

2009 Award Citations

Simon Newcomb Award, to James Edgar (Regina Centre)

James Edgar is well known in the Society for his writing and editorial contributions to our own publications. He has contributed to the Observer's Handbook and Journal for a number of years, as well as writing popular articles for the Regina Centre newsletter, Stargazer. It's fair to say that James is an experienced writer of things astronomical.

What most of us don't know is that James' reach goes far beyond the confines of the RASC. Most pertinent to this nomination is the fact that he has been writing a popular newspaper column on astronomy for the past two and a half years. His monthly column is syndicated to twenty newspapers that reach 24,000 people in over 100 communities in the province of Saskatchewan.

His column is called "Skies," as in "June Skies," "July Skies" and so on. James writes about the sky and how best to observe it, with a bit of scientific, technological and/or historical content for clarity and context. He does this with a clear and straightforward style, thus engaging the interest and meeting the needs of the general public. The work meets the Simon Newcomb Award criteria of originality, literary merit, and scientific accuracy; and especially the criteria of educational value and promotion of the Society's objectives.

James is a life member and one of the Society's unsung heroes, working quietly and diligently in the background, for the growth and success of the RASC. He expects no recognition, but does this for the love of it, and out of devotion to the RASC. It is members like James, who carry a passion for astronomy, that are the lifeblood of the RASC, and who most deserve the kind of recognition embodied in the Simon Newcomb Award.