

SKYNEWS



Milky Way in Scutum

by Malcolm Scrimger

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MAY MEETING

Wednesday May 13th 7:30pm
A104 Bob Wright Bldg,
University of Victoria
3800 Finnerty Rd

www.victoria.rasc.ca

On the Cover

The Milkyway in Scutum shows a very rich portion of our galaxy. It holds one of the best Messier objects in the sky M11 which is a nicely condensed open cluster which is also known as the "Wild Duck." It can be easily seen in binoculars. In a small to medium sized telescope under dark skies can be even more awe inspiring.

14 images taken with a Nikon D70s, 30 sec 70mm FL F/4.5 in 2010 at the Metchosin Star Party

Camera Tracker courtesy of John McDonald and stacking courtesy of Joe Carr at AstroCafe on Sept 6th, 2010.

April Speaker

Dr. Masen Lamb

Frontiers in Adaptive Optics and Stellar Spectroscopy: Searching for the First Stars Ever Formed – Masen Lamb, PhD student at the University of Victoria working in Astronomy and Telescope instrumentation. His astronomy work is done at the university while his instrumentation work is at NRC – Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics (HIA).

To compete with space telescopes such as Hubble, current (and future) optical ground based telescopes employ a technology called Adaptive Optics. This technology uses mirrors to cancel out the affects of the atmosphere and provide near diffraction-limited images. One application of Adaptive Optics in astronomy is to resolve dense regions of stars in the centre of our Galaxy. When this application is combined with infrared spectroscopy we can start to hunt for the oldest stars in our Galaxy. I will talk about the latest technologies in both Adaptive Optics and stellar spectroscopy and discuss some of their astronomical implications.

Presidents Report

by Sherry Buttnor

Busy busy busy! Lots of progress to share on various Victoria Centre projects this month. International Astronomy Day is April 25th this year, and once again we will be hosting a daytime public event at the Royal British Columbia Museum downtown, with our usual lineup of exciting displays and public-outreach activities. And we continue IAD at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory later that evening with more public activities.

We have just received approval from Dr. Greg Fahlman at the NRC for our Summer Saturday public evenings at the DAO. The first evening will be part of International Astronomy Day, then we begin in earnest on Saturday, May 2nd. We have expanded the number of Saturday evenings over last year's program, but have skipped a few Saturdays around the summer solstice due to the lack of darkness. We have also set up protocols to help avoid the barely-controlled chaos we experienced on certain evenings last summer! Many thanks to Lauri Roche, Jim Hesser, Nelson Walker, and Don Moffatt on the RASC side, as well as Greg Fahlman, Kevin Farris, and Morrnick Vincent of the NRC, all of whom worked very hard to make this program happen. Volunteers are gratefully needed for the above events; I hope you will consider offering a few hours of your time.

And a little more good news from the Hill: we have been granted two nights on the Plaskett telescope. Active Observers, mark your calendars: May 15 and June 19. You do need to be on the Active Observers list for Plaskett nights, so if you want to become an Active Observer, contact us and we'll tell you how. Other RASC observing

sessions upcoming (where you don't need to be an Active Observer) are UVic; Friday April 10, and Cattle Point; Friday April 24. Email reminders will be sent in advance of these sessions.

Despite uncooperative weather for the Messier Marathon, the last UVic and Cattle Point sessions, hope springs eternal. Keep those fingers crossed for better weather as we swing into high gear!

Clear skies.

2nd Vice President

by Chris Purse

Membership Report - April 2015

Total membership is currently 203. There are 17 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 CAFE



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.

The Victoria RASC and the Royal BC Museum present

**Astronomy Day at the Royal BC Museum
Saturday, April 25, 2015 10AM to 4PM**

Amazing Astronomical Activities for all Ages!

**Join us for a special opening of the
Centre of the Universe and the Observatory**

Observatory Hill, West Saanich Road 8PM to 11PM

All Astronomy Day activities are FREE

Regular admission applies to Royal BC Museum and IMAX Theatre.

RASC Victoria Centre Council 2014 / 2015

POSITION	NAME	E-Mail
Past President:	Nelson Walker	pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca
President	Sherry Buttnor	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
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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
Media Relations	Ed Weibe	media@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	
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Online Resources

Magazines

[SkyNews](#) Our National RASC Newsletter

[Sky & Telescope](#)

[Astronomy](#)

[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.