

R.A.S.C. - BELLEVILLE CENTRE

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY, 2007

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Welcome to another newsletter of R.A.S.C. - Belleville Centre. There have been a few good nights for observing but occasionally the brightness of the moon does have a tendency to interfere with the pleasures that can be derived from deep sky observing.

Here is a list of useful information of meteor showers:

<u>Radiant</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
<u>February</u>		
**Aurigids	31 January - 23 February	05 February - 10 February
**Alpha Centaurids	02 February - 23 February	08 February - 09 February
**Beta Centaurids	02 February - 23 February	08 February - 09 February
**Delta Leonids	05 February - 19 March	22 February - 23 February
**Sigma Leonids	09 February - 13 March	05 February - 26 February
***Capricornids	13 January - 28 February	30 January - 03 February
***Sagittarids	13 January - 28 February	30 January - 03 February
***Chi Capricornids	29 January - 28 February	13 February - 14 February
<u>March</u>		
**eta Draconids	22 March - 08 April	29 march - 31 March
**beta Leonids	14 February - 25 April	19 March - 21 March
**rho Leonids	13 February - 13 March	01 March - 04 March
**Leonids	18 March - 07 April	10/11 March
**Ursids	18 March - 07 April	10/11 March
**delta Mensids	14 March - 21 March	18/19 March
**gamma Normids	11 March - 21 March	16/17 March
**eta Virginids	24 February - 27 March	18/19 March
**pi Virginids	13 February - 08 April	03 March - 09 March
**theta Virginids	10 March - 21 April	20/21 March
***March Aquarids	?? February - ?? April	18 March - 18 March

Guide: * -Major Activity
 -Beginner Level

 ** -Minor Activity
 -Expert Level (i.e. - Quite Experienced Observer)

 *** -Daylight Activity
 -Expert Level (i.e. - Quite Experienced Observer)

Planetary Observations (courtesy of R.A.S.C. - 2007 Observer's Handbook)

Mercury - reaches greatest elongation east (18°) on 07 February, 2007 when shining at -0.6 magnitude approximately 7° below Venus in the evening twilight. From where we are located, Mercury will be observed at an altitude of 8° in the west-south-west three-quarters of an hour after sunset. Mercury is fading rapidly and (visually) diving towards the sun by the middle of the month. Inferior conjunction is on 23 February, 2007.

Venus - is in the early evening western sky through the month. By the middle of the month, Venus sets thirty seven (37) minutes after the end of astronomical twilight at a latitude of 45°N .

Mars - starts the month in Sagittarius but enters Capricornus on 25 February, 2007. On 15 February, 2007, at latitude 45°N , Mars is minutes from rising in the east-south-east sky.

Jupiter - at the middle of the month, Jupiter rises at 03:00 a.m. at 45°N . Jupiter is only up 22° in the south-south-east at civil twilight.

Saturn - at opposition on 10 February, 2007, when rising near sunset. Saturn transits at local midnight and sets near sunrise

Full Moon: Friday, 03 February, 2007
 05h 45m

Last Quarter: Saturday, 10 February, 2007
 09h 51m

New Moon: Saturday, 17 February, 2007
 16h 14m

First Quarter: Saturday 24 February, 2007
 07h 1m56

Apogee: Wednesday, 07 February, 2007
 13h
 404,992 kilometres

Perigee: Monday, 19 February, 2007
 10h
 361,436 kilometres



Our activities are astronomical and are out of this world. Look up into the sky with great concern. The sky is falling. Be afraid - be very afraid. There is no possibility of escape. There is no safe place to hide. Worry with great magnitude. Panic with great magnificence. Be overwhelmed with great dread. Be besieged with anxiety and inundated with alarm. Being beleaguered with dismay would be a nice attribute to fall prey to. Scream if such an action will provide you with relief.

(Drawing courtesy of the Personal Homepages of the Relativistic Astrophysics Department of Sternberg Astronomical Institute of Moscow State University))