

SKYNEWS



Photo by John McDonald



Photo by Lauri Roche

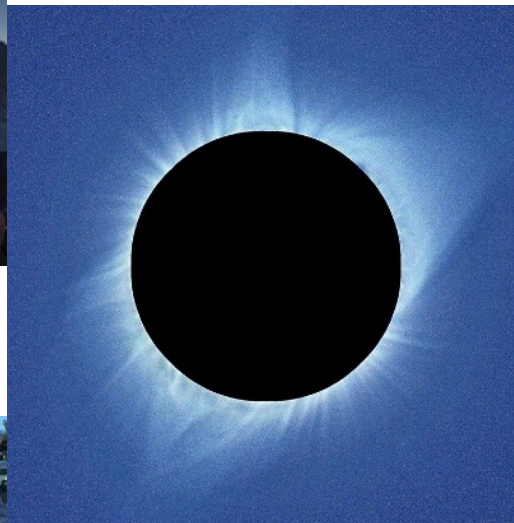
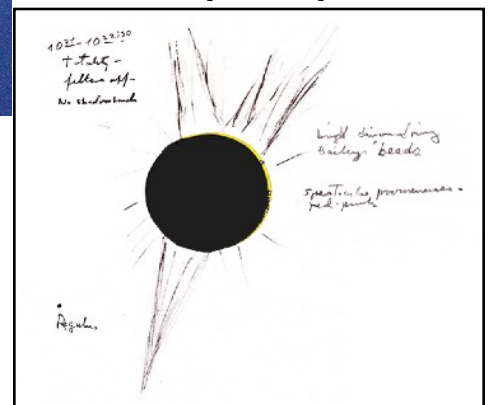


Photo by David Lee



Photo by Remi Odense

Sketch by Dorothy Paul



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Total Recall

**Memories Surrounding
The Total Eclipse of the Sun
August 21, 2017**

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting AGM
Sat Nov 18th 2017
6:00 PM at
Cedar Hill Golf Course
1400 Derby Road

www.victoria.rasc.ca

On the Cover

Total Recall

Graphics by John McDonald, Lauri Roche, David Lee, Remi Odense and Dorothy Paul

The images and sketch on the cover display some of the visual highlights of the August 21st Solar Eclipse. The collection of RASCAl anecdotes assembled in this issue however provides a much richer insight into the experience. There are detailed descriptions of the physical event as well as moving accounts of the emotional response ... usually shared in community. Contained within are also some rather amusing traffic tales and memories of meals shared. Many thanks must go to the RASCals who contributed to this issue. Hopefully reading about these experiences will keep memories of this magic moment alive. Enjoy!

President's Report

by Chris Purse

Another season of Summer Star Parties at the DAO has come to an end. We had more evenings this year with a star party most Saturday evenings from the end of April through late September. We will be meeting with our partners, the Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, to review this season and start planning for next year. As always, I am interested in hearing feedback, ideas, and suggestions. Please send me your ideas at president@victoria.rasc.ca.

For me, the highlight of the star parties are the many conversations I have with our visitors.

Every evening there were great conversations about what we were seeing, the night sky, travel, life in the universe, etc. There were many gasps of amazement especially when we were looking at Saturn. Saturn really is a highlight of the night sky; it was the first object I recall seeing through a telescope when I was in high school. I still enjoy looking at it all these year later!

Many of the visitors were amazed to learn the telescopes they were looking through are personally owned. So many said how much they appreciated the opportunity to see the night sky and our generosity. The time we donated to the star parties was greatly appreciated and I, too, thank all the members who were involved this year.

Next year, we have two major anniversaries. The first is the centenary of first light of the Plaskett Telescope. Already a National Historic Site of Canada, there are some events being planned in order to celebrate. One of the ideas being considered is submitting an application to have a float in the Victoria Day Parade. We are looking for a couple of centre members who would be interested in helping with the design, planning, and execution of a float. Please let me know if you would like to join the parade committee. The second anniversary is the sesquicentenary of RASC. There will be some celebratory events happening in honour of this anniversary.

Save the date: Shortly, I will be sending out information about the November AGM including pre-ordering your entree. The entree choices are salmon, chicken, vegetarian ravioli, or steak. The AGM will be held on the evening of Saturday, November 18 at the Cedar Hill Golf Course. Doors will open at 6 p.m.



October 11th Meeting Presentation

Historical Supernovae

by Wendell Shuster

7:30 PM: Rm A104 - Bob Wright Centre, UVIC

This talk will focus on how various cultures around the world were influenced by the sudden appearance of Supernovae. Further discussion includes where supernovae were seen, how bright they were and how they were identified by modern scientists (archaeologists, geologists, paleo-astronomers and astrophysicists). The final segment goes briefly into the astrophysics of the two main Supernovae types tying in how we know the distances and what the Supernovae may have looked like to these cultures even though historical records are very scant at best. There will also be a short presentation on the outreach program at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory, (DRAO) which is located near Penticton.

Wendell Shuster has been a member of RASC for 37 years, first in Vancouver and since 2000 in Penticton. He is currently a tour guide at the DRAO, and has served on executive positions of the Okanagan Centre of RASC as well as its predecessor the Okanagan Astronomical Society. Wendell has made numerous astronomical presentations on a wide variety of topics. His devotion to the science is truly astronomical. Who else do you know who has the entire collection of 1872 glass plates from the Palomar Sky Survey in his basement? Don't miss this one!

Upcoming Speakers

Saturday November 18th 2017

AGM at Cedar Hill Golf Course:

Dr Chris Willott. The James Webb Space Telescope

Wednesday December 13th 2017

Dr. Chris Pritchett. Supernovae: 1a

Wednesday January 10th 2018

Dr. Pat Hall. Quasars: Black Holes That You Can "See".

ASTRONOMY CAFE



Our weekly **Astronomy Cafe** is an excellent, informal, way to meet us. New comers are especially encouraged. **Due to renovations it is being held in an alternate venue until November.** Click the link for location: <http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/astro-cafe/>

Fairfield Community Centre - 1330 Fairfield Rd. Victoria.

Every Monday at 7:30pm. Contact: Reg Dunkley for further details: vp@victoria.rasc.ca



Email Lists

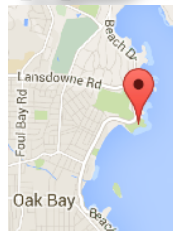
Observer / CU Volunteers / Members

Contact Chris Purse to subscribe membership@victoria.rasc.ca



New Observers Group

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



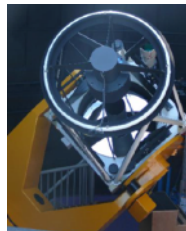
Cattle Point observing in Victoria's own Urban Dark Sky Park.

Click the link for the date and time of the next scheduled session <http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/rascals-cattle-point/>



Victoria Centre Observatory: Every Saturday Evening

Open to those on *the Active Observers list only*
Weather permitting.



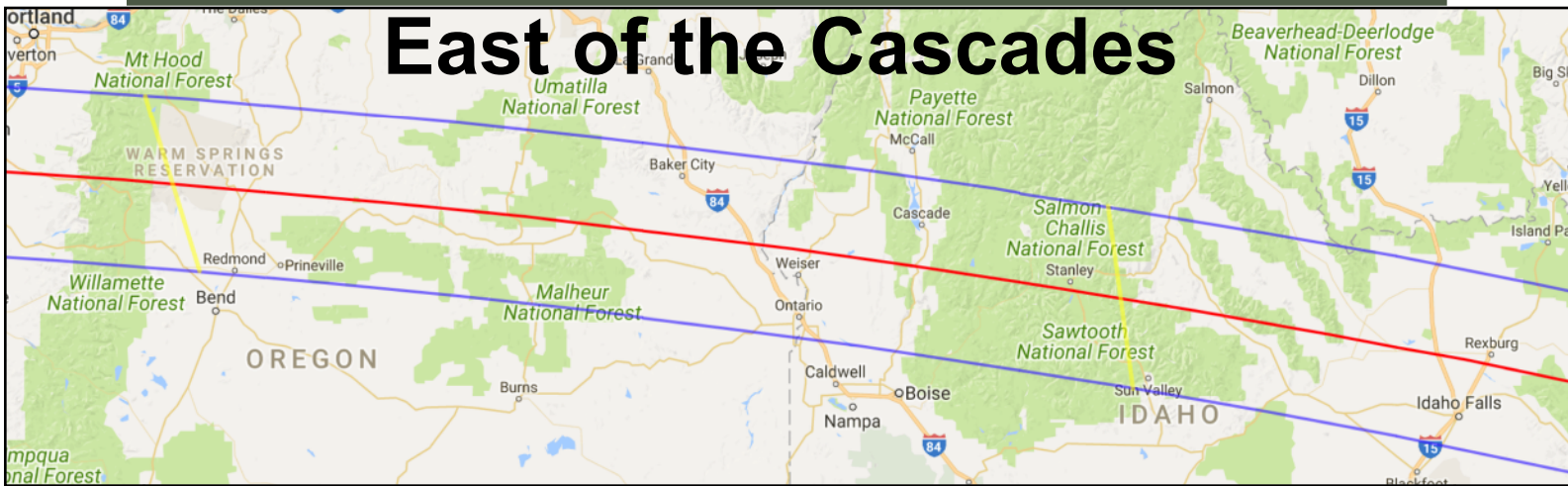
UVic 32 Inch Telescope

RASC Victoria Centre Session
2nd Friday of Month. Meet by the Elevator in the Bob Wright Centre at 7PM

Membership Report - October 2017

Total membership is currently **260**. There are 15 members in the grace period which means their membership has expired in the past 2 months. Please contact Chris Purse (membership@victoria.rasc.ca) if you would like to check the status of your membership.

East of the Cascades



The Price of Parking in Idaho by Michael and Donna Lee Webb

Eclipse 2017...the journey. We knew after the March 2016 eclipse that persuading a number of people to travel to the centre line of the August 21 Eclipse had to be a bit of a mission. We gathered in Big Sky Montana with 23 eclipse virgins from across the USA most of whom were celebrating dual 70th (ours) and 75th birthdays but had reluctantly agreed to undertake the two hour drive to the centre line on the morning of the 21st. There were threats of a boycott as few could understand the measurable difference between 97% coverage and 100%. **It is difficult to sell the emotional component of totality.** There are simply no words. The drive down was uneventful at 4AM. *As we passed West Yellowstone, signs for eclipse parking at \$150 were spotted followed by \$100 then \$50 and finally as we passed the*

Walmart in Rexburg Idaho..FREE!! The place was packed.

We had parking at Brigham Young University campus in Rexburg Idaho. They were well organised with porta potties and wrist bands signifying your assigned lot. It was free. There were well groomed hills with grass for the 8 children to play and the remaining 15 adults to note the crescent shaped shadows, notably cooling air and to the kid's delight, all the lady bugs appearing once we reached about 80% coverage. Totality was a spectacular 2 minutes and 17 seconds. Of the last seven eclipses, only Libya in 2006 came close in the clarity, absence of clouds and the extent and complexity of the corona. On the 4 hour drive back to Big Sky, our group were planning a trip to the Adirondacks in 2024 as someone has a cabin along the path of totality. *That is one way to avoid the \$200 parking. It is New York after all.*

Excerpts from Chris Gainor's [Blog](#)

Audrey and I travelled nearly 400 miles in each direction by car and ferry from our home in Greater Victoria to Madras, a town of about 7,000 people in the desert of central Oregon, to see this celestial spectacle. Tens of thousands of other people also descended on Madras, including friends from across Canada and around the U.S. The group I watched the eclipse with included David Levy, the co-discoverer of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9, and his wife Wendee.

During the two minutes when we could look at the eclipsed Sun without any filters or protection and view its corona, I had the feeling that I was looking at a ring of fire. The corona

appeared to have a hint of yellow, perhaps an artifact of the smoke in the air around Madras. None of the photos that I or anyone else took showed that colour, though.

It is difficult to explain what an incredible sight totality is. For that brief period, you can just look up with your naked eyes and take in the strange sight of the solar corona and the dark sky around it. Venus and other planets are briefly visible. The corona's brightness usually and misleadingly appears in photos to be wispy. It is a whole different thing in person. That's why people travel hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles at great expense to experience totality.

Breakfast in Madras

by Nelson Walker

Mona and I joined Chris and Audrey, and Les and Barb, at Eagle Crest Resort, a development on the outskirts of Redmond, some twenty-seven miles South of Madras, Oregon, which, as everyone knows by now, was smack in the center of the path of totality. Predictions were that the tiny town would be overwhelmed by mobs of visitors. We, through Les, booked our room months in advance, and arrived a couple of days early to insure we would be able to find a spot well within the path with easy access to our digs. Each couple had brought a friend.

Les found such a spot in the village of Culver, some ten miles Southwest of Madras. Getting there in time to set up, and to beat the anticipated traffic, would require getting up before the crack of dawn, to be sure, and hitting the road. Mona, however, is not an early riser, and 8 AM is the best we could manage, leaving us snarled in traffic on two-lane Highway 97, short of our goal, but well within the path of totality. ***We, and everyone else, took to pulling off onto the shoulder of the road, situating ourselves near the flashing signs warning not to “park on the shoulder.”***

It was from there that we watched the eclipse, sandwiched between visitors from California and Boston. We set up our two telescopes, made new friends, and enjoyed the entire eclipse. Mona got a beautiful picture of the moment of totality.



Photo by Mona

The whole experience was so splendid, in fact, that I suggested, after we had packed up, that we “*drive into Madras and have breakfast.*” It seeming like a good idea at the time, we were within a few minutes hopelessly trapped in the northbound traffic headed into town. Southbound traffic, an endless stream of cars with California plates, made turning around impossible.

We did ultimately have breakfast in Madras, two hours later. Even the return to Redmond was more complicated that we had hoped. ***It took us a full hour to reverse direction on Highway 97 in Madras, and another two hours just to get to the edge of town.*** Seeing that heading back to Redmond would be a lost cause for the next several hours, we elected to head west to Cove Palisades State Park for an afternoon of swimming in (what remains of) the Deschutes River.

Nelson's Eclipse Venue



Recording the Solar Eclipse by Eye and Hand at the Oregon Star Party

by Dorothy Paul

First contact. The moon bites into the north-northwest edge of the sun (at about 1:00 on a clock face), and the August 21 2017 total solar eclipse is underway. My eyes and mind cease wandering over the unusual daytime scene at the Oregon Star Party (where the hum of human activity is normally nocturnal) and come to focus on the solar disc, viewed at 29X magnification through our 80-mm telescope with solar filter. This is Miles' and my third total solar eclipse but the first for which we've had our own telescope. Previously we were with groups, in 2001 in Zambia, on the north bank of the Lower Zambezi River; in 2008, in the Altai Mountains of northwest Mongolia. While Keplerian choreography and Newtonian physics pre-ordain the paths of the players, each eclipse puts on a unique show because both players as well as the observer's venue contribute unpredictable details to the entire display. This morning clusters of sunspot cross the solar disc from north-northeast to south-southwest (approximately from 1:00 to 7:00 on a clock face), conveniently laying out the path the moon will follow. *Darn: why hadn't I sketched them accurately before first contact?* Never mind: their convenient orientation means I can simply note the sunspots remaining visible, rather than guesstimate the percentage of the sun's face covered by the advancing moon. After all, today's sunspots will almost certainly be the most photographed of the year!

Second contact. Diamond ring. Filters off. Sparkling Bailey's Beads shimmy at the moon's perimeter and the dazzling diamond expands rapidly to an impressive maximum. Lengthening arms of the solar corona stretch beyond what we had witnessed in Zambia or Mongolia. Even more eye-catching in today's dynamic show are the number, size, and colour of solar prominences darting from the solar limb at several locations, certainly more dramatic than either of us recalls seeing during previous eclipses. As Miles and I seamlessly shift places at the telescope, I keep my mind's eye focused on the latest image through the eyepiece. Fig 1 (front cover) does not depict the full expanse of the corona's arms (my paper was too small!); the show's other dynamic elements are recorded in brief notes to the side, not that I will ever need reminder of the total spectacle.

Third contact is imminent. My eyes and brain focus on the cluster of prominences at ~3 o'clock, close to the sun's equator – how to describe their rich pink-red colour, subtly but distinctly different in full visible spectrum than the colour of flares observed through filters of solar scopes? They start to fade in the light from the emerging edge of the solar disc and will soon disappear, but I keep staring – fortunately! Almost in their place, backlit by the sliver of solar limb are several jagged peaks projecting from the edge of the moon (Fig 2). I'm

looking at moon mountains in sharp silhouette, backlit by the solar limb, the way we see crest of distant earth mountains at dusk, backlit by the setting sun! Miles snaps the solar filter back on the scope (saving my eye-sight), and I catch a final glimpse of these lunar peaks before relaxing my gaze in time to take in the earthshine illuminating the familiar face of the moon before it too disappears.

Third to fourth contact – denouement. First thing, before distractions intercede, is to organize all my mental images of totality for two sketches to complete later today (88.3 seconds is not enough time to even think of putting pencil to paper!). Figs 1 and 2 are scans of those sketches after minor pencil touchups, with contrast adjustments and addition of colour made in Photoshop. Earthshine on the moon in fig. 2 is simply shown as grey, no attempt at rendering details. Crescents, a reliable complement to solar eclipses, are always fun, whether in geometric display through Miles Waite's kitchen strainer, or formed by foliage (Zambia), or crossed fingers (Mongolia). While keeping track of the moon's progress on sketches, by noting the re-emergence of the string of sunspots in the same order they had disappeared, I retrieve the accoutrements of the visual spectacle we've just witnessed which I'd temporarily tucked to the back of my mind – the marked drop in illumination and temperature of our surrounds as we temporarily lost direct radiation from our star; the modified sound track during totality: reduced hum of human voices, more focused comments and greater emotional intensity of exclamations. Frankly, the changes in soundtrack during the 2001 and 2008 eclipses were much more fun, the precipitous drop in myriad sounds of birds and insects in the Zambian bush and the tinkle of bells around the necks of Mongolian goats descending from grazing at higher elevations, as though it were evening and time to return home for the night! Other than the absence of shadow bands at OSP, precluded unfortunately by the smoky atmosphere from recently-ignited forest fires on the eastern side of the Cascades, this total solar eclipse more than lived up to all expectations – it added moon mountains to my list of what to look for next time!

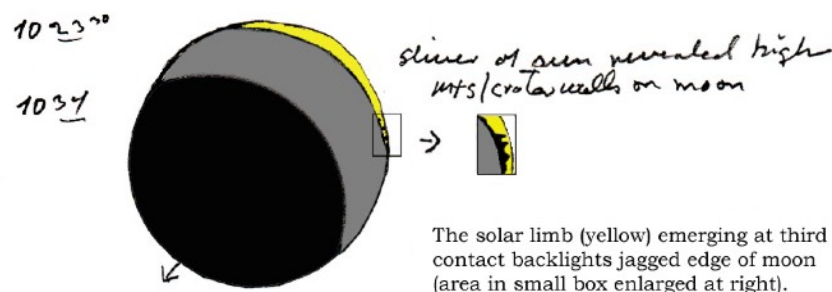


Fig. 2

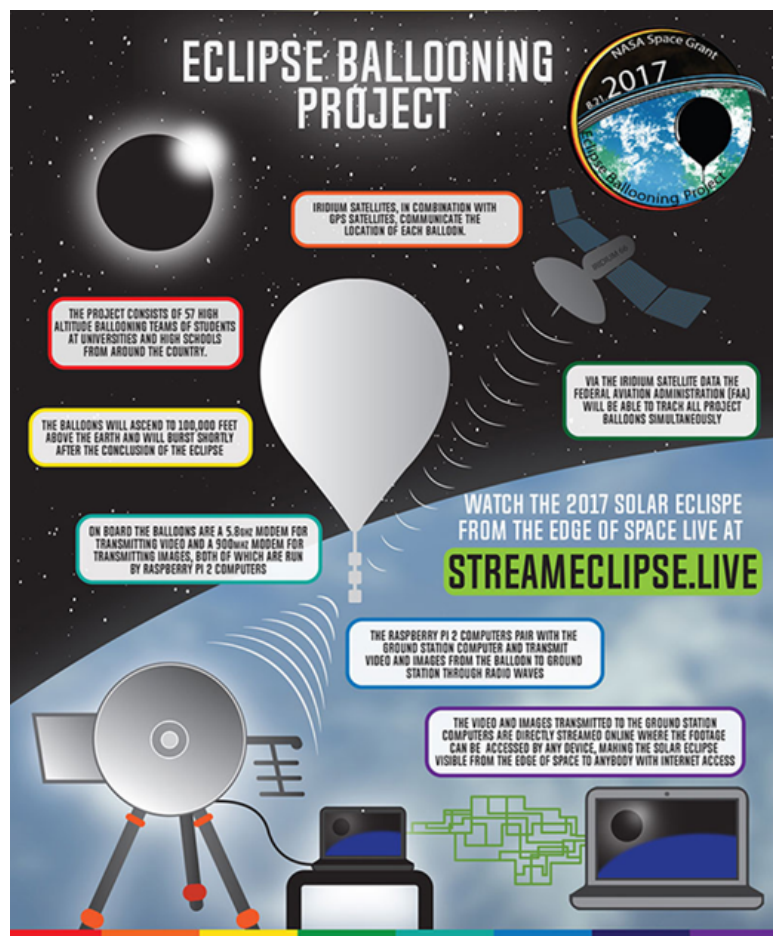
Eclipse Diversions

RASC Victoria Centre's Alan Hindle, Peggy Findley, Barbara Wright and Leslie Welsh, and other family and friends from across North America, observed the total solar eclipse from Culver High School in Central Oregon, a few kilometres south of Madras. Our location was chosen absent knowledge of a NASA-sponsored Eclipse Ballooning Project, with a local launch organized at the same high school by the Central Washington University's Near Space Observation Team (NSOT). Upon arrival early on eclipse morning, we found the NSOT setting up...

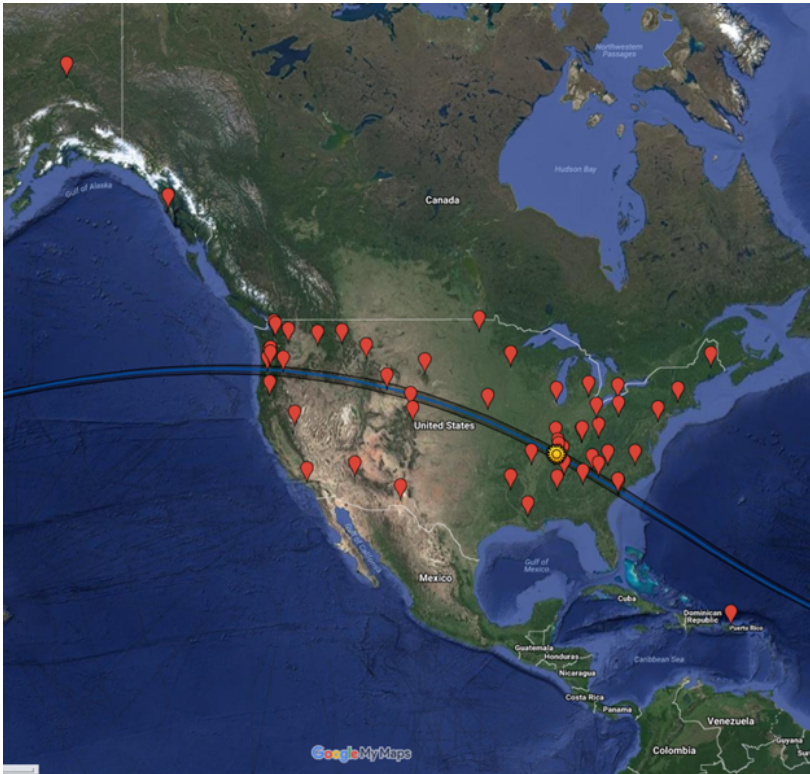
“What are these balloons doing on *our* field???”



photo by Barbara Wright



The NSOT activities provided an unusual diversion during the partial phases, with the enthusiastic students and their professors diligently operating their high-tech stratospheric balloon monitoring and launching equipment (i.e. loads of electronics, helium cylinders and many hands and arms). It also provided an unusual record of our eclipse experience as well, available after the fact. We weren't aware of the live streaming of their videos from 30 km above ground (see diagrammatic explanation), and probably couldn't have accessed it anyway given the overloading of the cellular internet connections in Central Oregon. But, the web site <http://eclipse.montana.edu/> archives



copious records of various types from the dozens of sites (see N.A. map) from which the stratospheric balloons were launched, including Culver High School (depicted by the third red balloon from the left on the eclipse path)!

Map of NASA's Eclipse Ballooning Project sites for the August 21, 2017 total solar eclipse



Les drove into Madras and were further unusually diverted by a search for Ecliptic Eclipse Beer. Les snagged the very last six-pack at the local Safeway store, hiding under a stack of other brands' six-packs away from its now-empty normal shelf location.

(By the way, even long-defunct Canadian Safeway discount card accounts, accessed through 25-year-old phone numbers, still work!)

It occurred to me that Safeway didn't need the advertising banner (see picture) anymore for a product they no longer had, so I asked a stock clerk about buying the banner. Although he kindly spent a half-hour trying to get permission from the store manager to sell or give it to us, ultimately it was deemed the property of the beer distributor and the store wouldn't let us have it. :-)

But we still enjoyed the beer! ;-)

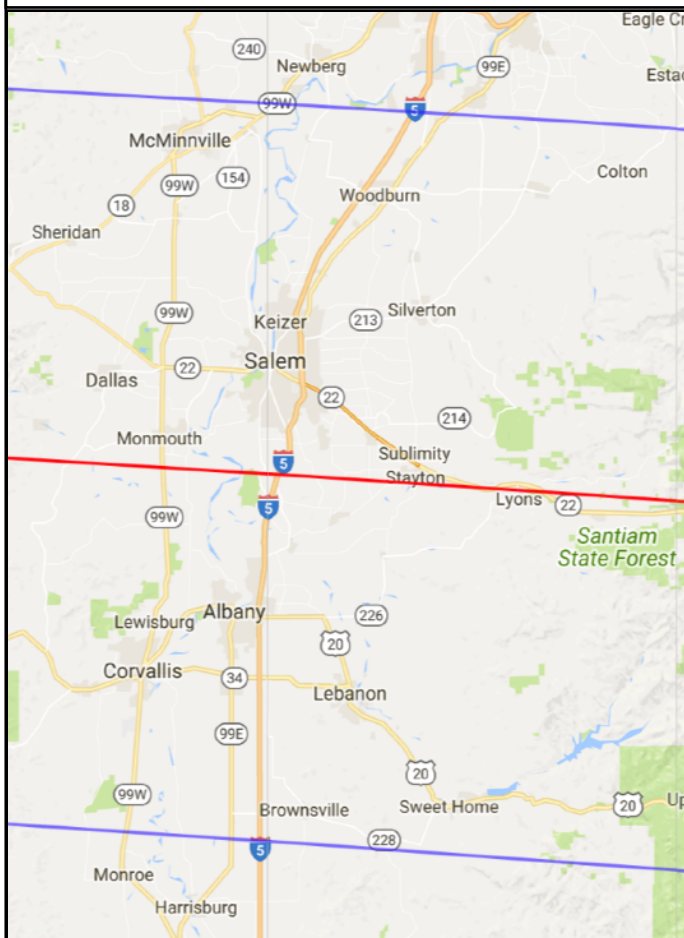
Leslie Welsh and Barbara Wright

p.s.: We also saw the Total Eclipse! LW & BW

p.p.s.: Observing the Total Eclipse does deserve far more than a p.s.! BW & LW photos by Barb Wright



In the Willamette Valley



were camping or staying with friends or relatives. There were predictions in the press of mass chaos on the roads, food and fuel shortages, and other nasty things happening as 1.5 million people descended on the state of Oregon for a single day event that lasted at most about two minutes! I'm happy to report that by-and-large there was very little chaos. The people of western Oregon (where my friends and I were) were prepared for crowds, managed to feed and accommodate us, and all with good humour. The roads experienced some congestion, especially for about 24 hours after the eclipse, but everyone I talked to drove back home, but some had a few stories to tell.

What about the eclipse? Well, this was my fourth TSE, and I have to say it was without a doubt the prettiest apparition of the four. Bailey's Beads fairly sparked at us. The Diamond Rings at the start and end of totality were spectacular, drawing hoots, hollers and great excitement from the observing field where we were observing from. The beautiful plasma streamers and solar corona was breathtaking, and eclipse newbies were surprised at the sheer size of the Sun's emissions as it filled a whole quadrant of the sky. Virtually the whole state of Oregon experienced perfect weather on eclipse day, so nobody had to make a run for it along crowded roads to dodge clouds - clear skies for all!

Although the next total solar eclipse crossing North America occurs in 2024, my plans include observing the 2019 TSE from the deck of a ship located just off the coast of Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific. Yes, I am also planning to see the 2024 TSE - probably from Mexico where predicted cloud cover looks favorable. I look forward to hearing from all the newly-minted "eclipse chasers" as they make plans to see their next one, wherever that may be!

Victoria RASCals Invade Monmouth

by Joe Carr

As Victoria Centre's webmaster, I posted an information article on our website back in January 2016 about the 2017 total solar eclipse (TSE) in order to give our members a heads-up and to provide some basic information about this very special event. In September 2016 at Astronomy Cafe I managed to motivate some of our members to seriously consider booking accommodation in Oregon. A month later about a dozen Victoria Centre members assured me they were going, including a small group of us who decided to meet at Western Oregon University in the little town of Monmouth, Oregon, which is near Salem in the Willamette Valley.

Flash forward to early summer 2017, and more members had somehow found last-minute accommodation, or



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An Observers Eclipse Adventure

by Diane Bell

On Sunday, August 20th. Lauri Roche and I departed on the 6:10 am COHO Ferry and headed southward, to connect with Interstate 5 south of Seattle. The traffic was smooth on our way toward Salem, Oregon - where our campsite awaited. After we set up the tent in the afternoon, we headed to Monmouth to meet up with John McDonald and Garry Sedun for dinner. We staked out a good spot on the University of Western Oregon's playing field, for the next morning's Eclipse.

Lauri and I left Salem at 7:30 the next morning, for the quick 20 minute drive to Monmouth. We found John and Garry on the field, setting up their equipment - along with Reg and Maureen Dunkley, and Joe Carr. As the Eclipse began with the first contact, the field started to fill up. Our excitement grew as the moon continued to consume the sun.

Here are some words from a Facebook post I shared, along with my photo I took of my first Total Eclipse:

"TOTALITY!! The sky was approaching darkness, with shadows sharpening dramatically. The temperature dropped a few degrees. There was drama as the crowd hooted and shouted with joy. The Sun's crescent thinned and thinned as the sky darkened considerably. The Diamond Ring effect was stunning. The Corona was amazing. It was now safe to look at this, without eye damage. It looked bigger than I imagined. My first....

The color around the edges of the moon was red, although not very bright in my photo. The Totality was carefully timed, and we had ample warning to re-position filters over equipment and

our eyes before the second Diamond Ring appeared.

The tiny bit of light from the sun as it reappeared from behind the moon was very bright. The shadows reappeared quickly as the field started to lighten again. And....Venus was high up and very bright as well! I spent a bit of time setting up a picture or two, and just ENJOYED the show. I had the camcorder playing the whole time, capturing the drama from the crowd - and from me. To say that I was emotional was an understatement indeed...."

We stayed on the field until the 4th contact, then packed up to head over to one of the popular eateries to celebrate. After lunch and Lauri's interview with CBC Radio, we left in the afternoon. Although we fought heavy traffic on the Interstate 5 northward, we made it to our campsite in a Southern Washington State Park before it got too dark. We journeyed to Seattle the next day, along the busy Interstate.

So, what will I remember for the next total eclipse? I will be packing a large square of white quilting cotton, so I can have a look at those shadow bands, before and after Totality. I hear they can be pretty cool....



Photo by Diane Bell

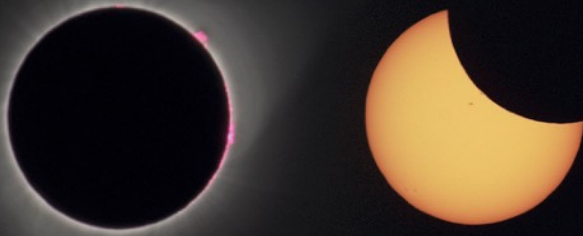
Totality in a Vineyard!

by Dave Bennett

1. We were staying in Portland OR and driving to Coria Estate winery just south of Salem. We left at 3:00 AM and had an uneventful drive down of slightly over an hour. When we got there, there were already 8 cars in line ahead of us. After the eclipse, we had lunch at the winery and hung around until 3:00 PM, when we figured the traffic would have cleared. Wrong! It took us 4 and a half hours to drive back on Interstate 5; bumper-to-bumper all the way!

2. The winery provided eclipse glasses but our group was already supplied. I had thought to bring a timer set for 2 minutes and when it went off, there was a great hue-and-cry of "Put your glasses back on!" It worked and everyone was happy.

3. This is my first total solar and I spent the entire two minutes of totality staring at the moon/sun through my 15 x 70's. I'm hooked and already thinking about Chile on July 2, 2019.



Total Solar Eclipse Corvallis Oregon Totality and 50 minutes before August 21 2017 ©2017 David Lee

The Corvallis Experience

by Jim Hesser

Betty and I with two of our daughters experienced the eclipse at Oregon State University, Corvallis with David Lee and Brenda Stuart. OSU put on a full set of highly accessible lectures on eclipses and astronomy over the weekend, as well as an astronomical art show, an outdoor showing of the film Apollo 13 and an outdoor musical performance. Our non-astronomer daughters enjoyed the lectures which helped prepare them for the experience. Two anecdotes from the amazing trip perhaps are worth sharing.

One lecturer, when asked how different the totality experience is from a partial eclipse offered the following analogy. Imagine a black and white photograph of a hot fudge sundae. Then recall how eating a delicious hot fudge sundae is: that's a partial solar eclipse vs a total solar eclipse experience.

We watched the eclipse along with hundreds of people on an athletic field of AstroTurf which was so large it did not feel crowded, while allowing us to enjoy the shared excitement of numerous first-time eclipse viewers. After totality people began to leave (to join the parking lot that I5 became after the eclipse). Perhaps 15% of the peak participants waited until fourth contact signaling eclipse end. At that moment someone quite distant from us shouted in a very full voice, "ENCORE!", a sentiment with which we all agreed.

GPS purchased for Eclipse - for sale. from Chuck

Pre- Eclipse tested in Oregon 2016 -

no apparent issues at that time.

Updated map database installed, complete with new-fangled *Traffic Advisory Warning System*.

This feature used only once. *Minor malfunction*. See below.

Post - eclipse Aug 21, 2017 13:30 travelling north, severe traffic issues on I5 prompted GPS custom voice instructions from "*English - Katie*" to advise owner he could save 57 minutes by taking alternate route.

Owner immediately gratefully accepted advisory.

Headed East as per instructions.

Way east.

For one hour.

Stopped for gas.

GPS "*English - Katie*" now decided she was through with advising alternate route.

Advised owner to proceed back to original starting point at I5. 1 hour West.

Owner refused.

Owner lost.

Owner's spouse retrieves very old marked, torn paper map and deciphers alternate route north. GPS "*English - Katie*" not happy with spouse and consequently advises:

"when safe to do so, make a U turn",

"when safe to do so, make a U turn",

"when safe to do so, make a U turn".

Owner's spouse rapidly disconnects GPS.

Vehicle very quiet.

Vehicle quite cool using revised alternate route.

GPS for sale.

Cheap!

Some Lessons Learned

- [Dava Sobel](#) convinced editor to not mess with cameras during totality but he should have at least studied Corona with binoculars.
- Brian discovered using Solar Binoculars prior to Totality dark adapts eyes to see more.
- Solar heating puts black telescopes out of focus
- Diane noted a sheet helps see shadow bands
- This experience must be share with others!
- Do not trust a GPS with "*English - Katie*"

The Victoria Perspective

Last month the editor related several verbal accounts of the Solar Eclipse from valiant Victoria RASCals such as Sid Sidhu, Ken Mallory and Sherry Buttnor. Abandoned by thoughtless Oregon eclipse chasers, they were mobbed by thousands of Victorians desperate to obtain precious eclipse glasses. Using their diplomatic skills at the Royal BC Museum, Mount Tolmie and the Metchosin cricket field, they quelled potential riots and all was well.

The following tranquil descriptions would suggest that the turmoil was not widespread nor prolonged.

My First Solar Eclipse

by Marjie Welchframe

On August 21 I saw my first-ever solar eclipse (partial in Victoria) and loved the experience! I looked after a public solar telescope at the RBCM front patio where a small knot of observers gathered 'round the scope. We shared solar glasses and commented to each other about the event.

What surprised me? How often I had to move the scope lens to keep the eclipse image visible on the rear metal plate; the apparent twisting motion of the shadow as it crossed the sun's surface; the pattern of repeated eclipses seen on leaves and through a collander; that I could



Maximum Coverage in Victoria by Susan Harper

actually answer a few questions that members of the public asked me! It was a fun morning with abounding enthusiasm!



Crescents on Fence
by Susan Harper

Community Building on Christmas Hill

by Susan Harper

I live near Christmas Hill in Victoria and my view of Observatory Hill and the gleaming dome is one of my joys in life. I was well prepared for the eclipse, purchasing several rated viewing devices and also a filter for my 500 mm camera lens. On the day of the eclipse I was having renovations done at my house and so had previously scouted out the best location to set up my camera (securely) in the back yard. I started taking pictures right away, offering the carpenter a look as he went back and forth to his table saw. As the eclipse progressed we also stood out in our cul-de-sac with our glasses. The area is a well used walking area and everyone who passed was offered a look. Soon a crowd was gathering and everyone was totally in awe. We met neighbours, beyond our immediate ones, for the first time (we have been here only 4 years). It was a great day!

The only other time I have experience this kind of "community building" was when the Olympic torch ran past our house in Burnaby in 1988.

Parade! Bands! Floats! Fun! Astronomy! Volunteers?

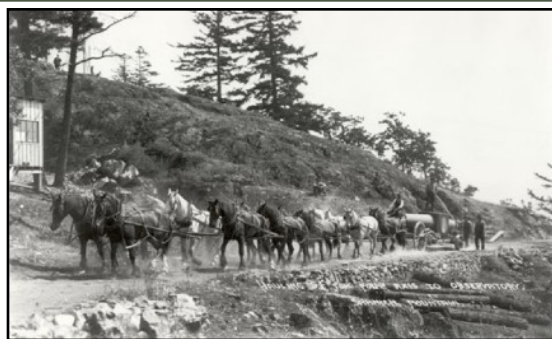
by Jim Hesser

The Victoria astronomical community is coming together to celebrate the past century of Canadian astronomy with the Plaskett Telescope's 2018 centenary of "first light", and the next even brighter century with the Thirty-Metre Telescope and other facilities to come.

Partly towards that end, the Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCAS) is having its annual conference in Victoria from May 22-26, 2018, following Victoria Day. Various commemorations, celebrations and public events are being conceived for that week. A unique possibility is to have a float commemoration of the Plaskett Telescope and Canadian Astronomy's past and future presented during the Victoria Day Parade (VDP), particularly highlighting the large astronomical community in Victoria. A VDP Design Team is being assembled to vision, plan and create a suitable commemorative entry.

This is a prime high-profile local opportunity with national dimensions to promote awareness and understanding of Canadian astronomy—right within the mandate of the charitable activities of the RASC Victoria Centre. The Centre is looking for volunteers from our membership (not necessarily the usual suspects) to contribute to the VDP Design Team, which is co-led by the Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (FDAO), represented by Jennine Gates, and by the DAO itself, represented by Jenny Atwood.

Initially, the VDP Design Team will brainstorm ideas that can then be shared with members of the broad Victoria astronomy community for further development, in a dinner meeting tentatively scheduled for October 25. The Victoria Centre would like to be supportive with a couple of volunteers having a sense of adventure, a vision encompassing the past and the future of astronomy, and perhaps some practical design and/or mechanical/carpentry/decorating/fabric construction skills. The proposal concept needs to be developed by year's end so that a more fully developed



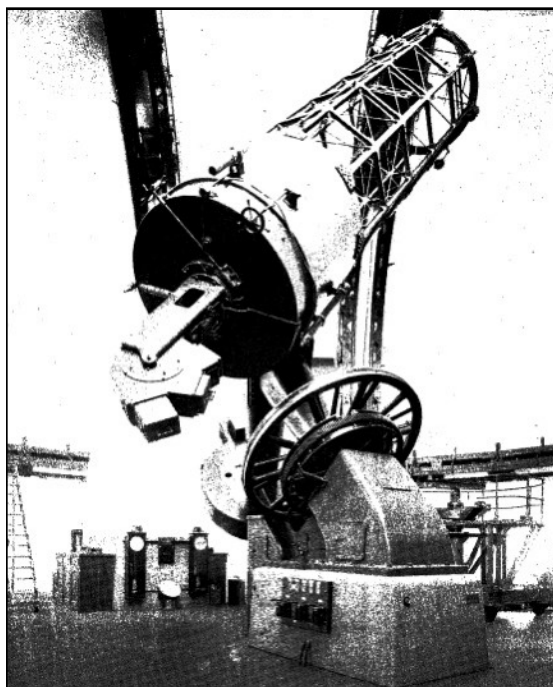
proposal could be submitted by mid-February to the VDP organizers, and to enable such additional resources and volunteers to be garnered.

If you have a sense of astronomically-inclined fun, this opportunity could be for you! Please contact one of the authors to discuss your interest or to get answers to any questions.

Leslie Welsh, Secretary, RASC Victoria Centre,
secretary@victoria.rasc.ca, cell: (778) 922-2836

Jim Hesser, Councillor, RASC Victoria Centre,
james.Hesser@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca, home: (250) 721-3803

Ken Mallory, Chair, Outreach Committee, RASC Victoria Centre, outreach@victoria.rasc.ca,



**The Plaskett Telescope is getting on!
Making it Parade Worthy!**

RASC Victoria Centre Council 2016 / 2017

POSITION	NAME	E-Mail
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Public Outreach	Ken Mallory	outreach@victoria.rasc.ca
School Outreach	Laurie Roche / Sid Sidhu	
Telescopes	Sid Sidhu	telescopes@victoria.rasc.ca
National Representative	Nelson Walker	nationalrep@victoria.rasc.ca
Light Pollution Abatement	Dave Robinson	lighting@victoria.rasc.ca
Membership Coordinator	Chris Purse	membership@victoria.rasc.ca
Observing Chairperson	Michel Michaud / Jim Stillburn	obschair@victoria.rasc.ca
Website Content	Joe Carr	web@victoria.rasc.ca
Members at Large		
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NRC Liaison	James di Francesco	
Nat RASC Anniversary Wrkg Group	Dr. James Hesser	james.Hesser@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
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[SkyNews](#) Our National RASC Newsletter
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[Astronomy](#) Magazine
[Astronomy Now](#) Astronomy in the UK
[Amateur Astronomy](#) Magazine
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Borrowing Telescopes

The centre has telescopes for new and seasoned observers that members can use. Contact Sid Sidhu from the email list