

SKYNEWS



The Rosette Nebula
by Dan Posey and Matt Watson

IN THIS ISSUE

March Speaker
Council Reports
Astrophotos

APRIL MEETING

Wednesday April 8th 7:30pm
A104 Bob Wright Bldg,
University of Victoria
3800 Finnerty Rd

www.victoria.rasc.ca

On the Cover

This is a combined exposure of 5h10m of Hydrogen alpha and RGB data. Matt Watson captured the RGB data used to colourize the image in 2011 or 2012 with three hours and ten minutes of 10m exposures. I processed that dataset, and added it to the 2h of 20 minute exposures gathered Feb. 2015 using a 3nm wide Ha filter with a QSI 583c. Each dataset was captured with a Televue 127is guided on a Paramount ME.

In processing I added the Hydrogen alpha data to the RGB red channel for a final result of 80% ha and 20% r. Using the Ha data as a luminance layer, I then combined the images using the LRGB combination in Pixinsight after processing each channel.

March Speaker

Galaxy mergers in the nearby Universe

Dr. Sara Ellison, Professor, UVic Physics & Astronomy <http://orca.phys.uvic.ca/~sara/>

“Despite the emptiness of space, mergers between galaxies are surprisingly common. Around 1% of galaxies in the nearby Universe are currently experiencing an interaction of some kind. I will describe research that uses both observations and computer simulations to trace the dramatic effect of these interactions on a galaxy’s history: how the interaction can lead to massive bursts of star formation, alter the interstellar chemistry and even provide fuel for the central supermassive black hole.”

Presidents Report

by Sherry Buttner

Welcome to March, the month with the most annoying time change of the year. At least for some of us old souls, who have enough trouble staying awake at night. Not only do we lose an hour of sleep, we lose

an hour of evening observing time. What a rip! But to make up for that, there’s lots of pleasant news to share with you this month. First off, join me in welcoming our new Media Liaison officer, Edward Wiebe. With all the events we have planned and all the media enquires we receive, Council felt it wise to create a Media Liaison position to help manage the flow of information to the public. Thanks, Ed!

Next up on the list of positive developments: Metchosin District Council has agreed to waive the fee for the star party field again this year, so the event can proceed. And at the same meeting on February 23rd, Metchosin Council also officially passed their Dark Sky Policy. Thanks to Mayor Ranns and Councillors on both counts.

The DAO Saturday Night public observing nights committee has worked hard at developing a proposal for the upcoming season, which has been submitted to the HIA for consideration. There was a lot to consider! Opening up the DAO to the public entails a lot of work, with many, many details to be worked out. Huge thanks to Lauri Roche, Don Moffatt, Dr Jim Hesser, and Melisa Yestrau for all your efforts. Now we await the results.

A couple of weeks ago, I received a pleasant -and quite unexpected- email from Dave Balam at the DAO, offering three evenings in the next quarter on the 72” Plaskett telescope, for Victoria Centre members. Nice! I hope we can make that work, and I’ll let you know how that turns out. Meanwhile, don’t forget our next scheduled session on the UVic 32” telescope on March 13. We will send a reminder email prior to that date. And the Messier Marathon for Active Observers, on

the evening of March 23rd. If you want to participate, email Michel at: michelmichaud@shaw.ca.

So, apart from the time change, March brings plenty to look forward to!

Clear skies,

2nd Vice President

by Chris Purse

Membership Report - March 2015

Total membership is currently 206. There are 22 members in the grace period.

Please contact Chris Purse (membership@victoria.rasc.ca) if you would like to check the status of your membership.

**ASTRONOMY
CAFÉ**



Fairfield Community Centre

1330 Fairfield Rd. Victoria,

7:30pm - 11pm

Contact: Chris Purse for further details

vp2@victoria.rasc.ca

New comers are especially encouraged.



Email Lists

Observer / CU Volunteers / Members

Contact Joe Carr to subscribe

web@victoria.rasc.ca



New Observers Group

Hosted by Sid Sidhu - 1642 Davies Road, Highlands. Call 250.391-0540 for information and directions.



Venus, Mars and the Moon

February 21st I went outside to see if it was clear as it had been raining. When I saw the conjunction of the Moon, Venus and Mars. Bracing the camera on a tree I took this picture. Nikon Coolpix L19 for this shot.

Malcolm Scrimger



M42 the Orion Nebula, by John McDonald

While I have done better images of the Orion Nebula, this one is from a stack of only 3 - 30 sec exposures. I used to expose for an hour to get something that is equivalent. The Canon 6D full frame camera is pretty sensitive.

I was at the Alberta All Star Party near Rodeo NM, Processed in ACR and Photoshop.

John McDonald

RASC Victoria Centre Council 2014 / 2015

POSITION	NAME	E-Mail
Past President:	Nelson Walker	pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca
President	Sherry Buttner	president@victoria.rasc.ca
First Vice President	Joe Carr	vp@victoria.rasc.ca
Second Vice President	Chris Purse	vp2@victoria.rasc.ca
Treasurer	Bruce Lane	treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca
Secretary	Joy Fisher	secretary@victoria.rasc.ca
Librarian	Michel Michaud	librarian@victoria.rasc.ca
Technical Comm Chair / E-Mail	Matt Watson	admin@victoria.rasc.ca
Skynews Editor	Malcolm Scrimger	editor@victoria.rasc.ca
Telescopes / School prgms	Sid Sidhu	telescopes@victoria.rasc.ca
National Representative	Laura Roche	nationalrep@victoria.rasc.ca
Light Pollution Abatement	Dorothy Paul	lighting@victoria.rasc.ca
Membership Coordinator	Chris Purse	membership@victoria.rasc.ca
Observing Chairperson	Michel Michaud / Jim Stillburn	obschair@victoria.rasc.ca
Website Content	Joe Carr	web@victoria.rasc.ca
NRC Liaison	Dr. James Hesser	
NRC Liaison	James di Francesco	
UVic Liaison	Alex Schmid	
Member at Large	David Lee	



"REMEMBER — WHEN DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
WE HAVE TO GIVE EVERYTHING A SLIGHT TURN TO THE LEFT."