

# BULLETIN



## OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

September 2011 - Volume 6, Number 9

Ian Levstein, 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 at: <http://www.rasc.ca/im/bulletin/201109.pdf>

A text-only version of the *Bulletin* is available at: <http://www.rasc.ca/im/bulletin/201109.txt>

## ► News @ RASC.ca

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### RASC Tidbits

by [Denis Grey](#), [Deborah Thompson](#), and others!

#### Follow RASC on Twitter

The RASC is on Twitter - find out about National events and other happenings in the wider RASC community. Go [here](#) and click on the "Follow" button to add us to your Twitterverse. Better yet, perhaps you could add a "Follow" button to your template - I'll leave the details in your capable hands.

#### New RASC Web Site Looking for Beta Testers

The RASC is planning to take our new Web site live in the next few weeks. If you have some Web site experience (or not) and a few cloudy night hours to spare in September, the Web team would be interested in having your help as a member of our "Go Live" team. Your mission (if you choose to accept it) will be to focus on one or more areas of the new Web site and to inspect pages for any issues (spelling, links, format, etc.) that need to be corrected or enhanced. Testers will also be checking the relationship between the new Member area and the overall public section of the Web site. This is strictly a short-term focused effort and should only last 1-2 weeks at most. To find out more or to volunteer, please contact [me](#).

#### Kathryn Gray Wins NYAA Award for Supernova 2010It

New Brunswick Centre youth member **Kathryn Gray** won the coveted "Bring Home the Bacon Award" at the 2011 edition of Starfest for her December 2010 discovery of Supernova 2010It. The award included a \$500 cash prize as well as one pound of back bacon. (CP photo available [here](#)).

#### The Word on The Street

On Sunday, September 25, The RASC will be participating at The Word on The Street in Toronto. The festival is a national celebration of literacy and the written word. Each September in communities coast to coast, the public is invited to participate in hundreds of author events, presentations and workshops

and to browse a marketplace that boasts the best selection of Canadian books and magazines. The RASC will be promoting and selling membership and publications, along with enhancing the public profile of the Society.

### **Canada's First Urban Sky Park**

The Irving Nature Park in Saint John, NB has been chosen as Canada's first Urban Star Park. The Urban Star Park designation is part of an international effort by amateur and professional astronomers to help preserve the night-time environment for public enjoyment of the beauty and wonder of the night sky.

**Curt Nason**, President of RASC New Brunswick Centre, gives credit to the Irving Nature Park for understanding the importance of reducing light pollution.

Read the whole story [here](#).

### **Cypress Hills Observatory Opens**



One field over from the site of the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party, the observatory opened on August 25 at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. The complex includes a two-storey observatory where the telescope is mounted, with a dome that opens to the sky. There is also a classroom that can seat 60 people. Called a yurt, the circular tent allows people inside to view a screen that displays what the telescope is showing.

The observatory project was a project initiated by the Friends of Cypress Hills, an interest group that raises money and does labour within the Park because they love the park. They proposed the project, used both Saskatoon and Regina Centres for consultation, training and troubleshooting, but did every penny of fundraising and every minute of construction using volunteer labour and by recruiting volunteer or reduced-cost subcontractors. The Park provided resources under their existing operational budget to level the land, make a pathway and parking lot and prepare the land for the observatory. The project represents more than 2000 hours of direct volunteer labour plus thousand of hours of planning before that. There is NO Provincial or federal money in the project. Operation will be funded via continued fund-raising by the Friends.

## **► Across the RASC**

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### **Toronto Members do Warehouse Work**

by [Eric Briggs](#)

On August 8, the SyFy channel in the United States broadcast an episode of their show "Warehouse

13," which included scenes recorded at the David Dunlap Observatory this spring. RASC Toronto Centre volunteers were on hand to operate the telescope behind the scenes (the ballistic missile launched from inside the telescope tube was completely computer-generated!) The episode guest-starred the heart-throb actor **Gareth David Lloyd**, and a video has been uploaded to [YouTube](#) including all of Gareth's scenes, including the material from inside the dome. Wading through the Sherlockian back-story, there is also a sequence recorded at Toronto's Gooderham & Worts Distillery. Warehouse 13 will likely be broadcast in Canada later this Autumn.

## **A Year and a Half of SOHO Sun**

by [Larry McNish](#), Calgary Centre

My new music video showcasing SOHO (Solar and Heliospheric Observatory) combined LASCO C2 and EIT 304 images of the Sun from 2010 January 1 through 2011 July 5 is now being hosted as a SOHO "Hot Shot" on the [NASA and ESA SOHO](#) home pages.

This video covers the time from the end of the solar minima to the rise in activity through July 2011 and is in a high-resolution format suitable for large-screen projection at Centre meetings. It is available for free download in either MOV or MPEG formats from the SOHO site and is not copyrighted - so feel free to use or distribute it. Jorge Quintero, the composer of the music sound track, "300 Violin Orchestra," was kind enough to allow free downloading of his embedded composition to accompany the video.

A 4-page FAQ sheet on the movie is also available [here](#).

## **myCSC Clear Sky Charts App**

by [Brian J. Gibson](#), Mississauga Centre

I've developed a new Clear Sky Charts iOS 4.0 App for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch users. The free myCSC app is available on the iTunes App Store. Complete details are available [here](#).

## **► RASCals Highlights**

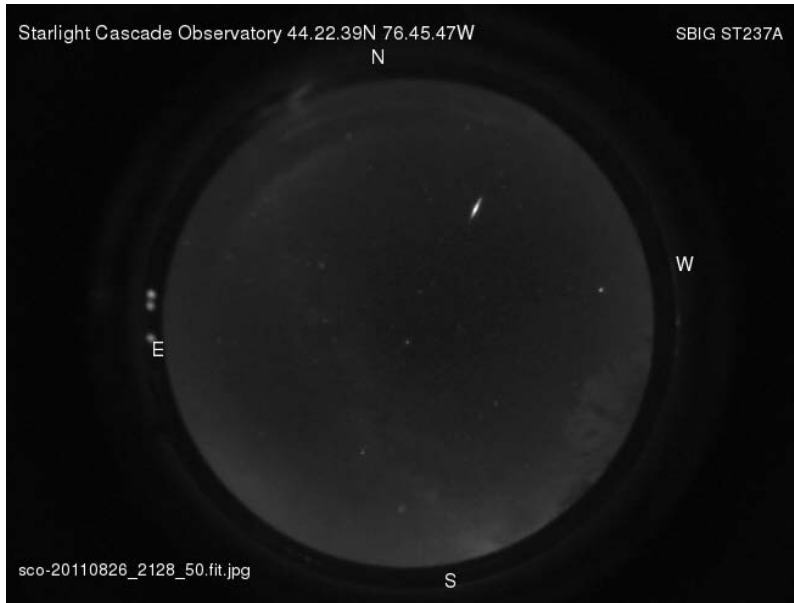
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### **-10 Meteor in the Night Sky**

by [Kevin Kell](#)

Kim, ever-intrepid astronomer, got me outside when I was ready to pack it in for the day and am I ever glad we went outside.

Skies were clear after 21:00 EDT with a little haze in the west. No bugs. Some neighbour lighting but what can you do?



We rolled open the roof (I can still hear the \*BANG\* of the roof flying off and landing elsewhere 8 years ago in the storm!) and Kim started to setup Starbuck, the 20cm Dobsonian to hunt for Comet C/2009 P1 Garradd. We saw the 21:23 pass of ISS in the North, completely by accident and watched it disappearing into the shadow.

It was about 21:28 EDT and I was looking elsewhere when a flashbulb of light went off. I have trained myself not to stand not moving in shock and incredulity but rather to turn my head up at the speed of whiplash and managed to catch the last bits of what I am

estimating a -10 meteor... -10 only because it was so much brighter than Jupiter or Venus but less than a full Moon. Direction was SSE to NNW and I saw it over the bowl of the Big Dipper, mostly overhead but closer to 60 deg altitude. It appeared white in colour (due to brightness no doubt), spreading across perhaps 20 degrees with no lasting trail. It appeared to be coming from the Vega Summer Triangle area.

Wow!

A little later Kim got Comet Garradd in the scope right next to M71. One of these days we will get some photographic ability hooked up. It was great. We watched it for about an hour trying to see it move. I did not see any detectable motion but I had a rough time trying to remember where it was the last time I looked 5 minutes back. At 22:09 EDT we had a nice -1 Iridium flare, again completely by accident.

I packed it in but Kim stayed up comet watching some more... Oh, did I mention the allsky camera got the meteor? :)

## ► The Sky this Month

### 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.

## ► Dates to Remember

- **2011 September 2-4** - [Butter Pot Star Party](#), Butter Pot Provincial Park, NL
- **2011 September 23-25** - [14th Annual Algonquin Adventure](#), Mew Lake Campground, APP, ON
- **2011 September 23-25** - [Fall'N'Stars](#), Thomasburg, ON
- **2011 September 24-25** - [Alberta Star Party](#), Starland Recreation Area Campground, AB

- 2011 September 27-October 2 - [Northern Prairie Star Party](#), Black Nugget Lake, AB



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