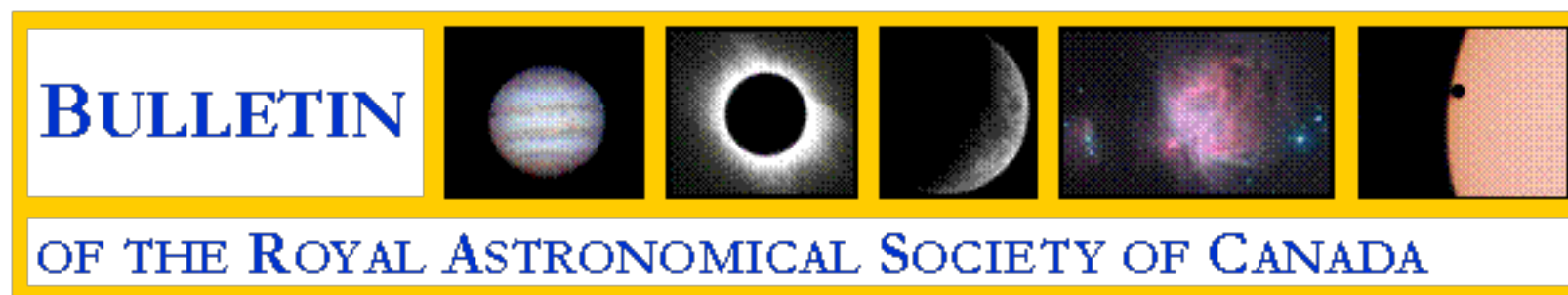


2007-08



August 2007 - Volume 2, Number 8

Denis Grey, Acting Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca [1].

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

New National Administration System Takes Shape

The RASC's new iMIS system was installed at the Society's National Office on August 1st, 2007 and the first data conversions were conducted on August 2nd. Once the system is configured and fully accessible the detailed work of duplicating and enhancing the Society's membership, subscription and sales processing will begin. Certain changes have already been confirmed based on the work completed to date. The Society will:

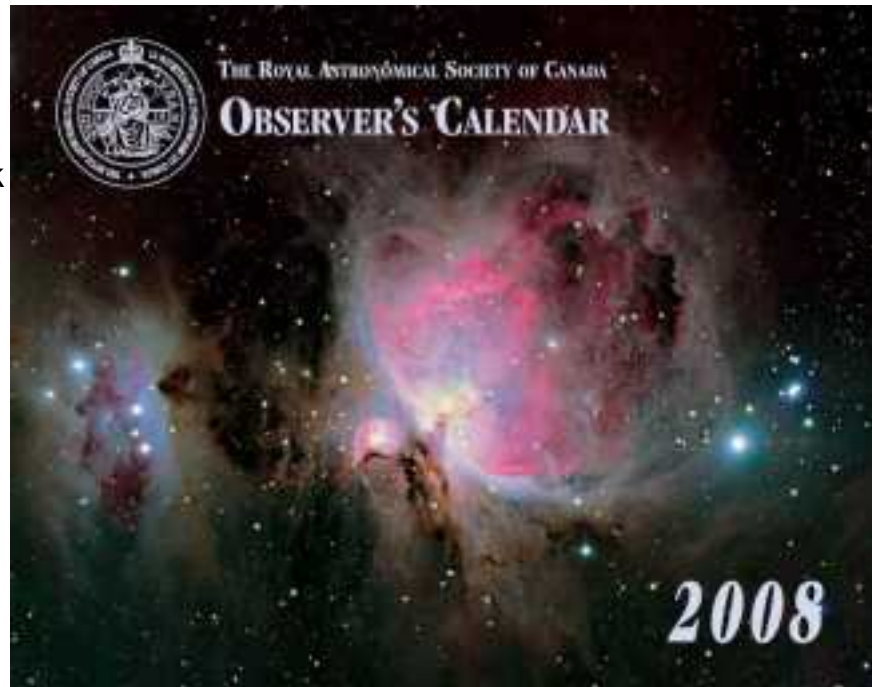
- begin to offer Interac™ Online payment processing beginning early in 2008;
- offer US\$ payment acceptance without currency conversion from our US and international customers beginning in October 2007;
- cease acceptance of the American Express card beginning on October 1, 2007. This change is needed to accommodate US\$ acceptance and processing.

Look for more information on service improvements and changes as the iMIS conversion rolls out over the next few months.

Observer's Calendar Hits the Presses

Observer's Calendar Editor **David Lane** reports that the 2008 edition of the *Observer's Calendar* is at the printers and on track for availability in mid-August. This year's edition features the work of eight Society astrophotographers:

- **Stef Cancelli** (Toronto)
- **Alan Dyer** (Unattached)
- **Stuart Heggie** (Toronto)
- **Les Marczi** (Niagara)
- **Paul Mortfield** (Toronto)
- **Serge Theberge** (Toronto)
- **Pierre Tremblay** (Québec) and
- **Michael Wirths** (Ottawa).



Submissions were received from over 40 astrophotographers for this year's edition and the job of selection was difficult. Thanks go out to the Calendar team of **Diane Brooks, David Chapman, James Edgar, Paul Gray, Bruce McCurdy** and **Mary Lou Whitehorne** who assisted with the work of assembling the finely detailed calendar pages that make the Society's calendar such a unique and valuable product. The editor also thanks past editor **Rajiv Gupta** whose programs automatically generate much of the monthly grid content.

Second Astronomy Day Coming Up on September 15th

As an experiment the Astronomical League has declared a second astronomy day this fall for September 15th. Due to the short time frame and summer holidays each Centre will need to get mobilized quickly in order to have the majority of Centres offering something for this new fall Astronomy Day. If you are interested in helping your Centre rise to the challenge and "pull-off" an Astronomy Day activity please contact your local A-Day rep and or Council immediately.



So far **Belleville, Kingston, Quebec, Edmonton, New Brunswick** and **Prince George** Centres have committed themselves to organizing a fall Astronomy day event. Don't forget to keep the Education Committee informed of your activities so we can post them to the National Web site. Please respond with the date, time, location and a brief description of your Centre's event no later than August 31, 2007 to brianbattersby73@yahoo.ca [2].

- The Moon phase is a waxing crescent with New Moon occurring on Sept. 11 and 1st Quarter on Sept. 19.
- The theme for Astronomy Day this year is "Bringing Astronomy to the People".

For more information about Astronomy Day visit the Astronomical League's official Astronomy Day Web

page at www.astroleague.org/al/astroday/astroday.html [3] or visit the RASC National Web site's "Astronomy Day Resources" page at www.rasc.ca/astroday/resources.shtml [4] for information and resources to help plan your Astronomy Day events. Also be sure to keep an eye on the [Astronomy Day 2007](#) [5] Web page as well to see what other Centres across the nation have planned.

If you have ideas or materials, or are looking for ideas or materials, to share for Astronomy Day please sign up to the Educators e-mail list and interact with other like-minded people across the RASC. This new list is the place to come for "anyone who wishes to participate in discussions on education and outreach, how to get started, what centres need, or if you have any questions at all."

You can sign up at: crux.stmarys.ca/mm21/listinfo/educators [6].

► Across the RASC

RASC Invited to Make the MOST of Space Telescope

Vancouver Centre member and Principal Investigator on the MOST space telescope Jaymie Matthews extended a special invitation to members of the Society during the General Assembly to submit proposals for research on the MOST Space Telescope. Full details on the proposal process and an on-line application site are now available. Check out www.rasc.ca/news/MOST.shtml [7] for details.

National Office Spruced Up

Executive Secretary **Bonnie Bird** reports that our National Office has undergone some cleaning and some overdue painting. Check out www.rasc.ca/news/NO_Cleanup.shtml [8] for details.

► The Sky this Month

August 28th Lunar Eclipse Favours Western Canada

This year's second total lunar eclipse favours observers in Western Canada this year who will be able to see the entire eclipse. The umbral phase starts at 4:51 AT, 3:51 ET, 2:51 CT, 1:51 MT and 12:51 PT and dramatic moonset photo opportunities will be available for most of Canada. Full details are in the *2007 Observer's Handbook* on page 123.

Picture Perfect Perseids this Year

This year's [Perseid meteor shower](#) [9] (peaking at 5:00 UT on Monday, August 13) combines dark moonless skies with weekend timing. Good displays of the Perseids are usually available both before and after the peak so plan now to get under dark skies from August 11-13th to enjoy this reliable annual meteor shower.

► Dates to Remember

- **August 9-12, 2007** - [Saskatchewan Summer Star Party](#) [10] (Regina/Saskatoon)
- **August 17-19, 2007** - [Nova East Star Party](#) [11] (Halifax)
- **August 22-24, 2007** - [RASCals Star Party](#) [12] (Victoria)
- **August 28, 2007** - Total Lunar Eclipse (best in Western Canada)
- **September 7-9, 2007** - [10th Annual Algonquin Adventure Star Party](#) [13] (Toronto)
- **September 7-9, 2007** - [3rd Annual Spruce Woods Star Party](#) [14] (Winnipeg)
- **September 14-16** - [Fall N Stars](#) [15] (Belleville/Kingston)
- **December 31, 2007** - [Centre Projects Fund Application Deadline](#) [16]



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Links:

- [1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>
- [2] <mailto:brianbattersby73@yahoo.ca>
- [3] <https://www.astroleague.org/al/astroday/astroday.html>
- [4] <https://www.rasc.ca/astronomy-day-resources>
- [5] <https://www.rasc.ca/astronomy-day>
- [6] <http://crux.stmarys.ca/mm21/listinfo/educators>
- [7] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/my-own-space-telescope-call-proposals-announced>
- [8] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/national-office-has-face-lift>
- [9] <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap060817.html>
- [10] <http://www.usask.ca/psychology/sarty/rasc/sssp2007.html>
- [11] <http://halifax.rasc.ca/ne/>
- [12] <http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/rascals-star-party/>
- [13] <http://rascto.ca/index.php>
- [14] <http://winnipeg.rasc.ca/sprucewoods>
- [15] <http://rascbelleville.ca/fallnstars/>
- [16] <http://www.rasc.ca/fund/centreprojects.shtml>
- [17] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>
- [18] <http://www.rasc.ca>