

Familiar North Side of the Sky by Matt McCall

Supernova discoveries so far this year are already impressive, even if you only count SN 2014J in Messier 82. Found accidentally during an undergraduate lesson at the University of London Observatory on January 21, this type 1a supernova is the brightest & closest of its kind beyond our galaxy in decades, reaching as bright as magnitude 10.5 and having burned consistently close to that magnitude for weeks.

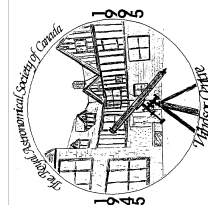
The M82 'Cigar Galaxy' is infamous for its source of radio waves & apparent irregular visual shape, though near-infrared shows two symmetric spiral arms. Located in the constellation Ursa Major, it's easy to find by tracing NE from γ Ursae Majoris (Phecda) through α Ursae Majoris (Dubhe) – the bottom left star of the Dipper's bowl to the top right star.

Continue the line about the same distance again to reach 24 Ursae Majoris and the galaxy is only 2° E, though in scanning the sky you may have already run into 'Bode's Galaxy', M81. At the eyepiece in a low power field, it can be viewed only $45'$ N of M82. Together they show a nice contrast as the spiral M81 is larger & brighter.

$45'$ SE of M81 is fainter and lesser-known galaxy NGC 3077 at magnitude 11, displaying extremely little detail. NGC 2976 spiral galaxy can be seen nearly edge-on $1\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ SW of M81 at mag. 11.5, though either of these could make good imaging challenges after long individual observations of M81 & 82. Classic amateur observing in a familiar region of the northern skies - quick to find and nice to review with the odd supernova from time to time!



SN 2014J in M82 captured by Brian Thomas on January 29 using his Canon 5d and the C-14 at Hallam Observatory. 93 minutes of exposure at ISO 800.



AURORA



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The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre

February 2014

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

7:30 p.m.

at

[Ojibway Park Nature Centre](#)

5200 Matchette Road

Speaker: To Be Announced

Topic: "*To Be Determined*"

Upcoming Events

Zodiacal Light: Look for the faint glow of the Zodiacal light in the West following evening twilight for the last two weeks of the month

Spica and the Moon: Will be separated by 1.6 degrees on **February 19**

Saturn and the Moon: Will be separated by 5 degrees in the early morning sky of **February 21**

Venus and the Moon: Will be separated by 5 degrees in the dawn sky on **February 26**

Open House Night at Hallam: The next open house night at Hallam Observatory is on Saturday **March 8** at 7:00 p.m..

Daylight Savings Time: Begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday **March 9**

Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2014

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre, Ojibway Park Nature Centre.

Windsor Centre **President Rick Marion** chaired the meeting. Rick called the Meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. and welcomed members and guests to the Ojibway Park Nature Centre.

Motion to accept the Minutes of the November, 2013 meeting moved by Greg Mockler, seconded by Pierre Boulos. MOTION CARRIED

Rick announced that the evening's movie night would be a presentation of a National Geographic Documentary:

Journey to the Edge of the Universe

This informative video played very much like a step-by-step voyage through the depths of our entire Universe, from sub-orbital space just above Earth, all the way to the farthest outer reaches of known space. The Moon, Sun, planets and the rest of the Solar System were explored, with much of the journey explaining what nearby stars are like, as well as various clusters and nebulae. The remainder of the documentary took time to show some of the most extreme sights within our own Milky Way galaxy and beyond, such as supernovae, galaxy clusters, a black hole, including even the furthest quasars. One of the many interesting things shown were the robotic spacecraft in orbit or operating on numerous planets within our star system & how far *Voyager* has traveled.

Break & Fifty-fifty draw: Winner was John Krivak.

Announcements: Point Pelee Dark Sky Night is February 1. Hallam Open House is February 8 at 7:00 p.m.. Council Meeting on February 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Steve Pellarin's home, and the next regular meeting is February 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Dan Taylor informed the membership he requires assistance addressing all our light pollution concerns regarding Lauzon Parkway's extension to 401. The Centre should write letters about what kind of lights will be used, as one of the two models selected is not full cut-off.

Director of Observing Report, Juliana Grigorescu: Orion is beautiful to just go out to look at in dark skies.

January 22 - Mercury is at greatest elongation from Sun

January 23 - Waning gibbous Moon is 0.5° above Spica and 5° from Mars

just past midnight on January 23.

January 25 – Moon & Saturn are only 1° apart

January 28 – Mars is relatively close to Spica and will remain near the star for the next week as it begins rising in Virgo about midnight beginning at the very end of the month. Also, Mars should soon appear slightly brighter in the sky as well as larger in telescopes.

February 6 – Jupiter is very bright and high above in Gemini at night – retrograde motion to start on this date.

February 15 – Venus at maximum brilliancy. Should actually reach brightness of magnitude – 4.9 in morning sky.

Juliana also showed an image of Mizar/Alcor in the Big Dipper; another good winter target.

Rick thanked the members for attending and **adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m..**

Reported by Matt McCall, RASC Windsor Centre Secretary.

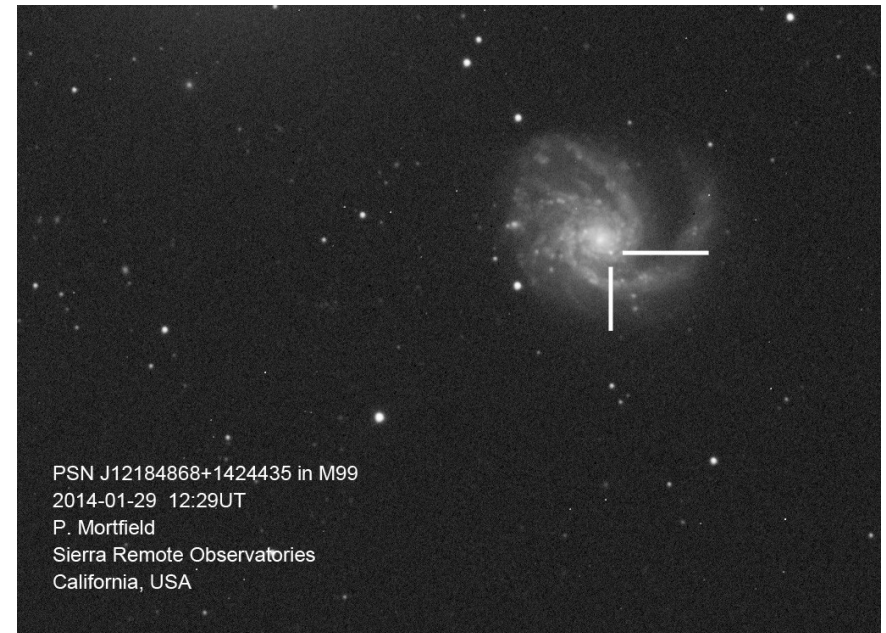


Image of PSN J12184868+1424435 in M99 captured by Paul Mortfield on January 29, 2014 at 12:29 UT. Paul used his RCOS 16" f/8.9 scope and SBIG STL11000 camera located at Sierra Remote Observatories. Image is a combination of 5 images of 60 seconds each.