

Jay Anderson Citation

We (Alan Whitman and Scott Young) nominate that Jay Anderson be honoured with the Simon Newcomb Award for his many years of service to the Canadian and worldwide total solar eclipse-chasing community. Mr. Anderson and F. Espenak co-author the NASA eclipse bulletins, their most recent book-length bulletin being “Annular and Total Solar Eclipses of 2010.”

They also co-author the solar eclipse section in the RASC Observer’s Handbook, plus short articles in Sky & Telescope a few months before major eclipses. For decades Mr. Anderson’s authoritative summary of the climatological cloud cover along the length of each solar eclipse path has been one of the main considerations that eclipse expeditions from around the world use to choose their intended observing site.

Mr. Anderson’s discussion of the usual weather patterns and topographic influences at various potential observing sites along the eclipse path is the starting point for the self-education that every eclipse meteorologist must undertake in the two years prior to any eclipse tour abroad for which he will be providing weather consultation.

Mr. Anderson’s reputation is now such that he is the recognized expert on eclipse meteorology and the hundreds of worldwide members of the Solar Eclipse Mailing List routinely direct their questions on climatology and causative weather factors to Mr. Anderson. An important part of Mr. Anderson’s advice is the strategies that he suggests for mobility on eclipse day if clouds threaten.

This Council recognizes the great service that Mr. Anderson’s writing on these topics has provided to his worldwide readership for decades, leading to an increased success rate for solar eclipse expeditions that are mobile on eclipse day in comparison to the one-time practice of just setting up at a pre-determined point and hoping for the best.