

## Latest News

### NEWS & UPDATES

Observatory now taking advanced bookings:

Book your tour in advance for as few as 1 or as many as 50. The more people in your tour the less the cost per person. Prices start at \$75 for tours. See the Accessing Observatory section for more details.

Note the observatory is not usually open for last minute tours. Most tours are reserved from 5 days to 3 months in advance.

**BOOK YOUR PRIVATE TOUR** as low as \$2/person

Take advantage of the best time of the year to enjoy astronomy, NOW!!! Jan - April each year. Its dark early, the sky is usually clear, the seeing conditions are normally at their best!

Private tours come in all shapes and sizes, full tours with lectures, educational talks and slide shows (100's to pic from) and views of the best of my 25,000 images I have take over the last 13 year, private workshops, training, or just a intimate deep sky photography session with you and your family.

Bookings enable you to have a private block of time at the observatory. Prices Start as low as \$75 and you can bring 30 people or more to your tour. If your group is small, and you want to share your tour with others, I can arrange that also. If you can find a more affordable family or group activity please let me know. Coffee and Hot Chocolate along with treats and handouts included in most tours also. If your interested, you can photograph nebulas and galaxies during your visit and take the pictures home with you.

Those that prepay for the group tour, get a discount and a lifetime pass to use the tour, in case its cloudy the night of your tour.

The observatory is 15 minutes south of the city, and far enough away from the light pollution of the industrial/commercial and residential areas (Airport, Paper Mill, Street Lights) to provide the darkest skies.

13th Season Underway: Observatory is now taking bookings for small and large groups for after Labour Day. Last years prices in affect for groups that book in next few weeks.

### INTRO to Astronomy and Astro-photography Workshops

UPDATE: The very odd spring and lack of clear skies has delayed this workshop until August / Sept. Sorry folks, I've been waiting for Spring to arrive, the sky to clear and the ground to dry up. This endless winter is making things difficult to work around. As soon as we get some stable air I will contact those that have shown interest.

I've been asked lately by a few visitors if I could hold another round of workshops around Astronomy and Introduction to Astro-photography. I want to gauge interest and start compiling of list of people that might be interested in participating.

The workshops usually run one or two Sunday evenings a month, for about 8 workshops in all. The workshops start with basic astronomy, basics on telescopes and camera equipment and then expand into more advanced subjects. Each module runs about 3 hours and is hands on at the observatory.

The cost is \$20 / module or if you have 2 people its \$30/ module for 2 people.

By the end you should be able to operate telescope, find objects, centre, focus, and photograph very faint galaxies and nebulas. You will then be able to process the images after you captured them to publish quality.

Come see the universe from an amazing Dark Sky

RSVP to reserve your spot, send email to [Astrorandy\(@\)tbaytel.net](mailto:Astrorandy(@)tbaytel.net)

Image Taken Aug 2012 at observatoryThunder Bay Observatory is located 10 minutes south of the City of Thunder Bay. This location was selected for its amazing dark and light pollution free sky conditions (see picture above). The observatory site is also located on a mountain range that provides clear skies as the humidity and other atmospheric affects settle in the low laying areas. At this location, using the high end professional Telescope and Scientific Camera equipment you will be able to photograph objects 1,000,000 times fainter then the human eye can see.

1000's of people from local and all over the world have been amazed by the views at the observatory over the last 10 years. Its in a constant state of growth. Currently we have 4 telescopes, and 5 cameras on site, along with the 70 seat multi-screen Cosmic Theater. Visitors can have amazing views live at the telescope, in the Theater or take images home with them. For Information on how your entire family can enjoy VISITING THE OBSERVATORY for only \$10 see "Accessing Observatory" section on the left side menu

Light Pollution Map below shows how just getting 10 minutes from city limits can cut out 90% of the light pollution. We are very fortunate to have dark skies just 10 kms away, Unfortunately, most of the observatories I have seen are located in light polluted skies ( I have visted over 10 North American observatories)