



# What'sup?

**The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
Belleville Centre Newsletter**

## South Bay under the Stars

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Cloudy skies and soggy ground didn't deter members of **the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC)** from enjoying their first local Star Party of the year. "**South Bay under the Stars**" from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> - a weekend assembly of RASC members from Belleville and Kingston Centres. Located at the **Johnson's RV Park** County Road 13, this site provides an amazing dark sky view as well as lovely waterfront scenery.



Although weather wise, the weekend wasn't the best for night sky observing due to the nightly showers. Astronomy enthusiasts did manage to spend Saturday morning observing the sun. The weekend Star Party also included a much appreciated hay ride and wine tasting event at **Half Moon Bay winery** followed by a Club BBQ Saturday evening. Dayton and Pat Johnson were welcoming hosts providing a delicious continental breakfast to all the campers and astronomy enthusiasts. Will we hold another "South Bay under the Stars" – maybe if it is written in the Stars.

### Next Meeting

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

7:30 pm

Loyalist College -  
Pioneer Building, Room  
P13

### Observing Night

TBD



Johnson RV Park observing field.



Saturday morning solar observing.



Saturday morning breakfast.



RASC members enjoying the morning meal.

# What'sup?



Hay ride to Half Moon Bay Winery.



Wine tasting room.



Happy RASC Campers.



Lounging at the winery.



Brian Mitchell (Half Moon Bay Winery).



Ride back to the campground.

# What'sup?

## Outa This World Humour

Why did the Martian throw beef on the asteroid? He wanted it a little meaty-or.

What do farmers need to create crop circles? A Pro-tractor.

What kind of currency do aliens use? Starbucks.

How do you organize a space party? You planet!

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/peoplejokes/alienjokes.html>

## Astronomy Facts

At 33 light-years away is an exoplanet called Gliese 436 b. The planet is composed of different water elements, **which form burning ice**. In other words, the ice on the planet remains solid due to pressure, while the extreme surface temperature of 570° F (300° C) super-heats the water, causing it to come off as steam. Whoa...

It may seem like a bartender's dream (or nightmare), but way up beyond our atmosphere, there's a gas cloud made from alcohol about 1,000 times the diameter of our entire solar system. There's enough alcohol there for about **400 septillion pints of beer** (that's 400 followed by 24 zeros!). To put that into perspective, **ScienceAlert** notes that's "enough alcohol to supply 300,000 pints of beer every day to every single person on Earth for the next billion years." Cheers!

There may be a lot of garbage filling up our landfills on Earth, but there are over a million pieces of trash orbiting the earth, too, reports **BBC News**. Space junk is a real problem and even something as small as a paper clip could wreak havoc on our satellite system—that could mean no Netflix for you, among more serious issues like messing with our National Security system. Currently, there's no great way to clean up space, but scientists are focusing on solutions.

<https://www.rd.com/culture/astronomy-facts/>

## Fall'N' Stars 2019

Mark your calendars! The date for this year's Fall'N' Stars is Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of September at the Vanderwater Conservation Area Boy Scout camp. Further info and registration forms can be found at <http://rascbelleville.ca/fallnstars/>



Vanderwater Conservation Area.