

A long-exposure photograph of a starry night sky. The stars are captured as long, thin streaks of light, creating a sense of motion. In the foreground, a wooden deck railing is visible, illuminated with a warm, reddish-orange glow. The railing consists of vertical balusters and a horizontal handrail. The background shows the dark silhouettes of trees against the starry sky.

# An Introduction to Astronomy

**Sunshine Coast Elder College**

**Presented by members of the  
Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club**

**Richard Corbett**


**Bruce Fryer**

**Charles Ennis**

**Michael Bradley**

*I acknowledge that we are standing on the traditional and un-ceded lands of the Coast Salish people. It is through the good stewardship and generosity of the shíshálh Nation since time immemorial, that we are able to enjoy being here today.*

# An Introduction to Astronomy

- Welcome: Michael
  - Week 1: Basics: selecting equipment, eyesight (Richard)  
Star Hopping (Charles)
  - Week 2: An astronomical timeline (Bruce)
  - Week 3: Practical Observing (Charles)
  - Week 4: Currently aspects of cosmology, black holes, etc., but can modify this based on class interest areas.
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Slides from each weeks presentations (and other resource materials) will be available on the Elder College website

# Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club



<https://sunshinecoastastronomy.wordpress.com/>

# Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club

- The Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club was formed in 2004 when a group of 16 enthusiasts met in Sandy Hook. In 2007 president Bill Clark spearheaded the drive to have our local club accepted as a member of the national association, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC).
- This process concluded in April 2008 when we became the “Sunshine Coast Centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada”, the 29th centre of this prestigious national organization. Club members are also RASC members.
- We hold monthly meetings on the 2nd Friday. Most meetings include a guest speaker. For many years we met in the Sunshine Coast Arts Centre but in 2019 we moved to the Sechelt Library.
- For the duration of the pandemic we will be holding monthly meetings and presentations via Zoom.



The club event  
at Davis Bay #3



# We run an “Astro Café”

- This *was* an informal gathering on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month in Davis Bay.
- After tea or hot chocolate at a coffee shop we headed over to the sea wall where we set up our observing gear. Weather permitting of course.
- Lets hope we can resume sometime soon!!



# Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club

- Centre meetings
- Visiting speakers
- Library
- Observatory
- “Loaner” Telescopes
- Observing events
- Observing programs
- And more!





The

grant.

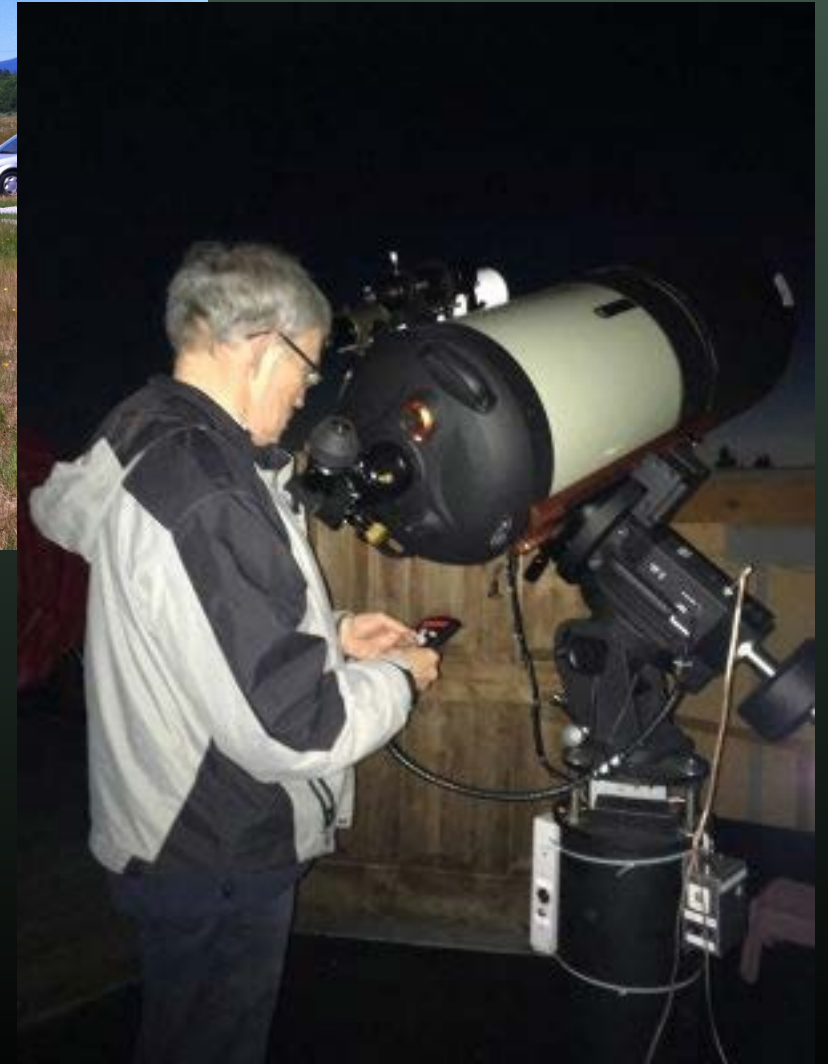
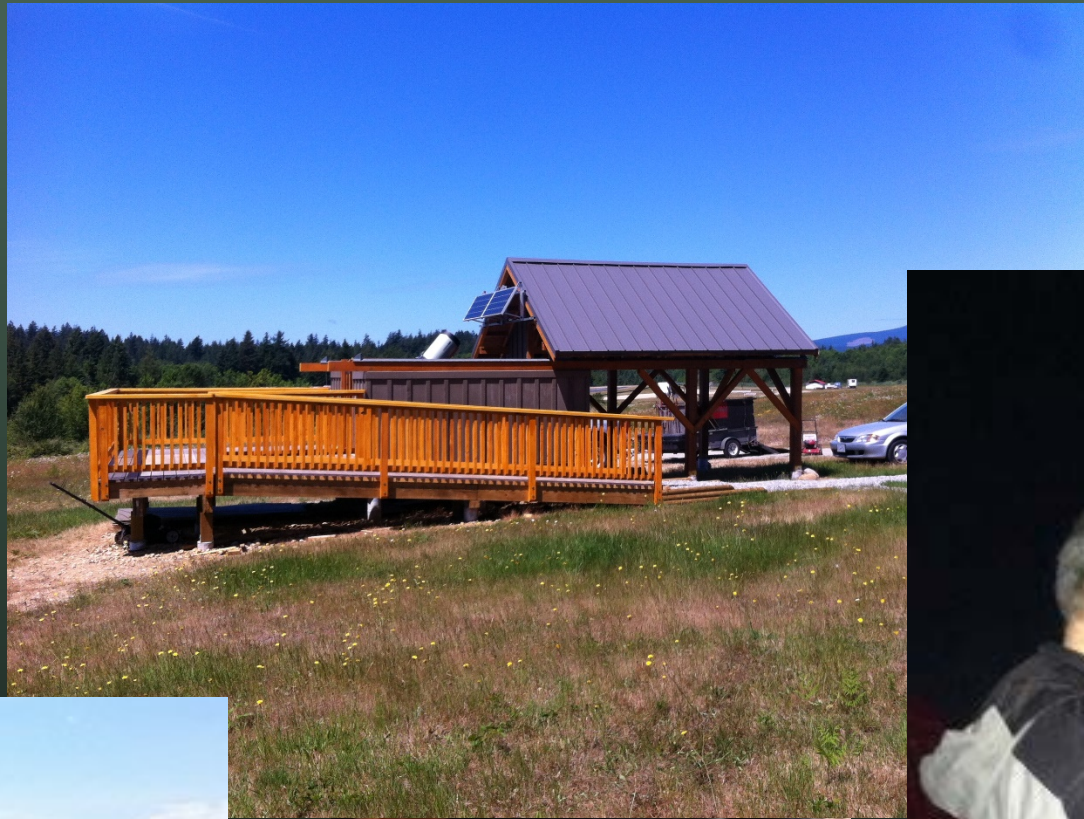
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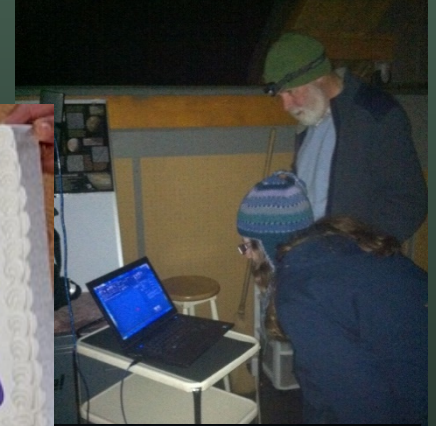


# Telescope Specifications

- Mount
  - Equatorial design – SkyWatcher EQ8
  - Fully computer controllable
  - Capacity – 50kg (counterweights excluded)
  - Pointing accuracy – Up to 5 arc mins.
- Telescope
  - Schmidt-Cassegrain design
  - Celestron Edge HD 356mm (14")
  - Focal length 3910mm, f10
  - Limiting Stellar Magnitude 15.3



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# The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada



# Welcome to the RASC

- Founded in 1868, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) is Canada's leading astronomy organization with 4,000+ enthusiastic amateur, educator and professional members.
- The largest, most active astronomy group in Canada.
- As members of the RASC individual benefits include access to training programs, a subscription to Sky News magazine, online access to the Journal and an annual Observing Guide.
- Among club benefits, a key one is being covered by the RASC liability insurance. The club would be unable to stage some of our local events without this sort of insurance.

# RASC Vision and Mission

**Vision:** *To inspire curiosity in all Canadians about the universe, to share scientific knowledge, and to foster collaboration in astronomical pursuits.*

**Mission:** *To encourage improved understanding of astronomy for all people, through education, outreach, research, publication, partnership, enjoyment and community.*





**Any Questions?**