

R.A.S.C. - BELLEVILLE CENTRE

MARCH - 2006

Welcome to another edition of the newsletter of R.A.S.C. - Belleville Centre. Your favourite Editor has recently observed that the evening/night sky has becoming more clear more often as of late, compared to what we have had to endure the later part of 2005 and beginning of 2006. Finally, it is about time that clear skies has provided us, and graced us, with some decent observing sessions, albeit somewhat dampish, thus making long outdoor observing sessions somewhat uncomfortable. Hopefully some members of this club have taken upon themselves to have done some observing and regale the rest of the members of their epic tales of what they observed.

Due to circumstances, this newsletter may not be as long as it should/could be.

Meteor Showers:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meteor Shower</u>	<u>Radiant R. A.</u>	<u>Radiant Dec.</u>	<u>Z.H.R.</u>
16 March, 2006	Corona Australids	18h 19m	-42.0°	8
26 March, 2006	Virginids	12h 24m	±00.0°	6
09 April, 2006	alpha Virginids	13h 16m	-13.0°	8
17 April, 2006	sigma Leonids	13h 00m	-05.0°	12
22 April, 2006	April Lyrids	18h 06m	+33.6°	12
23 April, 2006	pi Puppids	07h 20m	-45.0°	10
25 April, 2006	mu Virginids	14h 44m	-05.0°	7
28 April, 2006	alpha Boötids	14h 32m	+19.0°	8

Moon: (courtesy of R.A.S.C. 2006 Handbook)

First Quarter: Monday, 06 March, 2006 20 hours 16 minutes

Full Moon: Tuesday, 14 March, 2006 23 hours 35 minutes -penumbral eclipse

Last Quarter: Wednesday, 22 March, 2006 19 hours 10 minutes

New Moon: Wednesday, 29 March, 2006 10 hours 15 minutes

Moon at apogee: Monday, 03 March, 2006 02 hours 406,278 km

Moon at perigee: Tuesday, 28 March, 2006 07 hours 359,168 km

Planets: (courtesy of R.A.S.C. 2006 Handbook)

Mercury -quickly fades as it descends into the bright western twilight sky for northern observers. It becomes lost in the glare of the Sun in the first week of the month.

Venus -reaches greatest elongation west (47°) on 25 March, 2006, Its visibility degrades slightly during the month for northern observers when it is only easily visible during morning twilight low in the south-southeast by the end of the month.

Mars -in the constellation of Taurus and stands more than 50° above the horizon in the west-southwest at the end of evening twilight and sets near 1 a.m. in the north-west.

Jupiter - in the constellation of Libra and is stationary on 05 March, 2006, and then begins retrograde (westward) motion - > It rises about 1030 p.m. in the east-southeast and transit about 30° above the south horizon about one hour before morning twilight.

Saturn -in the constellation of Cancer. It is about 60° above the south horizon in the southeast at the end of evening twilight and sets about 4:30 a.m. in west-northwest.