



Winnicentrics

The Journal of the Winnipeg Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada



Kevin Black took this picture of Comet Swan, which has now entered Hercules. It is an easy binocular object and under very dark sky you may be able to see it naked-eye. Full moon will be on November 5th, making it more difficult to see, then on November 8th we'll again start getting moonless periods after the end of twilight, but by then the comet should be fading.

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MEETINGS

Beginners Session 7:00pm

Regular Meeting 7:30pm

Room 118, St. John's College

Friday November 10

7:00-7:30 Beginner's session: Observing the Moon: Mike Stephens

7:30-7:40 Welcome and announcements

7:40-8:00 Visioning Discussion: Ron Berard and Gail Wise

8:00-8:10 What's Up: Jennifer West

8:10-8:30 What's New and posting Picture of the Month:
Jennifer West

8:30-8:50 Picture of the Month: Stan Runge – M33

8:55-9:50 Main Speaker: Kevin Black

Astrophotography in the Digital age: Kevin will review the recent developments in digital imaging that have rapidly changed the hobby of astrophotography.

Friday December 8

7:00-7:30 Beginner's session: Astronomical Events with Peter Toth

7:30-7:40 Welcome and announcements

7:40-8:00 Constellation of the Month: Gail Wise

8:00-8:10 What's Up: Jay Anderson

8:10-8:30 What's New and posting Picture of the Month:
Jennifer West

8:30-8:50 Picture of the Month: Speaker TBA

8:55-9:50 Main Speaker: Jennifer West

Digital Imaging in Astronomy

The days of photographic film are gone – astronomy today is digital. Digital images have opened a whole new world of possibilities in terms of enhancement and manipulation. In this presentation Jennifer will discuss some of the possibilities of digital images and present some general techniques that anyone can try using various processing packages. I will demonstrate these techniques with a versatile (and free!) image processing package called ImageJ. Originally developed for medical image processing, ImageJ is a great tool for many different imaging applications.

MEMBERS OBSERVING NIGHTS**Glenlea Observatory****Saturday November 18**

8:00 p.m till ???

Due to Remembrance day, our MON will be held the week after the Member's meeting.

Your hosts this month: Tim and Ron

Saturday December 9

8:00 p.m till ???

Your hosts this month: Peter and Gail

News in a minute . . .

At our meeting on October 13 we elected Tim Kennedy to the position of 2nd Vice-President and one new Councillor, Peter Toth. Welcome aboard!

Many thanks to Kevin Black for his work on Council for the past 3 years. He surely won't fade into the background though.

Congratulations to Gil Raineault on receiving his Messier Certificate at the October meeting!

Mike Stephens has completed observing all 110 Finest NGC objects. Way to go, Mike!

We have 3 new members

Garry Gillet, Winnipeg
Del Shand, The Pas
Terry Smith, Brandon

Welcome to our Club!

The Winnipeg Centre Executive Council

President
Ron Berard 668-6551
rcberard@mts.net
1st Vice-President
Gail Wise 794-2624
wgail@mts.net
2nd Vice-President
Tim Kennedy 269-0183
tajab@mts.net
Past-President
Lindsay Price 227-4684
flprice@mts.net
Secretary
Jay Anderson 474-1485
jander@cc.umanitoba.ca
Treasurer
Mike Stephens 832-0485
mikestephens@shaw.ca

Councillors

Marlene Wallace 999-7423
mtllwallace@hotmail.com
Stephen Smyth 999-4892
weatherwisentrentals@hotmail.com
Ralph Croning 885-4326
rcroning@mts.net
Nicole Choptain 255-5682
nicolewpg@shaw.ca
Ken Metcalfe 857-9843
metcalfe@cips.ca
Peter Toth 757-9300
peter_toth@pcs.mb.ca

Appointed Positions**Librarian**

Fred Wood 774-3238
fred_wood@shaw.ca

Observatory Director

Ray Andrejowich 667-6896
satur3@shaw.ca

Observatory Bookings

Kevin Black 224-0182
cblack@shaw.ca

Webmaster

Gord Tulloch
gtulloch@shaw.ca

Winnicentrics Editor

Gail Wise 794-2624
wgail@mts.net

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Winnicentrics is produced by and for the members of the Winnipeg Centre, and any opinions expressed are those of the author. If you have comments, questions or concerns about *Winnicentrics*, you can contact any of the councillors or write to RASC, Winnipeg Centre, Box 2694 Winnipeg MB R3C 4B3

President's Corner

I thought that it might be a good idea to start off my term by initiating a new feature in the "Winni". The idea is to try and keep the membership informed on the activities of the Executive and Council. The past few years has seen a number of changes. With Scott Young and Stan Runge becoming involved in a big way on National Council, we have a unique perspective on the issues that will affect our club locally well ahead of the curve. Add to that Jennifer West's contributions as National Representative, Jay Anderson's activities as Journal Editor, and we can see that Winnipeg Center has a significant voice at the National level. That makes it all the more important that our club is poised to take full advantage of our "connections". This means being clear on where we fit in the "big picture".

This fall, we will be holding a special "brainstorming" meeting of council, current *and* past members. This meeting is intended to be a visioning session, hosted at the Winnipeg Planetarium by Scott Young, himself a past President of our centre, and current National RASC President. The goal of this meeting is to develop a vision of what we would like the club to look like in 2 years, and into the foreseeable future. We would like to identify what barriers might be in the way of us achieving such a vision, and laying out an achievable plan as to how we can move towards its eventual realization.

Of course, we can't possibly develop a vision of the Winnipeg Centre's future without the input of the membership, so I have planned to hold a straw pole on November 10th, at our next Member's meeting. I'd like for all to contemplate on their own vision of what our club should look like and function like. I'd like to ask all of you to think in terms of how you might answer to the following questions:

What services/activities does the club offer that you currently use/participate in:

- Meetings
- Education
- Socializing
- Library
- Loaner scopes
- Glenea Observatory
- Star Parties
- Public Observing Events
- Winnicentrics
- Web site
- RASC email list
- Others...

What would you like to see more of?less of?

What else should the club be doing that it isn't already doing?

We will poll by show of hands how the membership scores these areas, and if all goes well, have time for discussion on the matter.

The information gathered, along with information from previous surveys, will serve to direct the participants of the visioning session in developing a vision and plan for the club. Hopefully, the outcome will be a clear vision statement and plan and should be published in the Winni and on the Web Site.

This Vision will in turn help direct the efforts of the executive and council, and that of all members who participate in the activities of the club. With clear goals, I hope to see that by the end of my tenure, in the fall of 2008, we will see a club even more active and vibrant than it already is now. My thanks again to Lindsay, and all current and outgoing council members for a job well done.

Ron Berard

Mr. Bud . . . does astronomy *by Murray Toews*



Members' Observing

The following members are working towards their:

Messier Certificates:

Eugene d'Auteuil	41
Murray Rennie	19
Lindsay Price	40
Kris Keller	68

Finest NGC's:

Sean Ceaser	70
Ray Andrejowich	107
Mike Stephens	110!!

Herschel 400's:

Stan Runge	178
Sean Ceaser	141
Mike Stephens	147

Explore the Universe:

Terra Jentsch	55
Stan Runge	13
Tim Kennedy	58
Judy Starr	22
Ray Starr	21
Eugene d'Auteuil	12
Murray Rennie	6
Sandy Shewchuk	47
Peter Toth	13

Isabel Williamson Lunar:

Mike Stephens	138
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If you are interested in using the Warm Room please contact Lindsay Price for a key (\$10.00 deposit required). If you would like training on the LX200 Lindsay will be running training sessions, but not on Members Observing Nights. You can contact him at 227-4684 or flprice@mts.net or talk to Lindsay at a meeting.

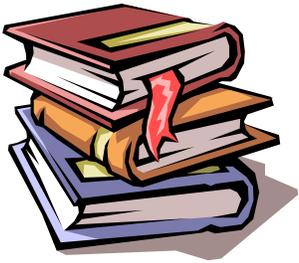
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The following members have completed their:

<u>Explore the Universe</u>	<u>Messier Certificates</u>	<u>Finest NGC's</u>
Gail Wise	Kevin Black	Kevin Black
Janet Pollock	Alan Sherlock	Stan Runge
Janice Low	Mike Stephens	Gail Wise
Mike Stephens	Gail Wise	
Lindsay Price	Ray Andrejowich	
Ralph Croning	Stan Runge	
	Berni Plett	
	Sean Ceaser	
	Mike Karakas	

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From the Library



Encyclopedia of Discovery Skywatching
Editors: Robert Burnham, Dr. John O'Byrne
Donated to the Winnipeg Centre by: Kris Keller
Reviewed by: F. Lindsay Price

Being an encyclopedia, this is, as one would expect, a handy reference where one can find quickly and easily the basic information on most of the things you might find (or want to find) in the universe. The book is organized into five areas: Probing the Universe, Observing the Sky, Star Charts, Starhopping Guide, and Exploring Space. This is followed by an extensive index and glossary. Being printed in only 2005, it is very much up to date. I found an article on the flight of the Chinese taikonaut launched on Shenzhou 5.

The articles are concise and written in easy to understand language, but present the sciences at a level high enough to provide new information even to those who have been doing amateur astronomy for some time. Printed on glossy paper the text is easy to read and it is beautifully and lavishly illustrated with full colour diagrams and photographs on almost every page.

Not a book to read from beginning to end, it is a quick reference book that is hard to put down once you found the information on whatever it was you first wanted. I can think of three groups who might want to borrow this book and then buy their own copy. Parents of kids who are starting to get interested in space, classroom teachers (or librarians), and those who give talks to groups. It puts a lot of data into one place, which can save much time looking through a library of books to get basic facts on several topics. It is valuable for both explaining astronomical and space sciences, and recent history and as a guide for observing with its sky charts, moon maps, and planetary descriptions. Having borrowed this for the purpose of writing this review, I kind of hate to return it.

Way to Go, Edmonton! *by Scott Young*

A big congratulations to the Edmonton Centre and their partners in pulling together the event at the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve dedication ceremony. It was a great day, with so many activities going on it was impossible to see everything. There was a series of talks by Rick Huziak, Alan Dyer, Warren Finlay, and others (sorry if I missed any names, I left my program at home!), kids' activities, a First Nations singer, programs from the Telus World of Science, solar observing, and a barbecue, all set inside beautiful Elk Island National Park.

As darkness fell we were treated to a beautiful sunset over the lake, and a glorious moon rise over the field of telescopes. In the growing darkness you could hear the squeals of delight as children of all ages discovered the Moon or got their first view of the planet Jupiter.

The dedication was signed by the three partners - RASC, the Province of Alberta, and Parks Canada on behalf of the Federal Government. Apparently there are other areas nearby which are almost ready to be designated as DSPs as well.

Great job to the team of volunteers in Edmonton - too many to name, but they know who they are. Sherrilyn Jahrig, Bruce McCurdy, Orla Aquist, and the rest of the team should be proud, not only for a job well done but for getting a dark-sky preserve dedicated. These events bring light pollution into the public's consciousness, and provide ammunition to those who are aiming for lighting regulations in their communities.

Well done!

