

SKYNEWS



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MESSIER 81 – From the Sedun Observatory, Arizona
By W. John McDonald

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MEETING

Weds. March 12, 2014, 7:30 PM
University of Victoria
A104, Bob Wright Bldg.
3800 Finnerty Road

March Speaker

A reminder that our monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday March 12, 2014 in room A104 of the Bob Wright Centre, UVic, at 19:30. Members of the public are welcome to join us. Title of the talk:

Through Infrared Goggles Darkly....An Engineer's View of Climate Change

....a Short Bio of Dr. Parvez Kumar, P.Eng., FCASI (*this latter is Fellow of the Canadian Aeronautics & Space Institute*)

Dr. Kumar is an Aerospace Engineer whose career has spanned over forty years working in the Aviation and Space sectors in Government, Industry and Academia. His twenty years of experience with the Canadian Space Programme covers establishing Canada's role in the International Space Station (ISS) in the early 1980's, to establishing the Canadian scientific research programme for enabling scientists to do research in microgravity onboard the ISS, to setting up the first training programme for Canadian Astronauts and being their Deputy Director General. In his chequered career he was seconded to Aerospatiale in the early 1970's to be Hawker Siddeley Aviation's man in France for the development of the first Airbus A300. He then joined the UK Civil Aviation Authority in their Flight Test Department for the certification of civil aircraft. He moved to Canada in the late 1970's to help design and set up the Flight Test Programme for the Canadair Challenger Business Jet. He moved onto Transport Canada in their Airworthiness Branch; Industry Canada as the Manager of the international Airborne Surveillance Systems Programme spearheaded by Canada. In 1982 he was hired by the National Research Council in Ottawa to help establish the Canadian Space Station Programme. Amongst other assignments he was the Space Technology Advisor to Atlantic Canada. He was Director of the European Space Agency's Harsh Environments Initiative under contract while he was at C-CORE, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Assistant Research Professor at Carleton University in Ottawa where he set up the first Advanced Space Studies Course and taught Mechanical Systems Design to Final Year Engineering Students. He has lectured to Universities and High Schools all across Canada as well as for Continuing Education Programmes at Carleton University and the University of Victoria. He brings a wealth of hands-on experience to his lectures.

He graduated with an Honours BSc in Aeronautical Engineering from Imperial College in London, UK, and obtained his PhD in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Southampton University, UK. He has lived and worked in seven countries and, now retired, lives with his wife in Sooke.

Cover Photo: M81 – Bode's Galaxy

First results from Gary Sedun's observatory in Arizona. This image of M81 include the whole frame of a full frame DSLR camera. Note the star quality is good to the corners. The telescope does very fast imaging as the main part of the image is from a 4-minute frame!

Details: February 27, 2014 at the Sedun Observatory.

Conditions: Clear, 10 degrees C with moderate seeing and no wind.

Modified Canon 6D camera on a 20" f/4 Newtonian with a TV Paracorr coma corrector and a Paramount ME mount.

Exposure: 4 minutes at each of 400, 800 and 1600 ISO with 10 flats and 4 similarly exposed darks.

Processing in Images Plus and Photoshop.

Membership Report – March, 2014

Membership Activity

New and Returning: N/A
Renewed: 11
Grace Period: 7
Upcoming Expiries: N/A
Total Membership: 181

Liaisons

HIA: Clyde says there have been a few tree falls and snags during the last snow storm. Members should be watchful and report any hazards they might notice.

National: Detailed reports are late again. Sorry for the incomplete data!

Transport Canada: None

Plaskett: No upcoming sessions

U-Vic Observing: still tentatively scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, weather and volunteers permitting. Watch for notices on the Active Observer's email list.

....*Sherry Buttnor*

Observing at VCO

Upcoming Dates for 2014

March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26.

Each Saturday, Members in Charge (MICs) host an observing session at the Victoria Centre Observatory. All members on the Active Observers List are welcome to attend. An email notification is sent out in the morning preceding each session, announcing time and any special considerations.

Any member wishing to attend must be on the Active Observers List, and must send an email to the list stating their attendance.

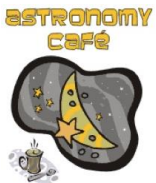
Members may use any paved area of the hill so long as they inform the MICs before doing so. Proper caution must be exercised at all times.

Parking at the lot next to the VCO is limited, so priority must be given to those with heavy equipment or mobility issues.

Council for 2013 / 2014

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 Buttner vp2@victoria.rasc.ca
Treasurer: Bruce Lane treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca
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New Member Liaison: Sherry Buttner NewMembers@victoria.rasc.ca
Membership Coordinator: Sherry Buttner 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 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, April 9th, 2014, at 7:30 PM.