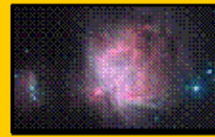
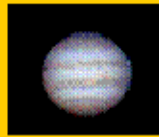


# BULLETIN



## OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

April 2012 - Volume 7, Number 4

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 [here](#).

A Web-based version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

### ► Editor's Notebook

by Ian Levstein

#### Final Issue as Editor

It's been a great ride, folks... but this will be my final issue as Editor of the *Bulletin*. I took over the reins in April 2008 and I have had a great time. I've been a RASC member for 23 years and I have been privileged to serve the Society in several roles... Editor of the *Bulletin* and President of the Kingston Centre chief among them! I fully intend to remain a member of RASC. However, as my final PhD research courses and dissertation approach, my time will be best served focused on my studies and, sadly, several activities that I currently enjoy will have to give way for the duration. I hope to see you all at a future GA once my studies are over and my time is finally my own again!

Starting with the May issue, **Dave Garner** (Kitchener-Waterloo Centre) will be the new editor. I have no doubt that the *Bulletin* will continue to flourish with Dave at the helm.

#### In Memoriam

With regret, we note the passing of [Tom Johnson](#), the founder of Celestron and the inventor of the modern Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope.

### ► News @ RASC.ca

#### 2013 Observer's Calendar - Call for Images

by [Paul Gray](#), New Brunswick Centre

Astronomical images of all types are invited for consideration for publication in the 2013 RASC *Observer's Calendar* including: deep-sky, Solar System, and dramatic astronomically themed landscapes.

Images can be prime focus, piggyback, eyepiece projection, or fixed tripod; and recorded on a digital/CCD camera, film, or webcam. Submitted images must be of sufficient quality and resolution to reproduce well at 9.5" x 12" and must be compatible with the "landscape" orientation of the calendar images. Generally, this will mean a resolution of at least 1200 pixels tall. We will also consider making

a quilt or mosaic of lunar/planetary webcam-captured images (so as not to over magnify an individual image for publication).

Starting this year we are also considering making a panel quilt or mosaic of sketches (so as not to over magnify an individual sketch for publication), so sketchers... get out your pencils and past work.

If you already have a gallery of images on your Web site, send me the link, but please also direct me to your favourites. Both well-known and obscure objects are published in the calendar, so to avoid having the same objects used too often, I will be screening for those that may have appeared in recent years.

Please email submissions to [me](#). While I have a bottomless email box, it's best to send me jpgs first. If your image is selected, I will request a full-resolution tiff version. Full-resolution tiff's will be required for use in print. The deadline for submissions is **May 31**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

## Explore the Universe Recipient

by [Chris Beckett](#), Observing Committee

Last year, National Council approved the delivery of the RASC's Explore the Universe (EU) program by the Cuban amateur astronomy community. The EU program was provided, and our new friends to the south translated the program into Spanish. We are pleased to announce that the first of what we hope will be many EU's pins and certificates was awarded this past month at a ceremony in Havana.

Congratulations to **Eladio Miranda Battle** of Vedado, Havana - seen here receiving his Explore the Universe Pin from **Alejandro Jiminez**. Eladio made all his observations "Mike Boschat-style" from his apartment balcony and roof using binoculars.



## Transit of Venus Viewing Sites

by [Ron Macnaughton](#), Chair, Education Committee

The ideal site to run a public viewing session on Tuesday June 5 has contradictory requirements:

- a) have a great view towards the northwestern horizon
- b) be easy for people to get to, with parking and public transit

Transit times can be found [here](#):

City	Time Zone	First contact Time (PM)	Sunset Time (PM)	Azimuth of Setting Sun
St. John's	Newfoundland	7:30	8:54	306
Halifax	Atlantic	7:03	8:55	303
Toronto	Eastern	6:04	8:55	303
Winnipeg	Central	5:05	9:32	308

Calgary	Mountain	4:05	9:46	309
Vancouver	Pacific	3:06	9:14	307

## Transit Powerpoint Talk Available for Centres

by [Ron Macnaughton](#), Chair, Education Committee

I made a Powerpoint talk on the transit for the Toronto Centre meeting. It is posted [here](#). If any Centre wishes to show this half-hour presentation feel free. It talks about:

- rarity of transits with tilted orbits
- why the start time in Vancouver is 3 minutes later than St John's
- different durations of transit from north and south, how distance to Venus found
- history of transit observations, especially the 1769 expeditions to Tahiti and Churchill
- equipment used then to observe transit – Gregorian telescopes and heliostats
- how transits are used to detect exoplanets

## Transit of Venus Symposium

by [Randall Rosenfeld](#), RASC Archivist

On 2012 April 28 (10am-5pm), the Dunlap Institute (DI) for Astronomy and Astrophysics and partners, including the RASC, are sponsoring a transit of Venus (ToV) symposium. Speakers include renowned solar and ToV expert **Prof. Jay Pasachoff** (Williams College), the noted exoplanet researcher **Prof. James Graham** (Director, DI), **Dr. Ralph Chou** (Toronto Centre) and **R.A. Rosenfeld** (RASC Archivist) among other presenters. In conjunction with the event is a display of historic scientific equipment contemporary with or used for Canadian ToV observations in 1762, 1769, and 1882.



The Symposium is free and no registration is required. The location of the Symposium is Alumni Hall (University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto), 121 St. Joseph Street, Toronto ON, M5S 3C2. There are plans to put the talks online for those who can't attend. For more information see [here](#).

## Winners of the 2012 Inaugural RASC Astrosketchers' Contest!

by [Randall Rosenfeld](#), RASC Archivist

We are pleased to announce the winners of the Inaugural RASC Astrosketchers' Contest: **Alexander Massey** (Sydney, Au.), for his drawing of Aristarchus, Herodotus et Vallis Schroteri, and **Gordon Webster** (Ottawa), for his drawing of Jupiter Europa Shadow Transit. Congratulations to both Alex and Gordon! The quality of all the entries was very high. The winning images can be found along with the other superb entries [here](#).

## Discover the Universe – Online Astronomy Workshops for Educators

by [Julie Bolduc-Duval](#), Coordinator

Following the success of our pilot program last year, we are pleased to offer our astronomy workshop

for informal educators in English and French in 2012. Our online workshops, which will run from May 14 to June 1, will cover basic astronomy concepts, activities to learn the sky, tips on how to run astronomy activities and much more! Our goal is to help educators feel more confident sharing the wonders of the night sky with their audience.

Please distribute this information to your contacts, in particular local parks, summer camps and youth groups. All our workshops are free!

To register and to find more information, please visit [here](#).

Discover the Universe / À la découverte de l'Univers is offered by the RASC, the Canadian Astronomical Society, and the Fédération des Astronomes Amateurs du Québec, with additional funding from NSERC-PromoScience.

## ► Across the RASC

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### Jupiter/Venus Conjunction

by [David Thorne](#), Halifax Centre



Among the many Jupiter/Venus conjunction photos received, this is one of the best.

**David Thorne**, Halifax Centre, took this photo on March 12 at 20:01:15 ADT.

The photo was taken with a Nikon D7000, 18mm, f/4.5, 2s, ISO 1000.

### New Award for Mississauga Centre

by [Chris Malicki](#), Secretary, Mississauga Centre

On February 10, **Randy Attwood** stepped down as President of the Mississauga Centre after 6 years. To acknowledge the major role that Randy has played in the Centre, the Mississauga Council has established a new highest award for outstanding service: the Attwood Award. On March 9, Randy was formally recognized as the first recipient of the award. The citation states that Randy has a love of astronomy and space exploration, is the Founding Father and heart and soul of the Mississauga Centre, promoted public outreach, spoke to the media, and recruited excellent speakers for meetings.

## Commemorative Astronaut Stamps

by [Rick Stankiewicz](#), Unattached RASC Member

I've put together an interesting collage and profile of two famous astronauts: [Valentina Tereshkova](#), and [John Glenn](#).

## ► Bulletin Photo of the Month

### From Orion to Jupiter

by [Rose-Marie Burke](#), Kingston Centre



Well, I did manage to drive back out to the lake after supper, headed down to the shore and set up the barndoor tracker. Orion, Taurus, Pleiades, Venus, and Jupiter all lined up in better position than I had hoped they'd be.

Started rubbing my hands and cackling with glee, waiting for night to fall. Most of the shots were just long exposures of 30 seconds or less, then I finally had full dark and took a few shots with the tracker. I didn't see the zodiacal light, but it looks

like it's showing up in a couple of the images. Oh man... I am homesick for dark skies!

Canon Rebel XT, 350D, ISO 400, f 4.0, 241 seconds, 10-20mm lens at 10mm. Timestamp (fixed) 20:54.

## ► 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

- **2012 April 1** - Deadline for GA Paper Proposals

- **2012 April 15** - Deadline for RASC Executive Nominations
- **2012 April 28** - Astronomy Day
- **2012 May 20** - Partial Solar Eclipse visible from Western Canada
- **2012 May 31** - Submission deadline for 2013 *Observer's Calendar*
- **2012 June 5** - Transit of Venus
- **2012 August 16-19** - [Starfest](#), the 31st annual event of the NYAA, Ayton, ON
- **2012 August 16-19** - [Summer Saskatchewan Star Party](#), Cyprus Hills Interprovincial Park, SK



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