



What'sup?

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

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Next Meeting

October 4th, 2019

7:30 pm

Loyalist College -Pioneer Building, Room P13

Hello Darkness...

Steven Burr

At our August Club meeting, Mr. Gary Magwood and Mr. Sean Scally presented their film "**Hello Darkness ...**", a 15 minute film on light pollution. Gary initiated this project over concerns his generation will be the last to know the wonders of the night sky. It is a very enlightening film which will get us all talking about this topic. We are looking forward to hearing more from Gary as he approaches the City of Belleville to enact a light abatement policy.

Following the film, Mr. Mark Coady from the Peterborough Astronomy Club spoke on their efforts and success with their local municipalities and the City of Peterborough.



Ruth Hatton & Gary Magwood discuss light pollution with members of RASC Belleville.

What's up?

Guest Speaker – David Levy



David Levy - renowned Comet Hunter.

Sean Scally (left) talks with David Cotterell about producing the film "Hello Darkness ..."

On Sunday September 8, 2019 RASC Belleville and RASC Kingston Centres will be hosting David Levy at Stirling Hall Theatre "A", Queen's University 3:00-5:30 pm.

Astronomy Facts

The star Lucy in the constellation Centaurus is a huge cosmic diamond of 10 billion trillion trillion carats.

Seasons last 21 years on Uranus while each pole has 42 years of sunlight followed by 42 years of darkness.

Venus, on the other hand, does not have any seasons at all.

One year on Mercury consists of less than 2 days on Mercury.

<https://astroceanomy.com/2011/03/04/50-amazing-and-strange-astronomy-facts/>

David H Levy is arguably one of the most enthusiastic and famous amateur astronomers of our time. Although he has never taken a class in astronomy, he has written over three dozen books, has written for three astronomy magazines and has appeared on television programs featured on the Discovery and the Science Channels.

Among David's accomplishments are 23 comet discoveries, the most famous being Shoemaker-Levy 9 that collided with Jupiter in 1994, a few hundred shared asteroid discoveries, an Emmy for the documentary *Three Minutes to Impact*, five honorary doctorates in Science and a PhD which combines astronomy and English Literature.

Currently, he is the editor of the web magazine *Sky's Up!*, and has a monthly column, *Skyward*, in our local Vail Voice paper.

What'sup?

Fall'N'Stars 2019 – Guest Speaker



Brian Hunter - "An Astronomical Tourist: 49 years & counting."

This year's Fall'N'Stars features Brian Hunter as the guest speaker. He will be speaking on his experiences as "An Astronomical Tourist" on Saturday, September 28th at 7 pm.

Brian was raised in Vancouver and attended UBC for a B.Sc. and a M.Sc. in Chemistry. From there, he went to the University of Western Ontario for a Ph.D. and on to University College (London) for a post-doctoral Research Fellowship.

Most of Brian's career was spent in the Chemistry Department at Queen's and, toward the end of his career, he was cross-appointed to Chemical Engineering. Most of his teaching was to Engineering students; General Chemistry to First Year and Physical Chemistry, Spectroscopy, and Microcomputer Interfacing to the Engineering Chemists.

In 2002, Brian took early retirement from Queen's and assumed the position of Director for the Shad Valley Program at Queen's. Shad Valley is a month-long residential program for High School students that deals with Science, Technology and Business. For the first two years, the program ran at Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex England.

Brian renewed a life-long interest in Astronomy, teaching the Astronomy course at the Bader International Study Centre at Herstmonceux Castle for ten years. He first visited the Castle in 1970 when it was still active as the Royal Greenwich Observatory. Brian states "*The jump from being a Chemist to a Physicist is not as large as you might think. The boundaries between scientific disciplines are not well-defined and I have always worked on the physical side of Chemistry.*"

Astronomy has also allowed Brian an excuse to travel to many interesting places; Australia, South Africa, the Canary Islands, Chile, and his own backyard.

Fall'N'Stars 2019

It's not too late! Get your registration in! The date for this year's Fall'N'Stars is Friday the 27th to Sunday 29th of September at the **Johnson's RV Park – 3235 County Road 13, RR#3 Picton (South Bay), On K0K 2T0**. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we were forced to change location. Further info and registration forms can be found at <http://rascbelleville.ca/fallnstars/>

What'sup?

Fall'N'Stars 2019 Etiquette

RED LIGHTS AT NIGHT: White lights are not allowed anywhere in the observing area at night. Please cover your flashlight with a red filter and keep the beam aimed at the ground. Cover your trunk and car interior lights with red filters if you are going to be accessing your car during the night. **DO NOT USE** propane or naphtha camping lanterns. Shield computer monitors, keep screen intensity to a minimum, and use night vision mode or a red filter. **NO CAMPFIRES!**

LASERS: Red and green lasers are permitted. Do not point them horizontally at people or trailers! Lasers will not show on astrophotos unless they are held in the same place for many seconds. Use them sparingly.

MUSIC: Fall'N'Stars IS AN ASTRONOMY CONFERENCE ... NOT A ROCK CONCERT. You are encouraged to share your interest in astronomy, not your taste in music. Please use headphones if you must observe with music.

GENERATORS: make a lot of noise as well. Please turn off all generators between 11pm and 9am to allow the astronomers to enjoy the beauty (and quiet) of the night sky and/or to sleep!

PETS: We love them, but would prefer you leave them at home.

Outa This World Humour

Q: What was the name of the first satellite to orbit the Earth?

A: The Moon.

Q: How does the Man in the Moon cut his hair?

A: Eclipse it.

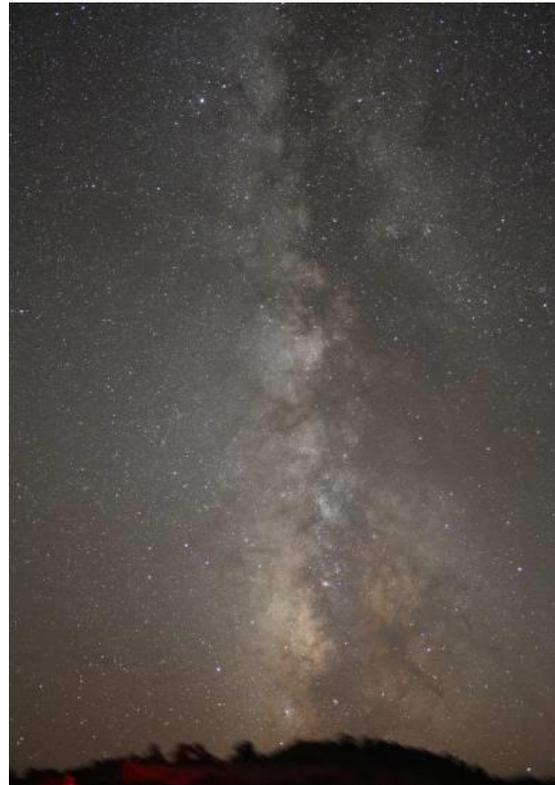
Q: Did you hear about the bones they found on the moon?

A: It seems like the cow didn't make it after all. (hey diddle diddle)

Q: What do moon people do when they get married?

A: They go off on their honeyearth!

<http://www.astronomytrek.com/astronomy-jokes-and-humour/>



Late summer Milky Way – photo by RASC Belleville Club member.