



An Introduction to the  
Night Skies  
Week 4

Presented by:  
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and Members of RASC Sunshine Coast  
Centre

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# COMPUTER BASED PLANETARIUM SOFTWARE

# Planetarium Software

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- ▶ Many available today for Mac and Windows
- ▶ Prices range from free to pricey (\$\$\$)!
- ▶ Standard installations have a database of hundreds of stars, millions more are available to download if you feel the need!
- ▶ High resolution images of objects or regions of the sky can be downloaded also.
- ▶ Many of the programs also connect directly to a telescope and guide it.

# Stellarium

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- ▶ Stellarium is a free software planetarium, licensed under the terms of the GNU General Public License.
- ▶ Available for Linux, Windows, and Mac OS X. It uses OpenGL to render a realistic projection of the night sky in real time.
- ▶ Stellarium was developed by the French programmer Fabien Chéreau, who launched the project in the summer of 2001.

# STELLARIUM

[TheFrugalComputerGuy.com](http://TheFrugalComputerGuy.com)

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# **TABLET/SMARTPHONE BASED PLANETARIUM SOFTWARE**

# "Apps"

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- ▶ Many available today for Mac and Windows
- ▶ Prices range from free to pricey (\$\$\$)!
- ▶ They take advantage of the compass, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and inclination sensors now built into these devices.

# Recommended "Apps"

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Name	iOS	Android	Price
Skyweek	Y	Y	Free
Starmap	Y	X	Free
Night Sky Lite	Y	Y	Free
Google Sky Map	X	Y	Free
Go Sky Watch	Y	X	U\$3.99



# Key Organisations

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- ▶ Founded in 1868, The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) is Canada's leading astronomy organization bringing together over 4,800 enthusiastic amateur astronomers, educators, and professionals.
- ▶ The Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club was founded in 2004, we joined the RASC in 2007. Our membership in 2007 was 22, today it is 50.
- ▶ We meet in the Sunshine Coast Arts Centre on the 2nd Friday at 7:30pm, Sept-June. We hold an "Astro Café" at Pier 17 on the 3rd Friday each month

## Become a Member of *The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada!*

Membership in the RASC is open to **everyone** who is interested in astronomy. You may join through one of [28 RASC Centres](#), or as an Unattached member.

C\$72 pa

### Membership entitles you to the following benefits:

- A copy of the annual *Observer's Handbook*;
- Six issues of *SkyNews*  magazine - the Canadian Magazine of Astronomy and Stargazing;
- Six issues of the *Journal*, the RASC's official publication (in electronic format - print subscription also available);
- Member discounts on other RASC publications such as *The Beginner's Observing Guide* [currently out of print](new members only) and the *Observer's Calendar*;
- Members can **save up to 25%** on the lowest discountable rates on **Budget car rentals** in Canada and the U.S.
- **Save 10%** off best available rates on **Delta Hotels and Resorts** across Canada as a member.
- **NEW** - Exclusive RASC Group Home & Auto Insurance Program - **save up to 60%**

### In addition, members who are attached to a local [RASC Centre](#) can enjoy additional benefits, which may include:

- **Regular meetings** and **social events** sponsored by Centres;
- Access to Centre facilities and services such as **observatories**, **libraries**, and **telescope rentals** (where applicable);
- **Centre newsletters** highlighting local astronomy events and activities

# www.coastastronomy.ca

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## SUNSHINE COAST CENTRE RASC ASTRONOMERS IN THE SUNSHINE COAST, BC

[search](#)[Follow Sunshine Coast Centre RASC](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS: CLICK ON THE EVENTS BELOW FOR MORE DETAILS

Dr. Chris Pritchett, Supernovae and the Mysteries of Dark Energy, March 13, 7:30 PM, Sunshine Coast Arts Centre

Astro Cafe, March 20, 2015, 7:30 PM, Davis Bay

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### March Astro Cafe: 20 March 2015

FEBRUARY 24, 2015 6:35 PM / [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



ASTRO CAFE

Our Astro Cafe for March will be at Davis Bay on March 20 at 7:30. This is an hour earlier than in the past because the store changed their closing time to 9 PM. Meet our members at Pier 17 followed by a viewing of the skies with our telescopes (weather permitting).

### Binocular Sub Group Report: 21 February

FEBRUARY 24, 2015 6:46 PM / [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



### BLOGROLL

- [American Association of Variable Star Observers](#) Variable star observers group
- [Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers](#) Lunar and Planetary Observers
- [Asteroid Zoo](#) Help in the search for near Earth objects
- [Astronomical Society of the Pacific](#)
- [Astronomy Clubs Worldwide](#) Listing of astronomy clubs worldwide
- [Astronomy Mike's Blog \(not OUR Mike\)](#) Astronomy in the Southern Hemisphere
- [Canadian Astronomy Thoughts](#) on Astronomy, Astrophotography, and Space Flight from a Random Canadian
- [Canadian Space Agency](#)
- [David Reneke's World of Space and Astronomy](#) Astronomy news site by astronomy lecturer/author David Reneke
- [Disk Detective](#) Help find planets



**Thank You  
and  
Clear Skies!**