



What'sup!

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Belleville Centre Newsletter

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Next Meeting

February 6, 2009
Loyalist College
(Pioneer Building P1)

Observing Nights

February 20, 21
With a rain-date of
February 27, 28
At Pulver Rd.

Editor's Pic' Pick



Outer Corona
By Dave Cotterell

For the full size version,
and more images, check
our web gallery on the
RASC Belleville Website
www.rascbelleville.ca

A Call For Writings...

Do you have a piece of astronomy writing? Let's have it in the newsletter. Maybe you have a tale to relate, or an observing report?

What's astronomy done in your life? Have you spent some time working on your astronomy skills? Maybe you have a neat way of doing things but you just can't stand up in front of the club to tell us. Put it into an email to the Newsletter Editor.

Hey, either you submit your writings, or you get to read George Carlin's thoughts on why he worshiped the Sun...

Natural Allies

It occurred to me the other day how many Astronomy buff's are also Camera buff's. There's the obvious connection made through "Astro-Photography," but let me explain my transition.

I wanted to take pictures so I could show non-astronomers what I do. So I got the camera and spent lots of time at the eyepiece with camera-in hand. But since I had the camera, I also took pictures of lots of day-time scenery, flowers and lots of other things. Soon, it occurred to me that I just might like photography in general. The best part... I didn't have to wait for a moonless, cloudless, weekend night to do it (which I calculated to an average of about 15 nights per year)

Eventually, more and more photography equipment started showing up at the house. "Honestly, Hun, these studio strobes just followed me home." So, I started "Dempsey Studios" (www.dempsey-studios.com) as a part time business. I still get out for astronomy now and again, but photography takes precedent.

So if you're thinking of adding astrophotography, go for it! You might just end up with another hobby.

December 2008 Meeting Minutes

- Nine members present (unusually small turnout). One new member.
- Observing reports. Next observing night - Dec. 26 or 27. Watch for double conjunction of Venus/crescent Moon and Jupiter/Mercury on Dec. 31st.
- For "International Year of Astronomy," Greg hopes to have a once-a-month public observing session at an as-yet-to-be-decided-upon location. These will be advertised in newspapers, etc.
- Annual RASC Belleville Centre Christmas Dinner to be held tomorrow night at the Winchester Arms Restaurant/Pub, Belleville.
- The new Messier pin designed by Greg Lisk is now a reality and under production. Greg played us the new song "On the Shoulders of Giants," by Padi Boyd
- Watched videos-- "Sky at Night" -- panel of astronomers with famed British astronomer Sir Patrick Moore as moderator and a second film about the history of the telescope.
- Meeting adjourned and off to Tim Horton's for coffee and conversation.

January 2009 Meeting Minutes

- Fifteen members present. Christmas dinner last month was attended by 18 members..
- Observing reports.
- 2009 International Year of Astronomy kicks off January 10th. Belleville Centre will do public observing as part of International Year of Astronomy starting Jan. 30th. Location to be announced at a later date.
- January's Observing Challenge -- "Kemble's Cascade -- a beautiful cascade of faint stars tumbling from the northwest down to the open cluster NGC 1502" in Camelopardalis.
- Watched video -- the proponents' theory in the video was that the universe is electrical in nature. Lively discussion followed this video as some members thought the scientists were wacko.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. -- to Tim Horton's for coffee.

Message from the Webmaster

Just an announcement concerning the RASC NATIONAL website. You can now sign in to <https://secure.rasc.ca> to update your account with the RASC.

Please remember this is not the same as the RASC Belleville website, and the username and password MIGHT be the same for both but not necessarily.