Winnicentrics

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

March Meeting Schedule

7:00 – 7:30 pm Beginner's Session – Gerry Smerchanski: The celestial sphere, its apparent motion and the basis for the sky's coordinate system

7:30 – 8:30 pm What's Up? - Jay Anderson: a review of upcoming events in the sky;

What's New? - Gilles Ferranda: summary of new findings in astronomy;

Hunting Messier – Stan Runge;

Constelation of the Month – Gail Wise: The Irishman in the sky;

8:30 – 9:00 pm Break for Refreshments;

9:00 – 10:00 pm Supercolliders - Supernova remnants and how they are connected to our galaxy. Jennifer West will describe her PhD research, which investigates the magnetic fields of supernova remnants and how they are connected to the magnetic field of our Galaxy. Understanding the nature of the magnetic fields is critical to understanding the extreme processes that produce cosmic rays. The explosion of a star, or supernova, is one of the most extreme events in the universe, responsible for creating the heavy elements essential for life. The resulting fast moving shock wave, the supernova remnant, produces super high-energy particles called cosmic rays.

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 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. After the meetings, members who wish to do so usually retire to "The Hub" in University Centre for more conversation about astronomical subjects.

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.

Upcoming events

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 21, 2015
Messier Marathon

March 27, 2015
First Quarter

"Lots of ice crystals floating around at sunrise. Was too busy measuring the snowfall to grab the camera before the sun came up, you could see the pillar above the sun a minute or two before it rose... crystals must have been dispersed high in the atmosphere.” February 11.

Photo by: Gordon L Snarr (Winnipeg)

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Aurora Borealis in Manitoba

Upcoming events

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

April 4, 2015
Full Moon

April 6, 2015
Uranus in conjunction with the sun

April 8, 2015
Jupiter stationary

April 10, 2015
Mercury at superior conjunction
RASC Monthly Meeting

April 17, 2015
Pluto stationary

April 18, 2015
New Moon

April 25, 2015
First Quarter

Photo above right: Aurora Borealis in Birdshill Provincial Park March 1.

Photo by: Sheila Wiwchar (Winnipeg)

Photo Right:

Aurora Borealis in Beaudy Park around 12:30am on February 28.

Photo by: Judy Anderson (Winnipeg)

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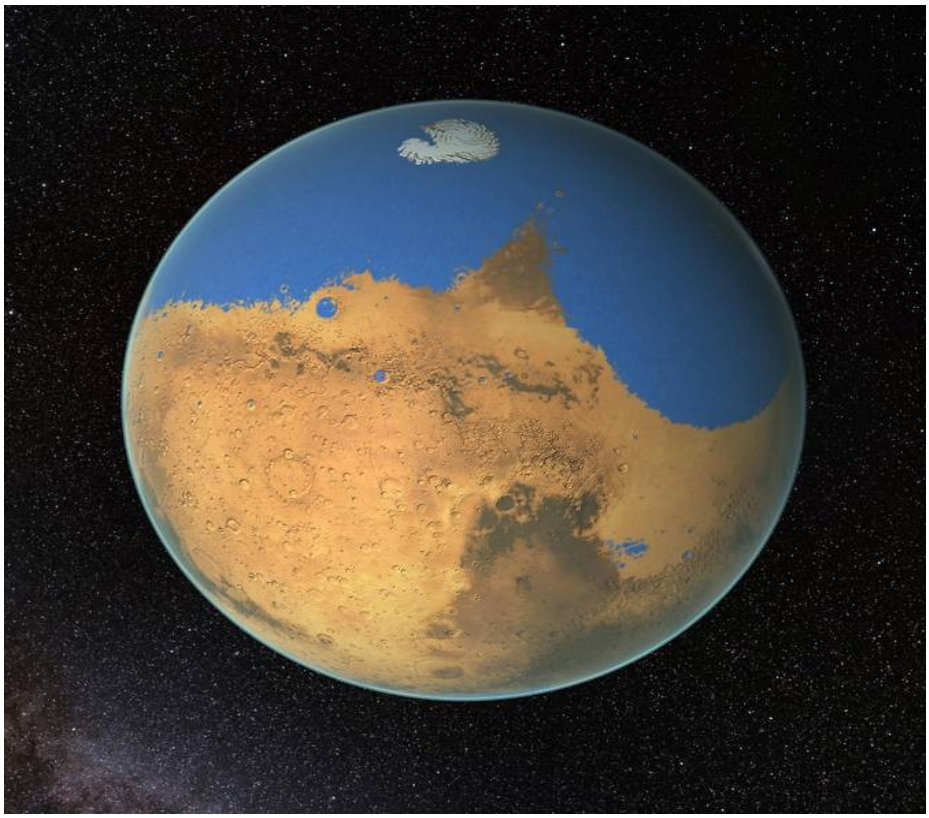
NASA scientists measured water signatures in the Mars atmosphere to discover why the ground based water disappeared. Observation made at the European Southern Observatory's Telescope in Chile and the W.M. Keck Observatory and NASA Infrared Telescope Facility in Hawaii have distinguished the chemical signatures of two different types of water. One is the familiar H2O and the other is HDO. HDO is a naturally occurring variation of H2O where one hydrogen is replaced by a heavier form called deuterium. The amount of water suggests that the planet was habitable for a long period of time.

http://www.nasa.gov/press/2015/march/nasa-research-suggests-mars-once-had-more-water-than-earth-s-arctic-ocean/

For more information on Mars see the link below.

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/mars/main/index.html



On Febrary 24, NASA's Curiosity Mars Rover mini-drill discovers grey under the red soil of Mars at Mount Sharp. The extended Curiosity mission is examing layer of the mountain to discover the geologic history of how wet environments on Mars evolved into drier environments.

http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?feature=4492

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Light pillars in La Barrier Park. February 16.

Photo by: Sheila Wiwchar (Winnipeg)

This year's Messier Marathon is on March 21

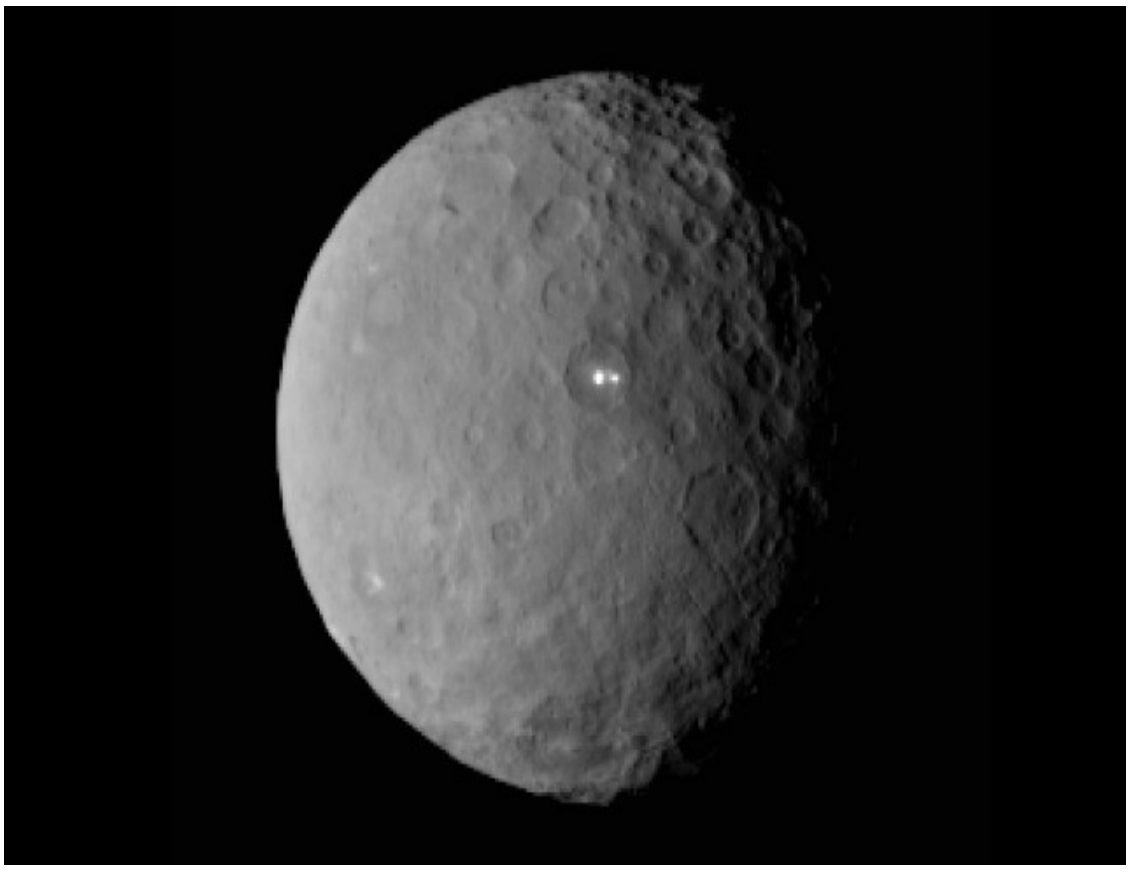
http://messier.seds.org/xtra/marathon/marathon.html

On February 19, NASA"s Dawn spacecraft shows that the dwarf planet Ceres has 2 bright spots located in the same basin. Being in the same basin may lead to this being a volcano like origin.

http://www.nasa.gov/jpl/dawn/bright-spot-on-ceres-has-dimmer-companion/

For more information on NASA"s dawn mission see link below.

http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/



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5 min exp at iso 800 of comet lovejoy Q2. February 12.

Photo by: Doug Moug (Winnipeg)

Venus, Mars, and the Moon. February 20.

Photo by: Kevin Galka (Winnipeg)

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