



NOVA

NEWSLETTER OF THE VANCOUVER CENTRE RASC

VOLUME 2005 ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

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Looking Ahead

Remember, you are always welcome to attend meetings of Council, held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm in the G.M.S.O.

Nov. 8: Dr. Rick Greenburg, University of Arizona, is considered one of the world's experts on Europa and will speak on it.

Dec. 13: AGM; Vancouver Centre member Jason Rickerby on CCD imaging.

Jan. 10: TBD

Next Issue Deadline

Material for the January Nova should be submitted by Monday, Jan. 2, 2006. Please send submissions to:

Gordon Farrell
(gfarrell@shaw.ca)

The October National Meeting

by Doug Montgomery

The October meeting was held in Hamilton this year, at the Tim Horton's Camp. I was surprised to see how rural the area was. We drove by farm houses that were built in the 1800s and still in excellent condition. The camp is impeccably clean and well maintained. Above the meeting room there is a 24-foot dome that houses a Meade 16-inch LX 200 GPS that our host, Les Nagy, uses to teach kids about astronomy.

Even though the weather was good we did have to get to the meeting. The big topic is the fate of the Journal. There will be a "special meeting" before February to decide what to do about the expense of the Journal. National wants to go with an electronic (e-mail) Journal and if you want a printed ver-

sion it will cost \$15 to \$20 per year. We support this plan as it will save the club about \$30,000 a year. The new editor is agreeable to this plan and is looking forward to his new duties. In the e-mail format he can add color pictures and more content as he is not restricted in how many pages he can have. You will receive a proxy in the mail and we urge you to fill it out and get it to me, Jason or anyone on council as they have to be presented in person at the February meeting.

There will also be changes to our National web site. These changes will make our web site easier to navigate and make better use of the e-store for renewals and RASC merchandise. It will also have a window to news and events across the

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Members' Gallery



M 8 (Lagoon Nebula)

Jason Rickerby

Mt. Kobau

Canon EOS 20D

Canon EF 70-200mm f/4L USM

Piggyback image on Celestron

Ultima 2000 8"

200mm Focal Length, F5

ISO 400, 10 minutes

M 31 (Andromeda Galaxy) & M110

Jason Rickerby

Mt. Kobau

Canon EOS 20D

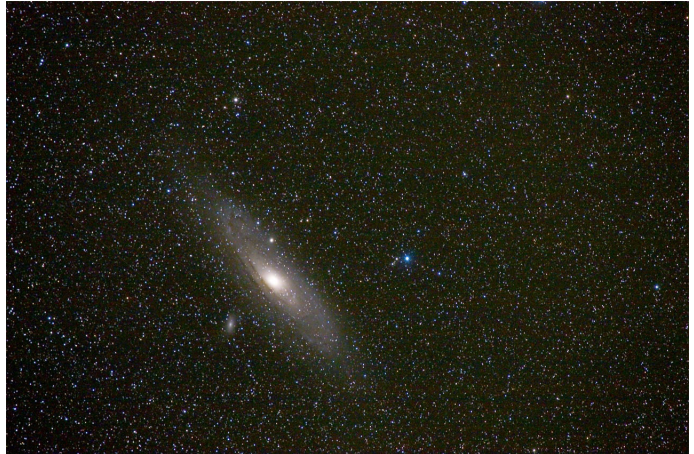
Canon EF 70-200mm f/4L USM

Piggyback image on Celestron

Ultima 2000 8"

200mm Focal Length, F5

ISO 400, 10 minutes



IC 1318

(Gamma Cygni Nebula)

Jason Rickerby

Mt. Kobau

Canon EOS 20D

Canon EF 70-200mm f/4L USM

Piggyback image on Celestron

Ultima 2000 8"

200mm Focal Length, F6.3

ISO 400, 10 minutes



President's Message

The Chris Graham Robotic Telescope project is moving forward. Assembly of the scope and dome should be completed late this month. We hope to have some of our members visit the New Mexico location in the new year and become familiar with the operations there. In the meantime, with CAROp and other facilities, we have equipment comparable to that being installed on the robotic scope, which will facilitate volunteer training. The Space Centre has agreed to provide us an office at the GMSO to use as a centre for our activities. We are holding organizational meetings the third Tuesday of each month at the GMSO at 7:00pm. Interested members and volunteers are invited to attend.

We collaborated with the Space Centre on a Mars Watch event. In spite of forecasts to the contrary, the weather was perfect for the first night's efforts on October 29th. Some 300 people attended at the GMSO. The

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About RASC

The Vancouver Centre, RASC meets at 7:30 PM in the auditorium of the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre at 1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver, on the second Tuesday of every month. Guests are always welcome. In addition, the Centre has an observing site where star parties are regularly scheduled.

Membership is currently \$58.00 per year (\$34.25 for persons under 21 years of age) and can be obtained by writing to the Treasurer at the address below. Annual membership includes the invaluable Observer's Handbook, six issues of the RASC Journal, and, of course, access to all of the club events and projects.

For more information regarding the Centre and its activities, please contact our P.R. Director.

NOVA, the newsletter of the Vancouver Centre, RASC, is published on odd numbered months. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Vancouver Centre.

Material on any aspect of astronomy should be e-mailed to the editor or mailed to the address on page 5.

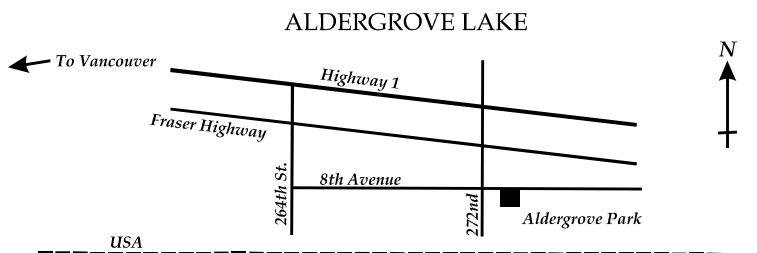
Advertising

Nova encourages free use of its classified ads for members with items for sale or swap. Notify the editor if you wish your ad to run in more than one issue.

Commerical Rates

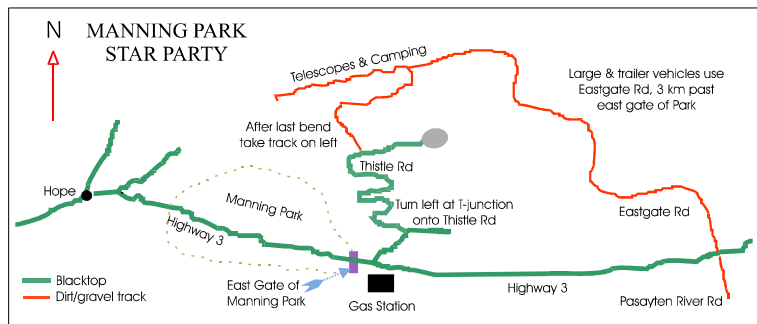
1/4 Page: \$15.00 per issue
1/2 Page: \$25.00 per issue
Full Page: \$40.00 per issue
Rates are for camera-ready, or electronic files. Payment, by cheque, must accompany ad material. Make cheque payable to: RASC Vancouver Centre.

Observing Sites

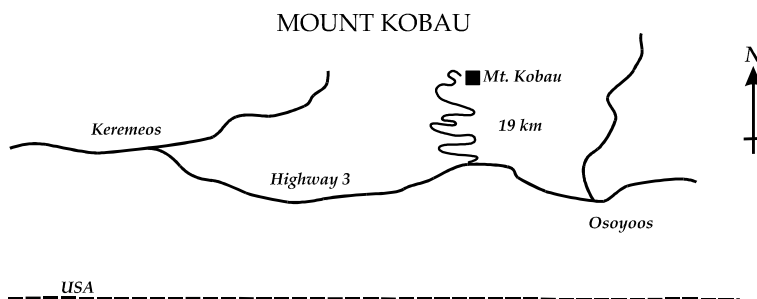


Dale McNabb Observatory in Aldergrove Lake Park (RASC Vancouver Centre's regular viewing site)

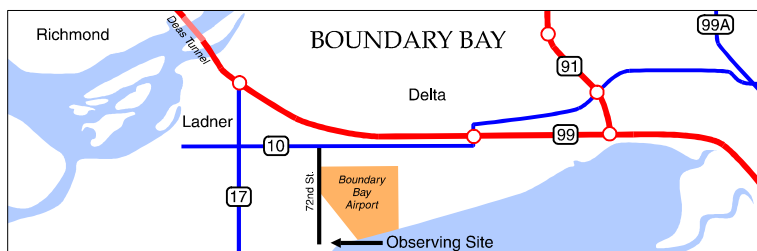
Contact Mike Penndelton (604-888-1505) or Howard Morgan (604-856-9186)



Site of the annual star party organized by the RASC Vancouver Centre



Site of the annual Mt. Kobau Star Party organized by the Mount Kobau Astronomical Society



Site of the regular Saturday night star party. On the dike at the foot of 72nd St.

FOR SALE

RASC MERCHANDISE

Available for purchase after meetings:

Calendars	\$14.00
Golf Shirts	\$30.00
Sweat Shirts	\$30.00
Centenary Mugs	\$ 7.00
Beginners' Guides	\$15.00
Observers' Guides	\$20.00
Cloth Crests	\$11.00
Lapel Pins	\$ 6.00
L.E.D. Flashlights	\$22.00

ASTROCOMPUTING

SpaceBase™ (604-473-9358,59). Affiliated since 1992 with RASC Vancouver, our link to RASC Net, RASC Members only chat area. Future data distribution hub for CARO Project. Features include latest HST images, current world space news and astronomy programs.

LIBRARY

The centre has a large library of books, magazines and old Nova's for your enjoyment at the GSO. Please take advantage of this club service and visit often to check out the new purchases. Suggestions for future library acquisitions are appreciated.

RASC-VC on the Internet

<http://www.pcis.com/rascvan/> or
<http://www.rasc.ca/vancouver>

H.R. MACMILLAN SPACE CENTRE

The Pacific Space Centre Society is a non-profit organization which operates the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre and Gordon M. Southam Observatory. Annual Membership (\$30 Individual, \$80 Family) includes a newsletter, Discounts on Space Camps, special programs and lectures, Vancouver Museum Discounts, and free admission to the Space Centre. Admission to the Space Centre includes: Astronomy shows, Motion Simulator rides, multimedia shows in GroundStation Canada, and access to the Cosmic Courtyard Exhibit Gallery. For Membership information, call Mahi Jordao at 604-738-7827, local 237 for information. You can also reach them on the Internet at <http://www.hrmacmillanspacecentre.com/>

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!

New members, did you know? The Vancouver Centre has 8 telescopes available for loan free of charge! We have telescopes ranging from 60mm to 10" diameter. For more information see Phil Morris, Director of Telescopes in the meeting room of the GSO *after* the members meeting. All telescopes are to be picked up and returned at the GSO. The loaner period is for one month, to be returned after the next meeting. Telescopes are not allowed to circulate outside of these meetings. You can now reserve 2 different telescopes per year and use what is left at the end of the meeting anytime. Phil can be reached at 604-734-8708.

Your greatest opportunity as a member of the R.A.S.C. is to take advantage of the company of other enthusiasts to increase your knowledge, enjoyment and skill in astronomy.

The best thing you can do to gain the most from your membership is to get active! Take in the club meetings; engage other members with questions; come out to observing sessions (also known as "star parties"), and, by all means, volunteer to take part in our many public events.

Observing takes place at Boundary Bay on the dike at the south end of 72nd St. in Delta (see map on p. 4). We are there most clear Thursday/Friday nights. Contact Jason Rickerby at 604-502-8158.

**RASC
1100 Chestnut Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6J 3J9
604-738-2855**

Upcoming Events

December

13 – AGM

FOR SALE

Reduced in time for Christmas! The club has two telescopes for sale. Contact a council member after the meeting if interested:

60 mm f/15 refractor with a German equatorial wood tripod mount. Asking ~~\$100.00~~ \$75.00

4.5" Tasco reflector with a manual german equatorial mount and tripod. Red & Black ~~\$125.00~~ \$100.00

Celestron Ultima 11. 13 yrs old, rarely used! Wheeled carrying case, tripod, wedge, instruction manual, 2" star diagonal, 18mm & 30mm lenses, 8 x 50 finder, Hand controller. \$1500

Call Doug Graeb at
604-732-7151

8" Dobsonian for sale.

D = 7.75" F= 48" 1/6
wavefront mirror
50 mm mounting brackets
for a finder scope
2" helical focuser
9" adjustable spider
Dobsonian stand that needs
a bit of tweaking

\$100 for the lot

Call Diane at 604-255-8809



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public was able to get a good look at the red planet and viewing was good until well after midnight. We thank the volunteers who gave up their evening to make it happen. Inclement weather interfered with similar plans the following weekend.

National Council finally took a serious step toward making the Journal an on-line publication. A special council meeting will be held in February since the initiative requires a vote by the membership. To that end, proxies will be delivered to all members. We will be arm-twisting all of you to complete and return them to your council representatives so they can be counted at that meeting. The financial situation at National has pro-

gressed along the lines we suggested before the GA. This step is the most constructive and beneficial that can be achieved relatively quickly. It needs your support.

At our AGM in December we will have the usual agenda to complete, including the election of your centre council for 2006. The nominating committee consists of Karl Miller, Bill Ronald and me. As always, we encourage volunteers to step forward and take a more active role in this organization. We benefit from new ideas and for those of you that feel that a change is good, this is the opportunity to help make it happen. Please contact any one of the three of us if you want to get involved.

It is with regret that I advise the membership of passing of one of our life members—Paul Skyes. Paul served with distinction in the US Air Corp during WWII. After the war he completed his degree in physics at UBC. He rejoined the US Air Force, completed a Masters Degree in Physics and attended the Oakridge School of Reactor Technology. He was subsequently appointed a lecturer and administrator in Physics at UBC where he remained until his retirement in 1983. His interest in astronomy began in his youth and he was inspired to write observing articles for a local newspaper. He later joined and became active member of the RASC.

— Ron Jerome ★

country so we can see what's going on in other centers.

David Levy joined the meeting and has proposed a joint project with the ASP to set up a robotic scope in Arizona. He also plans another scope somewhere in the

southern hemisphere. David will be seeking private funds for this project, and will not need funds from either club.

In closing, I would like to say thanks to our host, Les Nagy from the Hamilton Centre. The Tim Horton's camp was a super location

for the meeting. We got to observe with the scope both on Friday night and on Saturday night after dinner. This was the first time I have ever observed at a national meeting, and I enjoyed it a lot. ★

Proud To Serve Vancouver's Astronomical Community



Vancouver Telescope Centre

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