



ROYAL  
ASTRONOMICAL  
SOCIETY  
OF CANADA

Photo: Tim Yaworski



April 5 to April 11, 2021

## RASC Weekly: Recreational Astronomy Night, Spectroscopy, Moon @ Noon, and Stellarium!

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 - 20:30 EDT

Speaker Series: A Walking Tour of Optical History - Artifacts and Anecdotes from the Astronomical Lyceum

Speaker: John W. Briggs, Magdalena, New Mexico, USA

Pioneers in optics allowed a revolutionary ascendancy in astronomy in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Astronomical Lyceum in New Mexico, originally built in 1936 as a theater and gymnasium, now houses a collection of telescopes, optics, archives, and literature from this ascendancy. Its volunteer staff find the artifacts and associated history surprisingly engaging for visitors of all interest levels. The presentation will include unusual items, large and small, created by some of the America's greatest early optical artists, including Henry and Harry Fitz, Alvan Clark and Sons, Carl and Robert Lundin, John A. Brashear, George Willis Ritchey, and the pioneer of astronomical spectroscopy and photography, Lewis Morris Rutherfurd. The collection includes artifacts originating right up through the Space Age, including from the amateur telescope making movement and its surprising influence. While time allows only an overview, the presentation hopes to remind participants how history of science and technology can be powerfully engaging and interesting for essentially anyone when offered in the right spirit. In some cases, the written remembrances of pioneers spell out the inspiration they had, often taken from the beauty of Nature. Arguably no one was more eloquent in such words than Albert A. Michelson. In other cases, the *artistry* in the artifacts themselves is a similar testimony, and intense pride-of-workmanship is dramatized by how instruments were signed. It is necessary and worthwhile that we and our students remain aware of these inspirations -- they are all lessons to be learned.

Join Speaker Series

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 - 19:30 to 21:00 EDT

Recreational Astronomy Night - Toronto Centre (Online)

Join us for our monthly recreational astronomy night meeting organized by RASC Toronto Centre. This is where our members get to show their latest projects or give tutorials and tips on just about everything to do with astronomy. Everyone can attend for free and registration is not required! The members presenting are:

- Blake Nancarrow - The sky this month
- Francois Van Heerden - The astro-video learning curve: Fine tuning settings to get results
- Ron Macnaughton - Microbial mats on Earth and Mars

Join Recreational Astronomy Night

Thursday, April 8, 2021 - 12:00 to 12:30 EDT

The Moon at Noon: Q-5



Where do you find mountain ranges, craters and lava plains on the Moon? We'll be talking about common features, how to spot them, and how we use cardinal directions on the Moon. Bring something round (a golf ball or Styrofoam crafting ball) and you can join in while we simulate the Moon's orbit!

Register for the Moon at Noon

Friday, April 9, 2021 - 19:30 - 21:00 CDT

Friday, April 9, 2021 - 20:30 - 22:00 EDT

April Monthly Meeting - Winnipeg Centre

Want to learn about the history and theory of spectroscopy? Join RASC Winnipeg for exciting sample's of spectra from small telescopes and DSLRs and a Q&A session with Tom Field!

Main Speaker: Tom Field, Contributing editor at *Sky & Telescope Magazine*, Author of the RSPEC Spectroscopy Software. The monthly gathering of the Winnipeg RASC. Due to COVID-19 the meeting will be held via Zoom. Meeting information will be forwarded to members via email. To see examples of the exciting science that amateurs can do using just a small telescope, click [here](#).

Join April Monthly Meeting

Saturday, April 10, 2021 - 7:00 to 9:00 PDT

Saturday, April 10, 2021 - 10:00 to 12:00 EDT

Stellarium introductory course - Toronto Centre (Online)

Stellarium is a powerful planetarium application available for Windows, Macintosh, and Linux computers. Class participants will learn how to setup the software for a specific location, date, and time. They will learn how to view the simulated sky, zoom and pan, and search for and select celestial objects. Features such as gridlines, the meridian, sky settings, and red light mode will be explored. This will provide an amateur astronomer a basic overview of the Stellarium program.

We are sorry to inform you that the session is FULL. Class sizes are limited to 15 individuals. A waiting list will be kept if additional participants wish to sign up.

This training is not for the paid Stellarium app on smartphones or the Stellarium web app. RASC members in good standing can attend this event for free after registration!

More information around Stellarium

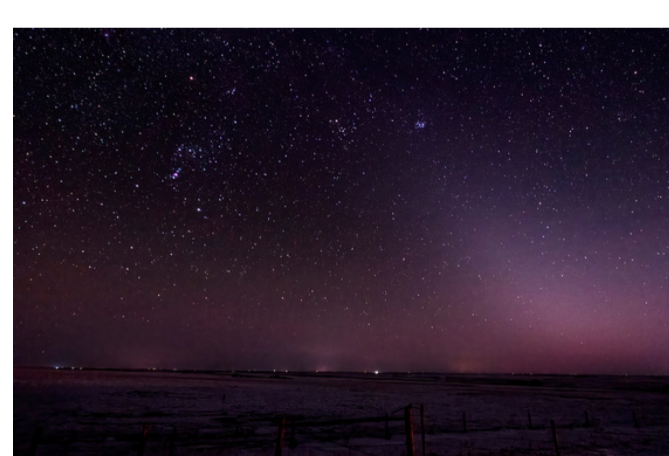
### Astroimage of the Week

Tim Yaworski

We are featuring winners of RASC's AstroImaging Certificate. Winners will be featured in the banner of RASC Weekly. More information on the RASC AstroImaging Certificate is available [here](#).

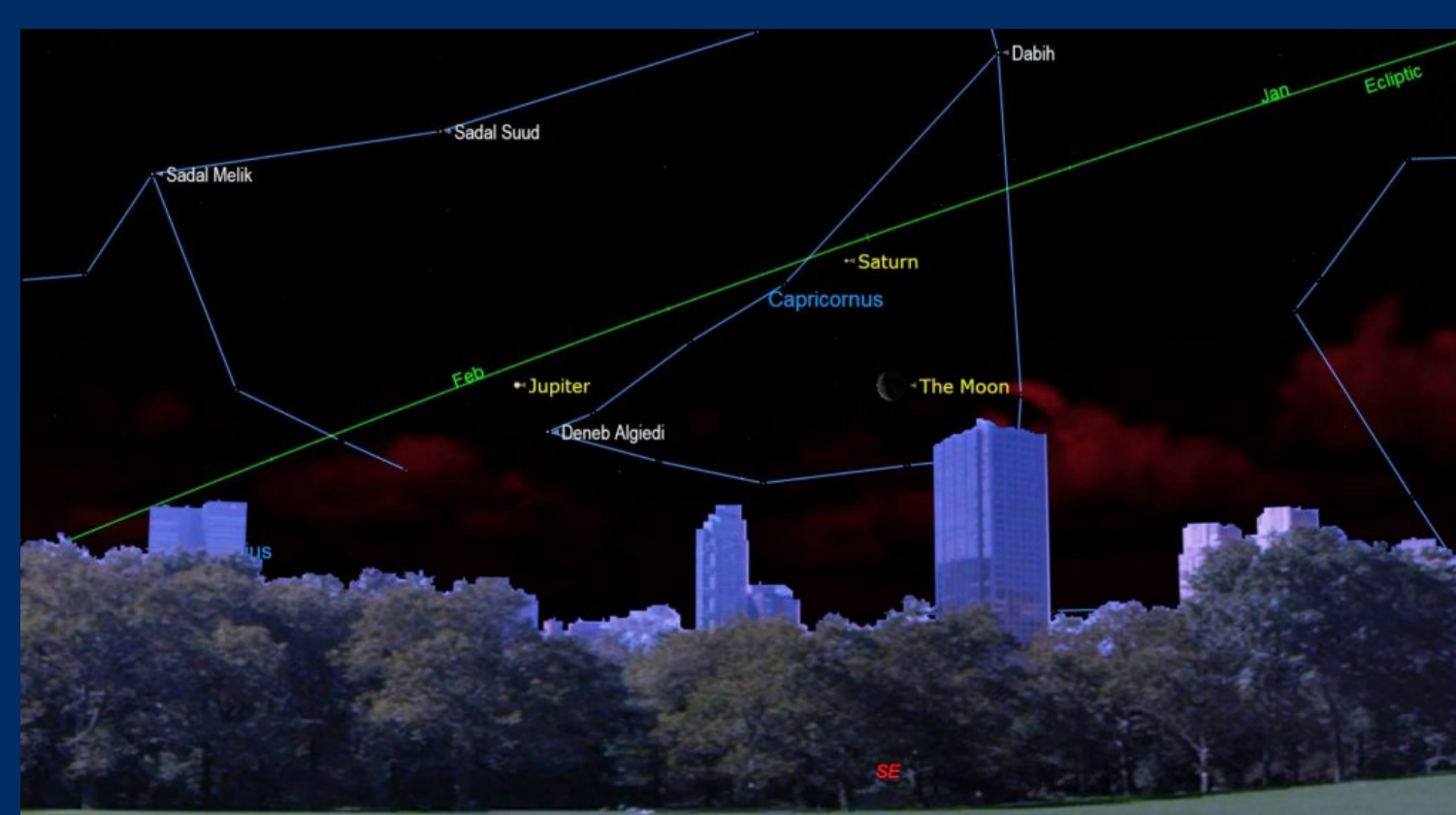
#### ZODIACAL LIGHT:

Zodiacal light rises above a prairie field 40 km south of Saskatoon. It shares the late winter sky with Orion and The Pleiades. March 11, 2018 21:07 CST. Fujifilm X-T10 Rokinon 12mm 12mm f2 30 secs. 5000 iso untracked. Categories: Scenic, Night Sky.



To see the large image, check out the [RASC AstroImaging Zenfolio page](#).

## This Week's Observing Targets



Check out the sky this week on *SkyNews*:

This Week's Sky - April 5 to 11, 2021:

The crescent Moon will meet Saturn and Jupiter early this week. Later, as it wanes to new, it will be a fabulous time to check out some spring galaxies.

Click here for full article

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