

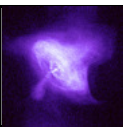


H O R I Z O N

LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA
New Brunswick Centre
THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

October 2009





**SRAC/RASC Centre du NB Centre
 Réunion / Meetings**

Event: Monthly Meeting / Annual Meeting
When: October 17, 2009
Where: Mt Allison University, Sackville, NB
Wu Center, Dunn Science Building
Rm 113, 67 York St.
11am-4pm

Event: Monthly Meeting
When: November 21, 2009
Where: Miramichi, NB
NBCC Campus, Enter through side
Parking lot doors.

Event: Monthly Meeting
When: December 12, 2009 at 1:00pm
Where: TBA

1. **Cover: Photo of the Month!**
2. **Event Horizon (Upcoming Meeting and Events Dates)**
Editor's Report
Cover Photo Information
3. **Dark Sky Preserve Updates**
Centre Library Books Listing
4. **Ted's Toon!**
My Best Birthday Present Ever! Colette Fortier
5. **RASC NB Galileo Moments Tracker Jan-Apr**
7. **Observer's Score Card**
Centre Contact Information

William Brydone-Jack Unit (Fredericton)

A local group of members meet in Fredericton monthly for meetings and observing.

When: November 10, 2009 at 7:00pm
Where: Fredericton, UNB Campus
2 Bailey Drive, Room 206
www.frederictonastronomy.ca

Saint John Astronomy Club

Meetings consist of talks on constellations, the solar system and other astronomical topics, as well as Show & Tell, observing reports and Ask the Astronomer.

When: November 7, 2009 at 7:00pm
Where: To Be Announced
<http://sjaacnb.tripod.com/>

Beauséjour Astronomy Unit (Moncton)

The Beauséjour Astronomy Unit is a observing unit of the RASC New Brunswick Centre. We meet various times monthly for observations and get together at Starbucks for coffee and a lot of startalk and fun. Our various observing sites include dark sky locations in the Indian Mountain area, Memramcook, Riverview and Barachois. We promote understanding of astronomy through public education and observing for the hobbyist and the public. For more information or call us at (506) 852-4567 or (506) 386-1516

www.geocities.com/beausejournb

Editor's Report

By Paul Gray

Well you may have wondered where your horizon has been this past summer? Simply put it has been on the back burner as its editor had next to no material and no time to work on it. I am sorry on the last of time issue and am now glad to be back to doing astronomy of a different sort this fall.

This past summer has been extremely busy for myself as I worked on the Dark Sky Preserves which took a lot of time working on the documents, communicating with the parks and governments. As well my family growth has meant a big renovation of our unfinished basement and that is still consuming many of my free hours, the few that there are.

On the astronomy front there has been plenty happening in our province this year as part of the International Year of Astronomy and our usual events too. Have you taken part in any? Why not write a few words about it! Even a brief 50 word article would add to our newsletter and be a record of one of our events for all to read about in the future archives of Horizon.

Clear skies!

Cover Photo

This months cover photo was taken by Paul Gray. A simple shot of the quarter moon was taken through the eyepiece of his 12.5" F5 reflector. A Canon Xsi held afocal at the eyepiece ad a short 1/30th second exposure. This was one of 50 taken that night and was the best. It also won the award for 1st place at the 2009 General Assembly for best Solar System Astrophoto.

Dark Sky Preserves Update

By Paul Gray

As many of you know we have been busy over the last year working with Provincial Parks, Department of Tourism and Department of Natural Resources as well as Parks Canada towards the establishment of a Dark Sky Preserves (DSP's) in New Brunswick. This has been a long process and at times seemed as if it was going nowhere.

As summer quickly approaches so does the events that will proclaim the dark sky preserves in New Brunswick. All our hard work appears to be paying off as there is much excitement in the public and media around the creation of these dark sky preserves. This is an update of where each possible DSP stands. As you can expect these events involve various levels of government and therefore are very suspect to date and time changes due to availability of politicians. Please stay tuned and watch for notices via email and on the yahoo group.

Kouchibouquac National Park Dark Sky Preserve

The Kouchibouquac National Park Dark Sky Preserve is now a reality! We have Atlantic Canada's first Dark Sky preserve as of June 5th when the official signing of the documents took place under a rising full moon and clouding skies. You can read elsewhere in this issue about the event. Thanks to all who were involved in making this happen and took time to come to the event.

Mount Carleton Provincial Park Dark Sky Preserve

After a long year and half it appears this DSP process has taken off. The application has been completed and is about to be submitted for approval. We had hoped this would have been done in July but the process was slowed other levels.

This year we are held our Mount Carleton Star Party on July 18th to coincide with Parks Days! Plans were made for camping arrangements as well as public outreach and the official signing that afternoon of the declaration. Due to things beyond our control the signing did not take place but the announcement of the plans to create the DSP were done with government officials attending. The observing and other events however were hampered by the rain.

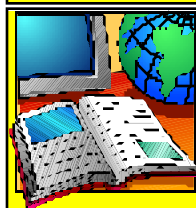
Fundy National Park

Fundy is well under way to see this be our 3rd park to be made into a Dark Sky Preserve. This will be a project for next year. An observing event was planned but rain and fog put an end to that but your editor was till on site to give a talk to 30 public and staff about dark skies and astronomy in the park.



M27—Dumbell Nebulae

By Paul Gray— Canon Xsi, Skywatcher 100mm ED Apo, Skywatcher HEQ5 mount and Qwik Auto Guider. 5 x 10min
Frames stacked and processes in MaxDL.



RASC NB LIBRARY BOOKS
Available to members in good standing.

SRAC NB LIVRES DE LIBRAIRIE
disponible aux membres.

A Walk Through the Heavens

Milton D. Heifetz and Wil Tirion
A guide to stars and constellations and their legends

Agenda Celeste editor Damien Lemay

Douze mois de decouverte du ciel au Quebec,
mai 2004 - avril 2005 Softcover

Atlas of the Moon by Antonin Rukl
Hardcover , 224 pages

Discovering the Universe

Neil F. Comins and William J. Kaufmann III
480 Pages, with CD

Explorons l'astronomie by Mary Lou Whitehome
(Skyways, en français)

Looking Up by R. Peter Broughton

A History of the Royal Astronomy of Canada
Hard Cover , 288 pages

Many Moons by Diana Brueton

The Myth and Magic, Fact and Fantasy of
our Nearest Heavenly Body - 256 pages, soft cover

Seeing in the Dark by Timothy Ferris

How Backyard Stargazers are Probing Deep Space and
Guarding Earth from Interplanetary Peril
Hardcover, 379 pages

Sky Atlas Companion

Softcover, 281 pages
Descriptions and data for all 2700 deep sky objects
Atlas 2000. Second edition. Softcover

Skyways by Mary Lou Whitehome

Astronomy Handbook for Teachers

My best birthday present EVER

by Colette Fortier

My husband Paul and I spent a portion of last winter warming our old bones in St. Petersburg, Florida and I got to spend my birthday in a much nicer climate than what I am use to. That in itself should be enough, but there is more.

I have often been to Florida in the winter, but somehow have always missed the space shuttle launches. I have been to the Kennedy Space Centre a few times, have seen one of the shuttles on the launch pad, but until this year had never seen one being sent into space. Like I said, that was before this year...

As it turned out, *Discovery* was scheduled for launching Feb. 12, but thanks to a leaky hydrogen gas valve, I convinced NASA to delay the mission until my birthday, March 15. Although we were staying in St. Pete's, which is over 200 km from Cape Canaveral, locals and the media assured us we would see the launch from where we stood. We toyed with the idea of driving to the Kennedy Space Centre, but changed our minds as the mission was repeatedly delayed within hours of launch time.

Finally, at 19:43 EDT on March 15, 2009, I looked east and saw a huge plume of white smoke and the very brilliant glare of the rocket boosters. I couldn't believe the hugeness of this thing. I mean, here I was 200 km away, in twilight, able to see a objectshining with a magnitude of, I don't know, maybe -8. It was incredible and it was breathtaking.

After a while, I saw the twin solid rocket boosters slowly falling towards Earth as the shuttle kept creeping higher and higher in the atmosphere. God I wished I were on board! I followed the little silver shape until it disappeared entirely from my view, and only then did I reluctantly turn away.

I am extremely privileged to have witnessed the launching of one of these shuttles, for this was the 125th space shuttle flight and at the time, only eight or nine missions remained. Truly my friends, I have experienced nirvana.



RASC NB Galileo Moments

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
2009-01-03	Saint John Starbusk #1 Uptown	31
2009-01-06	WBJ Unit meeting Fredericton	10
2009-01-10	Miramichi IYA2009 Kickoff	104
2009-01-10	Mount A ad hoc observing	24
2009-01-12	Saint John Naturalists Society	30
2009-01-15	Kingsclear School Grade 1	16
2009-01-17	RASC NB meeting Moncton	2
2009-01-22	Saint John Art Club meeting	20
2009-01-26	Grand Bay-Westfield Guides	20
2009-01-31	Mount A IYA Kickoff	125
2009-02-03	WBJ Unit meeting Fredericton	0
2009-02-06	Moncton IYA2009 Kickoff	200
2009-02-06	Saint John Starbusk #2-Rothesay	30
2009-02-06	Mount A Drop-in Observing	13
2009-02-07	New Maryland Guides	18
2009-02-07	SJAC Meeting Saint John	2
2009-02-13	Mount A Drop-in Observing	6
2009-02-19	RNS Play: The Life of Galileo (2 nights)	168
2009-02-17	Gagetown Young Naturalists	16
2009-02-17	Gagetown Sparks & Beavers	32
2009-02-17	Mount A Residence Floor Session	22
2009-02-21	Fredericton Market Display	97
2009-02-21	RASC NB meeting Fredericton	0
2009-02-28	Saint John Starbusk #3 Wal-Mart	100
2009-02-28	New Maryland Carnival	3
2009-03-03	WBJ Unit meeting Fredericton	1
2009-03-03	Oromocto Library Camp	37
2009-03-04	Astropiano Lessons Apohaqui	3
2009-03-07	SJAC meeting Saint John	0
2009-03-08	Canadian Women Astronomers SJ	5
2009-03-18	Rothesay Guides	20
2009-03-19	Oromocto Dessert Book Club	15
2009-03-20	ISS Observing Moncton	2
2009-03-20	Mount A Drop-in Observing	12
2009-03-21	RASC NB meeting Saint John	1
2009-03-21	Saint John Starbusk #4 Wal-Mart	120
2009-03-21	Hanwell Beavers and Cubs- Yoho	40
2009-03-24	MLNT Book Launch Oromocto	53
2009-03-26	Seawood School Saint John	100
2009-03-28	SJAC meeting Saint John	1
2009-03-28	Earth Hour Observing Fredericton	135
2009-03-30	Touchstone School Rothesay	30
2009-03-30	Gondola Point Cubs	32
2009-03-31	Stella Maris Guides Saint John	17
2009-04-02	Body in Space - SJ Museum	3
2009-04-03	STU Tech Class Fredericton	26
2009-04-04	Constellations Stories - SJ Museum	16
2009-04-07	WBJ Unit meeting Fredericton	2
2009-04-08	Summerhill School Oromocto	367
2009-04-09	Bayside School Saint John	120
2009-04-09	Our Solar System- SJ Museum	10
2009-04-09	Seawood Observing Saint John	45
2009-04-11	Craters SJ Museum	12
2009-04-16	What's Up in the Sky - SJ Museum	4

Galileo Moment - an engaging astronomy experience during IYA 2009. It includes looking through a telescope, visiting a planetarium, visiting an event or display at a science centre, attending an astronomy talk, visits by professional or amateur astronomers to schools or youth groups, or attending a concert or art exhibit that entertains and educates around an astronomy theme.

IYA Canada has set a lofty goal of one million Galileo Moments in 2009. At this moment, April 16 at 21:30, the total is 155,129. The RASC NB total is 2318, which includes 204 from Mount A University. Science East has an additional 2559 through their traveling planetarium show. The New Brunswick total is 4877 Galileo Moments, which is more than 3.1% of the national total.

The population of NB is 2.3% of Canada's, and we have set a goal of 2.5% with a stretch target of 3.5%. The Canadian goal of one million corresponds to 23,000 in NB. We are 21% there after 29% of the year gone by. We can do it, but it will require a dedicated effort from more than a few members.

If it is a clear evening, grab your scope and some Astronomy Cards (see your local IYA Coordinator) and set up in a public area. The Moon is always good for a Wow and Saturn is well placed for the next few months. If you have the solar scope, daytime observing is interesting even if the Sun isn't at this time. Don't forget the daytime Moon and in a month Venus will be in good position for daytime viewing (greatest elongation June 5). Schools are often looking for presentations or observing sessions this time of year, as are Guides and Cubs. Be visible, and requests will come.

Upcoming events include an astronomy-theme art show by the Saint John Art Club on May 21, with help from RASC NB; summer star parties at NB parks, and a major event surrounding a meteorite exhibit at the museum in Moncton. IYA coordinators are Chris Weadick and Paul Gray in Fredericton, Yvon Hachey and Emma MacPhee in Moncton, Eldon Rogers and Roger Pitre in Miramichi, and Curt Nason and June MacDonald in Saint John. Curt is also the RASC NB IYA Coordinator.

If you have an event planned, contact Curt with the details and he will register the event on the Canadian IYA web site. Anyone can visit this site (astronomy2009.ca) and search for local events, so it is a great way to advertise as well. After clicking on **Search for Local Events** you select the province from a drop-down menu, and you can select further from regions within the province. You can also select a date range, although the default is one month.

After your event, update Curt with the number of attendees (excluding RASC NB members). If it was an impromptu event such as on the spot observing, include the details of what was done, where and when. The IYA web site will be updated with the information, which automatically updates the Canadian total. This total is displayed prominently on the web site home page.

As you can see, no number is too small. They all add up, and you will receive great pleasure from the "Wow's" and other exclamations of people experiencing a Galileo Moment from your scope.

OBSERVERS' SCORECARD

	Explore the Universe	Messier	Finest	I. Williamson Lunar	Deep Sky Challenge	Dark Nebulae	Herschel 400	Levy Deep Sky Gems	Caldwell	Arp Galaxies	Abell Galaxy Clusters	Hickson
Gerry Allian	101	93										
James Ayles	37											
Adrien Bordage	100											
Bob Crossman		110	28									
Charles Doucete	110	110	110				65					
Ted Dunphy	102	110	110	51	10	8	265					
Colette Fortier	56	28										
Paul Gray	97	110	110	46	31	20	238					
Peter Jensen	12	73										
Don Kelly	110	110										
Mark Laflamme	106	30	2									
Danny LeBlanc		110	110				127		8	21	21	9
Allan Mitton	12											
Emma MacPhee	78	110	110	5								
Curt Nason		110	110									
Detlef Rudolph	41											
Chris Weadick	71	26										

This section is intended to inspire our members to get out observing by promoting a friendly competition. The left column includes our members who have reported their successes to the scorekeeper, Paul Gray. To be included please contact Paul Gray at: editor@nb.rasc.ca

SRAC/RASC Centre du NB Centre Executive / Exécutif

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<i>2nd Vice-President/Président</i>	Mark Arsenaull	secondvicep@nb.rasc.ca	
<i>Secretary/Secrétaire</i>	June MacDonald	secretary@nb.rasc.ca	
<i>Treasurer/Trésorier</i>	Emma MacPhee	treasurer@nb.rasc.ca	506-386-1516
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	James Ayles		
	Ted Dunphy		
	Chris Weadick		
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<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Paul Gray	editor@nb.rasc.ca	506-472-6978
<i>Light Pollution Chair</i>	Chris Weadick		
<i>Equipment Chair</i>	Eldon Rogers		
<i>Library Chair</i>	Ted Dunphy		
<i>Education Chair</i>	Don Kelly		

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue is October 31st.
Submit by email: editor@nb.rasc.ca
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www.nb.rasc.ca

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