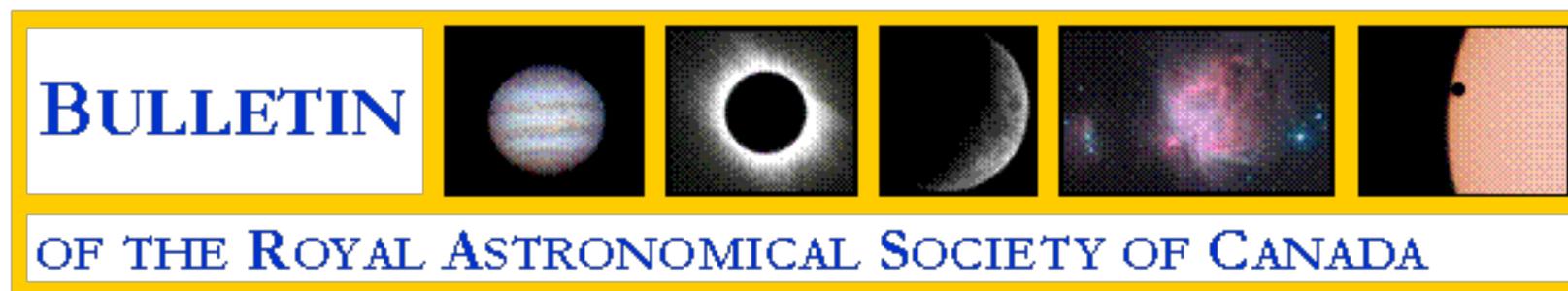


2009-06



June 2009 - Volume 4, Number 6

Ian Levstein, Editor

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

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

[2009 RASC General Assembly and SSSP Registration Now Open](#)

See the RASC [Web site](#) [2] for more details and registration information.

[Submit Your Ideas for the 2010 Observer's Handbook Challenge](#)

by **Alister Ling** Please share with us a wonderful visual observing experience you've had (or want to have!) that might inspire hundreds of skygazers to try as well. Aim for an event or object that will leave observers thinking "that would be cool!". It can require a telescope or be visible to the unaided eye, just as long as it's not hopelessly beyond the reach of most amateur astronomers. Will you play a role in helping fellow observers achieve a personal best, and enjoy an experience out of the ordinary? Please send your ideas to [Alister Ling](#) [3] or [Pat Kelly](#) [4].

[Where Will You be Partying in 2010?](#)

by **Alister Ling**

In order for your big stargazing events to show up in the RASC *Observer's Calendar* in 2010, you need to

send the dates to the Associate Calendar Editor, [Alister Ling](#) [5]. We are aiming for a **July 1** deadline because the G.A. and summer holidays may not permit late entries.

2010 *Observer's Calendar* - Call for Images

by **Dave Lane**, Editor, *Observer's Calendar*

Astronomical images of all types are invited for consideration for publication in the 2010 *Observer's Calendar* including: deep sky, solar system, and dramatic astronomically themed landscapes. Images can be prime focus, piggyback, eyepiece projection, or fixed tripod; and recorded on a digital/CCD camera or film.

Submitted images must be of sufficient quality and resolution to reproduce well at 10" x 12.5" and must be compatible with the "landscape" orientation of the calendar images. Generally, this will mean a resolution of at least 1200 pixels tall.

If you already have a gallery of images on your Web site, send me the link, but also direct me to your favourites. Both well-known and obscure objects are published in the calendar, so to avoid having the same objects used too often, I will be screening for those that may have appeared in recent years.

Please email submissions to me [here](#) [6]. While I have a bottomless email box, it's best to send me jpegs first. If your image is selected, I will request a full resolution tiff version. The deadline for submissions is **2009 June 15**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

► [Across the RASC](#)

10th Anniversary of Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Preserve

by **Robert Dick**, Light Pollution Abatement Committee

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Torrance Barrens as a Dark Sky Preserve. To recognize this accomplishment, there will be a dedication ceremony at the Barrens on the afternoon of Saturday, **October 17**. If you plan to be in the area, you are all welcome.

Initially, the Torrance Barrens (about 2-hours north of Toronto) was a Provincial Conservation Reserve due to its unique landscape and vegetation. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and the Muskoka Heritage Foundation (MHF), with the support of the RASC, declared it a Dark Sky Reserve on 1999 August 11. In 2001, the RASC recognized it as a RASC Dark Sky Preserve, which began the national DSP Program that now covers the country. In recognition of the IYA 2009, the RASC will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Torrance Barrens DSR/DSP along side the OMNR and the MHF.

There will be a number of planned activities at the Barrens and in nearby communities. At midday, there will be a ceremony at the site with Ministry, municipal and environmental groups in attendance along with the media. Guided nature hikes through the area will follow. Indoor displays and family activities are being

organized in a nearby town. In the evening, there will be stargazing at the site and guided walking tours after dark to experience the nocturnal wildlife through sights and sounds.

More information will be posted in the *Bulletin* as plans develop.

Sarnia's Astronomy Day

by **Ron Warren**, Sarnia Centre National Representative

The event took place at our main mall. Many people listened to club members talk about RASC, and our Galileo handouts were well received. We posted a notice in the local paper about an observing night at Mike Weir Park, where our members would assist anyone who needed advice about astronomy or their telescope. Cards were handed out at the mall along with information and directions.

The turn out was fair considering the cold night. About fifty people showed up and many of them brought scopes they had purchased, picked up at garage sales, or inherited. They were pleased when they actually saw things with the help of our members.

At our last meeting, we decided to do some sidewalk astronomy. Our president, **Ralph De Jong**, invited members to come down under the Blue Water Bridge for sidewalk observing. Many people use this popular walkway where Lake Huron flows into the Saint Clair River.

Orion - Suite for Orchestra

by **Ian Levstein**, Kingston Centre

Most of you know me as the editor of the RASC's monthly *Bulletin*, but some of you may also know that I did my undergraduate degree in Music Theory and Composition. Over the past 15 months, I've been working on a new composition for orchestra – inspired by my love of astronomy, and now dedicated to the RASC.

Orion – Suite for Orchestra, is in 5 movements subtitled: Horsehead, M42, Orion's Belt, Betelgeuse, and Rigel. I am making the MP3 file of the entire suite available for download to RASC members at no charge. The entire suite is a little under 28 minutes with the movement durations lasting 5m32s, 6m6s, 5m35s, 4m47s, and 5m55s respectively. Depending on the speed of your broadband Internet connection, it may take up to 10 minutes to download the MP3 file.

Terms of use: 1) Do not use the MP3 file, or any portion thereof, for anything other than personal use; and 2) If any RASC Centre wants to use the MP3 file, or any portion thereof, as background music for a RASC-sponsored event, I would appreciate a brief mention as the author and copyright owner. Easy, eh? ... now the big one – 3) neither the MP3 file, nor any portion thereof, is to be used for any commercial purpose whatsoever without my personal written authorization. I'll warn you now... both of my stepchildren are lawyers – and they love me dearly!

You can download the file (25.5 megs) [here](#) [7]. Please note the additional instructions on that page.

► The Sky this Month

What's New in the Sky

Readers are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) [8] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know!

International Space Station Pass

This was a serendipitous pass of the International Space Station, 81° altitude, an opening in the clouds, and the all-sky camera up and running to get this shot of the Station pass with a flare.



Kevin Kell took this photo on May 8

Wide-Field Horsehead Nebula

Here is a late finished processing of a wide-field look at



B33, taken on 2009 March 28 from the dark sky area at Nutwood Observatory in Hastings, Ontario.

Equipment: Tele Vue 132 IS, 6303e CCD with Borg 70 Guider, wide-field image at LRGB (Ha) 30, 30, 30, 20, 10.

Brian McGaffney took this photo of B33 on March 28

► Bulletin Video of the Month

Neptune Near Jupiter

Neptune is the "star" at the top left. Jupiter's moon, Ganymede, is to the left of Jupiter, and Callisto is to the right. Europa is washed out by Jupiter's glare. The bright star to the upper right of Jupiter is Mu Capricorn.

View the video [here](#) [9]

Kevin used a KT&C video camera

at the end of a 4" scope. You can get a full description of Kevin's equipment [here](#) [10].



Kevin Fetter took this video of Neptune near Jupiter at 8:24 UTC on 2009 May 25

► Dates to Remember

- - **2009 June 19-21** - [EfstonScience Star Party](#) [11], DSP in Gordon's Park, Manitoulin Island, Ontario
 - **2009 July 16-26** - Total Solar Eclipse Tour, China
 - **2009 July 17-19** - [Island Star Party](#) [12], Southern Vancouver Island, BC
 - **2009 July 17-21** - [Stargazing Manitoulin](#) [13], DSP in Gordon's Park, Manitoulin Island, Ontario
 - **2009 August 13-16** - **RASC General Assembly 2009**
 - **2009 August 13-16** - [Saskatchewan Summer Star Party](#) [14], Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park
 - **2009 August 14-18** - [Manitoulin Star Party](#) [15], DSP in Gordon's Park, Manitoulin Island, Ontario
 - **2009 August 20–23** – [Starfest 2009](#) [16], River Place Park, Mount Forest Ontario.
 - **2009 August 21-23** - [Nova East Star Party](#) [17], DSP in Smileys Provincial Park, Nova Scotia
 - **2009 September 15-20** - [Northern Prairie Starfest](#) [18], Black Nugget Lake, Alberta
 - **2009 September 17-20** - [Huronian Star Party](#) [19], Duntroon, Ontario
 - **2009 September 19-20** - [Alberta Star Party](#) [20], Starland Recreational Area, Alberta
 - **2009 September 25-27** - [Fall 'N' Stars](#) [21], Vanderwater Conservation Area, Thomasburg, Ontario
 - **2009 October 17** - Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Preserve Dedication, Muskoka, Ontario



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Attachment Size

[NepJupiter.wmv](#) [9] 1.86 MB

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- [19] http://www.hsp-ssaa.ca/HSP-SSAA_1/Welcome_To_The_HSP_and_SSAA_Website.html
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