



**40 YEARS!**  
**1981-2021**

**RASC**  
**SUDBURY**  
**CENTRE**

*Up Above, The Heavens Await*



## **RASC SUDBURY CENTRE NEWSLETTER | Friday Jan 7th, 2022**

[www.sudburyastronomyclub.com](http://www.sudburyastronomyclub.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/RASCsudbury/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/RASCsudbury/)



### **Meeting Agenda, 7:00PM**

1. Sudbury RASC President Address – Alan Ward
2. Visual Observing Tips & Tricks - Michael Wright (40 min)
3. Show & Tell (10 min)
4. Break (10 min)
5. Amateur Telescope Making - Rhett Mackend (30 min)
6. What's Up Doc?
7. Closing Comments/News/Open Forum/Starlight Lounge

## **This Evening's Presentations:**

**Michael Wright (KW-RASC) & Rhett Mackend (KW-RASC)**



**Michael Wright of Kitchener-Waterloo will be giving us some tricks and tips for visual astronomy.**

**Also in tonight's program will be Rhett Mackend, also of Kitchener-Waterloo, about his adventures in Telescope Making.**

**-==Join us!==-**

**Friday Jan 7th @ 7PM**

## Editor's Voice

Happy New Year to everyone! We hope you all have a safe and Covid-Free holiday! There is no member profile this month, but it will return in February.

**Please Note:** Any submissions should be sent no later than two weeks before the meeting date.

- Patrick Dodson

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## Centre News

This Space reserved for news directly impacting the Sudbury Centre, whether it be membership renewal notices.

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### The Club's EQ8 by Luc Comtois, Observatory Coordinator

The club's EQ8 will be removed from the observatory for retro fitting. All the screws nuts and bolts that are rusting will all be replaced with stainless steel hardware and will remain in storage at my place for the winter. The executive is aware of this and all in favour.

**Note: You must be on the mailing list to receive the Zoom meeting invitation. The meeting links will not be posted in the newsletter. This is for security purposes. To request being on the mailing list, please contact us via our website. Or email a request at [inquiries @ sudburyastronomyclub.com](mailto:inquiries@sudburyastronomyclub.com). Remove the spaces in the email address before using.**

## Community Contributions

### The Deer Lick Group + Stephan's Quintet by Norm Hey

Happy holidays to everyone! Here's a little Christmas cheer in the form of an astrophoto that has a role in a classic Christmas movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*. I haven't seen this part myself, having only seen part of the movie.

At any rate, this isn't the greatest photo—it's just over 2 hours total exposure time (30 x 3 minutes, 21 x 2 minutes, over three nights in October and November). I got involved in shooting some other targets and "forgot" to get more of this one. The nice thing with astrophotography is

that for a lot of it, it's not like you won't get another chance at it—the stars are going to be around and in the exact same places essentially for our entire lives. Indeed, you young'uns could take my data and add your own when you get to my age and all would be good! Of course, the likelihood is that tech will have evolved so much in that time that reading my data will be like reading the Dead Sea Scrolls or hieroglyphic carvings!



Deer Lick Group by Norm Hey



Stephan's Quintet by Norm Hey

So NGC7331, the big galaxy upper centre in the first image has this cool collection of smaller galaxies all around it, most of which are actually physically associated with it. Some just happen to be lined up with it, but are at much different distances. This group is known for whatever reason as the Deer Lick group—go figure.

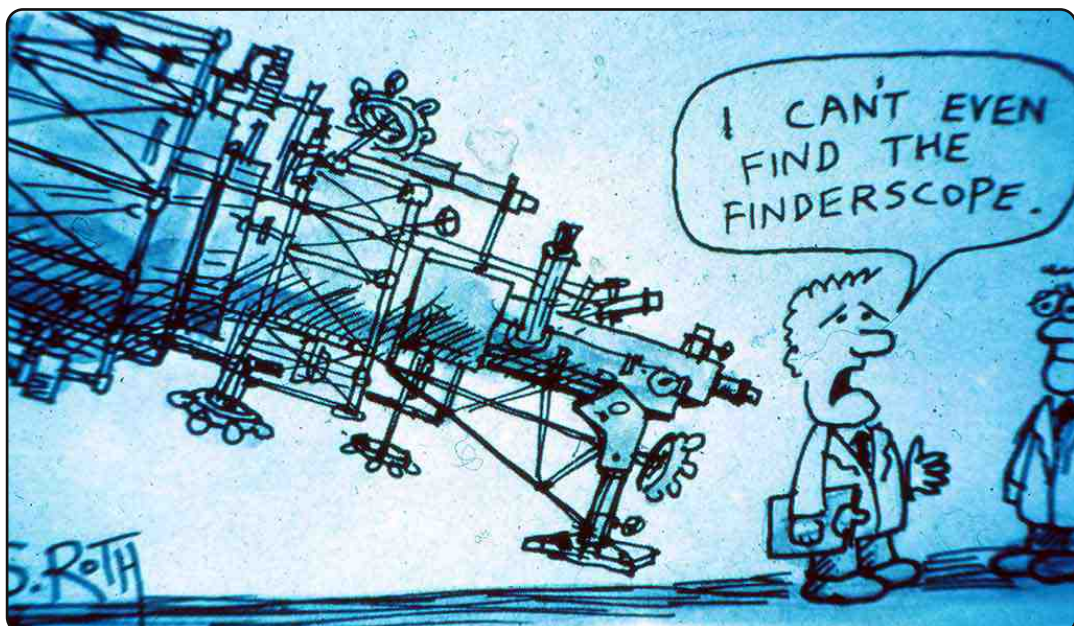
Stephan's Quintet, so named after its discoverer Edouard Stephan, is a compact galaxy group seen at the bottom of the main image. The outlier is the biggest, brightest object, NGC 7320. It is "only" about 40 million light years from us. The other galaxies are estimated between 270 and 300 million light years away and physically

associated. If you are interested further, the Wikipedia article [here](#) is worth a look. Reference #11 gives the connection between Stephan's Quintet and the movie (interesting sideline there:

shot in mid summer, won an Oscar for technical prowess in making artificial snow). The last image is a more cropped version, taken with the Hubble Space Telescope. It was the APOD for December 18th. Just a bit better than mine...



Comet Leonard - Pat Bedard



## Space News: The James Webb Space Telescope

By Patrick & Steve Dodson

While most children eagerly awaited a certain man in red making his way across the skies the world over, another eagerly awaited launch was preparing for a go on Christmas Morning.

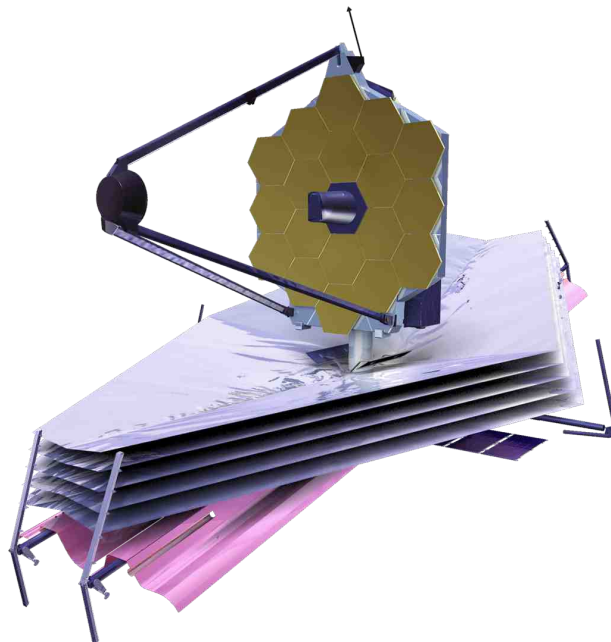
It's finally on its way after more than a decade of delays - the biggest, most ambitious, and most complex Space Astronomy Mission ever! Using its Infra-red vision, it will see through dust clouds that blocked the Hubble, and it will see the first stars and galaxies that formed when the infant Universe was less than 1% of its current age!

The light from these previously-invisible objects has been red-shifted from the visible and ultra-violet ranges into the infra-red, that will be detected for the first time ever by the JWST!

The new Space Telescope's mirror is bigger than the one on Mount Palomar, and almost 3 times bigger than Hubble's. This, along with the penetrating power of the infra-red imaging, will allow unprecedented detailed probing of exoplanets!

NASA has a webpage where you can track the status of the JWST in realtime. Its current distance from Earth, as well as distance completed, and to L2 Insertion, and its current deployment, and cruising speed are all available to see. You can check that out at:

<https://jwst.nasa.gov/content/webbLaunch/whereIsWebb.html>



## RASC Education, Public Outreach & Observing News

### 2022 Event Calendar

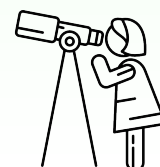
<u>STAR-PARTY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Frozen Banana	Mew Lake, Algonquin Park	May 5-8	TBA
Thawed Banana	Bobland	May 26-30	TBA
New Moon in June	Bobland	June 23-26	TBA
Gateway to the Universe	TBA	July 21-24	TBA
August Star Party	Bobland	Aug 18-21	TBA
Half the Night	Halfway Lake P.P	Aug 18-21	TBA
Last Chance	Restoule P.P	Sept 22-25	TBA
Stars Over Killarney	Killarney P.P	Sept 30-Oct 2	TBA

### Updates

Regrettably, all star-parties are cancelled up til August due to COVID regulations, with a tentative Halfway Lake Starparty to happen, if the Provincial Parks are open by then. We ask you to Save the Date for New Moon in June, in the event that a small gathering happens at Burwash. Anyone wishing to participate in the Events at Chapman's Field **must** contact Bob & Lil Chapman ahead of time to insure that officially allowed numbers are not exceeded: **bobandlil14@gmail.com** or **705-386-7087**

In other Star Party News, Science North would like to announce a series of Virtual Star-Parties. These Starparties will be held virtually on Facebook and Youtube, and will be held every Saturday until it is safe to meet in person. These are open to all members of the public.

Visit <https://www.sciencenorth.ca/planetarium#starparties> for more information.



## Outreach Update

by Linda Pulliah, Outreach Coordinator

### A Call for Volunteers!

"I am looking for local RASC members who would be willing to share in presentations/on line outreach work with the Sudbury Public Library. In time we hope, there will be regular events held at each of the libraries in the region, but for now we are restricting events to a virtual format. I have done a broad introduction to astronomy talk with them, which was very well received. My hope is to expand the presentation to include other members highlighting their scope of interest (no pun intended, really). These talks can be about 10 to 20 minutes. One session is currently planned for the evening of Tuesday Jan 11, 2022. The next one will likely be in March or April. If you are interested in joining these sessions, let me know." - Linda





## Looking Up: January 2022

By Stargazer Steve/Steve Dodson

### The "Dog Days of Winter"

A glance at the **eastern/southeastern** Sky after supper this month shows **Orion** on a lofty perch high above the horizon, and **two new bright stars rising**. These are the "**Dog**" **Stars, Procyon in the East** and truly dazzling **Sirius in the Southeast**. As if **Sirius** cannot call attention to itself by being the brightest star in the whole night sky, it lines up with the "**Belt**" of **Orion**. Follow the line of these **three stars downward to the left**, and the **sparkle of Sirius** will do the rest!

An even brighter luminary has disappeared from the **southwestern horizon** in the past few days. **Venus** has been our **Evening Star since last May**, but it is about to pass nearly between **Earth** and **Sun**, in an event called "**Inferior Conjunction**". In so doing **Venus** passes into the morning (pre-dawn) Sky, where it will be visible by the end of the Month.

On January 28 **Venus** will join **Mars** and the **Waning Crescent Moon** before dawn!

In place of **Venus**, **Mercury** returns briefly to the evening Sky, but catch it **before 6:00 PM this week!** On January 12, **Mercury** appears **3 degrees to the right of Saturn**. Both may be challenging to see low in the **Southwest around 5:30 PM**.

Other January Sky Events:

Jan 4, 5:30 PM - The **Crescent Moon** will appear close to the lower left of **Saturn**.

Jan 5, Evening - The **Crescent Moon** accompanies **Jupiter**.

Last Week of January - **Saturn** sinks into the glow of **Sunset**.

For more details, and reminders in the hours before Sky Events, check postings on [www.sudburyastronomyclub.com](http://www.sudburyastronomyclub.com)



To see more, visit the club website or follow Steve on Twitter at **@StargazerSteveD** for daily updates.

## RASC Sudbury Centre Executive



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President



**Ian Anttila**  
Vice-President



**Linda Pulliah**  
RASC Liaison/Outreach  
Coordinator



**Norm Hey**  
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