

R.A.S.C. - BELLEVILLE CENTRE

NEWSLETTER - MARCH, 2007

VOLUME 02 - NUMBER 03

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>March</u>		
**eta (η) Draconids	22 March - 08 April	29 March - 31 March
**beta (β) Leonids	14 February - 25 April	19 March - 21 March
**rho (ρ) 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 (δ) Mensids	14 March - 21 March	18/19 March
**gamma (γ) Normids	11 March - 21 March	16/17 March
**eta (η) Virginids	24 February - 27 March	18/19 March
**pi (π) 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
Corona Australids	R.A.: 18h 19m Dec.: -42.0°	16 March Z.H.R.: 08
Virginids	R.A.: 12h 24m Dec.: \pm 00.0°	26 March Z.H.R.: 06
<u>April</u>		
**tau (τ) Draconids	13 March - 17 April	13 March - 02 April
**Librids	11 March - 05 May	17/18 April
**delta (δ) Pavonids	21 March - 08 April	05/06 April
*April Lyrids	16 April - 25 April R.A.: 18h 06m Dec.: +33.6°	22 April 22 April Z.H.R.: 12

**pi (π) Puppids	18 April - 25 April R.A.: 07h 20m Dec.: -45.0°	23/24 April 23/24 April Z.H.R.: 10
**April Ursids	18 March - 09 May	19/20 April
**alpha (α) Virginids	10 March - 06 May R.A.: 13h 16m Dec.: -13.0°	07/08 April - 08/09 April Z.H.R.: 08
**April Virginids	01 April - 16 April	07/08 April
**gamma (γ) Virginids	05 April - 21 April	14/15 April
*sigma (σ) Leonids	R.A.: 10h 00m Dec.: -05.0°	17 April Z.H.R.: 12
***April Piscids	08 April - 29 April	20/21 April
**mu (μ) Virginids	R.A.: 14h 44m Dec.: -05.0°	25 April Z.H.R.: 07
*alpha (α) Boötids	R.A.: 16h 00m Dec.: +19.0°	28 April Z.H.R.: 08

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 kilometers

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