



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

Dear Member:

Welcome to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC)! Founded in 1868, the RASC is Canada's largest astronomical group with 29 local Centres across the country. You have joined more than 4,400 members 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 and edited 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 three-day conference with workshops, speakers, sessions, tours, and the RASC Annual Meeting and Banquet www.rasc.ca/ga;
- **The Journal:** The RASC bi-monthly 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:** **Save 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 RASC Centres across Canada where you can meet people who share your interest in astronomy and enthusiasm for the sky!

Please feel free to contact the Society Office if you have any questions. Welcome and we wish you all the best for your astronomical pursuits!

Clear skies,

James Edgar, President

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www.rasc.ca



Royal Astronomical Society (RASC) New Member's Kit

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

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

RASC OVERVIEW

RASC History

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is a national, charitable, not-for-profit 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 began 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 4400 members, including 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 — To encourage improved understanding of astronomy for all people through education and outreach.

The RASC Values — The RASC, as a vital part of Canada's science community, supports discovery through the scientific method. We encourage people of all ages to learn about and enjoy astronomy.

RASC Membership

We have three main classes of membership: **Regular**, **Youth**, and **Family**. All three classes are full members of the Society and any local Centre(s) with which they may be affiliated (members may also choose to be an "Unattached member"). Members receive national and local publications and a host of services, and have voting privileges at both levels of the organization. Youth members must be under 21 years old, or under 25 years and attending a post-secondary institution.

Family Membership This class of membership is for family members who wish to support the Society but who don't require duplicate publications. **Affiliate Memberships** are offered to members who wish to join more than one Centre. One can be a full member of one Centre and an Affiliate member of one or more other Centres, which may require paying a nominal fee or fees.

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, and attend the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet. This is a great opportunity to network, learn, and see what other Centres and members are working on. During the General Assembly, we 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*, the *Qilak Award*, *Service Awards*, *RASC Fellowships*, and the *Simon Newcomb Award*.

Find out more at www.rasc.ca/rasc-awards.

RASC Centres

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

<p>Atlantic Canada St. John's (1965) Halifax (1955) Charlottetown (2000) New Brunswick (2000)</p> <p>Québec Québec (1942) Montréal (1918) Centre francophone de Montréal (1947)</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>Western Canada Winnipeg (1910) Regina (1910) Saskatoon (1969) Calgary (1958) Edmonton (1932)</p> <p>British Columbia Okanagan (1996) Prince George (2001) Sunshine Coast (2008) Vancouver (1931) Victoria (1914)</p>
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Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering on one or more of our working groups or committees, please contact the Society Office at nationaloffice@rasc.ca or call 1-888-924-7272. Here are some of the areas where you can become involved:

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

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 National Society. To learn more, please contact your local Centre Executive. We also offer a **Members-only Group Home and Auto Insurance program!**

RASC Member E-services

Visit our Web site 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;
- **National Advisory Council** – 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** – at www.rasc.ca/observing/certificate-programs.

E-mail Groups and Discussion Lists

The Society has four major groups that 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 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/jrasc/recent. Members may subscribe to the paper version of the RASC *Journal* for a small annual 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, the Sun, Moon, planets and satellites, asteroids, meteors, comets and dust, stars, nebulae, and maps of the night sky.

Please Note: *All 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, but may have several months to wait before this edition is available. 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 (BOG) (currently unavailable – undergoing renewal)

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. The BOG maps, charts, and practical information about using binoculars and telescopes.

Observer's Calendar

The Society produces an annual calendar featuring astrophotos 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 National Web site provides members with on-going information on amateur astronomy in Canada including highlights, news from 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/feed

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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