

Nova Notes

The Newsletter of the Halifax Centre
of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada



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Thanks to Dave Lane and
Steve Tancock for the pictures.



Sidewalk Astronomy

On Wednesday, August 1st we had a very successful public observing session on the Halifax waterfront. Many people dropped by for a quick look, while a few people stayed for an extended period to chat about astronomy, telescopes, and our club. Thank you very much to

everyone who participated: David Croston, Paul Heath, Dave Lane, Johnny MacPherson, Rollie Strand, and Steve Tancock (I hope I didn't miss anyone – it wasn't very dark down there!) – Paul Evans

As heard on hfxrasc@rasc.ca...

If you're a member with email, why not become part of the Centre's email list? The list is a great resource for people looking for other members to observe with, for reminders of upcoming astronomical events, or for sharing information. Members who observe at

St. Croix usually post a notice to say if they'll be out that night. Log on to our website (www.halifax.rasc.ca) to get signed up and you too could participate in lively intellectual discussions, or at least read them!

After what seemed an eternity of dismal observing weather, photon hungry observers made their way to SCO for a busy weekend.

Subject: Halifax RASCals: Observing Friday night at St. Croix!

We were packed last night at the SCO. I think I counted 12 people there last night, including the 2 friends that came with me. Tonight looks to be another clear night.

Conditions at St Croix last night were ideal. +6.4 mag visual without a problem. The Milky Way was very bright and distinct right to the horizon in Sag. Several dark nebulae in that area, namely the dark horse, stood out. It's been a while since I've (and others concurred) seen those kind of conditions out there.

Comet Linear was a naked eye treat in the east sporting a 1-2 degree tail through the telescope. Appeared to be around +5 mag to the naked eye.

Anyways, catch up on your sleep during the day or after work and hit the SCO tonight.

- Darren Talbot
(dtalbot@ns.sympatico.ca)

Subject: Halifax RASCals: Late Night Encounters

Astro - Dough
While astronomers occasionally encounter wildlife or snowbanks upon their return trip from St. Croix, I had an encounter of a different kind last night after leaving the S.C.O. around 02:15 A.M. As I briefly stopped along the Trunk 1 (Old Halifax Road) near the St. Croix Exit an enormous 18 wheeler pulled up alongside. I sat per-

plexed as the driver (a bearded long haired hippie dude) jumped out of the driver's seat and ran over to me. "I'm totally lost. How do I get to Bridgewater cross-country." I stared blankly at him for a few seconds as my mind changed gears from NGC objects to friendly Maritime-type person. Ungh, ungh, was all I could muster for the first few seconds. Since the fellow was heading in the absolutely opposite direction he wanted to go I decided that the easiest thing to do was to get him to follow me to the connector road that runs by Ski Martok to Chester Basin. Off we go. Being tailgated by a looming 18 wheeler at 3 A.M. is not a joyful experience as most people would agree. After I get him to the correct road he stops, jumps out and furiously pumps my arm up and down in thanks. I give him a few final directions and off he goes. I could imagine how relieved he felt knowing that he was at last heading in the right direction. I feel the same way when my star chart finally matches my field of view during a star hop to an object. As the transport drove away into the night I noticed for the first time the large BEN'S logo on the side. Unknowingly the driver reminded me of what I promised to bring home on my return; a loaf of bread.

- Daryl Dewolfe (maknewt@glinx.com)

Subject: Halifax RASCals: Late Night Encounters

Daryl - Thank goodness this is Nova Scotia and not the Australian Outback north of Alice Springs!!

As an involuntary seeker of snow banks (only in season of course), I record the only problem I had last night was finding the observatory site! Late as I was, I expected some of you to park on the road

and not huddle up inside!

My headlights obviously have horizontal cut off, as I drove right past in both directions – though I did wonder where the vehicle behind me disappeared to (turned out to be Dave L).

What a wonderful sky last night – I stayed an hour later than intended and am now late for today's exercise.

- David Croston
(djcroston@hfx.eastlink.ca)

Subject: Halifax RASCals: Members Night

Hi All,

Another crowded members night at St. Croix. Crowded with people, crowded with scopes but most importantly crowded with stars. A 5.8 sky improved, so by 2 A.M. magnitude 6.4 was easily seen.

Meteors dashed brightly across the sky for two or three of us at a time, as favorites in binos and scopes were found and shared around. Comet Linear A2 brightened and its tail stretched out as it climbed higher for all to see. Although North America was elusive, the Swan Nebula was a favorite – glamorous with the right eyepiece and filter.

As the doors were locked, the ISS wobbled down beside the Pleiades. A wonderful end to a wonderful night.

Here's hoping for clear skies and a ride tonight, to make it three great skies in a row!

- Paul Heath
(pheath@hfx.eastlink.ca)



Nova Notes

*The Newsletter of the
Halifax Centre of the RASC*

PO Box 31011
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3K 5T9

Articles on any aspect of Astronomy will be considered for publication.

Nova Notes is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Halifax Centre.

"Letters to the Editor" or letters to our resident expert "Gazer" are also most welcome.

Contact the editor at the following:

Michael Gatto
michael@allura.com
453-5486 (Home) 482-1013 (Work)

Nova Notes is also available as a PDF file on our centre's website at www.halifax.rasc.ca

Material for the next issue should reach the editor by Sept 21

eyes Up!

eyes Up! is a forum for observing news from Centre members. This is where you can see what your fellow members have been looking at for the last two months and share your own latest discoveries.

News may include observing reports, observational project status, witnessed daytime or nighttime astronomical phenomena, new equipment reviews, or any other notes of observational interest.

eyes Up! is new to Nova Notes and what it becomes is up to you the membership! All readers are strongly encouraged to contribute regardless of their observing experience. If you've observed something interesting, developed a new interest, or tried something new, let other members know. It's guaranteed that others will share in your enjoyment and benefit from your experiences.

Keith Lowe – First Time Finding a Messier With a Telescope

I remember about 3 years ago while living in Woodbridge, on the outskirts of Toronto, I read where the Andromeda galaxy was viewable with the naked eye. So I thought, I know there's lots of light pollution (Megrez was missing from the Big Dipper) but surely I could overcome this by finding it with a little spotting scope I had. Nope, I couldn't find it, so away went the scope and my interest again. Fast forward 3 years, Larry Bogan explained how to find it and pointed out it was viewable with the naked eye. Sure enough there it was, Andromeda with the naked eye – all these years and I didn't even know I could just look up and see Andromeda! That is the most evocative blur that I know of :)

The first Messier I found through a telescope was M19. I saw that Dave's 13" Dobsonian telescope was pointing generally towards Mars and no one was using it. I knew from consulting StarCalc that M19 was near that. I mentioned to Larry that I had read something interesting about M19 earlier, he replied, "Want to try and find it?" I replied, "Uh, uh, sure". I thought it was going to be in the same view as Mars and should be easy to find. Larry consulted the charts and found it was a bit left of Mars – now this is going

to be harder. He showed me how to use the side mounted finder to get the scope in the general direction then use the finder to center on it and finally find it through the eyepiece. That wasn't as difficult as I imagined. Then we switched it to a higher magnification. There it was – M19 – my first Messier (not counting the I-think-that-jiggling-smudge-is-M13 attempt I did from home with cheap binoculars). I recently read that M19 is the most elliptical of our Local globular clusters. We could see this slight but distinctive elliptical shape last night. It's theorized that its shape occurs because of its interaction with the galactic center as it's only 4,600 light years from it. ★

Sherman Williams – Planets at Dawn

Just wanted to share that this morning I was up and got a glimpse and a couple of digital photos of the planetary parade in the early morning sky.

At first there was a fair amount of thin, fog-like cloud hanging around and only a hazy crescent Moon was visible. Conditions kept improving as time passed; by 4:30 A.M. the space station popped into view and made a nice bright pass across the southern sky and faded away to the east.

Just east of the Moon's crescent, Venus and Saturn, along with Aldebaran gradually came out of the fog, making a nice grouping. Shortly I was seeing Jupiter, low and a bit north of east, easily seen with the unaided eye. With binoculars, I easily picked up Mercury, below-left of Jupiter.

Before the sky got too bright I was able to get a photo containing the four planets and Aldebaran. Perhaps tomorrow morning I'll get the Moon with them, although the cloud in the forecast implies that I will not.

I worked hard to see comet LINEAR-2 in Pegasus but even though I was looking right at the field it was in, it just would not show... too much haziness in that area and the brightening dawn did not help.

To top it all off, I was entertained with a wonderful chorus of bird songs, which started about 4:25 and reached a peak about 5 A.M.

A dawn thoroughly enjoyed. ★

Michael Boschat—More Digital Photography Through the Eyepiece

Date: July 29/30, 2001
Time: 0015 - 0030 UT
Camera: Canon PowerShot 350 Digital
Telescope: 15cm Maksutov
Eyepiece: 12.5 mm @ 80x



Cassini



Copernicus



Tycho

You may forward your submissions for eyesUp! to Paul Evans by email, mail or phone:

Email evans@hfx.eastlink.ca
Phone 902.423.4746
Mail 26 Carrington Place, Apt 403
 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3S 1J8

RASC Executive's support letter to Minas Basin Pulp and Power.

For more information on the importance of this letter, please see *The June Meeting report* below.

Scott Travers
President
Minas Basin Pulp & Power Co., Ltd.
Hantsport N.S.
BOP 1PO

2001 June 17

Dear Mr. Travers,

Thank you for your very informative presentation to our group on June 15.

We are more than pleased to support Minas Basin's application for renewal of water rights on the St. Croix River. A few years ago your company made possible a dream of the Halifax Centre: the first public astronomical observatory at one of the best dark-sky sites in Nova Scotia.

Minas Basin's lands surrounding the St. Croix River and Panuke Lake are an important resource not only for the hydro-electric power but also for astronomy. Minas Basin's policy of limited development on its St. Croix properties has preserved one of the last blocks of land in this province that meets the several conditions essential for our observatory:

- (1) the highest frequency of clear skies in Nova Scotia;
- (2) no nearby city, town, yard lights or street lights to degrade the sky;
- (3) no major population centres to its south, the prime section of the sky for astronomy;
- (4) protected from prevailing west and northwest winds by the local topography and trees;
- (5) located within a 40 minute drive of the Halifax area;
- (6) accessible by good roads at all times of year;
- (7) on low traffic (dead-end) road;
- (8) security provided by an interested local person, your employee, Jamie Carmichael.

We appreciate Minas Basin's vision in making this first-rate observatory site available to the Halifax Centre and for entrusting the property to our care. The observatory is used by many members of our Centre on a weather - and Moon-dependent, weekly basis throughout the year. Although the facilities are owned and controlled by the Halifax Centre, the St. Croix Observatory is a public facility to the extent that anyone may join our Centre. Also, under the supervision of our senior members, public groups such as school children and teachers have been introduced to the night sky at St. Croix.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Tindall
President

June 2001 Meeting Report

by Mary Lou Whitehorne

The June meeting of the Halifax Centre was prefaced by a special meeting that began at 7:15 P.M. regarding the water rights on the St. Croix River. Minas Basin Pulp & Power (MBPP), from whom we lease our observatory land, is in the process of applying to have their water rights renewed and they are actively seeking input and support from groups and individuals with a vested interest in the lands surrounding the St. Croix River.

Jill Johnston and Dwight Whynot from MBPP were our guests at this special meeting. Their presentation outlined some of the history and scope of the MBPP. This was followed by a discussion of what is involved in their application to renew their water rights.

In case you're wondering what all this means to you, it's really quite simple. If their case for water rights renewal is denied, we could lose our observatory! Suddenly this whole issue takes on a new importance! MBPP needs the support of people and organizations, like the Halifax Centre, who use the lands around the Lake Panuke and St. Croix River water-

shed to help strengthen their case with the government. Basically, they are asking us for an official letter of support to be included in the documentation that they submit to the government. Your executive has agreed to support the MBPP's application and a letter has been written. A copy of it should be found somewhere in this issue of NN. Let us hope that the water rights will be renewed and that we may continue to use and enjoy our beautiful observatory site on the St. Croix River.

Immediately following the MBPP presentation, the regular monthly meeting of the Halifax Centre was called to order by 1st Vice President (and past President)

Pat Kelly at 8:15 P.M. He proceeded to prattle on about the RASC and all the benefits of membership, followed by an invitation for those present to please rid him of his collection of back issues of JRASC and S&T. I believe at this point that the Acting President was interrupted in his speech by a number of jokes and a smattering of laughter. Surely such a thing has never happened before at a Halifax Centre meeting; our members are far to well behaved and dignified for such juvenile pass times!

Next on the agenda was a short chat about the membership survey everyone found in their last issue of Nova Notes. By all means, fill it out and return it because there is someone who is very anxious to compile the results. After that, who knows? Maybe we'll have a leadership review. I hear Stockwell Day may be out of a job soon and looking for greener pastures.

At this juncture, Dave Lane took the floor and spoke eloquently on the fee increase issue. Proxy forms were distributed for members to fill in and send with him to the General Assembly in July. Dave restated the case in support of an increase in fees, especially the likelihood that people will increasingly turn to the internet and other computer resources to supplant the Observer's Handbook, which is the Society's main source of revenue. In the previous two years the RASC actually lost money and last year only managed to break even. The number sales of Observer's Handbooks have been declining and recent price increases cannot continue to make up the loss – eventually there will be a financial brick wall that the RASC will hit. We need the fee increase to avoid a catastrophic financial collision.

John Jarvo was next at the podium with a plug for this summer's Nova East Star Party, to be held at Smiley's Provincial Park. Nova East is always a good time, even if the weather is poor (which it won't be). This is the Centre's biggest social event of the year and everyone is invited to come out and have a good time.

Following John Jarvo came THE MAIN EVENT - the tremendously exciting game-

show everyone loves, WHO WANTS TO BE A GAZER? by Patrick M. Kelly, who interviewed and introduced himself as the MC of the big event. He explained in some detail the rules and prizes, as if anybody could actually figure out something so complicated!!! Already it's confusing...

I'm not sure about trying to provide colour commentary for a game devised by someone from Pluto. First contestant – Ralph Fraser, who got four questions correct and won a Halifax Centre pin, using only two lifelines. On the fifth question Ralph mistook the constellation Monoceros as representing a Narwhal rather than the Unicorn which is so plainly visible among the stars. Out goes Ralph!

Second contestant – Mark Johnson with four questions right – he wins a pin but stumbles on the fifth question. And no wonder – it was on physical constants and he was foolish enough to ask Dave Lane for the answer! By now everybody should know to ask Roy Bishop about that sort of thing.

John Jarvo wins the third draw for the game's hot seat. Four questions right, John gets a pin! But he lost out on correctly identifying a photo of Uranus' moon Umbriel. Imagine! Not being able to quickly and positively identify a blurry, nondescript image of a cratered, spherical body showing a gibbous phase! Well, I never saw the like! Have you? Better luck next time, John!

The fourth contestant is Dave Killam who also wins a Centre pin. Van Gogh bamboozled him on the fifth question - he thought Van Gogh's painting "Starry Night" was done by Monet. Tut, tut! Monet was not into nighttime landscapes, but rather pastoral scenes, flowers, and pretty little boats at anchor.

The Evil Gamemaster proceeded with an elimination round. He was determined to give away the coveted astro-placemat, no matter what. He managed to confound even Roy Bishop with his tactics and the surprise winner of the elimination round is Basil Nowe. Congratulations, Basil!



*Jill Johnston and Dwight Whynot
MBP&P*

Whew! At least that's over with and the adrenaline levels can safely fall off to something a little nearer to normal.

Break for goodies at 9:20 P.M. Cookies and TimBits. Yum, Yum! Back from break at 9:40 P.M.

There was an informal "Q&A" type of "What's Up." It was determined that Mars is up these nights and that there is a naked-eye comet visible in the southern hemisphere that is heading north. Then Dave Lane and Clint Shannon presented a slide show and informal talk on their recent trip to the Texas Star Party. 729 people showed up for this well known star party but the advertised clear, dark skies went AWOL. Two good nights resulted in a number of lovely pictures and astrophotos - obviously the guys had a great time in Texas.

The Ferengi Moment featured Steve Tancock flogging a set of finder mounting rings. He sold them to Dave Lane on the spot. Just before the meeting was adjourned 2nd VP Dave Croston presented Gamemaster Kelly with a certificate promoting him to the rank of Deputy Gazer in recognition of his efforts in producing the amazing "Who Wants to be a Gazer" game. The certificate will look very nice on Pat's bathroom wall. Meeting adjourned at 10:17 P.M. ☆

Some Thoughts on 2" Diagonals

From M.A.G. observer Daryl Dewolfe

Looking for those ultra-wide views through your scope? If so, before you mortgage the family home to purchase one of those ultra-wide, ultra expensive eyepieces on the market today, you'll probably have to invest in a 2 inch diagonal. My personal opinion is you don't have to sell off the family car to get a 2 inch diagonal that is very good for visual use.

I recently purchased a Canadian assembled, enhanced coated 2 inch diagonal for use in a 70mm ED semi-apo. (Note: *manufacturer names have been omitted from this article to prevent their lawyers from suing me for my obviously biased opinions on their products and services*) I compared "the Canadian" with a "high end" 2 inch similarly coated diagonal from a U.S. manufacturer of telescope products with a widely known reputation for quality. Using the same eyepieces in each diagonal, and on the same scope, here's what I found.

Visually, detail on Jupiter was essentially the same. In fact, edge sharpness on the planet was just slightly better in the Cdn

assembled diagonal. Spurious colors introduced by the type of telescope (blue & green) inside and outside of focus were equally vivid. On bright stars such as Procyon, diffraction ring patterns and brightness were identical to my eye. One difference I noticed here was the slight difference in the length of the rays or spikes of light which emanated from very bright stars.

Apparently enhanced coated optics produce more scattered light than a regularly coated optics perhaps due to the higher light throughput. I've also read that the light scatter can be the result of unevenness in the multi-coatings which could also exaggerate any flaws in the mirror's surface. This slight difference in light scatter or flare on very bright stars was the only picky little difference I could find during a visual comparison. Essentially, both diagonals performed equally well. The difference? About \$200.00+ cdn in their respective cost.

I have observed the Messiers, Finest NGC, the Herschel 400, and I am now partway through the 2nd 400 Herschels (though not with a 70mm). My observing skills are somewhat competent by now and if I cannot easily detect obvious visual differences between these two astronomical products during observing, I'll bet you a Tim Hortons Timbit that you can't either.

There are lots more tests one can give products like these to determine things like mirror wavelength accuracy, collimation accuracy, etc. But for me, the evidence is in the visual accuracy comparing each product under actual night conditions.

If you disagree, and it costs me a Timbit, I can live with that. If it saves you a couple hundred clams towards that wide 2 inch view that you have been longing for, pay me back by coming to the Nova East Star Party or the St. Croix Observatory and show me the great new view through your scope.

Diagonal Stats:

The Canadian Version - 2 inch mirror diagonal with enhanced coatings claiming 92% reflectivity, some sort of 2 piece metal alloy body (mirror can be easily removed and replaced if needed), threaded for 48mm filters, includes 2-1.25 adapter, end cap.

The U.S. Version - 2 inch mirror diagonal with enhanced coatings claiming 94% - 96% reflectivity), impressive body cut from a single block of aluminum, threaded for 48mm filters, end caps, you normally pay extra for the 2-1.25 adapter.

FYI a regular, standard coated, diagonal usually claims 86-88% reflectivity. ★

Graham Millar

The Halifax Centre has lost a staunch supporter and long time member with the death of Graham Millar. Our newer members may not know Graham because ill health kept him away from meetings for the past year or so. I will always remember Graham with great affection; he was a very warm, friendly and scholarly gentleman - an intellectual with a sense of humour. He was very interested in the history of astronomy and the astronomical mythologies of cultures around the world. He enjoyed researching and writing about his interests and I, as well as several other Halifax Centre members, had the pleasure of many conversations with Graham as he wrote his articles for Nova Notes and the JRASC. He will be missed. - Mary Lou Whitehorne

MILLAR, F. Graham - 91, passed away peacefully, July 27, 2001, in St. Vincent's Guest House, Halifax. He was born in Quebec, March 22, 1910 and grew up in

Hawkesbury, Alemonite and Hamilton, Ont. He graduated from University of Toronto in 1933 with a BA in mathematics and physics. The following year he took a course in meteorology and obtained an MA from University of Toronto. He worked with the Meteorological service in Toronto where his work included studies of temperature, wind conditions and humidity in the Great Lakes area. During the Second World War, he was in charge of ciphering of naval weather reports and also responsible for assigning the XYZ lettercodes for Canadian airports which are still in use today. In 1951, he accepted a position at Naval Research Establishment, Dartmouth where his research included work on submarine detection by sonar. He transferred to operations research at Halifax Naval Dockyard several years later. After a year working at Trenton Air Force Base, he went to Ottawa where he finished his career as an editor of scientific papers for the Department of National Defence. He and his wife Mildred spent a number of years in London, Ont., following retirement before returning to Halifax in 1978. He attended Saint Mary's University as a senior student pursuing an

interest in astronomy. This developed into a study of ancient astronomy and its association with mythology. He wrote a number of papers pertaining to these subjects. Throughout his life he was a great conversationalist and a walking encyclopedia of information. He had many diverse interests and volunteer activities including Boy Scouts, as a member and leader, figure skating as an ice dancer and judge, the Nova Scotia Astronomical Society, Word Perfect Society and Meals On Wheels. He was president of the Halifax skating club for many years. He was a member of St. Paul's Anglican Church and was a Sunday school superintendent in the 1950's and later a member of the congregation of All Saints. He corresponded with many near and distant relatives by e-mail messages which came to be called "Grahamgrams". He is survived by his wife, Mildred; sister, Helen Becker, Rochester, N.Y.; sons, David Millar (Doris), Victoria, B.C.; Bruce Millar (Agnes), Halifax; daughters, Joan Chandler, Dartmouth; Wyn Gidney (Robert), London, Ont.; grandchildren, Michael, Andrea and Karen Chandler, Catherine Gidney, Scott and Suzanne Millar.

The St. Croix Observatory



The St. Croix observatory. Pictured from left to right, the RASCan, the warm room and the roll-off roof observatory.



The roll-off with the roof partially open.

Part of your membership in the Halifax RASC includes access to our observatory, located in the community of St. Croix, NS. The site has grown over the last few years to include a roll-off roof observatory with electrical outlets, a warm-room and washroom facilities. Enjoy dark pristine skies far away from city lights, and the company of like minded observers searching out those faint fuzzies in the night.

Members' Night

Every Friday night closest to the new Moon is Members' Night at St. Croix. The purpose of members' night is to attract members from the centre to share an evening of observing with other members. It's also a great night for beginners to try out different scopes and see the sky under dark conditions. For more information or transportation arrangements, please contact the Observing Chairman Paul Evans at 423-4746.

Dates for Members' Nights for the following two months are

There will be no members' night for August – everyone will be at Nova East!

Fri. Sept. 14th *(rain date Sat. 15th)*

Directions from Halifax

(from Bayers Road Shopping Centre)

1. Take Hwy 102 (the Bi-Hi) to Exit 4 (Sackville).
2. Take Hwy 101 to Exit 4 (St. Croix).
3. At the end of the off ramp, turn left.
4. Drive about 1.5 km until you cross the St. Croix River Bridge. You'll see a power dam on your left.
5. Drive about 0.2 km past the bridge and take the first left (Salmon Hole Dam Road).
6. Drive about 1 km until the pavement ends.
7. Drive another 1 km on the dirt road to the site.
8. You will recognize the site by the 3 small white buildings on the left.

Become a St. Croix Key Holder

For a modest key fee, members in good standing for more than a year who have been briefed on observatory can gain access to the St. Croix facility. For more information on becoming a key holder, contact the Observing Chairman Paul Evans at 423-4746.

Tales from Members' Night at SCO!

As Dave (Lane) disappears inside one of the buildings, I unpack my stuff and walk down towards the space between the 2 buildings, I open the door to the observing platform and back away, I'm about to enter a building, I look left and sure enough there is the warm room with its door open. I look around me, no observing platform. Not wanting to seem dumb, I walk alongside the two buildings, both are there all right but closer together and no platform in between; I check and sure enough the little house behind the two bigger buildings is there snuggled in the back, but what the heck happened to the platform? It was there 3 weeks ago. I venture through the door on the right again, Dave is pattering around in the far corner, I look around this building and recognize the green floor and the sides with its little ledge. Did they build over the platform in while I was away? I look for portholes, nope, none there, how are we going to observe? Then out of my mouth comes this very intelligent question "Dave where did the outside go?" (Oh gosh, is my face red after a statement like that.) Dave smiles and tells me the roof comes off. Ahhhhhh I think. Now, I try to figure out how? I think OK, it drops down to the sides, it can't roll off like the Astrodome's roof – it's a solid structure. Then all of a sudden Dave walks around; a click here, a click there, and a push on the side of the upper half of the building and he walks the whole upper part of the building to the far end of the platform. Voila the platform is back... WOW am I impressed. Needless to say I was very glad to see things back to normal!

Rollie Strand — 7/21/01

Meeting Announcements

Halifax Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada



Meetings begin at

8:00 P.M.

Members of the general public are welcome.

All members—but especially new ones—are invited to come to the meetings 20 - 30 minutes early to participate in our new informal “Meet and Greet”. It’s a chance to ask questions about astronomy, the RASC, memberships, or to just say hello.

Room 176 Loyola Building
Saint Mary’s University

(See Map at right)

The Halifax RASC Executive meetings begin at 7:00 P.M., and members are welcome to attend.

Halifax Centre Executive 2001

<i>Honorary President</i>	Dr. Roy Bishop	
<i>President</i>	Dr. David Tindall	455-7456
<i>1st vice-president</i>	Pat Kelly	798-3329
<i>2nd vice-president</i>	David Croston	477-5817
<i>Secretary</i>	Steve Tancock	465-4092
<i>Treasurer</i>	David Lane	826-7956
<i>Nova Notes Editor</i>	Michael Gatto	453-5486
<i>National Representative</i>	David Lane	826-7956
<i>Librarian</i>	Dr. Michael Falk	422-5173
<i>Observing Chairman</i>	Paul Evans	423-4746
<i>Councilor</i>	Clint Shannon	889-2426
<i>Councilor</i>	Dave Chapman	463-9103
<i>Councilor</i>	John Jarvo	897-0529

There is no meeting scheduled for August.

September 21

Presentation of Awards

Service Award to David Turner

Ken Chilton Prize to Michael Boschat

“The England of Isaac Newton”

By: Dan Falk

See Dan’s slide show which was recently presented at the RASC General Assembly (for those who missed it.)

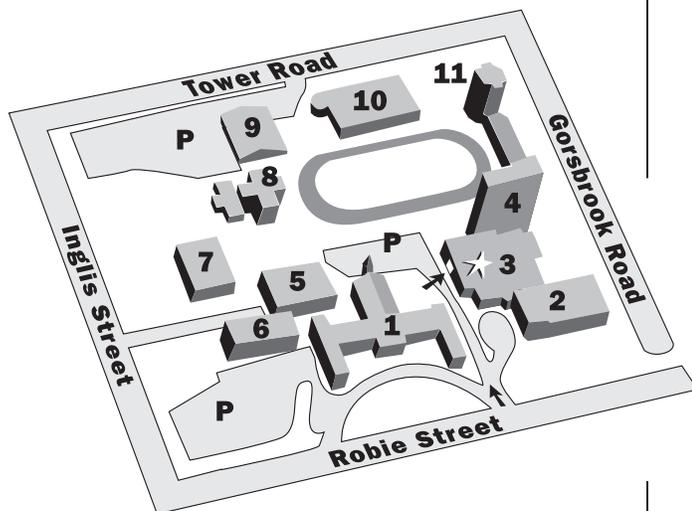
Summer Observing Reports

See what different members have been up to over the summer.

Meeting Location

Meetings are held every third Friday of the month, except for the months of July and August. Meetings take place in room 176, Loyola Building (#3 on map) at Saint Mary’s University.

1. McNally
 2. Sobey Building
 3. Loyola Academic Complex
 4. Loyola Residence
 5. Patrick Power Library
 6. Science Building
 7. Burke Building
 8. Bookstore
 9. Alumni Arena
 10. The Tower
 11. Rice Residence
- P = Parking



Astro Ad

For Sale:

Meade 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope, Model 2080, with tripod, finder, some eyepieces, and a carrying case. Asking \$1200.

Call Robert Riendeau at 827-2321 (Porter's Lake)