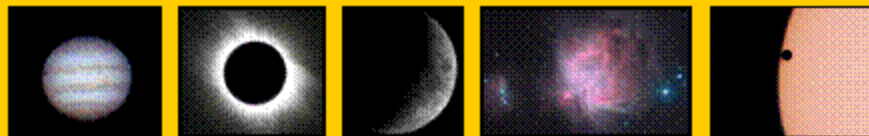


BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

May 2012 - Volume 7, Number 5

David Garner, Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at 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 David Garner

Taking On a New Challenge

As mentioned in April, Ian Levstein stepped down as Editor of the *Bulletin*. We will all miss him and the excellent job he did during his stewardship. As a RASC member since 1999, I have been privileged to serve in several roles including President of the Kitchener-Waterloo Centre and as a Contributing Editor to the *Journal*. I look forward to continuing my involvement with the RASC and working with you on future editions of the *Bulletin*.

► News @ RASC.ca

The New CNCA: What Does it Mean, and Why Bother?

by **Mary Lou Whitehorne**, RASC President

Many of you have known for some time that the new Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (CNCA) will have a major impact on RASC governance documents and structure. We are in the process of drafting a complete new set of By-Laws to replace the existing By-Law Number One that has served us for decades. There will be changes in how certain things are done as we transition from old to new legislative requirements in 2013-2014.

What will be the impact of the new Act on the RASC? What will be the most noticeable changes to how we operate as a Society? Why should we even bother to comply with all this legislative mumbo-jumbo?

To answer the last question first, there are many reasons why we should comply. As for impact and changes, most will happen "in the background," so will not be immediately obvious to most members. Other changes will make themselves felt rather quickly. For an overview of what the new Act will mean for the RASC, click the link to this discussion document:

What Does it all Mean? A discussion paper on the impact of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act on the RASC:

We hope this will answer your questions and help you understand and prepare for the coming changes under the new Act.

RASC Bound for Space!

by **Katrina Ince-Lum**, Toronto Centre

A patch of the RASC seal will be taken to the International Space Station (ISS) by Commander Chris Hadfield.



In December 2012, Commander Hadfield is scheduled to launch on a Soyuz capsule bound for the ISS, where he will live and work for six months as part of expedition 34/35. During the second part of his mission, he will be the first Canadian to command this human outpost in space.

The Canadian Space Agency also said that he's going to take a photograph with the seal in space.

So when we're doing public education and see the ISS flying overhead, we can all feel that a little part of us is up there too.

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).

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. The deadline for submissions is **May 31**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Transit of Venus

by **Ron Macnaughton**, Chair, Education Committee

A PowerPoint talk on the transit of Venus 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 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

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

Tales of the Transit of Venus

by **Jeff Swick**, President, Saskatoon Centre

The Saskatoon Centre is putting on a multimedia presentation about the Transit of Venus on May 12 featuring Alan Dyer as the guest speaker.



Eclipse Workshop in Regina

by **James Edgar**, National Secretary, Regina Centre

On May 20, the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina will be presenting a workshop for kids on how to view the partial eclipse. The workshop is from 2:00 pm. to 4:00 pm. and will be presented by James Edgar.

Print Your Own Wall-Sized Star Maps

by **Larry McNish**, Calgary Centre

I have recently completed a program that generates very large star maps suitable for hanging on the wall of an observatory or clubhouse for an all-sky view of the stars.

The image files are 40 to 50 MEGAPIXELS in size and are intended to be printed out 3 feet high by 6 feet wide (91.44cm x182.88cm).

I printed out mine at my local Staples store in black and white on 36-inch-wide-roll plain paper for a cost of: \$9.82 (\$8.82 + \$1 doc service charge) for the 3 x 6 ft (18 sq. ft.) black on white print and \$6.94 for a protection mailing tube to put it in (your cost may vary) = \$16.76 each + GST = \$17.60 Total.

Just send an email if you would like more information or are interested in obtaining one or more image files at no charge.



Upcoming Events for Toronto and Area

by **Eric Briggs**, Secretary, Toronto Centre

Space Weekend at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.

On Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 prepare to be star struck as you discover the fascinating phenomena from the sky above. Get your hands on a space rock, take a giant leap to the Moon, and learn the latest in space exploration. Hear how the stars and planets have played a part in the history of cultures around the world, and navigate the night sky in our mini-planetarium, as you join us for a weekend that's out of this world!

Dunlap Institute Keynote Lecture: Pluto is still dead and other good news.

May 19 (6:50 pm - 11:00 pm) at the J.J.R. MacLeod Auditorium with guest speaker Prof. Michael Brown.

➤ *Bulletin Photo of the Month*

The Leo Trio

by [Ron Brecher](#), Kitchener-Waterloo Centre



M65 (lower left), M66 (upper left) and NGC 3628 are three galaxies in the constellation Leo. This group of galaxies is around 30 million light-years away and is known as the Leo Trio or Leo Triplet. I've shot this many times, and I keep getting happier each time!

Shot from my SkyShed in Guelph, Ontario using an SBIG STL-11000M camera, Baader LRGB filters, 10" f/3.6 ASA astrograph, on an MI-250 mount.

➤ *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 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 June 28 - July 1 - Edmonton GA

2012 August 16-19 - [Starfest](#), the 31st annual event of the NYAA, Ayton, ON

2012 August 16-19 - [Saskatchewan Summer Star Party](#), Cyprus Hills Interprovincial Park, SK



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