

# BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

October 2013 - Volume 8, Number 10

David Garner, Editor

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

A PDF version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

A Web-based version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

## ➤ Editor's Notebook

by David Garner

### October's Sky

The new Moon is this Saturday, the 5th, and a week later there will be a triple shadow transit on Jupiter. The full Moon is on October 18th and this time we get to observe a penumbral lunar eclipse. It begins at 21:50 U.T and ends at 1:49 U.T. Eastern Canada will see the entire event, whereas the rest of Canada will see moonrise with the eclipse already in progress. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#) for complete details.

## ➤ News @ RASC.ca

### Call for Nominations for RASC National Awards

by [Mary Lou Whitehorne](#), Awards Committee Chair

Do you know someone who has done outstanding work in the RASC? Do they qualify for one of the RASC's national awards? A list of national awards is given below. Please look within your Centre, and among our unattached members, for those bright and shining stars that deserve recognition. Go to [www.rasc.ca/awards](http://www.rasc.ca/awards) to check the requirements for these national awards, think about the contributions of those hard-working RASC members who you know, and nominate them for an award. Now is the time! Nominations are due on 2013 December 31.

#### RASC National Awards

The RASC sponsors several annual national awards that recognize achievement or service by our members. These awards include:

- The **Chant Medal** is awarded, not more than once a year, to an amateur astronomer resident in Canada on the basis of the value of the work carried out in astronomy and closely allied fields, for original investigation, and specifically not for services to the Society, worthy though these may be.
- The **Ken Chilton Prize** is awarded annually to an amateur astronomer resident in Canada, in recognition of a significant piece of astronomical work carried out or published recently.

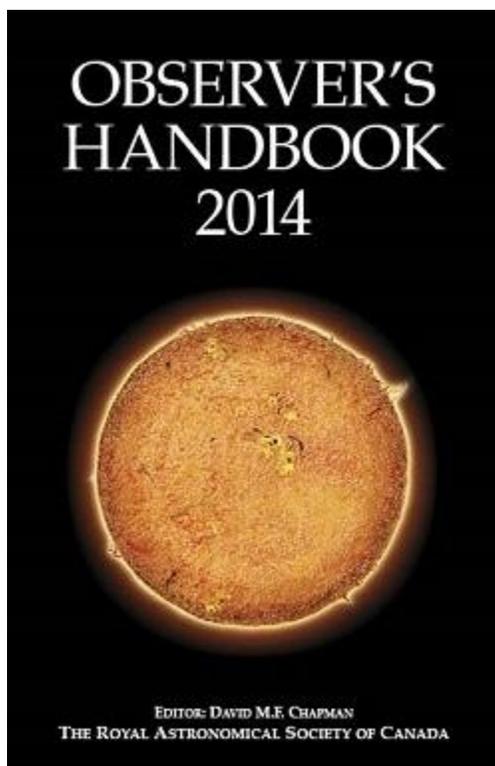
- The **Qilak Award for Astronomy Outreach and Communication** recognizes individual Canadian residents, or teams of residents, who have made an outstanding contribution, during a particular time period, either to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy in Canada, or to informal astronomy education in Canada, and to promote such activities among the members of the sponsoring organizations.
- The **Service Award** is given to members in recognition of outstanding service, rendered over an extended period of time, where such service has had a major impact on the work of the Society and/or of a Centre of the Society.
- The **Simon Newcomb Award** is intended to encourage members to write on the topic of astronomy for the Society or the general public, and to recognize the best published works through an annual award.

More detail, including eligibility and nomination requirements for each award can be found at [www.rasc.ca/awards](http://www.rasc.ca/awards). Click on the links to individual awards for full information.

The deadline for nominations is **2013 December 31**. Send your letters of nomination or questions about the awards program to Mary Lou Whitehorne, Awards Committee Chair at: [mlwhitehorne@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:mlwhitehorne@hfx.eastlink.ca)

## Observer's Handbook 2014 — free 2-page sample download

by [Dave Chapman](#), Editor, RASC Observer's Handbook



After a summer's worth of effort by a team of 60+ volunteers, the first day of autumn finds the Handbook at the printer being proofed for printing. Soon the fresh 2014 editions will be ready to deliver!

As a little promotion, we have sampled 2 pages of the Handbook for free distribution. The new article "Featured Constellation: Auriga" is available to all to download and print a single copy. This article introduces the wealth of interesting objects in Auriga, (double stars, variable stars, one asterism, star clusters, nebulae) and directs readers to some other interesting parts of the Handbook.

We hope this sample will whet your appetite for the full meal! See [www.rasc.ca/observers-handbook](http://www.rasc.ca/observers-handbook) for the download. Feel free to pass on this offer to friends. Help promote the Handbook!

## Observer's Calendar 2014

by [Paul Gray](#), Editor, RASC Observer's Calendar



The award-winning [RASC Observer's Calendar](#) is back for 2014! Featuring 12 spectacular astro-images taken by amateur astronomers, along with unequalled astronomical information, including lunar phases and librations, sunrise and sunset times, astronomical events such as meteor showers, occultations, and much, much more! Makes an outstanding gift.

## New Web site: A Small Step for Members, a Giant Leap for the RASC

by [Colin Haig](#), RASC, 1st Vice-President

Together, we celebrate the arrival of the new RASC Web site, with a successful "first light" or launch on 2013 September 26. When you click Join, Show, Renew, Donate, or select the eStore, you'll be experiencing a beautiful, clean and streamlined RASC Web site.

The site features a simplified membership experience, including support for the new Family Membership. You'll also find it easy to add Affiliate Memberships, if you wish to receive benefits of another Centre. You can also request a change to your Centre, in a couple of easy steps, to make relocating easier.

For new and renewing members, you'll find simplified choices, including recommendation of Centres near you. There's improved presentation of Centre options and choices as well, and better integration with your Centre experience. We've listened to your feedback, and now it's simpler to manage your username and password. The site is more self-service friendly, with fewer calls for help. It is easier to download member documents, and it's also faster to get things done.

This is one of the largest undertakings our members have made, in response to member and shopper feedback. Behind the scenes, we recognized our old site was behind the times in business process, design, and technology. Our membership system, iMIS 10 from Advanced Solutions International was overdue for an upgrade to iMIS 15. Office staff and Web site users alike were experiencing challenges every day with the old system.

Planning for the project began in earnest in February 2013, with an assessment of the risk of skipping iMIS 15 and going to the new iMIS 20 version. A wireframe was created in May. With the conclusion of the General Assembly, plans were kicked into high gear. Budget was set and the conversion began in August, with full engagement of Ryan May and the Information Technology Committee, and our Treasurer Denis Grey.

Society office staff should be thanked and praised for their outstanding efforts throughout the project, but

especially in testing and preparation in early September. As project sponsor, your 1st Vice-President had to stay engaged, ensure we didn't run into conflicts, and to negotiate with IT providers and hold all parties accountable. We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Beta Testing Team of volunteers, the Centre Contacts and administration officers who assisted with Beta Testing and evaluation, and our Executive Director for her trust and patience and many late nights for all involved.

We also wish to thank our technology partners eTech Computing and Visual Antidote for their work on this project, and the support staff at Advanced Solutions International. Through the support of these organizations, we were able to leap from iMIS 10 to the brand new iMIS 20 membership system, and get to state-of-the-art at once. We expect there may be a few minor issues to clean up in the coming weeks, so please be patient, and don't hesitate to pick up the phone and call your Society's office.

We hope you enjoy the changes. Please visit the new eStore - shopping for the new 2014 Calendar and an extra copy of the 2014 *Observer's Handbook* is just a couple of mouse clicks away. Much easier than landing a spaceship !

Go try it now: <http://www.rasc.ca> and click on Shop or eStore !

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and myself personally, let us extend our thanks to all participants,

Colin Haig, 1st Vice-President

## Discover the Universe - Fall schedule

by [Julie Bolduc-Duval](#), Coordinator, Discover the Universe

This fall, *Discover the Universe* presents several activities for teachers and educators to learn more about the fascinating world of astronomy. All our activities are available online, in English and in French and are completely free! Please [share this information](#) with anyone who might be interested, in particular teachers and teachers' associations in your area.

**Workshop for teachers** – Sept. 30 to Oct. 18 – there is still time to register!

Our popular astronomy workshops for teachers are back! These workshops, which last three weeks, cover the main astronomy concepts from grades 5 through 8, while providing ideas and resources to be used in class. Over 200 teachers have already discovered the benefits of our workshops! Register now! [More information](#) .

Special Webinar: Visiting comet – 2013 November 21

Comet ISON will be visiting us at the end of 2013. Will it be as bright as some people expect? Difficult to say for now, but we can hope! While we wait, join us for this special Webinar about comets. You will learn more about their origins, why they sometimes become visible in the sky and the latest details about comet ISON. Thursday November 21 at 1:30 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) - 10:30 a.m. (Pacific Standard Time) [More information](#) .

*Discover the Universe* is offered by the RASC, in collaboration with the Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA) and the Federation des astronomes amateurs du Quebec (FAAQ).

## Saint Mary's University Supports Discover the Universe / À la découverte de l'Univers

by [Mary Lou Whitehorne](#), BIYA Committee

The Beyond IYA (BIYA) committee is pleased to announce that our **Discover the Universe / À la découverte de l'Univers** online astronomy Webinar program has been awarded a \$3500 grant through the Saint Mary's University SEEP (Student Employment Experience Program). This will enable the program to hire a SMU student on a part-time term basis to expand the reach and scope of the existing program, making it even more successful.

**Discover the Universe / À la découverte de l'Univers** is a joint project of the RASC, CASCA and FAAQ. Funding for this program has been provided through a joint NSERC PromoScience grant, and from CASCA, as part of the IYA legacy project of Canada's three major astronomy organizations.

For more information please see:

<http://www.discovertheuniverse.ca>.

<http://www.decouvertedelunivers.ca>.



## The 2014 General Assembly

by [Paul Schumacher](#), Victoria Centre, Co-chair of 2014 GA Organizing Committee



**2014 GA : Victoria Centre : June 27 – June 30**

Please join the members of Victoria Centre as we celebrate 100 years of being a RASC centre at our 2014 RASC General Assembly. To add to the festivities, we will also be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, located in Saanich, B.C., just to the north of downtown Victoria.

The 2014 General Assembly will showcase the DAO, University of Victoria's new observatory located on the campus, which is our assembly headquarters, a wide-ranging scientific and cultural program for your entire family, and all this conducted against the spectacular natural beauty of Canada's West Coast.

Victoria is serviced by both of our domestic air carriers and can be reached by convenient car ferry service connecting Victoria to Vancouver, B.C. and Seattle, Washington.

From on-campus accommodation at the University of Victoria to nearby hotel and RV facilities, there are many lodging options available to our members in Greater Victoria.

Registration will go live in early February 2014 at RASC.ca.

Join us in Victoria, June 27 to June 30 for the 2014 GA.

## **RASC VICTORIA CENTRE**

### **2014 General Assembly Organizing Committee**

Mark Bohlman, Co-Chair [mbohlman@shaw.ca](mailto:mbohlman@shaw.ca)

Paul Schumacher, Co-Chair [docpschu@shaw.ca](mailto:docpschu@shaw.ca)

## **RASC Membership Development News**

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

The RASC Membership Development News for September 2013 is available at: [RASC Member Development News September 2013](#).

## **➤ *Bulletin Photo of the Month***

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### **The Globular Cluster M2**

by [Ron Brecher](#), Kitchener-Waterloo Centre

M2 is the subject of the first light shot with my new Paramount. It is a bright globular cluster located in the constellation Aquarius.

Equipment used: SBIG STL-11000M camera, Baader LRGB filters, 10" f/6.8 ASA astrograph, Paramount MX.



## ► The Sky this Month

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### What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know.



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