



THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'ASTRONOMIE DU CANADA

Welcome to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC)!

Founded in 1868, the Society is Canada's largest astronomical group. You have joined more than 4,100 members with 29 local Centers across Canada, the U.S. and internationally who enjoy the many benefits of membership including:

- **Observer's Handbook:** As a member you receive a complimentary copy of the astronomical resource guide found in observatories around the world.
- **SkyNews** magazine: free subscription to the glossy, full-colour magazine produced by renowned astronomy writer and RASC member, Terence Dickinson.
- www.rasc.ca: All the information you need with links to local RASC Centres, news on meetings/events, email discussion groups, and the RASC e-Store.
- **RASC General Assembly:** Hosted by a different Centre each year, a conference with workshops, speakers, tours, and the RASC Annual Meeting & Banquet. www.rasc.ca/ga.
- **The Journal:** The RASC bimonthly magazine contains general-interest articles and peer-reviewed research papers providing a wide spectrum of information for every astronomical interest. The Journal is available in print or electronically.
- **Astronomy Resources & Tools:** The Observer's Calendar; The Beginner's Observing Guide; Skyways/Explorons l'astronomie, the handbook for teachers; and Star Finders /Cherche-etoiles, and Moon Gazer's Guides;
- **RASC Members-only Discount Programs** – Member savings on Budget rentals in Canada and the U.S.; Delta Hotels and Resorts across Canada; Group Home & Auto Insurance, and much more;
- **RASC Centres:** 29 local RASC Centres across Canada where you can meet people who share your interest in astronomy and enthusiasm for the sky!

Please contact the Society Office if you have any questions. Welcome and best of luck in your astronomical pursuits!

Clear skies,

Glenn Hawley, President

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www.rasc.ca



New Member's Package

WELCOME to the RASC! Your New Member's Kit includes:

- ./ Information on RASC Member benefits and services
- ./ Your Members Only Pass Codes to the RASC National Web site www.rasc.ca
- ./ *The Beginner's Observing Guide* Discount Coupon
- ./ Your *Observer's Handbook* Discount Coupon

RASC OVERVIEW

RASC History

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is a national, charitable organization devoted to the advancement of astronomy and related sciences. There are 29 local Centres of the Society across the country.

The Society was founded in 1868 when eight amateur astronomers founded an astronomical club in Toronto. The growing group received its Royal Charter in 1903 with the permission of King Edward VII. Today there are over 4200 members, both amateur and professional astronomers. By participating at the national and local level you will learn new skills and expand your astronomical network.

The RASC Vision - *To inspire curiosity in all people about the Universe, to share scientific knowledge, and to foster collaboration in astronomical pursuits.*

The RASC Mission - *The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) encourages improved understanding of astronomy for all people, through education, outreach, research, publication, enjoyment, partnership, and community.*

RASC Membership

We have three main classes of membership: **Regular**, **Family** and **Youth**. All classes are full members of the Society and local Centre which they may have affiliated (you may also choose to be an "Unattached member"). Members receive Society and local publications and a host of services, discount programs, and have voting privileges at both levels of the organization. Youth members must be under 21 years old.

Member's Only Discount Programs:

- 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%**

Annual General Assembly

Each year a different Centre of the Society hosts the **General Assembly** (GA). Members are invited to participate in a three-day conference to share astronomical ideas; attend workshops and tours; hear recognized speakers; Annual Meeting and Banquet. This is a great opportunity to network, learn and see what other Centres and members are working on. During the General Assembly, we also recognize the outstanding achievements of our members through our Awards program.

Awards

The Society sponsors a number of awards for achievement in Canadian astronomy including the *Plaskett Medal* (with CASCA), the *Chant Medal*, the *Ken Chilton Prize*, and the *Simon Newcomb Award*. Find out more at www.rasc.ca/awards.

RASC Centres

There are 29 Centres across Canada which offer local meetings, programs, and services. Find out more by visiting their Web sites at www.rasc.ca/centres.

Atlantic Canada St. John's (1965) Halifax (1955) Charlottetown (2000) New Brunswick (2000)	Ontario Ottawa (1906) Kingston (1961) Belleville (2003) Toronto (1868) Mississauga (2006) Hamilton (1908) Niagara (1960) Kitchener-Waterloo (1980) London (1922) Sarnia (1981) Windsor (1944) Thunder Bay (1988)	Western Canada Winnipeg (1910) Regina (1910) Saskatoon (1969) Calgary (1958) Edmonton (1932)
Québec Québec (1942) Montréal (1918) Centre francophone de Montréal (1947)		British Columbia Okanagan (1996) Prince George (2001) Sunshine Coast (2008) Vancouver (1931) Victoria (1914)

Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering on one or more of our working groups or committees, please contact the RASC Society Office at nationaloffice@rasc.ca or call 888-924-7272. Here are some of the areas where you can become involved:

Awards	History	Membership Development
Constitution	Information Technology	Publications
Education and Outreach	Light-Pollution Abatement	Observing
Finance		

Insurance

The Society extends third-party liability insurance to all of our Centres that engage in public outreach and astronomy-related activities. Members who volunteer to share the Universe with the public are covered by this insurance, if the event is sanctioned by your local Centre or the Society. To learn more, please contact your local Centre Executive. We also offer a **new Members-only Group Home and Auto Insurance program!**

RASC Member E-services

Visit the RASC Website at www.rasc.ca to find information on membership, astronomy and the Society's local and national activities including:

- **National Newsletter Archive** - containing current newsletters from many RASC Centres
- **Governance**- Member information including the Society's By-Laws and details on the Society's governing body, including minutes and reports
- **Policy and Procedures** -"How to" information for Society volunteers
- **Resources** - tools and materials to assist Centres with their education/outreach programs
- **Observing Certificate Programs** - Download information at www.rasc.ca/certificates.

E-mail Groups and Discussion Lists

The Society has four major groups which promote discussion and co-operation between members:

- **RASCals**—this informal "town hall" links RASC members from across the country.
- **Education**—a specialist group for astronomy educators sharing tips and techniques.
- **Light Pollution Abatement**—this group helps to fight wasteful lighting that damages the night sky.
- **RASC-AG**—the astro-imaging group is a specialty group that focuses on the demanding and rewarding disciplines of astro-imaging using film, CCD cameras, and webcams.
- **AstroSketchers**—a new forum for people who prefer to draw what they see in the eyepiece.

In addition to national groups, most **Centres** also have their own **local email discussion lists**. Subscriptions are usually arranged by contacting a member of the Centre Executive.

RASC Membership Publications

Centre Publications

Most Centres offer either a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter highlighting local activities.

The Journal

The *Journal* is a bi-monthly electronic publication with articles on astronomy, the activities of the RASC and its Centres, research and review papers, and articles of interest to the astronomical community. The *Journal* can be downloaded from our Web site. The latest issues are available online at: www.rasc.ca/currentjrasc. Members may subscribe to the paper version of the RASC *Journal* for a small fee.

Bulletin

The *Bulletin* is a monthly electronic news digest with information about the Society and astronomy in Canada. You must provide a valid e-mail address to the Society to receive this publication.

Observer's Handbook

The *Observer's Handbook* was first published in 1907, and is an internationally acclaimed annual reference book. It includes basic data, information on time, optics and observing, the sky month-by-month, Sun, Moon, planets and satellites, asteroids, meteors, comets and dust, stars, nebulae, and maps of the night sky.

Please Note: *Members receive one copy per year of the Observer's Handbook published in the Fall. If you join after January 31 you are entitled to next year's edition complimentary in the following October. We have enclosed a new member's discount coupon so you can benefit from the current edition at a substantially reduced price.*

SkyNews

SkyNews is a bi-monthly Canadian magazine of astronomy and stargazing. Published by SkyNews Inc., this publication is currently included with your Society membership.

Additional RASC Member Publications

The Beginner's Observing Guide

This is an introduction to the night sky for the novice. It includes sections on sky motions, constellations, distance, brightness, Moon, planets, aurorae, meteors, comets, and eclipses. There are maps, charts, and practical information about using binoculars and telescopes.

RASC Observer's Calendar

The Society produces an annual calendar featuring astro-photos by its members. It also provides data on sunrise/moonrise and sunset/moonset times and significant astronomical events throughout the year.

Skyways and Explorons l'astronomie

Designed for Canadian teachers and youth-group leaders, this educator's guide is available in English and French. It contains hands-on activities that are easy and fun, and that match the needs of Canada's school science programs.

RASC eNews

The RASC Web site provides members with on-going information on amateur astronomy in Canada including highlights, news from RASC Centres and the professional community at www.rasc.ca/news.

You can subscribe to the RASC's RSS feed to have the eNews delivered to your newsreader program at www.rasc.ca/news/rasc_feed.xml

Member Profile Update and Service

If you wish to change your personal information or request some information from the Society at any time, please use the handy reply form available at www.rasc.ca/contact.

For more information, please contact the Society Office:



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