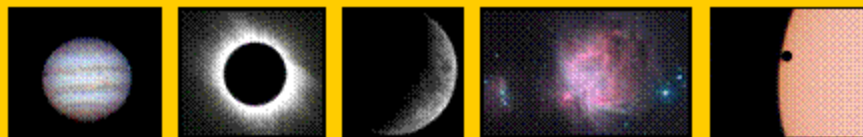


BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

December 2011 - Volume 6, Number 12

Ian Levstein, Editor

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

A PDF version of the *Bulletin* is available at: <http://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/201112.pdf>

A Web-based version of the *Bulletin* is available at: <http://www.rasc.ca/bulletin/2011-12>

► [News @ RASC.ca](http://www.rasc.ca)

***Final* Call for Nominations for RASC National Awards**

by [Dave Lane](#), Awards Committee Chair

The RASC sponsors several annual [national awards](#) that recognize achievement or service by our members. The awards include: the [Ken Chilton Prize](#), the [Chant Medal](#), the [Service Award](#), and the [Simon Newcomb Award](#). The deadline for nominations is **2011 December 31**. Send the nominations or questions about the awards program to [Dave Lane](#).

An Ounce of Prevention: Insurance FAQs and Info for Centres

by [Mary Lou Whitehorne](#), RASC President

At present, the RASC has a national commercial general liability (CGL) insurance policy. This policy is a third-party liability policy. Its purpose is to protect RASC Centres and members from accident and/or injury claims made against them by members of the public (= non-RASC members who attend public RASC events). It is impossible to predict all situations and potential outcomes, but this policy covers:

- *"Astronomy activities including meetings, observing sessions, astronomy day activities and other similar astronomy public outreach events".*

I strongly recommend that every Centre executive member and regular member familiarize themselves with the insurance information placed on our Web site to help you be fully prepared for any and all public events you might undertake. Download them and keep them handy for reference whenever a question comes up. At the very least, please read the Liability Insurance FAQs document.

The insurance information files are posted [here](#) in the members only area under **Policy and Procedures**.

Our staff, the executive committee and National Council have done the best they can to provide the Society with the most comprehensive insurance we can afford within our budget. It does not cover everything!

If your Centre is considering activities that may fall outside the scope of the existing policy (see the

FAQs!), contact national office for more information. You may need additional coverage. This can be arranged for a fee. Also, if your Centre is a registered charity, or is lucky enough to have significant assets, your Centre could benefit from directors and officers (D&O) insurance, also available for an additional fee.

When it comes to insurance and public events, due diligence is key. Have you done everything in your power to reduce risks? Have you assessed your situation carefully and determined that you have adequate insurance coverage for your Centre's assets and activities? Recent experience in several Centres underscores the value of expecting the unexpected, planning ahead, and being fully prepared. Please take some time to consider where and how your Centre might benefit from "an ounce of prevention" **before** you need to apply "a pound of cure."

AAAS Family Science Days

submitted by [Jim Hesser](#), RASC Honorary President

This message is from **Eric Chisholm**, Manager of NRC's Centre of the Universe Interpretative Centre:

"I have partnered with [Science and Technology for Canadians](#) and launched a national science/art gallery project. I am seeking art submissions from across Canada (my preference would of course be for astronomical art, but anything will do) to build both physical and virtual galleries. I have arranged for the gallery to be hosted at the [AAAS Family Science Days](#) where it will be a "walk through" experience interspersed among the outreach exhibits and shown on several LCD TVs. As with National Science and Technology Week, we will also have an interactive map showing where the artwork was sent from. The site is just coming online now and the first batch can be seen [here](#). I will also reach out to some of the international EPO groups in the hopes that we can have an international presence for the online gallery (this may only play in the longer run)."

More information can be found [here](#).

Canada has its 14th Dark-Sky Preserve

by [Robert Dick](#), Light-Pollution Committee



On October 29, the RASC National Council accepted the DSP application from the [Fundy National Park](#). This is the third DSP to be designated in the province of New Brunswick.

The Park is on the northwest coast of the Bay of Fundy and covers 20,000 ha. The Park prepared for the application by replacing, shielding and reducing the brightness in many of its outdoor lights. The remainder will be brought into compliance with the RASC lighting protocol in the next two years.

ToV Plans - Want to give out Solar Shades at your Centre's EPO Events?

by [R.A. Rosenfeld](#), RASC Archivist, and [Chris Beckett](#), Observing Committee Chair

The Transit of Venus (ToV) is approaching - 2012 June 5 - and it's time for the RASC to set the gears of its ToV machinery rolling. For that, we need your help.

We'd like to know how many Centres think it would be a good idea to distribute Solar Shades to the public at their Transit-related education and public outreach (EPO) events next year. People like getting "stuff" and appreciate enthusiastic and informed instruction about how to get the most out of it, and who better to deliver on the potential EPO opportunity of the Transit than us?

How many Solar Shades do you think your Centre will need? You can base your estimates on your experiences of the last Transit (2004), or your last solar eclipse EPO event (for those of you geographically fortunate and long-lived enough), or your attendance numbers from your largest EPO event of this year. Ordering for everyone means we can harness the national RASC's bulk-buying power to benefit the Centres' bottom line, and make the most of what the sky offers us.

Please send your estimates to [Randall](#) or [Chris](#) by December 15.

Deep-Sky Gems Certificate Announcement

by [Chris Beckett](#), Observing Committee Chair

The Observing Committee is pleased to announce that edits have been completed on the DEEP-SKY GEMS Certificate Program, see pages 323 to 326 in the 2012 *Observers Handbook* and [update](#) outlined below. The certificate is a "RASC-friendly" version of **David Levy's** *Deep Sky Objects*, meaning that objects at far-southern declinations, invisible or difficult from Canadian skies, have been omitted, as well as objects of a "photographic only" nature. Deep-Sky Gems is an excellent next step from the Finest NGC Objects list and we encourage all observers to enjoy the program, submit their observations, and apply for this certificate.

During a lifetime of comet hunting **David Levy** has swept up many interesting deep-sky objects and through this certificate he shares with us a selection of 154 of his *Deep Sky Objects*. In 2007, the late **Leo Enright** planted the seed from which this certificate has grown and he invested a great deal of time and energy into the project. Many deep sky objects in the list are from the NGC and IC catalogues, but unique objects such as Levy 384, Tombaugh's Cluster, and a dust field are also included.

The list first appeared in the 2008 *Observer's Handbook* and has been a certificate program since the 2009 GA. The passing of the motion was a sombre occasion as Council had learned of Leo's death only days before.

We wish to thank **David Levy**, *Observer's Handbook* editor **Dave Chapman**, and Observing Committee member **Mike Stephens**, who all independently began working on revisions this past summer. Application forms for the traditional star-hopping method as well as for computer-aided observers are now available on the new RASC [Web site](#).

You will also find the Deep-Sky Gems in the *Observer's Handbook* Database in the freely available [Earth Centered Universe](#) software that comes with each copy of the 2012 *Observers Handbook*, p. 7 or [here](#).

Duplicates that exist in other RASC certificate programs have been removed and the revisions below will appear in future editions of the *Observer's Handbook* and immediately as an [update](#) on the Web site. Two objects existed from both Finest NGC Certificate Program and Challenge Certificate Program.

Replacement objects were selected after reviewing David's original *Deep Sky Objects* list and consulting **David Levy**, with help from **Leo Enright's** notes.

Duplicates:

Levy #	Object	R.A. (2000)	Dec.	Mag.	Size (')	U	UDSA	Notes
L1	NGC 1931	05 31.4	+34 15	13.0	4 x 4	97	59	A "Finest" condensed nebula in Auriga
L245	NGC 6781	19 18.4	+06 33	11.4	>1.8	206	85	Planetary nebula in Aquila
L325	IC 1795	02 26.5	+62 04	-	40 x 15	17	17	Bright nebula in Cassiopeia
L381	U 5470	10 08.5	+12 18	10.2	12.0 x 9.3	189	92	Dwarf elliptical galaxy in Leo

Replaced by:

Levy #	Object	R.A. (2000)	Dec.	Mag.	Size (')	Notes
L279	NGC 6522, NGC 6528	18 03.6	-30 02	8.3	16.4	Baade's Window; two faint globular clusters close to Galactic Centre - Sagittarius
L120	NGC 6451	17 50.7	-30 13	8.2	>7	Note: "Tom Thumb Cluster" Small Scorpius Open Cluster; Galactic Centre - Scorpius
L324	Tombaugh 5	03 47.8	+59 03	8.4	14	Note: Open Cluster - Camelopardalis
L140	NGC 4485	12 30.5	+41.42	11.9	2 x 1.3	Elongated Galaxy, just N of NGC 4490 Cocoon Galaxy - Canes Venatici

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.
Clear Skies and happy hunting

► Across the RASC

David Thompson Observatory Takes Shape

by [Dave Gallant](#), Thunder Bay Centre

The Thunder Bay Centre is pleased to announce that construction of the David Thompson Observatory is well underway. The Centre has partnered with Fort William Historical Park, a branch of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture to provide operational expertise and program development and delivery for the observatory. Funding for the project has come from the Government of Ontario. When complete, the facility will include a fully automated 15' observatory, a 20" CDK telescope on a high-resolution mount, a 5" APO guide/planetary scope, and an observing pad with power posts for getting out under the stars with our own scopes. The site will also feature a new 50-seat learning centre next to the dome that will house the control room for the dome and storage for our club telescopes. To monitor the construction progress, please visit our Centre's [Web site](#). To learn more about Fort William Historical Park and David Thompson visit their [Web site](#).

➤ Bulletin Photo of the Month

Moon/Jupiter conjunction

by [Rose-Marie Burke](#), Kingston Centre



My dog stuck her cold, wet nose in my face at 2:40 (November 9), and when I dragged my groggy self out there I decided that "while I'm up" to get out the camera. Took a few shots. Clouds were coming up, but broken enough that it made for an "artistic" view.

The photo was taken with a Canon Rebel XT (350D) with the 18-55mm kit lens that came with it. The shot settings: f5.6, ISO 800, time 1 second, time of shot was 2:45 a.m., manual focus, RAW file setting. Post-processing was minimal adjustment to exposure and conversion to .jpg file.

➤ The Sky this Month

What's New in the Sky

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

➤ Dates to Remember

2011 December 10 - Total Lunar Eclipse in Western Canada

2011 December 14 - Geminid Meteor Maximum

2011 December 22 - Winter Solstice

2011 December 26-28 - National Office Limited Hours

2012 January - Nothing reported

2012 February - Nothing reported

2012 March - National Council Meeting, Toronto



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

203 – 4920 Dundas St W, Toronto ON M9A 1B7 CANADA

Tel: (416) 924-7973, Fax: (416) 924-2911

Member Service: nationaloffice@rasc.ca

Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca

The *Bulletin* of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is a benefit of membership in the Society.

© 2011 Royal Astronomical Society of Canada