

# THE SKY THIS MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2009

## A WONDERFUL TIME AT THE AUGUST SKY TOUR

Thanks to a very fortunate and large clear break after an afternoon downpour, the Autumn Night Sky Tour, held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August was an amazing experience. All the attendees marveled at the sight of Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune and the many treasures of the Milky Way. Questions about the universe abounded from all in attendance. We saw Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune, many Milky Way clusters and nebulae, the Andromeda Galaxy and two of its satellite galaxies and much more! The Milky Way itself was a stunning river of stars running roughly north to south, with the Sagittarius and Scutum star clouds being especially prominent.

Children were extremely curious about the Great Red Spot on Jupiter and its Galilean Moons, first viewed by Galileo in 1608. Some were even trying to capture images of the planet with their digital cameras. It is always great to see future astro-imagers in action!

A large fog bank rolled in at about 11 p.m., but the skies were still good enough to view the brighter jewels of our heavens.

Thanks to all who volunteered their time and to those who attended and brought their curiosity with them. As always, the attendees made the event fun for everyone.



**Figure 1:** Setting up the equipment at the August 21 Night Sky Conservation Sky Tour. A total of 10 telescopes were present at the event. Image by the author.

## **MILL OF KINTAIL SEPTEMBER NIGHT SKY TOUR**

Did you miss the August Night Sky Tour? You still have a chance to enjoy the pristine skies of the Mill of Kintail at the September Night Sky Tour on **Friday, September 18 beginning at 7 p.m.** Once again, the planets Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune will be the featured objects, with many more deep sky objects to keep you asking questions about our universe for the entire night!

Just like the August Sky Tour, this event will be free for the general public. For more information, please visit [www.castor2.ca/nsc/04\\_Tours](http://www.castor2.ca/nsc/04_Tours).

## **MILL OF KINTAIL AUTUMN ASTRONOMY COURSE**

When you read an article about astronomy, do you wish there was a place to learn more about the basic science behind it? Do you wish there was an astronomy course that focused on exciting current events in astronomy? Do you

wish for a one-on-one exposure to astronomy and the wonders of the heavens? If your answer to any or all of these questions is “yes”, you are a perfect student for the Night Sky Conservation Autumn Astronomy Course!

Every class will focus on the science behind exciting current astronomical events! You will have plenty of opportunities to ask questions and discuss cutting edge astronomy.

After each class, weather permitting, there will be an observing session with the instructor’s 8-inch and/or 11-inch reflecting telescope. You will be free to bring your own binoculars and/or telescopes to the protected Mill of Kintail night skies.

Each class will begin at 7:30 every Friday evening at the Mill of Kintail Gatehouse beginning on **September 11<sup>th</sup>** and ending on **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. The cost for the entire course is \$75 per student.

For more information, including class schedules and enrolment methods, please visit **[www.castor2.ca/nsc/05\\_Courses](http://www.castor2.ca/nsc/05_Courses)**.

## **THE SUMMER ENDS AND THE AUTUMN BEGINS**

The summer of 2009 will officially end at 5:19 p.m. EDT September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Consequently, the autumn of 2009 will begin.

About Night Sky Conservation: **[www.castor2.ca/nsc](http://www.castor2.ca/nsc)**

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