

December 2015 - Volume 10, Number 1

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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### January's Sky

Happy New Year everyone!

We have a full Moon on the 5th and a new Moon on the 20th. There will be a lunar occultation of Uranus on the 25th and of Aldebaran on the 29th.

Watch for the Quadrantid meteors to peak on the 4th and the triple transit of Jupiter on the 24th. Double shadow transits of Jupiter occur on the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 17th, 20th, 24th, and the 27th.

Mercury is well placed in the evening sky and Venus can be found in the evening twilight having recently reappeared from behind the Sun. Mars appears low in the evening sky; Jupiter rises in the early evening and Saturn rises at dawn.

For more details check the *2015 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 [Randy Attwood](#), RASC Executive Director

An electronic *Observer's Handbook* - a reminder.

For the first time in its 107 years of publication, the *Observer's Handbook* is available in a downloadable version. Available to members only, it costs \$10 to download a copy of the *Observer's Handbook* to your computer or tablet.

To view the eBook you will need a special free PDF reader called Javelin, which is available from the site where you purchase the *Handbook*. Copies of the *Observer's Handbook* are available for mainstream Window PCs and Mac OSX computers (OSX 10.6 or later), and for iPADS (IOS6 and later) and Android

devices (ideally OS4 and later).

You may order a copy here <http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-member-benefit-programs>.

Thanks to National President and Handbook Assistant Editor James Edgar for making this possible.

#### The February 2015 issue of the *Journal*

All members will receive a print version of the February 2015 issue of the *Journal*. It should be in the mail by the end of January.

It has been several years since the print version has been an option of membership. Since then, the *Journal* Editor Jay Anderson and Production Manager James Edgar have turned the *Journal* into an admirable and valuable publication. All members receive a link to an online version via email but we know not everyone reads it! There is valuable information in each *Journal*. We are hoping that all members will consider spending the \$21 (average cost) on a subscription to the print version of the *Journal*. A real bargain @ \$3.50 an issue!

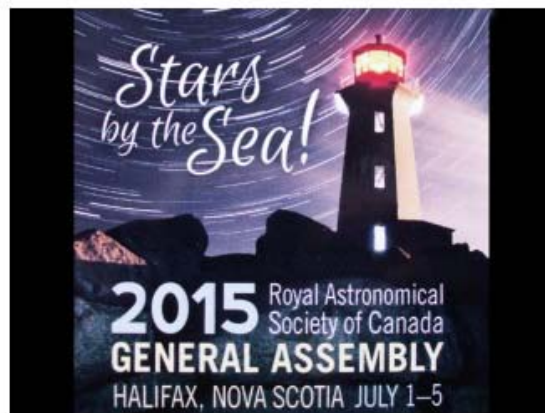
To order a print version of the *Journal* call the Society Office at 1-888-924-7272 during business hours. You can also select the print version of the *Journal* when you renew online.

Note: The paper *Journal* can be donated to your doctor or dentist's office, your school or local library.

#### General Assembly in Halifax

The 2015 General Assembly will be hosted by the Halifax Centre in 2015. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Halifax Centre. The General Assembly will be held from Wednesday, July 1 to Sunday, July 5 at Saint Mary's University. Plan now to visit the Atlantic Coast this summer!

For more information see [2015 General Assembly](#)



### Where will you be 2017 August 21?

Preparations are being made for the Society's first solar eclipse expedition since 1991.

On 2017 August 21, the shadow of the Moon will cross the continental USA. Plans are under way to run another national RASC eclipse expedition for the 2017 eclipse. Imagine observing this eclipse with several hundred fellow Rascals?

We will be taking reservations by the spring. Our sponsor [MWT Associates Inc.](#) will be organizing the expedition with us. Stay tuned to the *Bulletin* for more details in the next few months.

### Fundraising Campaign 2015

Our 2015 fund raising campaign is well underway. Started in late 2014, many members responded to our request for donations to help us fund several of the projects within the Society. We have already surpassed 20% of our goal of \$25,000! To all members who have donated already – a big thank you!

The next phase of the campaign will be a mail out to all members in February. Look for a letter from President James Edgar along with a donation form and a pre-stamped addressed envelope to return your donation to the Society office. Please remember that you can donate anytime online on the [RASC Donation website](#).

In the past, members have been generous with their donations to the Society.

As a reminder, these donations have funded several projects, such as:

- The printing of thousands of Star Finders for the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) and for public outreach every year since;
- The Moon Gazer's Guide, a one-page card featuring a Moon map, with descriptions of lunar phases and eclipses;
- The recent collaboration with the people at *SkyNews* magazine to create a pamphlet *Getting Started in Astronomy*. We printed 50,000 of these pamphlets for distribution at outreach events;
- To reimburse travel and accommodation under the Public Speaker Program, where Centres sponsor a speaker to come from out of town to speak on astronomical and related topics;
- The annual support of the Canada-Wide Science Fair by providing two prizes from the RASC as the Award for Excellence in Astronomy, one Intermediate award and another in the Junior category.

With your help, we plan the following in 2015:

- Production of a 2017 eclipse poster and handbook;
- Funds will be used to hire a consultant to produce educational materials and expand the NOVA Program (New Observers to Visual Astronomy);
- Production and distribution of teacher support materials and lesson plans.

Please consider donating to the Society when you renew your membership. We will be issuing tax receipts for donations to the Society of \$25 or greater in January.

### Office computers to be upgraded

This month will see some changes in the Society Office. The computers (hardware and software) along with the data backup procedures will all be modernized. This project is critical to the continued service the

office staff provides RASC members and customers.

### Office closure

The Society Office will reopen on Monday January 5th. The staff at the Society Office – Renata, Julia and Randy – wish everyone a Happy New Year and clear skies in 2015!

## **Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie**

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

The Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie, the association of Canadian academic astronomers, has published its Winter Solstice 2014 newsletter "Cassiopeia," edited by Magdalen Normandeau & Joanne Rosvick.

<http://casca.ca/?p=5347>

The contents include:

President's Report by Christine Wilson, concerning plans for the Thirty Meter Telescope and the Mid-Term Review process for the Long Range Plan for funding Canadian astronomical research.

Celebrating John Galt: a workshop and telescope dedication, By Tim Robishaw and Sean Dougherty (DRAO).

ALMA Update by Christine Wilson, highlighting some of the amazing new work coming out of the Atacama Array in South America such as the protoplanetary discs around the star HL Tauri.

Arctic Update by Eric Steinbring, describing 12 papers presented that have used Canadian astronomical assets at the PEARL research laboratory in Eureka, Nunavut, concerning extrasolar planet searches and profiling atmospheric turbulence.

Astrosat News by John Hutchings, concerning a planned Indian Space Research Organization astronomical satellite with Canadian co-operation on an Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT.)

Update from the Canadian Space Agency / Compte rendu de l'Agence spatiale canadienne (ASC) By/par Denis Laurin, après la nomination de Général (à la retraite) Walter Natynczyk sous-ministre aux Anciens Combattants.

MOST, Canada's first space telescope, was decommissioned on September 9th after an illustrious 11-year career.

NEOSSAT, Canada's newest space telescope for near-Earth space surveillance, continues on-orbit commissioning and early operations after its launch in February 2013.

The Canadian Space Agency Headquarters recently added an all-sky camera to its roof, to collaborate with Western University for bright fireball detection.

Gemini News – Nouvelles de Gemini By/par Stéphanie Côté, Tim Davidge and John Blakeslee.

Feature story – Detection of an Anomalous Hot Gas Component in a Low Mass Star-Forming Region by

Andy Pon.

Nouvelles du CNRC Herzberg – NRC Herzberg News By/par Dennis Crabtree.

A Final Dispatch from the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope By Gary Davis.

Modèle d'évolution de galaxies pour simulations cosmologiques à grande échelle Par/by Benoît Côté.

## **Bored staring at clouds? Stare at RASCANADA instead!**

by [R.A. Rosenfeld](#), RASC Archivist

Looking for something to do during the cloudy nights of our seemingly unending winter? The Society's YouTube channel is accessioning approximately one hundred video recordings of speakers at RASC or RASC related events ca. 1990-2006, featuring Gene Shoemaker, Halton Arp, Clyde Tombaugh, Leif Robinson, Rich Jarrell, Richard Herd, Alan Guth, Geoff Marcy, and Bob Garrison, among others. This is a collaborative project, thanks to Rob Dick's (Ottawa Centre) original videography and initiative, Bill Wagstaff's (Ottawa Centre) conversion and remastering of the files, and Roland Dechesne's (Calgary Centre) curation of the YouTube channel.

The first four videos are up at <https://www.youtube.com/RASCANADA/feed>.

## **➤ Across the RASC**

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### **News from the Ottawa Centre**

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

Just a quick reminder, the Ottawa Centre's video archive may be viewed at: [http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=RASC\\_Ottawa\\_Video\\_Archives](http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=RASC_Ottawa_Video_Archives).

This archive will be updated monthly.

### **LPA News from the Toronto Centre**

by [Peter Hiscocks](#), Chair, LPA Subcommittee, Toronto Centre

I am writing to alert everyone about a project in Light Pollution Abatement that we (LPA at the Toronto Centre) are considering.

In Ontario, lighting is the responsibility of the municipalities. Since there has been a recent election there are new municipal councils across the province. Karen Mortfield has suggested that this would be an opportune time to contact the municipalities in Ontario to get their support on light pollution abatement. We would write to the clerk in the municipality to inform the municipality of the issues around light pollution, and ask for a policy that lighting will be designed to take light pollution into account.

I wanted to advise you that this is under consideration and get your input. If you are working on a light pollution project in your municipality (or know of someone), we want to ensure that we are not working at cross-purposes. Please contact me by email and let me know the details - should we take that municipality off the list, is there someone specific in that municipality we should contact, or are there other

considerations? For example, the City of Toronto is working on a Guideline that will address the issue of light pollution, and this type of initiative would be more appropriate after that Guideline is issued.

Robert Dick, Randy Attwood and James Edgar have all been informed of this project and are supportive.

So, if you know of an LPA project in your municipality that we should also know about, please send me the information.

## ➤ *Bulletin Photo of the Month*

### **NGC 1499 The California Nebula**

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



This image of the California Nebula was shot from my SkyShed in Guelph, Ontario.

The equipment includes an SBIG STL-11000M camera, Baader LRGB filters, 10" f/3.6 ASA astrograph, MI-250 mount. For more information, see his Web site at: <http://astrodoc.ca>.



## 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.

Julia Neeser creates "The Solar System" monthly with data from James Edgar's "Skies" newspaper articles at <http://www.rasc.ca/observing>.



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