

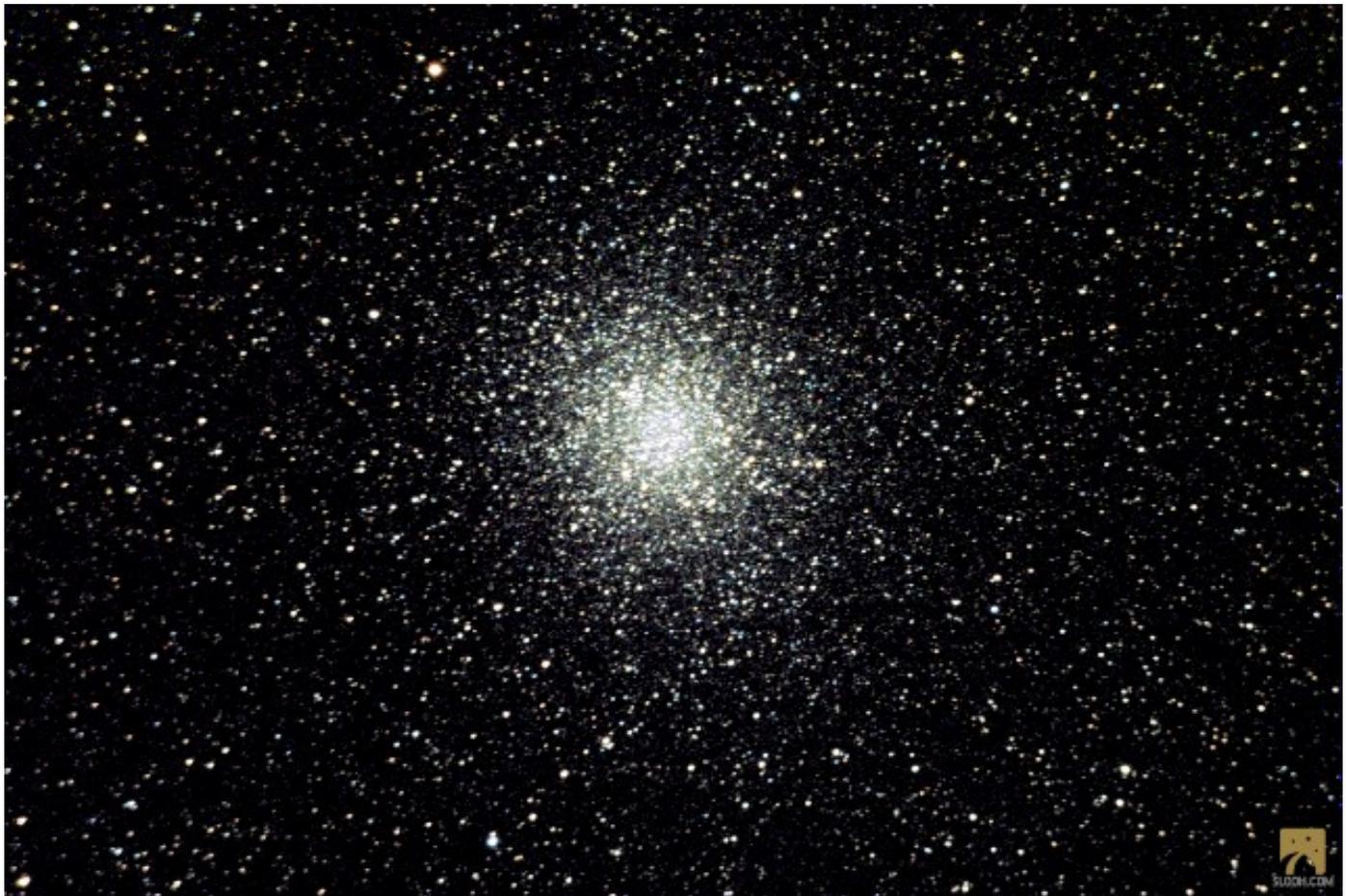
STARDUST

Newsletter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Edmonton Centre



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M-22 in Sagittarius, 2011-06-14. Image by Franklin Loehde, SLOOH telescopes, Canary Islands & Chile.

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Stardust	Articles for Stardust may be submitted by email to mward@interbaun.com . Submission deadline is the last day of the previous month (e.g. for the May issue submit by 30 Apr). Submit in any standard document format (MSOffice, OpenOffice, AbiWord, plain text). TimesNewRoman 10pt single-spaced is preferred. Don't bother with fancy formatting, odd spacing, strange fonts, etc.; it will only be discarded. Graphics (GIF or JPG please) may be submitted as separate files, and clearly identified.

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Upcoming Events, Meetings, Deadlines, Announcements

MEETINGS 2011

	General	Council	Observers	NewMoon	FullMoon	Blackfoot
Jan	10	24	17	4	19	7-8
Feb	14	28	21	2	18	5-6
Mar	14	28	21	4	19	4-5
Apr	11	25	18	3	17	2-3, 29-30
May	9	30	16	3	17	
Jun	13		20	1	15	3-4
Jul			18	1, 30	14	8-9
Aug			15	28	13	26-27
Sep	12	26	19	27	12	23-24
Oct	17	24	12	26	11	28-29
Nov	14	28	7	24	10	24-25
Dec	12		5	24	10	30-31

MEETING LOCATIONS 2011

Regular General Meetings are at 7:30pm in Telus World of Science, 11211 – 142 St follow the signs from the main entrance

Council Meetings are at 7:15 pm, room G217 BioSci, UofA campus

Observers Meetings: *location varies*

President's Report by Dwight Hansen

Well it looks like fall is fast approaching, let's hope for some great observing weather. It's been a busy summer and I look forward to hearing about the summer star parties that some of you attended. At the September 12th General Meeting, Dr. Robert

Smith will be giving a presentation on "The Discovery of Neptune", which should prove to be very insightful.

Well until next time, clear skies.

Observers Report by Larry Wood

I was out of town on July 18 when the observers meeting took place but Mike Noble reported a few people turned up and they had a lively discussion. The August meeting had six in attendance. Mike showed some of his photos he had taken over the summer: Comet Garradd, NLC, aurora, and several deep sky shots. We discussed the up-coming summer star parties, eyepiece selection, BNL usage, GPS use, among other things.

I heard rumors that Bruce has been bad mouthing the Sun gods for not producing many good Sun Spot sighting opportunities.

Martin Connors was part of a group that discovered an asteroid in a companion orbit with Earth - congratulations to Martin et al.

This summer saw observers visiting many sites to do their observing. Pat Heinz went to Garner Lake with favorable results. Others talked about travelling afar but I think most (except Mike Noble) stuck to Blackfoot or Black Nugget Lake. Mike was everywhere.

Denis Boucher and I attended the Summer Star B-Q at Eccles ranch near Caroline held on July 29 to Aug 1. We had a good look at Comet Garradd, and Cocoon Nebula. We managed to find Pluto, and the PN PK 66-5.1. Out of the 35 or so prizes that were drawn for, Denis and I were among a list only a few who were unlucky enough to win zilch. Rats!!!

I just got back from 4 nights of observing down at Caroline, a make up Star party that was also attended by Denis, Doug Billie, Sharon Tansey, Donna Lee May, and Bob Drew. We had two cloudless 6 hour nights, a three hour night, and a 1 hour night. I checked 5 more PNs off of my 98 to-do list: NGC 6620, N 6644, N6629, IC 4732, and PK 12-9.1, plus I checked off 2 others that were not seen. Well I may revisit them. Had

another chance to see Pluto on successive nights for a positive sighting. Comet Garradd was a nice little change. Also viewed M 71, M57, M22 (Glorious), North American, Pelican, Veil, and Crescent nebs plus many others. Denis was also viewing most of the same objects I was looking at. Plus he had great views of M27, Cocoon neb, M17, and the Veil neb. He also tried for the Super Nova in M101 on Saturday evening and reported seeing it at near mag 16. Sharon was chasing down objects she picked out of Uranometria She had a list I believe of pages in Uranometria that had several NGCs on them. That eliminates the challenge of flipping pages. I know one object she hunted down was NGC 7139 in Cepheus. It was straight up in the dob hole when we helped her locate the tough one. Bob was looking for some faint fuzzies in his 20" IC 4617 the galaxy near M13. Donna and Doug were working on the Finest NGC list. All had a great time in lovely weather.

Comet Garradd (C/2009 P1) has thrilled many who have observed it over the past 2 or 3 months, and it should continue to entertain for the next several months until after it reaches perihelion in December.

I have just read that Comet Elenin (C/2010 X1) is fragmenting and may not reach its expected mag 6 brightness, but then again the fragmentation may create extra observing opportunities after Oct 6 for those who like the challenge of faint fuzzies. There is another opportunity to view the comet if it remains bright and that occurs on the morning of Sept 22 when it is only one Moon diameter above Venus in the sunlit morning sky. The Sun is only 9 degrees above the pair so I doubt if seeing the pair is a possibility, but you never know unless you try.

Another comet that will be quite observable will be Comet (45P) Honda-Mrkos-Pajdusakova which can be observed just

before dawn and is at about mag 8. The Moon will be in the way but at mag 7 it should show quite well. Here are the coordinates for a pair of them:

Garradd (C/2009 P1)

Date	RA	declination	mag	Alt	Azim	Sun el					
12 Sep 2011	23:04	18h51m14.67s	+19 56'	31.7"	8.0	48.63	228.10	-25.1	Her		
16 Sep 2011	23:04	18h39m42.92s	+19 53'	17.5"	8.0	45.38	236.22	-26.6	Her		
20 Sep 2011	23:04	18h29m24.19s	+19 46'	35.3"	8.0	41.93	243.24	-28.2	Her		
24 Sep 2011	23:04	18h20m15.97s	+19 37'	41.1"	8.0	38.42	249.40	-29.7	Her		
28 Sep 2011	23:04	18h12m14.26s	+19 27'	40.8"	8.0	34.92	254.86	-31.3	Her		
2 Oct 2011	23:04	18h05m14.01s	+19 17'	29.6"	8.0	31.49	259.80	-32.8	Her		
6 Oct 2011	23:04	17h59m09.59s	+19 07'	50.7"	8.0	28.15	264.34	-34.4	Her		
10 Oct 2011	23:04	17h53m55.39s	+18 59'	16.3"	8.0	24.92	268.56	-35.9	Her		
14 Oct 2011	23:04	17h49m26.15s	+18 52'	11.3"	7.9	21.82	272.54	-37.3	Her		

P/Honda-Mrkos-Pajdusakova (45P)

Date	RA	declination	mag	Alt	Azim	Sun el					
13 Sep 2011	6:04	9h44m58.00s	+ 7 32'	14.2"	7.7	8.02	88.25	-9.4	Leo		
17 Sep 2011	6:04	9h51m54.39s	+ 8 20'	26.1"	7.4	9.98	89.53	-10.5	Leo		
21 Sep 2011	6:04	10h00m21.48s	+ 8 45'	56.3"	7.3	11.40	90.75	-11.5	Leo		
25 Sep 2011	6:04	10h10m26.06s	+ 8 50'	42.7"	7.3	12.31	91.85	-12.6	Leo		
29 Sep 2011	6:04	10h22m00.80s	+ 8 36'	38.9"	7.5	12.74	92.84	-13.7	Leo		
3 Oct 2011	6:04	10h34m45.19s	+ 8 06'	22.4"	7.9	12.79	93.77	-14.8	Leo		
7 Oct 2011	6:04	10h48m11.31s	+ 7 23'	18.4"	8.4	12.56	94.68	-15.8	Leo		
11 Oct 2011	6:04	11h01m51.30s	+ 6 31'	11.7"	9.1	12.17	95.65	-16.9	Leo		
15 Oct 2011	6:04	11h15m22.90s	+ 5 33'	30.6"	9.8	11.73	96.69	-18.0	Leo		

The Planets by Murray Paulson

Mercury has a great morning apparition on September 2nd and it will only sit 18 degrees from the sun at this time. Mercury rises 1 hour and 43 minutes before the sun. Over the following week you can observe the disc of mercury as it shrinks and its phase expands. On Sept 5th, it shows a Magnitude -0.5 6.8" half phase 17 degrees from the sun. By the 10th it will shrink to 5.9" and shines at magnitude -1.0. It will be 15 degrees west of the sun at this time. You may get a week or so to watch it as it drops back to the sun.

Venus sits 6 degrees from the sun in early September, and moves slowly out from its conjunction with the sun over the rest of the month. By early October you can find Venus a mere 13 degrees from the sun. It shows a 10" disc and shines at magnitude -3.9. It is of no help that Venus is moving into the evening sky sliding up the very shallow ecliptic. It will be late this year before we see it again in the night sky.

Mars was visible in the late hours of an August night where I saw it teasing M35 in the foot of Gemini. It now has moved past the Beehive in Cancer and is progressing across the morning sky. It shines at magnitude 1.3 and in an eyepiece it is a bit bigger than Uranus at 4.7". By early October it will have gained some and is now above 5.35" and shines at magnitude 1.2. It will rise just before 2 am and is poised to make its big come back to next year's opposition.

The beginning of September sees **Jupiter** rise just before 10 pm. It is back and beautiful in our night skies. You will have to wait up late to see it well, but it shows a 45.4" disk in the

eyepiece and shines at magnitude -2.6. Over the month it will grow slightly in size and by early next month it will be 48.8" and shines at magnitude -2.8. By then it will rise just before 8 pm and be at a respectable height of 30 degrees by 11 pm.

Saturn is in the evening twilight and is not visible this month. It will slide into conjunction with the sun on October 13th.

Uranus will be of prominence in the September and rises just after 8:30 pm, and shines at magnitude 5.7. It will show you a lovely blue green 3.7" disc in the eyepiece. It sits 8 degrees east of the circlet of Pisces. Uranus is at opposition on September 25th and will be only 19.13 A.U. from Earth. Its north pole is tilted 14 degrees toward us at this time. Its moon Titania shines at magnitude 13.9 and will be a bit of a challenge for 10 to 12" scopes, but a worth challenge at the fall star parties.

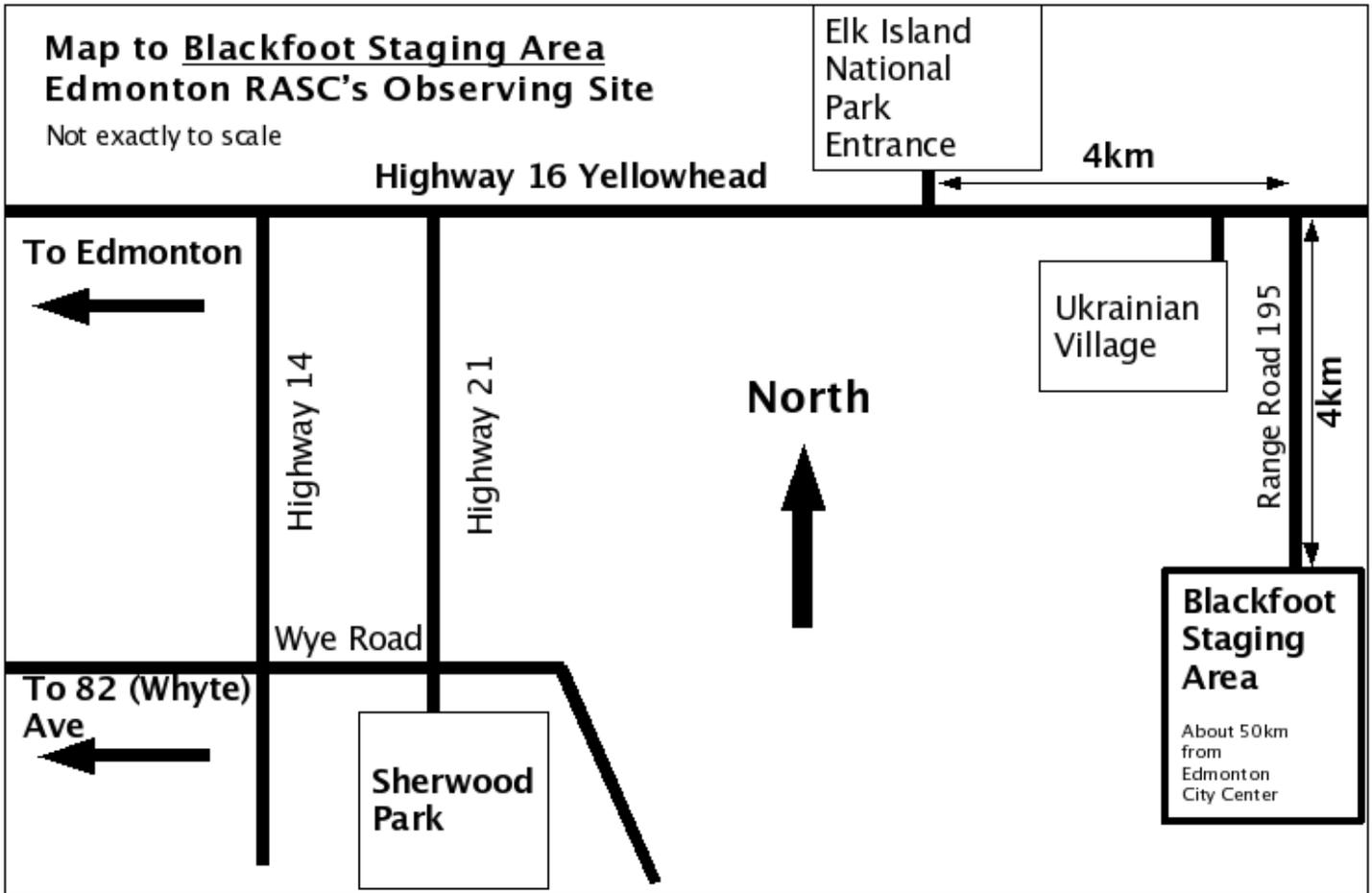
This month marks the first Neptunian anniversary of **Neptune's** discovery. Neptune was found by Johann Galle at the Berlin Observatory on September 23 of 1846. Le Verrier of France, and John Couch Adams of England, shared credit with the prediction of Neptune's position. Neptune was at opposition last month on August 22. This month it shows a 2.4" blue disc and shines at magnitude 7.8. Neptune has one of the most easily found of the challenging moons. Triton shines at magnitude 13.4 and sits from 11 to 17" from Neptune. Use lots of magnification and get a chart of its position from your favorite software before the hunt. If you check back in 3 hours time, you will see it move with respect to the background stars.



Io and its shadow cross the disk of Jupiter. Images by Murray Paulson, 2011-08-02, 5:04, 5:14, and 5:48, left to right.



A crescent moon descends behind the hills west of Summerland, B.C. Image by Michael Ward, 2011-07-5, 21:54 MDT.



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