

# SKYNEWS



## Astronomy Cafe's Swap 'n Shop

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February Talk  
Council Reports  
IAU Outreach Programs

### MARCH MEETING

Wednesday March 11th 7:30pm  
A104 Bob Wright Bldg,  
University of Victoria  
3800 Finnerty Rd

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

## On the Cover

### February Talk

*Laurie Roche presents her Travels to Italy*

### Presidents Report

*by Sherry Buttnor*

How about that comet, eh? Nothing like a lovely comet to make winter skies seem less gloomy, and Comet Lovejoy put on quite a show over the last few weeks. I think, after auroras, comets are my favourite night-sky things to observe and photograph, and we were lucky to have three separate arctic outbreaks this winter, bringing clear sparkling skies for observing. I hope you were able to get out and enjoy them.

As you may know, March is Messier Marathon month; this year the new moon is on March 20, so that weekend should be great for anyone who wants to try this challenging event. If you do, please let our Observing Chairs, Jim Stilburn or Michel Michaud know as soon as possible by email at: [obschair@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:obschair@victoria.rasc.ca) and we will set up a session. If there isn't the interest, we will let it pass for this year. Plans are well underway for various upcoming events, such as Astronomy Day, and the RASCals Summer Star Party in Metchosin. We will pass along details as they become available.

We have good news for those of you who cannot make the monthly meetings, yet would like to see them: we will begin broadcasting them live over the Web starting immediately with February's meeting. . After a false start, much discussion about privacy and personal comfort levels -not to mention many emails in favour of live broadcasts- Council has

decided to give it a try. Our Admin will send out an email to the Skynews email list each month with instructions on how to view these broadcasts. See you at the meetings. Or at least, you will see us!

Clear skies, everyone.

Sherry

### 2nd Vice President

*by Chris Purse*

Membership Report - February 2015

Total membership is currently 207. There are 17 members in the grace period. Please contact Chris Purse ([membership@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:membership@victoria.rasc.ca)) if you would like to check the status of your membership.

### Excerpts from the IAU astronomy Outreach Program Newsletter.

Online Version can be found online here

[http://www.iau.org/public/publications/newsletter/2015\\_01/](http://www.iau.org/public/publications/newsletter/2015_01/)

1) The opening ceremony of the International Year of Light 2015 was successfully held at UNESCO last week. We are very excited that the IAU was invited, and was able to give three talks during the ceremony to address the importance of dark skies, light pollution issues, the frontiers of astronomy and also introduce the CosmicLight projects coordinated by the IAU. In this issue, there is information on these CosmicLight cornerstone projects, namely the Galileoscopes, Light: Beyond the Bulb, Dark Sky Meter, CosmicLight EDU kit and the Quality Lighting Teaching Kit. Happy IYL2015. Clear Skies,

Sze-leung Cheung  
IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach

## 2) CosmicLight IYL2015: Galileoscope

The Galileoscope is a high quality, low cost telescope kit developed by a team of leading astronomers and science educators. No matter where you live, with this easy-to-assemble kit, you can see the celestial wonders that Galileo Galilei first glimpsed over 400 years ago, including lunar craters and mountains, four moons circling Jupiter, the phases of Venus, Saturn's rings, and countless stars invisible to the unaided eye. The Galileoscope is one of the cornerstone projects for the International Year of Light 2015 Cosmic Light theme. You can check out the details at <http://galileoscope.org/>.

**ASTRONOMY  
CAFÉ**



### Fairfield Community Centre

1330 Fairfield Rd. Victoria,

7:30pm - 11pm

Contact: Chris Purse for further details  
[vp2@victoria.rasc.ca](mailto:vp2@victoria.rasc.ca)

New comers are especially encouraged.



### New Observers Group

Hosted by Sid Sidhu - 1642 Davies Road, Highlands. Call 250.391-0540 for information and directions.

## 3) Shared Stories: GalileoMobile

### Documentary

[GalileoMobile](#) is a voluntary science outreach programme with a focus on astronomy. "In the Land of Beauty" is the account of the GalileoMobile's 2013 journey across southern Uganda. The 15-day journey included visits to five schools to perform hands-on games and activities to explain the cosmos. This documentary also covers stories of integration and acceptance between different ethnicities,



### Email Lists

#### Observer / CU Volunteers / Members

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

cultures and beliefs as well as discussions on the relationship between science and religion. Through the words of many promising students, as well as of local teachers, this documentary is a glimpse into Uganda and its education system and provides a viewpoint on the importance of sharing astronomy.

Vimeo - <https://vimeo.com/113110857#at=0>

Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qoNAu5rMGv0>

## Upcoming Meetings of Interest

More information: <http://www.eacoa.net/event/20150209/>

b) 2nd International Conference on Light Pollution Theory, Modelling and Measurements (LPTMM)

Date: 26–29 May 2015

Location: Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada

More information: <http://lptmm.org>

c) 3rd International conference on Artificial Light at Night (ALAN 2015)

Date: 30 May – 1 June 2015

Location: Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada

More information: <http://www.artificiallightatnight.org/>

## RASC Victoria Centre Council 2014 / 2015

POSITION	NAME	E-Mail
Past President:	Nelson Walker	<a href="mailto:pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca">pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca</a>
President	Sherry Buttner	<a href="mailto:president@victoria.rasc.ca">president@victoria.rasc.ca</a>
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Second Vice President	Chris Purse	<a href="mailto:vp2@victoria.rasc.ca">vp2@victoria.rasc.ca</a>
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Light Pollution Abatement	Dorothy Paul	<a href="mailto:lighting@victoria.rasc.ca">lighting@victoria.rasc.ca</a>
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Website Content	Joe Carr	<a href="mailto:web@victoria.rasc.ca">web@victoria.rasc.ca</a>
NRC Liaison	Dr. James Hesser	
NRC Liaison	James di Francesco	
UVic Liaison	Alex Schmid	
Member at Large	David Lee	



Astronomy Cafe had a Swap 'n Shop at the Sir James Douglas School in late January where many members brought excess equipment that they were passing along to new members. In the future there may be other opportunities for these types of events. Stay tuned to the Victoria RASC email list

