
From the Eyepiece

By: Mark Kay

Where has the time gone? Ski season just ended or so it seems and all ready it is nearly June. Not that I can say that it was because of observing that the time passed so quickly. Mercury transit? Cloudy. Lunar eclipse? Clear all day, as soon as the Moon rose, cloudy. Maybe November?

The second annual banquet was a success however. Fortunately, we do not need clear skies for that. We had a good turnout; several new faces were in attendance, members from other centres and people from outside the RASC. They wanted to come and hear our speaker. Alan Dyer put on a great show. Many thanks need to be extended to Grant, Tina and Steve for all of their hard work. Two top-notch speakers in a row have made the Hamilton Centre banquet a good draw and a good starting point to build on for future events.

We held our first observatory clean up for 2003 on the weekend of the 24th (but not the May 24th weekend, try explaining that to a foreigner...) under mainly sunny skies and favourable temperatures. I wish I could say that this event was well attended, but Glenn Kukkola, Bill Foster, Bert Rhebergen and Shelley Watson, were the only non-board members in attendance. Glenn has undertaken the difficult and time-consuming task of fixing the leaky dome. The old paint is being removed, rotten wood replaced, fibreglass patches will be installed, new hardware on the shutter and a new coat of rubberized paint will be applied. Of course, dry weather would help this project along. Members should pay heed to their emails to see when Glenn will be out at the site in need of assistance. It is the duty of all key holders to assist in the up keep of the observatory as part of their key holder agreement. All people with keys to the observatory should plan to attend as many of the organized work parties as possible. I find the work parties to be a lot of fun and the site certainly looks a lot better for all of the attention. I would like to thank the four mentioned above and Ken Lemke, Grant Maguire, Gary Colwell, Tina Coppolino and John Williamson for giving up a sunny Saturday to help make the site a tidier place. Please watch your "Orbit", attend a meeting or read your email to find the date and time of the next scheduled observatory maintenance party and plan to get out. Even an hour or two makes a huge difference to the overall well being of the club's special site.

With summer coming, it is time to start thinking about barbecue season. The club will once again old a Family BBQ at the observatory, this year it will be on 03-07-05 starting at 16:00 (July fifth at four PM). This event has been well attended in past years and we have been graced with lovely clear skies and lots of telescopes to

view through. Burgers and sausages will be provided. Please bring your own drinks, chairs and desserts.

We also hold a BBQ for the Kingston Centre RASC at The Observatory on the Lake. This year it will be 03-08-08 starting at 17:00. All RASC members are invited. If you want to attend, please contact me for directions. We will have a special mystery guest speaker again this year.

I hope that the clouds can give us a break soon. It would be grand to have all sorts of observing reports for the September meeting generated by lots of crystal clear skies. With Mars coming as close as it has for tens of thousands of years, it sure would be nice if the weather on both planets could co-operate so that we can see what is going on clearly for a change. Keep on looking up!

Clear skies!

MK

RASC Hamilton Centre Banquet

By: Grant Maguire

The Hamilton Centre Banquet was once again a big success. The banquet was held on Saturday May 10, 2003 at the Holiday Inn Select in Oakville. Our special guest was Alan Dyer a renowned Canadian author and Astronomer. The banquet was attended by 42 guests from the Hamilton Centre, other Ontario Centres and the general public. The meal was excellent. The slide presentation that Alan put together appealed to not only the amateur astronomers but also their spouses, who may not necessarily share the same enthusiasm as we do.

It was obvious that everybody was having a great time.

Door prizes were donated by Sky Optics (Steve Barnes), Tina Coppolino, Ken Lemke, Randy Attwood, and Grant Maguire.

I am sure there will be a third annual Banquet next year. I hope to see more members attend, as it is great opportunity to get to know your fellow members in the light.

Buy & Sell Table

For our next General Meeting on Thursday June 6 we will be setting up a buy and sell table. If you have any astronomical gadgets that you would be interested in selling to other members please bring them to the meeting. We will have the table set up before the meeting and during the break.

A Message from the Board of Directors

Your Board of Directors asks that members of the Hamilton Centre not invite Michael Jefferson to Hamilton Centre events, or to the Powis Observatory. Mr. Jefferson was expelled from membership some time ago. He continues to frequent Hamilton Centre events and has been on the grounds and in the Observatory a number of times in the last month. Your Board is concerned at Mr. Jefferson's inability to move on after his expulsion and the risk this presents to the Centre. In future Mr. Jefferson will be treated as a trespasser and appropriate action will be taken. Members, please help your Board to have Mr. Jefferson move on... Thanks.

RASC Annual Family Picnic

On Saturday July 5, 2003 at 4:00 pm we will be gathering at the observatory for our annual picnic. Fun for the entire family. Mark Kaye will once again be wearing the white chefs hat as he cooks up Hamburg's and sausages. If the weather is clear there will probably

Beginners Observing Group

By: Grant Maguire

Ken Lemke's beginners Observing Group is shaping up to be great venue for new members who are just getting into the hobby. Ken Lemke and Gary Colwell have hosted 2 sessions already, and are very excited by the number of people in attendance.

If you are interest in the Beginners Observing Group contact Ken Lemke by e-mail at cfs@worldchat.com (day time) or klemke@attcanada.ca (night time or week-ends). His phone number is 905-634-5168 (day time) or 905-639-5127 (night time and week-ends) or Gary Colwell at glcolwell@sympatico.ca

Starfest 2003 Update

By Andreas Gada

The North York Astronomical Association invites you to attend its twenty-second annual Starfest, August 21 - 24, 2003. Starfest is Canada's largest annual observing convention and star party. It attracts over nine hundred astronomy enthusiasts from Ontario, and neighbouring provinces and states. It has been ranked among the top seven star parties in North America by Sky and

be a telescope set for solar observing. If the weather continues to cooperate we will be setting up for some evening observing. If you have something to donate as a draw prize please contact Tina Coppolino at tinacoppolino@cogeco.ca

Members Photo Gallery on our Web Site

By: Grant Maguire

Over the past week the Hamilton Centre has been updating the Web site. We are continuing to repair broken links, keeping the calendar of Events current, and we are going to be introducing a new page that will highlight astro-images by our talented membership. We are going to be making a big effort in the future to keep the web site current with our calendar of events. I will be putting something together over the next few weeks regarding the members photo gallery so start looking for your favourite image it could end up on the website. For those who don't know our web site is www.rasc.ca/hamilton/home.html If you don't have a home computer you can use any computer at your local library.

Telescope magazine. Starfest offers a wide variety of observing-oriented activities that address the needs and interests of experienced observers and astrophotographers, as well as those new to the hobby. Activities include observing sessions, formal and informal presentations, workshops, commercial exhibits, and a children's program. You are invited to bring your telescope, astronomical images, and share your observing experiences with others.

"The Starfest 2003 Not Only A Mars Tour". This year, to celebrate the close approach of Mars, we explore the wonders of our solar system. Our understanding of this amazing place is growing at an incredible pace. As we further probe the surface of Mars, circle the gas giants and their moons, land on asteroids and collect comet dust, we continue to expand our knowledge. The latest discoveries about the sun, planets, moons and asteroids will be examined at Starfest this summer. We will also focus on how to maximize the way in which we observe these solar system objects. You are invited to join us for this unique opportunity to enjoy Mars at its very best, within the context of the solar system as a whole.

Starfest 2003 features over eighteen presentations and workshops, given by leading professional and amateur astronomers. This year's stellar line up includes: Terence Dickinson, Doug Hallman, David Levy, Doug Welch, and many more.

Full details to help you plan your agenda are available on our website at www.nyaa-starfest.com.

WHAT'S NEW AT STARFEST

Starfest Registration Mailing Address Change Kirth Borsato and Peter Kiedrowski have joined the Starfest registration team and will be processing the majority of online and mail in registrations. To facilitate this the mailing address for Starfest registration has been changed to: STARFEST, 92 Earth Star Trail, Brampton, Ontario, L6R 2N7

Also please note that the "From" address on the electronic registration confirmation letters will be different.

Solar System Social On Saturday evening as part of the festivities, a gala Solar System Social will be held. You are invited to participate by dressing up as a representative of your favourite solar system object. Prizes will be awarded to the most original and outlandish attire. Let your imagination run free and surprise us with your creative fashion statement.

Red Light Café is under new management. We have made arrangements with a professional food service provider to run the Red Light Café. They will bring their portable kitchen on site which enables them to have a more extensive selection than our previous supplier. See meals section for a complete menu.

New Caterer. We have changed caterers for the banquet on Saturday evening and expanded the menu. See the meals section for details.

We hope to see you at Starfest,

Andreas, Bonnie, Kirth, Peter and Team Starfest.

North York Astronomical Association
26 Chryessa Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6N 4T5
416-761-1798
Email: nyaa@ca.inter.net

Doubles Stars

By Grant Maguire

The June issue of Sky and Telescope featured two very interesting articles on double stars. Page 88 "Spectral Hues of Double Stars" by Sue French and page 105 "Seeking Colourful Double Stars" by Mike Inglis

An RASC member showed me my very first double star as I was breaking in my first telescope three years ago. That double star was Alberio in the constellation Cygnus (Northern Cross). Since then I was introduced to other double stars when I was working on the Explore the Universe Certificate. I had so much fun finding those doubles and marvelling at their beauty. Here is a list of double stars that I got from Sky and Telescope. If you are interested in finding any of them use a star atlas or the ECU program, which are available at the observatory, to help you locate where in the sky these doubles are. Good luck and have fun.

Some Colorful Doubles

Star	R.A. (2000.0)	Dec.	Magnitudes	Sep.	P.A.*
Antares	16 ^h 29.4 ^m	-26° 26'	1.1v, 5.4	2.6"	274°
β Scorpii	16 ^h 05.4 ^m	-19° 48'	2.6, 4.9	14"	21°
α Librae	14 ^h 50.9 ^m	-16° 02'	2.8, 5.2	231"	314°
γ Librae	15 ^h 12.2 ^m	-19° 47'	4.5, 9.4	58"	111°
OS 300	15 ^h 40.2 ^m	+12° 03'	6.4, 9.5	15"	261°
λ Ophiuchi	16 ^h 30.9 ^m	+1° 59'	4.1, 5.2	1.4"	29°
σ Ophiuchi	17 ^h 18.0 ^m	-24° 17'	5.4, 6.9	10"	355°
δ Sagittarii	18 ^h 25.3 ^m	-20° 32'	4.9, 7.4	1.8"	289°
56 Herculis	16 ^h 55.0 ^m	+25° 44'	6.1, 10.6	18"	93°
α Herculis	17 ^h 14.6 ^m	+14° 23'	3.5v, 5.4v	4.6"	104°
ρ Capricorni	20 ^h 28.9 ^m	-17° 49'	5.0, 6.7	248"	150°
σ Capricorni	20 ^h 19.4 ^m	-19° 07'	5.5, 9.0	56"	179°
11 Aquilae	18 ^h 59.1 ^m	+13° 37'	5.2, 8.7	18"	286°
23 Aquilae	19 ^h 18.5 ^m	+1° 05'	5.3, 9.3	3.1"	5°
β Cygni	19 ^h 30.7 ^m	+27° 58'	3.1, 5.1	34"	54°
H N 84	19 ^h 39.4 ^m	+16° 34'	6.5, 8.9	28"	302°
OS 394	20 ^h 00.2 ^m	+36° 25'	7.1, 9.9	11"	294°
ϵ Lyrae AB	18 ^h 44.3 ^m	+39° 40'	5.4, 6.5	2.6"	357°
ϵ Lyrae CD	—	—	5.1, 5.3	2.3"	94°
δ Cygni	19 ^h 45.0 ^m	+45° 08'	2.9, 6.3	2.5"	221°
β 441	20 ^h 17.5 ^m	+29° 09'	6.2, 10.7	5.9"	66°
β Cephei	21 ^h 28.7 ^m	+70° 34'	3.2, 7.9	13"	49°
Σ 2894	22 ^h 18.9 ^m	+37° 46'	6.1, 8.3	16"	194°
Σ 2841	21 ^h 54.3 ^m	+19° 43'	6.4, 7.9	22"	110°
94 Aquarii	22 ^h 19.1 ^m	-13° 28'	5.3, 7.3	13"	350°
41 Aquarii	22 ^h 14.3 ^m	-21° 04'	7.1, 7.1	5.0"	114°
γ Delphini	20 ^h 46.7 ^m	+16° 07'	4.3, 5.5	9.6"	268°

* P.A., position angle, tells the position of the fainter star with respect to the brighter one. P.A. 0° means north, 90° means east, 180° is south, and 270° is west. A v after a magnitude indicates variability.

Hamilton Centre Logo Clothing

Ken Lemke has generously offered to coordinate the sale of various clothing items with a very distinct Hamilton Centre Logo on them. Here is a list of the clothing items and our introductory special prices. If you are interested in ordering items please contact Ken Lemke by e-mail at cfs@worldchat.com (day time) or klemke@attcanada.ca (night time or week-ends). His phone number is 905-634-5168 (day time) or 905-639-5127 (night time and week-ends).

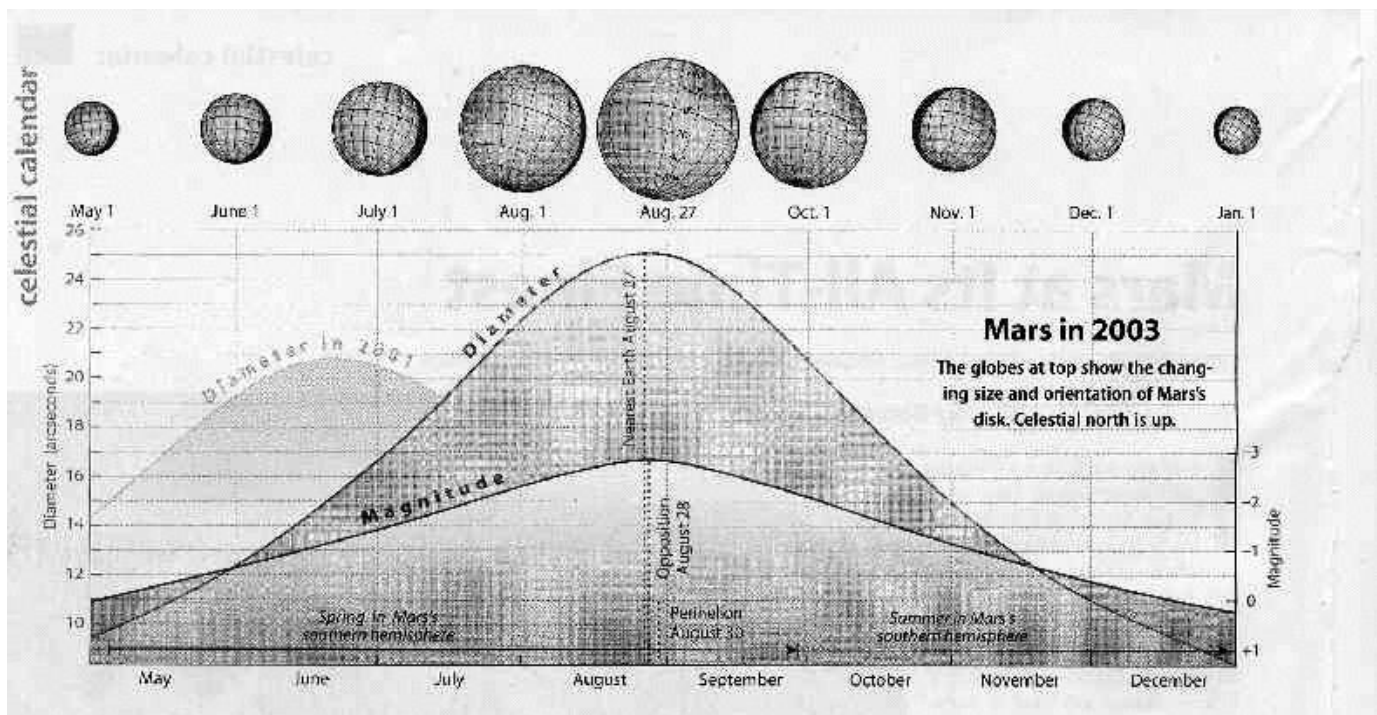
Item	Style Number	Price
Ladies North End Fleece Vest	ASH70086	\$39.00
Demim Shirt Long Sleeve	WD7120	\$36.00
Sweat Top "Heavy Cotton"	WD18430-D	\$30.00
Men's Micro Plus Lined Windshirt	ASH88001	\$53.00

High Point Golf Shirt	WD5600-01	\$34.00
Men's Extreme Cotton Long Sleeve Pique Golf Shirt	ASH85017	\$33.00
Ladies Extreme Fashion Cut Pique Golf Shirt	ASH75008	\$27.00
Men's North End Fleece Vest	ASH88005	\$49.00
Elements Polyester Fleece Toque	ASH441006	\$16.00
Elements Polyester Fleece Headband	ASH441007	\$16.00
Gildan Long Sleeve T-Shirt	WD2400	\$23.00

Mars August 2003 the Best its going to be

By: Grant Maguire from Sky and Telescope

During late August of this year Mars will reach magnitude -2.9 . On August 26 and 27 it will be closer to the earth than any time in 60,000 years. During the period from now until August 26 Mars will continue to increase in Magnitude as its distance to earth decreases. Mars become almost this large every 15 to 17 years whenever it passes closest to earth (near opposition). For us Northern hemisphere dwellers the best view of Mars is going to be past midnight. This event is going to increase the popularity of astronomy, as we get closer to the summer. So let get out there and promote the Red planet to our friends and coworkers, inviting them to the observatory, public nights, and sidewalk astronomy.



Orbit

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2003 Sidewalk Astronomy Program

Here are the dates for this years Program: Friday June 6, 2003 Friday July 4, 2003 Friday August 8, 2003
Friday September 5, 2003 Friday October 3, 2003

June 2003

RASC – Hamilton Centre Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sun Rise: 5:40am Sun Set: 8:51pm Moon Rise: 6:28am Moon Set: 10:41pm	2 Sun Rise: 5:39am Sun Set: 8:51pm Moon Rise: 7:15am Moon Set: 11:34pm	3 Sun Rise: 5:39am Sun Set: 8:52pm Moon Rise: 8:11am Moon Set: none	4 Sun Rise: 5:38am Sun Set: 8:53pm Moon Rise: 9:14am Moon Set: 12:19am	5 Gen. Meeting 8:00 Steam Mus. Sun Rise: 5:38am Sun Set: 8:54pm Moon Rise: 10:22am Moon Set: 12:57am	6 Side walk Astronomy Sun Rise: 5:38am Sun Set: 8:54pm Moon Rise: 11:33am Moon Set: 1:29am	7 Sun Rise: 5:37am Sun Set: 8:55pm Moon Rise: 12:45pm Moon Set: 1:56am First Qtr: 3:28pm
8 Sun Rise: 5:37am Sun Set: 8:56pm Moon Rise: 1:58pm Moon Set: 2:20am	9 Pluto at opposition Sun Rise: 5:37am Sun Set: 8:56pm Moon Rise: 3:13pm Moon Set: 2:43am	10 Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 8:57pm Moon Rise: 4:30pm Moon Set: 3:06am	11 Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 8:58pm Moon Rise: 5:50pm Moon Set: 3:32am	12 Bd Meeting 8:00 Observ. Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 8:58pm Moon Rise: 7:12pm Moon Set: 4:03am	13 Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 8:59pm Moon Rise: 8:33pm Moon Set: 4:40am	14 Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 8:59pm Moon Rise: 9:48pm Moon Set: 5:26am Full Moon: 6:16am
15 Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 9:00pm Moon Rise: 10:51pm Moon Set: 6:23am	16 Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 9:00pm Moon Rise: 11:41pm Moon Set: 7:30am	17 Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 9:00pm Moon Rise: none Moon Set: 8:43am	18 Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 9:01pm Moon Rise: 12:20am Moon Set: 9:56am	19 Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 9:01pm Moon Rise: 12:50am Moon Set: 11:06am	20 Beg. Obs. Grp 8:30 pm Observ. Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 9:01pm Moon Rise: 1:15am Moon Set: 12:13pm	21 BOG trip to Torrance Barrens Sun Rise: 5:36am Sun Set: 9:02pm Moon Rise: 1:36am Moon Set: 1:17pm Last Qtr: 9:46am
22 Sun Rise: 5:37am Sun Set: 9:02pm Moon Rise: 1:56am Moon Set: 2:19pm	23 Sun Rise: 5:37am Sun Set: 9:02pm Moon Rise: 2:14am Moon Set: 3:21pm	24 Sun Rise: 5:37am Sun Set: 9:02pm Moon Rise: 2:34am Moon Set: 4:22pm	25 Sun Rise: 5:37am Sun Set: 9:02pm Moon Rise: 2:55am Moon Set: 5:25pm	26 Sun Rise: 5:38am Sun Set: 9:03pm Moon Rise: 3:20am Moon Set: 6:28pm	27 Public Obs. @ Observatory Sun Rise: 5:38am Sun Set: 9:03pm Moon Rise: 3:50am Moon Set: 7:32pm	28 Sun Rise: 5:39am Sun Set: 9:03pm Moon Rise: 4:26am Moon Set: 8:33pm
29 Sun Rise: 5:39am Sun Set: 9:03pm Moon Rise: 5:11am Moon Set: 9:29pm New Moon: 1:39pm	30 Sun Rise: 5:39am Sun Set: 9:03pm Moon Rise: 6:04am Moon Set: 10:17pm					

Board of Directors

Position	Name	email	Position	Name	email
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