



We welcome your comments on the **Bulletin**.
Email them to the Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca

► Editor's Notebook

by David Garner

October's Sky

We have a new Moon on the 13th and a full Moon on the 27th. Mercury is well placed in the morning sky reaching greatest elongation W on the 16th whereas Venus reaches its greatest elongation W on the 26th. Mars is still low in the eastern dawn. Jupiter is low in the morning sky and is in conjunction with Mars on the 17th and with Venus on the 26th. The three planets will be grouped for several weeks. For more details, check the *2015 Observer's Handbook*. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's **Northern Skies**.

► News @ RASC.ca

News from the Society Office

by **Randy Attwood**, RASC Executive Director

The 2016 Observer's Handbook and 2016 Observer's Calendar

The *2016 Observer's Handbook* and *2016 Observer's Calendar* are now available on the eStore.

Order yours today!



The 2016 Observer's Handbook will be in the mail this week to all members in good standing as of September 25.

Editor David Chapman writes:

"This is my last of five Handbooks as editor, and I have arranged some special details that combine my current passions: First Nations' sky lore (including the Moon) and the Keji Dark-Sky Preserve (in Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site of Canada, in southwest Nova Scotia). At my request and to my specification, photographer Chris Green captured a glorious image of the summer Milky Way (Spirit Road) over Kejimikujik Lake, from the site of an ancient Mi'kmaw settlement along the shore. Mi'kmaw artist Gerald Gloade created the stunning "Wandering Moon" for the back cover. My Mi'kmaw Moons project partner Cathy LeBlanc (who I met at Keji) recounts her discovery of the night sky on the facing page, and helped curate the First Nations' content of this edition. Finally, I persuaded regular contributors Chris Beckett and Randall Rosenfeld to expand their view to include the entire summer Milky Way as this year's FEATURE STAR FIELD."

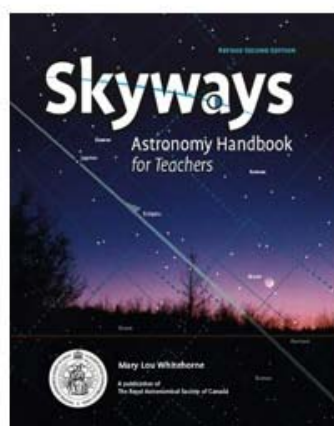
The 2016 Observer's Calendar is at the printers and should be delivered the first week in October.

Fall October Sale!

Skyways: Astronomy Handbook on **SALE** for \$14.95!

Teaching Astronomy? Skyways makes it easy!

Skyways is ideal for teachers, youth group leaders, and anyone interested in hands-on astronomy education. Written by a Canadian with Canadian teachers and astronomy educators in mind. Instructions for hands-on activities on a wide range of topics including: Seasons, Stars, and the Solar System.



RASC Toque on Sale for \$9!



The RASC now offers that quintessential Canadian accessory. This extra warm full size acrylic knit toque is perfect for those cold, dark nights. Embroidered with the RASC's Wordmark this item is warm and compact. A perfect item to keep in your equipment case for when an evening turns chilly. Navy blue, generous sizing fits all.

A National Fundraising Committee

The RASC solicits donations from its members to support various projects which pertain to its mandate of promoting astronomy and allied science to the people of Canada. Our members are very generous. Last year the Society received over \$18,000 from members.

To expand these programs and generate new activities, we need to increase our revenues through donations and grants. To do this we need to create a Fundraising Committee.

It is important in a not-for-profit organization such as the RASC for the Board, the Staff and volunteers to work together in finding these funds. First, we would have to determine for which areas we need to generate funding. To support our mandate, funding could pay for education and public outreach projects, publications or materials to support various programs being run at Centres across the country. The Society needs extra funds to expand its office space to support any additional projects or activities which may require bringing in new full-time or part-time staff.

An active team would identify donors, make contact and start discussions with them, ask for contributions and recognize donor generosity.

We are looking for members who have a strong background in fundraising. We have seen tremendous interest in RASC public outreach activities in the past. Hopefully we can reach out to various donors who would like to see us continue and expand these activities.

If you would like to help out with the formation of a Fundraising Committee or would like to serve on the committee, please contact the Executive Director Randy Attwood at the National Office (execdir@rasc.ca)

The electronic 2015 Observer's Handbook

by **James Edgar**, RASC President

The *Observer's Handbook* is available in a downloadable version. For members only, it costs \$10 to download a copy of the Handbook to your computer, tablet, or smart phone.

To view the eBook you will need a special free PDF reader called *Javelin*, which is available from www.drumlinsecurity.com/javelindownloads.html. Electronic copies of the *Handbook* are available for mainstream Window PCs and Mac OSX computers (OSX 10.6 or later), and for iPad (IOS6 and later) and Android devices (ideally OS4 and later).

You may order a copy by calling or emailing the staff at the Society Office for the necessary information. Email mempub@rasc.ca

With the 2016 Handbook now out, the electronic version will be available before year-end.

Special Projects Program

by **Barbara Wright**, Administrative Trustee

Program Description

The goal of the program is to make Society funds available for projects that further the RASC mandate, carried out by individual members or groups of members. Such projects may include but are not restricted to: research projects (not connected with any academic institution), brochures or handouts, booklets, display materials, web sites, workshops, classes, school visits, special lectures, GA travel for members who have had a paper accepted for presentation, support such as materials or field trips for elementary or secondary school students.

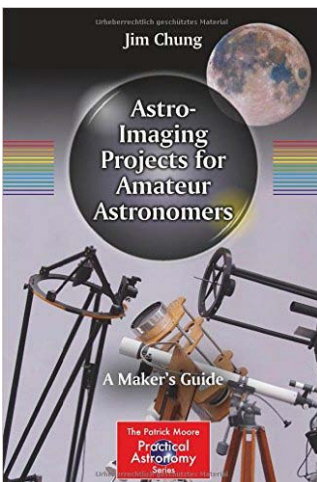
Projects must be completed within one year of the date of the grant. In addition to the grant, successful applicants may be asked, as a requirement of the Program and if appropriate, to prepare and deliver public presentations of their results or otherwise report on their activities to their home Centres, and be willing to travel to any other Centres which may be interested in sponsoring them under the Public Speaker Program.

See www.rasc.ca/special-projects-program

Jim Chung's Astro-Imaging Projects for Amateur Astronomers

by **Randall Rosenfeld**, RASC Archivist

Astro-Imaging Projects for Amateur Astronomers, Jim Chung's intelligent and attractively written guide to making and adapting imaging and observing gear, has recently appeared in Springer's Patrick Moore Practical Astronomy Series (<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319185453>).



Those familiar with Jim's articles in the RASC's *Journal* will know of his genius for devising understandable and doable solutions that perform as well as their commercial counterparts, and at a fraction of the cost.

Beyond presenting specific projects, Jim's book illustrates a useful approach to making and adapting gear; in other words, perusing it can suggest solutions to projects other than those found between its covers, an admirable quality it shares with the venerable and legendary triumvirate of Scientific American ATM books by Albert G. Ingalls, Russell W. Porter, and colleagues.

CASCA Newsletter

by [Eric Briggs](#), RASC, Toronto Centre

The newsletter of the Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie for the 2015 Autumnal Equinox has been published.

Highlights:

- Changes continue on top of Mauna Kea, with the Thirty Meter Telescope and plans for converting the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope into the Mauna Kea Spectroscopic Explorer.
- Completion of the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME) radio telescope at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory near Penticton, BC. This is now the largest telescope in North America.

For more information: <http://casca.ca/?p=6280>

Webinar - Pluto and the New Horizons mission

by **Julie Bolduc-Duval**, Coordinator, *Discover the Universe*

The next webinar offered by *Discover the Universe* will be about Pluto and the New Horizons mission. In the first half of the webinar, we will provide an overview of the mission and present the initial results and lots of beautiful images! In the second half, we will hear our guest speaker, Frederic Pelletier, describe his work as a navigator for this mission. This webinar is meant for teachers and informal educators to become familiar with the latest astronomical news.

Please share this information to anyone who might be interested in your centres and local networks.

Pluto and the New Horizons mission

Webinar offered on October 6th at 2 p.m. eastern – 11 a.m. pacific.

For more information and to register: www.discovertheuniverse.ca

Discover the Universe is an online training program offered by the RASC, the Canadian Astronomical Society, and the Federation des astronomes amateurs du Quebec.

➤ Across the RASC

A New Website for the Ottawa Centre

by **Charles O'Dale**, RASC, Ottawa Centre

Look for us at: [RASC Ottawa Centre | Development Centre](#)

Celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Hume Cronyn Observatory

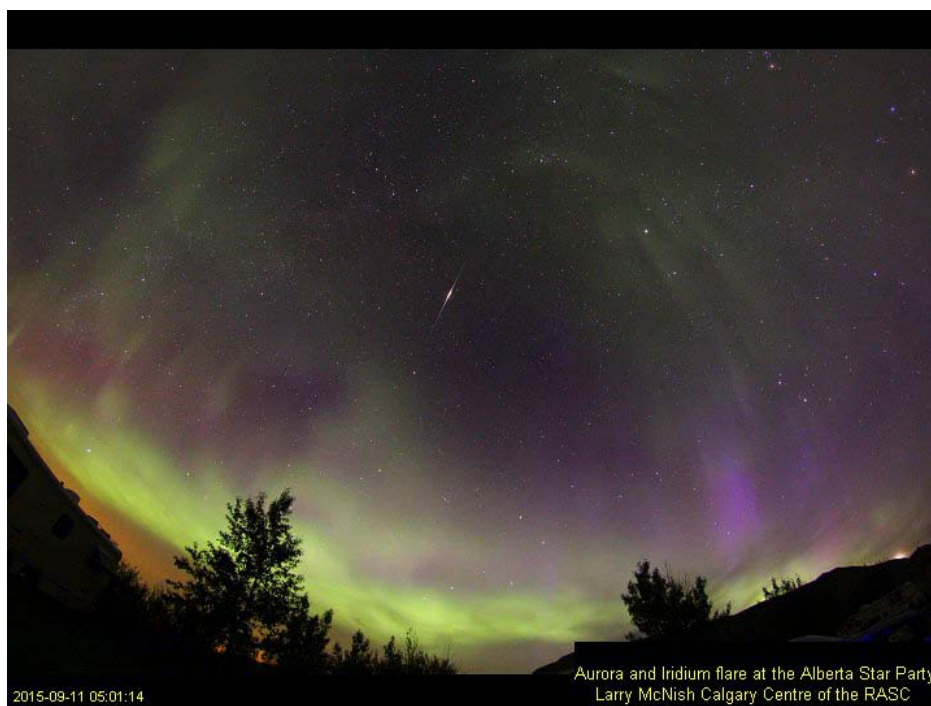
by **Peter Jedicke**, RASC, London Centre, Honorary President

Current faculty and staff of Western University will be joined by RASC London Centre members in hosting an open house to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Hume Cronyn Observatory on Sunday evening 2015 October 25. Among the displays will be a scrapbook commemorating the opening and one of the glass transparencies that graced the foyer of the Observatory for many years. The original portrait of Hume Blake Cronyn is also still on view.

Weather permitting, guests at the anniversary will be able to look through the venerable refractor. All RASC members are cordially invited to attend.

► *Bulletin Photo of the Month*

by **Larry McNish**, RASC, Calgary Centre



One frame from my time-lapse shot at the Alberta Star Party.

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 website. 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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