

**R.A.S.C. - BELLEVILLE CENTRE**  
**OCTOBER - 2006**

Welcome to another edition of the newsletter of R.A.S.C. - Belleville Centre. In this newsletter, there is a report on Fall'n'Stars by your "Most Favorite Roving Correspondent", Arlyne Gillespie.

The weather, as usual, has not been one hundred percent (100%) cooperative with us. There have been a few good nights for observing but fair consideration must be give to the time of year in which there are seasonal adjustments to be created.

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

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Meteor Showers:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meteor Shower</u>	<u>Radiant</u> <u>R.A.</u>	<u>Radiant</u> <u>Dec.</u>	<u>Z.H.R.</u> <u>Approx.</u>
03 October, 2006	Annual Andrometids	00h 20m	+08.0°	13
03 October, 2006	Annual Andrometids	01h 20m	+34.0°	10
08/09 October, 2006	October Draconids	17h 28m	+54.1°	02
12 October, 2006	South Piscids	01h 44m	+14.0°	06
19 October, 2006	epsilon Geminids	06h 56m	+27.0°	05
21 October, 2006	Orionids	06h 18m	+15.8°	30
24 October, 2006	Leo Minorids	10h 48m	+37.0°	03
03 November, 2006	South Taurids	03h 22m	+13.6°	07
12 November, 2006	Pegasids	22h 20m	+21.0°	05
13 November, 2006	North Taurids	03h 53m	+22.3°	07
17 November, 2006	Leonids	10h 09m	+22.2°	15
27 November, 2006	Andromedids*	01h 40m	+44.0°	--

\*The Andromedids varies wildly. THE best showing was 27 November 1885, with a ZHR of 13,000.

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

First Quarter:	Sunday, 29 October, 2006	21 hours 25 minutes
Full Moon:	Saturday, 07 October, 2006	03 hours 13 minutes
Last Quarter:	Saturday, 14 October, 2006	00 hours 26 minutes
New Moon:	Sunday, 22 October, 2006	05 hours 14 minutes
Moon at apogee:	Thursday, 19 October, 2006 406,074 km	10 hours
Moon at perigee:	Friday, 06 October, 2006 357,410 km	14 hours

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

Mercury -reaches greatest elongation east (25°) on 17 October. It is not very favorably observed by north-hemisphere observers but it is glimpsed low in the west-south-west after sunset about the middle of the month. The planet is in conjunction with Jupiter on 25 October and 28 October.

Venus -in superior conjunction on 27 October and not readily observable by northern observers until early in the month of December.

Earth -nothing worthwhile to report regarding this insignificant speck of dust.

Mars -in conjunction on 23 October. Cannot be observed by observers in the northern hemisphere until the month of December.

Jupiter -in Libra, slowly becomes lost in the west-south-west evening twilight during the month.

Saturn -in Leo, rises in the east-north-east near 1 a.m. and stands ~40° above the east-south-east at the beginning of morning twilight.

Pluto -has been downgraded as a planet by the International Astronomical Union (I.A.U.) and, along with Ceres and "Xena", is classified as into a new group of objects ("dwarf planets"). It spends most of the year of 2006 in Serpens Cauda. In late September of 2006, it dips into Ophiuchus and eventually enters eastward into Sagittarius by early December of 2006. Opposition for Pluto is 16 June, 2006, and conjunction of Pluto is 18 December, 2006.

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## **Fall'n'Stars 2006**

by Arlyne Gillespie

Participants to Fall'n'Stars 2006 at the boy scout camp at Vanderwater Conservation Area, north of Belleville, enjoyed a weekend of interesting events, good food and fellowship. This star party is always planned as a weekend under the stars for dark sky observing but organizers also appreciate the need to plan for inclement weather. This year those plans proved to be most welcome as the clouds moved in. About 30 amateur astronomers gathered to enjoy Celestrivia in which three teams used their knowledge of astronomy accompanied with much laughter to challenge each other for the prize. Guest speakers informed and entertained with their presentations. Mark Coady talked about how to fight light pollution and Peter McMahon pointed to the many instances where real stars and galaxies are incorporated in the movies and in TV shows such as Star Trek. Many participants enjoyed the swap table, the short presentations of cut-off light fixtures, an Orion Intelliscope and meteorites and the field trip to Rivendell Hills Observatory. The catered dinner Saturday night and the draws for door prizes, photo contest, and observing-chair raffle, as well as the silent book auction, were appreciated by all. Although the weather did not cooperate, a group of happy campers enjoyed the opportunity to socialize and share stories, songs and laughter around a campfire. The weekend was deemed an unqualified success by all who attended.