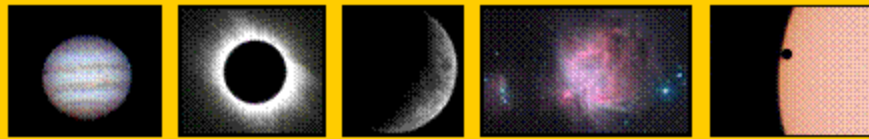


BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

September 2012 - Volume 7, Number 9

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

September's Sky

According to the 2012 [Observer's Handbook](#), Venus can be seen in the early morning eastern sky whereas Mars is found in the western evening sky. Jupiter rises near midnight and will be occulted by the Moon on September 8th. Saturn unfortunately will be gone by the end of the month but Uranus and Neptune will be visible throughout most of the night. The Autumnal Equinox begins September 22, 14:49 UT and the next Full Moon is September 30th.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness to the local astronomy community of Edmonton that Richard Vanderberg has died after a two-year battle with cancer. Richard was an active member of Edmonton Centre RASC for many years, serving as Centre President for two years.

With regret we announce that Sir Bernard Lovell OBE FRS died this August at the age of 98. The radio astronomer and physicist was known worldwide for developing the 76m (250ft) radio telescope at Jodrell Bank Observatory, in Cheshire, England.

► News @ RASC.ca

RASC Confronts the Harmful Effects of Light Pollution

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

This December, The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will publish *The Environmental Impact of Light-pollution and its Abatement* as a special supplement to its internationally recognized periodical, the *Journal*.

What are the causes of light pollution? What are the attached health risks? What techniques can we use to reduce these effects? Our report will address these issues, as well as present the new technological, social, and political solutions to help us move towards a future with a more benign use of artificial light at night. This special issue will be distributed to all RASC members, as well as to a global readership of parks, conservationists, environmentalists, Canadian astronomy clubs, government agencies and the media.



First “Man on the Moon” Dies at 82!

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

On August 25th a true space hero, Neil Armstrong, died at the age of 82. He just had his birthday less than three weeks earlier (Aug. 5th) and it was a surprise for most of the world that Armstrong was seriously ill. He died from complications after recent heart bypass surgery. I guess he was “flying under the radar”? In honour of a great man I have put together a philatelic tribute using stamps from around the world to show how he and his fellow astronauts (Buzz Aldrin & Michael Collins) have been recognized in the past. Just take a moment to study the following First Day Cover from the U.S.A. of their historic lunar landing on 1969 July 20. Note the use of the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM) “Eagle” in the cachet. Armstrong piloted this to the lunar surface. The cancellation is a double commemoration of both the actual landing date and the first day of issue for the 10-cent airmail “First Man On The Moon” stamp (1969 September 9). I included an overlay on this cover of an Armstrong stamp from a series issued by Qatar on 1969 December 6, that shows him in his flight suit. Beside this is an airmail stamp from Ras Al Khaima showing Armstrong in a suit with the LEM descending to the lunar surface in the background. The other stamps show the Dominica stamp from 1970, February 2, depicting Armstrong stepping off the LEM to the lunar surface. The Apollo 11 crew is shown in the margin of the stamp sheet. To the right is the famous Apollo crew suspended in front of a lunar image issued by Ajman. What a mission, what a crew, what a man. “One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.” God speed Neil Armstrong!



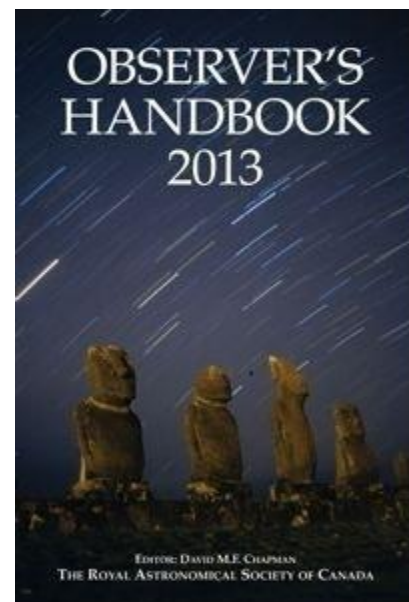
Coming Soon!

by [David Chapman](#), Editor, *Observer's Handbook*

The 2013 *Observer's Handbook* will be available in early October and the National Office is taking pre-orders now!

RASC members will receive their complimentary copy of the *Observer's Handbook 2013* as a benefit of membership in mid-October.

For more information, click: [Handbook](#).



RASC Announcement

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

The *Observer's Calendar* features spectacular astro-images taken by amateur astronomers. Produced each year by volunteers, the monthly grids have information on rise and set times, lunar phenomena, conjunctions, eclipses, meteor showers, historical events, star party dates, and more!

The 2013 *Observer's Calendar* will be ready for shipping in early October. The RASC National Office is now taking pre-orders.

Place your order by calling 1-888-924-7272; by email at mempub@rasc.ca, or visit the RASC estore at www.rasc.ca

RASC Member's Price \$15.95 plus S&H and applicable taxes.
Limited Quantities. Order your copy today!



RASC Group Property and Auto Insurance

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

RASC Group Property & Auto Insurance Program exclusive to RASC members

First Durham Insurance Brokers is pleased to present The RASC Group Property and Auto insurance program, exclusively for members of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. As a RASC member you will have exclusive access to a wide range of home and auto insurance products, while saving up to 60%. Underwritten by Economical Select, one of the largest insurers in Canada and specializing in Group Property and Auto Insurance programs. Economical Insurance has partnered with hundreds of group programs across Canada and has the strength and financial depth to honour their commitments and financial obligations. RASC members will have access to dedicated insurance professionals who will deliver exceptional service while putting your need for coverage and value as their first priority.

For more information, click: [RASC Group Home Auto Insurance](#).

► Bulletin Photo of the Month

The Triangle of Mars

by [Arthur Rae](#), Windsor Centre

This August has been exceptional clear sky wise down here in Essex County at the bottom of Canada with 16 clear nights out of 25 so far. Thus it has been easy to observe with the naked eye the "Triangle of Mars," the group consisting of Saturn, Spica and of course Mars, in a tight triangle in the early evening western sky. It is surprising to see Mars move so far across the sky in a short period of days. An added attraction on August 21 was the Moon in passing. And it has been appropriate to view the red planet knowing that this month brought a new Earth visitor to the planet in the form of the surface explorer Mars Rover Curiosity.



► 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.



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