# Contents

VOL. XII/ISSUE 3 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006

# **FEATURES**

## 06 | Editor's Report

**METHANE LAKES ON TITAN?** In a bizarre way, Saturn's moon Titan may prove to be the most Earth-like world yet encountered in the solar system.

### **09** | News

**INTERGALACTIC VAGABONDS:** New research has uncovered thousands of globular clusters not gravitationally tied to any one galaxy. By Christine Kulyk

### 10 | 2005 SkyNews Photo of the Week Contest Winners

After receiving a record number of entries, our panel of editors had a difficult task narrowing the selection down to these 12 winning shots.

## **16** | Scoping the Sky

**SMALL-SCOPE STAR FIELDS IN DELPHINUS:** A sampling of deep-sky objects in the little constellation Delphinus will test your observing skills. By Ken Hewitt-White

### 18 | Moon Map

The eight-day-old Moon is displayed in a superbly sharp photo by amateur astronomer Bob Anderson of Mississauga, Ontario.

## **22** | Exploring the Night Sky

**OUTER PLANETS ON PARADE:** Uranus and Neptune take centre stage as other planets hide behind the Sun, while the Moon performs a passage across the Pleiades star cluster. **By Alan Dyer** 

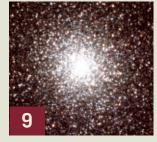
### **30** | Strange Bedfellows: M81 and M82

Located near the bowl of the Big Dipper, these two completely contrasting galaxies are favourite targets for backyard astronomers, astrophotographers and astrophysicists using the world's most powerful telescopes. By Ken Hewitt-White













ON THE COVER: As the Saturn-orbiting Cassini spacecraft continues to swing around the giant ringed planet, mission controllers try to plan imaging sessions to catch two or more of Saturn's moons in line-of-sight alignments. Such a condition occurred on February 5, when Cassini was 4.1 million kilometres from Enceladus (small, white crescent) and 5.3 million kilometres from the much larger moon Titan. NASA/JPL/SSI

# **DEPARTMENTS**

**07** | **LETTERS** Lunar Discovery; Near-Earth Asteroid Adventure

**20** | NIGHT SKY CHART

Early autumn

**34** | **NIGHTFALL**Canada's better in summer

**38** | NORTHERN NIGHTS

Waxing poetic

