

# SKYNEWS



The Horsehead (B33)  
by Daniel Posey

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## NEXT MEETING

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Cedar Hill Golf Course**  
**1400 Derby Rd, Victoria B.C.**  
**Nov 5th 6pm - 9:30pm**  
**Dinner at 6:30**

[www.victoria.rasc.ca](http://www.victoria.rasc.ca)

## On the Cover Horsehead Nebula (B33)

My second mosaic, 4 hours of 45s and 30s exposures through my Celestron CPC 800 in alt/az at f6.3 with a canon XSi at iso 1600. Flats, darks, and bias frames used.

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## October Meeting Members' Night

**Diane Bell** - her Southern Hemisphere cruise, complete with night sky meditations

**Joe Carr** - his solar observing and imaging

**Miles Paul** - his travels (with Dorothy) to White Mountain, home of the oldest trees on earth (and great night skies)

**Dorothy Paul** - the effects of light on people .... not as benign as we thought?

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## Call for Nominations for the Victoria Centre Executive and Council

There will be an election of officers at the AGM next month. That includes the positions of President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

The current executive has served for one year as is the custom each one has been asked if they are willing to continue for one more year and all have agreed to stand. Additional nominations can be submitted by members prior to the election. Members wishing to nominate or be nominated should inform the Past President, John McDonald by email [wjmcd.mcdonald@gmail.com](mailto:wjmcd.mcdonald@gmail.com), by Wed. Nov 2nd.

## The Annual General Meeting: Cedar Hill Golf Course 1400 Derby Rd, Victoria B.C.

**Nov 5th 6pm - 9:30pm**

**Speaker Dr. James Nemec**

*"Dr. Nemec received his Ph.D. in 1984 from the Department of Astronomy at the University of Washington. After postdocs at Caltech and UBC, and visiting faculty positions at Washington State University, the University of Washington and Caltech, he was invited in 1997 to establish university-transfer Astronomy courses at Camosun College in Victoria, where he continues to teach Physics and Astronomy courses and conduct research on stellar evolution. He is a member of three Kepler Asteroseismic Science Consortium (<http://astro.phys.au.dk/KASC>) Working Groups (RR Lyrae stars, Cepheids, delta Scuti stars)."*

### PULSATING VARIABLE STARS AND THE KEPLER SPACE TELESCOPE

The goal of the Kepler Asteroseismic Science Consortium (<http://astro.phys.au.dk/KASC>) Working Groups is to maximize the scientific return of the photometry coming down from NASA's Kepler Space Telescope'. We are all aware of the very exciting planet discoveries made by the Kepler Mission; however, great strides also are being made that are greatly improving our understanding of stellar evolution. This talk will review some of these new results, in particular recent results on RR Lyrae stars and Cepheids.

**6:00pm - Drinks and Conversation, no host bar**

**6:30pm - Dinner**

### **Dinner Selections:**

**Pepper Steak** - prime tender steak charbroiled with fresh cracked pepper and topped with a soft green peppercorn Madagascar sauce, with potatoes & vegetables

**Halibut Duglere** - fresh filet of Halibut topped with a creamy mushroom, shallot, caper and white wine sauce with rice & vegetables

**Vegetarian option - please contact Lauri by Nov 2nd**

**Dinners include:**

Warm dinner rolls  
Fresh garden salad  
Chef's choice dessert  
Tea or coffee

Payment -Cost of dinner is \$35.00 per person, inclusive of all taxes and gratuities

Payment is only required for a meal.

Attendance at both the speaker presentation and the business meeting is free of charge.

The total number of dinners must be confirmed by November 2nd, either:

By [email](#) or phone to Laurie Roche at 250-652-2361

Payment at the door - payment by cheque is preferred, however cash is also acceptable.

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## **RASC General Assembly 2011**

Winnipeg, Manitoba July 1-3

### **Report by Chris Gainor**

Victoria Centre National Rep

The RASC GA returned to the University of Manitoba this year as part of the Winnipeg Centre's celebrations for its 100th anniversary. The organizers carried off a most successful GA with the emphasis being on astronomy rather than contentious business items.

Five members of the Victoria Centre attended the GA, including the Honorary National President Jim Hesser and Betty Hesser, past Victoria Centre president John McDonald, Jim Stillburn, Jennifer Tigner, and the author of this article.

### **RASC Business**

The National Council and the Annual General Meeting at this GA had light agendas. This was good news, because there was no dues increase on the agenda, as had been feared a few months ago. The lack of a dues increase fitted in with the generally upbeat reports from President Mary Lou Whitehorne of Nova Scotia and the national executive.

A year ago, the RASC's first Executive Director, Deborah Thompson, took office, and she and the executive reported progress on several fronts in their work to put the national society on a sound footing. Deborah, the RASC's new Office Administrator Fiona Wilson and other employees are implementing measures to increase our membership, and improve services to members.

The National RASC has obtained government grant money to improve the design of the *Journal*, and increase subscriptions to the *Journal*. The latter goal is on the way to being met, and the design improvements are already apparent in the June issue of the *Journal*.

The executive team has been able to manage issues such as the continuing high value of the Canadian dollar, which in the past has affected sales of the *Observer's Handbook* and other RASC publications. And in the coming months, the RASC will have to rewrite its Constitution to meet the changes required under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, which was passed in 2009 and will come into effect later this year, replacing legislation that has been in place since 1917. This will mean a great deal of work involving the Constitution Committee, the National Executive, and Council leading up to the 2012 GA.

This new legislation will also mean that the centres, including the Victoria Centre, will have to rewrite their bylaws to reflect the new legislation. The national RASC will assist the

Centres with this work once the new national Constitution is in place.

National Council also spent a great deal of time on the Light Pollution Abatement Committee report, ratifying the committee's recommendation that the Irving Nature Park in St. John, New Brunswick, be designated as the RASC's first Urban Star Park. Council also ratified revisions to the RASC Guidelines for Dark Sky Preserves and Urban Star Parks. Council also voted to register the phrases and logos associated with the RASC's Dark Sky Preserves and Urban Star Parks programs.

### Other Activities

This GA was notable for the fact that it was the first to be tweeted to interested observers around Canada and elsewhere using the #rascga hashtag. As well, photos and events were quickly posted on the [RASC's Facebook page](#).

Those attending the GA enjoyed many top-flight presentations, including Dr. Christine Wilson from McMaster University, who gave the Ruth Northcott Lecture on the origin of stars, and Dr. Samar Safi-Harb of the University of Manitoba, who addressed the banquet on X-ray astronomy. York University astronomer Paul Delaney spoke on the study of variable stars.

Alan Dyer and others gave excellent presentations on astrophotography. RASC History Committee chair Randall Rosenfeld not only played the music of famed musician and astronomer William Herschel, but also provided a preview of the upcoming transit of Venus across the face of the Sun, which will be visible in Victoria and elsewhere on June 5, 2012.

The GA also heard a presentation on Laser Pointers from Bob Grant of Transport Canada, who promised to work with the RASC to foster the safe and lawful use of these devices. The

RASC has produced a leaflet on Green Laser Pointers for Astronomy, which will be available from the Victoria Centre.

The GA offered attendees the usual excellent variety of tours, including the Assiniboine Park and Zoo, the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, and others. On Canada Day, delegates enjoyed a wine and cheese at the Manitoba Museum, followed by a view of fireworks on the Red River and even a display of noctilucent clouds.

### Upcoming GA's

The 2012 RASC General Assembly will take place at the University of Alberta in Edmonton from June 27 to July 1. The location for the 2013 GA remains unknown, although it will likely be in Eastern Canada. And the Victoria Centre's plans to host the GA in 2014 for our own centennial are already well known around the RASC.

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## Presidents Report

*by Laurie Roche*



This is a short note this month to invite all our members to join in a variety of activities coming up this fall. If you haven't been out to a night sky viewing of some kind or joined in some of our events, this is the

time to do so. This newsletter lets you know about some of them.

By the time you read this, the International Observe the Moon Night will have been held at Cattle Point. If we were clouded out then I hope you checked on our website for other events being held around the world in honour of our nearest natural satellite.

Our next general meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> at UVIC is showcasing some of our members' far flung excursions and explorations as well as thoughts about lighting closer to home. Come and browse in our library in the fourth floor lounge or the Elliott building at the end of the meeting when you join us for coffee and conversation.

We would also like to invite you to our Annual Dinner at the Cedar Hill Golf Course on November 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 6 pm. It is always fun to sit down with friends, get acquainted with new members, indulge in a delicious served dinner, and listen to an engaging speaker. This year we are welcoming one of our own members, Jim Nemec, from Camosun College to give our presentation. Be prepared for prizes and surprises as well. Please contact me to let me know you are coming and to choose your preferred entrée. Check for details in this newsletter. We hope to see you there.

There are lots of other occasions to participate as well: Astronomy Café at Fairfield Community Centre on Monday evenings, Saturday evening sessions at the Victoria Centre Observatory (check with Sherry Buttner, our 2<sup>nd</sup> VP about becoming an Active Observer first, if you have not already done so) and new member observing sessions with Sid Sidhu out in the Highlands at certain times during the month. There are also some school star parties coming up that you could help out with. You are always welcome to join in to whatever types of activities and events that interest you. Let us know what you would like to do and we will see if we can make it happen. Hope to see you out with us soon.

## Equipment Sale

The Victoria Centre has a long history of maintaining an inventory of telescopes for use by its members. Recently the list of telescopes has increased mostly through

donations. Except for one Solar (H $\alpha$ ) telescope, most of this equipment is for night viewing. We would like to add to our inventory a second H $\alpha$  scope.

If you are in the market for a high quality telescope at bargain prices and thus help the Centre to acquire a Solar scope, here is your opportunity.

The following telescopes are deemed surplus items.

1. Antares 12-inch Dobsonian, F=1500mm, Primary mirror cooling fan, 2" Crayford focuser. **\$1.000**
2. 150 mm Celestron HD Refractor, F=1200mm f/8. It includes the following.
  - 8x50 straight through finder
  - 20 mm Omcon wide angle long eye relief
  - 22-11-7.4 zoom lens
  - 25mm Orion Plossl
  - 26 mm Sirius Plossl
  - 32 mm Celestron Plossl
  - 2x Barlow
  - 3x Barlow
  - A set of colour filters; #25, #80, #21, #56, #58A, Moon filter.

**Asking \$1500**

Contact Sid Sidhu for details 250-391-0540

### **DRACONID METEOR UPDATE:**

According to worldwide observers reporting to the International Meteor Organization, there was indeed an outburst of Draconid meteors on October 8th. [Preliminary counts](#) suggest a peak rate of 660 meteors per hour at 2010 UT (4:10 pm EDT).

Most Draconids in the outburst were faint, but not all. Göran Fredriksson photographed this fireball splitting the evening twilight over Örnsköldsvik, Sweden:



The meteor rate and overall faintness of the display was in good accord with predictions by leading forecasters such as Jeremie Vaubaillon of the Institute for Celestial Mechanics in France and analysts at NASA's Meteoroid Environment Office.

**ASTRONOMY CAFE**



**Fairfield Community Centre**

1330 Fairfield Rd. Victoria,  
7:30pm - 10pm

Call Malcolm at (778) 430-4136 for directions and information.

New comers are especially encouraged.



**New Observers Group**

Hosted by Sid Sidhu  
1642 Davies Road, Highlands. Call (250).391-0540 for information and directions.



**Email Lists**

**Observer / CU Volunteers / Members**

Contact Joe Carr to subscribe  
[web@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:web@victoria.rasc.ca)

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday December -14th 7:30pm - 060 Elliott Bldg. University of Victoria, 3800 Finnerty Rd.

**RASC Victoria Council for 2010 / 2011**

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Past President<br>John McDonald<br><a href="mailto:pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca">pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca</a> | Secretary / Recorder<br>Mark Bohlman<br><a href="mailto:secretary@victoria.rasc.ca">secretary@victoria.rasc.ca</a>     | National Representative<br>Chris Gainor<br><a href="mailto:nationalrep@victoria.rasc.ca">nationalrep@victoria.rasc.ca</a> |
| President<br>Lauri Roche<br><a href="mailto:president@victoria.rasc.ca">president@victoria.rasc.ca</a>      | Librarian<br>Michel Michaud<br><a href="mailto:librarian@victoria.rasc.ca">librarian@victoria.rasc.ca</a>              | Light Pollution Abatement<br>Mark Bohlman<br><a href="mailto:lpa@victoria.rasc.ca">lpa@victoria.rasc.ca</a>               |
| First Vice President<br>Nelson Walker<br><a href="mailto:vp@victoria.rasc.ca">vp@victoria.rasc.ca</a>       | Website / E mail lists<br>Joe Carr<br><a href="mailto:web@victoria.rasc.ca">web@victoria.rasc.ca</a>                   | New Member Liaison<br>Vacant<br><a href="mailto:NewMembers@victoria.rasc.ca">NewMembers@victoria.rasc.ca</a>              |
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| Treasurer<br>Li-Ann Skibo<br><a href="mailto:treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca">treasurer@victoria.rasc.ca</a>     | Telescopes / School Programs<br>Sid Sidhu <a href="mailto:telescopes@victoria.rasc.ca">telescopes@victoria.rasc.ca</a> | <b>Members at Large</b><br><br>Bill Almond, Jim Hesser, Alex Schmitt, David Lee   |