Winnicentrics

Newsletter of the Winnipeg Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Upcoming events

UM Observatory and Planetarium Open House:
February 5, 2015
5:35-7:35pm

Next meeting:
February 13, 2015
7-10pm

UM Observatory and Planetarium Open House:
March 5, 2015
6:15-8:15pm

March Meeting:
March 13, 2015
7-10pm

UM Observatory and Planetarium Open House:
April 2, 2015
8-9pm

April Meeting:
April 10, 2015
7-10om

May Meeting:
May 8, 2015
7-10pm

Spruce Woods Star Party 2015
End of the summer
At Spruce Woods Provincial Park
Sept. 10-13, 2015

Happy Valentine's Day

February Meeting Schedule

7:00 – 7:30 pm	Beginner's Session;
7:30 – 8:30 pm	What's Up? - a review of upcoming events in the sky;
	What's New? - a summary of new findings in astronomy;
8:30 – 9:00 pm	Break for Refreshments;
9:00 – 10:00 pm	Astrophysical Plasmas - from Peaceful Auroras to Outrageous Explosions.

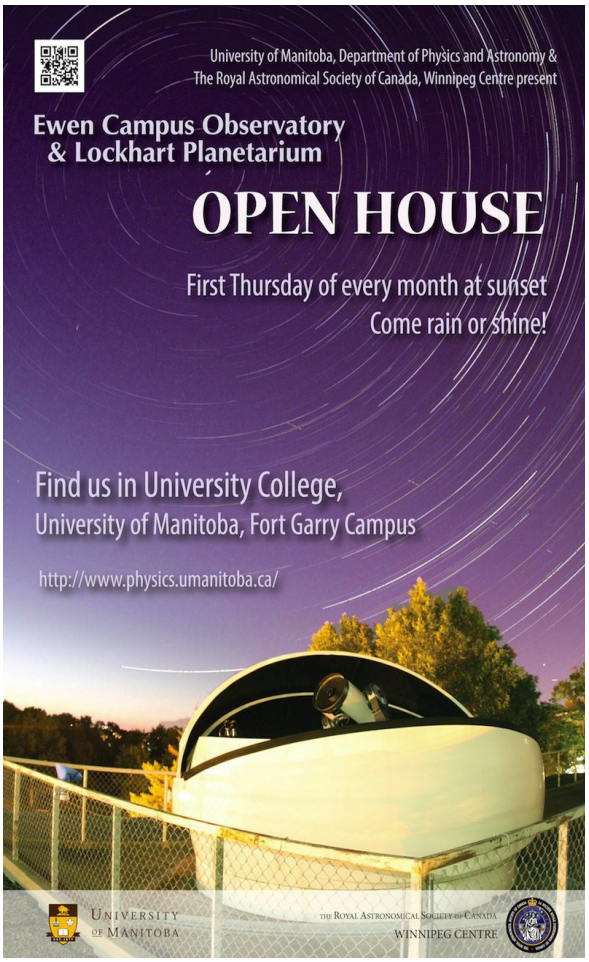
Presented by Mohammed Hussein, University of Manitoba. Plasmas play a role in solar explosions, coronal mass ejections, cosmic rays, auroras, and many other terrestrial and astronomical events. Just where and how will be explained by Mohammed Husssin as he outlines just what is a plasma and how are they are related to charged particles and electro-magnetic fields.

After the Meeting: Pizza at "The Hub" in University Centre.

Regular meetings of the Winnipeg Centre are held in the Robert B. Schultz lecture theatre in St. John's College at the University of Manitoba. The theatre is on the lower (basement) floor of the College. Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. and ending around 10. After the meetings, members who wish to do so usually retire to "The Hub" in University Centre for more conversation about astronomical subjects.

Meetings begin with a half-hour Beginner's Session and then go on to the regular meeting, though, in fact, the Beginner's Sessions are popular with the whole of the Centre's members. After an hour, the meeting usually breaks for a half-hour for coffee and cookies, resuming, about 9, with a main speaker or event.

The June meeting is not held at St. John's College but is instead a barbeque at either a member's house or at Glenlea. Meeting dates and meeting places may be adjusted during exam times and during Bomber home games or stadium events.



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Upcoming events

February 3, 2015
Full Moon

February 6, 2015
Jupiter at opposition

February 18, 2015
New Moon

February 19, 2015
Large tides

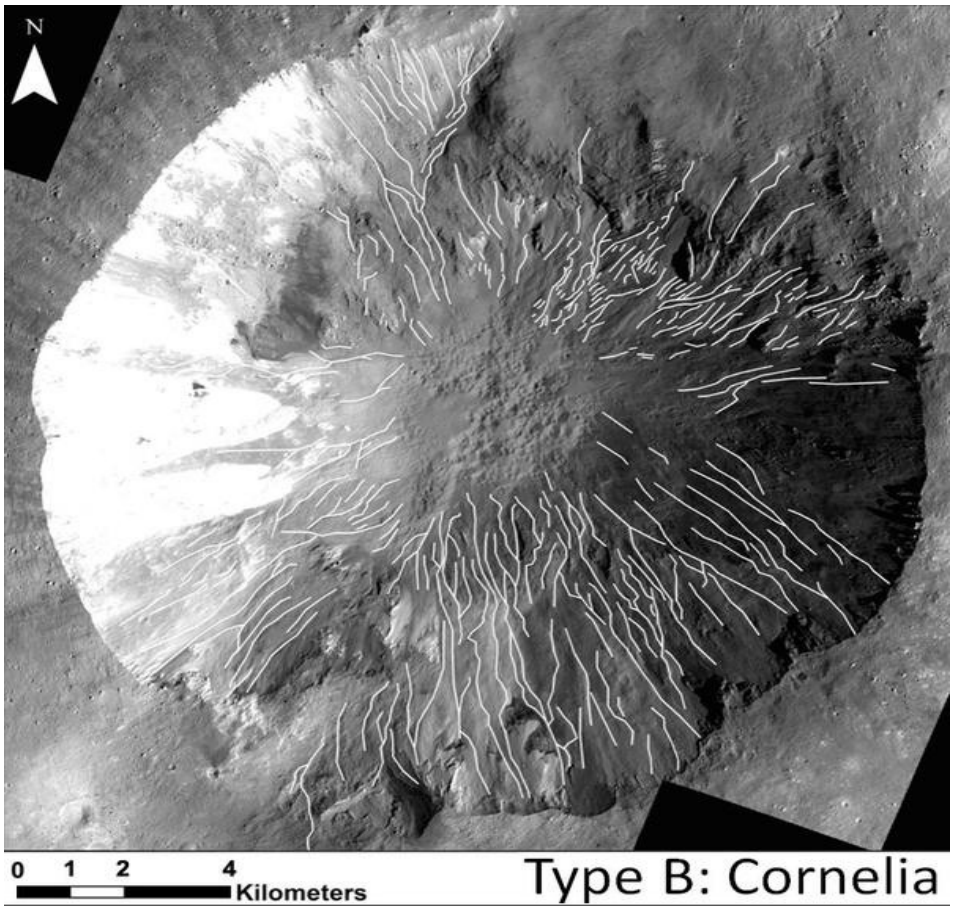
February 24, 2015
Mercury's favourable morning visibility

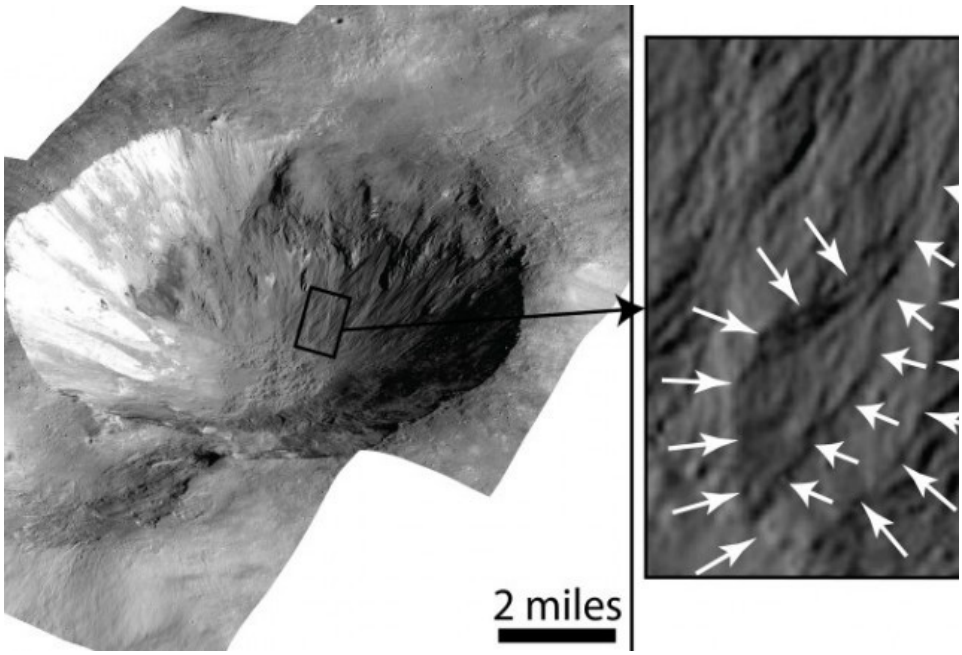
February 25, 2015
First Quarter Moon

February 26, 2015
Double shadow transit on Jupiter

Dawn discovered water on Vesta. Linear and curvilinear gullies on Vesta were found. These gullies are on average 100 feet and 3,000 feet long. In the Cornelia Crater (shown) the gullies interconnect and end in fan-shaped deposits. The team studying the photographs estimate that the proportion of water in the flow is approximately 30%. Other gullies have been attributed to escaping gasses. *Dawn* also detected signs of an ancient magnetic core. The white lines in the top photo highlight the gullies. The arrows in the bottom right photo highlight the curves.

http://www.iflscience.com/space/claims-vesta-once-had-water





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March 4, 2015
Venus's conjunction with Uranus

March 5, 2015
Full Moon

March 8, 2015
Daylight Savings Time

March 9, 2015
Juno stationary

March 13, 2015
Moon's Last Quarter

March 19, 2015
Large tides

March 20, 2015
New Moon
Total Solar Eclipse

March 27, 2015
First Quarter

NASA suborbital sounding rockets were launched from Alaska into auroras to explore the atmosphere's response to auroral, radiation belt and solar energetic particles and associated effects on nitric oxide and ozone.

http://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/m-tex-and-mist-launch/#.VMf7fSxjLyM

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Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra pre-concert panel: Architecture as Energy and Space. 6:30 pm Tuesday, February 3, 2015, Piano Mobile. http://centennialconcerthall.com/2014/12/wnmf4-crossing-ground

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Ace Art Gallery Panel with UM astronomers (Gilles Ferrand & Jayanne English) - in discussion with February's exhibiting artist, Fiona Annis whose work Outlines of Astronomy is inspired by supernovae. 3pm, Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 250 Allen Physics Building. Tentative title: "A discussion regarding art and astronomy- intersections & oppositions". Open house at the Lockhart Planetarium and Ewen Telescope to follow. http://www.aceart.org/outlines-of-astronomy

This photo of the asteroid Lovejoy and M45 using a Canon 5D MkIII with a 135mm f2.0 lens at f2.8, ISO 1600 and a 2.5 minute exposures. Sheila did the stacking and processing.

Photo by: Sheila Wiwchar & Steve Altstadt (Winnipeg)

In late January, an asteroid (2004 BL86) passed by the Earth by 1.2 million km. This asteroid has a moon that is approximately 70m wide. On January 26, 2015 at 8:19 am PST, this asteroid made its closest approach to the earth at an estimated distance of 1.2 million km. This radar images was used by NASA's 70-meter Deep Space Network antenna at Goldstone, California.

http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?feature=4459

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Visionary Conversations: Popular Science: Has Innovation Caught Up With Imagination? (6:30pm reception) 7pm Wednesday, January 21, 2015, Robert Schultz Theatre, St. John's College, University of Manitoba.

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/vp_external/government_community/visionaryconversations/jan2015.html

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Cosmos vs Canvas: Image-making Workshop 1-4pm, Saturday, Feb. 7, Western Canada Aviation Museum. Also astronomy images from the Dept of P&A will be exhibited for the Canadian Space Society's "Revolutions" art exhibit at WCAM.

http://www.css.ca/home/about-css/society-chapters/winnipeg-chapter/637-exciting-space-workshops-at-the-wcam.html

http://www.wcam.mb.ca/5254/revolutions-the-inexplorable-evolution-of-art-from-january-15-to-march-15-2015/Revolutions

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January Elections

Winnipeg Centre elections were held at the January meeting. The positions of President, Vice-President, and several Council positions were open. In addition to the formal positions, there were several other task-related duties for which members have volunteered and which were confirmed by Council agreement. These include observatory manager, web manager, *Winnicentrics* editor, loaner-scope administrator, and new-member liaison. Candidates for executive office are elected for 2-year terms, councillors for 3-year terms, with limits on the number of terms in each position for which an individual can be elected. Positions for Treasurer and Secretary are elected but have unrestricted tenures.