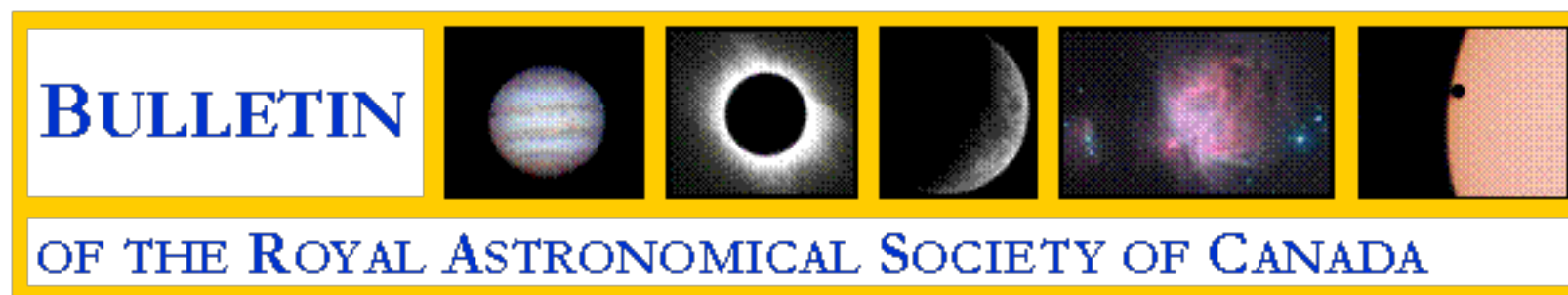


2010-04



April 2010 - Volume 5, Number 4

Ian Levstein, Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca [1].

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

GA2010 New Brunswick Update

by **Donald Kelly**, New Brunswick Centre

Registrations for our 2010 General Assembly continue to be received at a brisk rate. All suites on the UNB Fredericton campus have been booked by RASC members, however, single and double rooms are still available. To guarantee your on-campus accommodation, visit our [Web site](#) [2].

The "Jolly Breeze" whale-watching tour at St. Andrews is half filled. This excursion promises to be a memorable Canada Day event for the whole family. The Hopewell Rocks tour on July 2 is also filling up fast.

Guided tours of the Brydone Jack Observatory/Museum are topping up quickly, one tour having reached maximum capacity. Join us for a walk through Canada's oldest surviving observatory. Discover how Canada's first longitude reading was accomplished. Register soon to guarantee your spot on one or all of the tours!

The call for papers, posters as well as astrophotographs and sketches for the Astrophoto/Sketching contest has been made. Check our [Web site](#) [2] for more info and forms as well as new GA updates. Come to New Brunswick July 1 - 4 for a whale of a good time!

Dr. Helen Kirk to receive 2010 Plaskett Medal

by **Dave Lane**, RASC President

Dear RASC and CASCA members,

We are very pleased to announce that the 2010 Plaskett Medal will be awarded to Dr. Helen Kirk.

The Plaskett Medal was established in 1988 in recognition of the pivotal role played by John Stanley Plaskett in the establishment of astrophysical research in Canada. The Medal is awarded annually, by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and CASCA, to the Ph.D. graduate from a Canadian university who is judged to have submitted the most outstanding doctoral thesis in astronomy or astrophysics in the preceding two years.

Dr. Kirk obtained her Ph.D. at the University of Victoria. Her thesis on star formation within the Perseus Molecular Cloud was supervised by Dr. Doug Johnstone. Dr. Kirk and her collaborators combined observational data from the JCMT and IRAM observatories and with numerical simulations explored the physical processes of star formation within molecular clouds. Her thesis publications have already had a significant impact on star formation studies.

She is presently an NSERC Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Paul Hickson, CASCA President

Dave Lane, RASC President

► Across the RASC

Earth Hour 2010

by **Frank Tomaras**, Montreal Centre

On Saturday, March 27 from 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM the RASC Montreal Centre together with Dr. Anthony Moffat from the University of Montreal and the City of Westmount, participated in Earth Hour 2010. Dr. Moffat will send us the final tally, but there were approximately 400 people who attended. During the course of the evening the reserved buses kept bringing visitors from City Hall to the



Group photo of some of the RASC volunteers. Photo by **Ron Baran**.

event. There were 10 Montreal Centre volunteers who participated and, as usual, we put on a great show. We had dedicated telescopes showing the Moon, Saturn, Mars and the Orion Nebula so visitors got to see a variety of objects.

► Astronomy Beyond RASC

Editor's Note - The following letter was received by the RASC, and is included here (mostly) for our European members who may be interested. It is reprinted here unedited - exactly as received.

IAYC 2010

Dear members of astronomical society, My name is María Ruiz and I am writing to you on behalf of the leader team of the International Astronomical Youth Camp ([IAYC](#) [3]). IAYC is a three-week long summer camp aiming to promote knowledge on astronomy and related sciences in a unique international atmosphere. This year IAYC2010 is taking place in Germany, from August 1st to August 21st. As we believe that your members could be interested in joining us in this adventure, we would like to ask you to circulate the call for applications which I'm sending you below this email and to let your members know about the possibility of joining the IAYC. In the attachment I am also sending you the poster of our camp. We hope that, thanks to you, some of your members will discover the magic of the IAYC this summer!

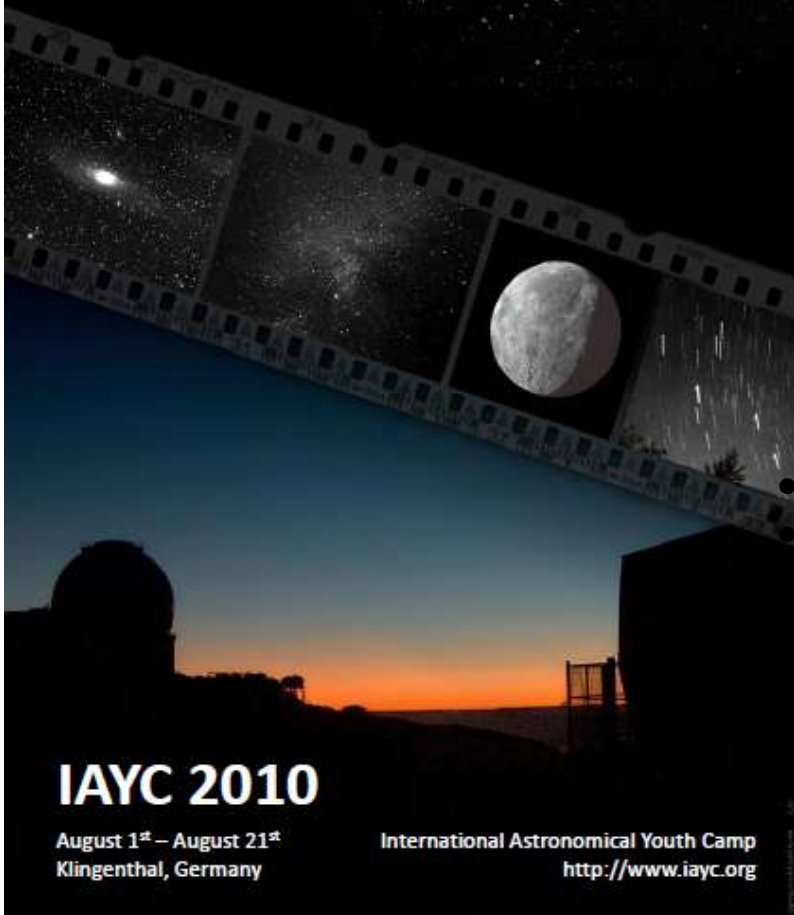
With kindest regards,

On behalf of the IAYC leader team,

María Ruiz **International Astronomical Youth Camp 2010 - Call for applications** Imagine spending 3 weeks of your summer in beautiful mountain scenery working with other students from all over the world on an astronomical project of your choice. The International Astronomical Youth Camp (IAYC) is a three-week long summer camp aiming to promote knowledge on astronomy and related sciences in a unique international atmosphere. Each year it takes place at a different European location, this year in the small town of Klingenthal in the east of Germany, near the border of Czech republic. The IAYC is different from most astronomical camps for two reasons: the international character and the fact that you carry out your own small research project. You will not just accept facts, but you will discover them yourself or working together with other people. The IAYC is therefore not like staying in a hotel and following a summer school or an astronomy course. We are proud that award winning projects were carried out during the camp and many of the IAYC alumni chose science as their profession and work in leading astronomical centers. As a participant you will explore astronomy related projects in one of the 7 working groups -

Observe • Travel • Interact • Discover • Create

Spend three weeks working on astronomy projects with young people from all over the world



together with other young people. These projects are done in a working group of your choice and depend on your own interest. The working groups themselves will be led by young scientists and focus on a specific field in astronomy. The IAYC2010 will offer a wide range of working groups and topics, from practical astronomy and basic theoretical astronomy over simulations in astronomy and electronic-robotronic engineering to high energy astrophysics, astrochemistry and not-so-introductory physics. There will be something for everyone from the complete beginner to the ambitious student. This year the working groups are:

- ALF - Astronomy and Life
- BAM - Basic Astronomy and More
- FLIPA - Fundamental Laws in Physics and Astronomy
- GM - Galactic Masses
- HoA - Hands on Astronomy
- iBot - IAYC Robotics Extravaganza
- SEXI - Superhot Emitters -- the X-ray Introduction

As well as the astronomical program, there are many non-astronomical activities such as group

games, sporting events, singing evenings, hiking tours and an excursion. Since it is an international camp, the camp language is English. Anyone from 16 to 24 years old and able to communicate in English may participate in the IAYC 2010. The fee for accommodation, full board and the whole program, including the excursion, will be €620. However, early applications arriving before April 15th 2010 receive a €30 reduction, making the camp fee €590. For people interested in participating in the camp that are not able to pay the camp fee themselves, a limited number of grants is available. For more details, application form, outlines of projects and pictures from previous camps please [check out](#) [3] or write our [info service](#)

[4]. Best Regards,

The IAYC Leaderteam

► Bulletin Photo of the Month

Sundog



by **Rick Stankiewicz**,
Unattached Member

On 2010, March 4, I caught an unusually bright Sundog (parhelion) to the left of the Sun late in the afternoon from downtown Peterborough, Ontario. What is particularly nice about this shot is the interesting cloud formation that trails off to the left. It reminded me of a phoenix or an apparition of some sort. I have not seen a Sundog this bright in years. This classic colouring is never a pure spectrum of colour and, like this image, it might show hints of

greens and blues but they are subtle because all the colours at the extreme opposite end of the spectrum (reds, oranges and yellows) overpower them. Hexagonal-shaped ice crystals in the atmosphere help create this rather common phenomenon. However, the colouring is usually much more subtle and less obvious than this image.

It sure pays to be prepared, though. All I had at the time to capture this image was a small Panasonic TZ-5 camera (averaged - ISO 100; exp.1/500; f/10). This image shows a part halo starting upward, like a partial rainbow, at 22° radius from the Sun, which is just blocked out of the frame to the right in this image.

► The Sky this Month

What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the **Northern Skies** [5] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know.

► Dates to Remember

- - **2010 April 19-25** - Astronomy Week
 - **2010 April 24** - Astronomy Day
 - **2010 July 1** - National Council Meeting, Fredericton, NB
 - **2010 July 1-4** - **RASC General Assembly 2010** [2], Fredericton, NB
 - **2010 July 9-12** - Stargazing Manitoulin [6], Gordon's Park DSP, Manitoulin Island
 - **2010 August 6-9** - Manitoulin Star Party [7], Gordon's Park DSP, Manitoulin Island



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Links:

[1] [mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca?subject=Bulletin Mail](mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca?subject=Bulletin%20Mail)

[2] <https://www.rasc.ca/ga/history/2010s#2010>

[3] <http://www.iayc.org>

[4] [mailto:info@iayc.org?subject=IAYC Information](mailto:info@iayc.org?subject=IAYC%20Information)

[5] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/northern-skies>

[6] <http://gordonspark.com/wp-content/uploads/2014-SM-Brochure.pdf>

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