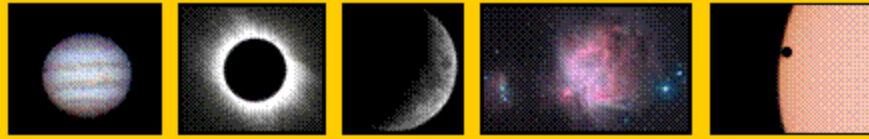


BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

June 2014 - Volume 9, Number 6

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

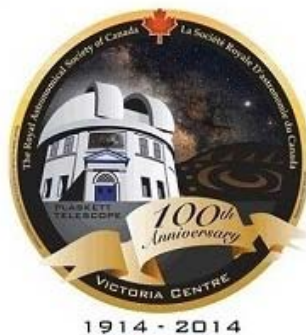
June's Sky

We have a full Moon on Friday, the 13th of June and a new Moon on the 27th. For the first week Mercury is still in the evening sky whereas Venus is in the eastern morning sky. Mars is moving eastward against the stars of Virgo, Jupiter is low in the western evening sky and some observers can watch for an occultation of Saturn by the Moon on June 10th. For more details check the *2014 Observer's Handbook*. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#).

➤ News @ RASC.ca

The 2014 General Assembly

by [Paul Schumacher](#), Victoria Centre, Co-chair of 2014 GA Organizing Committee



2014 GA : Victoria Centre : June 26 - June 29

Join the members of Victoria Centre as we celebrate 100 years of being a RASC Centre at our 2014 RASC General Assembly. To add to the festivities, we will also be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, located in Saanich, B.C., just to the north of downtown Victoria.

The 2014 General Assembly will showcase the DAO, University of Victoria's new observatory located on the campus, which is our assembly headquarters, a wide-ranging scientific and cultural program for your entire family, and all this conducted against the spectacular natural beauty of Canada's West Coast. Guest Speakers include Dr Laura Ferrarese, Bob McDonald of CBC's *Quirks and Quarks*, and RASC's own Peter Broughton.

Victoria is serviced by both of our domestic air carriers and can be reached by convenient car ferry service connecting Victoria to Vancouver, B.C. and Seattle, Washington.

From on-campus accommodation at the University of Victoria to nearby hotel and RV facilities, there are many lodging options available in the Greater Victoria area for RASC members.

Registration can be made at RASC.ca.

Please join us in Victoria, June 26 to June 29 for the 2014 GA.

RASC VICTORIA CENTRE

2014 General Assembly Organizing Committee

Mark Bohlman, Co-Chair mbohlman@shaw.ca Paul Schumacher, Co-Chair docpschu@shaw.ca

Board of Directors Election

by [James Edgar](#), RASC National Secretary, Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that eight candidates for the Board of Directors election are acclaimed to the Board for the coming year. When the new Board of Directors takes office in June, it will have to choose which members serve the various length of terms, so that we have three open seats in each of the coming years. The new Board will also choose the new Executive from its ranks, and the Board may choose a ninth member for the Board.

While we thank all the applicants and tireless volunteers, the committee members note that there were no applicants from the Centres east of Ontario. In addition, there were too few applicants to drive an election and the valuable membership debate and direction that results. Members are urged to consider running for the Board when next year's election comes up, as this is a sure way to get involved with the direction of our Society.

The new Directors are (in alphabetical order):

- Randy Boddam (Belleville)
- James Edgar (Regina)
- Karen Finstad (Ottawa)
- Chris Gainor (Victoria)
- Denis Grey (Toronto)
- Colin Haig (Hamilton)
- Craig Levine (London)
- Paul Schumacher (Victoria)

Bios and photos are posted on the Web at www.rasc.ca/election-2014-results.

2013 Essential Annual Report

by [James Edgar](#), RASC National Secretary, Board of Directors

The 2013 Essential Annual Report has gone to the printers for those members without email access. It is posted in the Member's Area on the Web at www.rasc.ca/system/files/private/annual-report-2013-essential.pdf.

The Extended Annual Report, which contains the following:

- 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes
- 2013 Annual Reports from Centres
- 2014 Award Winners
- 2014 Centre Addresses and Executives
- 2014 National Advisory Council

are published and posted on the Web.

Observer's Handbook Update

by [James Edgar](#), RASC National Secretary, Board of Directors

The *Observer's Handbook* Editor, Dave Chapman, is in the fourth year of a five-year term. If any members are interested in becoming part of this exciting production team, contact Colin Haig, at astronome@outlook.com.

Canada Wide Science Fair

by [Robyn Foret](#), RASC Chair – Education & Public Outreach

Within the National Science Fair Program, the Canada-Wide Science Fair constitutes the national championship round, where finalists from Regional Science Fairs across the country meet and compete. This year's event in Kingston awarded two students with our sponsored awards for Excellence in Astronomy.

The Intermediate Award was granted to Caleb Winder from Camlachie, Ontario for his "Star in a Jar" project. Here's an abstract:

On Earth, there are limited ways of sustaining nuclear fusion reactions. One way is through a process called Inertial-Electrostatic Confinement (IEC). This utilizes ion-acceleration grids to confine a high energy plasma. These reactors are very inefficient, so it was theorized that improved grid shapes would improve the efficiency. It was found that an electro-magnetic field generating grid would confine the plasma with a

higher efficiency.

Keep an eye out for Caleb's planned Project to build the world's first amateur fission reactor.

The RASC awarded Caleb with a Celestron NexStar 5SE telescope with a PowerTank 17 and a 1 year Youth Membership in the RASC. Caleb is now a member of the London Centre.

The Junior Award was granted to Grant Mansiere from Summerland, B.C. for his project "Does Light Cause Crime?" Grant's concept was inspired by hearing of a woman who was beaten in a dark parking lot. Here's an abstract:

Is there a connection between light (measured in skyglow) and different types of crime? The analysis of crime distribution along with skyglow revealed patterns. My study backs up the surprising results from other cities that have added light (and suffered increased crime) or reduced light (and had reduced crime). Lighting can help criminals, cause health and environmental issues, and is costly. Solutions to skyglow examined.

The RASC awarded Grant with a Celestron NexStar 4SE with a PowerTank 17 and a 1 year Youth Membership in the RASC. Grant is now a member of the Okanagan Centre.

Special thanks to Colin Haig, our 1st Vice President, for representing the RASC at this year's event in Kingston. Taking a full day to participate in the ceremonies and present the awards to the talented young scientists, Colin is a past award winner of the Fair circa 1980/81?

A thank you also to All-Star Telescope's Ken From for his special consideration; supplying the Celestron telescopes and Power Tanks within the confines of the Education Committee budget.

The RASC has been a proud sponsor of the CWSF/ESPC since 1962. Next year's Fair will be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Asteroids with a Canadian Connection

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

A couple of new asteroids have been named to the List of Asteroids with Canadian Connections:

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-29982>

Asteroid (29982) Sarahwu

Junyi (Sarah) Wu (b.1996) was awarded second place in the 2013 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for her medicine and health sciences project. She attends the Assumption College School, Brantford, Ontario, Canada.

Reference: MPC 88406

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-339223>

Asteroid (339223) Stongemorin

Gilbert St-Onge (b. 1955) and Lorraine Morin (b. 1944) are a Canadian amateur astronomical family with outreach and scientific contributions. They are star party organizers, founding members of CDADFS astronomy club and collaborators to other clubs. They are co-authors of refereed papers on the black drop effect and RY Tauri.

Reference: MPC 88005

These are listed on the Web site, www.rasc.ca/canadian-asteroids.

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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