

R.A.S.C. - BELLEVILLE CENTRE

APRIL - 2006

Welcome to another edition of the newsletter of R.A.S.C. - Belleville Centre. Your favourite newsletter editor hopes that many, if not all of you, will have been able to have got out at least once or twice since the last meeting to do some observing.

The editor, much to his amazement, has observed that the night-time sky has regaled us with the occasional stellar performance. He knows this to be factual due to the fact that he has done some observing.

Now for some much needed information that could be of some importance to some people over the next while:

Meteor Showers:

Date	Meteor Shower	Radiant		Z.H.R.
		R.A.	Dec.	
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
01 May, 2006	phi Boötids	16h 00m	+51.0°	6
06 May, 2006	alpha Scorpiids	16h 00m	-22.0°	6
06 May, 2006	eta Aquarids	22h 22m	-01.9°	60

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

First Quarter:	Wednesday, 05 April, 2006	12 hours 01 minutes
Full Moon:	Thursday, 13 April, 2006	16 hours 40 minutes
Last Quarter:	Friday, 21 April, 2006	03 hours 28 minutes
New Moon:	Thursday, 27 April, 2006	19 hours 44 minutes
Moon at apogee:	Sunday, 09 April, 2006	13 hours 405,551 km
Moon at perigee:	Tuesday, 25 April, 2006	11 hours 363,732 km

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

Mercury -reaches greatest elongation west (28°) on 08 April, 2006, but this is a poor apparition for observers in the northern hemisphere. It eventually becomes lost in the Sun's glare about mid-month, being very low above the horizon in the east before sunrise.

Venus -rises less than two hours before the Sun. It is only visible during morning twilight low in the east-south-east.

Earth -orbiting somewhere between the orbits of Venus and Mars although astronomers have yet to determine the exact parameters of such an orbit. Stay tuned for further updates.

Mars -moves from the constellation Taurus into the constellation Gemini by the middle of the month. It is nearly 40° high in the west at the end of evening twilight. It sets near 12:30 a.m. in the north-west.

Jupiter -located in the constellation Libra. The planet rises near the end of evening twilight in the east-south-east, transits about 30° above the south horizon about 01:30 a.m.. At the beginning of morning twilight, the planet stands about 25° above the south-south-west horizon.

Saturn -in the constellation of Cancer. It is stationary on 05 April, 2006 and returns to direct (eastward) motion. At the end of evening twilight, Saturn stands about 60° above the south-west horizon. Saturn sets near 02:30 a.m. in the west-north-west

Midnight Culmination Dates Of The Constellations - Alphabetical

<u>Constellation</u>	<u>Culmination Date</u>
Andromeda	09 October
Antlia	24 February
Apus	21 May
Aquarius	25 August
Aquila	16 July
Ara	10 June
Aries	30 October
Auriga	21 December
Boötes	02 May
Caelum	01 December
Camelopardalis	23 December
Cancer	30 January
Canes Venatici	07 April
Canis Major	02 January
Canis Minor	14 January
Capricornus	08 August
Carina	31 January
Cassiopeia	09 October
Centaurus	30 March
Cepheus	29 September
Cetus	15 October
Chamaeleon	01 March
Circinus	30 April
Columba	18 December
Coma Berenices	02 April
Corona Australis	30 June

Corona Borealis	19 May
Corvus	28 March
Crater	12 March
Crux	28 March
Cygnus	30 July
Delphinus	31 July
Dorado	17 December
Draco	24 May
Equulus	08 August
Eridanus	10 November
Fornax	02 November
Gemini	05 January
Grus	28 August
Hercules	13 June
Horologium	10 November
Hydra	15 March
Hydrus	26 October
Indus	12 August
Lacerta	28 August
Leo	01 March
Leo Minor	23 February
Lepus	14 December
Libra	09 May
Lupus	09 May
Lynx	19 January
Lyra	04 July
Mensa	14 December
Microscopium	04 August

Monoceros	05 January
Musca	30 March
Norma	19 May
Octans	-----*
Ophiuchus	11 June
Orion	13 December
Pavo	15 July
Pegasus	01 September
Perseus	07 November
Phoenix	04 October
Pictor	16 December
Pisces	27 September
Piscis Austrinus	25 August
Puppis	08 January
Pyxis	04 February
Reticulum	19 November
Sagitta	16 July
Sagittarius	07 July
Scorpius	03 June
Sculptor	26 September
Scutum	01 July
Serpens	06 June
Sextans	22 February
Taurus	30 November
Telescopium	10 July
Triangulum	23 October
Triangulum Australe	23 May
Tucana	17 September

Ursa Major	11 March
Ursa Minor	13 May
Vela	13 February
Virgo	11 April
Volans	18 January
Vulpecula	25 July

*Octans is a circumpolar constellation and does not have a culmination date.

Culmination Date is defined as the occasion of the year in which the centre point of the constellation crosses the observer's meridian.

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