

SKYNEWS



MESSIER 82 (Cigar Galaxy) By Daniel Posey

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JUNE MEETING

Weds. June 12, 2013
University of Victoria
A104, Bob Wright Bldg.
3800 Finnerty Road

On the Cover

Messier 82 (Cigar Galaxy)

This capture of the Cigar galaxy represents 2h 15m of five minute subframes captured with a QSI 583c@-10*c through a Meade 14" @f10 guided on a Paramount ME. The image was calibrated with dark, bias and flat frames. Processing was done in Pixinsight.

M 82 as an irregular starburst galaxy displays many interesting features including rich dust-lane structures, and blooming hydrogen alpha regions.

President's Report

The next three months could be called the “Star Party Months.” Indeed, there are two of them easily available to us here on the island, and two more a scenic day’s drive away. For the more star-crazed among us, another two more are within day-and-a-half driving reach (the Oregon Star Party, and the Golden State Star Party in Northern California).

I urge you to set aside weekends for the local gatherings, the CVSF Island Star Party, and our own RASCals/Metchosin Star Party. The CVSF party is August 3-4 at Bright Angel Park near Duncan, a site that has turned out to be quite nice. It is dark (a surprise, since it is so near Duncan), if a bit dewy, and CVSF puts on a good event: <http://www.starfinders.ca/starparty.htm>

Our party is August 30 – September 1 at the usual location in Metchosin, a mere thirty minutes from town. Our spot is not quite as dark as Bright Angel, but sports a great view of the Southern sky. We are hosting, this year, a three night event And if we start our chants to the weather demons early, perhaps we won’t be blessed with a 30 knot wind!

For the slightly more-determined among us, both the Merritt Star Quest and Mt. Kobau Star Party offer truly dark skies within a reasonable driving distance. Primitive camping is the order of the day for both of these, and each is an hour away from supplies, but hey This is the year to cross the Horsehead Nebula off your list.

I have, in the past, left one or the other of the island parties, and driven straight to a ferry, and spent the rest of the week at either Merritt, or Kobau. It makes for a nice week of high-quality observing, plus you can pick up a few cases of peaches on the way home.

This is the summer to start (finish?) the Messier list, so as to clear the decks for the “RASC Finest NGC” list, surely one of the best around.

....*Nelson Walker*

June Speaker

Roger T. Bailey will be our guest speaker in June. <http://www.walkingshadow.info/Ottoman.html>

The title of his talk is: “Technological Change in 1371: The Remarkable Sundial of Ibn al-Shatir”
The meeting will be held in room A104 of the Bob Wright Centre on June 12, 2013.

Membership Report – June, 2013

Membership Activity

New and Returning: 2

Dropped: 2

Renewed: 6

Upcoming Expiries: 6

Total Membership: 169

Liaisons

HIA: nothing to report from Clyde.

CU: Eric away until June 16; no reply.

Transport Canada: nothing to report.

Plaskett: One session on June 15. Meet time 23:30. Please bring your own flash drive with LOTS of memory if you plan on imaging.

....*Sherry Buttnor*

Recent Astronomy Programs for Mac OS/X

Star Trails - Generates easy and quick Star Trail pictures and Videos.

Import your images, process, visualize the progress and export.

<http://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/star-trails/id554953233?mt=12>

Deluxe Moon Pro

<http://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/deluxe-moon-pro/id635491590?mt=12>

SkySafari

<http://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/skysafari/id451895081?mt=12>

....*Malcolm Scrimger*

Promotional video for the 2014 GA

By Joe Carr



I have been working on a promotional video for the 2014 General Assembly (GA) being hosted by RASC Victoria Centre. It is four minutes long, and consists of some “rah-rah” promotional material for the Victoria area, and gives hints of what events will happen at the GA. The reason Victoria Centre is hosting the 2014 GA is our Centre’s 100th anniversary in 2014.

Over the last few weeks, I gathered the material needed for the video: tourism b-reels from Tourism Vancouver Island and Tourism Victoria, as well as video from the University of Victoria (where the GA is being held), and historical photos and materials for Victoria Centre dated 100 years ago. I also contributed my own videos of Vancouver Island (Long Beach and Little Qualicum Falls).

I also shot some new video, which basically gave a few of our members an opportunity to welcome delegates to Victoria through video cameos, and included a *group jump* in front of the historic Plaskett telescope. I recorded the narration for the video, which was done by Mark Bohlman, who has a nice announcer’s voice. I managed to get the approvals from the various agencies to use their material. The various components all came together nicely, and in a timely manner, since this video is to be shown at this year’s GA being held in Thunder Bay in a few weeks’ time.

Once I had all the material I needed, I assembled the video track; matched the voice over audio I recorded for each person’s cameo appearance with their video clip; added the narration for the whole video; and finally, added the music scores, adapting the sound to the activity being shown in the video. Mark Bohlman’s script was a great help here, since I knew timing for all the various parts of the storyline. I ruthlessly edited until I had it down to 4 minutes, however the final video crept to the 4:20 mark...not too bad for an amateur videographer!

The promotional video is being premiered at the June 12, 2013 Victoria Centre general meeting. I’m hoping the video screening will create some excitement, and prompt a few more members to step forward to help with the GA, since the committee could really use some help.

View the video online: <https://vimeo.com/67537660>

For those of you who want the technical details about the video, read on. I used a *Canon 7D* dSLR to record all the video clips, and used a *Zoom H1* sound recorder to record the voiceovers for each person’s cameo, and for the narration. I used *Sony Vegas Pro* to produce the video. Music scores were generated using *Sony Cinescore*. I edited and enhanced the voice-overs using *Sony Sound Forge* audio software.



New Weather Station at the VCO

Gathering weather information at the Victoria Centre Observatory has always been a requirement for us to operate effectively. Knowing the wind conditions and temperature is important when planning observing sessions. Since we started operating in 2008, we have been using an Oregon Scientific consumer-grade weather station. It met our needs for many years, but was requiring increasing amounts of maintenance and was approaching the end of its life.

In January, I approached Ed Weibe at the University of Victoria's Climate Modelling Group with a proposal to host one of their Victoria Weather Network stations at the VCO. The response was very enthusiastic. On Thursday June 6th, Bruno Quenneville and myself joined Ed at the VCO to complete installation of our new station. Things went very smoothly and were finished in short order.

The new equipment is much more advanced than what we have been using. The Davis Vantage Pro 2 includes all the usual sensors, as well as UV and sunlight meters. The primary benefit of this new station is the accuracy and frequent updates of its weather information. Secondly, the Victoria Weather Network group manages the equipment entirely, collecting and presenting the data, and performing any required maintenance. Our station augments the data collected by the nearby station at Prospect Lake Elementary, and adds one more point of data to the Saanich Peninsula.

You can now see up to the minute weather data and graphs at <http://www.victoriaweather.ca/station.php?id=197>

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Matt Watson
Technical Committee Chair

Astronomy for Splash 2013!

For 24 years, the Victoria Symphony has offered our community a day of family fun during the August long weekend. For the first time last year a community group, our Astronomy for Splash, made a contribution that not only helped financially, but created very positive impression for our continued efforts to bridge between science and the arts in Victoria. On 4 August 2013 *Symphony Splash*, Victoria's iconic summer musical event



will again culminate in a concert with fireworks enjoyed by some 40,000 people. Whether consciously or not, *Splash* participants enjoy astronomical phenomena as the Earth's stately rotation leads to a glorious sunset followed by awareness over the inner harbor of the slow emergence of the stars and planets accompanied by beautiful music. Maestra Tania Miller tells me she is planning on including astronomy themed music at

Splash again this year, and knowledgeable RASC volunteers will be offering solar viewing during the day.

Many perceive *Splash* as a City of Victoria financially sponsored event, which it isn't: it depends upon sponsorships and donations. In 2010 the Symphony started a campaign—the Band of Heroes—to solicit \$1,000 sponsorships from local firms to fill a gap caused by late withdrawal of their major sponsor. Sustained community financial support through this mechanism keeps *Splash* going. Last year many people associated with Victoria astronomy joined together to support *Splash* through Band of Heroes. I hope we collectively can do it again!

I invite members of Victoria's diverse astronomy community—DAO, UVic, RASC—to participate in the 2nd team effort—*Astronomy for Splash*—to join the Symphony's Band of Heroes.

To join the team, please go to the CanadaHelps website <http://www.canadahelps.org/>, click on Victoria Symphony Society (not 'Foundation'), insert the amount of your tax deductible donation and indicate in Messages/Instructions: "Astronomy for Splash". When we raise the required minimum of \$1K, donor names will be entered to win a VIP prize package plus the right to represent the *Astronomy for Splash* group at *Splash*. If the name can be drawn by 25 June the winning donor can represent the team at pre *Splash* events if they wish. Regardless of who is selected to represent the team, all donors will have personal satisfaction knowing our collective support makes possible one of our community's most enjoyable family activities with associated awareness of nature's majestic transition from day to star-studded night. Please note that donations and donor's names are confidential to the Symphony: I will have absolutely no access to that information, nor do I wish to. Many thanks for considering a donation.

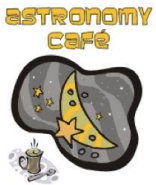


....*Jim Hesser*

Council for 2012 / 2013

Past President: Lauri Roche pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca
President: Nelson Walker president@victoria.rasc.ca
First Vice President: Charles Banville vp@victoria.rasc.ca
Second Vice President: Sherry Buttnor vp2@victoria.rasc.ca
Treasurer: Bruce Lane treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca
Secretary / Recorder: Deb Crawford secretary@victoria.rasc.ca
Librarian : Michel Michaud librarian@victoria.rasc.ca
Website: Joe Carr web@victoria.rasc.ca
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Skynews Editor: Diane Bell editor@victoria.rasc.ca
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Light Pollution Abatement: Mark Bohlman lpa@victoria.rasc.ca
New Member Liaison: Sherry Buttnor NewMembers@victoria.rasc.ca
Membership Coordinator : Sherry Buttnor Membership@victoria.rasc.ca
Observing Chairperson: Bill Weir obschair@victoria.rasc.ca

Members at Large: Bill Almond, Jim Hesser, Alex Schmid, David Lee, Li-Ann Skibo, Paul Schumacher, Matt Watson



Astronomy Café: Held every Monday at Fairfield Community Centre - 1330 Fairfield Rd, Victoria, at 7:30pm to 10pm. Call Malcolm at (778) 430-4136 for directions and information. Newcomers are especially encouraged.

Please Note: Astronomy Café is closed until Monday, September 9th.



New Observers Group: Hosted by Sid Sidhu, 1642 Davies Road, Highlands. Please 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 month's meeting is Wednesday, September 11th, 2013, at 7:30 PM.