the mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington, D.C. JPL is a division of Caltech. For more information on Cassini, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/cassini> and <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov>.

Jia-Rui Cook

Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif.

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## June Speaker

Roger T Bailey will be our guest speaker.

<http://www.walkingshadow.info/Ottoman.html>

### *Title of his talk*

Technological Change in 1371: The Remarkable Sundial of Ibn al-Shatir Meeting will be held in room A104 of the Bob Wright Centre on June 12, 2013

## Comets of the Past



Comet 17P Holmes  
by Malcolm Scrimger

My first astrophotograph with a William Optics Megrez 110mm telescope back in 2007

Taken 18th Nov. 2007 30 Sec William Optics 110mm. FL 655mm Camera Nikon D70s 1600 ISO. 16 images stacked with Deep Sky Stacker.

### ASTRONOMY CAFÉ



#### 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 Matt Watson to subscribe.

<mailto:admin@victoria.rasc.ca>

### NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday June - 12th 7:30pm - A104 Bob Wright Bldg, University of Victoria, 3800 Finnerty Rd.

### RASC Victoria Council for 2012 / 2013

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(University of Victoria Liaison),  
David Lee (Observing), Li-Ann Skibo, Paul  
Schumacher (2014 GA), Matt Watson  
(Observatory Tech Committee)