



H O R I Z O N

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

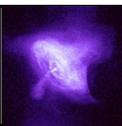
March/April 2010



IN THIS ISSUE

IYA Recap!

Meeting Reviews



SRAC/RASC Centre du NB Centre
Réunion / Meetings

Event: Monthly Meeting / Annual Meeting
When: **February 20, 2010**
Where: Fredericton, NB
 UNB Fredericton Campus
 Forestry and Geology Bldg
 Room 209
 1pm-4pm

Event: Monthly Meeting
When: **April 17, 2010**
Where: Saint John, NB
 Location to be Announced
 1pm-4pm

William Brydone-Jack Unit (Fredericton)

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

When: **March 9, 2010 at 7:00pm and**
Aprils 13, 2010 at 7:00pm
Where: Fredericton, UNB Campus
 2 Bailey Drive, Room 209
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: **April 3, 2010 at 7:00pm**
Where: To Be Announced
<http://sjacnb.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. 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

Inside this issue :

1. **Cover: Photo of the Month!**
2. **Event Horizon (Upcoming Meeting and Events Dates)**
Editor's Report
Cover Photo Information
3. **New Member Welcome**
December Meeting Report
RASC NB Library Listings
4. **IYA Recap**
January Meeting Report
5. **Ted's Toon**
6. **Observer's Score Card / Centre Contact Info**

Editor's Report
By Paul Gray

Keeping Horizon back on schedule will take a bit of effort this spring as many of us including myself are very busy planning the General Assembly. I hope you find plenty to read and gaze at in this issue. Remember this is your newsletter so feel free to send what you want as I will consider anything related in some way to astronomy for entry.

Note that the cover photo is once again mine. Not that I want it to be. I know others are taking images out there and have done so in the past. How about you send me one when you get one you really like and I can put it on the cover. Sorry but I do not have time to go browsing peoples sites to look for material! I am only the editor, not a writer.

As for the General Assembly please come and please volunteer to help out onsite as it will be a busy and rewarding time. Guest speakers now include Dr Rene Doyon and Dr David Levy.

Look for the next issue of Horizon in early May.

Clear skies!

Cover Photo

This months cover photo of M42 and M43 was taken by Paul Gray in December. This image is a combination of 7 separate exposures that were taken using a Canon Xsi at ISO 800 for a total of 17.5mins. The camera was attached to a Televue Genisis Apo Refractor (thanks Dave) mounted on a Sky-watcher HEQ5 mount guided by a Qwik guider auto guider

December Meeting Report

By June MacDonald

President Peter Jensen opened the meeting with a talk on Charles Messier, whom Louis XV called “the Comet Ferret”. Peter has set up a “Messier observing program” & this will be a list of Messier objects to observe month by month. He would like to do a challenge within the club that will hopefully encourage more people to obtain their observing certificate. For example, some of the objects in Jan. will be M33, 103, 52, 76 & 34.

Curt gave an update on the IYA stats. The total for N.B. is 20,385. He is still awaiting the numbers from the “Stars & Stuff” event in Moncton. This should bring us to our expected total & we will reach our target percentage of the national total. The Canadian total so far is 1,063,113 as of the morning Dec. 12, This makes the N.B. contribution 1.92%. Emma will speak with Danielle Boucher from the Moncton Museum to get the numbers of attendees.

Emma gave another interesting talk on the Gibeon Meteorite. It was a “recent” discovery in 1947. It left the largest crater (at 275 x 100km), centered in Brukoros in Namibia, South Africa. The meteorite was calculated at 4 x 4 x 1.5 meters & is classified as an octahedrite (most common) iron meteorite. Some pieces were collected in 1838.

Paul showed a few astrophotos he had taken & showed his newest acquisition (on loan to him): 1st edition, 1992, Genesis telescope; 4 inch, 100mm F5, double front lens. Still worth \$1500-2000.00 U.S. Everyone was quite taken with his new “toy” and there were a few green with envy faces in the room.

Detlef introduced us to Galileo, who made a short, surprise visit to tell us about his life & telescope. He was very modest & showed us a replica of his first telescope. Very interesting presentation.

The meeting finished and some of the group met at The Hilltop for supper before heading home to continue their Christmas preparations.

Merry Christmas everyone!

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
Softcover, 114 pages

The Meteorites of Alberta by Anthony J. Whyte

Softcover, 290 pages

Descriptions and stories about Alberta Meteorite Falls
First edition. Softcover

Bienvenue à nos nouveaux membres

Welcome to our new members

Angel Davis

Mary de La Valte

Nadia Ma

Michael Mersereau

Holly Ayles

IYA 2009 RECAP

by Curt Nason

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009) to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Galileo's use of a telescope to study the sky. A major focus of amateur and professional astronomers worldwide was to give as many people as possible an engaging moment in astronomy, such as Galileo Galilei felt when he saw things that no one had seen before: a Galileo Moment.

At first, the Galileo Moment was intended to be through observing only but it was expanded to include astronomy-related talks, displays, exhibits, and cultural events. The Canadian goal was set at one million, and prior to 2009 many people, me included, thought this was hopelessly optimistic. Determined to do our part, RASC NB set a provincial goal of 23,000 Galileo Moments, since NB has 2.3% of the national population. I believed we could maintain or exceed 2.3% of the national total. It turns out I was wrong, happily, on both counts.

The total number of Galileo Moments showing on the IYA Canada web site is 1,931,439; nearly double the goal. RASC NB contributed approximately 7300 to the total, but we were not the only show in the province. The Science East planetarium added an equivalent number of Galileo Moments, and another 800 were recorded at the Gemini Observatories at Mount Allison University (MAGO). The main event in the province, however, was the magnificent *Stars 'n Stuff* festival that the city of Moncton hosted around the *Riding with Meteorites* exhibit. This ten-day event attracted about 13,000 Galileo Moments. The NB total was on the order of 28,000, which is 1.45% of the national total.

I have categorized the RASC NB events under several categories: observing, public talks to mainly adult groups, visits to schools, events with youth groups outside of school, public displays, cultural events and meetings. We should note that RASC members also contributed to events with Science East, MAGO, and especially *Stars 'n Stuff*. One can debate the "quality" of Galileo Moments in the different categories, but they all count and they all had some impact on people.

More than 75% of the NB Galileo Moments were achieved approximately equally through school visits, displays and public observing. Many of the school visits involved readings by Don Kelly of *Mary Lou's New Telescope*, supplemented by discussion of the topics in the book. In all, there were 22 school visits, 9 displays and 91 observing events. The observing included sessions arranged at the request of groups or facilities, and "star-busking" outside malls and stores. Several other events also included observing, but the events would have occurred regardless of the weather. There were 30 adult talks resulting in 14% of the Galileo Moment total, including sessions on the making of *Mary Lou's New Telescope*, and a series of presentations at the NB Museum in Saint John and at the Brundage Point community centre in Grand Bay-Westfield.

There were as many IYA events involving youth groups as there were school visits, but the number of attendees for these was understandably less, accounting for 7% of the total. Cultural events included a two-night run of *The Life of Galileo* at Rothesay Netherwood School, an astronomy art exhibit by the Saint John Art Club, and a display of astrophotos by Tim Doucette and Adrien Bordage at the Saint John Free Public Library. These contributed 4% of the total, and the remaining 1% was new members at club meetings.

As a group, RASC NB was successful in providing engaging moments in astronomy for the people of our province. This is even more notable when you consider that two of the worldwide observing events, The 100 Hours of Astronomy in spring and Galileo Nights in autumn, were completely clouded out in New Brunswick. Many members contributed and were enriched by the experiences. Let us continue with these efforts, for the rewards we receive from delivering a Galileo Moment in any year are priceless.

January Meeting Report By June MacDonald

Peter brought the meeting to order & welcomed everyone. Saying it had been a busy 2009, he said it looked as if it would be a busy 2010, as well. There are many events & activities in the works. Elections are to be held this year, so everyone should be thinking about the positions on the executive & council & volunteer their time & expertise, by offering for whichever one interests you.

Peter mentioned about the delay in making changes to the center bylaws, which will have to be deferred until after National make their own bylaw changes. After that, the bylaws will be revisited to make any revisions or clarification necessary. He reviewed the meeting schedule for 2010 (already sent out) & the events schedule: April 19-25 is Astronomy Week & Astronomy Day is Apr. 24. Nova East in N.S., is Sept. 3. Our own provincial AGM will be held in Saint John at UNBSJ, the plan being to have the AGM move around the province, amongst the 4 cities; & of course – the GA 2010, being held in Fredericton at UNB July 1-5. Stay tuned for changes, updates & requests for volunteers, etc..

Our next meeting will be held in Moncton & will include a business meeting. Peter gave a brief background of RASC & its mandate, for the benefit of new people in the group. (founded 1868, Royal Charter for the organization was approved & signed by Edward VII on Mar. 3, 1903. RASC is “a charitable organization, devoted to advancing the science of Astronomy”. Peter suggested that people could support astronomy by: participating in local public education & outreach, being involved in the LPA committee & in light pollution abatement strategies and organizing observing sessions for the public, to name a few things.

Peter presented on his “Messier Observing Plan” - Messiers by the month as it were. He gave a brief biography of Charles Messier & the Messier catalogue. He described how he has organised his plan to observe Messier objects all through the year, so as to cover the entire Messier list, yet not be doing it in a rush. In this way, a person could easily obtain their Messier certificate. He has the month by month Messier list set up, along with his own observing form. There is a list of people who are signed up to try this program & anyone who is interested can contact Peter, who will share the information. It is a good strategy to allow a group of people in the club to obtain their Messier certificate by next year. His big tip: Don't let anything distract you.

Curt did the “What's Up” for Jan.16-Feb. 27. Orion is now coming up in the south, Jupiter is lower in the western sky in the evening. At ~7am Mars is high in the west, Saturn can be seen in the south &

Mercury is just starting to rise in the southeast. Since the Big Dipper is low in the sky early in the evening, wait until much later to view it. The moon will be full on the 30th & it is at perigee at that time, so there will be higher than normal high tides then. The moon is near Mercury Feb. 12. Venus is at superior conjunction now, so there will be a short wait until we see it again. Mars is closest to us on Jan. 27 & Mars will also be near M44 Feb. 7-8. On Feb. 16, Jupiter & Venus are close but 9° from the sun, so this makes it an observing challenge. Look for them about 20 min. after sunset. Give it a try & report back at the next meeting. Saturn's rings are only tilted at 4.9° Jan. 8 – that will be the greatest angle for 2010. When observing, look for Uranus in Pisces, but don't bother looking for Neptune, as it's pretty much gone from sight. Comets to see around now: C/2007-Siding Spring, mag 10.3; 81P/ Wild 2 can be seen through Virgo in the early morning & 157P Tritton at mag 11.8, is very difficult to view.

Curt also reviewed final numbers for Galileo moments in N.B. & Canada. The total for RASC NB is 8,142 events, Science East had 7800 people go through its doors, the Moncton fall “Stars & Stuff” gathered 12,100 people. N.B. contributed 2.1 % of the 1,345,653 Canadian Galileo moments.



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	87	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

<i>President/Président</i>	Peter Jensen	president@nb.rasc.ca	
<i>1st Vice-President/-Président</i>	Curt Nason	firstvicep@nb.rasc.ca	506-659-6507
<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
<i>Past Pres./Président sortant</i>	Paul Gray	pastpresident@nb.rasc.ca	506-472-6978
<i>Councillors /Conseillers</i>	Gerry Allain		
	James Ayles		
	Ted Dunphy		
	Chris Weadick	chris.weadick@gmail.com	506-457-0774
<i>Website Chair</i>	Tim Doucette		506-472-6978
<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 April 21st.

Submit by email: editor@nb.rasc.ca

1068 Kingsley Road, Birdton, NB. E3A 6G4

Visit our Website at
www.nb.rasc.ca

Join our Yahoo Email Group at
www.yahoo.com