

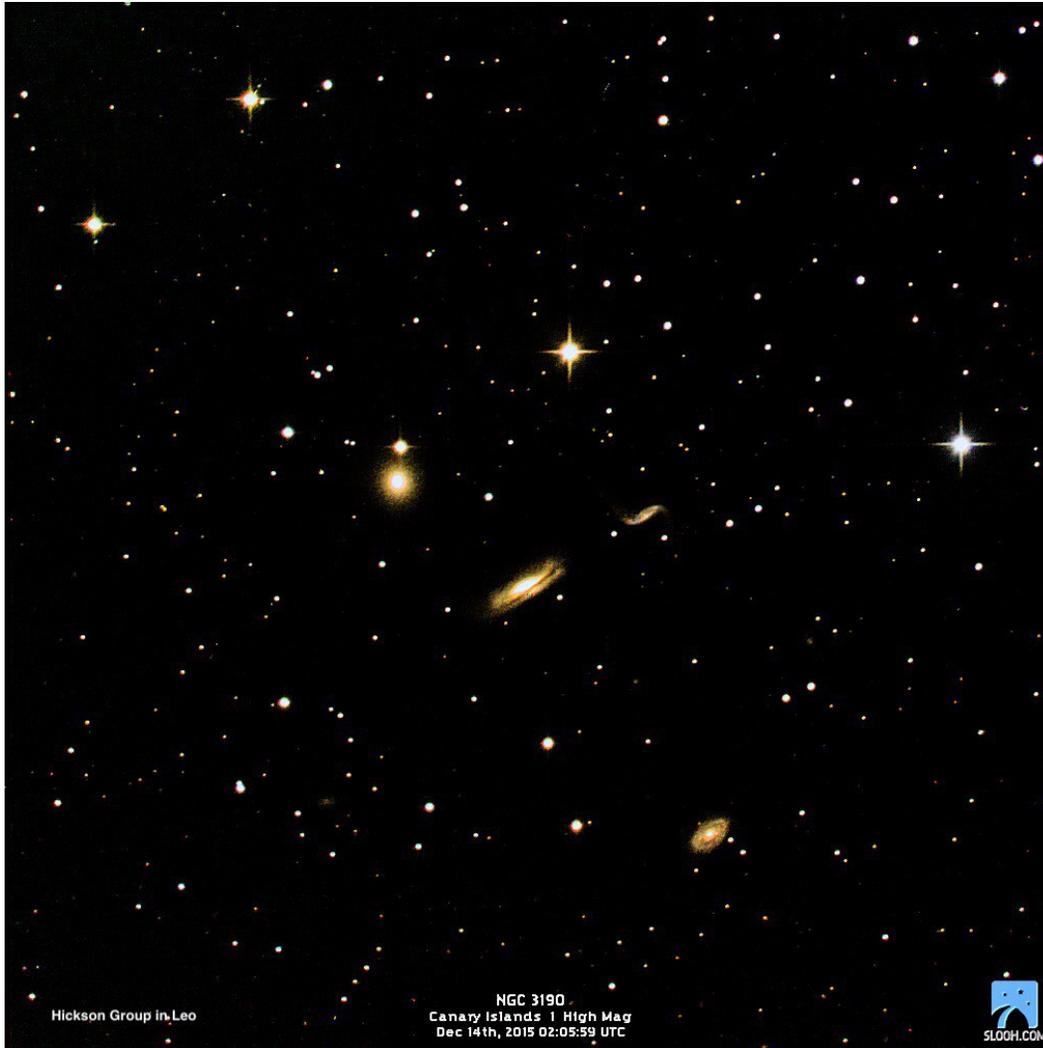
STARDUST

Newsletter of the
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Edmonton Centre



January 2016

Volume 62 Issue 5



The Hickson Group, a Leo cluster of the Local Group with NGC 3190 at the centre. Hubble has provided some glorious close-ups of the members which can be seen in [APOD](#) features. Taken with the 50cm scope of [SLOOH](#) and processed with the FilterStorm app on an iPad 2 Mini. A single ten minute exposure. Image by Franklin Loehde, 2015-12-14.

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Council Positions	Name	email @ edmontonrasc.com
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President	Luca Vanzella	president
Past President	Ross Sinclair	past_president
Vice President	Sharon Morsink	vice_president
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Treasurer	Jay Lavender	treasurer
National Council Representative	Ross Sinclair	national_rep
National Council Representative		national_rep
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Fundraising Coordinator	Peter Hall	fundraising_coord
Councillor	Alister Ling	councillors
Councillor	Clayton Knoll	councillors
Councillor	Alex Neilson	councillors
Councillor	Tom Owen	councillors
Councillor	John Woolley	councillors
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Observing Group Director	Larry Wood	observing_group
Membership Secretary	Massimo Torri	membership
New Member Advisor	Murray Paulson	new_member_advisor
Appointed Officers		
Stardust Editor	Michael Ward	editor
Web Site Coordinator	Ryan May	webmaster
Library Coordinator	Mark Zalcik	library
Equipment Director	Ross Sinclair	equipment
Light Pollution Abatement Chair	Bruce McCurdy	lightpollution
Telescope Rentals	Orla Aaquist	rentals
Outreach Coordinator	Clayton Knoll	outreach
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>
<http://www.youtube.com/user/edmontonrasc>

Observing Deck 780-452-9100 x2249

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

Regular Meetings are held monthly (see below) from September to June at 7:30pm in [TELUS World of Science, 11211 – 142 St.](#)

Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to attend, member or not. Follow the signs from the main entrance.

Observers meetings are held monthly (see below) at **Boston Pizza in The Mayfield Common**, NE of intersection of 170 Street and Stony Plain Road. Contact the [observing_group @ edmontonrasc.com](mailto:observing_group@edmontonrasc.com) for details.

Council meetings are held monthly (see below) from September to May at 7:15 in room 1-033 of the [CCIS* Building](#) on the U of A campus. Any RASC Edmonton member may attend.

* Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science

MEETINGS 2016

2016	Regular	Council	OBS	New Moon	Full Moon	Blackfoot
Jan	11	25	18	9	23	8-9
Feb	8	22	24	8	22	5-6
Mar	14	21 *	23	8	23	4-5
Apr	11	25	27	7	21	8-9
May	9	23	25	6	21	6-7
Jun	13	—	20	4	20	3-4
Jul	—	—	18	4	19	30-1-2 29-30-31
Aug	—	—	22	2	18	26-27
Sep	12	26	19	1,30	16	30-1
Oct	17 *	24	19	30	15	28-29
Nov	14	28	21	29	14	25-26
Dec	12	—	19	28	13	30-31

* indicates date bumped by [statutory holiday](#)

Edmonton Area Astronomy Discussions:

To subscribe, send a blank email to:
with the subject line:

astro@mailman.srv.ualberta.ca
astro-request@mailman.srv.ualberta.ca
subscribe

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

MONEY MOTIONS

The following motions require membership review and approval at the Feb 8, 2016 Regular Meeting.

- Moved that \$3,450 from the casino account be used to rent a storage locker in 2016.
- Moved that \$3,000 from the casino account be used to pay for student bursaries to attend the 2016 ISSET Space Academy.
- Moved that \$12,000 from the casino account be contributed to the SkyScan project for 2016.
- Moved that a budget of \$11,100 be committed for guest speakers at Centre meetings and public events in 2016.

Happy New Year! As I write this message, the sun has just set on the last day of about a week of extremely clear and sunny days in Edmonton, that were also kinda warm! I was able to get in some observing on the evening of January 1 - it sure was nice to be out under the stars at a dark site! As evening fell, the summer triangle was still visible setting in the WNW while Orion was rising in East! That triangle should really be called the Three Seasons Triangle - at least at our latitude. I hope that all observers and imagers got to take advantage of these recent clear winter skies.

I hope that all members of the Centre are able to attend the January 11, 2016 meeting, for the don't miss public talk by world-renowned astronomer [Alex Filippenko](#), the only person to have been a member of both teams that revealed the accelerating expansion of the Universe. Filippenko's talk is entitled "**Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe**". See also:

<http://edmontonrasc.com/2016/01/rasc-regular-meeting-january-11-2016-dark-energy-runaway-universe/>

To accommodate January's guest speaker, we will have our Annual General Meeting on February 8, 2016. Following the AGM, we will have a shortened Regular Meeting, featuring a bit of business and Member's Night presentations. I think there is room for 1 or 2 member presentations, so if anyone is interested, please contact me at president@edmontonrasc.com.

The business portion of the Feb 8 regular meeting will include some money motions that were published in the December 2015 Stardust and again in the January 2016 Stardust. Please review them.

<http://edmontonrasc.com/stardust/stardust201512.pdf>
<http://edmontonrasc.com/stardust/stardust201601.pdf>

The Astro Café on January 19, 2016 will focus on the topic of How to Use A Telescope. Did you get a telescope for Christmas but you aren't quite sure how to use it? Do you know someone who has a new telescope but needs help on how to use it? This Astro Cafe will provide expert help on how get the most out of your telescope. For details see:

<http://edmontonrasc.com/2016/01/astro-cafe-jan-19-2016-how-to-use-a-telescope/>

As I mentioned in the December 2015 Stardust, we need a new Social Director. The job is pretty straight-forward - provide cookies and juice for the meetings, which are much appreciated but attendees. If anyone is interested taking on this position, please contact me at president@edmontonrasc.com. Did I mention that the position comes with a budget?

<http://edmontonrasc.com/stardust/stardust201512.pdf>

After many years of doing a fantastic job as our Dark Sky Preserve Coordinator, Sherrilyn Jahrig would like to turn it over to someone else in the upcoming year. A brief job description can be found in the December 2015 Stardust. If you are interested in working with Sherrilyn and taking on this position next year, please contact her at dsp.coordinator@edmontonrasc.com. See also:

<http://edmontonrasc.com/stardust/stardust201512.pdf>

Administrative note: The 2016 budget and all meeting minutes are stored on the Centre's OneDrive. If any member wishes to view these documents, please send an email to executive@edmontonrasc.com for a link to the folder.

Clear Skies.

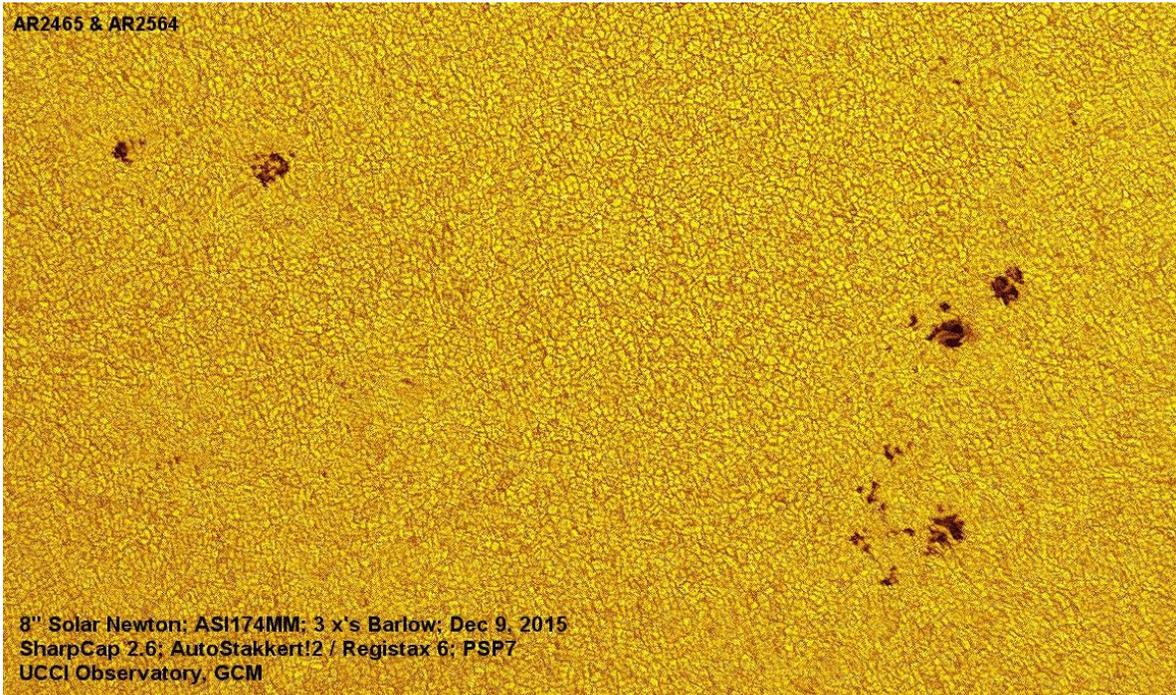
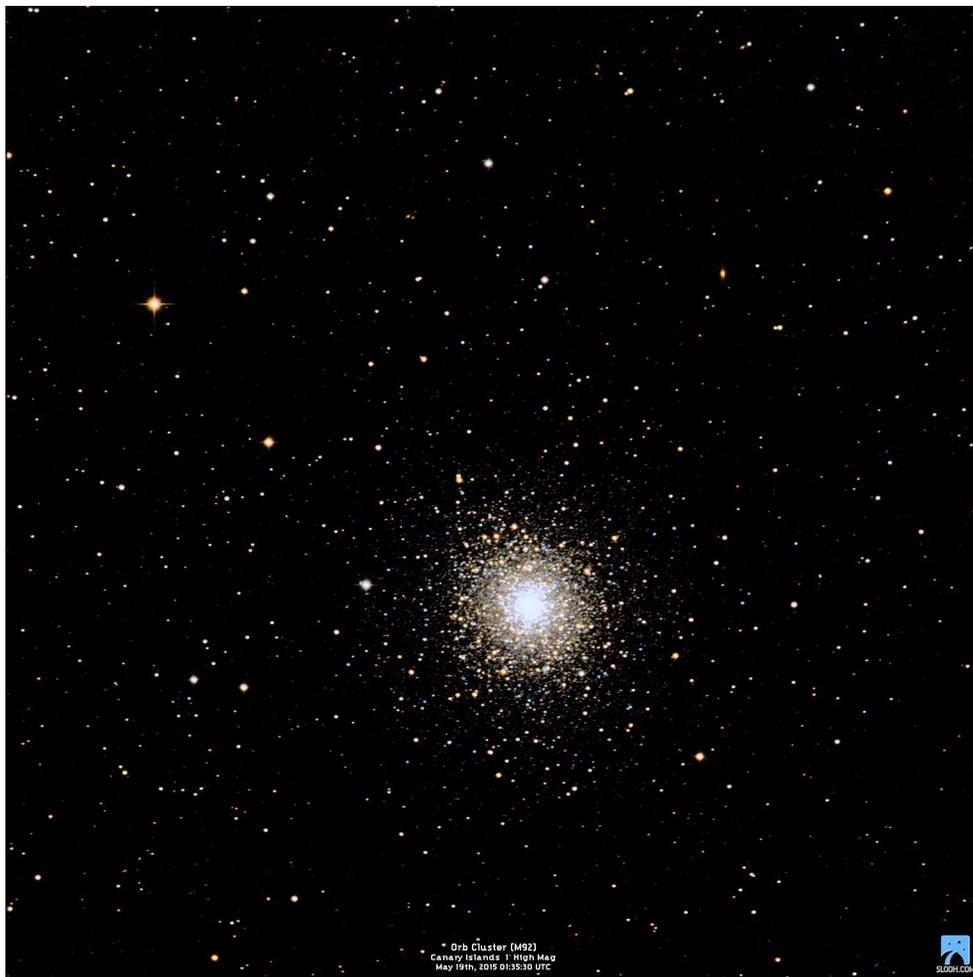


Image by former Edmonton RASC member [Dr. Bill Hrudehy](#), [UCCI Observatory](#), Cayman Islands. For scale, North America would be about three grains wide. Yes, the grains differ somewhat in size. Use your imagination.



M92, the Orb Cluster, by Franklin Loehde and [SLOOH](#).



M106, Mechain's Galaxy, by Franklin Loehde and [SLOOH](http://SLOOH.COM).



Whale Galaxy (NGC 4631)
Canary Islands 1 High Mag
Jan 3rd, 2016 06:15:20 UTC

The Whale Galaxy, NGC4631, by Franklin Loehde and [SLOOH](http://SLOOH.COM).

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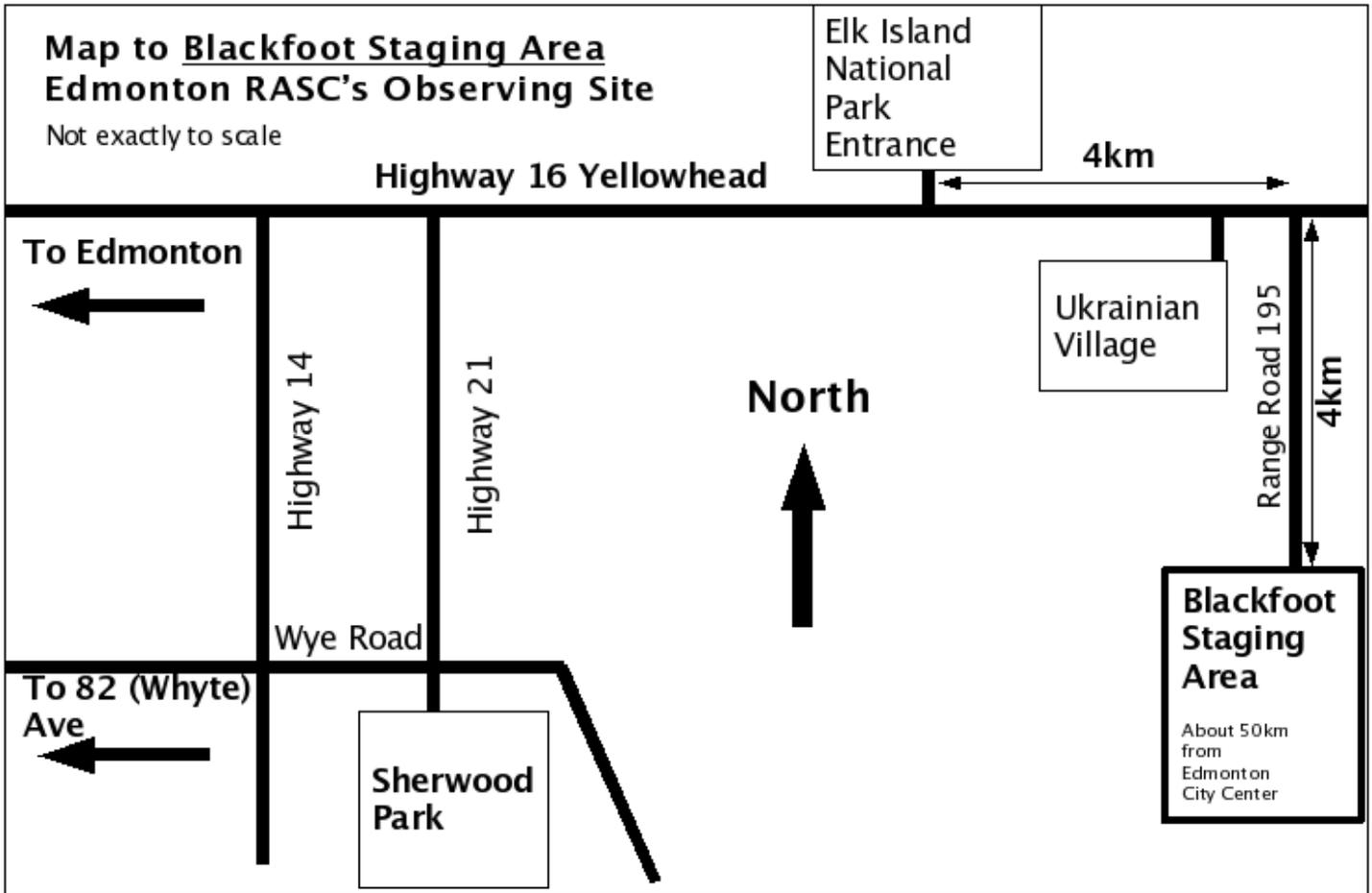


Background photo: Flame Nebula by Ken Form of All-Star Telescope

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