

October 2014 - Volume 9, 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

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### October's Sky

We have a total lunar eclipse of the Moon on the 8th of October and a partial solar eclipse on the 23rd. Venus is at superior conjunction as it is in transition from morning "star" to evening "star." Venus won't be easily visible until December. Mars is low in the evening sky and sets in mid-evening whereas Jupiter rises in the east after midnight. If you are in the northeastern part of Canada, look for the Moon to occult Saturn on the 25th. For more details check the *2014 Observer's Handbook*. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#).

## ► News @ RASC.ca

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### News from the Society Office

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



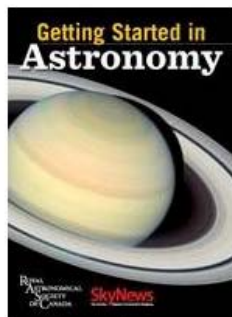
The *RASC 2015 Observer's Handbook* and *2015 RASC Observer's Calendar* are now available on the RASC eStore.



Also available: Supernova and Star Cluster Value packs. Check them out for great savings!

<http://www.rasc.ca/rasc/RASC/Store/store>.

The RASC has just published a brand new brochure: *Getting Started in Astronomy*. It is an 8-page colour information guide for new astronomers. Samples were sent to Centres and there is a supply available for



any Centres that wish to receive more. An excellent publication for public outreach and new members!

## Great World Wide Star Count 2014 Campaign, October 17-31

by [Roland Dechesne](#), Membership and Development Committee

On behalf of the Light Pollution Abatement Committee, help collect data on the night sky's brightness due to man-made light-pollution by participating in the Great World Wide Star Count.

Using charts of the constellation Cygnus that are available here:

[http://www.windows2universe.org/citizen\\_science/starcount/downloads.html](http://www.windows2universe.org/citizen_science/starcount/downloads.html) you can gauge the amount of sky glow, a form of light pollution, wherever you travel. Your collected data can then be uploaded to the Great World Wide Star Count Web site: [www.windows2universe.org/citizen\\_science/starcount/](http://www.windows2universe.org/citizen_science/starcount/). And yes, there's an app for uploading data.

The period from October 17 through 31 is chosen to avoid having the Moon brightening up the sky. Ideally, you could collect data at each observing event you participate in and then also collect star count info on your way home, and again, once you've arrived at home. This way, you can map out the sky brightness of a large area around your home.

The RASC is particularly interested in systematically gathering data around and within some of the parks that the RASC has recognized as, or is considering for, 'Star Park' or 'Dark-Sky Preserve' status.

With the proliferation of apps for smart phones, it should be no surprise that there is a sky brightness app for the iPhone: [www.darkskymeter.com/](http://www.darkskymeter.com/) and for Android devices, <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cosalux.welovestars>, why not collect these data at the same time?

If everyone in the society took a moment to collect just a dozen data points during the two weeks of the campaign, we could easily have a very useful trove of information for outreach. A short note in your local newspaper regarding your Centre's light-pollution gauging effort would raise the issue of light pollution and the profile of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

## October 8, 2014 Lunar Eclipse Brochure Available for Download

by [Roland Dechesne](#), Membership and Development Committee

Are you hosting a public viewing event or just want to read up on the circumstances of the October lunar eclipse? An updated brochure is available here:

[http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/Observing\\_and\\_Understanding\\_Lunar\\_Eclipses\\_Oct\\_2014.pdf](http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/Observing_and_Understanding_Lunar_Eclipses_Oct_2014.pdf)

Other brochures, useful for public events, are available at this location:

<http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/index.htm>.

## Fall Workshop and Webinars

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

*Discover the Universe* activities are back after the summer break and it is now time to register. Please

share this information to anyone who might be interested, especially teachers. And remember, all our workshops are offered online, in English and French and are completely free! This information [can also be viewed online](#).

### **Special webinar with Canadian astrophotographer Alan Dyer – October 6th**

*Discover the Universe* is happy to welcome Alan Dyer as our guest speaker for this special webinar. Alan Dyer is a well-known Canadian astrophotographer, author and astronomy educator. He will talk to us about his astrophotography adventures, including many worldwide expeditions to chase solar eclipses. You will learn about different astronomical phenomena and be amazed at the beauty of his photographs. Alan will also give us information about the upcoming eclipses visible from Canada: a lunar eclipse on October 8th and a partial solar eclipse on October 23rd. **Monday, October 6th at 1pm (Eastern) - 10am (Pacific)** [Details>>>](#)

### **Workshop for teachers – October 20th to November 7th**

Is astronomy part of your school curriculum but you feel uncomfortable teaching it to your students? Would you like to feel more confident and better prepared to answer the many questions your students may have? Is so, then this workshop is for you! During those three weeks, we will explain many astronomical concepts, while giving you tips on how to teach them, activities to use in class and access to many resources. [Details>>>](#)

### **Special webinar : The TMT and the Canadian contribution – November 26th 2014**

The next generation of telescopes will have mirrors 30 or 40 metres across. Canada has been involved in the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT) project for many years and construction is now beginning on the summit of Mauna Kea in Hawaii. For this webinar, our guest speaker will be Luc Simard, an astrophysicist involved with the TMT since the beginning. He will give us an overview of the project and the role Canadian astronomers are playing in this international endeavour. **Wednesday, November 26th at 2pm (Eastern) - 11am (Pacific)** [Details>>>](#)

For information, contact Julie Bolduc-Duval at [julie@discovertheuniverse.ca](mailto:julie@discovertheuniverse.ca)

## **Astronomers Without Borders**

by [Andrew Fazekas](#), Montreal Centre

Astronomers Without Borders (AWB) is currently launching a new global astronomy club pairing program where more experienced North American clubs mentor less experienced international clubs through the Internet and live Webcasts. The idea is to foster international relations and share knowledge about the hobby of astronomy, from observing and telescope, to astrophotography and everything in between with fellow astro brothers and sisters around the world.

AWB already has about a dozen clubs across Africa and Asia that have Internet access and are ready to share their passion for the night sky. We are actively looking for clubs in Canada to participate.

Here is a link to program details and application form to:

<http://astronomerswithoutborders.org/projects/13-current-projects/1523-global-pairing-program.html>

Andrew Fazekas

Director of Public Communications

RASC Montreal

Communications Manager

Astronomers Without Borders

## ➤ Across the RASC

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### News from the Ottawa Centre

by [Charles O'Dale](#), RASC Ottawa Centre

Just a quick reminder, past monthly meetings of the Ottawa Centre of the RASC may be viewed at: [http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Ottawa\\_Centre,\\_Monthly\\_Meetings](http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Ottawa_Centre,_Monthly_Meetings).

## ➤ Bulletin Photo of the Month

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### Sh2-187

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



The centre of this image shows the diaphanous Sh2-187. It lies about 4,700 light-years away in Cassiopeia. The nebula at the centre is surrounded by a large molecular cloud containing hydrogen, dust and soot. This is evidenced by the dark lanes throughout and the faint bluish reflection nebula in the right hand third of the picture. The dark nebula has a catalogue number — LDN1317.

This image was taken over four weeks at my SkyShed in Guelph, Ontario. The equipment includes an

SBIG STL-11000 with Baader LRGB and H-alpha filters, and a 10-inch ASA at f/6.8 on a Paramount MX.

## Thank You to our Sponsors!

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

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has a unique partnership with our friends in the astronomy industry. We are now offering companies the distinction of becoming a charter sponsor of the RASC, Canada's pre-eminent amateur astronomy organization. This offer is available only to those industry leaders who recognize the value in being associated with the amateur astronomy community.



<http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors>.

## 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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