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We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*.
Email them to the Editor, David Garner at
bulletin@rasc.ca

➤ [News @ RASC.ca](#)

News from the Society Office

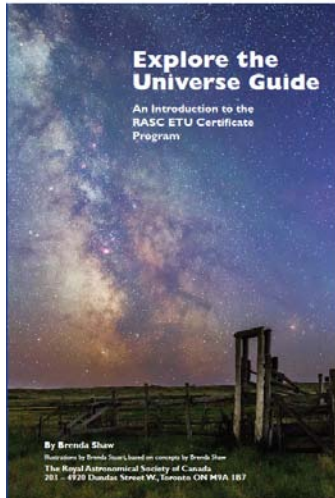
by [Randy Attwood](#), RASC Executive Director



Observer's Calendar 2017

A beautiful calendar showcasing RASC members' astro images with information on what's up in the sky tonight. A perfect gift for the beginner and a must-have for the experienced observer. **Now available for purchase!**

***NOTE to Centres: Please place your OC 2017 orders with Julia Neeser**
mempub@rasc.ca *



NEW Item: **Explore the Universe Guide**

The *Explore the Universe Guide* is now **available for order!**

If you are just starting out in astronomy, the ETU Guide is for you. This illustrated book answers questions about astronomical coordinates, constellations, eclipses, the Moon, major and minor planets, comets and more. It's the perfect guide to start learning your way around the sky!



NEW Item: **AstroWear Value Pack**

Get this all-in-one pack: RASC Hooded Sweatshirt (Navy), NEW Royal Blue RASC Baseball Cap and RASC Crest. Hoodie available in sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL. Please email **Julia Neeser** (mempub@rasc.ca) for size availability and requests.

Price: \$49.95

****Value Pack available until Dec 1st****

Awards Deadline

by [James Edgar](#), Past President RASC

The deadline for the RASC's National Awards Program—2016 December 31—is rapidly approaching.

Here is an outline of the awards and their criteria:

CHANT MEDAL The Chant Medal is awarded based on a significant body of work of lasting value to the astronomical community and is named after C.A. Chant, a noted astronomer at the University of Toronto who helped to found the David Dunlap Observatory there.

KEN CHILTON PRIZE Established in memory of Ken Chilton, this prize is awarded for a specific piece of astronomical research or work carried out or published recently.

SERVICE AWARD The Service Award, established in 1959, is awarded to RASC members who have made significant contributions at the National and/or the Centre levels.

SIMON NEWCOMB AWARD The Simon Newcomb Award was established in 1979 for excellence in astronomical writing by an RASC member.

QILAK AWARD Established in 2011, this award is intended to recognize individual Canadian residents or teams of residents who have made an outstanding contribution during a particular time period either to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy in Canada or to informal astronomy education in Canada and to promote such activities among the members of the sponsoring organizations.

FELLOWSHIP AWARD Established in 2013, this award is given to recognize long-term commitment to the Society.

Nominations for awards should be sent to the Awards Committee at awards20000@rasc.ca.

For more information on the awards nominations, see www.rasc.ca/rasc-awards.

2017 General Assembly – Ottawa, June 29 to July 3

by **Brian McCullough** and **Tim Cole**, 2017 GA Committee, Ottawa Centre

For information regarding the 2017 GA, check out our website:

<http://ottawa.rasc.ca/content/2017-general-assembly-ottawa>.

You'll find the highlights, bios of the major speakers, promo video, and extensive information on accommodations.

We also have a promotional video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9WSHYjIDA4&feature=youtu.be>

Important announcement regarding accommodations.

For out-of-town GA delegates, the GA team has secured a block of two-bedroom suites at the Residence and Conference Centre Ottawa West.

The residence is located at the Algonquin College campus, adjacent to the GA meeting areas.

We have reserved a block of two-bedroom suites at the very attractive rate of \$180 (plus tax) /*per double suite, per night*/. In order to secure this special rate, we had to guarantee a minimum booking of four nights on each double suite. Suites may be shared, of course.

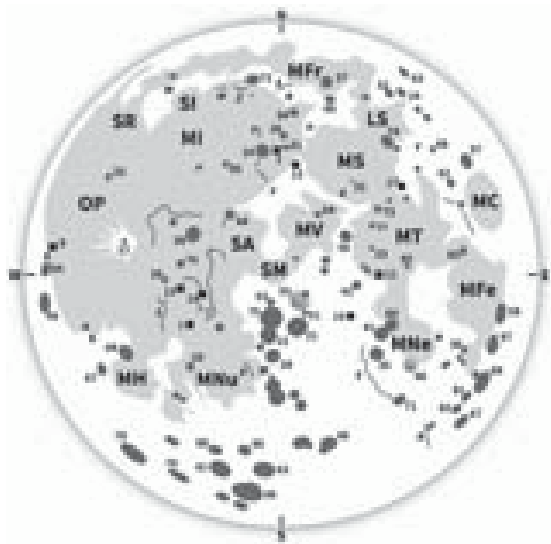
Please note that *RCC Ottawa West only accepts bookings for two-room suites, not individual rooms*. We regret the inconvenience, but we are asking delegates to please arrange their own suite mates, and have setup a bulletin board style Suite Mate Finder on our Ottawa Centre website. Each room in the suite can be locked, but the bathroom and kitchenette are shared spaces.

The suites will be held for us until 2016 December 15, after which they will be released and offered to the general public. Demand for rooms in Ottawa is expected to exceed capacity over the Canada Day weekend next year.

General registration will be open in the coming months, but it is imperative that attendees book their accommodations through our web site as soon as possible. For more information, please go to the Ottawa Centre website at: <http://ottawa.rasc.ca/content/2017-general-assembly-ottawa>

Explore the Moon Lunar Observing Program

by **Dave Chapman**, RASC, Halifax Centre



NEW! Explore the Moon—a beginners lunar observing program

This observing program bridges the gap between the introductory Explore the Universe Observing Program and the more challenging Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program. It is ideal for beginning observers who are just learning about telescopes and binoculars, by providing a hands-on observing experience on an easy object—the Moon. The program is based on the 94 lunar features listed and charted in the RASC *Observers Handbook*, originally selected by Roy Bishop, who was Handbook editor for 19 years. Explore the Moon was field-tested in 2012–2015 by several beginning observers in the RASC Halifax Centre, some of whom went on to complete other RASC observing programs. At this time, only the telescope version in English is available; we hope to offer a binocular version in English and both of those in French, in due course. We welcome feedback from observers!

Why Observe the Moon?

This may seem like a funny question. Many amateur astronomers, however, shun the Moon. It is true that moonlight interferes with the enjoyment of observing and photographing the “faint fuzzies,” which are deep-sky objects. A better option is to remain calm and observe the Moon on those nights when it dominates the sky. Here’s a list of benefits of lunar observing, particularly for beginning observers:

- It’s easy to find!;
- You can observe from home, even in the city—no need to travel to a dark-sky site;
- The Moon is bright, offering plenty of detail, even in small telescopes or binoculars;
- Observing the Moon is ideal for learning how to operate your telescope and binoculars;
- Finding the principal features is not hard, so you can learn observing skills;
- It’s our nearest celestial neighbour!

For more details, see <http://www.rasc.ca/observing/explore-the-moon-observing-certificate>

Workshop on the History of Canadian Radio Astronomy

by **R.A. Rosenfeld**, RASC Archivist

Late last July a significant conference on the history of Canadian Radio Astronomy was held at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (DRAO) in Penticton, BC. The workshop, ably organized by Dr. Tim Robishaw (DRAO), working with Prof. Jasper Wall (UBC) and Dr. Elizabeth Griffin (DAO), featured in Tim’s words “27 talks covering a breadth of stories about the development of radio astronomy at Canada’s universities and observatories”. Fascinating and not widely known details on the key Canadian installations, discoveries, and discoverers were presented by those who were involved with the science. It should be recalled that many of the key early figures were also RASC members who played varying roles in the Society. International perspectives on the Canadian developments

were provided by Woody Sullivan (University of Washington), Miller Goss (NRAO), and others.

A website on the workshop can be found at <http://astroherzberg.org/radiohistory2016/>, and the talks are available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbvmO2TffPk-hU1Pcysw71LT9TO7pNva>.

Also available now thanks to workshop participant Joseph Fletcher are the presentations from the 1987 NRC workshop “*Radio Astronomy and Canada: Fifty Years of Progress*”, featuring talks by RASC members Grote Reber, Art Covington, Peter Millman and others, at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbvmO2TffPk_VucGhQLhgnyOrpb0o3RjM.



Thank You to our Sponsors!

by [Julia Neeser](#), RASC Marketing Coordinator

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has a unique partnership with our friends in the astronomy industry. We are offering companies the distinction of becoming a charter sponsor of the RASC, Canada's pre-eminent amateur

astronomy organization. This offer is available only to those industry leaders who recognize the value in being associated with the amateur astronomy community.
<http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors>.



What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the **Northern Skies** section of the RASC website. Thanks to Gary Boyle for keeping us all in the know. Julia Neeser creates "The Solar System" monthly with data from James Edgar's "Skies" newspaper articles at <http://www.rasc.ca/observing>.



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