

# SKYNEWS



## M 13 in Hercules by Dan Posey

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### NEXT MEETING

Wednesday Oct 14th 7:30pm  
A104 Bob Wright Bldg,  
University of Victoria  
3800 Finnerty Rd

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

## On the Cover

Last July Dan Posey's image of M13 was featured and won the "Image of the Week," on our national RASC web site. Congratulations Dan.

This image of the Hercules globular cluster was captured on May 19th/20th from the Victoria Centre Observatory. The cluster contains hundreds of thousands of stars, and is about 25,000 light years from Earth. Globulars are very interesting in that they represent members of the oldest stellar populations.

This image consists of 26 minutes of 2 minute exposures with the QSI583c through a Meade 14"SCT@f10. The image was calibrated with darks, bias and flats, and stacked/processed in Pixinsight.

## Speakers for 2015

### September 9th

Dr. Jon Willis & his new book, *"Astrobiology - The Search for Life in the Universe."*

### October 14th

Bob Abraham, Univ. of Toronto and Honorary President, Toronto Centre *"Applying commercial camera lenses to gain entirely new insights into large-scale structure."* - a past CASCA Hogg Lecture.

### November 22nd

AGM lecture - Steve Mairs, UVic *"Molecular clouds formed from interstellar gas."*

### December 9th

Dr. Alan Batten, *"When did Modern Astronomy Begin?"*

## Presidents Report

by Sherry Buttner

I hope you all had a great summer! The Victoria Centre sure did! We hosted six Saturday evening "star parties" in July and August at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (the seventh was cancelled due to a power outage), during which many hundreds of guests paid us a visit. Rain or shine, the public loved what we had to offer. My heartfelt thanks go out to all the RASC volunteers who gave of their time and knowledge, the guest speakers who educated us, the Commissionaires who kept us safe and helped keep the traffic under control, all the NRC staff who made these popular events possible in the first place. Thank you, everyone!

Also over the summer, Victoria Centre member participated in the Saanich Strawberry Festival and Symphony Splash and were as well-received as usual. Any why not? Our volunteers are amazing! Our annual summer RASCals Star Party in Metchosin was also a hit, with approximately 92 people (public and RASC members) attending to take in the awesome presentations by Dr. Chris Gainor, David Lee, and Dr. Phil Stooke. Those, combined with terrific door prizes and great weather made for a very enjoyable weekend. Thanks to everyone from RASC who helped out, as well as Metchosin Council and staff, and Metchosin Fire Department.

And now we're back into our usual routine of monthly events and meetings; I know you will enjoy the upcoming guest speakers which our Acting VP Joe Carr has lined up for us.

This brings me to an issue that has been on my mind for a while: how are we doing? Is the Victoria Centre meeting your astronomical needs? It seems to me that

our meetings and events (e.g. Victoria Centre Observatory, UVic telescope sessions, etc) may not be as well-attended as they could be, and I would really like to know if there are things we could be doing better, or at least differently.

In the Members Only section of the Victoria Centre website (login required), you will find a very short survey form where you can give your feedback, criticisms, and/or suggestions. It's completely anonymous; you do not need to identify yourself unless you want to, and everything you offer will be read and considered. You can use it as a new member, continuing member, or even as an exit survey if you are leaving us. Please be as specific as you wish.

I really encourage Victoria Centre members to use the survey, or contact a Council member, to let us know what we're doing right, and what we could be doing better to meet your needs!

Finally, don't forget our next general meeting on September 9th, 7:30 in room A104 in the Bob Wright building. Our guest speaker is Dr. Jon Willis & his new book – The Search for Life in the Universe. Interesting!

Clear skies,

## Membership Report

*by Chris Purse*

Total membership is currently 216. There are 2 members in the grace period which means their membership has expired in the past 2 months. Please contact Chris Purse ([membership@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:membership@victoria.rasc.ca)) if you would like to check the status of your membership.

### ASTRONOMY CAFE



**Fairfield Community Centre**  
1330 Fairfield Rd. Victoria,

7:30pm - 11pm

Contact: Chris Purse for further details

[vp2@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:vp2@victoria.rasc.ca)

New comers are especially



### Email Lists

**Observer / CU Volunteers / Members**

Contact Joe Carr to subscribe



### New Observers Group

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

## For Sale

**Celestron 11" SCT telescope and 2 mounts and a Ioptron Mini Tower Pro mount Celestron 11" SCT telescope & CGE mount.**

Call Ron @ 778 432-3955

**Meade 14" LX200 GPS with tripod, super wedge and dew shield.**

Many extras including  
6.3 and 3.3 focal reducers  
Meade eyepiece set  
2" flip mirror  
2" ultrawide lens  
Meade counter weights  
Losmandy dovetail mount  
SkyWatcher 50mm finderscope  
Kendrick DigiFire 10 dew heater  
Telrad

Call Fred @ 250-478-7597

## Astro Cafe resumes Sept. 14

On the agenda for the first cafe of the season is a discussion about what members would like to see happen at the cafe this year. Some thoughts include continuing to have presentations on specific topics, a series of talks specifically about aspects of introductory astronomy, one or more gear sales, etc. Please give it some thought and come prepared to share your ideas and preferences.

We will also be looking for assistance with the **Fall Fairfield: Harvest Fete** on Saturday, September 26 from 1 to 5 pm. Weather permitting, it is our plan to concentrate on solar observing and our outdoor display (light abatement, info booth) as that has proven to be the most popular participation by RASC. However, if you have suggestions for indoor activities that we could do in the event of poor weather that would be most welcome.

We look forward to seeing you at Astro Cafe this year!

John MacDonald and Chris Purse

## Dawn sends sharper scenes from Ceres



The closest-yet views of Ceres, delivered by NASA's Dawn spacecraft, show the small world's features in unprecedented

detail, including Ceres' tall, conical mountain; crater formation features and narrow, braided fractures.

"Dawn is performing flawlessly in this new orbit as it conducts its ambitious exploration. The spacecraft's view is now three times as sharp as in its previous mapping orbit, revealing exciting new details of this intriguing dwarf planet," said Marc Rayman, Dawn's chief engineer and mission director, based at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California.

At its current orbital altitude of 915 miles (1,470 kilometers), Dawn takes 11 days to capture and return images of Ceres' whole surface. Each 11-day cycle consists of 14 orbits. Over the next two months, the spacecraft will map the entirety of Ceres six times.

The spacecraft is using its framing camera to extensively map the surface, enabling 3-D modeling. Every image from this orbit has a resolution of 450 feet (140 meters) per pixel, and covers less than 1 percent of the surface of Ceres.

At the same time, Dawn's visible and infrared mapping spectrometer is collecting data that will give scientists a better understanding of the minerals found on Ceres' surface.

Engineers and scientists will also refine their measurements of Ceres' gravity field, which will help mission planners in designing Dawn's next orbit -- its lowest -- as well as the journey to get there. In late October, Dawn will begin spiraling toward this final orbit, which will be at an altitude of 230 miles (375 kilometers).

## RASC Victoria Centre Council 2014 / 2015

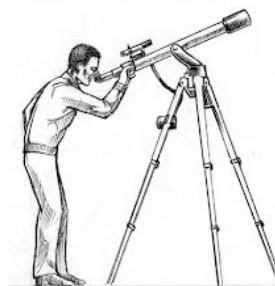
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NRC Liaison	Dr. James Hesser	
NRC Liaison	James di Francesco	
UVic Liaison	Alex Schmid	
Member at Large	David Lee	

### Online Resources

#### Magazines

[SkyNews](#) Our National RASC Newsletter  
[Sky & Telescope](#) Magazine  
[Astronomy](#) Magazine  
[Astronomy Now](#) Astronomy in the UK  
[Amateur Astronomy](#) Magazine  
[Astrophotography](#) Magazine

### Borrowing Telescopes



The centre has telescopes for new and seasoned observers that members can use. Contact Sid Sidhu from the email list above.