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Nebula Orionis, M-XLII. Imaginem Franclinus Loedeus creavit.

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National Council Representative		
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Outreach Coordinator	Dave Robinson	outreach
SkyScan Liaison	Dave Cleary	skyscan
Dark Sky Preserve Coordinator	Sherrilyn Jahrig	dsp.coordinator

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On the web

<http://edmontonrasc.com>
<http://www.facebook.com>
<https://twitter.com/EdmontonRASC>

Stardust submissions: Submit articles by email to the editor (see above). **Submission deadline** is the 2nd Sunday before the monthly meeting. Meeting dates are on the following page. Any standard document format is fine (MSOffice, OpenOffice, LibreOffice, AbiWord,) but **plain text is preferred**. Do not try to layout and format your article; your labour will only be discarded. Graphics may be submitted as separate files, and clearly identified; indicate references to them within the text. Do not consider your article successfully submitted until you receive a confirmation email from the editor.

Upcoming Events, Meetings, and Deadlines

<p>Regular Meetings are held monthly (see below) from September to June at 7:30pm in Telus World of Science, 11211 – 142 St.</p> <p>Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to attend, member or not. Follow the signs from the main entrance.</p> <p>Observers meetings are held monthly (see below) at Boston Pizza, 10543 – 124 St. Contact the observing_group @ edmontonrasc.com for details.</p>	<p>Council meetings are held monthly (see below) from September to May at 7:15 in the 5th floor observatory of the CCIS* Building on the U of A campus. Any RASC Edmonton member may attend.</p> <p>* Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science</p>
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MEETINGS 2014

2014	Regular	Council	Observers	New Moon	Full Moon	Blackfoot
January	13	27	20	1,30	15	24-25
February	10	24	17	-	14	21-22
March	10	24	17	1,30	16	28-29
April	14	28	16	29	15	25-26
May	12	26	19	28	14	23-24
June	9	-	16	27	12	27-28
- summer -						
September	8	22	15	24	8	26-27
October	20	27	15	23	8	24-25
November	10	24	17	22	6	21-22
December	8	-	15	21	6	19-20

Edmonton Area Astronomy Discussions: astro@mailman.srv.ualberta.ca
To subscribe, send a blank email to: astro-request@mailman.srv.ualberta.ca
with the subject line: [subscribe](http://www.ualberta.ca/~astro/)

The above mailing list is completely independent and is not associated with RASC Edmonton Centre in any way.

SLOOH Survey for RASC members

For those members that have used our Centre account or their own personal account to take pictures from the telescopes on the Canary Islands and/or Chile when it was operating, I would like to hear from you so as to assess the potential and existing uses for our broader memberships and others affiliated with us.

You can reach me, Franklin Loehde, at franklinloehde@yahoo.com

RASC General Assembly 2014

This year's GA is in Victoria, BC, June 26 – 29. Register on-line at: <https://www.rasc.ca/events/home>

A Rant Letter to the Editor by Crystal Steppes

On Saturday night I heard from my cousin Emily Litella from New York that she heard that the RASC Edmonton Centre is bringing a Bad Astronomer to Edmonton. I couldn't believe it! Why would we do that?

Then I thought, what makes this person such a Bad Astronomer anyways? Does he drive up to the dark site with his high beams and fog lights and dome light on? Does he hog the eyepiece of someone else's telescope at a critical time, like right when an occultation is to occur or at second contact for a total solar eclipse? Does he blunder around the observing field bumping everyone's tripod out of alignment? Or are his infractions worse than errors in observing etiquette? Does he claim someone else's research as his own? Does he publish results that cannot be repeated and verified?

To answer these questions I decided to do a search for him

Astronomy News by Sorry Galonynko

The last year has been an exciting for astronomers, both professional and amateur alike. Recent discoveries about dark matter, hyperinflation in the early universe, and the existence of the Higgs Boson have given us incredible insight into the nature of the matter we are made of, and the very fabric of space itself.

It has also lead to some very disturbing conclusions. For instance, that fabric of space, and all the matter in the universe,

online. I was shocked to see that not only is he a Bad Astronomer, but he writes a regular blog and publishes books! Dozens of people probably read what he writes, and some of them may even be children. The topics I see in my search are things such as the Moon landing hoax and Death from the Skies. Why are we bringing a speaker who widely talks about such conspiracy-minded topics?!? Emily also tells me that he is septic. Why would we want to bring in a speaker - and to a banquet no less - that promotes putrefaction? This is a complete outrage!!!

[comment from editor] Crystal, you do realize that Phil Plait writes about Bad Astronomy, he is not himself a bad astronomer. He writes about good science and regularly refutes bad science. And he is a skeptic, not septic.

Oh. I'm sorry. Never mind.

turns out to be made of pretty substandard material. "It is about as bad as those cheap dollar store toys break after a few minutes." said a Dr. April Esimene from MIT, "I mean, it's actually pretty scary to think that space-time is absolute crap. There is no quality control to the universe in which we live." She warned that all the quarks in the whole universe could simply fall apart at any moment like some made-in-China knock-off handbag.

The RASC Edmonton Centre presents

Phil Plait



The Bad Astronomer

Where has our Curiosity Taken Us?

Humans have been curious about the Universe since we were capable of looking up. But we've only been able to travel to and explore other worlds for a few decades. In that time we've learned a lot, but there's so much left to discover... which is why we send rovers to Mars. These mobile labs are extensions of our eyes and hands, testing the Red Planet's surface to see what it's like and what it once was... and whether it could have ever supported life. In this talk, you'll find out just where our Curiosity has taken us.

FREE Public Talk

Free tickets on Eventbrite: <https://philplait.eventbrite.ca>

Saturday, May 3, 2014

3:00 PM

Room 1-430

Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science
University of Alberta

About Phil Plait:

Phil Plait, also known as The Bad Astronomer, is an American astronomer, skeptic, writer, and popular science blogger. Plait has worked as part of the Hubble Space Telescope team, images and spectra of astronomical objects, as well as engaging in public outreach advocacy for NASA missions. He has written two books, *Bad Astronomy* and *Death from the Skies*. He has also appeared in several science documentaries, including *Phil Plait's Bad Universe* on the Discovery Channel.

Phil's Slate Blog: http://www.slate.com/blogs/bad_astronomy.html

Phil on Twitter: @BadAstronomer

Phil on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Phil-Plait/251070648641>

An Evening with Phil Plait

To kick-off Astronomy Month in Edmonton (May 3 - June 9 2014), RASC Edmonton Centre members and their guests are cordially invited to a banquet on the evening of May 3. Our guest of honour will be Phil Plait, aka The Bad Astronomer. This very special event is a great opportunity to relax and socialize with fellow astronomers and get a chance to meet Phil Plait.

Phil will be giving a keynote address entitled
"Hubble: Ten Years or a Hundred Billion Pixels, Whichever Comes First"



Date: Saturday, May 3, 2014

Time: 6:30 PM Cocktails, 7:30 PM Dinner

Location: Saskatchewan Room, Faculty Club, University of Alberta

Cost: \$40 (carnivore), \$30 (herbivore)

Registration forms are available at regular meetings of the RASC or online at

<http://edmontonrasc.com/public/downloads.html>

FINAL DEADLINE for Banquet Tickets is April 25.

Register by April 25 to ensure you can fill your plate with Phil Plait!



edmontonrasc.com

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Edmonton Centre and
The Institute for Space Science, Exploration and Technology
Present:



isset.ualberta.ca

Dr. Carolyn Porco

In the Land of Enchantment: A Decade Exploring Saturn



Dr. Carolyn Porco, Imaging Team Lead
on the Cassini mission orbiting Saturn

May 12, 2014 @ 7:30 pm
University of Alberta
CCIS 1-430

Full details at edmontonrasc.com
This is a **FREE** talk open to the Public

<http://carolynporco.com/>

<http://twitter.com/carolynporco>

<https://www.facebook.com/carolynporco>

Eyepiece Shop

The following skit was originally presented at the April 14, 2008 Regular Meeting. It has been revised slightly for 2014. As always, with apologies to Monty Python.

Eyepiece Shop

Customer walks into the National Eyepiece Emporium and walks past a GoTo telescope slewing.

Customer: Good Morning.

Burgess: Good morning, Sir. Welcome to the National Eyepiece Emporium!

Customer: Ah, thank you, my good man.

Burgess: What can I do for you, Sir?

Customer: Well, I was, uh, sitting in the public library at Sir Winston Churchill Square just now, skimming through "The Backyard Astronomer's Guide" by Dickinson and Dyer, and I suddenly came over all viewish.

Burgess: Viewish, sir?

Customer: Invigilate.

Burgess: Eh?

Customer: 'Ee, Ah observish-loike!

Burgess: Ah, observish!

Customer: In a nutshell. And I thought to myself, "a little ocular lens will do the trick," so, I curtailed my skimming activities, sallied forth, and infiltrated your place of purveyance to negotiate the vending of an ophthalmic biconvex crystalline!

Burgess: Come again?

Customer: I want to buy an eyepiece.

Burgess: Oh, I thought you were complaining about the slewing GoTo motor!

Customer: Oh, heaven forbid: I am one who delights in all manifestations of topocentric triangulation technology for tracking!

Burgess: Sorry?

Customer: 'Ooo, I love the sound of GoTo in the evening!

Burgess: So he can go on initializing then, can he?

Customer: Most certainly! Now then, an eyepiece please, my good man.

Burgess: (*lustily*) Certainly, sir. What would you like?

Customer: Well eh, how about a Televue Ethos?

Burgess: I'm afraid we're fresh out of Televue Ethos', sir.

Customer: Oh, never mind, how are you on Naglers?

Burgess: I'm afraid we never have them at the end of the week, sir, we get them fresh on Monday.

Customer: Tish tish. No matter. Well, stout yeoman, a Panoptic, if you please.

Burgess: Ah! It's beeenn on order, sir, for two weeks. Was expecting it this morning.

Customer: 'T's Not my lucky day, is it? Aah, how about the new Delos?

Burgess: It got stolen while a client was testing it.

Customer: Astrophysics Orthoscopic?

Burgess: Normally, sir, yes. Today the van broke down.

Customer: Ah. Explore Scientific 100° series?

Burgess: Sorry.

Customer: Pentax SMC? Speers-Waler?

Burgess: No.

Customer: Any Takahashi LE, per chance.

Burgess: No.

Customer: Brandon?

Burgess: No.

Customer: Lanthanum?

Burgess: No.

Customer: TMB Super Monocentric?

Burgess: No.

Customer: Zeiss Abbe Orthoscopic?

Burgess: No.

Customer: Meade Ultra-Wide?

Burgess: (*pause*) N-n-n-n-n-o.

Customer: Meade Super-Wide?

Burgess: No.

Customer: University Optics Super Erfle?

Burgess: No.

Customer: Celestron Axiom, Celestron E-LUX, Celestron Omni, Celestron Orthoscopic, Celestron SMA, Celestron Ultima, Celestron X-CEL, Celestron Zoom?

Burgess: No.

Customer: Edmund RKE?

Burgess: Ah! We have an Edmund RKE, yessir.

Customer: (*surprised*) You do! Excellent.

Burgess: Yessir. It..ah,....it has a bit of coma...

Customer: Oh, I like a bit of coma.

Burgess: Well,.. It has a lot of coma, actually, sir.

Customer: No matter. Fetch hither the ocular de la Chinoise! Mmmwah!

Burgess: I...think it has a bit more coma than you'll like it, sir.

Customer: I don't care how much off-axis aberration it has. Hand it over with all speed.

Burgess: Oooooooooohhh.....!

Customer: What now?

Burgess: Oh, the cat's got it!

Customer: (*pause*) The cat?

Burgess: Catadioptric, Sir.

(*pause*)

Customer: William Optics SWAN?

Burgess: No.

Customer: William Optics UWAN?

Burgess: No.

Customer: University Optics König?

Burgess: No.

Customer: Leica Televid?

Burgess: No.

Customer: Nikon Orthostar?

Burgess: No, sir.

Customer: You...do *have* some eyepieces, don't you?

Burgess: (*brightly*) Of course, sir. It's an eyepiece shop, sir. We've got--

Customer: No no... don't tell me. I'm keen to guess.

Burgess: Fair enough.

Customer: Uuuuuh, Burgess.

Burgess: Yes?

Customer: Ah, well, I'll have one of those!

Burgess: Oh! I thought you were talking to me, sir. Mister Burgess, that's my name.

(*pause*)

Customer: Orion Stratus?

Burgess: Uh, not as such.

Customer: Uuh, Parks Gold Series?

Burgess: no

Customer: Russell Optics,

Burgess: no

Customer: Rini Optics,

Burgess: no

Customer: Omcon Erfle,

Burgess: no

Customer: Kellner,

Burgess: no

Customer: Huygens,

Burgess: no

Customer: A plain old Ramsden?

Burgess: Not *today*, sir, no.

(pause)

Customer: Aah, how about a Plössl?

Burgess: Well, we don't get much call for it around here, sir.

Customer: Not much ca--It's the single most popular eyepiece in the world!

Burgess: Not 'round here, sir.

Customer: (pause) and what IS the most popular eyepiece 'round hyah?

Burgess: Abbe, sir.

Customer: IS it.

Burgess: Oh, yes, it's staggeringly popular in this manor, squire.

Customer: Is it.

Burgess: It's our number one best seller, sir!

Customer: I see. Uuh...Abbe, eh?

Burgess: Right, sir.

Customer: All right. Okay. 'Have you got one?' he asked, expecting the answer 'no'.

Burgess: I'll have a look, sir... nnnnnnnnnnnnnnnno.

Customer: It's not much of an eyepiece shop, is it?

Burgess: Finest in the district!

Customer: (*annoyed*) Explain the logic underlying that conclusion, please.

Burgess: Well, it's so clean, sir!

Customer: It's certainly uncontaminated by eyepieces....

Burgess: (*brightly*) You haven't asked me about the König II, sir.

Customer: Would it be worth it?

Burgess: Could be....

Customer: Have you --SHUT THAT BLOODY GOTO OFF!

Burgess: Told you sir....

Customer: (*slowly*) Have you got a König II?

Burgess: No.

Customer: Figures. Predictable, really I suppose. It was an act of purest optimism to have posed the question in the first place. Tell me

Burgess: Yessir?

Customer: Have you in fact got any eyepieces here at all?

Burgess: Yes,sir.

Customer: Really?

Burgess: (*pause*) No. Not really, sir.

Customer: You haven't.

Burgess: No sir. Not a one. I was deliberately wasting your observing time, sir.

Customer: Well I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to white light you.

Burgess: Right-O, sir.

The customer takes out a camera flash and shoots the owner.

Customer: What a *senseless* waste of dark adaptation.

Map to Blackfoot Staging Area Edmonton RASC's Observing Site

Not exactly to scale

Elk Island
National
Park
Entrance

4km

Highway 16 Yellowhead

To Edmonton



Highway 14

Highway 21

North

Ukrainian
Village

4km

Range Road 195

To 82 (Whyte)
Ave



Sherwood
Park

**Blackfoot
Staging
Area**

About 50km
from
Edmonton
City Center

Wye Road



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