

RASC victoria council

this month

monday nights

President/Website Editor/Email Lists

Joe Carr
president@victoria.rasc.ca

**First Vice President/
Telescopes / Schools**

Sid Sidhu
vp@victoria.rasc.ca

Second Vice President

John McDonald
vp2@victoria.rasc.ca

Treasurer

David Griffiths
treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca

Secretary and Recorder

Li-Ann Skibo
secretary@victoria.rasc.ca

Librarian

Charles Banville
librarian@victoria.rasc.ca

Skynews Editor/ Past President

Scott Mair
scottmair@gmail.com

National Representative

David Lee
nationalrep@victoria.rasc.ca

Members at Large

Bill Almond, Dave Bennett, Jim Hesser,
Ed Maxfield, Blaire Pellatt, Colin Scarfe,
Chris Gainor, Norm Willey

New Member Liaison

Sandy Barta
newmembers@victoria.rasc.ca

Astronomy Cafe

Fairfield Community Centre,
1330 Fairfield, Victoria
7:30-11pm

Call John at 250.480.0928 for
directions and information.
New comers are especially
welcome. Come and enjoy!

**ASTRONOMY
CAFÉ**



second wednesday of the month

Monthly Meeting

7:30 PM, Elliott Lecture Theatre,
Rm 060, UVic.

as sky and interest dictate

New Observers Group

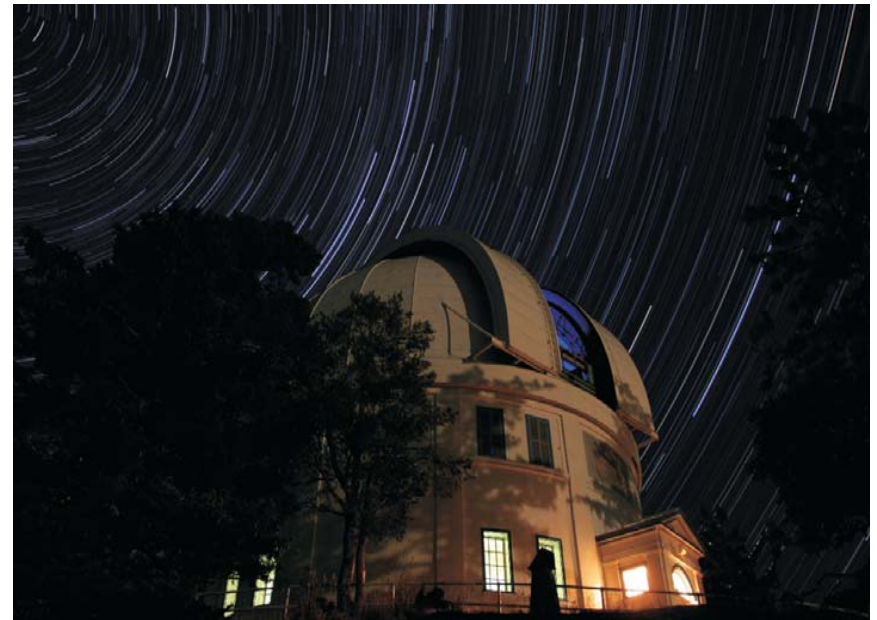
Hosted by Sid Sidhu.
1642 Davies Road, Highlands.
Call 391-0540 for information
and directions.

by email

**Observer/CU Volunteers/
Members email lists**

Contact Joe Carr to subscribe to
these email lists for important,
timely, member-related news.

skynews



this month

Dr. Marla Geha

Life-cycle of stars: formation, adulthood, and death.
September 12, 7:30 PM, Elliott Lecture Theatre, Rm 060, UVic

coming up

Dr. James Graham, University of California, Berkeley.

Topic TBA

October 10, 7:30 PM, Elliott Lecture Theatre, Rm 060, UVic

Dr. Brian Bornnold

Project Neptune

November 17, Gorge Vale Golf Club.

job jar

Victoria Centre Council has established a **Job Jar**, where we will have clearly-defined volunteer jobs that need to be done for Victoria Centre. If you are a member and wish to volunteer for one of these jobs, please contact the Council member indicated below.

Library Book Seller Description Victoria Centre Library has periodicals and books that are surplus to our needs, and Council has asked the Librarian to sell items that are appropriate for the marketplace. A member who has an account with an online auction service such as: eBay, Astromart, Astronomy Buy & Sell Canada, or other auction services

Skills: knows how to use a digital camera, has some experience selling things online.

Commitment: 2 hrs/mo. Contact Charles Banville for more information.

Spirit Surpasses '70s Superstar

Legends never fall, but their records beckon to be broken. On August 24th NASA's rover Spirit overtook the classic Viking 2 Lander's as the second-longest-lasting spacecraft on the surface of Mars: 1290 sols and counting! Its twin Opportunity is climbing the charts, next up to take its place in the top three. But better watch out -- the next generation of rovers are designed to be "far out" and "super-charged," traveling much farther and lasting much longer. So, stay tuned for more fab feats to come!



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mapping spectrometer, and a gamma ray and neutron spectrometer. In addition to these instruments, radiometric and optical navigation data will provide data relating to the gravity field and thus bulk properties and internal structure of the two bodies.

Mission Timeline

Launch	September 2007	Vesta departure	April 2012
Mars gravity assist	March 2009	Ceres arrival	February 2015
Vesta arrival	September 2011	End of primary mission	July 2015

International Year of Astronomy

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009) will be a global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture, stimulating worldwide interest not only in astronomy, but in science in general, with a particular slant towards young people.

Victoria Centre Picnic

The annual picnic was held at Pearson College on Saturday, September 1 and was a great event as always. We talked astronomy with our fellow RASC members, ate lots of food, soaked in the wonderful views, and saw Mark Wheen's upgrades to the equipment at this observatory. Since it was a cloudy day, we didn't stay late this year, but a good time was had by all!



At the roll-off shed

Alex Schmid's new astro imaging setup



John checking out Bruno's 'scope

on the cover

Charles Banville

Cassiopeia rising over The Plaskett - summer 2007

Location DAO (foreground), Cattle Point (background).

Optics Canon EF 17-40mm f/4L USM.

Camera Canon 20Da on Manfrotto mount.

Exposures

Foreground- one single JPEG of 15 sec, ISO 400. Zoom-lens set at 17mm f/4.

Background- 87 light frames of 1 min, ISO 800, shot in RAW. Zoom-lens set at 17mm f/4.

Process RAW images converted to JPEG in Canon Digital Photo Professional. Star trail created in Photoshop. Gaussian blur applied to star trail. Two images merged in Photoshop.

address change? information incorrect

Contact the National Office

Telephone - 416.924.7973 or toll-free in Canada 888.924.RASC

Fax - 416.924.2911

Email - nationaloffice@rasc.ca

Post - RASC, 136 Dupont Street, Toronto, ON M5R 1V2

General enquiries - nationaloffice@rasc.ca

contact us on-line

Web Site

www.victoria.rasc.ca

New Members

newmembers@victoria.rasc.ca

General Inquiries

info@victoria.rasc.ca

*President's Report***President's Message
September, 2007**

Those of you who attended the special Astronomy Café which was held July 23rd at the Centre of the Universe will already know we have kicked off the fundraising campaign for Victoria Centre's Observatory project. The National Research Council has very generously agreed to give our members use of the old 16" site atop Observatory Hill for the purpose of a Victoria Centre Observatory. They have also agreed to contribute \$5,000 to our Observatory Project for 2007, and they have agreed to provide telephone, ADSL Internet, and electrical services at no cost to us on an ongoing basis. NRC and Victoria Centre have mutually agreed to build a 10'x14' SkyShed on this site.



Many active observers already make good use of the old 16" site under our License to Use Land Agreement with NRC, but I'm sure you will agree that having an observatory on this site is a milestone for Victoria Centre.

Victoria Centre Council has endorsed the project budget for 2007 (please see below), and has approved purchase of a Paramount ME robotic mount. Council members will be contacting every member by telephone over the next few weeks to appeal to you to contribute to our Observatory project. Our target is to raise \$10,000 by the time we hold our September 12th monthly meeting. These funds will be used to pay for our share of the observatory infrastructure:

Part of the cost of the Skyshed not covered by NRC's contribution building the pier - both the concrete base and the steel pier itself wiring installation for hydro, telephone and Internet service

In order to keep our 2007 budget within our means, this year's budget does not include a telescope - that comes next year. Several members have offered to donate use of their scopes in the interim.

You can contribute anytime over the summer, up to and including the September 12th monthly meeting. If at all possible, please pledge an

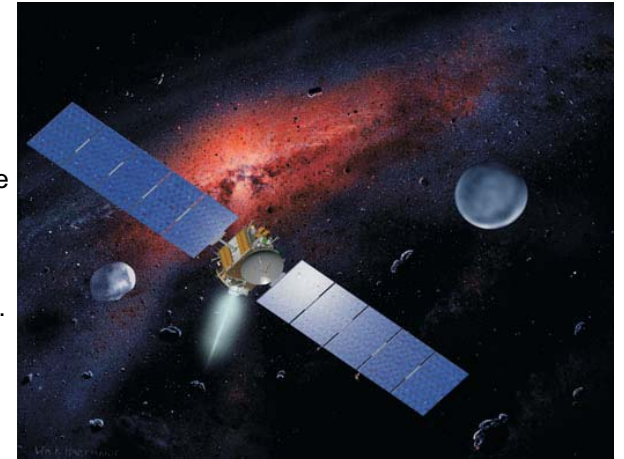
Dawn at a Glance

During its nearly decade-long mission, the Dawn mission will study the asteroid Vesta and dwarf planet Ceres, celestial bodies believed to have accreted early in the history of the solar system. The mission will characterize the early solar system and the processes that dominated its formation.

During the earliest epochs of our solar system, the materials in the solar nebula varied with their distance from the sun. As this distance increased, the temperature dropped, with terrestrial bodies forming closer to the sun, and icy bodies forming farther away.

The asteroid Vesta and the recently categorized dwarf planet Ceres have been selected because, while both speak to conditions and processes early in the formation of the solar system, they developed into two different kinds of bodies. Vesta is a dry, differentiated object with a surface that shows signs of resurfacing. It resembles the rocky bodies of the inner solar system, including Earth. Ceres, by contrast, has a primitive surface containing water-bearing minerals, and may possess a weak atmosphere. It appears to have many similarities to the large icy moons of the outer solar system.

By studying both these two distinct bodies with the same complement of instruments on the same spacecraft, the Dawn mission hopes to compare the different evolutionary path each took as well as create a picture of the early solar system overall. Data returned from the Dawn spacecraft could provide opportunities for significant breakthroughs in our knowledge of how the solar system formed.



To carry out its scientific mission, the Dawn spacecraft will carry three science instruments whose data will be used in combination to characterize these bodies. These instruments consist of a visible camera, a visible and infrared

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observers group

RASC Victoria Centre and the NRC have signed a License to Use Land Agreement which gives members of Victoria Centre expanded access to NRC property on Observatory Hill.

If you are a member in good standing of Victoria Centre RASC, consider yourself an "active observer", and wish to take advantage of this opportunity, please send an email to the 1st or 2nd Vice President. More information on this program see: <http://victoria.rasc.ca>

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amount you are comfortable with when a Council member contacts you. Please note that our Treasurer is on vacation for the summer, so please send your cheques to:

RASC Victoria Centre
 c/o Joe Carr
 3046 Jackson St
 Victoria, BC V8T 3Z8

Make cheques payable to "RASC Victoria Centre"

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

Please accept my personal thanks to those Victoria Centre members who have already sent in their donation. As I write this, I can report that we are well over half way to our target of \$10,000! I would also like to thank our two vice presidents, Sid Sidhu and John McDonald for the significant amount of work they have put into this project to date. Without their efforts, this project would not be happening.

For further background information about the Observatory Project, please refer to President's Message - June 2007.



Astrophotography

Charles Banville
ISS/Space Shuttle
Pass over DAO

Optics: Canon EF 17-40mm f/4L USM.
 Camera: Canon 20Da on Manfrotto mount.
 Exposures: 137 light frames of 1 minute, ISO 800.
 Zoom-lens set at 17mm, f/4.
 First frame taken at 22:10:15 on August 10.
 Last frame taken at 00:34:40 on August 11.
 Process: RAW images converted to JPEG in Canon Digital Photo Professional. Star trails created in Photoshop. Gaussian blur applied.

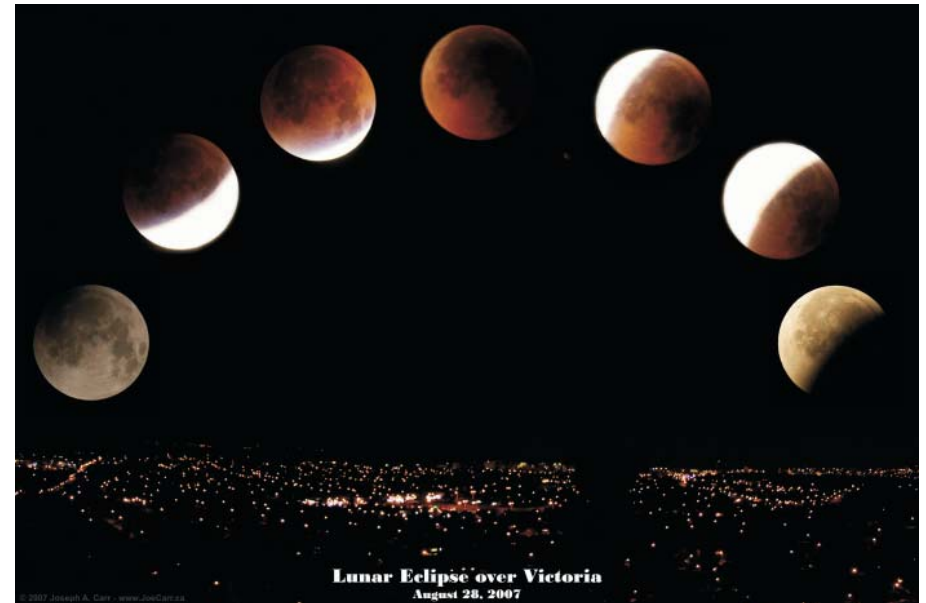


Bill Weir
Lunar Eclipse at Totality

I also used my son's new Rebel XTi attached to my 80mm Zenithstar to take images. I took one about every 5-10 minutes. If I knew what I was doing I could probably string them together into one continuous movie kind of thing.
 I couldn't get about the last 10 minutes as my objective was totally fogged over. Here is my uncropped shot of totality.

Michel Michaud
Blue Snowball NGC 7662

August 11, 2007
 The Blue Snowball NGC 7662 is located in Andromeda. Michel uses a Meade DSI Pro CCD imager with his Meade LX55 SN6 6" Newtonian.



Joe Carr
Lunar Eclipse over Victoria

This composite image shows the eclipse event as it progressed. Note the small fully eclipsed Moon between the 3rd and 4th composite images - part of the background image.