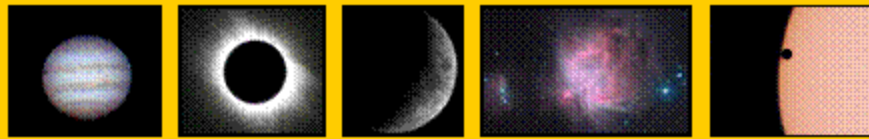


BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

August 2012 - Volume 7, Number 8

David Garner, 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 [here](#).

A Web-based version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

► Editor's Notebook

by David Garner

The Moons of August

If you have been following the 2012 [Observer's Handbook](#) you will know that Mercury, Venus and Jupiter can be found in the eastern morning sky; and on the 11th the Moon occults Jupiter. The lunar observers have another treat this month; a full Moon on the 2nd and again on the 31st. Two full Moons in one month. Saturn remains in the western sky while Uranus rises late and Neptune is visible all night.

The [Journal](#) this month has some fascinating articles: Castle Frederick Observatory by Roy Bishop, Katrina Ince-Lum describes her visit to SNOLAB, Robert McIvor tells us about medals and star maps, and Rick Saunders teaches us about gears and periodic errors.

► News @ RASC.ca

Comet Petriew

by [Chris Beckett](#), Regina Centre

With star party season now in full swing many observers are in search of galaxies, nebulae and perhaps a comet of their own. But don't forget to take a look at Comet Petriew this August as it peaks in brightness around mid-month marking the 2nd anniversary of its discovery.

Discovered by Vance Petriew during the 2001 Saskatchewan Summer Star Party (SSSP) Comet 185P/Petriew has a period of 5.5 years which means that 2012 gives attendees of this year's SSSP an opportunity to observe the comet with its discoverer and the 20-inch telescope he used to catch the interloper.

Glowing around 11th magnitude during August and riding high in Taurus early morning observers should take the opportunity to see "Vance's Comet" comet. He recommends using 8-inch and larger telescopes from dark sites. A coma of around 3 arc minutes is possible and although no tail has been seen visually, CCD's should pick up significant extension pointing westward away from the rising Sun.

You will find comet Petriew cruising 5-degrees north of M1 on August 15th and just over 1-degree of M35 on the 19th which should make locating it easy from dark locations.

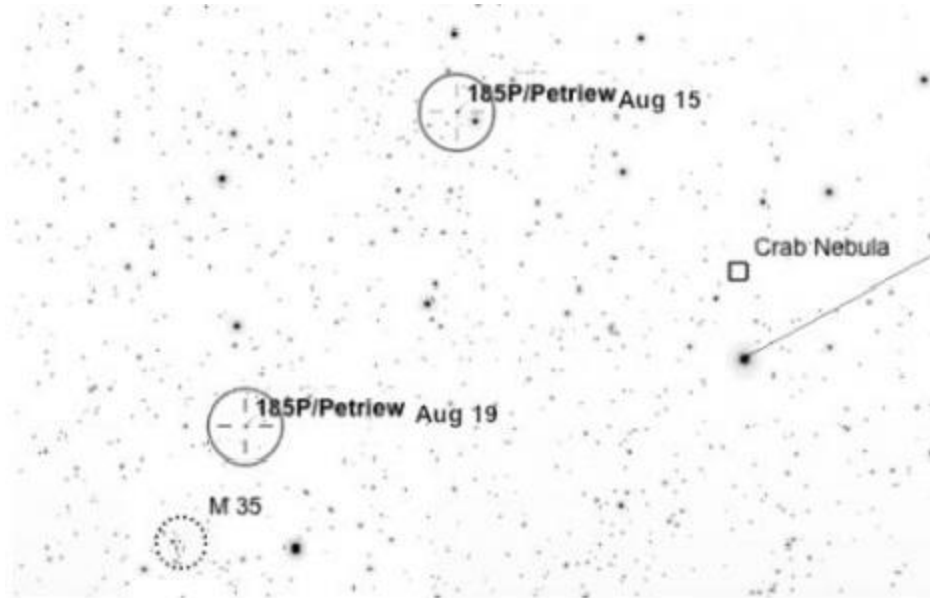


Chart by C. Beckett / Sky Safari

Asteroid 260235 Attwood

by [Denis Grey](#), RASC Treasurer

The International Astronomical Union has confirmed the naming of Asteroid 260235 Attwood in honour of RASC Life Member Randy Attwood. Among his many accomplishments Randy is a Past President of both the Toronto and Mississauga Centres, a Past President of the Society, and winner of the Society's Service Award. He is currently editor of Space Quarterly magazine.

A passionate fan of space exploration he has given many presentations on the Canadian and American space programs particularly Apollo and the Space Shuttle.

The citation and orbital elements for Asteroid Attwood can be found [here](#). Appreciation to David Levy's Jarnac Observatory where this asteroid was discovered in 2004.

Astrosketching with Carol Lakomiak

by [Randall Rosenfeld](#), RASC Archivist

Carol Lakomiak, veteran observer, *BBC Sky at Night* magazine's astrosketching columnist, and astrophotographer, shares her advice on how to draw what you observe through easy to follow tutorials of proven effectiveness! Our Observer's Handbook editor, David Chapman, has used Carol's tutorials, and won a lunar imaging contest after doing so. Carol's tutorials on [lunar sketching](#) and [solar and DSO sketching](#) now have a new home at [rasc.ca](#). If you've wanted to sketch the night sky but didn't know where to start, now you do!



The Swan Nebula by Carol Lakomiak.

RASC Group Property and Auto Insurance

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

RASC Group Property & Auto Insurance Program exclusive to RASC members

First Durham Insurance Brokers is pleased to present The RASC Group Property and Auto insurance program, exclusively for members of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. As a RASC member you will have exclusive access to a wide range of home and auto insurance products, while saving up to 60%. Underwritten by Economical Select, one of the largest insurers in Canada and specializing in Group Property and Auto Insurance programs. Economical insurance has partnered with hundreds of group programs across Canada and has the strength and financial depth to honour their commitments and financial obligations. RASC members will have access to dedicated insurance professionals who will deliver exceptional service while putting your need for coverage and value as their first priority.

For more information, click: [RASC Group Home Auto Insurance](#).

➤ Across the RASC

Annual BBQ, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

by [Jane Vicary](#), Secretary, Charlottetown Centre

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island Center held their annual pot luck and BBQ on Saturday, July 21st at Clair Perry's. Not too many attended but a good time was had anyway. Many of the members have been out observing on the weekends.



➤ Bulletin Photo of the Month

The Globular Cluster M15



by [Ron Brecher](#), Kitchener-Waterloo Centre

M15 is a globular cluster in Pegasus. I shot it while it was rising early in the morning of July 12. Although it was catalogued by Messier, it was discovered by Jean-Dominique Maraldi in 1746. This cluster contains more than a hundred thousand stars, and is very old -- about 12 billion years old. It is approximately 33,000 light years away (close compared to the many distant galaxies you can also find throughout this shot).

Tekies: SBIG STL-11000M camera, Baader LRGB filters, 10" f/6.8 ASA astrograph, MI-250 mount. Guided with STL-11000's external guider and a 500mm f.l. Lumicon guide scope. Acquisition, guiding, calibration, registration and integration all done using Maxim-DL. Shot from my SkyShed in Guelph, Ontario. No moon, average transparency and seeing.

➤ 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

- **2012 August 16-19** - [Starfest](#), the 31st annual event of the NYAA, Ayton, ON
- **2012 August 16-19** - [Saskatchewan Summer Star Party](#), Cyprus Hills Interprovincial Park, SK
- **2012 August 17-19** - [RASCals Star Party](#), Metchosin, BC



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.

© 2012 Royal Astronomical Society of Canada