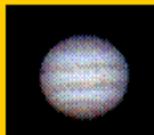


BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

August 2014 - Volume 9, Number 8

David Garner, Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at 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

August's Sky

We have the largest full Moon of the year on Sunday, the 10th of August and a new Moon on Monday, the 25th. Venus is visible in the eastern dawn sky and will be in very close conjunction with Jupiter on the 18th. Mars is in the western evening sky and Saturn is in the southwest evening sky setting in late evening. Watch on the 4th and the 31st, the Moon occults Saturn. For more details check the *2014 Observer's Handbook*. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#).

► News @ RASC.ca

The RASC National Office

by [James Edgar](#), RASC President

Perhaps most RASC members don't often think about what goes on behind the scenes to keep this large organization running smoothly; there is a well-oiled machine in Toronto at the Society Office doing just that. The Office Administrator is **Renata Koziol**, and with her is our new Marketing Coordinator, **Julia Neeser**. We are currently searching for a new Executive Director, who will work in the office alongside these two staffers.

As described on the RASC Web page at <http://www.rasc.ca/member-service>, the Society Office provides the following services, and more:

- **Membership Processing** - Acceptance and processing of membership applications for all Centres, maintaining the iMIS membership database, and managing the transfer of Centre fees on a regular basis;
- **Publications** - Managing the distribution of RASC publications to members, Centres, subscribers, dealers, other astronomy clubs, and the public. Interfacing with our publishing firms on a regular basis to keep the Journal, Calendar, and Handbook production flowing smoothly;
- **Promotional Items** - Distribution management for the Society's promotional items inventory,

- including RASC merchandise and clothing; and
- **Referral Service** - if the office staff can't help you, they will refer you one of the dozens of Society volunteers who most likely can.

In addition to these high-level productivity items, they keep the office clean and tidy, stock a nice variety of tea and coffee (with cookies!), ensure the mail is taken to the post office on a regular basis, and generally provide the glue that keeps our Society together.

Take a moment or two in the next little while to give **Renata** or **Julia** a call and give them a big, warm "Thank you!" They deserve it!!

James Edgar
President

A Sneak Peek at the *RASC Observer's Handbook 2015*

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

The RASC *Observer's Handbook 2015* will be available this autumn. The cover image is the nearby galaxy M33, visible (with difficulty) to the unaided eye in perfect skies. The astrophotographer is Blair MacDonald, from Bedford, Nova Scotia.

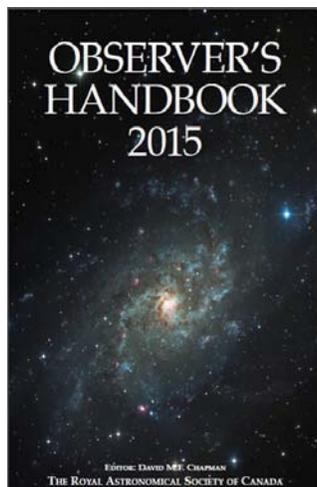
Look forward to reading the "Guest Editorial" by Sara Seager, a Canadian astrophysicist at MIT and the RASC's most recent Honorary Member.

The "Feature Constellation" for 2015 is Ursa Major, with loads of interesting and surprising observable features.

Welcome new contributors Philip McCausland, who has prepared an expanded "Fireballs" article, and Richard Huziak, who has assisted with a significant update of the "Carbon Stars" article.

Roy Bishop has updated his material on "Rainbows and Other Sky Phenomena." Last but not least, there are all the traditional articles that active observers use to plan, execute, record, and report their observations.

Of course, all members receive a complimentary copy, so make sure your postal address is up-to-date online.



Asteroids with a Canadian Connection

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

The following newly named minor planets have been added to the list of asteroids with Canadian connections:

Asteroid (332324) Bobmcdonald Bob McDonald caught the attention of CBC news, which led to some media exposure:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/bob-mcdonald-the-asteroid-flies-through-space-1.2714812>

(8996) Waynedwards = 1981 EC10

Discovered 1981 Mar. 1 by S. J. Bus at Siding Spring.

Wayne N. Edwards (b. 1977) is a research scientist with the Canadian Hazards Information Service. An expert on seismic and atmospheric infrasound analysis of bolides, he helped analyze the flux and energy of the Chelyabinsk airburst.

MPC 89077

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-8996>

(9279) Seager = 1981 EY12

Discovered 1981 Mar. 1 by S.J. Bus at Siding Spring.

Sara Seager (b. 1971) is a professor of physics and planetary science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. An expert and textbook editor in the field of exoplanets, she is also dedicated to innovative and satellite technologies for exoplanet transit and asteroid detections.

MPC 89078

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-9279>

(9281) Weryk = 1981 EJ15

Discovered 1981 Mar. 1 by S.J. Bus at Siding Spring.

Robert J. Weryk (b. 1981) is a researcher at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, who has performed fundamental work on radar and optical measurements of meteors. In particular, his techniques for automatic real-time video detection of meteors are widely used.

MPC 89078

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-9281>

(241528) Tubman = 2010 CA10

Discovered 2010 Feb. 8 at WISE.

Harriet Tubman (c. 1822-1913) was a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad. After escaping from slavery herself in Maryland, she escorted more than 300 slaves to freedom in Canada, despite numerous risks to her own life.

MPC 89086

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-241528>

(332324) Bobmcdonald = 2006 XN67

Discovered 2006 Dec. 12 by D. D. Balam at Mauna Kea.

Bob McDonald (b. 1951) is a distinguished award-winning science journalist and educator who has been a staple within the Canadian communications scene for the past 40 years.

MPC 89086

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-332324>

(380480) Glennhawley = 2003 YW176

Discovered 2003 Dec. 16 by D. D. Balam at Mauna Kea.

Glenn Hawley (b. 1951) has demonstrated leadership over decades in Canadian amateur astronomy. He served in many capacities in the Calgary Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society (RASC) and then on the national RASC Executive, culminating as President (2013–2014).

MPC 89087

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-380480>

(381260) Ouellette = 2007 TD166

Discovered 2007 Oct. 11 by D. D. Balam at Mauna Kea.

John A. Ouellette (b. 1968) is currently an operations manager at the National Research Council of Canada and an authority on blue straggler stars.

MPC 89087

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-381260>

(350185) Linnell = 2011 UA260

Discovered 2006 Jun. 3 by D.D. Balam at Mauna Kea.

Stuart J. Linnell (b.1947) is a noted local musician, poet, song-writer and lifelong friend of the discoverer.

MPC 85916

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-350185>

These are listed on the Web site, www.rasc.ca/canadian-asteroids.

New Value Packages Available at the eStore

by [Julia Neeser](#), RASC Marketing Coordinator

The **Supernova Value Package** includes: a RASC vintage t-shirt, RASC baseball cap, sticker and seal, 2 StarFinders and 2 MoonGazer guides (Value of \$40 + for only \$29)

The **Star Cluster Value Package** includes: The Star Cluster pack includes the Observer's Handbook 2014, 2 RASC baseball caps and crests, 4 stickers, 4 StarFinders and 4 MoonGazer guides (Value of \$81 + for only \$59)

Check them out and save!

https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc/RASC/Store/Store_PROMO.aspx.

➤ Across the RASC

Sky and Water, a Lost Rivers Walk

by [Randall Rosenfeld](#), RASC Archivist

The story of an astronomical observatory and the man who built it on a height of land between the Don and Black Creek watersheds. Join Helen Mills and Lynn Kirk for an exploration of the Beltline Trail and the topography of this industrial and post industrial neighbourhood. Lynn will tell the remarkable story of Bert Topham (1893-1962), an ordinary working man and WWI veteran who got interested in the stars while in the trenches. Bert taught himself astronomy and built an observatory on a hill north west of Dufferin and Castlefield. He became a well-known amateur astronomer with a North American reputation, the first recipient of the Society's Chant Medal, whose private observatory was a notable local landmark and a destination for visiting AAVSO members.

The walk begins at Castlefield and Dufferin at 2 pm.

For more information on Lost Rivers, see <http://www.lostrivers.ca/>.

For additional information on Bert Topham, see <http://www.rasc.ca/bert-topham>.



► Bulletin Photo of the Month



The Sh2-88A Nebula

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

The Sharpless catalogue, designated by "Sh2-" includes 313 emission nebulae visible from much of the Northern Hemisphere. These nebulae glow red due to emissions from excited hydrogen atoms, which have absorbed energy from nearby stars and then re-emit it as red light. Sh2-88 is located about 5600

light-years away in the constellation Vulpecula, the Little Fox, in a rich part of the Milky Way,

This is the reason for the huge number of stars in this image.

In addition to the main, diffuse nebula, Sh2-88A, there are two condensations of nebulosity at lower right, near the brightest star. From top to bottom they are Sh2-88B1 and Sh2-88B2. Each of these is lit by a star within the nebula.

Acquired from my SkyShed in Guelph, Ontario, using an SBIG STL-11000 with Baader HaRGB filters and a 10-inch ASA at f/6.8 on a Paramount MX.

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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