Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

March 2020 Bulletin

RASC GA 2020 VANCOUVER

Join us for The RASC General Assembly and hear Dr. Sara Seager of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology deliver the Helen Sawyer Hogg lecture on Mapping the Nearest Stars for Habitable Worlds. The GA is taking place from June 5-7 at the Executive Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre in Coquitlam B.C. Single day registration is now available.

Get your tickets today!

Interested in leading a special-interest breakout session at the General Assembly? Send us an email at ga2020+info@rasc-vancouver.com and we will try to accommodate your request. We hope to see you there!

Board of Directors call for nominations

Participation on the RASC Board of Directors is a leadership experience that provides rich opportunity for personal and astronomical growth!

Three Director positions are up for election with the Director's Terms commencing at the 2020 Annual General Meeting to be held on June 7, 2020 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Nominating Committee can be reached through the Society Office at 888-924-7272 or by email at arforet@shaw.ca.

Here are the rules for candidate eligibility as set out in The RASC Policy Manual:

Candidate Eligibility

The Nominating Committee will ensure that candidates for The RASC Board of Directors meet the following criteria:

1. be a member in good standing of the Society;
2. meet the requirements for being a Board member as outlined by the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, and, specifically:

3. be over the age of 18 at the time of the Annual General Meeting (this year, June 16);
4. be an individual person (i.e. not a body corporate);
5. be solvent (not bankrupt);
6. have agreed to stand for election in writing;
7. have the support in writing of at least 3 people, one of whom is a member of the Society; and,
8. have agreed to abide by the Society's Directors and Officer's Code of Conduct and indicated their willingness to sign the Society's Board of Director's agreement prior to assuming office.

Candidate's Statement

As part of the nomination process, candidates will be asked to provide a Candidate's Statement (see below), including:

- their previous experience with councils and committees of the Society at both the National and Centre levels;
- a suitable photograph in electronic format as well as contact information as required;
- committee work and experience outside of the Society that may be relevant to the Society; and
- their goals for the Society and how they would contribute to the Board if elected.

Anyone wishing to be a candidate should write or email The RASC Nominating Committee through its chair, Robyn Foret. Each candidate should state that they understand the eligibility requirements and state that they meet those requirements. Candidates must agree to abide by The RASC Director's and Officer's Code of Conduct. They should also indicate whether they intend to seek a position on the executive, and if so, what position they are seeking. Candidates should also send a candidate's statement as set out above. The three supporters for each candidate should also write or email the committee.

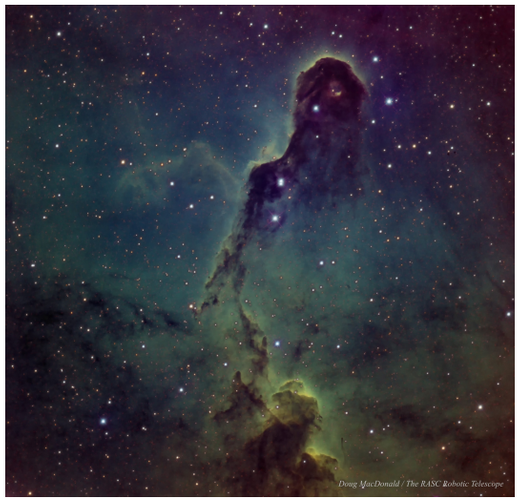
The nominations must close no less than 70 days prior to the AGM, (29 March). Nominations must be received by the RASC Society Office no later than the normal close of business on this date. No less than 60 Days Prior to the AGM is the Board Nominations Publication Deadline, the date on which Candidate Information from all Confirmed Candidates is published by the Nominating Committee for distribution to the membership in Society publications and on the Website (8 April). This date is also the official start of the Board Election Campaign Period. No more than 35 Days and no less than 25 Days Prior to the AGM (3 May —13 May) the Board Election Voting period begins. The Board Election Voting period ends at the time specified for the start of the Annual General Meeting. All members of the RASC will be eligible to vote, and facilities to vote on line will be available as well as paper ballots on request from the Society Office.

Nomination Deadline:	March 29
Campaign Period:	April 8 – May 3
Election Period:	May 3 – 13

Robyn Foret
VP, RASC Board of Directors

Join the Board of Directors!

Robotic Telescope: Download Data Now!



Thank you to everyone who joined in on The RASC's very first webinar! If you missed it, a recording is available on YouTube here, with timestamps in the description to direct you to the most interesting parts.

Sample data is now available for download and processing in our Google Drive, including the Owl Nebula which you voted on during the webinar! Make sure to read the Copyright Information file first, and check out the Extra Information folder for clarification on file naming conventions and for links to astrophotography processing tutorials. Please send a copy of any photos you edit to telescope@rasc.ca or jenna.hinds@rasc.ca, with proper attribution. There was a request for sample science data, so that is now available too!

More information will be published in the Bulletin as it becomes available. We will inform you when memberships are available for purchase. Keep checking back each month as we will release a new target on the telescope every month! Until then, if you have any questions please contact Jenna at jenna.hinds@rasc.ca or telescope@rasc.ca.

RASC Saskatoon celebrates International Day of Women and Girls in Science

On February 11th, in celebration of International Day of Women and Girls in Science, 7 Usask students gave a public presentation on women in astronomy. The speakers included me (Rina Rast) in addition to Simone Hagey, Makayla Heslip, Alex Rosset, Mikayla Rychel, Samantha VanDeventer, and Maia Wallis. We are all undergraduate STEM students at the University of Saskatchewan.

We highlighted the accomplishments of historical women, such as

Caroline Herschel, Beatrice Tinsley, and Allie Vibert Douglas, in addition to several modern women, including Wendy Freedman, Katie Bouman and Victoria Kaspi. We emphasized struggles they experienced (like gender bias and having strict gender roles imposed on them), and then discussed current conditions in the field, touching on how to encourage a more inclusive atmosphere in STEM. We ended the talk with personal stories from Simone and a member of the Usask Physics faculty, Kaori Tanaka.

Rina Rast
RASC Saskatoon Centre

Halifax Centre celebrating important anniversary!

March marks a special anniversary for our Centre. Twenty-five years ago, our Centre signed a land lease that allowed us to plan then build our observatory and outbuildings on the perfect site – dark skies, light pollution-free horizons to the south, the Halifax light pollution dome low in the southeast, the Windsor light dome quite low in the northwest, inland so there was a lower chance of fog, and was in a slight hollow that protects the area from wind. Thanks to the hard work of many Centre members over the next two years the St. Croix Observatory (SCO) became a reality. The lease signing will be acknowledged at our March meeting with a special cake being served.

Coming east over the summer? Consider attending the Nova East Star Party being held the nights of August 21-23, 2020 at Smiley's Provincial Park in Hants County, NS. This camping-observing weekend was first established in 1987, making this the 34th Nova East Star Party! With the Mars Rover launches during the summer and Jupiter and Saturn featured prominently in Sagittarius during Nova East, the 2020 theme is *March of the Planets*. A limiting magnitude of +6 is the norm. Nova East registrants have access to all events, including all talks, workshops and presentations, three nights of observing (weather permitting!), the potluck BBQ, the astronomers' breakfasts (Saturday and Sunday) and Lounge, and the door prizes draw. Curious as to what happened last year? Visit our website – https://novaeast.rasc.ca – and then plan your East Coast visit to include us!

Judy Black, President
RASC, Halifax Centre

A note from SkyNews

SkyNews would like to offer an apology to our subscribers for the late delivery of the March-April issue.

This was due to problems with our printers, which included their misplacement of our mailing list and internal scheduling issues. SkyNews management has investigated and has been ensured that this problem will not happen again.

As always, we will do everything in our power to ensure future issues arrive in a timely manner.

Allendria Brunjes
Managing Editor, SkyNews

Upcoming Astronomy Events

The weather is going to get better soon, we can feel it! As the weather improves, there's always seems to be an observing event on the horizon. Follow the link below to read about all The RASC events taking place in March.

RASC Events

Casting Call!

Does your child and their friends have what it takes to be astronauts?

Does your child love an adventure packed with challenges? Do they have an interest in astronomy or space travel? Then this space travel action adventure gameshow could be for them!

Wall to Wall Productions are looking for teams of 3 children aged 10–12 – friends, classmates, family members – who think they have the right stuff to take part in an exciting competition. In this series, each team participates as junior trainee cadets in a selection of physical and mental challenges based on the thrilling world of astronaut training.

They will compete in a variety of individual and team games – some high off the ground, some underwater and some on dry land – with the hope of winning a remarkable space prize package.

Application Deadline Sunday 5 April 2020.

For more information go to www.spaceadventurecasting.com

PARENTS MUST APPLY ON BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN.

Must be 10–12 years of age as of 15th July 2020 and you must a legal resident of Canada to apply.

Other eligibility requirements apply.

Notes from the

Observing Committee

The observing year has barely started, and we have already issued two RASC Observing Certificates.

Explore the Universe:

Dave Chapman – Halifax

Explore the Moon: - Telescope

Charles Banville - Victoria

We had hoped to have the Double Stars Observing Program released by the end of last year. Unfortunately, this program undertook a radical change at the last minute which has delayed it's release.

The RASC "Explore the Moon – Binoculars" has been translated into French with the "Explore the Moon – Telescope" to follow shortly. These will appear on the RASC Observing website by early spring. These two translated programs will join the RASC "Explore the Universe" French version.

The announcements of earned certificates will continue to be posted online on the respective RASC Observing sub-page, in the Bulletin, in the National Newsletter, in the RASC section of the SkyNews, on the @RASC Twitter account and the @theRoyalAstronomicalSocietyofCanada Facebook page.

If any members in your Centre has achieved any recognition from other organizations, please forward this on to the Observing Committee that their achievements can be published.

Currently there are 27 Centres that are local Certification Centres for the Explore the Universe Programs. It would be advantageous to have all RASC Centre's as certification Centre's. I will be contacting the Centre's not listed *inviting/convincing* them to participate in the certification program.

The current Centres for the Explore the Universe can be found on the RASC website at:

http://rasc.ca/participating-centres

Any RASC Centre with an active observing group should consider becoming a **Local Certification Centre**: The Centre must identify a member who will review and approve applications for the Explore the Universe certificate (ideally, that member would be an active observer who promotes RASC Observing Programs and mentors beginning observers). Send the name to the RASC Observing Chair for inclusion in the above list.

Clear Skies,

Blair Stunder
RASC Observing Chair
Prince George, B.C.

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