

# Nova Notes

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



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## IN THIS ISSUE:

**GEMINID REPORT**  
**P. 4**

**HALIFAX CENTRE**  
**SHOWCASE**  
**P. 5**

## St. Croix Observatory

Part of your membership in the Halifax RASC includes access to our observatory, located in the community of St. Croix, NS. The site has expanded over the last few years and includes a roll-off roof observatory with electrical outlets, use of the Centre's new Go-To 400-mm Dobsonian telescope and 100-mm binoculars, 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. Observing nights (Fridays close to the New Moon or Saturday backup) are open to both members and their guests. If you are not a key holder and would like to become one, or need more information, please contact the SCO Manager, Tony McGrath.

**Upcoming Observing Nights:**  
TBD

Meetings usually begin at 8:00 p.m. at Saint Mary's University in Room 101 of the Atrium Building (AT).

*All meeting locations and presentations subject to change*

## Meeting Dates for 2019

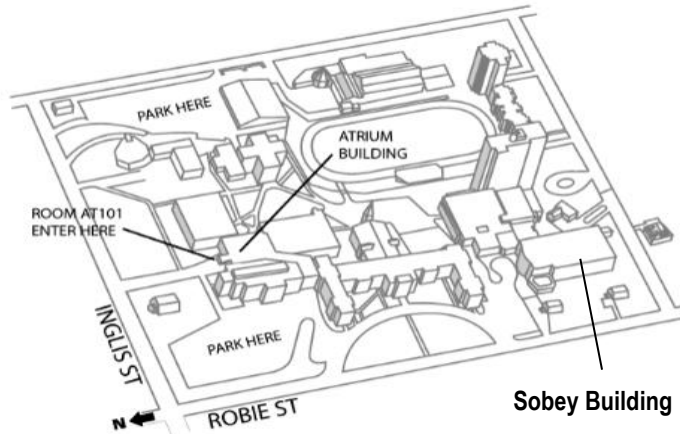
Saturday, 5th January  
Saturday, 2nd February  
Saturday, 2nd March

### Meeting Location:

Saint Mary's University

Atrium Building (AT)  
Room AT 101

The Atrium is located in front of the Patrick Power Library, between the Burke Building and Science Building.



Meetings are usually held on the third Friday of the month, except for the months of July and August.

Executive meetings begin at 6:45 p.m., usually in room AT306, and all members are welcome.

### Halifax RASC Board of Directors, 2019:

Honorary President : Dr. Roy Bishop	(Appointed)
President:	(Vacant)
Vice-President: Charles White	(Elected)
Secretary: Judy Black	(Elected)
Treasurer: Gregg Dill	(Elected)
National Council Rep: Patrick Kelly	(Elected)
Director: Paul Grey	(Elected)
Director: Andrew Frank	(Elected)
Director: Paul Heath	(Elected)
Director: John Read	(Elected)
Director: Tom Crosman	(Elected)
Librarians: John Read	(Appointed)
SCO Manager: Tony McGrath	(Appointed)
Observing Chair: Sean Dzafovic	(Appointed)
Outreach Chair: Paul Heath	(Appointed)
Nova Notes Editor : Charles White	(Appointed)

Cover Photo By:

**Bruce Hamilton**  
**"46P Wirtanen"**

Comet 46P Wirtanen taken by Bruce Hamilton on the 13th of December 2018.

## In this issue:

Meeting Announcements	2
Cover Photo Credit and Description	2
From the Editor	3
Geminid 2018 Report	4
Halifax Centre Showcase	5

**From the Editor** — 2018 is soon to be here and gone, and I dare say that overall it was a pretty good year with a lot of firsts for me. This publication marks the first full year that I have been the editor of Nova Notes and I hope you have all been enjoying reading it as I have had putting there last five editions together. I will be your editor for this calendar year as well and cannot wait to see all the wonder sketches, photos and reports that will fill these pages. There has certainly been a learning curve, for those who have never used Microsoft Publisher, it is quite the interesting system. Before Nova Notes, I have only really used the usual compliment of Microsoft Office's features, thank you again to Tony for giving me the low down to get me started.

It hasn't all been about Nova Notes though, I've been consistently observing, when it is possible given that this year for me anyway I found particularly cloudy and in August I got to lay eyes on my first comet. Now, of course when I say my first comet, it's not one that I discovered but nonetheless when I was using averted vision on that warm August night, battling the mosquitos that lay siege to any exposed piece of flesh they could try and chew on, the excitement I had might as well been that I discovered it. To see a comet had been something that I've always wanted to do. As a youngster, seeing photos of Halley's comet made me love those frozen dusty snowballs zooming around out there and seeing 26P through my 203mm manual Dobsonian was incredible.

Not to be outdone on my list of firsts by seeing a comet, this December that just past I got to experience another comet, the "Christmas Comet" is a term I heard and saw thrown around about it, and I think the name is quite fitting. It gathered a lot of attention, as was seen by the email discussion board throughout the month. Not only for the timing that the name "Christmas Comet" was appropriate, but given my geographical location, I have the some of the darkest skies in the province (not as dark as the skies at Keji, but it is the next level above it). My fiancé and I got to see 46P unaided in December. So I went from seeing my first comet, to seeing my first comet unaided all in one year, and I tell you, to me it was like opening a gift a Christmas. It was really cool to see!

This year should have a few more firsts, I am personally looking forward to the transit of Mercury in November and while I am certainly not wishing the days away. It will be a really exciting experience that I hope to be able to share.

In closing this last section of 2018, I look forward to seeing and hearing from you all in the new year. Keep those sketches, photos and articles coming and lets make 2019 a fantastic year for the RASC Halifax Centre.

- Charles

## Happy New Year

I would like to extend warm wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year. Let's hope that 2019 has some clearer skies than 2018.

**Nova Notes: The Newsletter of the Halifax Centre of the RASC**

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Nova Notes is published five times a year, in February, April, June/July, September/October and December.

**The deadline for the next edition is 23rd February 2019.**

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Halifax Centre.  
Articles on any aspect of astronomy and related activities will be considered for publication.

# 2018 Geminid Meteor Report

- Michael Boschat

Date :December 13-14,2018  
 Begin: 00:00 UT  
 End: 10:30 UT  
 Observer: Michael Boschat  
 Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 Lat: N 44d 39'  
 Long: W 63d 36m  
 Elev: 57m  
 Recording Method: Eye

Start	End	Teff	LM	GEM	SPO	Total	Cloud
00:00	01:00	1.00	4.5	1	0	1	0%
01:00	02:00	1.00	4.5	7	0	7	0%
02:00	03:00	1.00	4.5	4	0	4	0%
03:00	04:00	1.00	4.5	9	0	9	0%
04:00	05:00	1.00	4.5	8	0	8	0%
05:00	06:00	1.00	4.5	2	0	2	0%
06:00 09:00 SLEPT-----							
09:00	10:00	1.00	4.5	9	0	9	0%
10:00	10:30	1.00	4.5	6	0	6	0%
-----							
Total= 46							

Magnitudes:	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1
-----								
GEM	1	-	14	-	-	25	2	4
SPO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

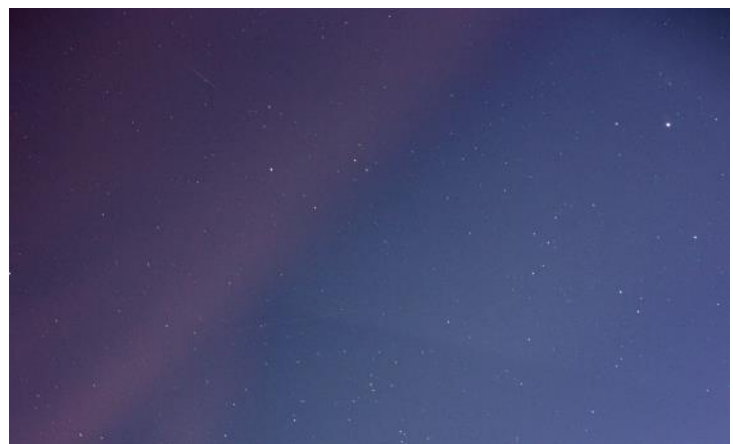
Average Magnitudes: GEM= -1.80  
 SPOR= -

Comments: From 0000 UT to 0130 UT I was observing & photographing out the south window of this apartment building, the window cannot be opened.

I was notified by the super that I had to move as my camera clicking was heard by other tenants. Thus my observing moved to my apartment with a north facing view.

I noted most Geminids were long and bright, and came in batches with moments of lull and no meteors. Similar to the Perseids. Of the 46 seen I caught 6 on camera photographing though my closed window.

In all it was an interesting shower.



Two photos taken during the Geminid meteor shower.  
 Top photo the meteor is identified with a G.  
 Bottom photo the meteor is the upper left corner.

## RASC Halifax Centre Highlights

Many thanks to all the members who participated in this edition of Nova Notes in the way of articles, but also to those who contributed to this now recurring part of the news letter where we get to show off the work and art that the RASC Halifax Centre members produce.

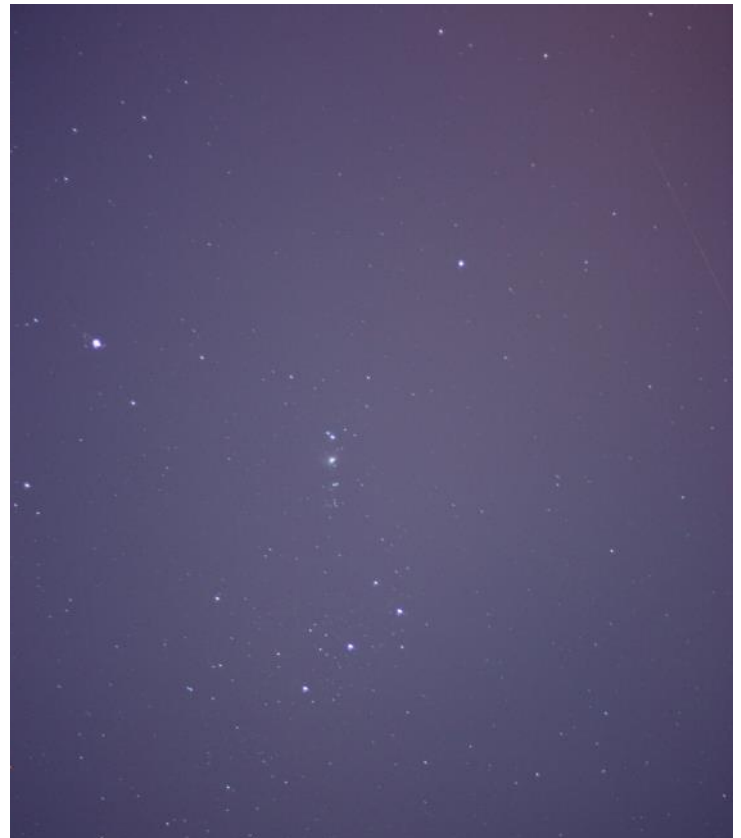
This months highlights, in order are:

Michael Boschat, A capture of a Geminid meteor during the shower this year (upper right corner).

Bruce Hamilton, A photo of comet 46P Wirtanen done on the 13th of December 2018

Melody Hamilton, A sketch of 46P Wirtanen done on the 13th of December, 2018

Thanks to everyone who submitted!





West deck Temp -6°C sl. breeze Dec 13/18

2330 hr. → 2400 hr

unaided eye observation.

Geminid Meteors.

46P Wirtanen

Alderaan

8

Pleiades

46P  
Wirtanen

# 6 out of field to west  
# 7 " " north

5