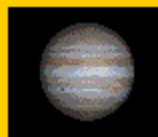


BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

October 2011 - Volume 6, Number 10

Ian Levstein, 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 at: <http://www.rasc.ca/im/bulletin/201110.pdf>

A text-only version of the *Bulletin* is available at: <http://www.rasc.ca/im/bulletin/201110.txt>

► Editor's Notebook

by Ian Levstein

Jim Low (1940-2011)

With regret, we note the passing of **James W. A. Low** (1940 July 24 - 2011 September 6), known as Jim to the RASC family. Jim was a long-time member of the RASC (Montreal and Toronto Centres), whose active memory of the Society and astronomy in Canada spanned over half a century.

Jim was always a dedicated and intelligent observer, who played a leading role in his younger years in spurring observational activity and amateur discovery within the RASC nationally. He was, for a time, the National Co-ordinator of the Comet and Nova Section of our Standing Committee on Observational Activities - one of whose members was a young David Levy. (The Standing Committee on Observational Activities is the lineal ancestor of the present Observing Committee).

In addition to observing, Jim was also interested in the history of astronomy from an early date, and was able to follow that pursuit throughout his life. Jim was responsible for the preservation of some important material in our National Archives.

RASC members who had the chance to talk with Jim at Centre functions, GA's or on the RASCals list know how interesting his views could be, and how extensive was his knowledge and experience. He added much to the Society, and will be missed.

Kimmo Innanen (1937-2011)

With regret, we also note the passing of **Kimmo Innanen** (1937 March 12 - 2011 August 3). Prof. Innanen was an original member of York University's astronomy faculty, and a member in good standing of the Toronto Centre. His research in classical mechanics, relating to galactic astronomy and later to planetary astronomy, brought him together with Finnish astronomers at the universities of Helsinki and Turku. His contributions to the field were recognized there by the awarding of an honorary degree from the University of Turku and the naming of Asteroid 1941HJ, Asteroid Innanen. His continued research with his colleagues, up until this year, has contributed greatly to the knowledge of Trojan asteroids and near earth bodies.

President's Tidbits

by [Mary Lou Whitehorne](#), RASC President

1. The RASC has a new fundraising guide!

Prepared by Executive Director **Deborah Thompson**, this new guide is provided as part of the Centres and volunteer support program outlined in our strategic plan. The several purposes of the fundraising guide are:

- to help Centres and National Office understand their roles in relation to fundraising;
- to give volunteers a process for developing their fundraising plan;
- to give fundraisers helpful suggestions to assist in their fundraising efforts; and
- to outline factors fundraising volunteers must consider as they engage in fundraising activities for the Society.

Why is fundraising important to the RASC? To quote directly from the guide:

“Fundraising is one of the most important activities for a not-for-profit organization to undertake. For the RASC, fundraising is central to the advancement of the charitable role of the organization and to realizing our mission and vision. Although fundraising is not a new role for the RASC, our ability to better share and strengthen our knowledge in this area will serve the Society well.”

If you or your Centre are wondering about fundraising, you now have a concise guide to lead you through the process. The [fundraising guide](#) and a [tip sheet](#) to help you get started can be found on the members only portion of our [Web site](#).

2. Three-year NSERC Grant Application

We have completed and submitted a joint RASC/CASCA/FAAQ three-year grant application to NSERC PromoScience to further develop and deliver the web-based educational program, **Discover the Universe/À la découverte de l'univers**, an interactive, on-line astronomy training program for educators in remote and underserved communities.

The grant proposal executive summary describes the vision for this major, Canada-wide astronomy outreach initiative:

“Astronomy is a powerful tool for attracting young people to science. However, both schoolteachers and informal educators (youth group leaders, park interpreters, First Nations elders) often find astronomy intimidating to teach. This is especially true in poor or geographically remote communities that lack connections to universities or amateur astronomy clubs. To overcome this challenge, we will develop and offer a program of Web-delivered interactive astronomy training workshops and follow-up materials. Building on our successful 2011 pilot project, this interactive training will: (a) be easily accessible, in English and French, to educators who lack the resources to participate in traditional training programs, (b) provide educators with ready-made astronomy activities for their youth, and (c) let them build connections with professional and advanced amateur astronomers. Our program will give these educators the knowledge, tools, and confidence they need to teach astronomy. We estimate that we will reach over 16,000 young Canadians.”

Observer's Calendar 2012 Now Available!

by [Deborah Thompson](#), RASC Executive Director



The 2012 edition of the RASC Observer's Calendar is now available! It features 12 spectacular astro-images taken by our members 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! It's the perfect gift for friends, family, co-workers and everyone who wants more from a calendar than the date and phase of the Moon.

New Qilak Award for Astronomy Outreach and Communication

by [Dave Lane](#), Awards Committee Chair

The Awards Committee formally announces and calls for the first nominations for the new Qilak Award for Astronomy Outreach and Communication.

This award is intended to recognize 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. Details about the award and how to make a nomination is [here](#).

It was developed jointly by the RASC, the Canadian Astronomical Society and la Fédération des Astronomes Amateurs du Québec and each organization intends to select one award recipient each year.

Call for Nominations for RASC National Awards

by [Dave Lane](#), Awards Committee Chair

The RASC sponsors several annual [national awards](#) that recognize achievement or service by our members. The awards include: the [Ken Chilton Prize](#), the [Chant Medal](#), the [Service Award](#), and the [Simon Newcomb Award](#). The deadline for nominations is **2011 December 31**. Send the nominations or questions about the awards program to [Dave Lane](#).

More Tidbits

by [Roland Dechesne](#), Chair, Membership and Promotion Committee; Member, Light-Pollution Abatement Committee

International Observe the Moon Night, 2011 October 8

What does the Moon mean to You? This is the theme of this year's [International Observe the Moon Night](#). This extensive Web site provides great insight into our nearest celestial neighbour and a variety of activities in which you and your Centre can partake. In support of this event, revised RASC brochures on the topic of the Moon and other materials useful for your next public outreach event can be found [here](#).

Great World-Wide Star Count, 2011 October 14-28

The [Windows to the Universe](#) project from the United States' *National Earth Science Teachers Association* brings you the **Great World-Wide Star Count**, a plan to engage citizens from around our planet in understanding the effect that light-pollution has on viewing the skies. While this project is ideal for public star nights during the time window of October 14-28, which keeps the Moon out of the evening skies, all RASC members are encouraged to take a moment to determine star visibility at their favourite observing site or home. Better yet, as it is easy to do, why not 'scope' out a variety of sites?

For reporting your data, the Web site is located [here](#). The activity guide PDF is located [here](#). Please ignore the 2010 dates in the PDF, and use the 2011 dates which minimize the impact of the Moon on the data collected.

RASC Light-Pollution Abatement Information on Twitter

Are you interested in the ecology of the night, learning about light pollution, and the latest in lighting technology? Then you'll want to follow the RASC's new Twitter account [@RASC_LPA](#). 'RASC Light Pollution' joins our existing [@RASC](#) account and broadens the RASC presence on Twitter.

► Across the RASC

Fall'N'Stars 2011 Star Party

by [Kevin Kell](#), Kingston Centre



The group photo was taken by **Hank Bartlett**.

The 12th Annual Star Party of the Belleville & Kingston Centres of the RASC was held on the weekend of Sept 23-25 and was a blast. The downpour of rain on Friday did not dampen spirits! As Saturday cleared up for a lot of solar observing followed by stellar observing in clear skies and heavy dew.

Three rocket launches punctuated the beginning

and end of the event with only one rocket lost to the wilderness. Thirty people were in attendance to the event with 25 for a catered dinner Saturday evening with enough door prizes to go around twice and then some. Photo contest entry numbers were down but even so it was a shocked **Kevin Kell** who walked away with the People's Choice for best photo. **Mark Coady** chaired the event this year. We look forward to 2012!

➤ The Sky this Month

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.

➤ Dates to Remember

- 2011 September 27-October 2 - [Northern Prairie Star Party](#), Black Nugget Lake, AB
- 2011 October 8 - [International Observe the Moon Night](#)
- 2011 October 14-28 - [Great World-Wide Star Count](#)
- 2011 October 29 - National Council Meeting, Toronto, ON



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