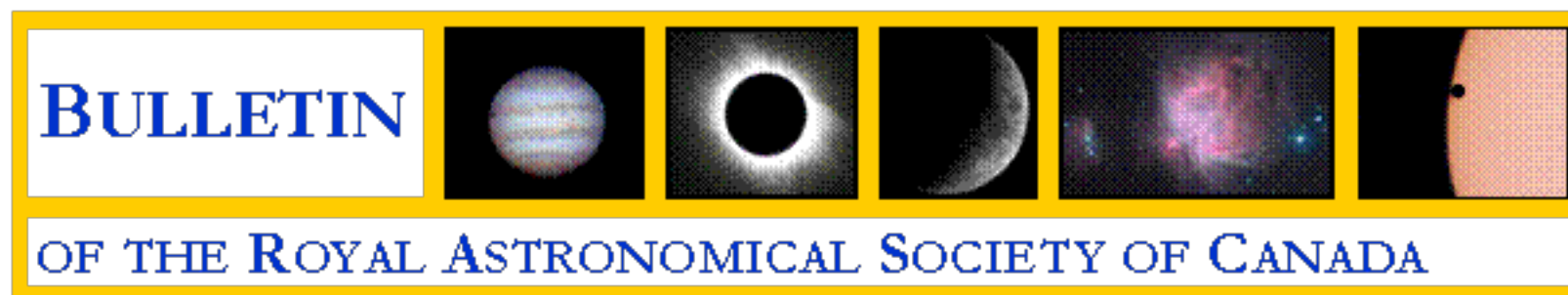


2008-07



July 2008 - Volume 3, Number 7

Ian Levstein, Editor

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

Member: ~FULL_NAME~, RASC ID: ~ID~

► Editor's Notebook

by Ian Levstein

A Big Thank You!

Like many RASC members, I attended the 2008 GA in north Toronto this past weekend. It was a terrific experience and members of the Hamilton, Mississauga, and Toronto Centres should feel very proud of the results. The registration desk ran smoothly, events were well planned, and there was enough room for all. The buses arrived on time, and people got to the places they needed to go. The dinner at Mongolian Grill was exceptional and the closing ceremonies were both interesting and entertaining. I thank the members of the GA Committee and those many volunteers who helped, for their hard work and dedication in making the 2008 General Assembly an exciting and memorable time for this member.

► News @ RASC.ca

General Assembly 2008 - Done and Dusted

The sun has now set on the 2008 GA held these last few days in Toronto. Everyone was busy with paper sessions, poster sessions, meetings, food, field trips, floorball, banquets, prizes... and eggs!

- **National Council Meeting NC082 (2008 June 27)** The *unofficial* flash minutes from Friday's

National Council meeting are on the members-only Web site [here](#) [2]. The meeting was held in Stedman 120E at York University, Toronto.



- **RASC Annual General Meeting (2008 June 30)** The *unofficial* flash minutes from Monday's Annual General meeting are on the members-only Web site [here](#) [3]. All by-law changes and the motion to change the Society's fees were approved by the membership. The meeting was held in Computer Science A at York University, Toronto.
- **National Council Meeting NC083 (2008 June 30)** The *unofficial* flash minutes from Monday's National Council meeting are on the members-only Web site [here](#) [4]. The meeting was held in Stedman 120E at York University, Toronto.

Canadian Astronomy Stamps for IYA2009



by **Mary Lou Whitehorne**, 1st VP Canada Post announced its 2009 Stamp program and it includes astronomy. "The mandate of the stamp program is to celebrate Canada and its diverse people, its major accomplishments, rich history, traditions and natural beauty" said Bob Waite, Chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee and Senior vice president, Corporate Social Responsibility at Canada Post. "And the 2009 Stamp Program reflects these elements." The astronomy stamps will be released in April 2009. Thanks to CASCA's John Percy for spearheading the campaign that proposed the astronomy-themed stamps, and to the RASC for supporting the proposal as one way to help raise awareness for IYA2009. For more information, click [here](#) [5].

► Across the RASC

Outing to Cathy Palmer-Lister's Cottage on Lac MacDonald

by **Frank Tomaras**, Director of Observational Activities, Montreal Centre On Saturday 2008 June 07, all Members of the RASC Montreal Centre were invited to go to **Cathy Palmer-Lister's** Cottage on Lac MacDonald (just North of Lachute) for our scheduled Deep Sky Observing outing. Cathy's beautiful Quebec style house is located on a private wooded area, and her private part of the Lake is less than 100 feet from the Cottage. Cathy has been inviting Montreal Centre members to her cottage for a number of years now. In some years, we set up our telescopes on her huge 20ft x 30ft deck and, at other times, on the beach beside the lake which has a beautiful unobstructed view of the southwest horizon. Cathy has even hosted a Corn Roast in some years! About 30 minutes before sunset, Cathy, **Bill Strople**, **Santiago Lopez**, **Frank Tomaras**, and our newest Montreal Centre member, **Benoit Leduc**, packed up our stuff and headed to an elevated area near Lost River known as the "Bone Yard." This particular site offers an excellent horizon all around and the Milky Way was plainly visible.

Late evening started out with partly cloudy skies, however the skies cleared just before sunset and remained clear all night. Santiago was setting up for a night of astrophotography and Benoit brought a nice 9.25" SCT on a German EQ mount. I brought my trusty deep sky telescope, a Celestron 12" F/5 Dobsonian reflector. The photo at right was taken by Santiago, and captures the region around Lyra. The moon and Saturn were obvious targets, and on this particular night, we were able to see 3 moons around Saturn. Some of the objects we observed that night included a tour of the Virgo cluster of galaxies, the famous edge-on galaxy NGC 4565, the Whirlpool Galaxy, the Ring Nebula, the Dumbbell Nebula, globular clusters M13 and M4, and open clusters among many other targets. Benoit found and observed some of his first Messier objects -- looks like he is on his way to earning the Society's Messier Certificate. It was a very good deep-sky observing session and everyone who attended had a great time.



Bulletin Video of the Month

This month's offering is "Totality" by Canadian eclipse chaser and Toronto Centre member, **David Makepeace**. This short film follows Makepeace to five continents in pursuit of the Moon's shadow. Makepeace is a published eclipse writer and photographer, and his passion for eclipse chasing has been the source of stories featured in The National Post, Outpost Magazine, Toro Magazine and on CBC Radio. In 2003, he reported live for the Discovery Channel from the bow of a Russian icebreaker during the eclipse

in Antarctica.

His Web site at <http://www.eclipseguy.com> target="_blank">eclipseguy.com ^[6] is the first site exclusively for Canadian chasers, their stories and photography, and serves as a resource base for anyone seeking the latest information about solar eclipses. It hosts the world's largest resource of eclipse film and video including The Eclipse Film Database, a comprehensive listing of all documentary and dramatic films to feature eclipses.

David has created a http://www.eclipseguy.com/pages/totality_rasc.htm target="_blank">Web site ^[6] exclusively for RASC members to download the film. You'll find the movie in several different formats for viewing on both PCs and MACs.

► The Sky this Month

What's New in the Sky

Readers are encouraged to check out the **Northern Skies** ^[7] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know!

► Dates to Remember

- - **2008 July 4-6** - Star-B-Q 2008, Calgary Centre
 - **2008 July 4-8** - Stargazing Manitoulin
 - **2008 July 25-27** - CAFTA 2008, C.F. de Montreal
 - **2008 August 7-10** - Starfest, North York Astronomical Association
 - **2008 August 8-10** - 2008 Butterpot Star Party, St. John's Centre
 - **2008 August 8-12** - Manitoulin Star Party
 - **2008 August 28-31** - 2008 Saskatchewan Summer Star Party
 - **2008 August 29-31** - RASCALS Star Party, Victoria Centre
 - **2008 August 29-September 1** - Nova East Star Party
 - **2008 September 2-7** - Northern Prairie Starfest, Edmonton Centre
 - **2008 September 5-7** - Spruce Woods Star Party, Winnipeg Centre
 - **2008 September 25-28** - Alberta Star Party, Calgary Centre
 - **2008 October 4** - Fall Astronomy Day 2008



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[4] https://www.rasc.ca/system/files/private/minutes20080630_0.pdf

[5] <http://www.canadapost.ca/corporate/about/newsroom/pr/default-e.asp?prid=1290>

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[7] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/northern-skies>

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