Winnicentrics

Newsletter of the RASC Winnipeg Centre

July/August 2025

Spruce Woods Star Party: Aug. 22-24, 2025
Spruce Woods Dark Sky Preserve

Image: Judy Anderson

The annual Spruce Woods Star Party (SWSP) is the Centre's biggest event for members and their families. Held under the dark skies of Manitoba's first Dark Sky Preserve in Spruce Woods Provincial Park south of Brandon, SWSP is an opportunity for members and their families to camp with fellow astronomy enthusiasts and enjoy a chance to socialize, learn, and share knowledge and experience with each other.

The event itself is held in the alfalfa field adjacent to the winter use area at Kiche Manitou (Spruce Woods) Campground. There is no power, so you must bring in any power you need. Generators may not be used between 11 p.m. and 9 a.m. (consistent with the rest of the park). They may not be used if the member or immediate family is not present on the site, and continuous generator use during the day is not allowed. There is a cabin we have access to where you can plug your electronic devices in to recharge.

Washroom facilities are on-site in the camping field (porta-potties); flush toilets and coin-op showers are about a ten minute walk away. If you arrive after dark, you must wait at the winter use area gate for a volunteer to escort you to your site, as we don't want your headlights ruining anyone's night *(continued on page 5)*

Events at a Glance

Friday, Jul. 11, 2025: Annual BBQ

Meet at Glenlea Astronomical Observatory for an evening of food, fun, and observing. (See page 3)

Friday, Aug. 8, 2025: Monthly Meeting
Featured Speaker: Dr. Abby Azari of the University of Alberta (see page 4)

Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025: Members' Observing Night
Glenlea Observatory, 9:00pm start (see page 4)

Friday, Aug. 22 through Sunday, Aug. 24, 2025: Spruce Woods Star Party

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Forums: rascwpg.groups.io
(For details on how to use the forums and join the various subgroups, see page xx.)

Winnicentrics is published six times a year by the members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Winnipeg Centre, Incorporated. Any opinions expressed are those of the authour(s).

Submissions or comments can be sent to newsletter@winnipeg.rasc.ca.

The President's Corner

by Mark Irvine, Winnipeg Centre President (president@winnipeg.rasc.ca)

Hello Winnipeg Centre;

As I sit to write the summer message for Winnipeg Centre, our **annual Barbeque** is quickly approaching on July 11th (*see page 3),* and with the passage of the summer solstice we are now in full summer observing mode. While the temperature is the most cooperative, our skies never fully darken at our latitude. However, this shouldn't deter us from enjoying the night sky.

The summer's treats are presented for us in one of our **most-prized benefits of membership**, the annual *Observer's Handbook*. On page 94, "The Sky Month by Month" for July is documented for us by the late Bruce McCurdy, Larry Bogan, Patrick Kelly, James Edgar, and Alister Ling.

One example occurs on July 5th, when Mercury reaches its greatest eastern elongation and will be furthest from the sun. If you've never seen Mercury before, this is a good opportunity. Wait until 30 minutes after sunset, and look to the west-southwestern horizon about 5 degrees above the horizon.

Also as a member, we can all enjoy our wonderful observing site at Glenlea *(see map on page 15).* The site, now 49 years young, welcomes Centre members with a concrete observing pad, a warm room, toilet, and of course the observatory dome and our Meade LX200 12" Schmidt Cassegrain Telescope.

Something to remember for members visiting Glenlea who identify maintenance items that need addressing or any other equipment problems, we have a new email notification address: **OBS_Maintenance@Winnipeg.RASC.ca**. Please send us a quick note to this address if you happen to notice maintenance issues, missing equipment ,or any other site-related issues at Glenlea. This is a distributed email address to let your Observatory maintenance volunteers know about repairs or maintenance requirements.

Also, we can always use **volunteer lawn mowers**! If you're interested in helping us out with this, please just send us a note to the OBS_Maintenance@Winnipeg.RASC.Ca address. We have both gas and electric push mowers stored onsite. Trimmed and well-groomed grounds just make the site feel friendlier!

In other news, there is a terrific **outreach opportunity** with the "On the Move Inc." Daycare at Carpathia School on August 15th from 9:30 a.m. to noon. If you're interested in helping to spark a child's interest in astronomy, this is a great opportunity. Please let us know on our Facebook page or in person if you are interested in helping with a telescope or presentation.

We are looking forward to our upcoming **Spruce Woods Star Party** this year from August 22 – 24, 2025, registration is now open at swsp2025.eventbrite.ca.

If you're **interested in getting more involved** with the Centre check the website or Facebook page and leave us a message or just speak to any Council member at the regular meetings, or send me a note at President@Winnipeg.RASC.ca.

Thanks, and Clear skies!

Mark

July 2025 Centre Events

Annual BBQ @ Glenlea

Friday, July 11, 2025—6 p.m. start

(rain date Friday, July 18, 2025)

July's Annual BBQ is a Winnipeg Centre tradition that dates back decades. Council will provide some barbecues for cooking. Bring food for yourself or for sharing. A shade tent will be available, but please dress for the weather as the event is held outdoors.

After dinner and the Presidential Watermelon, we will stay for observing if the sky is clear. The Moon will rise at dusk but the waxing gibbous phase will keep it very low in the south.

In case of poor weather, the event will be postponed on social media and by an email through the groups.io announcement email list. Check before you go!

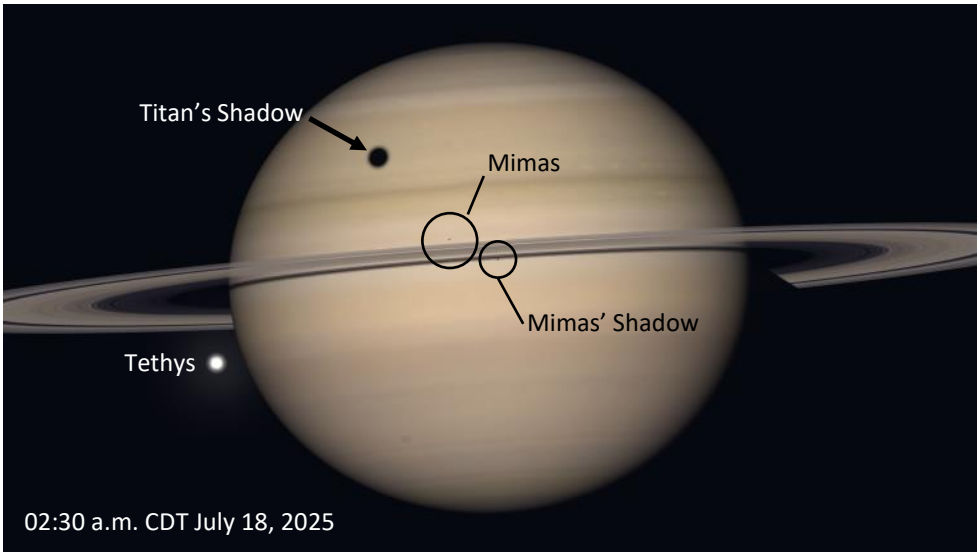
Tuesday, July 1, 2025 (11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.): Canada Day at Assiniboine Park

The Winnipeg Centre will set up solar telescopes as part of the Canada Day festivities at Assiniboine Park. We will be set up near the Cargo Bar and Duck Pond. If you can volunteer to bring a telescope please contact Wing Kwong at wkwong88@gmail.com.

July Sky Highlights

⇒ **Saturn** rises after midnight and **Venus** dominates the morning sky, while **Mercury** rises briefly above the western horizon, visible very low after sunset for a few days surrounding its July 5th greatest elongation from the Sun.

⇒ **Titan Transit:** A challenging visual or imaging target: Saturn's largest moon, **Titan**, casts its shadow onto the cloudtops of the ringed planet on the morning of July 18th. The Titan transit begins about 1:45 a.m. Central Daylight Time and is the best one yet this year. Technically, the moon Mimas also casts its shadow onto the planet beginning about 2:10 a.m. CDT, and Mimas itself transits Saturn beginning about 2:30 a.m. CDT. Both will be tough to spot. See article on page XX.



August 2025 Centre Events

Monthly Meeting Friday, August 8, 2025	Regular meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month in the **Robert B. Schultz Lecture Theatre in St. John's College, 92 Dysart Road, on the University of Manitoba's Fort Garry Campus**. To find the Theatre, enter through the front door and go down the stairs to the left, then turn right and go down the hall until you reach the large open area with tables. The Schultz Theatre is on the right. Regular meetings are "hybrid" meetings, with both in-person and online participation available. Members receive a meeting invitation with the Zoom link from the "rasc-main" forum on Groups.IO. The meetings are also live-streamed and archived on the Centre's YouTube channel at RASC Winnipeg.
7:00 p.m. Beginner's Session— gAIL Wise 7:30 p.m. Short Presentations • Mark Irvine, Welcome & Announcements • What's Up—Jay Anderson • Member Show & Tell • Social Break 8:30 p.m. Featured Speaker: Dr. Abby Azari of the University of Alberta. Dr. Azari's work focuses on the use of machine intelligence for scientific discovery in space science and exploration. After the meeting, members are invited to retire to Boston Pizza on Pembina Highway south of Bison Drive for an informal social gathering.	

Saturday, August 9, 2025: Members' Observing Night at Glenlea

Start time 9:00p.m. Monthly observing night for members. Bring your own binoculars or telescope, or use the Centre's 12" LX200 in the dome. The event will run cloudy or clear. Hosted this month by Scott Young.

Friday, August 15, 2025: "On The Move" Daycare outreach program

We're visiting this daycare with solar telescopes and astronomy presentations for young kids. Volunteers needs, please contact Wing Kwong at wkwong88@gmail.com.

Friday, August 22 through Sunday, August 24, 2025: Spruce Woods Star Party

The Centre's biggest event of the year! See details on page 1.

August 2025 Sky Highlights

⇒ The annual **Perseid meteor shower** peaks in the early morning hours of Tuesday, August 12. The waning gibbous moon will interfere but observers can expect to see 20-40 meteors an hour in the hours before dawn. Decent results can occur a few days on either side of the peak.

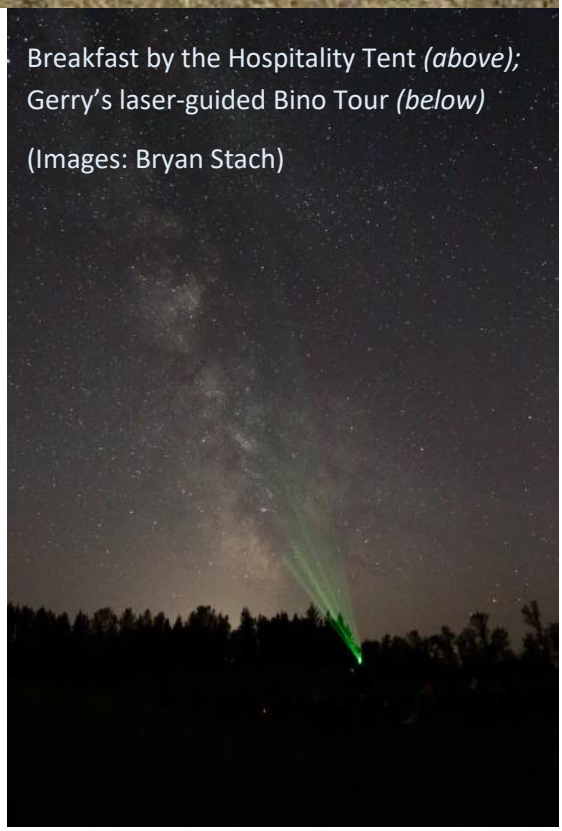
⇒ **Jupiter** and **Venus** are closest together in the morning sky on August 12th (and still close for a few days on either side of this date). The waning crescent **Moon** joins the pair on the morning of August 20th.

⇒ There are **Titan transits of Saturn** on the mornings of August 3, August 19, and September 3rd. See the article on page 7.

Spruce Woods Star Party (*continued from page 1)* vision or images, or you driving off the cliff. Pets are unfortunately not allowed at the SWSP (sorry fellow animal lovers). Cliffs are high and dogs can't fly, and no one wants your puppy lifting a leg next to their tripod!

The price is only $40 per person for 13 years of age and up, and includes 2 nights of camping in the field, the pancake breakfast on Sunday morning, and a commemorative pin. Family members aged 12 and under are free, but please purchase a "free" ticket for them as this will give us an idea of how much food to purchase for the wrap-up pancake breakfast (included in the price). Also included are Gerry Smerchanski's legendary binocular tour, a presentation by Scott Young, the group telescope tour (we go from site to site and everyone talks about what gear they are using), the swap meet, access to the hospitality tent, and access to all of the other park areas such as the beach. (Note that no provincial park pass is required for park access this year.) There is also informal solar viewing during the day, where participants often set up their solar telescopes in the field. At night, feel free to wander over and visit with other observers who are usually more than willing to let you peek through their eyepieces.

Refunds are available up to one week before the event. Registration



Breakfast by the Hospitality Tent *(above);* Gerry's laser-guided Bino Tour *(below)*

(Images: Bryan Stach)

SWSP 2025 Schedule of Events

Friday, August 22nd

- Registration open at 2 pm
- Meet & Greet / Announcements at 6 p.m.
- Gerry Smerchanski's Bino Tour (at dark)
- Observing (dusk to dawn)

Saturday, August 23nd

- Morning Announcements
- Solar Viewing (all day, weather permitting)
- Presentation by Scott Young at 1 p.m.
- Swap Meet at 3 p.m.
- Telescope Tour at 7 p.m.
- Gerry Smerchanski's Bino Tour (at dark—rain date)
- Observing (dusk to dawn)

Sunday, August 24th

- Morning Announcements
- Pancake Breakfast
- Group Photo and Prize Raffle
- Tear-down by 2 p.m.
- Final walk-through

The Telescope Tour lets everyone show off the gear they brought. ***(Image: Bryan Stach)***

can be done at the site (cash only) but registering in advance lets us plan for your arrival better. Picnic tables are provided in limited quantity so bring foldable tables and chairs if desired. No individual campfires are allowed, though we will often have one if the skies are overcast. Bring snacks and conversation!

There are so many new ways to do astronomy now including phones, laptops, iPads etc. Before using these devices in the dark make sure they are in red mode or are covered with red film -no worries, we have a limited supply of it at the hospitality tent. If you forget, come by to cover all your white lights in your car and on your screens... and don't think people won't notice, this is the major complaint we get from members at star parties!

Get your 2025 SWSP tickets at swsp2025.eventbrite.ca now. Hope to see you there!

- Your Spruce Woods Star Party Committee

Centre Member Benefits

As a paid member in good standing of the RASC Winnipeg Centre, you receive a number of benefits from the local group in addition to any benefits that come from the national Society. These include:

Access to the **Glenlea Observatory**, which features a 12" Meade LX200 computer-controlled telescope under a dome, a 14.5" truss-tube Dobsonian reflector, a composting toilet, and a warm room. There's also a concrete observing pad with power hook-ups to set up your own telescope.

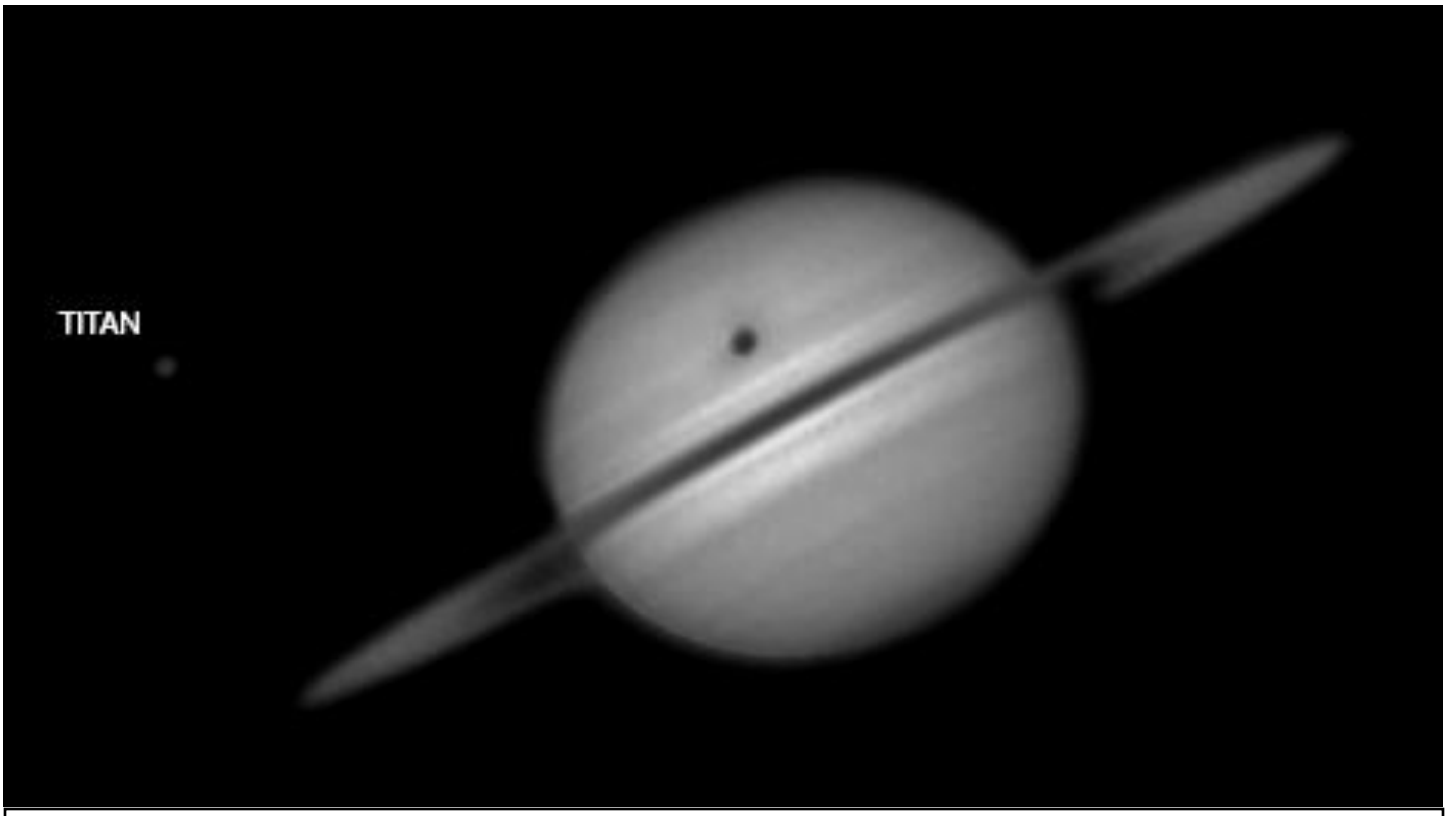
Telescope Lending Library: The Centre also has a number of portable telescopes that members can borrow. Speak to Mike Karakas at a meeting to see what is available.

Online Forums: The Centre has a series of Forums on Groups.io (see page 14)

Shadow Transits of Saturn

by Scott Young

Every 15 years, Saturn reaches a point in its orbit around the Sun where its rings appear edge-on as seen from Earth. Since Saturn is best known for its rings, this sometimes means we don't pay attention to the most distant naked-eye planet. Most of Saturn's moons orbit in the plane of the rings as well, which means that during these ring-plane crossings, Saturn's moons will appear to transit the planet and cast their shadows onto its cloud tops.



One of Winnipeg Centre's foremost planetary imagers, **Mike Karakas** captured the July 2, 2025 Titan shadow transit with his Celestron 11" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Titan itself can be seen at left.

We're familiar with moon transits and shadow transits on Jupiter, since it happens all the time. Jupiter's four largest moons continually cross in front of and behind the planet, providing an ever-changing dance of bright and dark dots across its surface. That's because Jupiter's north pole is only tilted about three degrees away from "straight up" relative to its orbit. Saturn is titled more than 26 degrees, and so during most of its 29.45-year orbit, the moons are visible above and below Saturn. But right now, Saturn's moons are crossing the planet regularly, and you can see it happen with some effort.

Why So Small?

Here's the thing: Saturn is also farther away than Jupiter, so its moons appear smaller and cast smaller shadows. Of all of Saturn's 247 known moons, only Titan is large enough to be moderately easy to spot. I've listed four events here, all based around Titan shadow transits, but a little work with your favorite planetarium program like Stellarium will give you all sorts of events you can try for. You can spot them visually if you have good seeing conditions and a well-aligned telescope, but they'll be easier to see using the "lucky imaging" planetary techniques that Winnipeg Centre member Mike Karakas described in his November 2024 presentation (archived on the Centre's

YouTube site.) Use the highest magnification that you can, but don't use too much—a bigger image doesn't help if the turbulence gets magnified more than the detail. You'll have to experiment. For imagers, mono cameras with a red filter will have an advantage in clarity over colour imagers, but use what you have.

Morning of July 18th: Titan shadow with Mimas shadow and transit

Our first event occurs on the morning of July 18th (see image on page 3). (All of these events are early morning events due to Saturn's position in our night sky at the moment.) Titan is the bright "star" closest to Saturn in your telescope, outshining all of the others by several magnitudes. Titan's shadow begins to creep onto the planet's disk about 1:45 a.m. CDT, and takes about 15 minutes to fully enter the disk. The view will improve as Saturn rises higher, since you'll be looking through less atmosphere and have less turbulence. Titan's shadow will remain on the planet past sunrise, so your best view will likely be just before dawn when Saturn is at its highest.

While the moon Mimas and its shadow are also on the planet's disk from 2:30 a.m. and 2:10 a.m. respectively, they are both very small. Mimas is located just above the ring but will have low contrast with the planet; Mimas' shadow will be higher contrast but nearly overlaps with the narrow shadow of the rings on the planet. Neither are likely to be easily observable.

Morning of August 3rd: Titan shadow with Mimas shadow and transit

(See Figure 1.) This morning's events begin with three moons very close to the planet. To the west is Dionne, which has just finished transiting the planet (underway before Saturn-rise here in Winnipeg). To the east is Enceladus (fainter) and Tethys (brighter), both about to begin transits. Titan is to the northeast, again the brightest object near Saturn.

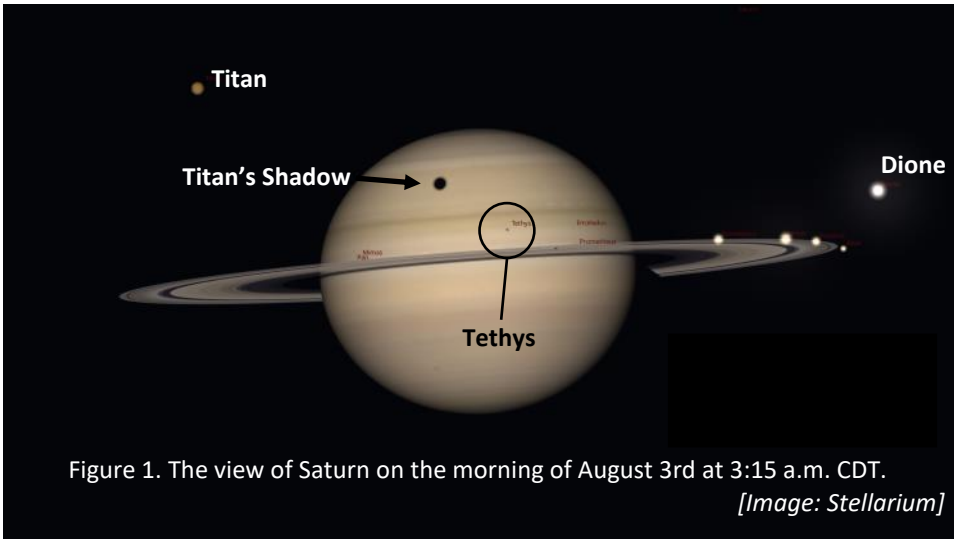


Figure 1. The view of Saturn on the morning of August 3rd at 3:15 a.m. CDT. *[Image: Stellarium]*

Tethys' shadow actually begins its transit first, a few minutes before 1 a.m. CDT. Tethys' shadow is large enough and high-contrast enough to be detectable, except that it appears right along the edge of the rings as they cross the planet. This will likely reduce contrast and make it hard to spot. Titan's shadow enters about 1:08 a.m. CDT, followed in rapid succession by the moons Enceladus and Tethys. Enceladus is lessa than 0.1" across and so it will be a challenge to detect unless youa re routinely imaging Saturn at very high resolution, but Tethys is twice as large and may be detectable. Again, good seeing and lucky imaging will produce the best results. About

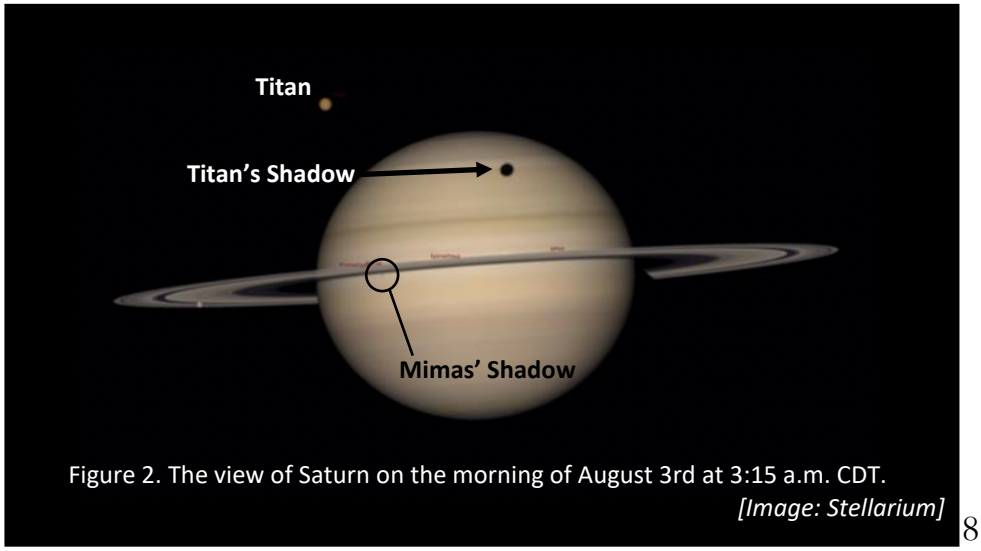


Figure 2. The view of Saturn on the morning of August 3rd at 3:15 a.m. CDT. *[Image: Stellarium]*

3:30 a.m. CDT, Titan's shadow will be midway across Saturn's disk, Tethys will be well-placed, and Saturn will be 35 degrees in altitude and out of the turbulent air near the horizon. The Titan shadow transit ends as the sun rises.

Morning of August 19th: Titan shadow (maybe with Mimas?)

(See Figure 2.) Today's event is probably "just" a Titan transit, since the only other moons involved are likely too small to spot. Titan's shadow transit begins about 12:33 a.m. CDT, when Saturn is already 25 degrees up—perhaps our first chance to get a decent view of the "partial" phase of Titan's solar eclipse. Mimas' shadow enters about 3:15 a.m. CDT followed by Mimas itself about 15 minutes later, but as before these tiny objects are located very near the rings and will likely be invisible. Saturn reaches its highest altitude of nearly 40 degrees about 3:44 a.m. CDT, while Titan's shadow is still well-placed for viewing. This is a good time to take a peek to see if you can spot it visually.

Morning of September 4th: Titan shadow with Tethys

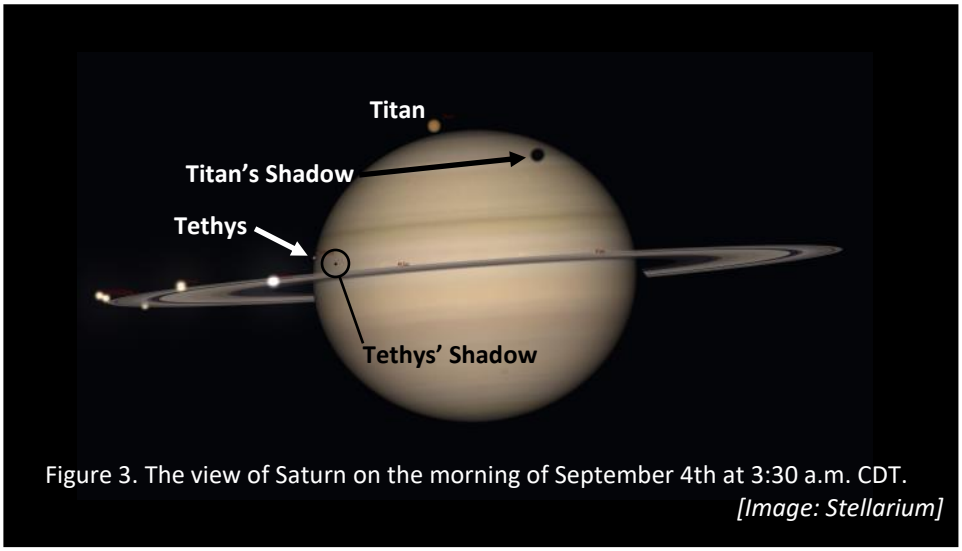


Figure 3. The view of Saturn on the morning of September 4th at 3:30 a.m. CDT. *[Image: Stellarium]*

(See Figure 3.) Finally, a Titan shadow transit that starts before midnight! Well, maybe only by a few seconds, but still. Saturn is nearly 30 degrees up when Titan's shadow begins to enter the disk of the planet. Titan's shadow is farther north than in previous events, which means that it takes longer to fully enter the planet's disk (nearly 30 minuets). At its highest around 2:37 a.m. CDT, Titan's shadow will be near the top of Saturn's disk, with the moon itself passing just above the planet from our point of view. Tethys's shadow joins about 3:15 a.m. CDT, and finally it is far enough away from the rings to perhaps be spotted. Tethys begins its transit about 3:30 a.m. CDT, and Titan just skims the top of Saturn's visible disk about 4 a.m. CDT. Probably your best chance this season to catch the shadows of both Titan and Tethys at the same time.

Starting September 20th, we will get back to have Titan itself crossing the Saturnian disk along with its shadow, which will continue roughly every 16 days throughout the fall and winter. After this sequence is done, you'll have to wait until the year 2040 to see the next series of Titan transits! **Σ**

ALL-STAR TELESCOPE

Thanks to All-Star Telescope for providing raffle prizes for this year's Spruce Woods Star Party!

www. all-startelescope.com

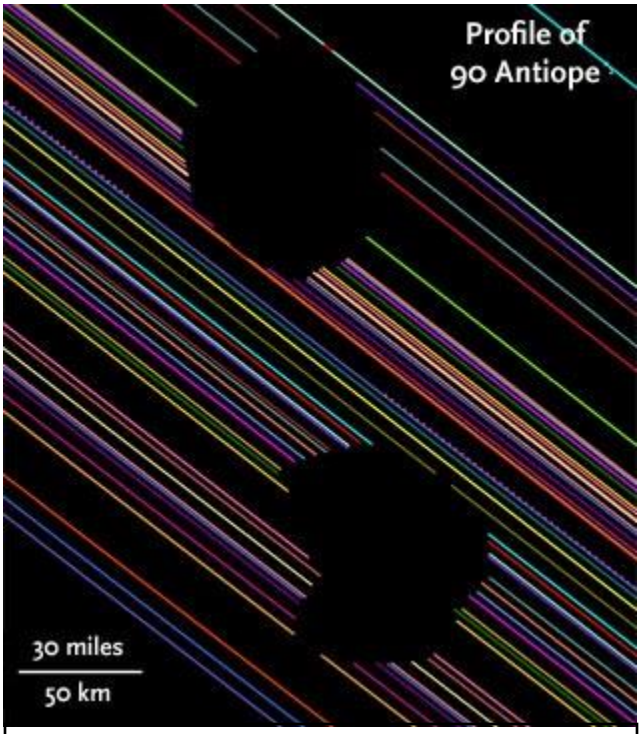
Watch an Asteroid Eclipse a Star

by Scott Young

Citizen Science is something that many astronomers dabble in, in between visual observing, astro-imaging, and all the other ways of enjoying the sky. It's something that is easy to participate in, and sometimes can make critical scientific measurements or discoveries. Historically, amateur astronomers have discovered asteroids, comets, exoplanets, variable stars, and all sorts of planetary phenomena.

In the era of modern survey telescopes like the newly-opened Vera C. Rubin observatory, some think that the era of astronomical discovery is at an end. But, amateur astronomers have at least one thing going for us that the professionals don't: we are legion.

No professional astronomer will be able to be in a dozen places at once to be able to chart the eclipse path of a distant asteroid passing in front of an even-more-distant star. Using nothing more than the telescopes and cameras many of us already have, we can measure the size and shape of a distant asteroid and even discover any moons it might have. Pretty cool!



Mapping an asteroid. Each coloured line represents the view of one observer watching a star and timing when it disappears behind the asteroid. The asteroid can be invisible, as long as the star is bright enough. (Image: IOTA)

If this sounds interesting, there is an event coming up in July that you can join. On the early morning of **Saturday, July 19th**, the 24km-wide asteroid (7950) Berezov will pass in front of a 9th-magnitude star, casting its shadow onto the Earth. Like the path of a total solar eclipse, this shadow path stretches along a narrow band that stretches from the Baja peninsula up through Hudson Bay (see Figure 1). The path is only 44.7 kilometers wide, and the eclipse lasts only 1.1 seconds, so location and timing are everything!

Figure 1. Cross-continent path of the asteroid occultation of July 19, 2025 involving asteroid (7950) Berezov. The bottom two stations are Paul Maley.

What's cool is that there are already observers signed up in the United States, including former Winnipegger and SWSP attendee Paul Maley, who is now in Arizona. Observers here will collaborate with Paul and others to help map the asteroid.

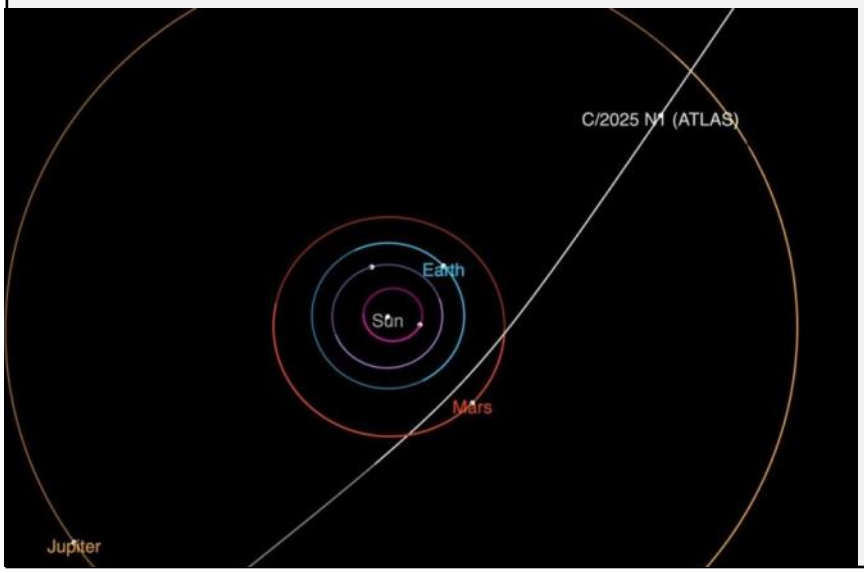
How Do I Join?

Luckily, observing this event is as simple as pointing your telescope at the star and hitting "record" on your CMOS or video camera. The one thing we have to do is ensure your computer's timing is accurate, so that all of the different observations can be combined on an accurate timeline.

There are a few ways to do this; you can read more on the topic (LOTS more, probably more than you want to know!) on the International Occultation Timing Association (IOTA)'s website, www.iota-occultations.org.
The basics are to use a time server like NTP to set your clock to GPS time, or to use a GPS device to flash your camera with its 1-second LED, or to use a GPS device that can actually imprint the GPS time onto your images directly. This isn't as hard as it sounds, and allows accurate data analysis after the event.
Of course, you also need to be in the shadow path at the right time. If you're interested in joining this expedition, contact Scott Young at space@manitobamuseum.ca and he can help you get started. Σ

Figure 2—Asteroid occultation by (7950) Berezov on July 19th, 2025. The green line is the predicted center of the eclipse path; the parallel blue lines are the predicted edges of the shadow path. Red lines mark the error lines ("one sigma" uncertainty in the path location). Orange and white lines are the positions of other observers along the path. If you can be somewhere between the blue lines on the morning of Saturday, July 19th, you can help us map an asteroid!

Space News



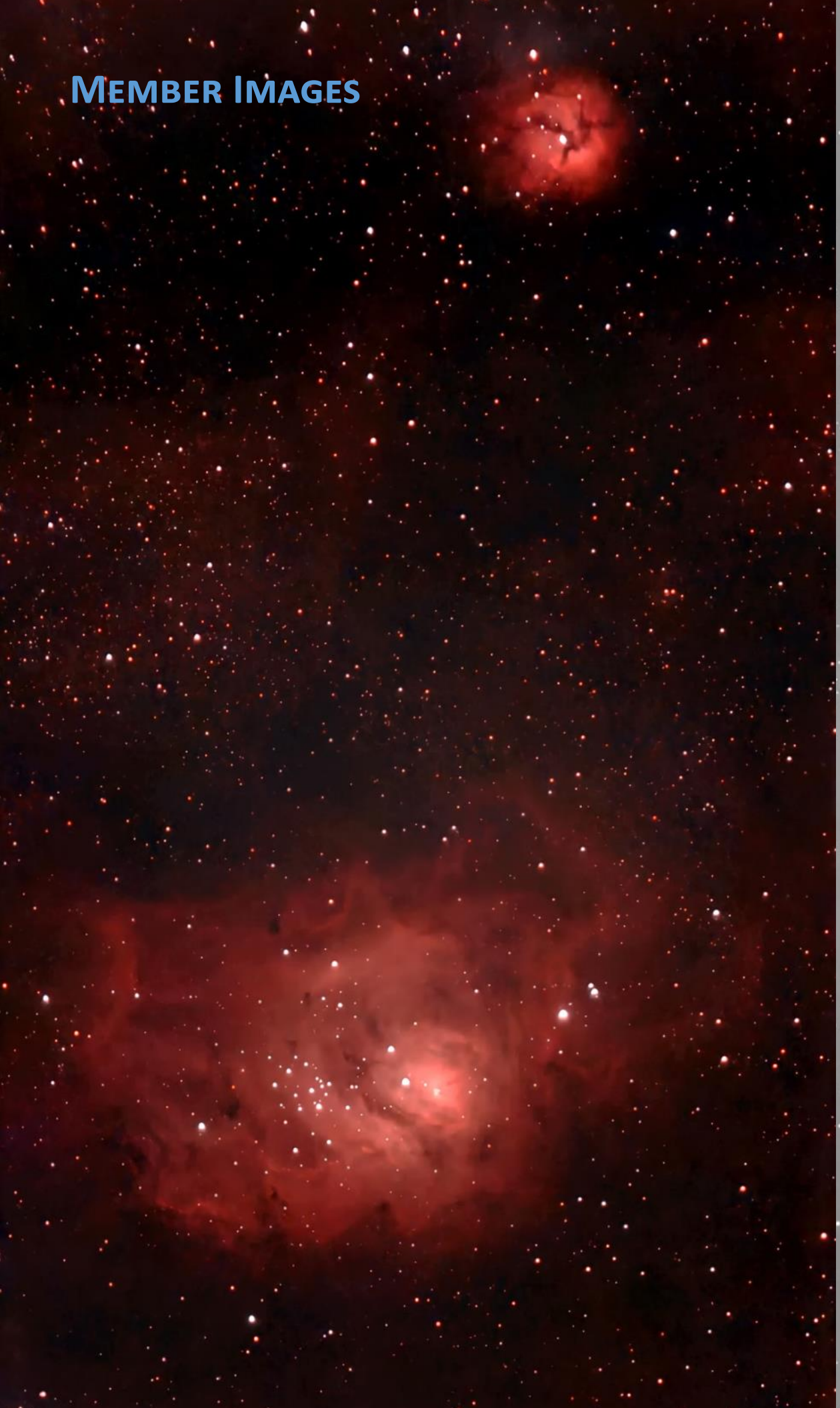
A new interstellar comet has been discovered that will pass through the inner solar system this year! Comet 3I/ATLAS comes from beyond our solar system, and is already showing cometary activity well beyond the orbit of Mars. It will pass through the inner solar system in October, perhaps becoming visible in binoculars and small telescopes before ducking behind the Sun. This is only the third interstellar object discovered, after 1I/Oumuamua (an asteroid) and 2I/Borisov (another comet).

Member Images

Winnipeg Centre member **Ralph Croning** is this month's image contributor. Ralph used is his SeeStar S50 smart telescopes to capture a beautiful portraits of Messier 27, the Dumbbell Nebula, on June 18, 2025.

Tech specs: SeeStar 50, 282 x 10 second images in EQ mode (total exposure time 47 minutes). Stacking in S50, processing in SeeStar phone app. Image is a crop of the full frame to show the nebula best.

Member Images



Ralph Croning's shot of Messier 8, the Lagoon nebula (bottom) and M20, the trifid Nebula (top). Ralph writes, "I found the (S50's) mosaic mode to double capture time so I decided on getting the S30 for its wider field-of-view." Image taken on June 15, 2025.

Tech specs: SeeStar 30, 241 x 10 second images in EQ mode. Stacking in S30, processing in Photoshop.

Groups.IO: How to Use the Centre's Forums and E-Mail Lists

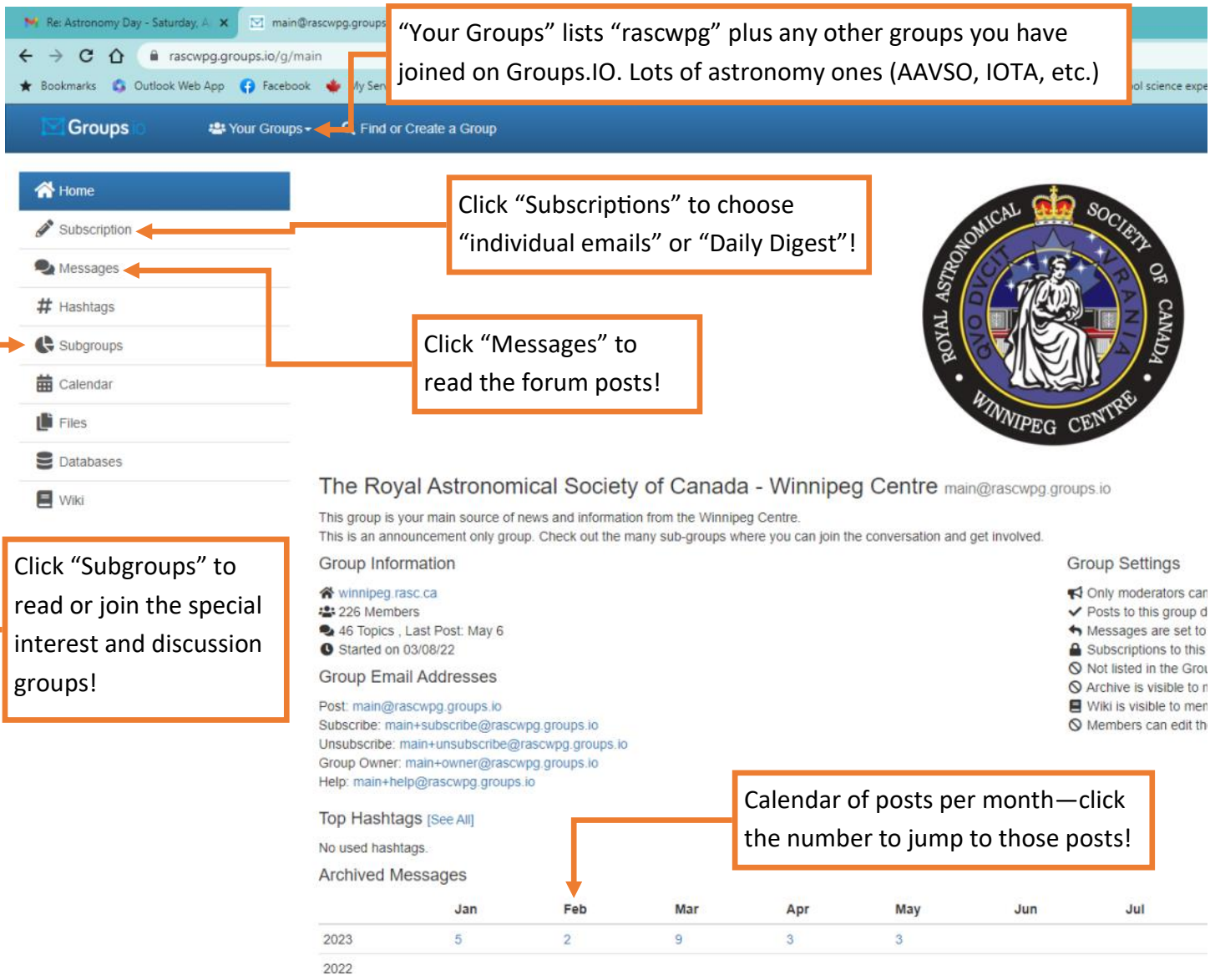
The Centre has moved to the Groups.IO platform for all of its forum and email services. This replaces the in-house forums and the old system of trying to mass-email all 200+ members. It really is a good system, both for the Council and for the users, but it is different and takes a bit of set-up.

If you've never used it before, it is very easy to access. Go to the website https://rascwpg.groups.io and click, "Forgot Password" when you are asked to log in. Enter the email that you used when you joined the Centre. You'll receive an email at that address telling you how to set up a password, and then you are good to go.

Once you've set up your password and logged in, you'll see a blue menu across the top of your screen. (See the next page for an annotated diagram.) If you click on "Your Groups", you will see that you are already subscribed to a group called "rascwpg.groups.io". This is the Centre's all-hands email, where we send meeting invitations, event news, and information we are required to send to all members (like calls for nominations for Board positions, news about the AGM, and so on).

When Council wants to send an email to everyone, they just make a post to this "main" group, and then everyone in the Centre gets an email. It helps prevent Centre mass emails from ending up in a spam folder or not getting through, and it also archives the email on the group where you can see it again. This "main" group can only be posted to by the Council Executive, and generates a few emails per month at most, so it shouldn't overwhelm most people with email.

There's lots more than just the main announcement list, though. Click on "Subgroups" on the left-hand menu, and you'll be pre-



sented with a list of the various special interest forums attached to the rascwpg group. So far, there is a solar group, a sketching group, a binoculars group, a groups for posting astroimages,an armchair astronomy group, a buy & sell, an equipment discussion group, a solar system imaging group… you get the idea. If you are interested in a topic, click on that group and you'll be brought to that group's home page. You can click "join this group" here, and start getting the posts emailed to you, but you can also see how many messages have been posted in this group and even read them without joining. The calendar at the bottom shows how many posts were made each month, and by clicking on the number under a given month you will be shown the list of posts.

Some of the groups have a lot more discussion than others, though, and so you might not want 30 emails a day about a topic. Luckily, you can adjust the settings for each group. Go to the group you want to adjust, and click "Subscription" on the left-hand menu. This brings up the options for that group. You can elect to receive emails as individual messages as soon as they are posted—this is the best setting for the "rascwpg-main" group because it may contain timely information like a meeting change or observing session cancellation. For other groups where the information isn't time-sensitive, then "Daily Digest" is a good option—you'll only get one email a day from that group, containing all the posts that have been made that day. This prevents your email box from being flooded, but also sends you the content rather than you having to go look for it.

Every time someone posts to a group, every member of that group gets an email according to their personal settings. The emails are also archived, forming a valuable reference of the Centre's activities and discussions. There are some really good nuggets of wisdom in the forums already, and it would be a shame to lose them.

The key things to remember about Groups.IO:

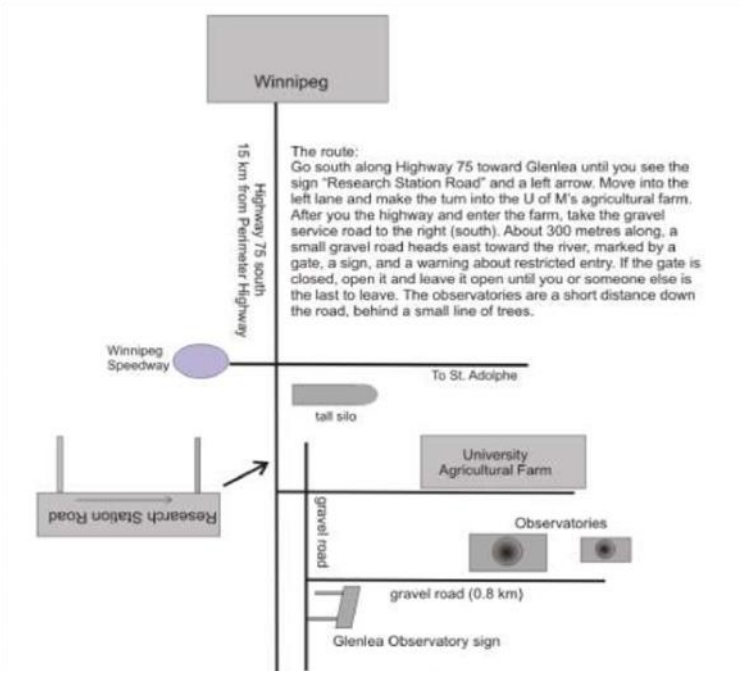
⇒ **if you unsubscribe from the "rascwpg-main" group, you will not receive Centre emails**—this is the only way they are sent out! Please don't do this, or you will not receive important information like notices of meetings, calls for elections, and other important stuff,

⇒ Most conversation happens in the "rascwpg-general" forum, which roughly duplicates the function of the old RASC email list. Other groups are more focused in their topic. If you're not sure where to post a specific question or idea, "general" is the place for it.

⇒ You have to set your email preferences for each group—if you want daily digests, you have to set that up in the group's home page.

If you'd like help getting set up on Groups.IO, email newsletter@winnipeg.rasc.ca and we'll figure out a way to walk you through it. Once it's set up, it works really well.

Glenlea Astronomical Observatory

The Winnipeg Centre maintains a working observatory, pad, and warm room at the University of Manitoba's Research Farm. The observatory dome contains a 30cm (12") Meade LX200 telescope on a fork mounting. Members of the Centre who have taken the training course can reserve this telescope by emailing observatory@winnipeg.rasc.ca.

Etiquette requires that you approach the observing site with your headlights off if that's possible on your model of car. Headlights should remain off, but you can still use your parking lights to drive. Proceed slowly, and be careful about parked cars along the road, or people walking. If you cannot turn off your headlights, make a cardboard or garbage bag mask to dim the lights or, raise the parking brake lever one click-stop. This usually turns the headlights off on most, if not all, cars. You might wish to turn around at the end of the road so that you are facing the direction back toward the highway at the end of the evening.