



ROYAL
ASTRONOMICAL
SOCIETY
OF CANADA

Photo: Dan Meek



March 15 to March 21, 2021

RASC Weekly: Insider's Guide, Speaker's Night, and Highest-Energy Cosmic Rays!

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 - 15:30 to 17:00 EDT

Insider's Guide to the Galaxy: Astronomy and Religions Around the World

As we approach spring equinox, an important day in many calendars, we will be discussing how astronomy influences religious observances around the world. You'll be surprised by some of the astronomical histories behind religious traditions!

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 - 19:30 to 21:30 EDT

Speaker's Night: Planets Under Construction - How to Study a Million Year Process - Toronto Centre (ONLINE)

Speaker: Prof. Nienke van der Marel, Banting Fellow, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria with RASC Toronto Centre!

Planets around other stars, also called exoplanets, are seen everywhere! In the last 25 years, thousands of exoplanets have been found throughout the Milky Way. How do we find these planets? What are the chances of discovering life there? And if they are so common, why is it that we still don't know how they are formed? With the ALMA telescope we can now finally zoom into the birth cradles of planets: dusty disks around young stars. The spectacular images have given us new insights, but also raised many more questions on the process of planet formation. Everyone can attend for free and registration is not required!

[Watch Speaker's Night](#)

Thursday, March 18, 2021 - 21:30 to 23:30 EDT

Thursday, March 18, 2021 - 19:30 to 21:30 MT

Uncovering the Origin of Highest-Energy Cosmic Rays with the VERITAS Gamma-Ray Observatory - Calgary Centre

Presented by Dr. David Kieda, University of Utah with RASC Calgary Centre! After more than 100 years since the first discovery of cosmic rays, their astrophysical origin is beginning to be understood. This lecture will describe recent advances in our understanding using multi-messenger observations of neutron stars, supermassive black holes, and supernova remnants combined with VERITAS high-energy gamma-ray observations.

Zoom Passcode: 295522

[Join The Origin of the Highest-Energy Cosmic Rays](#)

Friday, March 19, 2021 - 19:30 to 21:30 EDT

Monthly Meeting - London Centre

This week on Friday 2021-03-19, the RASC London Centre will hold its regular monthly meeting. All are welcome. The main presentation will be on the topic "The 2020 Long-Range Plan for Canadian Astronomy" by Dr. Pauline Barby from Western University.

[Join the Monthly Meeting](#)

Astro-image of the Week

Dan Meek

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](#).

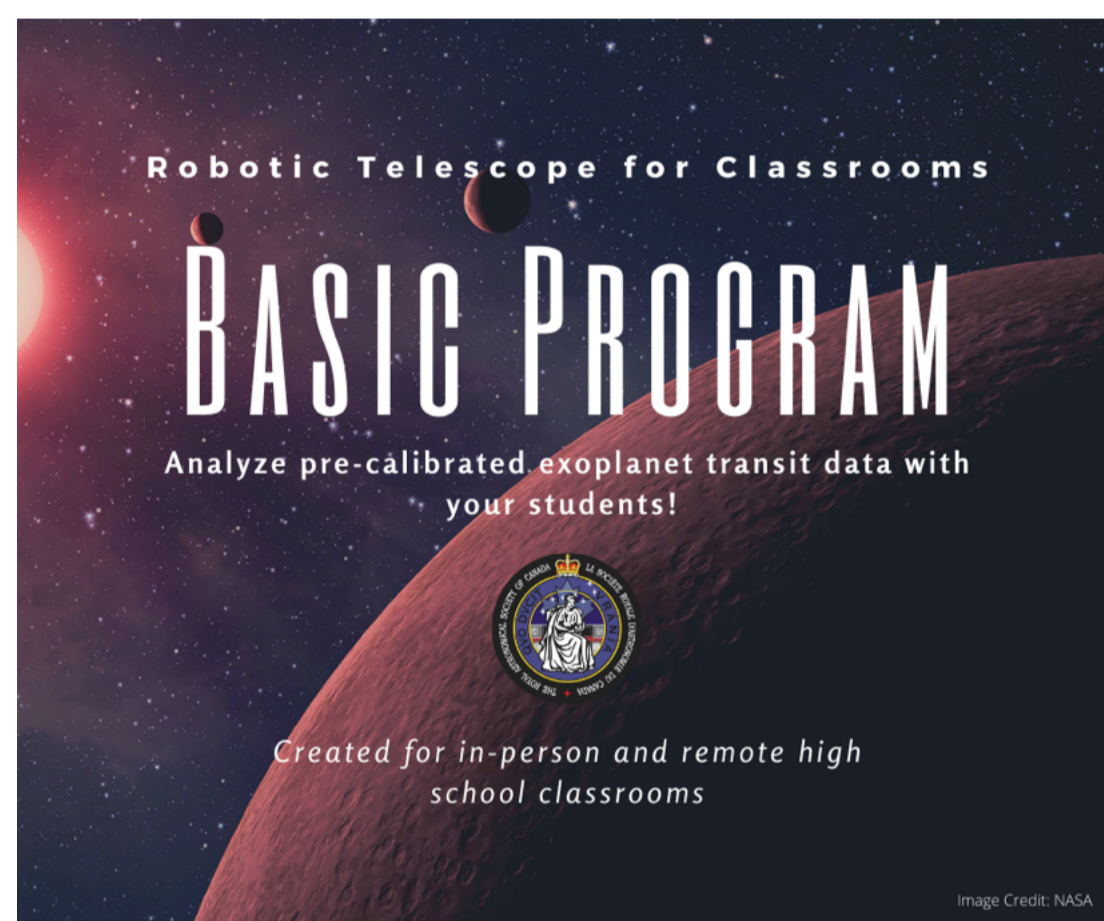
09 - M45 THE PLEIADES:

The image is a 3 hour RGB exposure done using a Tele Vue NP127is telescope and a QSI583wsg CCD camera on a CGE PRO mount. I took the image from Calgary, Alberta. Camera control and preprocessing was done through ImagesPlus. Processing was done through PixInsight with final touch-up, as required, through Photoshop. Guiding was through PHD2 and a Lodestar camera. I find it very cool in the way the hot blue stars cause the surrounding cloud of gas and dust to give off a blueish glow. Although easily visible to the unaided eye, the true beauty of this object is best appreciated through the camera.



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

RASC's Basic Robotic Telescope Program



Introducing the RASC's newest outreach program, Robotic Telescope for Classrooms! The Basic Program is one of two high school outreach programs that allow students to analyze exoplanet data from RASC's Robotic Telescope.

This program is designed for Gr 9 -12 high school classrooms and provides educators with everything they need to teach about and guide their students through the analysis of exoplanet transits. No previous astronomical or exoplanet data analysis experience is required! Plus, classes can sign-up to watch data collected on the telescope live.

If you know an educator, spread the word! If you are one, click below for more info & to apply!

[Click here to learn more](#)

This Week's Observing Targets

Saturday, March 20, 2021 - 4:27 EST

March Equinox

The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of fall (autumnal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.



Check out the sky this week on Skynews:

This Week's Sky - March 15 to 21, 2021:

The Moon takes centre stage this week, meeting Uranus and the Moon before showing off its Lunar X and then meeting Messier 35. Read more in This Week's Sky in SkyNews, written by Chris Vaughan.

[Click here for full article](#)

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