

SKYNEWS



Salt and Pepper Cluster
by Charles Banville

IN THIS ISSUE

On The Cover
President's Report
April Speaker
Astronomy Day
Web Resources



APRIL MEETING

Wednesday 10th, 2013
University of Victoria
A104 Bob Wright Bldg.
3800 Finnerty Rd.

www.victoria.rasc.ca

On the Cover

Salt and Pepper by Charles Banville

The open cluster Messier 37
Date: March 29, 2013
Constellation: Auriga
Location: DAO.Victoria, BC
Optics: TeleVue NP-127is, f/5.2
Mount: Paramount ME, guided using PhD
Camera: Canon EOS 5D Mark III

Presidents Report

by Nelson Walker

There is little to report on the observing front other than that two wonderfully clear March nights appeared amidst the cloudy/rainy/windy and moonlit drear that is our winter season. These two nights enabled me to check off two more objects on the RASC Deep Sky Challenge List, a list that is a “challenge” indeed. According to the RASC website, the certificate has been given out six times since its inception, once to our own Bill Weir. It is easy to see why: the pace is usually two or three objects per observing session, assuming the conditions are excellent, and not merely “good,” given that the objects are hard to find and even harder to see. These same two nights led to some amazing imaging by Centre members. Check it out on our website. The comet images are spectacular!

Next, our own International Astronomy Day is coming up on the 27th, and if the weather and good luck cooperate, it should be a good one, thanks to the efforts of Sherry Buttnor. You should be hearing from Sherry, or Sid, shortly, to get you onto the list of volunteers. The event is at the University of Victoria, which has proven to be an excellent venue for the event.

Last, and certainly not least, is that our GA 2014 planning is now in full swing. There is a subcommittee for practically every field of endeavor, from finance to art direction.

Contact co-chairs Paul Schumacher or Mark Bohlman to see where you can fit in.

April Speaker

Prof. Paul Wood

“Enlightened Amateurs and Professional Academics: Astronomy in Eighteenth-Century Scotland.” FRHist, Department of History, University of Victoria

I took my first degree in Philosophy at the University of Western Ontario and was the Department's Gold Medalist in 1975. I then went to study at University College London, where I completed an M.Phil. in History and Philosophy of Science in 1978. I did my PhD at the University of Leeds, and was awarded my degree in 1984 for a doctoral thesis on the Scottish thinker Thomas Reid. I then taught in the History Department at Queen's University, where I was a Canada Research Fellow. I moved to the History Department here at the University of Victoria in 1991. Over the years I have published widely on the intellectual history of early modern Europe, with a special interest in the Scottish Enlightenment. I was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 1996.

Interesting Links

The Canadian Space Agency has a collection of Chris Hadfield videos on Utube. CSA's Utube homepage is at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/canadianspaceagency>

Chris Hadfield's CSA's ISS Expedition 34/35 mission blog is another good read.

<http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/missions/expedition34-35/blog.asp>

Images of Comet Panstarrs by members can be viewed at our online Zenfolio Gallery.

<http://rascvic.zenfolio.com/panstarrs>

Our National Magazine

[SkyNews](#)



Victoria Centre celebrates International Astronomy Day

Saturday, April 27, 2013

University of Victoria, Bob Wright Building

Events:

Daytime - 10am - 4pm

Ask an Astronomer booth
Solar observing
Telescope making
Astro kids activities
Walk among the planets
Astro-photography

Astronomy Talks

Lecture Theatre A104, Bob Wright Building

11AM - Stargazing from Namibia's NamibRand Nature Reserve, Africa's First International Dark Sky Reserve - Miles Paul

12PM Noon - The sky in photos and video - John McDonald

1PM - Annular Solar Eclipse May 20th 2012 - The story of how I found myself on a plane headed for a small city in Utah to see the Ring of Fire - David Lee

2PM - The Transit of Venus in 2012 - Our last chance to observe this rare celestial event was so much fun! - Joe Carr

3PM - Light and Us - Find out how light affects humans, wildlife, and the environment - Dorothy Paul

Observe celestial objects in the night sky through UVic's 32" big telescope. Free admission for everyone.

\$2.25 to park for the whole day at UVic.

Thanks go to all our volunteers and corporate partners.

[Science Venture](#)
[UVIC Students](#)

[University of Victoria](#)
[Astronomy Department](#)

[Lester B. Pearson United](#)
[World College of the Pacific](#)

[NRC Herzberg Institute of](#)
[Astrophysics](#)

Evening - 7:00pm-10pm

Featured Speaker, 7pm

Dr. Christian Marois, HIA

"Extra-Solar Planets.

Lecture Theatre
A104, Bob Wright Bldg



Canadian Museums and Planetariums

- [Canada Science and Technology Museum](#)
- [Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame](#)
- [Telus Spark](#) (Calgary Science Centre)
- [Telus World of Science](#) (Edmonton Space and Science Centre)
- [W. J. McCallion Planetarium](#) (Hamilton)
- [H. R. MacMillan Space Centre and Planetarium](#) (Vancouver)
- [Science World B.C.](#) (Vancouver)
- [Halifax Planetarium](#) (Halifax)
- [Robert J. Lockhart Planetarium](#) University of Manitoba (Winnipeg)
- [Manitoba Planetarium](#) (Winnipeg)
- [Doran Planetarium](#) (Sudbury)
- [Ontario Science Centre Planetarium](#) (Toronto)
- [Rio Tinto Alcan Planterarium](#) (Montréal)

ASTRONOMY CAFE



Fairfield Community Centre

1330 Fairfield Rd. Victoria,
7:30pm - 10pm

Call Malcolm at (778) 430-4136 for directions and information. New comers are especially encouraged.



New Observers Group

Hosted by Sid Sidhu
1642 Davies Road, Highlands. 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 REGULAR MEETING

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

RASC Victoria Council for 2012 / 2013

Past President

Laurie Roche
pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca

Librarian

Michel Michaud
librarian@victoria.rasc.ca

Membership Coordinator

Sherry Buttner
Membership@victoria.rasc.ca

President

Nelson Walker
president@victoria.rasc.ca

Skynews Editor

Dianne Bell
editor@victoria.rasc.ca

Systems Admin

Mat Watson
admin@victoria.rasc.ca

First Vice President

Charles Banville
vp@victoria.rasc.ca

Telescopes / School Programs

Sid Sidhu telescopes@victoria.rasc.ca

Webmaster

Joe Carr
web@victoria.rasc.ca

Second Vice President

Sherry Buttner
vp2@victoria.rasc.ca

National Representative

Mark Bolman
nationalrep@victoria.rasc.ca

Members at Large

Bill Almond (Victoria Centre Historian)
Jim Hesser (NRC Liaison), Alex Schmid (University of Victoria Liaison),
David Lee (Observing), Li-Ann Skibo, Paul Schumacher (2014 GA), Matt Watson (Observatory Tech Committee)

Treasurer

Bruce Lane
treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca

Light Pollution Abatement

Mark Bohlman
lpa@victoria.rasc.ca

Secretary / Recorder

Deb Crawford
secretary@victoria.rasc.ca

New Member Liaison

Sherry Buttner
NewMembers@victoria.rasc.ca