Coming Attractions

Friday, May 8, 2026:
Monthly Meeting

Featured Presentation:
Dr. Adam Rogers,
Brandon University
"Neutron Stars and Matter -Radiation Interactions "

Saturday, May 9, 2026
Members' Observing Night

Glenlea Observatory,
8:00pm start (see page 9)

Saturday, June 13, 2026:
Monthly Meeting

Annual Summer Potluck
Glenlea Observatory

Saturday, June 13, 2026
Members' Observing Night

Glenlea Observatory,
8:00pm start

Winnicentrics

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

Glenlea Survey Results

In February, an on-line survey was passed out to RASC members to obtain member opinions about the observatory, its use, and its future. The results were sometimes surprising to the Council and the Observatory Committee. The fifty-year-old Glealea site is at a bit of a crossroads today, with a decaying observatory and a gradually brightening sky, making expenditures to maintain the site subject to a considerable amount of discussion within Council.

There were 37 responses to the questionnaire. Here is a synopsis of the results:

Question	yes	no
Should the observatory be moved to a new site (presumably darker and not subject to flooding)?	12	25
Have you used the LX 200 telescope?	33	6
Have you operated the telescope?	8	31
Have you visited Glenlea in winter?	19	20
Have you used only the warm room?	30	9
Have you used the pad and not the warm room?	15	24
Have you attended Members' Observing Night (MON)?	29	10
Have you wanted to go out but no one else was going?	30	9
Have you gone on your own?	23	16
Would you attend special events (i.e. comets, eclipse)?	36	3
Do you have security concerns at the site?	5	34
Do you bring your own equipment?	37	2
Do you borrow the loaner scopes?	20	19
Should we close the dome and expand the warm room?	24	15
Would you accept the closure of the dome?	27	12
Do you find the bathroom suitable?	31	8
Should be have a circuit to plug in cars?	18	21
Should the Centre provide cameras, filters, computers and so on?	16	23

YouTube
https://bit.ly/2FrcZJZ

https://bit.ly/3iSmFed

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

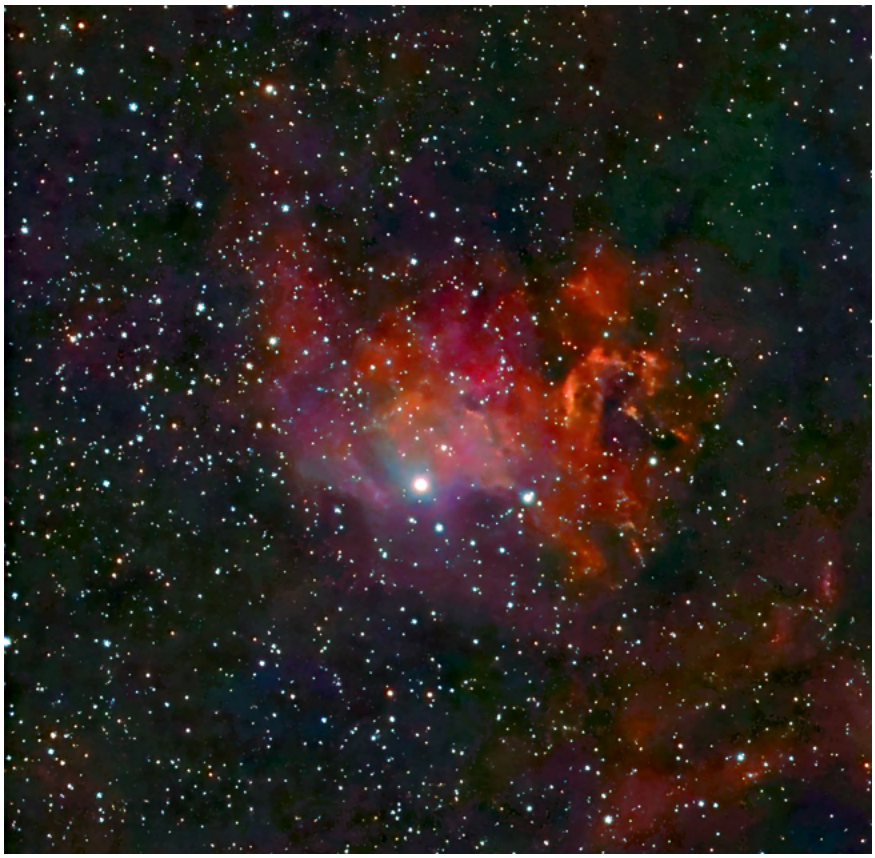
Some of the survey results are ambiguous, such as the two questions about the future of the dome and telescope. More instructive are some of the suggestions that were solicited in the survey. For instance: What is needed to make you want to use the Glenlea site?

For 25, no changes were needed. One suggested replacement of the dome by a sliding-roof observatory. One suggested power on the pad, but that's already there.

There were other suggestions scattered through the survey as well, such as fix the pad, add a table or two, get the telescope working so that it's more stable, move out of the flood plain, and replace the telescope with a less complex one. For one member, making use of the piers on the pad (i.e. put a mount on them) would be useful. Most of these are practical; some are more difficult. A supply of mosquito repellant and fixing the bathroom and bathroom door seemed like popular ideas, as is adding better red lighting in the lower part of the observatory and red reflectors along the road.

On a different note, there were suggestions to engage Centre members at Glenlea. These included holding workshops at the site, set up a system so that others know when someone is out, link the loaner scopes to Glenlea, and hold non-weekend gatherings, especially for special events.

The Glenlea site is a valuable resource for the Centre even though it's not as dark as in years gone by (I measured an SQM of 20.4 (Bortle 4) in mid-April and it will be darker in summer when the snow is gone). It's a great place for the Dwarfs and SeeStars, especially if we set up mounting stands for the cameras. A darker site would be welcome, but the UofM provides us with a measure of security that would be difficult to duplicate elsewhere.



Mark Irvine collected enough photons with his SeeStar camera to obtain this image of the Flame Nebula. Exposure was 180 x 10s sub-exposures (30 minutes). The result is remarkable given the 30 mm size of the SeeStar camera lens.

May Meeting Schedule

Friday, May 8, 2026 at 7 p.m.

7:00 pm: Beginner's Session

7:30 pm: Regular session

Announcements

Annual General Meeting and elections

What's Up? – upcoming events in the sky

What's New? – new discoveries in astronomy

8:30 pm: Social break

9:00 pm: Main presentation:

Dr. Adam Rogers, Brandon University

"Neutron Stars and Matter-Radiation Interactions"

10:00 pm: after-meeting pizza

June Meeting

Annual Potluck at Glenlea Observatory

Saturday, June 13, at 6 p.m. & afterward

(see more on page 12)

Regular meetings of the Winnipeg Centre are normally held in the Robert B. Schultz Lecture Theatre in St. John's College at the University of Manitoba, 92 Dysart Road. Free parking is available in the lot across the street. The theatre is on the lower (basement) floor of the College. Meetings are usually 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 for pizza and more conversation about astronomical topics.

Meetings can also be attended on Zoom beginning at 7:00 pm on meeting nights. Zoom links are provided in an email note several days ahead of the meeting date.

Dates may be amended to avoid conflicts with exam schedules and Bomber games.

Meeting proceedings are also available on YouTube after the event.

Cell-phone capture of the Moon and Regulus (toward the lower right). Regulus was visible in spite of the bright pre-sunset sky. Image: Kevin Galka

Regulus and the Moon

A few Centre members gathered at Teulon on April 25 to watch the Moon pass over Regulus and coincidentally, celebrate Gerry's 70th. Both ingress and egress were hidden by clouds, but the star was sighted shortly after emerging, shining as a bright, white dot along the yellowish lunar limb. The celebrants brought along a collection of telescopes to test against each other, large against small, refractors against reflectors. For several, it was a re-discovery of the lunar surface after many years.

Much of the comparison centred on the visibility of small craterlets, the movement of shadows, and structure on crater walls. Poor seeing made small scopes seem sharper than large (they didn't "see" the turbulence), but the larger scopes provided more detail during periods when the atmosphere settled.

Waiting for the clouds to clear for the occultation. The moon is visible at top centre. Image: Silvia Graca

Upcoming Events in May and June

May 1: Greatest western elongation of Moon allows craters on extreme west limb to be glimpsed.

May 18, evening, until midnight: Thin 2.3-day-old crescent Moon and Venus, side-by-side low in the west.

May 18: Venus and the Moon together in the evening twilight.

May 24-June 12: Venus is at its largest elevation above the horizon (17-18°).

May 31: smallest Full Moon of the year.

June 1: Venus at greatest western elongation (farthest from the Sun).

June 1: end of astronomical darkness overnight. Completely dark nights return on July 11.

June 1-18, evening: Venus at its greatest height above the horizon and best placed for observing.

June 1-14, evening: Venus, Jupiter, and Mercury in the evening twilight. Best alignment on the 16th.

June 7: peak of Areitid meteor shower–the best daytime shower (but visible before dawn). Alas, bright Moon.

June 9, evening: spectacular conjunction of Jupiter and Venus, only 1° 30' apart in the southwest at 10 pm.

June 16, evening: close approach of Jupiter and thin crescent Moon in twilight

June 17, 2:13—3:23 pm (in the daylight): occultation of Venus by the Moon. See note below.

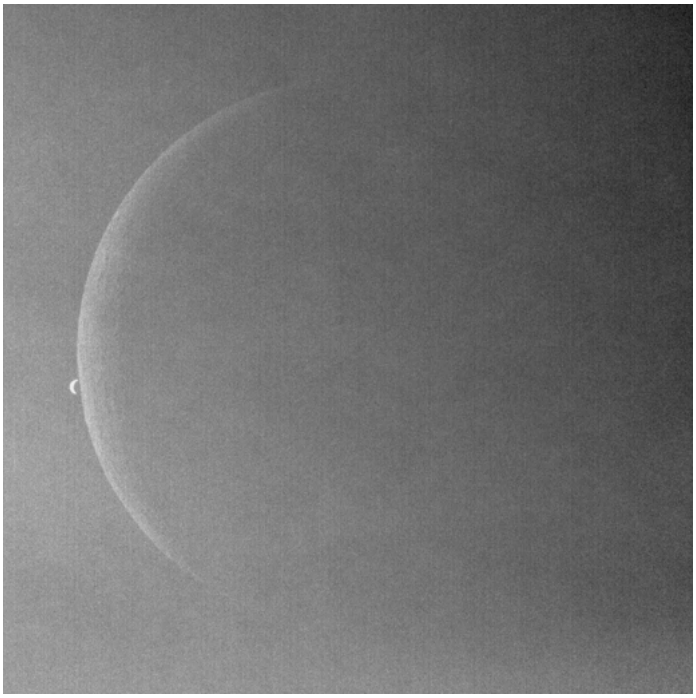
June 21: Summer solstice at 3:25 am.

Occultation of Venus
June 17, 2:12– 3:22 pm

You wouldn't ordinarily go out in the daylight to watch and photograph an occultation, but when it involves Venus and the Moon, it's almost as easy as doing it in the dark. The hardest part is finding the planet, and once you've done that, the Moon will be easily visible nearby.

Venus is bright enough to find in a daylight sky, but it's a tiny target, so having a good ideal where to look and a set of binoculars is probably critical. On June 17, the Moon will be faint and ghostly, even in a telescope, and any photos you take will be very blue because of the sky's colour. Since you are photographing a 'daylight" scene, you can let the camera's auto function do the work. Venus should be large enough to focus on with a telephoto lens, but if you're using one with a short focal length, then getting a sharp image will take a bit of care. A tripod is helpful, but not really needed.

In the June event, the Moon will be only 2.7 days old but 35 degrees away from the Sun, so the thin crescent should be visible, at least in a small scope. In the photo at left, the planet is 33 degrees from the Sun and lower in the sky. Venus will have a gibbous shape and will be a little easier to find compared to the planet's crescent image in 2009.



Venus occultation from April 22, 2009. This image has been converted to grayscale from the original colour photo. Taken using a 5" Celestron Schmidt-Cassegrain, 1/4000 sec at f/7 on a Canon 40D.

President's message – Spring 2026

Greetings Winnipeg Centre!

The Spring nights are now with us, and with the dark skies slowly sliding away into the summer solstice on June 21st, the night invites us to seek out what she has to offer now, especially with warming temperatures and clear, bugless skies!

Strolling through the *Observer's Handbook* we find, a number of planets parading through the sky for our benefit during the month of May. Mercury reaches superior conjunction on the 14th, but will be uncomfortably close to the Sun until the 21st and then a challenge to see so close to the horizon, Venus will reach a photographic conjunction with the Moon on the 18th, Mars finally re-emerges and will pass a waning crescent Moon on the 18th while Jupiter & Venus dance with the moon on May 19th & 20th. Saturn and the other distant planets Neptune and Uranus are visible at various times through out May, if we're interested in viewing them, we just need to check our handy *Observer's Handbook*.

As we say goodbye to Orion, and the spectacular nebulas therein, we once again welcome the summer constellations, Hercules, at 10PM, while Lyra, Cygnus and Acquilla saunter in after 11PM but will continue to rise earlier through June and the summer months, presenting the Summer Triangle of Vega, Deneb and Altair.

On page 254 of the *Handbook*, we find the scheduled meteor showers in May, the Aquariids & Cetids, but with only modest volumes meteors, which last through June and July. The promise of being entertained by the appearance of a another visitor from beyond the Solar System, Comet C/2026 A1 MAPS fizzled when it failed to recover with its waltz with the Sun in late April, but for comet hunters we still had C/2025 R3 (PANSTARRS), to enjoy through April, though not the spectacle we had hoped for with Comet MAPS.

The *Observer's Handbook* is a wonderful resource to guide us in our Spring and Summer observing, no matter what your interest may be.

Moving along, we've seen some tremendous images published on our RASC Facebook page, and the Groups.IO Astro-photography list. Congratulations to all our imagers on some impressive work; in particular, many thanks to members who submitted Comet PANSTARS images for the benefit of the rest of us. The smart telescopes seem to have been a boon to our imagers, especially for objects like comets. Don't forget the Center owns a Seestar 50 which can be borrowed on request to our Telescope Loaner program.

This late Winter & Spring the Centre has been busy as usual, completing an image-processing workshop, ably lead by Richard Konrad, and supported by volunteers. We also completed our Annual General Meeting on March 13,welcoming two new members to Council: Gord Tulloch and Abdul Al Manni, with the remainder of the Council staying on. Thank you to all Council members for your continued dedication to Winnipeg Centre. We completed our annual "Telescope Tune-up" on March 29 with many new and seasoned members attending. The collimation workshop was the most popular stop for attendees and of course a chat our expert Gerry Smerchanski, but presentations delivered by Jay Anderson and James Fast were both well received. The following month we presented one of our most active and dedicated members the National Service Award at our April 10th meeting. Congratulations Judy Anderson on this prestigious award, and to Scott and Tracy for the nomination.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the sad news of the passing of a pioneer in our hobby and person I admired: Al Nagler of Televue in October 2025. As his son David states in his note to friends, "Thankfully it happened here at Televue, a place he loved with people he loved, and even with a telescope in his hands." He was born in 1935 and became a legend in the optics and telescope industry.

As we enjoy our Spring dark skies, we also need to consider the Centre is approaching our busy outreach time, and members need to appreciate that the good work of your Centre doesn't happen without volunteers. We have various committees and roles that always value volunteer help as well as leadership on Council. Please give your thoughtful consideration to supporting the great work of your Centre.

Reach out to me at President@Winnipeg.RASC.ca or any member of Council to volunteer for your Centre
Thanks, and Clear skies,

Mark

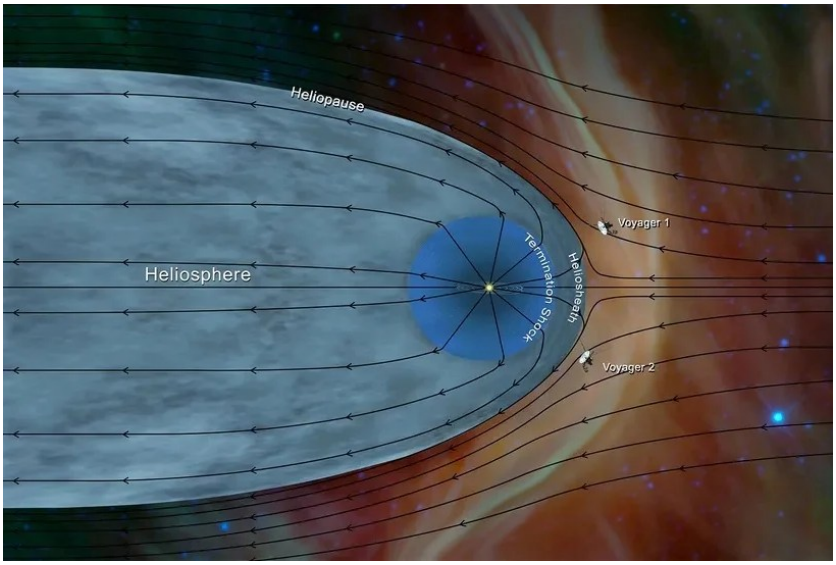
In the News

Another instrument turned off on *Voyager 1*

The farthest spacecraft from Earth, the *Voyager 1* probe, has just shut down another instrument in order to conserve power on the aging spacecraft. The instrument is the Low-energy Charged Particles (LECP) experiment, which the *Voyager* probes used to study solar wind and the interstellar medium (ISM). The decision to power down this instrument was made so that humanity's first interstellar mission could continue exploring the Universe for a few more years.

Voyager 1 uses three Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs), devices that convert heat from decaying Plutonium-238 into electricity. After nearly 50 years of continuous operation, these generators are running low on power. Engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) sent commands to shut down the instrument on April 17th. The new turn-off command follows the shutdown of the Cosmic Ray Subsystem (CRS) in February 2025 and the imaging system, ultraviolet spectrometer, and other instruments since 1990.

The LECP has been operating almost without interruption since the *Voyager 1* and 2 probes launched in 1977. Since then, the power output of *Voyager 1*'s RTGs has been declining by about 4 watts per year, and as of April 2026, they are producing less than half their original power. With such razor-thin power margins, the team has been forced to shut down heaters and instruments while ensuring the spacecraft's fuel lines don't freeze. This is a careful balance that requires the mission team to determine which instruments can be sacrificed at various points in the mission.



NASA's Voyager 2 spacecraft entered interstellar space in November 2018, more than six years after its twin, Voyager 1, did the same. Credit: NASA / JPL-Caltech

The decision was made after *Voyager 1* experienced an unexpected drop in power on Feb. 27th during a planned roll maneuver. A sudden power drop can trigger the spacecraft's undervoltage fault protection system, which automatically shuts down instruments to keep the spacecraft operational. If such a case, the mission team would be forced to undergo a lengthy recovery process. Given *Voyager 1*'s distance from Earth (25 billion km), it would take about 23 hours for the command sequence to reach the spacecraft and more than 3 hours to complete.

The decision did not come easy. Since *Voyager 1* left the Solar System, the LECP has provided critical data about the structure of the ISM, detecting pressure fronts and variations in particle density beyond the heliosphere. This magnetic field, created by solar wind, forms a protective bubble that shields the Solar System from harmful cosmic radiation. At the outer boundary where it meets the ISM, it forms a "bow shock." The two Voyager probes are the only spacecraft far enough from Earth to provide information on this region.

Luckily, the Voyager science and engineering teams established a plan for which instruments would be shut down, and in what order. For *Voyager 1*, the LECP was next on the list, which had already been shut off on *Voyager 2* back in March 2025. As Kareem Badaruddin, Voyager mission manager at JPL, explained in a NASA press release:

While shutting down a science instrument is not anybody's preference, it is the best option available. Voyager 1 *still has two remaining operating science instruments—one that listens to plasma waves and one that measures magnetic fields. They are still working great, sending back data from a region of space no other human-made craft has ever explored. The team remains focused on keeping both Voyagers going for as long as possible."*

A small motor that spins the LECP sensor to scan in all directions will remain on so the team can turn the instrument back on if more power becomes available in the future. In the meantime, the engineers are taking the time the shutdown provides to finalize a larger strategy to extend the mission, which they call the "Big Bang." The plan involves turning off a group of powered devices simultaneously and activating low-power alternatives to keep the spacecraft warm enough to continue gathering science data.

The team will implement the Big Bang on *Voyager 2* first since it has slightly more power and is closer to Earth. Tests are planned for May and June of this year, and if they go well, the team will attempt to implement the plan on *Voyager 1* no sooner than July. If the plan frees up power, the LECP could be reactivated to continue gathering data on the ISM.

New details on the composition of interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS

On July 1st, last year, Comet 3I/ATLAS became the third known interstellar object (ISO) to pass through our Solar System. On October 30th, it made its closest pass to the Sun and then began making its way back to interstellar space. Last month it passed beyond the orbit of Jupiter and is now well on its way out of the Solar System. Over the many months during which it was observed by multiple missions and ground-based telescopes, scientists collected extensive data on this ISO, which has proven quite revealing.

Last August, JWST observations of 3I/ATLAS revealed a coma largely composed of CO_2. More recently, Caltech-based studies of the comet after it rounded the Sun showed a significant reduction in the CO_2/H_2O ratio, replacing it with a coma rich in methane. In addition to being very bright, 3I/ATLAS was larger than expected and experienced intense periods of outgassing before and after making its closest approach to the Sun.

NASA images showing the interstellar comet 3I/Atlas captured by the Hubble Space Telescope *on Nov. 30th, 2025. Credit: NASA/ESA/STScI/UCLAM/SAO/STScI*

Since the comet had been irradiated by cosmic rays during its journey through interstellar space, most of its surface ices were only weakly outgassing on approach, a suggestion supported by the changes in the CO_2/H_2O ratio. In interstellar space, cosmic rays would convert CO to CO_2. In effect, the surface had been "baked" by cosmic rays in the comet's journey through interstellar space and it was only after perihelion that the overlying layers were breached and exposed to solar radiation. The change indicated that 3I/ATLAS had shed its ancient outer layers and was now outgassing from its underlying layers, revealing its interior composition.

Other observations from the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), made six days after the comet passed perihelion, have yielded the first-ever measurement of deuterated water (or "semi-heavy water") in an ISO. The discovery provides a chemical window into the cold conditions that characterize its home-star system. In addition to regular water (H_2O), comets also contain deuterated water (HDO), where one hydrogen atom is replaced by the hydrogen isotope deuterium (which contains an additional neutron). Solar System comets contain roughly one HDO molecule for every ten thousand molecules of water.

While 3I/ATLAS' water content fell below ALMA's detection threshold during the observations, the team indirectly constrained the D/H ratio by detecting HDO via methanol line excitation. This allowed the team to infer the rate of water outgassing during 3I/ATLAS's closest approach to the Sun. Based on their analysis, the team estimated that the ratio of deuterated water to normal water (D/H) in 3I/ATLAS is at least 30 times higher than the Solar System value. What's more, this ratio is 40 times higher than the abundance of HDO and water in Earth's oceans. The elevated content of deuterated water suggests that the comet formed in a distinct chemical environment where objects are exposed to much less stellar radiation. As study leader Luis E. Salazar Manzano (University of Michigan) explained:

Our new observations show that the conditions that led to the formation of our Solar System are much different from how planetary systems evolved in different parts of our Galaxy. The chemical processes that lead to the enhancement of deuterated water are really sensitive to temperature and usually require environments colder than about 30 Kelvin.

In essence, 3I/ATLAS originated in a solar system where temperatures were below -243 °C, which is only slightly higher than absolute zero (-273.15 °C). These results, which were preserved for billions of years as 3I/ATLAS traveled through interstellar space, offer a window into the history of the Milky Way and the abundances of elements in other star systems.

Other observations of the 3I/ATLAS showed the presence of methanol (CH_3OH) and hydrogen cyanide (HCN), both organic molecules. The abundance of methanol was similar to the most-methanol-abundant comets in the Solar System. HCN seems to come from the comet's core, while methanol seems to come from the nucleus and from ice particles in the coma. A fourth study of post-perihelion behaviour in November and December revealed the presence of CN, C_3, and C_2 (with respect to OH), consistent with amounts in Solar System comets.

All-in-all, 3I/ATLAS provided a glimpse into distant stellar environments, the impact of interstellar travel, and the evolution of a pristine comet as it passed through the Solar System.

Vice-President Judy Anderson received a National Service Medal from President Mark Irvine at the August meeting. Judy joined the Winnipeg Centre in 1974.

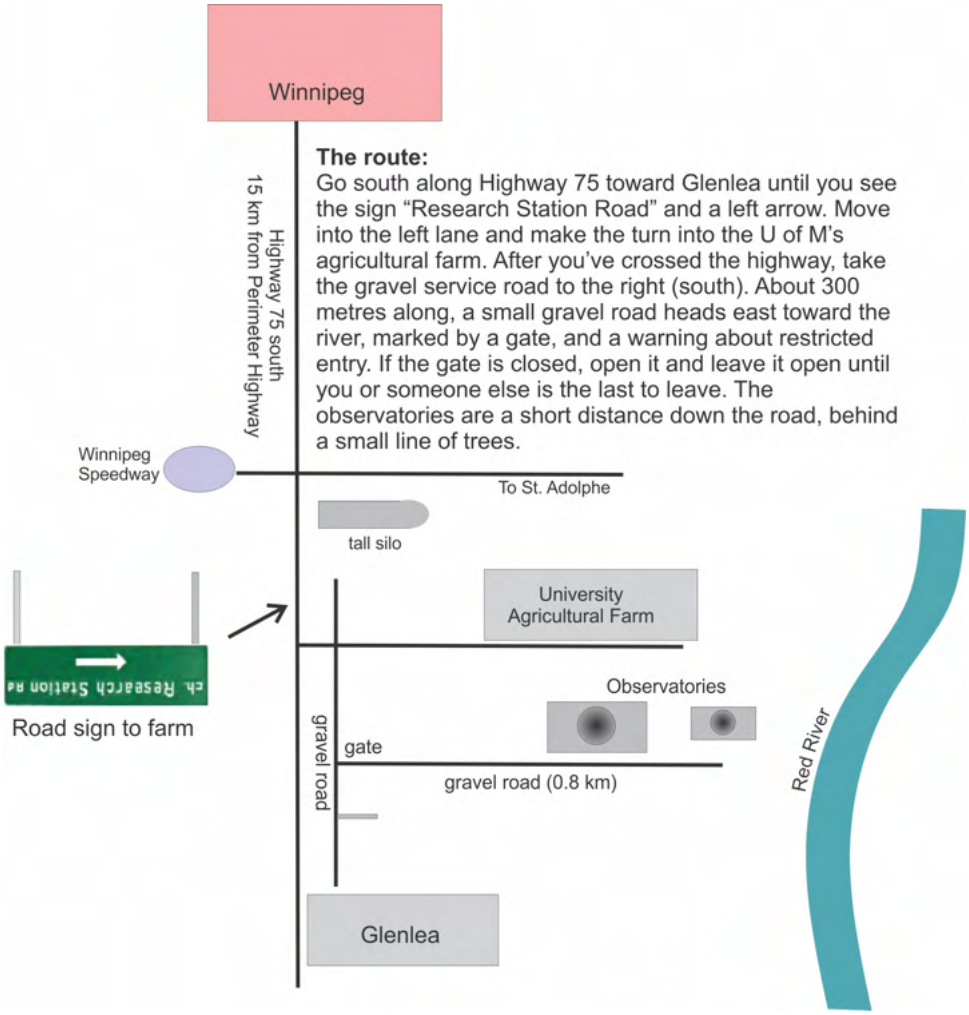
March 28 was Spring Telescope Tune-Up for Centre Members, organized by James Fast and held at Eastview Community Church. A dozen or more members turned out, some with family, to learn about cleaning and adjusting telescopes. Collimating targets were set up down a long hallway to allow telescopes to be tuned up using an artificial star—a process that allows the most precise alignment.

Refreshments were available thanks to Wing Kwong and entertainment provided by a group of costumed role-playing actors in the next room getting ready for Easter. As the photo shows, it takes at least six RASC members to collimate a telescope!

Solar viewing on Astronomy Day was cloud-challenged, with only a few brief openings to satisfy a meagre crowd. Too bad, as there were some nice sunspots on the disk.

Getting to Glenlea Observatory

The Winnipeg Centre maintains a working observatory and warm room at the University of Manitoba's Research Farm, 15 km south of the city. The observatory contains a 30 cm Meade telescope on a fork mounting. Members of the Centre may sign out the use of this telescope provided they have first taken a short instruction course on its use.



The Meade provides outstanding views of the night sky. Its large aperture collects more than 1800 times as much light as the human eye. It is capable of magnifying more than 500 times under favourable conditions.

The warm room provides a convenient place for members to take refuge from winter temperatures and summer mosquitoes, or to wait out a passing cloud. The building also provides desk space and lighting for planning a night's observing session. A cement pad with power in front of the warm room and observatory provides a convenient space to place members' telescopes while conducting personal observing programs.

Entrance is by a service road parallel to Highway 75. There is a gate across the road that is not locked. It can be left open while you use the site, but should be closed by the last person leaving.

Etiquette requires that you approach the observing site with your headlights off if that's possible on your model of car. If possible, use your parking lights to drive toward the observing site. Proceed slowly, and be careful about parked cars along the road, or people walking. If you cannot turn off your headlights, dim them and turn them off when you reach the observatory. 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.

In order to access the facilities, you will need a key. These are available to all Centre members.

Remember to close up the buildings that you used, the observatory dome, and the gate, if you are the last one to leave.

To get there, go south on Highway 95 (Pembina Highway) until you see a sign pointing to the University Research Station. Turn into the Station, then make a sharp right turn (south) along the gravel access road. When you come to a steel bar farm gate along the access road, open the gate (if it's closed) and go down the dirt road to the observatory. Close up when you leave.

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

The Centre uses the Groups.IO platform for all of its forum and email services. To join, go to 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 a reply telling you how to set up a password. Once you've done this and logged in, you'll see a blue menu across the top of your screen (**See the diagram on the next page**). If you click on "Your Groups", you will see that you are already subscribed to "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).

The "main" group is used by Council to communicate with all members. This helps prevent important emails from ending up in a spam folder, and it also archives the email where you can see it again. This "main" group can only be accessed by the Council Executive; it generates a few emails per month at most, so it shouldn't overwhelm you with messages.

Click on "Subgroups" on the left-hand menu, and you'll be presented with a list of the various special-interest forums attached to the rascwpg group. These include 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, and a solar system imaging group. 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" there, and start getting the posts emailed to you, but you can also read them without joining.

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 allows you to select how 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) or as a "Daily Digest," where all messages for the day are collected into one email.

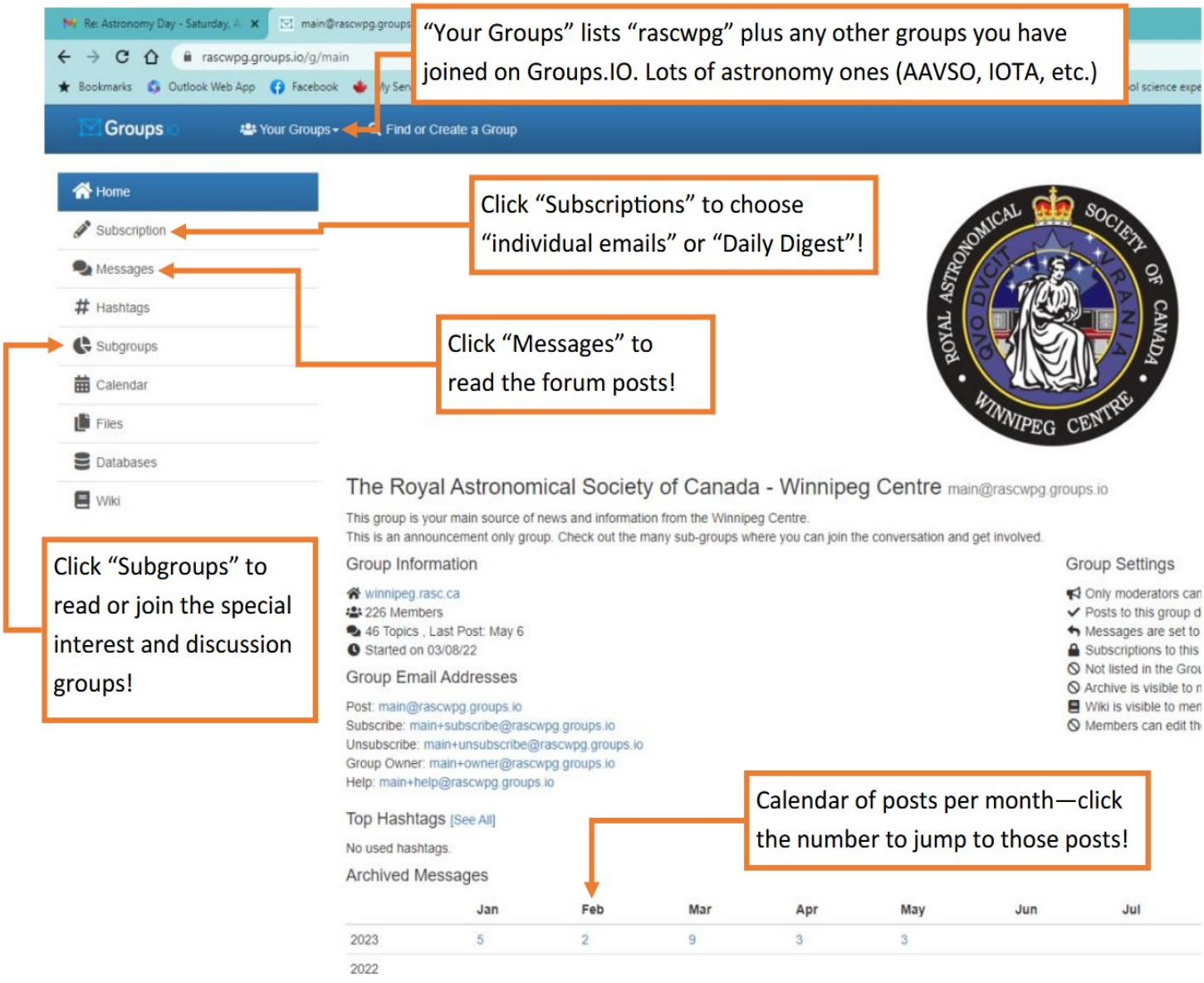
Every time someone posts to a group, every member in that group gets an email according to their personal settings. The messages are also archived, forming a valuable reference of the Centre's activities and discussions. There are some really good nuggets of wisdom in the forums already, and it would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

The key things to remember about Groups.IO:

- **If you unsubscribe from or haven't subscribed to 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, special observing sessions, and other important stuff,
- Most conversation happens in the "rascwpg-general" forum. 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.

Richard Konrad acquired this recent picture of NGC 2467, the Skull and Cross Bones Nebula with a 250mm Newtonian Astrograph, f/3.8, over approximately 5 hours. Narrowband SHO. Processed with StarTools.


"Your Groups" lists "rascwpg" plus any other groups you have joined on Groups.IO. Lots of astronomy ones (AAVSO, IOTA, etc.)
Groups
Your Groups
Find or Create a Group
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The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Winnipeg Centre main@rascwpg.groups.io
This group is your main source of news and information from the Winnipeg Centre.
This is an announcement only group. Check out the many sub-groups where you can join the conversation and get involved.
Group Information
winnipeg.rasc.ca
226 Members
46 Topics , Last Post: May 6
Started on 03/08/22
Group Email Addresses
Post: main@rascwpg.groups.io
Subscribe: main+subscribe@rascwpg.groups.io
Unsubscribe: main+unsubscribe@rascwpg.groups.io
Group Owner: main+owner@rascwpg.groups.io
Help: main+help@rascwpg.groups.io
Group Settings
Top Hashtags [See All]
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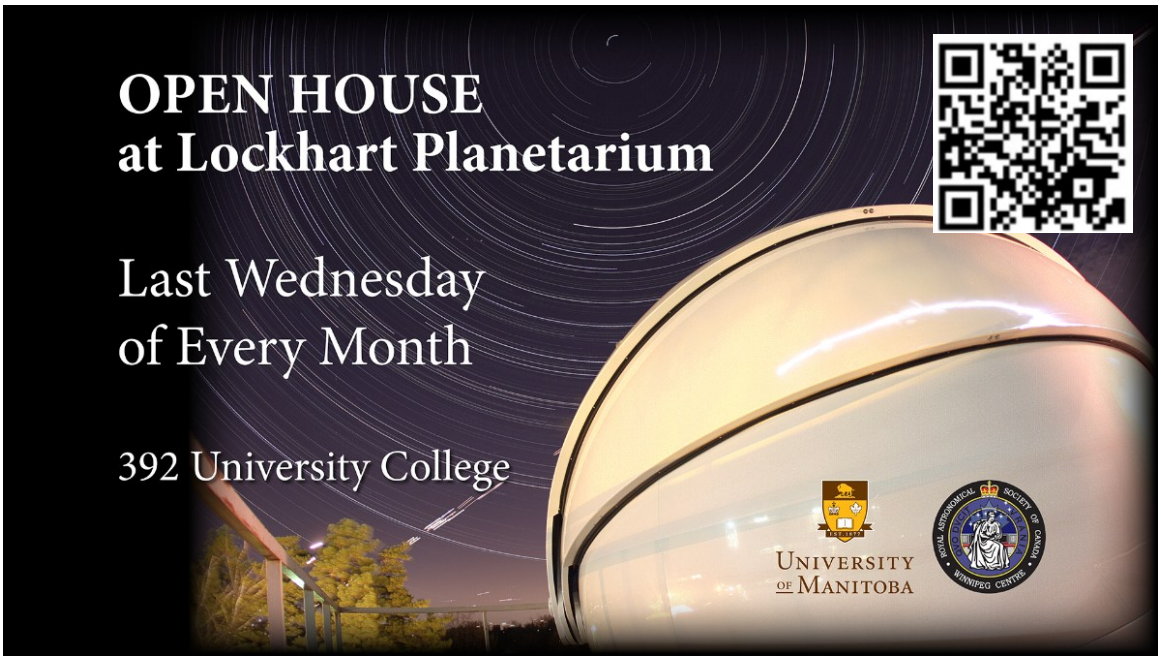
Archived Messages
Calendar of posts per month—click the number to jump to those posts!
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul
2023 5 2 9 3 3
2022


OPEN HOUSE
at Lockhart Planetarium
Last Wednesday
of Every Month
392 University College
University of Manitoba

Upcoming Events

Here are some Centre events you might want to attend:

Saturday, May 9: Science Rendezvous at the University of Manitoba. This is a huge event at the UofM and we participate by setting up telescopes and showing off the Sun, accompanied by astronomy students from the university. As presenters, we are usually entitled to pizza and drinks during the afternoon. Be prepared to be very busy.

Saturday, June 13: Summer Potluck at Glenlea (see below)

Friday, August 7: On the Move Daycare. This is a chance to teach about astronomy and show off a few telescopes to the very young (the next generation of RASC members). Be prepared for off-the-wall questions that will make you think deeply about surprising topics.

Weekend, August 22-23: Spruce Woods Public Event. Every year the Centre puts on a day and night sky show for campers at Spruce Woods—an event timed to coincide with a first-quarter moon. It's a popular event and part of our contribution to the Park in exchange for use of Spruce Woods for our star party in September. A small group of Centre members will camp out in a reserved spot and, after showing the sky and making presentations to the public, will use the rest of the night for their own activities. If you want to be in on it, wait for a call for volunteers in the coming months.

Thursday-Sunday, September 10-13: Spruce Woods Star Party (SWSP), our premier get-together as RASC members to celebrate the night sky. Three nights of observing in a dark location at New Moon. This is a great opportunity to get completely immersed in astronomy for three or more nights (some members come early and leave late). Fees include breakfast on Sunday morning. Even if you can only attend for one night, bring the family and enjoy a last camp-out for the year. There's lots of room because the Park opens the overflow camping area for us. A great chance to look through some big telescopes and follow Gerry's patented sky tour.

Summer Potluck

The Annual Summer Potluck will be held on June 13 this year, starting at 6 pm at Glenlea. If that Friday is rainy, the Potluck may be postponed to Saturday. Bring something to share, a telescope if you plan on staying late, and a friendly attitude. There's no agenda, just come out and share a summer BBQ with friends and other Centre members. It's a Centre event, but families are welcome and expected.