STARDUST

Newsletter of the
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Edmonton Centre

October 2026 **Volume 73 Issue 2**

The Moon and Venus, Wakaw, SK, 2026-08-16 21:03. Image by Michael Ward.
Pentax X70, 3 seconds sRGB @F4, ISO 50. Edited in GIMP 2.10.

Inside this Issue

Contact Information.... page 2
Upcoming Events, Meetings, Deadlines, Announcements.... page 3
I Discovered a Supernova!.... page 4
Black Nugget Lake Observatory (BNLO).... page 4
Lithium and Novae.... page 4
$1 Million and Counting.... page 5
Observing Group Report.... page 6
Northern Prairie Star Party 2026.... page 7

RASC Edmonton Centre Contact Information *see also https://edmontonrasc.com/contact*

Council Positions	Name	email @ edmontonrasc.com
Honourary President	Doug Hube	
President	Clayton Knoll	president
Past President	Jay Lavender	past_president
Vice President	-	vice_president
General Secretary	Tom Owen	secretary
Treasurer	Jeff Wyton	treasurer
National Council Representative	Alister Ling	national_rep
Public Education Director	Geoff Robertson	public_education
Fundraising Coordinator	Luca Vanzella	fundraising
Councillor	Chris Meerveld	councillors
Councillor	Mike Szelewicki	councillors
Councillor	John Woolley	councillors
Councillor	Ian Doktor	councillors
Councillor	Alexander Turner	councillors
Internal Communications Officer	Michael Ward	internal_communications
Observing Group Director	Murray Hunt	observing_group
Membership Secretary	Tom Owen	membership
New Member Advisor	Murray Paulson	new_member_advisor
Appointed Officers		
Dark Sky Preserve Coordinator	John Woolley	dsp.coordinator
Equipment Director	Trevor Robert	equipment
Library Coordinator	Mark Zalcik	library
Light Pollution Abatement	John Woolley	lpa
Public Relations Officer	Geoff Robertson	public_relations
Social Media Director	Zaid Lorca	socialmedia
Stardust Editor	Michael Ward	editor
Loaner Program Coordinator	Trevor Robert	rentals
Volunteer Coordinator	Dave Mussell	volunteer
Web Site Coordinator	Ryan May	webmaster

Mailing address
RASC Edmonton Centre
P.O Box 1404
Edmonton STN MAIN, AB
Canada, T5J 2N5

RASC Observatory at TWOSE
780-452-9100 x2249

On the web
https://edmontonrasc.com
https://www.facebook.com
https://twitter.com/EdmontonRASC
https://www.youtube.com/user/edmontonrasc
https://groups.io/g/astro

Stardust submissions: Submit articles **by email** to the editor (see above). **Please include STARDUST or RASC in the subject so your email doesn't end up in the spam bin.** Submission **deadline** is the 2nd Sunday before the monthly meeting; see following page for dates. Any standard document file type is acceptable (MSOffice, OpenOffice, LibreOffice, et al.) but **plain** text is preferred. **Do not layout and format your article.** Your labour will only be discarded. Submit clearly identified images/graphics as **separate files**, **do not** embed them in the document; indicate captions and references to them within the text. **Do not consider your article successfully submitted until you receive a confirmation email from the editor.**

MEETINGS

- **Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to attend, member or not.**
- **Follow the signs from the main entrance.**
- **Edmonton Area Astronomy Discussions: visit https://groups.io/g/astro**
- **Public meetings are in-person AND on-line**
- **See https://edmontonrasc.com/meetings/**

Meetings						
2026	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**
Regular	12	09	09	13	11	8
Observing Grp	20	24	24	21	26	23
Council	26	23	30	27	25	
2026	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
Regular			14	5*	09	14
Observing Grp		25	22	20	17	15
Council			28	26	30	

* Indicates a date moved due to statutory holiday.

Regular Meetings - free and open to the public

The RASC Edmonton Centre meets on the second Monday of each month, from September to June; if that is a holiday, it is the first OR third Monday. See above. Meetings are held on-line and in the Zeidler Dome at the TELUS World of Science – Edmonton, 11211 – 142 St, Edmonton. Meetings start at 19:30 and are typically two hours. If you want time on the agenda, contact the President.

Council Meetings

Council meetings are held on-line and start at 19:00. Any member of RASC Edmonton Centre is welcome to attend. To request a link to the meeting, contact the President.

BLACK NUGGET LAKE OBSERVATORY: RASC Edmonton Centre operates the Black Nugget Lake Observatory (BNLO), a dark sky observatory at Black Nugget Lake Park, 70 km south-east of Edmonton. The facility consists of an Observatory housing the 32" Unyk-Drew Telescope and a heated Visitor Centre. Access to BNLO is available to authorized RASC Edmonton Centre members. Also on site is the 18" Barry Arnold Memorial Telescope for use by authorized RASC Edmonton Centre members. For details on viewing opportunities and authorization to access BNLO, visit https://edmontonrasc.com/bnlo/.

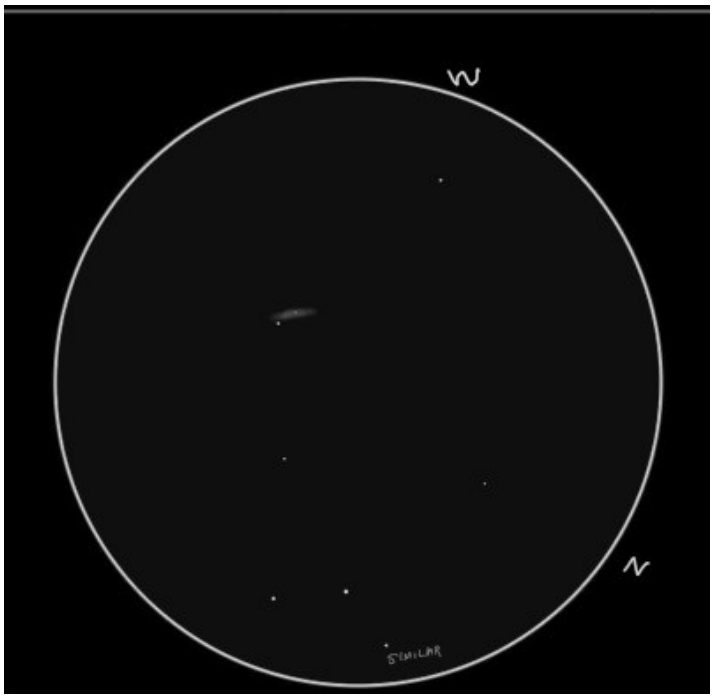
YOU MUST APPLY FOR ACCESS TO BNLO: For details, visit https://community.edmontonrasc.com/?q=members-area/bnlo

I Discovered a Supernova! *by Alister Ling*

Eventually, coincidences happen. It was my turn to host the BAMT (18-in Barry Arnold Memorial Telescope) Saturday night at the star party. Folks had already seen the classics, and wanting to see Stephan's Quintet, I swung the scope over to the bright galaxy NGC 7331 in Pegasus, the starting point for the starhop. I've seen this galaxy easily 50 times before, if not a 100, and was immediately on alert because there was a star just off the bright inner hub that to me was out of place.

It's a bit like seeing a friend's face with a zit or a shaving nick: you notice it. I noted the new addition out loud, whereupon Gabriel Sewell, three spots down the line pipes up "Yeah, it was discovered 3 nights ago." With only a slight disappointment, I still felt great at having recognized the out of place star without advance knowledge. It's how lots of people were doing it back in the mid 1980s, visually comparing eyepiece views with custom star charts. Today it's going to be tough to be faster than the Vera Rubin's alert service.

A few nights later from my Bortle 8-9 backyard, through my 7-in Maksutov at 270x, I sketched the galaxy with its supernova. Note the field is flipped because of the diagonal.



Black Nugget Lake Observatory (BNLO) *by Warren Finlay*

From mid-October through to the end of April, RASC Edmonton Centre members have exclusive access to a dark sky observing area behind locked gates at Black Nugget Lake Park south-east of Tofield. This observing site, a gravelled field about 70 m square with three 110 V outdoor power outlets, can be used by authorized RASC Edmonton Centre members for personal astronomy. There is a berm to the north shielding the field from the adjacent road and golf course operation, and there are trees and slopes to the east and west shielding the site from prevailing winds. To obtain authorization to use the observing site, familiarize yourself with the BNLO Access Policy and Rules of Conduct and follow the instructions at:

https://community.edmontonrasc.com/?q=members-area/bnlo

Also on site is the Barry Arnold Memorial Telescope (BAMT), a fine 46 cm (18 in) f/4.33 Dobsonian telescope on a Poncet mount, for use by authorized RASC Edmonton Centre members. To obtain authorization to use the BAMT, familiarize yourself with the BAMT policies and procedures and follow the instructions at:

https://community.edmontonrasc.com/?q=members-area/bnlo

The RASC Edmonton Centre Black Nugget Lake Observatory Committee has nearly completed construction of a 32” telescope inside a domed observatory that will soon provide awe-inspiring views, including a heated Visitor Centre to warm up in. A brief historical overview of BNLO is presented by Warren Finlay at the June 2021 Regular Members’ meeting, starting 6:45 on the YouTube link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3ZvW-0T4ns

Lithium and Novae *by Warren Finlay*

It’s commonly said that we are made of star dust, meaning that elements in our body were synthesized in stars. Stellar winds, including those from planetary nebulae that supplied about half the carbon in our galaxy, are responsible for dispersing lighter elements made in stars into the interstellar medium. Heavier elements, like iron, require supernovae explosions to form and be dispersed into the interstellar dust from which our Solar System (including us) subsequently formed. But lithium is different. It is, of course, synthesized inside stars. But it doesn’t last long there because high temperatures make it unstable to a reaction that creates helium by proton capture. The lithium found in batteries wasn’t made by nuclear fusion in the core of star.

But lithium isn’t scarce; where did it come from? Surprisingly, the answer has only been mostly settled in the past decade or so. Previously, three possible sources had been proposed, including 1) Big Bang nucleosynthesis 2) cosmic rays (typically protons) colliding with other elements causing a fusion reaction (called spallation) and 3) in stellar interiors by thermonuclear reactions. The first two mechanisms are believed to be responsible for approximately equal amounts of lithium, but this adds up to less than half of the present day Galactic lithium. And the aforementioned fragility of lithium to proton capture prevents the last of these mechanisms from being a viable method for creating very much of the lithium we see now. So what is responsible for making the remaining lithium?

One answer was first suggested in 1975 by Arnould and Norgaard (Astron. Astrophys. 42:55, 1975). They calculated nucleosynthesis during explosive hydrogen burning in a classical nova (where mass transfer of hydrogen from a companion star onto a sub-Chandrasekhar white dwarf leads to a short period of runaway hydrogen fusion), predicting tremendous

overproduction of a beryllium isotope (along with carbon, nitrogen and oxygen isotopes). This beryllium then decays with a half life of about 53 days into lithium by electron capture. The high velocity motion of the nova explosion ensures this lithium is transported outward to cooler regions where it is stable, unlike when it gets produced in stellar interiors. Although a few dozen novae occur every year in our Galaxy, it wasn't until 2015, 40 years after first being proposed, that spectral observations of novae confirmed the presence of beryllium, leading to the present day notion that novae are a leading candidate as the main source of lithium in the Milky Way. Despite the above noted smoking gun observations of novae, the theoretical details of lithium synthesis in novae remain to be agreed upon.

So the next time you use your smartphone, you can thank classical novae (that exploded before our Solar System formed) for supplying much of the lithium ions in your phone's battery.

$1 Million and Counting *by Luca Vanzella*

The RASC Edmonton Centre has been fundraising via Alberta's unique charitable gaming model since since 1992. For almost the last quarter century, our members have been converting gambling losses into community benefits in the form of astronomy education and outreach delivered through programming and facilities.

In June 2026, the Centre worked its 16th casino. With its latest "cut" of gaming proceeds, **the Centre has received a total in excess of $1 million since 1992**.

What have the funds been used for over the years? While a full accounting is beyond the scope of this article, here are just a few examples of what is powered by casino in recent times:

- Every piece of astronomy gear at the RASC Observatory at TWOSE was purchased with casino funds. Ongoing maintenance and operations are powered with casino funds.
- The construction of the Black Nugget Lake Observatory (BNLO) was funded in part with casino revenues and the facility's ongoing maintenance and operations are powered with casino funds.
- The Northern Prairie Star Party has evolved into what is today in part by leveraging casino funds for things like the big tent and out of town speaker honorariums.
- The Telescope Loaner program has been able to purchase very fine equipment for members and the public to borrow.
- Due to casino funds, member volunteers can participate in astronomy education and outreach programs like Jasper Dark Sky Festival, Milky Way Days at the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve, Metis Crossing astronomy outreach, and Lakeland Provincial Park astronomy outreach,
- Administrative items like Website Hosting, Cloud Storage, PO Box, Storage Locker, Contents Insurance, Volgistics Subscription.
- The Centre's latest big project to build a robotic telescope observatory at BNLO is funded by casino revenue.

I thought it would be interesting to document the Centre's casino revenue history in this newsletter. For the years 2026 back to 2004, the casino revenue amounts were fairly easy to look up in the Treasurer's records and Council's meeting minutes and email records. For the years 2002 back to 1992, records and messages are more sporadic so revenue amounts were more difficult to find. Luckily some Stardust issues here and there contained information and clues.

RASC Edmonton Centre Casino Revenue			
Year		Cut	Notes
2026	$	82,297	1
2024	$	79,588	
2022	$	88,094	
2019	$	75,134	
2017	$	72,648	
2015	$	81,955	
2013	$	80,872	
2011	$	74,268	
2009	$	74,073	
2008	$	74,726	
2006	$	84,672	
2004	$	78,690	
2002	$	58,894	2
2000	$	40,000	3,4
1995	$	31,219	5
1992	$	48,432	6
TOTAL	$	1,125,562	

Notes

1. For the years 2004 - 2026, amounts are accurate. The Centre has records in the Council > Treasurer folder on the OneDrive and there are corroborating messages in the Council email records.

2. For 2002, the amount is approximate. The minutes of the 2002 06 10 Regular Meeting state: "Treasurer<92>s Report. The first cheque from the recent Casino has been received in the amount of $28,894.33. The second cheque will be approximately $30,000."

3. For 2000, the amount is approximate. The minutes of the 2000 03 13 Regular Meeting state: "Casino Report: Franklin Loehde thanked those who volunteered for the RASC casino, on February 22/23, 2000, which raised approximately $40,000 for the centre."

4. There may not have been a casino in the period 1996-1999. Records or messages pertaining to holding a casino in these years could not be found. The following items suggest that there was no casino in these years.

Stardust newsletters for February in the years 2000, 1999, and 1998 include financial statements that show no casino revenue for the years 1999, 1998, and 1997 and in fact show a declining Casino Fund balance.

The minutes of the 1997 01 20 Council Meeting state: "18. Should we apply for another casino? There was mixed consensus on the need to apply for another casino (60/40 in favor). All that is needed

is a motion in council and a list of expenditures for the new casino funds to get things underway."

5. For 1995, the amount is accurate. Stardust newsletter for February 1996 includes a Treasurer's Report stating: "Casino Account balance is 39,976 of which 31,219 was added during the year [1995]."

6. For 1992, the amount is accurate. Stardust newsletter for June 1993 includes a Casino Report by Bruce McCurdy that mentions a special casino issue of Stardust from June 1992 "presenting philosophies and proposals for dealing with our newfound wealth and requesting full membership input in the decision making process." McCurdy's report states "Casino net earnings $48,432" and lists the expenditure proposals approved for what appears to be the very first casino. McCurdy may have been referencing the June 1992 issue which has President's and Editor's Messages that mention casino funds however, the digital copy of this issue is missing pages 8 to 14. Perhaps the June 1992 issue is the "special casino issue of Stardust".

Observing Group Report *by Murray Hunt and Alister Ling*

Welcome Everyone to Visual Astronomy!

We invite observers of all levels of experience to learn and share about the night sky and the equipment used to study it.

Its been a busy August/September:

- Several members were trained/authorized to use the 18" BAMT telescope.
- Northern Prairie Star Party (Sept. 8 – 13) – Thanks to the NPSP Committee and volunteers, the event was a great success.
- In-City Observing - at least 16 people, including 4 excited children, got together at Deermound Off-Leash Park on the south side of Sherwood Park on Sept. 18/2026. A beautiful Friday evening: +16, clear skies, good company.
- Several visual observers are actively working on the "Explore the Universe" program (EtU). Of 214 recipients across Canada to date, only 3 are from our RASC Edmonton Centre (the last being in 2020).

Next Zoom Meeting - Tuesday, October 20th at 7 PM. Watch for details, all are welcome to attend.

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82128325140

Contact: Email observing_group@edmontonrasc.com to reach Murray Hunt and Alister Ling for questions, comments, or topic suggestions!

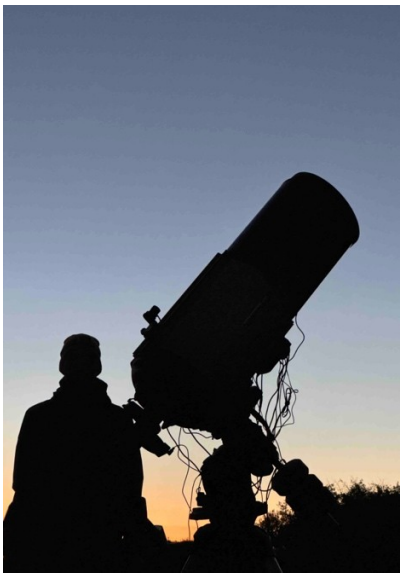
NOTE that all in-city observing sessions/cancellations will be announced on Astro list and on Facebook. Once a month, we try for darker skies within an hour or so drive of Edmonton on moonless nights (Friday or Saturday if at all possible).

President's Report *by Clayton Knoll*

Fall is now upon us and the weather is not looking too bad. Over the summer I was able to get out and do a little imaging with my Seestar S50. I hope a lot of you were able to get out and do the same as well, plus some observing. We didn't have an overly busy summer but the club did participate in a few events including Milky Way Days out at Elk Island Park. It's sad to announce that **Larry Wood** passed away in September. I heard there was a good turnout of RASC members for his funeral. The Monday regular meeting on Oct 5th will include a remembrance for Larry.

Looking ahead, we most likely won't be back at the Telus World of Science for our meeting until February of 2027. Fortunately, **Ian Doktor**, a RASC member and teacher at **Jasper Place High School**, has offered up a room in the school for our meetings until we can go back to TWOS. Thank you, Ian. I also learned that we have more new outreach volunteers signing up with Volgistics, our volunteer portal, great news. Later this month we will be participating in the Jasper Dark Sky Festival again. There will be a report in the November Stardust highlighting the event. That's it for now.

Northern Prairie Star Party 2026 *by Susan and Rick Bramm*



Alex Bramm

Alex Bramm

Ray Wiens

Wow! Another NPSP has come and gone and what a great time it was – with an increase in attendance, especially first timers— and lots of positive feedback and great ideas for next year. The 2026 NPSP program included night viewing through the Unyk-Drew Telescope (UDT) housed in the Black Nugget Lake Observatory and the Barry Arnold Memorial Telescope (BAMT), sky tours, telescope tune-up sessions and Friday's popular astrophotography workshop. Saturday's events included a swap and shop, solar viewing, a BNLO tour, three afternoon talks, door prizes and the BBQ. The weather was not the best, much cooler than previous years with lots of cloud and some rain. But at least there was a bit of clear sky each night and a stellar Saturday night to end the five days.

In total, 105 people attended over the five days, from Tuesday, September 8 to Sunday, September 13. More people than ever camped overnight for the five nights, with all 20 campsites reserved by RASC Edmonton Centre in the north part of Black Nugget Lake Park fully booked by attendees well in advance. This meant that several parties stayed on the south side and came over each day to meet up with other attendees and take in the various activities.

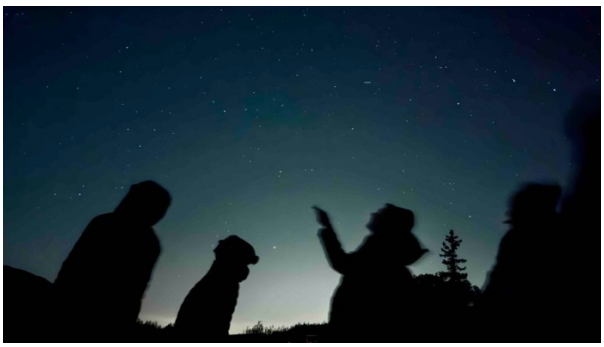
The roster of BNLO and BAMT volunteers included a skeleton crew for the first three nights (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) and full coverage for viewing Friday and Saturday from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. (weather permitting). This provided operators with valuable experience and time to use the club telescopes. Fortunately, attendees had the pleasure of viewing many different objects when the clouds parted, particularly on Saturday night. A big thank you to Luca Vanzella and the 21 other volunteers who filled the BNLO and BAMT duty roster.

Barton Satchwill with Mike Szelewicki during BNLO Operator training session on the Unyk-Drew Telescope (UDT) (left photo). Murray Hunt conducted training on the use of the 18" BAMT telescope during this year's NPSP, including Jessie MacDonald.

Rick Bramm

Friday's afternoon workshop in the big event tent was well attended. Tom Owen (shown on the left), who coordinates the monthly Astroimaging Corner, facilitated presentations and a discussion by four accomplished astrophotographers (left to right): Craig Sherris, Gabe Sewell, Warren Finlay and Abdur Anwar. The workshop concluded with an interesting and lively discussion on why each pursued astrophotography and the future of astrophotography. A big thank you to these volunteer presenters.

Over the five days, many attendees gathered informally to discuss equipment and their interest in astronomy and what brought them together. Lots of stories were shared!

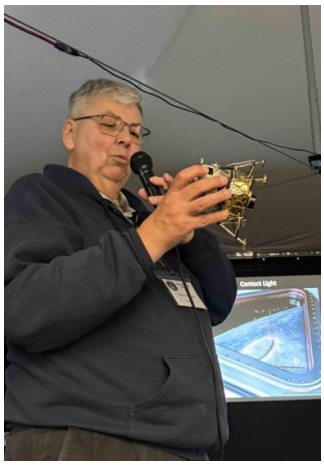


Alex Bramm

Rick Bramm was on hand to conduct sky tours and to introduce people to solar astronomy at his campsite.

The Shop and Swap was a very popular feature of this year's event – with overwhelming support to have it again next year.

The Saturday afternoon program was well attended, with breaks between sessions for attendees to leave the tent to walk around, warm up and grab a warm drink! We had three excellent speakers (photo above, left to right): Yangyang Shen, Brian Martin and Geoff Robertson, addressing three very different topics.



Rick Bramm

Yangyang focused his talk on how understanding of auroras has evolved and the broader impacts of auroras and how auroral activity can affect modern technological society.

Brian discussed the science presented in three science fiction novels: *The Black Cloud* (1957) by Fred Hoyle, *Contact* by Carl Sagan (1985) and *The Hail Mary Project* (2021) by Andy Weir in light of current scientific discoveries and understanding.

Geoff rounded out the afternoon with a colourful and detailed presentation on the Apollo program to land a Man on the Moon and the lessons Artemis has taken from Apollo.

Marion Woodrow

Garry Solonynko was the grand prize winner this year of a $200 gift certificate from Telescopes Canada. The NPSP Planning Team of Rick and Susan Bramm, Marion and Alan Hobbs and Carol and Dave Mussell (shown above) acknowledge and thank all this year's corporate donors: Telescopes Canada, McBain Camera, All-Star Telescope, Fervent Astronomy, David Astro and Astronomy Plus. Several RASC Edmonton Centre members also generously gave door prizes: Alan Hobbs, Gerry Shillabeer, Kathryn and Luca Vanzella, Marion Hobbs, Mark Zalcik, Mike Szelewicki and Warren Finlay. RASC Edmonton Centre donated 12 ball caps, two 2026 NPSP T-shirts and 2027 RASC Calendars. There were 51 items in total for door prize winners to choose from!

Observing lists were offered again this year, with three levels ranging from beginner with no equipment needed; through needing binoculars or a small telescope; to a more challenging list needing a medium to large telescope, with filters recommended for some objects.

Congratulations to the four people who completed the Level 1 NPSP Observing List. Two of attendees went on to complete and return the Level 2 List. These accomplishments will be acknowledged with certificates at a future RASC meeting. A fair number of the observing lists were taken and not returned, so we hope they will be enjoyed as participants get another chance to get out under dark skies and use them as suggestions of objects to look for and perhaps complete their observations another time. The mini-bimarathon list, which combines observing objects with running laps over the course of an evening (an event invented and accomplished by Warren Finlay a few years ago) didn't have any takers this year.

There was plenty of food at the BBQ, including burgers, hot dogs, salads, snacks and beverages. Delicious donuts, generously donated by Bob Drew, longtime member of RASC Edmonton Centre were an extra treat! Thank you Bob!

Also, thank you to the 20 households that completed our anonymous online feedback survey. Your responses gave us lots of positive and constructive feedback that we will use in our planning for the 2027 NPSP. This included:

Most memorable overall highlights were (in order of prevalence – 20 responses):

- Socializing, great conversations, meeting new people, sense of community, connecting even though it was cloudy, hanging out with old friends, friendly people (11)
- The Saturday presentations – excellent quality, balance of topics (8)
- Views through the Unyk-Drew Telescope – some people had never looked through a large scope before (7) and BAMT (3)
- Viewing and/or photographing the dark skies (5)
- Sky tours on Friday and Saturday nights (4)
- Introduction to solar observing (2)
- Beautiful setting, seeing nature up close (including a muskrat swimming) (2)
- BBQ – including those donuts (2)

- Views through others' telescopes (1)
- The astrophotography sessions (1)
- Working on the Observing Lists (1)

Areas of improvement (20 responses):

- Saturday presentations (10) - timing and length (5), adequate breaks (3), need to warm up and walk around, seating was uncomfortable for some (consider allowing attendees to bring own chairs to talks)(2), Land acknowledgement needed at beginning of program, larger screen so people can see better, hand-held mics not that effective
- Door prizes (3) - Clearer labelling of monetary door prize envelopes, long line up at door prize table, BBQ volunteers should be eligible for prizes
- BBQ (3) – set up more tables in the tent if weather not great, people should be encouraged to bring their own chairs to sit outside near cook shelter; suggest potable water cube for campers to fill up their jugs and for the BBQ
- Invite vendors, such as All-Star Telescope to set up display of equipment and accessories
- Have a photo of the T-shirt showing the artwork on it
- UDT shift schedule prevents some from taking in sky tours
- Consider adding an event or activity for Thursday
- More reserved campsites for attendees
- Encourage no smoking close to the tent

Suggestions for workshops and presentations (15 responses):

- Workshop ideas (4) - consider having the astrophotography workshop as an annual feature to review new equipment, techniques and software; have workshop format to give younger speakers/new members a chance to provide short presentations on what they are studying, interested in or imaging; scope doctor session for the SeeStar, observing and imaging more difficult objects
- Our solar system (3) Space travel: what are the best destinations (Moon, Mars); the history of our solar system; exploring the moons of our solar system for signs of life
- What do professional astronomers know about the constellations?
- The discovery of planets by early astronomers
- How are galaxies categorized?
- Man made satellites: who, what, why, how many, too many? Canada's role.
- Astrobiology
- Black holes
- Supernovae
- Talk on the Vera C. Rubin telescope
- Night sky pollution

A big shout out to all volunteers involved in making this year's event such a success. The NPSP Planning Team members were Carol and Dave Mussell, Marion and Alan Hobbs, Susan and Rick Bramm. The team was given invaluable support from Luca Vanzella (BNLO Black Nugget Lake Observatory Management and Operations Committee chair), Clayton Knoll (RASC Edmonton Centre president) and Jeff Wyton (RASC Edmonton Centre treasurer).

In addition to the Planning Team and workshop presenters, more than 30 attendees volunteered to work various shifts needed for the event to run smoothly. On-the-ground helpers completed a wide range of tasks: from setting up chairs and tables, putting up signs, welcoming and registering attendees, directing traffic, taking photos, setting up the door prizes and awarding them, BBQ prepping, grilling, serving and cleaning up, telescope tuning and so on. Some of these volunteers also worked BNLO and BAMT shifts.

The list of these NPSP event volunteers includes: Abdur Anwar, Alex Bramm, Alister Ling, Amanda Heinz, Barton Satchwill, Brian Alford, Craig Sherris, Darren Wynnyk, Dave Phillips, David Fielder, Denis Boucher, Denise Florian, Frances Szelewicki, Frank Florian, Garry Solonynko, Gerry Shillabeer, Jeff Wyton, John Cliff, Kristine Winter, Matthew Carbonneau, Marion Woodrow, Michelle Fisher, Mike Szelewicki, Monica Phillips, Murray Hunt, Philip Kloc, Pierre Morrisette, Ray Nelson, Ray Weins, Robert Wolfe, Stephen Portillo, Yusuf Hussain, Zaid Lorca. Our apologies if we missed anyone.

And now for some financial information. Preliminary numbers from RASC Edmonton Centre Treasurer Jeff Wyton show that the total revenues from attendees was $**9,254.90**, for event registration, campsites and T-shirts. Our total expenses were **$10,560.35** for upfront costs for the campsites and T-shirts, food, tent rental and speakers' honoraria. The total cost to RASC Edmonton Centre was **$1,305.45,** with eligible expenses being paid from the casino fund.

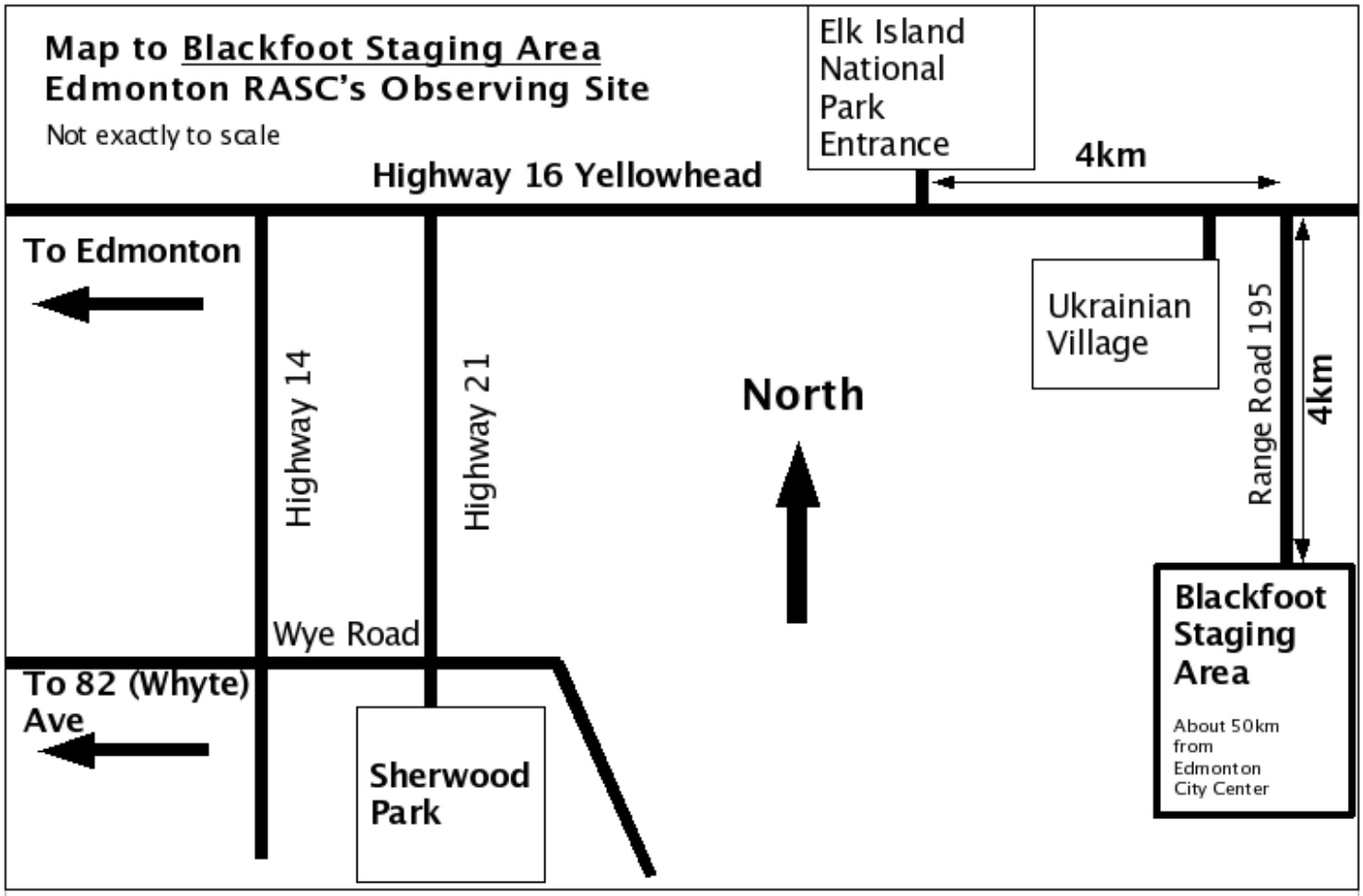
2026 Northern Prairie Star Party group photo taken by Ray Wiens.

A big thank you to Ray Wiens for being our event photographer! All photographs shown in this report were taken by Ray unless otherwise noted.

Mark your calendars for next year's Northern Prairie Star Party (NPSP), scheduled for **Tuesday, September 21 to Sunday, September 26, 2027**. Details will be posted on the NPSP website, beginning in the new year.

Carol and Dave Mussell, Marion and Alan Hobbs and Susan and Rick Bramm

NPSP Planning Team
RASC Edmonton Centre


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
Range Road 195
4km
Wye Road
To 82 (Whyte) Ave
Sherwood Park
Blackfoot Staging Area
About 50km from Edmonton City Center