

# SKYNEWS



## **Hazy Orion** **By John McDonald**

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### **NOVEMBER A.G.M.**

Sunday, November 17, 2013  
Moon Under Water Pub  
350 Bay Street, Victoria

## **On the Cover**

**Hazy Orion – Ha Enhanced** - The colours of the stars are more pronounced in this image as a result of thin haze acting as a diffusion filter. This was taken on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at 5:30 AM. Weather conditions – clear with a light haze; 8 degrees Celsius with no wind. Equipment: Canon T3i (modified) with a 50mm lens on an IOptron sky tracker mount.

## **President’s Report**

The closing of the Centre of the Universe remains a big disappointment for members of Victoria Centre, to say nothing of its former staff, supporters within the NRC, kids, science-minded parents, teachers, schools, and other members of this community.

Lana Popham, MLA from South Saanich, is spearheading an effort to see if the CU can somehow be saved. Toward that end, she is hosting a meeting of “stakeholders” at the Observatory on November 23 to discuss what might be done. Several members of Victoria Centre have been invited, as have representatives from the local staff of the NRC and the University of Victoria, as well as from local schools, non-profits and businesses.

Hopefully there is a way forward for the CU, which events since the announcement of its closing have shown to be so important to this community. We shall see what develops.

....*Nelson Walker*

## **Membership Report – November, 2013**

### **Membership Activity**

Grace Period: 14 (*good!*)

Total Membership: 164

### **Liaisons**

**HIA:** Nothing from Clyde, except to say “Be aware of road work on the hill during daylight hours.”

**Transport Canada:** None.

**Big ‘Scopes:** No news from the Plaskett, but I hope to have some good news regarding the UVic 32" telescope. Stay tuned!

....*Sherry Buttner*

*Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Victoria Centre*

## Annual General Meeting and Dinner

Sunday, November 17, 2013

at the [Moon Under Water Brewpub](#), 350 Bay St, Victoria, BC

### 6:00pm - Drinks, conversation & tour

- No host bar
- Tour of the brewery

### 6:30 - Dinner

**Payment** -Cost of dinner is **\$35.00 per person**, inclusive of all taxes and gratuities

- Payment is only required for a meal.
- *Attendance at both the speaker presentation and the business meeting is free of charge.*
- The total number of dinners must be **confirmed by Wednesday, November 13th**. Please send your choice of dinner to:
  - Charles Banville
  - By email to [vp@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:vp@victoria.rasc.ca)
  - **Payment at the door - *payment by cheque is preferred***, however cash is also acceptable
  - Meals are pre-ordered and must be paid for, whether you show up or not

**Menu:** fixed sit-down meal. Choices:

- **First Course** - choice of soup or salad
  - Roasted Butternut squash soup
  - House salad
- **Main Course** - choice of entrée
  - Grilled Pacific salmon filet served with fresh seasonal vegetables and risotto
  - Roast beef served with a Yorkshire pudding, gravy and fresh seasonal vegetables
  - Stuffed Portobello mushroom caps served with Yorkshire pudding, country cream gravy and fresh seasonal vegetable – vegetarian option
- **Tea, Coffee (regular and decaffeinated) and Dessert buffet service**
  - Specialty coffees available at cost

## 7:30pm - Speaker

### Dr. Andrew Woodsworth

The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) is an integrated survey system designed to conduct a decade-long, deep, wide, fast time-domain survey of the optical sky. It consists of an 8-meter class wide-field ground based telescope, a 3.2 Gpix camera, and an automated data processing system. Over a decade of operations the LSST survey will acquire, process, and make available a collection of over 5 million images and catalogs with more than 37 billion objects and 7 trillion sources. Tens of billions of time-domain events will be detected and alerted on in real-time.



The US astronomical community has ranked the LSST as the highest priority large ground-based facility for the next decade. Designs are now complete for the telescope and its massive camera, and some of the construction including preparation of the site in Chile is already underway. The primary mirror (with a tertiary reflector embedded in it) is undergoing final polishing.

This talk will outline the unique features of the design of the telescope and its data distribution system, as well as the key science goals that this telescope is designed to achieve. For more information, see [www.lsst.org](http://www.lsst.org)

## 8:30 pm Annual General Meeting

### Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Minutes of 2012 Annual General Meeting
3. Secretary's Annual Report
4. 2013 Financial Report
5. National Representative Report
6. President's Message
7. Awards
  1. Volunteer Certificates of Appreciation
  2. Excellence in Astrophotography Award
  3. Ernie Pfannenschmidt Award for Amateur Telescope Making and Technical Excellence
  4. Newton-Ball Award
8. Election of officers
9. New business from the floor
10. Door prizes
11. Adjournment

## **Travel Bug's Journey to the International Space Station!**

A good-sized group of Geocachers assembled at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory on top of Little Saanich Mountain for a geocaching event on November 7<sup>th</sup>, to commemorate a new Geocaching Travel Bug's journey to the International Space Station.

Geocaching is an activity that anyone can do with a GPS. It is a 'treasure hunt' of sorts, and a travel bug is a trackable item that moves from place to place and picks up stories along the way. Geocachers usually hide a box filled with trinkets, a log book and other items. Fellow geocachers find the box and trade items as well as report their activities online (on a website). Other Geocachers visit the website and search for caches they haven't found.

The Geocaching in Space event celebrates the spirit of exploration shared by all geocachers. In early November 2013, the geocaching community hosted over 1,100 events in more than 30 countries to commemorate a Geocaching Travel Bug's journey to the International Space Station. Astronaut Rick Mastracchio will be using the Travel Bug to teach students here on Earth about geography and science.

Dr. Dimitry Monin of the National Research Council was kind enough to provide his time to show the group the observatory and telescope. Approximately 50 members of the Geocaching community were provided a tour.

....*Malcolm Scrimger*

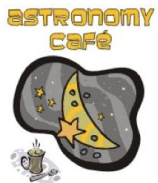
*A group photo was taken of the happy group of 'cachers. Can you spot the celebrity in the back row?*



## Council for 2012 / 2013

Past President: Lauri Roche [pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca)  
President: Nelson Walker [president@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:president@victoria.rasc.ca)  
First Vice President: Charles Banville [vp@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:vp@victoria.rasc.ca)  
Second Vice President: Sherry Buttner [vp2@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:vp2@victoria.rasc.ca)  
Treasurer: Bruce Lane [treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca)  
Secretary / Recorder: Deb Crawford [secretary@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:secretary@victoria.rasc.ca)  
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Light Pollution Abatement: Mark Bohlman [lpa@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:lpa@victoria.rasc.ca)  
New Member Liaison: Sherry Buttner [NewMembers@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:NewMembers@victoria.rasc.ca)  
Membership Coordinator: Sherry Buttner [Membership@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:Membership@victoria.rasc.ca)  
Observing Chairperson: Bill Weir [obschair@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:obschair@victoria.rasc.ca)

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



**Astronomy Cafe:** 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.



**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, December 11th, 2013, at 7:30 PM.**