NOVA
NEWSLETTER OF THE VANCOUVER CENTRE RASC
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Imaging Group News

by Marla Daskis

Meetings and Presentations

The Imaging Group had an on-site meeting at the VRO in July and as a group imaged the Wizard. Some members posted their data on the Imaging Group shared drive and a couple of members combined the data (see image on page 2). Despite the mosquitoes, it was a great success, and we're all looking forward to more group sessions!

Kai Hui has taken over managing the Imaging Group, so Rick can now focus more on telescopes and the VRO. Kai is always willing to share his knowledge and journey in astrophotography! If you have questions or suggestions for meeting topics, please shoot an email to Kai at imaging@rasc-vancouver.com!

In August, Kai and Rob presented at a MENSA meeting, pictures above and on page 2. The August group meeting had Nik L. present his PixInsight workflow for combining data from scopes of differing focal lengths, and Rick presented his workflow to combine all the data from the Wizard imaging session. Mark Iscaro from Astroworx in Australia presented on their telescope hosting facility "Nebula Nest" in Victoria, Australia.

Next Imaging Group meeting will be September 17.

Trottier Observatory Sessions

The weather hasn't really cooperated for our Trottier sessions. As always, if you are interested in learning how to use the Trottier scope, please contact the Imaging Group email and we will follow up with more information. Having a reliable group able to attend Tuesday evening sessions ensures our opportunities to access this world-class telescope continue.

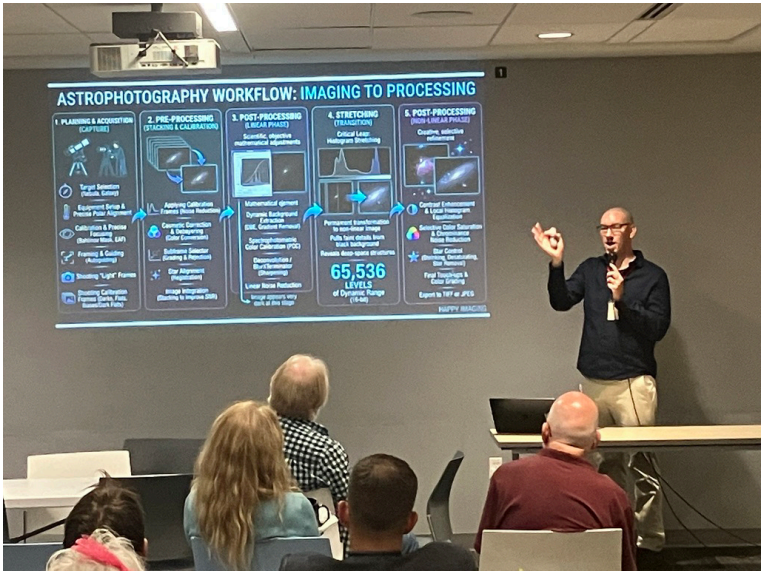
Vancouver RASC Observatory News

There were a few clear nights in early July for imaging, and of course the highly successful Imaging Group meeting in July. However, in August, smoke was an issue. We ran an updated pointing model, which eliminated our star trails issue, but unfortunately we managed to snag the USB cable to the Pegasus controller during the run and destroyed the connector. A backup USB connector has been installed on the Pegasus.

Bart installed an updated generator controller, so we'll be much better prepared for when we need it during the fall and winter. Right now, the sun overhead

continued on page 2

SEPTEMBER 10 SFU	OCTOBER 8 SFU	NOVEMBER 12 SFU
Our own Rob Lyons with The Big Picture: A Filmmaker's Approach to the Universe. Room AQ3149 SFU	Speaker TBA. Watch Meetup for updates. SFU	Show and Telescope. Watch Meetup for details and room location. SFU



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is charging the batteries for more than enough power to operate what we need.

The All Sky Camera has been installed but needed some tweaking. The shutter also had a few issues and we were down for a week while that was resolved.

Planning has also started to move the portable observatory from the Okanagan to the VRO site.

Planning has also started on some events co-hosted with UBC Forestry, possibly in October or March (weather dependant).

Thanks to Bart, Rick, Carl and Tyler for their help. ✸

Imaging Group Meetings:

- 3rd Thursday of every month
- Quarterly In-Person at SFU
- Contact Imaging@rasc-vancouver.com to be added to email list for invites.

Benefits:

- Like-minded people to share with
- Range of skills from beginner to expert
- Active WhatsApp group chat
- Access to world-class imaging equipment
- Member viewing at VRO

Please note: You must be a RASC Vancouver member to join the imaging group.

The Wizard Nebula
by Rick Schneider

President's Message

by Nolan Smith

Summer of 2026 has seen many cancellations for astronomers in the Vancouver area. Starry Nights have been targets of clouds and smoke all summer. Most painfully, we recently made the decision to cancel the Nahatlatch Valley star party we planned to host for only the second year. Although the campground was saved, road access was questionable and the surrounding area was burnt which could have resulted in blowing ash. We will plan again for next year at the Washtock family campground and look for a backup location as we go!

We did have some success for the Perseid meteor shower at Aldergrove Regional Park. Haze, clouds, and significant light pollution from the nearby greenhouses resulted in only four visible streaks which were received with huge oohs and aahs from the hundreds camped out in the field. We will be working with regional parks to see what can be done about the greenhouses for next year as the sky glow is significant but we want to connect again with the

continued on page 4

About RASC

The RASC Vancouver Centre meets at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of every month at SFU's Burnaby campus (see map on page 4). Guests are always welcome. In addition, the Centre has an observing site where star parties are regularly scheduled.

Membership is currently $114.00 per year ($71.10 for persons under 21 years of age; family memberships also available) and can be obtained online, at a meeting, or 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 below.

Remember, you are always welcome to attend meetings of Council, held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm via Zoom. Please contact a council member if you would like to attend a council meeting.

2026 Vancouver Centre Officers

President Nolan Smith
president@rasc-vancouver.com

Vice-President Kyle Dally
vp@rasc-vancouver.com

Secretary Marla Daskis
secretary@rasc-vancouver.com

Treasurer Phil Lobo
treasurer@rasc-vancouver.com

National Rep. Kai Hui
national@rasc-vancouver.com

Librarian William Fearon
library@rasc-vancouver.com

Public Relations Andrew Ferreira
publicrelations@rasc-vancouver.com

LPA Leigh Cummings
lpa@rasc-vancouver.com

Dir. of Telescopes Rick Schneider
telescopes@rasc-vancouver.com

Observing Vacant
observing@rasc-vancouver.com

Membership Marla Daskis
membership@rasc-vancouver.com

Events Coordinators Suzanna Nagy, Norry Dogan
events@rasc-vancouver.com

Education Vacant
education@rasc-vancouver.com

VRO Alan Jones
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Speakers Andrew Ferreira
speakers@rasc-vancouver.com

Imaging Rick Schneider, Marla Daskis, Alan Jones
imaging@rasc-vancouver.com

Past President Robert Conrad

At Large Michael Levy, Rob Lyons, Tyler Palmer

Library

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

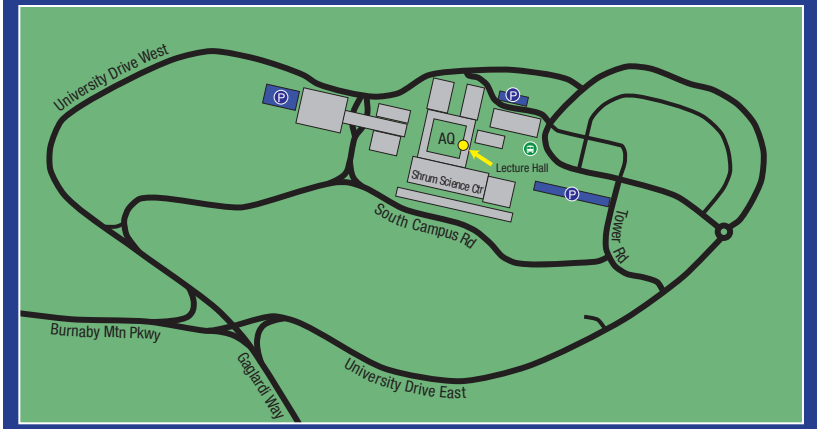
On the Internet

rasc-vancouver.com
astronomy.meetup.com/131/
www.facebook.com/RASC.Van
www.instagram.com/rascvancouver/
@rascvancouver.bsky.social

Mailing Address

RASC Vancouver Centre
PO Box 89608
9000 University High Street
Burnaby, B.C.
V5A 4Y0

Map to Meeting Site



Our Sept. meeting is in room AQ 3149 of the Academic Quadrangle, near the southeast corner next to the cafeteria, as indicated by the arrow on the map.

Pay parking is available at several locations located around campus (indicated as "P" on the map).

continued from page 3

many enthusiastic people interested in our passion.

Lunar eclipse? Cancelled due to clouds.

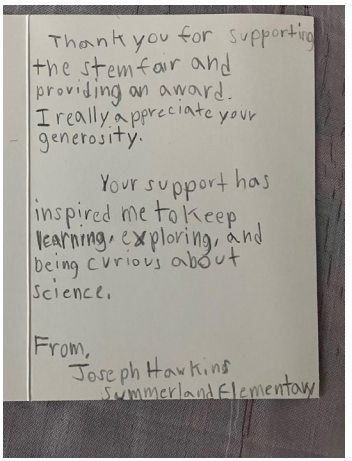
Solar eclipse? Not cancelled but pretty far away!

With the shortening days, we are getting more time in the dark so we have some things to look forward to!

Orionid meteors peak on October 21 and 22. Expect about 20-25 debris fragments per hour from Halley's comet.

Leonids meteors peak November 17-18. Expect about 15-20 meteors per hour.

If you couldn't fly to Europe and want a drivable solar eclipse, mark your calendars for August 2044 and 2045. There is one in Alaska in 2033 but I wouldn't call it drivable. ✸



Earlier this year, we handed out our Martha Ellen Pearse science awards. The winner from Okanangan Shuswap, Joseph Hawkins (grade 6), sent us a nice thank you card. His project was "JRH Jagged Ridge Hunter."

Members' Gallery

NGC 6992
by Leigh Cummings

NGC 6992 taken between 12:15 and 3:30 am on June 8, 2025.

Stacked by the Seestar telescope with no post-processing.

Membership has its Privileges!

Are you tired of looking at the same objects again and again (planets, moon, etc.)? Is your telescope collecting dust because it's hard to locate deep sky objects? Would you like to bring your observing to a stellar level? Our observing director leads the Vancouver RASC observing group and invites you to join by sending an email at observing@rasc-vancouver.com. Some of the benefits of belonging to this group include:

- Hands on training on how to operate the SFU Trottier observatory
- Weekly observing sessions at the observatory or at dark sky locations
- One-one-one coaching on how to locate thousands of objects in the night sky
- Attend small interactive seminars on a range of topics including failsafe star-hopping, charting challenging objects and understanding the motions of the cosmos
- Learn to make your telescope dance by locating objects such as asteroids, nova, and supernovae
- Spectroscopy and imaging training from Howard Trottier and an opportunity to collaborate on observatory research projects
- Updates on observable sky events happening during the week like asteroid/comet/deep sky conjunctions
- Access to observing guides and lists that Robert Conrad created that took hundreds of hours to create and will help with planning observing sessions
- Knowledge and expertise from other observing group members
- Learn how to quickly and efficiently find and star-hop to deep sky objects using a range of binoculars and telescopes

Upcoming Events

December
10 – AGM

Monthly Dark Hours for Vancouver

by Robert Conrad

Date - September 2026 (UT -8)	Sunset	Twilight ends	Twilight begins	Sunrise	Moonrise	Moonset	Hrs Dark	Moon %	Prime time
Tuesday, September 1, 2026	7:55 PM	9:51 PM	4:34 AM	6:30 AM	9:19 PM	12:06 PM	0:00:00	80.2	None
Wednesday, September 2, 2026	7:53 PM	9:49 PM	4:36 AM	6:32 AM	9:47 PM	1:30 PM	0:00:00	70.2	None
Thursday, September 3, 2026	7:51 PM	9:46 PM	4:38 AM	6:33 AM	10:27 PM	2:52 PM	0:41:00	59.0	9:46 PM - 10:27 PM
Friday, September 4, 2026	**7:49 PM**	**9:43 PM**	**4:40 AM**	**6:35 AM**	**11:22 PM**	**4:05 PM**	**1:39:00**	**47.1**	**9:43 PM - 11:22 PM**
Saturday, September 5, 2026	**7:46 PM**	**9:41 PM**	**4:42 AM**	**6:36 AM**	**12:33 AM**	**5:05 PM**	**2:52:00**	**35.2**	**9:41 PM - 12:33 AM**
Sunday, September 6, 2026	**7:44 PM**	**9:38 PM**	**4:44 AM**	**6:38 AM**	**1:55 AM**	**5:49 PM**	**4:17:00**	**24.2**	**9:38 PM - 1:55 AM**
Monday, September 7, 2026	7:42 PM	9:35 PM	4:46 AM	6:39 AM	3:22 AM	6:21 PM	5:47:00	14.6	9:35 PM - 3:22 AM
Tuesday, September 8, 2026	7:40 PM	9:33 PM	4:48 AM	6:40 AM	4:47 AM	6:44 PM	7:14:00	7.2	9:33 PM - 4:47 AM
Wednesday, September 9, 2026	7:38 PM	9:30 PM	4:50 AM	6:42 AM	6:09 AM	7:03 PM	7:20:00	2.3	9:30 PM - 4:50 AM
Thursday, September 10, 2026	7:36 PM	9:28 PM	4:51 AM	6:43 AM	7:28 AM	7:19 PM	7:23:00	0.1	9:28 PM - 4:51 AM
Friday, September 11, 2026	**7:34 PM**	**9:25 PM**	**4:53 AM**	**6:45 AM**	**8:45 AM**	**7:33 PM**	**7:28:00**	**0.7**	**9:25 PM - 4:53 AM**
Saturday, September 12, 2026	**7:32 PM**	**9:22 PM**	**4:55 AM**	**6:46 AM**	**10:01 AM**	**7:48 PM**	**7:33:00**	**3.7**	**9:22 PM - 4:55 AM**
Sunday, September 13, 2026	7:20 PM	9:20 PM	4:57 AM	6:48 AM	11:16 AM	8:04 PM	7:37:00	8.8	9:20 PM - 4:57 AM
Monday, September 14, 2026	7:27 PM	9:17 PM	4:59 AM	6:49 AM	11:16 AM	8:23 PM	7:42:00	15.7	9:17 PM - 4:59 AM
Tuesday, September 15, 2026	7:25 PM	9:15 PM	5:01 AM	6:51 AM	12:31 PM	8:47 PM	7:46:00	23.9	9:15 PM - 5:01 AM
Wednesday, September 16, 2026	7:23 PM	9:12 PM	5:02 AM	6:52 AM	1:42 PM	9:17 PM	7:45:00	32.9	9:17 PM - 5:02 AM
Thursday, September 17, 2026	7:21 PM	9:10 PM	5:04 AM	6:54 AM	2:46 PM	9:57 PM	7:07:00	42.5	9:57 PM - 5:04 AM
Friday, September 18, 2026	**7:19 PM**	**9:07 PM**	**5:06 AM**	**6:55 AM**	**3:42 PM**	**10:48 PM**	**6:18:00**	**52.3**	**10:48 PM - 5:06 AM**
Saturday, September 19, 2026	**7:16 PM**	**9:05 PM**	**5:08 AM**	**6:56 AM**	**4:26 PM**	**11:49 PM**	**5:19:00**	**62.0**	**11:49 PM - 5:08 AM**
Sunday, September 20, 2026	7:14 PM	9:03 PM	5:09 AM	6:58 AM	5:00 PM	12:57 AM	4:12:00	71.3	12:57 AM - 5:09 AM
Monday, September 21, 2026	7:12 PM	9:00 PM	5:11 AM	6:59 AM	5:26 PM	2:10 AM	3:01:00	79.9	2:10 AM - 5:11 AM
Tuesday, September 22, 2026	7:10 PM	8:58 PM	5:13 AM	7:01 AM	5:46 PM	3:23 AM	1:50:00	87.4	3:23 AM - 5:13 AM
Wednesday, September 23, 2026	7:08 PM	8:55 PM	5:14 AM	7:02 AM	6:03 PM	4:37 AM	0:37:00	93.5	4:37 AM - 5:14 AM
Thursday, September 24, 2026	7:06 PM	8:53 PM	5:16 AM	7:04 AM	6:18 PM	5:52 AM	0:00:00	97.7	None
Friday, September 25, 2026	**7:03 PM**	**8:51 PM**	**5:18 AM**	**7:05 AM**	**6:32 PM**	**7:09 AM**	**0:00:00**	**97.7**	**None**
Saturday, September 26, 2026	**7:01 PM**	**8:48 PM**	**5:19 AM**	**7:07 AM**	**6:47 PM**	**8:28 AM**	**0:00:00**	**99.8**	**None**
Sunday, September 27, 2026	6:59 PM	8:46 PM	5:21 AM	7:08 AM	7:03 PM	9:50 AM	0:00:00	99.4	None
Monday, September 28, 2026	6:57 PM	8:44 PM	5:23 AM	7:10 AM	7:24 PM	11:14 AM	0:00:00	96.4	None
Tuesday, September 29, 2026	**6:55 PM**	**8:41 PM**	**5:24 AM**	**7:11 AM**	**7:50 PM**	**12:38 PM**	**0:00:00**	**90.8**	**None**
Wednesday, September 30, 2026	6:53 PM	8:39 PM	5:26 AM	7:13 AM	8:27 PM	12:39 PM	0:00:00	82.8	None

Vancouver **Total** **111:28:00**

Date - October 2026 (UT -8)	Sunset	Twilight ends	Twilight begins	Sunrise	Moonrise	Moonset	Hrs Dark	Moon %	Prime time
Thursday, October 1, 2026	6:51 PM	8:37 PM	5:28 AM	7:14 AM	9:17 PM	1:56 PM	0:40:00	72.9	8:37 PM - 9:17 PM
Friday, October 2, 2026	**6:49 PM**	**8:35 PM**	**5:29 AM**	**7:16 AM**	**10:23 PM**	**3:01 PM**	**1:48:00**	**61.6**	**8:35 PM - 10:23 PM**
Saturday, October 3, 2026	**6:46 PM**	**8:32 PM**	**5:31 AM**	**7:17 AM**	**11:42 PM**	**3:49 PM**	**3:10:00**	**49.8**	**8:32 PM - 11:42 PM**
Sunday, October 4, 2026	6:44 PM	8:30 PM	5:32 AM	7:19 AM	1:06 AM	4:23 PM	4:36:00	38.0	8:30 PM - 1:06 AM
Monday, October 5, 2026	6:42 PM	8:28 PM	5:34 AM	7:20 AM	2:29 AM	4:49 PM	6:01:00	27.0	8:28 PM - 2:29 AM
Tuesday, October 6, 2026	6:40 PM	8:26 PM	5:36 AM	7:22 AM	3:50 AM	5:08 PM	7:24:00	17.4	8:26 PM - 3:50 AM
Wednesday, October 7, 2026	6:38 PM	8:24 PM	5:37 AM	7:23 AM	5:08 AM	5:25 PM	8:44:00	9.6	8:24 PM - 5:08 AM
Thursday, October 8, 2026	6:36 PM	8:22 PM	5:39 AM	7:25 AM	6:25 AM	5:39 PM	9:17:00	4.1	8:22 PM - 5:39 AM
Friday, October 9, 2026	**6:34 PM**	**8:20 PM**	**5:40 AM**	**7:26 AM**	**7:40 AM**	**5:54 PM**	**9:20:00**	**0.9**	**8:20 PM - 5:40 AM**
Saturday, October 10, 2026	**6:32 PM**	**8:18 PM**	**5:42 AM**	**7:28 AM**	**8:56 AM**	**6:09 PM**	**9:24:00**	**0.2**	**8:18 PM - 5:42 AM**
Sunday, October 11, 2026	**6:30 PM**	**8:15 PM**	**5:43 AM**	**7:29 AM**	**10:11 AM**	**6:27 PM**	**9:28:00**	**1.7**	**8:15 PM - 5:43 AM**
Monday, October 12, 2026	6:28 PM	8:13 PM	5:45 AM	7:31 AM	11:23 AM	6:49 PM	9:32:00	5.4	8:13 PM - 5:45 AM
Tuesday, October 13, 2026	6:26 PM	8:11 PM	5:46 AM	7:32 AM	11:23 AM	7:17 PM	9:35:00	10.8	8:11 PM - 5:46 AM
Wednesday, October 14, 2026	6:24 PM	8:09 PM	5:48 AM	7:34 AM	12:32 PM	7:53 PM	9:39:00	17.8	8:09 PM - 5:48 AM
Thursday, October 15, 2026	6:22 PM	8:08 PM	5:49 AM	7:35 AM	1:31 PM	8:40 PM	9:09:00	25.9	8:40 PM - 5:49 AM
Friday, October 16, 2026	**6:20 PM**	**8:06 PM**	**5:51 AM**	**7:37 AM**	**2:20 PM**	**9:37 PM**	**8:14:00**	**34.9**	**9:37 PM - 5:51 AM**
Saturday, October 17, 2026	**6:18 PM**	**8:04 PM**	**5:52 AM**	**7:38 AM**	**2:57 PM**	**10:42 PM**	**7:10:00**	**44.4**	**10:42 PM - 5:52 AM**
Sunday, October 18, 2026	6:16 PM	8:02 PM	5:54 AM	7:40 AM	3:26 PM	11:51 PM	6:03:00	54.2	11:51 PM - 5:54 AM
Monday, October 19, 2026	6:14 PM	8:00 PM	5:55 AM	7:42 AM	3:49 PM	1:03 AM	4:52:00	64.0	1:03 AM - 5:55 AM
Tuesday, October 20, 2026	6:12 PM	7:58 PM	5:57 AM	7:43 AM	4:07 PM	2:16 AM	3:41:00	73.4	2:16 AM - 5:57 AM
Wednesday, October 21, 2026	6:10 PM	7:56 PM	5:58 AM	7:45 AM	4:22 PM	3:30 AM	2:28:00	82.1	3:30 AM - 5:58 AM
Thursday, October 22, 2026	6:08 PM	7:55 PM	6:00 AM	7:46 AM	4:37 PM	4:45 AM	1:15:00	89.5	4:45 AM - 6:00 AM
Friday, October 23, 2026	**6:06 PM**	**7:53 PM**	**6:01 AM**	**7:48 AM**	**4:52 PM**	**6:02 AM**	**0:00:00**	**95.3**	**None**
Saturday, October 24, 2026	**6:05 PM**	**7:51 PM**	**6:03 AM**	**7:50 AM**	**5:08 PM**	**7:24 AM**	**0:00:00**	**95.3**	**None**
Sunday, October 25, 2026	6:03 PM	7:50 PM	6:04 AM	7:51 AM	5:27 PM	8:49 AM	0:00:00	98.9	None
Monday, October 26, 2026	6:01 PM	7:48 PM	6:06 AM	7:53 AM	5:51 PM	10:17 AM	0:00:00	99.8	None
Tuesday, October 27, 2026	5:59 PM	7:46 PM	6:07 AM	7:54 AM	6:25 PM	11:40 AM	0:00:00	97.8	None
Wednesday, October 28, 2026	5:57 PM	7:45 PM	6:08 AM	7:56 AM	7:11 PM	12:52 PM	0:00:00	93.0	None
Thursday, October 29, 2026	5:56 PM	7:43 PM	6:10 AM	7:58 AM	8:14 PM	12:52 PM	0:31:00	85.4	7:43 PM - 8:14 PM
Friday, October 30, 2026	**5:54 PM**	**7:42 PM**	**6:11 AM**	**7:59 AM**	**9:31 PM**	**1:46 PM**	**1:49:00**	**75.8**	**7:42 PM - 9:31 PM**
Saturday, October 31, 2026	**5:52 PM**	**7:40 PM**	**6:13 AM**	**8:01 AM**	**10:54 PM**	**2:25 PM**	**3:14:00**	**64.8**	**7:40 PM - 10:54 PM**

Vancouver **Total** **147:04:00**

Members' Gallery

NGC 6888
by Rishil Bhagwat

This is a hydrogen-rich area in my wide-field image of the Crescent and Tulip Nebulae in the constellation of Cygnus. The Crescent Nebula is an emission nebula located about 4700 light years away from Earth while the Tulip Nebula is about 8000 light years away. The main attraction in this frame for me was the Wolf-Rayat star, WR134, that is about 6000 light years away from Earth. This is one of my favourite targets because of its spectacular hydrogen-rich region that keeps revealing itself with more integration time. This is a 10-hour (3' each sub) wide-field image taken with a Redcat 51 (250mm), ZWO 2600MC, ZWO AM5N, and SVBony SV220 7nm Ha/Oiii filter. This is a combination of Bortle 3 and Bortle 5 shots.

About Me: I am starting 7th grade next month and have been enjoying the summer chasing different targets whenever weather permits. My dad helps me mount the telescope on the tracker. Then I proceed with the next steps: wiring, focusing, PA, guiding, and target framing. Finally, I post-process the images using Siril and RC Astro suite.

WR 134
by Sushant Acharekar

This image captures WR 134, a powerful Wolf–Rayet star located in the constellation Cygnus. At the heart of the scene lies a massive, evolved star whose intense stellar winds have been sculpting the surrounding interstellar material for thousands of years.

The most striking feature is the delicate blue arc of doubly ionized oxygen (OIII) surrounding WR 134. This shell is created as the star's fast stellar wind collides with material previously expelled during earlier stages of its evolution. Surrounding it is an expansive landscape of glowing hydrogen, sulphur, and oxygen emission, producing the intricate filaments that stretch across the field.

The image was captured in monochrome using a Stellarvue SVX090T apochromatic refractor and processed in PixInsight. The individual narrowband channels were composited using the Hubble palette (SHO), assigning sulphur, hydrogen, and oxygen to the red, green, and blue channels respectively. This false-colour approach emphasizes the complex structure and varying composition of the surrounding nebula.

The wide field reveals WR 134 not simply as an isolated shell, but as part of the extraordinarily rich nebulosity of the Cygnus region. Dark dust lanes cut through the glowing gas while faint structures extend across nearly the entire frame, highlighting the complex interaction between massive stars and their surrounding environment.

WR 134 offers a glimpse into the turbulent final stages of a massive star's life—a star shedding its outer layers at tremendous speed before eventually ending its evolution in a supernova.

The image was taken by Sushant Acharekar a RASC member and part of the Imaging group.