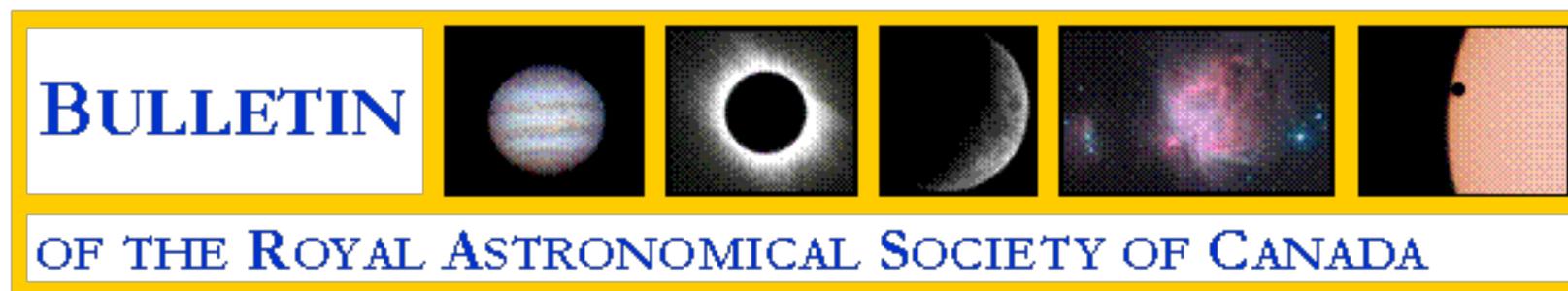


2010-06



June 2010 - Volume 5, 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](#)

2010 General Assembly Last Call



by **Paul Gray**, New Brunswick Centre

The 2010 General Assembly is now only 4 weeks away! Registrations have been coming in briskly with 107 attendees registered as of May 28. **The deadline for regular registration is June 11.** After that, the rate will go to the higher onsite fee. Below are some other notes of interest to those who have yet to register but are planning to come.

Those wishing to take part in the St Andrews Sailing/Whale Watch and Kingsbrae Garden tour, should [register](#) [2] soon to confirm their place. As of May 28, thirty-nine (39) of the forty-three (43) available spots have been taken. Due to the size of the ship there is only room for 4 more people! Do not miss out!

Due to early demand for the Bay of Fundy Tides Tour, we have added a second bus. The tour already has sixty-two (62) people signed up. With a second bus, we can now accommodate a total of 90 people on this grand scenic tour, with a coastal drive along the Bay of Fundy and a chance to walk on the ocean floor at low tide.

Our order for promo items has been submitted. There are a limited number of extras and sizes that are still available. See the online [registration form](#) [2] to see what sizes are left. Any that are not presold will be onsite for sale at the registration desk, but please do not expect there to be very much selection. Order and get yours now!

Information has been posted on the [Web site](#) [3] about the astrophoto and sketching contest. Please consider bringing your photos and sketches, as there will be categories for both beginners and advance imagers.

The call for papers has been issued and the [online form](#) [4] can be found on the RASC Web site in the 2010GA section. The deadline for submission has now passed, but if you wish to try and squeeze in under the wire, please fill out the paper/poster form on the RASC GA Web site right away! The theme this year is a blend of Maritime and Astronomy, come Sail with the RASC aboard Urania. Urania is our ship... one of many ships the RASC sails - others being **Friendship**, **Mentorship**, **Leadership**, **Stewardship**, **Craftsmanship**, and **Fellowship**. A special paper session followed by a panel discussion with an open floor, will take place on Sunday. Discussion will centre about this theme, and ideas to foster the growth and future of the RASC. We hope that throughout the 4-day event, this will be an ongoing topic of discussion.

We look forward to seeing you in Fredericton, New Brunswick and showing you a good maritime party. For more information, see our [2010 GA Web site](#) [3]. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Organizing Committee or [Chair](#) [5].

Two Free Registrations for Green Bank Star Quest 7 at NRAO

by **R. A. Rosenfeld**, National Office

The world's largest radio and optical star party, held annually at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, in Green Bank, West Virginia, is offering free registration for two (2) members of the RASC!

The event takes place this year from July 7-10, on the grounds of one of the most important radio astronomy facilities in the world - the site of Frank Drake's first SETI experiments, and the Robert C. Byrd [Green Bank Telescope](#) [6], currently the most technically advanced single-dish radio telescope in the world. This is a full-featured star party, with optical and radio observing, and a full line-up of guest speakers - including Carolyn Shoemaker. The registrations, worth US\$85 each, will be offered on a first come first serve basis to the first two current RASC members who contact us [here](#) [7].

This is the [Web site](#) [8] of the Green Bank Star Quest.

RASC IYA Effort Acknowledged by IAU

by **Dave Lane**, **Kim Hay**, and **Randall Rosenfeld**, National Office

On 2010 May 5, the RASC was presented with an International Year of Astronomy 2009 Certificate of Appreciation by the International Astronomical Union, signed by the president of the IAU, Professor

Robert Williams, former director of the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO), and of the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI), and Professor Catherine Cesarsky, IAU past president and former Director General of the European Southern Observatory (ESO).

This certificate is a public acknowledgement of the energetic and impressive effort of the RASC working as a national organization composed of centres and individuals to make IYA2009 such a success. All RASC members can feel proud of their national effort which contributed to the impressive figure of nearly 2 million Galileo moments, achieved in partnership with the FAAQ, CASCA, and unaffiliated astronomy clubs and amateur astronomers. Many individual RASC members also received IYA2009 Certificates of Appreciation from the IAU, and to all we offer our thanks and congratulations. The Canadian achievement on the 400th anniversary of Galileo's epochal telescopic discoveries provides a firm foundation upon which to further our education and public outreach.

Members should feel free to print and display the [certificate](#) [9] at home if they want.

► Across the RASC

Astro-Cafe Video

by **James MacWilliam**, Sunshine Coast Centre A short video called "Astro-Cafe" has been posted on



The RASC Sunshine Coast Centre's [YouTube Channel](#) [10]. We finally had a clear sky on our Astro-Cafe night held every 3rd Friday of the month, and we enjoyed some great clear skies under a first quarter moon.

Identifying Impact Structures Update

by **Charles O'Dale**, Ottawa Centre My series "Identifying Impact Structures" has been updated [here](#) [11]. There must be plenty of impact craters in Canada that remain to be discovered. Rock formations that will conclusively identify an impact structure are illustrated in my article. Just think, if you stumble on a similar rock in a previously unknown location, you just might be the discoverer of a new impact site!

75th Anniversary of the David Dunlap Observatory

This past weekend, the Toronto Centre celebrated the 75th anniversary of the David Dunlap Observatory with a special birthday event at Canada's largest optical observatory. A special anniversary podcast was recorded and posted [here](#) [12]. You can also find out more about the David Dunlap Observatory, its history, and the schedule of events for 2010 at the [DDO Web site](#) [13].

► *Bulletin Video of the Month*

Cotopaxi Volcano



by **Stéphane Guisard**

This terrific [video](#) [14] was posted on the "Astronomy Picture of the Day" Web site on May 26.

The majestic volcano is first seen through breaks in fast moving clouds as the movie begins. Soon the clouds have dissipated and a sky filled with stars seems to rotate about the snow-peaked volcano's peak. The band of our Milky Way Galaxy, the dark Coal Sack nebula, and the Southern Cross can all be seen overhead. Satellites streak by from several directions. Soon thin clouds roll by and seem to make the brightest stars sparkle. On the

volcano (starting at about 1:13 of the movie), the lights of climbers flash. Near the end of the movie, a bright airplane passes over the peak with a residual trail seen drifting away.

► *The Sky this Month*

What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) [15] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know.

► Dates to Remember

- - **2010 July 1** - National Council Meeting, Fredericton, NB
 - **2010 July 1-4** - **RASC General Assembly 2010 and Annual Meeting** [3], Fredericton, NB
 - **2010 July 9-11** - Star-B-Q [16], Calgary, AB
 - **2010 July 9-12** - Stargazing Manitoulin [17], Gordon's Park DSP, Manitoulin Island
 - **2010 August 6-9** - Manitoulin Star Party [18], Gordon's Park DSP, Manitoulin Island
 - **2010 August 12-15** - Saskatchewan Summer Star Party [19], Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, SK
 - **2010 August 13-15** - Butter Pot Star Party [20], St. John's, NL
 - **2010 August 13-15** - RASCals Star Party [21], Metchosin, BC
 - **2010 September 3-6** - Nova East [22], Smileys Provincial Park, NS



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Links:

[1] [mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca?subject=Bulletin Mail](mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca?subject=Bulletin%20Mail)

[2] [https://www.elbowspace.com/servlets/frhclientformdisplay?xr4=&formts=2010-02-12 09:37:31.907266](https://www.elbowspace.com/servlets/frhclientformdisplay?xr4=&formts=2010-02-12%2009:37:31.907266)

[3] <https://www.rasc.ca/ga/history/2010s#2010>

[4] [https://www.elbowspace.com/servlets/frhclientformdisplay?xr4=&formts=2008-02-03 07:13:21.675633](https://www.elbowspace.com/servlets/frhclientformdisplay?xr4=&formts=2008-02-03%2007:13:21.675633)

[5] [mailto:snpgray@nb.sympatico.ca?subject=RASC 2010 GA](mailto:snpgray@nb.sympatico.ca?subject=RASC%202010%20GA)

[6] <http://www.gb.nrao.edu/GBT/GBT.shtml>

[7] [mailto:map20008@rasc.ca?subject=Green Bank Star Quest 7](mailto:map20008@rasc.ca?subject=Green%20Bank%20Star%20Quest%207)

[8] <http://www.greenbankstarquest.org/>

[9] https://www.rasc.ca/system/files/private/IYA2009_Certificate.pdf

[10] <https://www.youtube.com/user/Coastastronomy>

[11] http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Odale-Articles-Crater_Identification

[12] <http://cosmoquest.org/blog/365daysofastronomy/>

[13] <http://www.theddo.ca>

[14] <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap100526.html>

[15] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/northern-skies>

[16] <http://calgary.rasc.ca/starbq2010.htm>

[17] <http://gordonspark.com/wp-content/uploads/2014-SM-Brochure.pdf>

- [18] <http://gordonspark.com/wp-content/uploads/2014-MSP-Brochure.pdf>
- [19] <http://www.usask.ca/rasc/starparty.html>
- [20] <http://www.stjohnsrasc.ca/star-party.shtml>
- [21] <http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/rascals-star-party/>
- [22] <http://halifax.rasc.ca/ne/>
- [23] [mailto:nationaloffice@rasc.ca?subject=Request for Info](mailto:nationaloffice@rasc.ca?subject=Request%20for%20Info)
- [24] <http://www.rasc.ca>