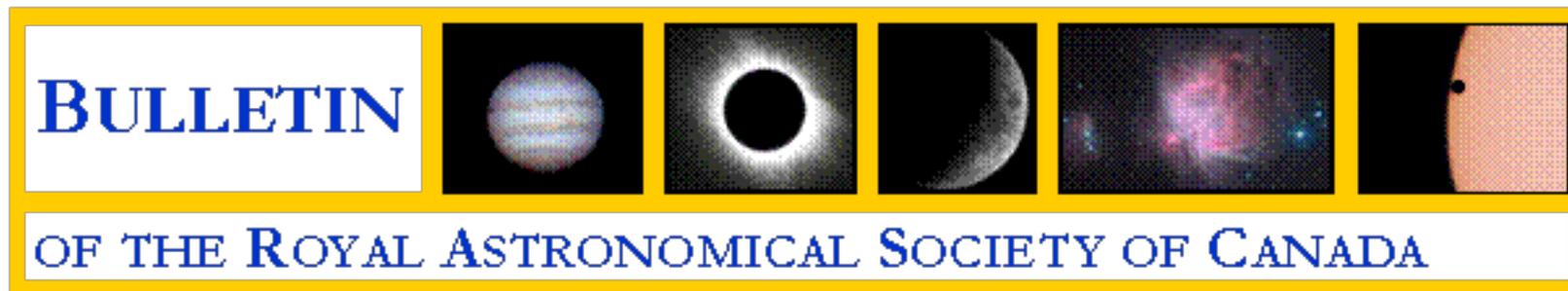


2008-12



December 2008 - Volume 3, Number 12

Ian Levstein, Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca [1].

Member: ~FULL_NAME~, RASC ID: ~ID~

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

Flash Minutes NC084 Online

The unofficial flash minutes for the 2008 November 16 (NC084) national committee meeting are now online [here](#) [2].

December Journal Online

The December *Journal of the RASC* is now online [here](#) [3].

Calgary Solar Eclipse Expedition to China

by **Glenn Hawley**, 2nd VP The Calgary Centre of the RASC, along with Civilized Adventures of Calgary, will be conducting an expedition to view the 2009 July 22 Total Solar Eclipse from China. **Don Hladiuk** and **Glenn Hawley**, both experienced eclipse chasers with a solid record of successful viewing, will be leading the tour. In part because the absence of the price effect caused by the Olympic Games, this trip is an even better bargain than the one for the 2008 eclipse. The itinerary and pricing are available [here](#) [4].

Society Awards Nominations Encouraged

by **Peter Jedicke**, Chair, Awards Committee The formal deadline to nominate members for most of the Society's awards is 2008 December 31. The Awards Committee is particularly interested in receiving nominations for the Chant Medal, the Ken Chilton Prize, the Service Award, and the Simon Newcomb Award. Nominations from individual members or from Centre councils are welcome, depending on the rules of each award. Advice or further encouragement are available informally from the [Awards Committee Chair](#) [5]. For more details on each award, recent citations and an extended list of past winners, see [here](#) [6].

Canadian Meteor Observer Honoured

by **Michael Boschat**, Halifax Centre The IAU Minor Planet Center contains the following new asteroid naming: (142368) Majden. The asteroid was discovered on 2002 September 14 by R. Matson on NEAT images taken at Palomar. **Edward Majden**, co-discoverer of two near-earth asteroids, is an amateur astronomer best known for more than 35 years' work recording meteor spectra. An associate member of the Meteorites and Impacts Advisory Committee, he was awarded the 2006 Chant Medal of the RASC.

RASC Members Co-discover Supernova

SUPERNOVA 2008hj in MCG-02-1-14

T. Puckett, Ellijay, GA, U.S.A.; E. Briggs, Toronto, ON, Canada; and J. Newton, Portal, AZ, U.S.A., report the discovery of an apparent supernova (mag 17.2) on unfiltered CCD images (limiting mag 18.5) taken with a 0.40-m reflector at Portal on Nov. 20.14 UT in the course of the Puckett Observatory Supernova Search. IAU Electronic Circular 1579 reports that Toronto-based RASC member **Eric Briggs** and Arizona-based RASC member **Jack Newton** co-discovered Supernova 2008hj as part of Tim Puckett's Puckett Observatory Supernova Search program. The discovery was made on an image taken on November 20th from Jack's Portal, Arizona home observatory. Eric subsequently reviewed the images and compared them to earlier images and noticed the new object. This resulted in a confirmation image being taken by Tom Oorf from Tim's Georgia-based observatory. The new object is associated with the faint galaxy MCG-02-1-14 and was magnitude 17.2 at the time of discovery. CBET 1583 reports that, using the Dupont 2.2-m and Subaru 8.2-m telescopes, it is type-1a supernova near maximum light.

Observer's Handbook Reviewed

Peter Calamai wrote a terrific review of the 2009 *Observer's Handbook* for his regular column in the *Toronto Star*. Read it online [here](#) [7].

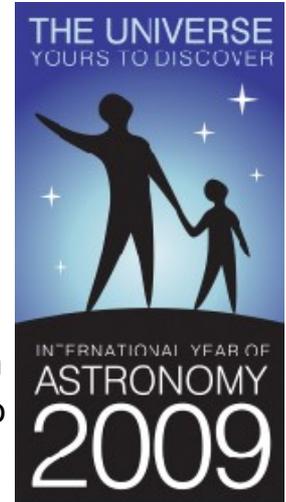
► International Year of Astronomy 2009

Canada and the Stars

by Randall Rosenfeld, RASC Archivist



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is sponsoring a competitive writing contest, **Canada and the Stars**. This is an IYA 2009 project with generous funding from the Ruth Northcott fund, which



will allow prizes of up to \$500 for winning entries. The aim of *Canada and the Stars* is to increase general knowledge among Canadians of our stellar national contribution to astronomy. Any subject with significant Canadian astronomical involvement, from pre-contact (ca. 1497) to the present, is suitable for entry. Articles can be on a research project, a discovery, a theory, a technique, an instrument, an observatory, amateur or professional astronomers, pro-am collaborations, international collaborations involving Canadian astronomers, or an expression of astronomy in the wider Canadian culture, such as in art, thought, social structures and interactions, or any combination of these. Canadian citizens, landed immigrants, or anyone resident in Canada during the window of submission (2008 December 1 to 2009 August 1) is eligible (the requirement of Canadian nationality/residency is waived for RASC members - any RASC member is eligible except for those on the judging panel). Contributions can be in French or English. Contest rules and downloadable and printable posters are available [here](#) [8].

► Across the RASC

Moon Over Nanaimo

James MacWilliam took this terrific photo of the Moon in Scorpius. The photo was taken at Davis Bay, Sechelt, BC using a Canon DSLR on a tripod.

James is a member of the Sunshine



Moon in Scorpius over Nanaimo, November 2008

photo by: **James MacWilliam**

Toronto Astronomy Festival Update

by **Denis Grey**, Toronto Centre The Toronto Astronomy Festival is moving ahead for Saturday, January 10th. Confirmed participants include the **Toronto** and **Mississauga Centres** of the RASC, **York University**, **Centre for Theoretical Astrophysics** (University of Toronto), **SkyNews**, **Humber College**, **MDA**, and more! Keynote speakers include **Ivan Semeniuk** (Superscope! The Future of Cosmic Exploration), **Ray Jayawardhana** (Worlds Beyond: The Diversity of Extra-Solar Planets) and **Peter McMahon** (Canada's Star Parties: A Guide to Campsite Astronomy in our Nation's Wild Places). In addition to these keynote presentations, there will be a series of smaller workshops, solar observing, and the premiere showing of the International Year of Astronomy Photo Exhibiton in Canada. A highlight of the event will be the official proclamation of January 10th as International Astronomy Day in Toronto. Mark your calendar for this exciting FREE event and plan to come to the Ontario Science Centre between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Stay tuned to the RASC [eNews](#) [9] and the *Bulletin* for more updates as they become available.

► Bulletin Video of the Month

Lost in Space

This month's offering is a short video that has been seen by thousands in Canada, the US, the UK, and elsewhere around the world. RASC member, **Kevin Fetter**, managed to capture NASA's lost tool bag as it streaked across the night sky. You can view Kevin's video [here](#) [10].



Kevin has since been interviewed by reporters on both sides of the 49th Parallel, and he got a very nice write-up from his own local [newspaper](#) [11].

Currently, you can track the tool bag and find out when it will be visible in your area. Go to [Heaven's Above](#) [12], punch in your latitude and longitude (under "Configuration"), and then click the link under "ISS Tool Bag" near the top of the page.

Bob has a tool bag... NASA's missing one!

Coincidence?

► The Sky this Month

What's New in the Sky

Readers are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) [13] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know!

► Dates to Remember

- **2009 January 8** - Canadian IYA Launch, Canada Science & Technology Museum
- **2009 January 9-11** - Canadian IYA Kickoff Events, Across [Canada](#) [14]
- **2009 January 10** - Astronomy Fair, Toronto
- **2009 April 2-5** - 100 Hours of Astronomy
- **2009 July 16-26** - Total Solar Eclipse Tour, China



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Links:

- [1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>
- [2] <http://www.rasc.ca/private/minutes/motions20081116.txt>
- [3] <https://www.rasc.ca/jrasc/recent>
- [4] http://www.civilizedadv.com/trip_pages/trips/2009/CH090709.html
- [5] [mailto:pjedicke@fanshawec.ca?subject=Awards Info](mailto:pjedicke@fanshawec.ca?subject=Awards%20Info)
- [6] <https://www.rasc.ca/rasc-awards>
- [7] http://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2008/11/23/searching_the_frontiers_of_science.html
- [8] <http://wwwold.rasc.ca/education/iya/csc.shtml>
- [9] <http://www.rasc.ca/news/>
- [10] <http://www.kfetter.com/satvideo/other/33442.wmv>
- [11] <http://www.recorder.ca/2008/11/27/local-stargazer-makes-news-around-the-world>
- [12] <http://www.heavens-above.com>
- [13] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/northern-skies>
- [14] <http://www.astronomy2009.ca>
- [15] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>
- [16] <http://www.rasc.ca>