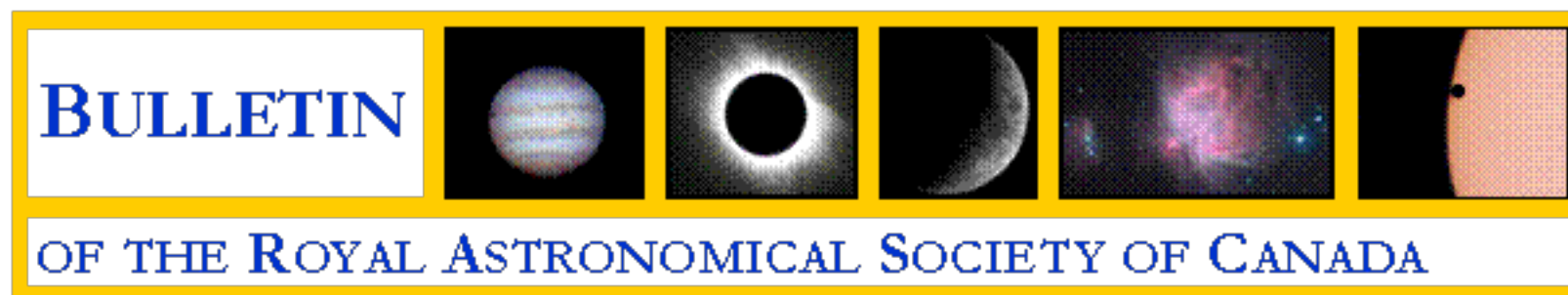


# 2010-03

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March 2010 - Volume 5, Number 3

Ian Levstein, Editor

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

## ► Editor's Notebook

by Ian Levstein

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### David Toth (1955-2010)

With regret, we note the passing of Dr. David Toth on February 26 at his home, after a long struggle with brain cancer. David was a member and a past-President of London Centre, ham radio call VE3GYQ, a pilot, an astrophotographer, a well-known amateur astronomer, and an ER physician. At this year's Starfest, Asteroid 154902 was named Toth = 2004 RU247.

On behalf of the RASC, we express our most sincere condolences to David's wife, Rhonda, and his entire family.

## ► News @ RASC.ca

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### Photo Tour of RASC's National Office

**James Edgar**, RASC National Secretary, has posted an excellent pictorial of our new headquarters in Toronto. Click [here](#) [2] for the most entertaining office tour you've likely ever had!

## RASC 2010 General Assembly Registration Open!

by the **RASC 2010 GA Organizing Committee**

Attention, members of the RASC and other organizations, clubs and astronomers in Canada and abroad. Registration for our RASC General Assembly 2010 in Fredericton, New Brunswick is now open. Information and registration forms are [available online](#) [3].

We are pleased to announce our speaker lineup which includes:

- **Dr. René Doyon** (Helen Sawyer Hogg Lecture)
- **Dr. Roy Bishop** (Closing Banquet)
- **Dr. David Levy** (Sunday Luncheon)
- **Dr. John Spray** (Invited Paper Session)
- **Dr. Francis LeBlanc** (Invited Paper Session)
- **Patrick Kelly** (BBQ/Lobster Boil)

Join us June 30-July 4 and experience our down-home Maritime hospitality. Tour Canada's oldest observatory, whale watch with us at St. Andrews by the Sea, experience the famous Bay of Fundy tides at New Brunswick's Hopewell Rocks, enjoy a seafood meal each GA day, and attend the first church service at a RASC General Assembly in one of Canada's oldest chapels.

The official call for papers and posters will be available on the GA Web site on 2010 March 15. Whereas New Brunswick is Canada's sole bilingual province, simultaneous translation services will be provided for the paper session, invited speakers' presentations, and Hogg Lecture on Saturday, July 3.

## New eBilling System Available for Members

by **Denis Grey**, National Office

The RASC has recently implemented a new electronic billing and donation management system (eBilling) and it has now been added to our [secure Web site](#) [4].

This new feature in our member portal automates our membership processing while making it convenient for members to keep their membership information and preferences up-to-date. You can also pay for any optional services that your Centre provides.

If your membership is expiring in the next two months (or is currently up for renewal) you can try out the system. Here's all you need to do... go [here](#) [4] and follow the detailed instructions. Please be sure to update your personal information as well as your new membership preferences while you renew. You can also make a donation to the Society and/or your Centre during the renewal process.

For more information, check out the new [FAQ page](#) [5].

## 2011 *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 2011 *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 9.5" x 12" and must be compatible with the "landscape" orientation of the calendar images. Generally, this will mean a resolution of at least 1200 pixels tall.

Consider submitting individual planetary images or a series. We can reproduce them in a quilt of 4 or more sections to avoid pixelation when enlarged to the scale of the Calendar. The lack of planetary images in recent years is partly due to a lack of suitable entries. We just had an opposition of Jupiter and Mars, and are heading into Saturn's, so get processing!

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 promote the call for images to Centre members and have submissions emailed 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 **2010 May 15**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

## Spot the astronomer: where are you, your friends, and mentors?

by **R.A. Rosenfeld**, RASC Archivist

The General Assemblies are an important part of our heritage, and an ongoing source of knowledge, camaraderie, and astro-karaoke. **Walter MacDonald** (Kingston Centre) has been doing stellar work in assembling the disparate material record of the GAs on our National Web site. The traditional group photos are an important visual component of the afterlife of a GA, and a moving testament to the heroic abilities of the bleary-eyed and hung-over to appear artificially alert the afternoon after. We need your help to identify us in these memorable group portraits. To help, just go [here](#) [7] and open any of the "High Res./Full Res. with Names" photos. When you rest your mouse on the heads, either a name will appear, or a number. The number means no one's yet put a name to the face in question! If you know any of the currently numbered nameless, we'd be grateful for their names - along with the GA year and the number from the photograph. And don't forget to tag yourself, if you discover you're just a number!

There is a prize for anyone who can successfully spot the lurking alien.

If you can help, please send the information to either [Walter](#) [8] or [me](#) [9].

## RASC: The Missing Years

by **R.A. Rosenfeld**, RASC Archivist, and **Walter MacDonald**, Kingston Centre

No, it's not a rock album, or a prequel. We're looking for GA Group Photos to complete the set on our Web site. We'd greatly appreciate receiving scans of the following years: 1960-1982, 1986-1988, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000-2002, 2005, 2007, and 2009. Ideally these would be high-resolution images at 1MB 300 dpi 24-bit colour jpeg, and low-resolution images at 110KB 100 dpi 24-bit colour jpeg. B&W would also be fine, but would be most useful scanned at 24-bit colour to the above properties.

We can't promise fame or fortune, but helping to complete our GA photo collection will get your picture on the RASC Web site, in the company of your GA friends.

If you can help, please contact [Walter MacDonald](#) [10].

## New Public Speaker Programme Announced

by **James Edgar**, National Secretary

I am pleased to announce that the first round of funding for 2010 under the newly formed Public Speaker Programme (PSP) is now available.

The goal of the programme is to encourage our Centres to organize and host public talks, by speakers from outside their local area, about astronomical and related topics. The Society recognizes the value of sharing the knowledge and experience of our members and others more widely than may be otherwise possible, by providing funding to pay for a speaker's travel and accommodation expenses.

Applications (preferably by email) will be received by [yours truly](#) [11] until 23:59 EDT, Thursday, 2010 April 15, for speakers' travel for the first half of 2010. Details about the process and requirements can be found [here](#) [12].

The decision of the PSP Trustees will be announced in early May.

## Executive Perspectives

by **Mary Lou Whitehorne**, 1st Vice President, RASC Excerpted from the *JRASC* [April 2010]

In my last column I described the "us" that comprises our dynamic and shining RASC. We are a collection of motivated, interested (and interesting!) group of volunteers organized into a Canada-wide Society with 29 local centres. The entire structure is a buzzing hive of activity at all levels, from centre meetings to outreach events and star parties, to committee work, national council meetings and our annual General Assembly. As a Society, we produce a number of high-quality, authoritative publications that have gained for us an enviable global reputation. We are gaining solid traction in the area of light pollution abatement through our dark sky preserve programs. During IYA2009 we provided our fellow-Canadians with an astonishing variety and number of "Galileo Moments" at many education and outreach events across the

country, as part of a global celebration of astronomy. As a Society, we have many accomplishments and much to be proud of.

**Editor's Note** - This is another terrific article, and I recommend that every member read it. The entire article is available [here](#) [13].

## ► [Across the RASC](#)

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### **Upheaval Dome**

by **Chuck O'Dale**, Ottawa Centre

The Ottawa Centre's [crater Web site](#) [14] is updated to include recent research and explorations of the Upheaval Dome impact structure in Utah, USA.

### **Participate in a World-Wide Environmental Initiative**

by **Roland Dechesne**, President, Calgary Centre; and RASC Light Pollution Abatement Committee

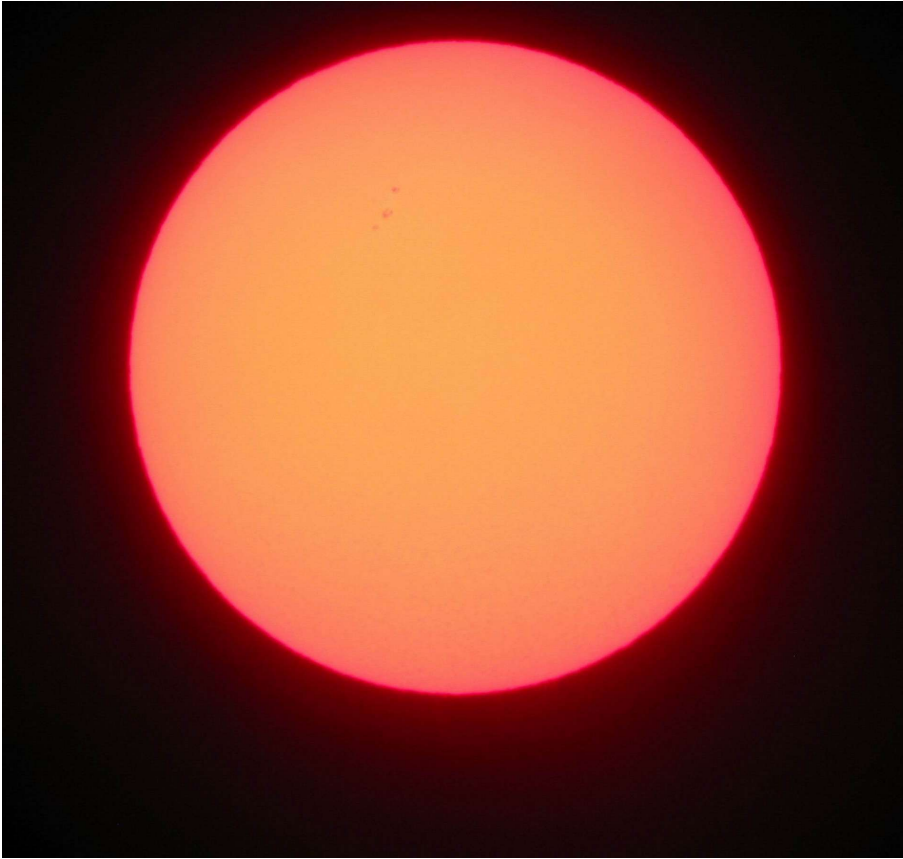
The Calgary Centre of the RASC, the University of Calgary's Rothney Astrophysical Observatory (RAO), and the Calgary TELUS World of Science are looking for night-sky observers to participate in a world-wide project. From March 3-16, the [Globe at Night Project](#) [15] is looking for observations of the night sky's brightness using the stars of the constellation Orion as a reference. Since this constellation lies at the celestial equator, observers from both north and south of the equator can participate. The technique involves using star charts of the constellation provided by the Globe at Night researchers that simulate Orion's appearance in the sky in settings that vary from pristine to heavily light polluted. In order for this data to reflect the local light pollution conditions, please observe while there is no Moon up in the sky. This means that dates later in the observation window may work better since the Moon rises later in the evening on those dates.

Unfortunately for far northern latitudes, like portions of Canada, Orion's position in the sky can put it in the near-horizon haze and so its appearance might not correctly reflect the local sky quality. For this reason, the Calgary Centre has developed an additional star chart using the constellation Auriga, which passes high overhead at this time of year. This chart, and additional charts for Orion, are available [here](#) [16]. To collect this data, the RAO has developed a [reporting Web site](#) [17]. You can use any user name so that you will remain anonymous if you wish. The word "clearsky" is the password (all lower case). Please also supply readings from a Unihedron Sky Quality Meter if you are using one. Please send any observations done with the Globe at Night charts to their Web site as well. Clear skies!

## ► [Bulletin Photo of the Month](#)

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## Seeing Spots!



After a long drought, it seems the sunspots have returned.

This month we feature a great photo of the Sun taken by Kingston Centre member **Hank Bartlett** on February 6 from his [observatory](#) [18] in Newburgh, Ontario.

This is a raw Coronado SM60 H-alpha filter image. Hank uses a Canon PowerShot A720 IS with the following details: Exposure time: 1/60 s; F-number: 3.5; ISO speed ratings: 80; Shutter speed value: 0.016674 s; Aperture value: 3.625; and Focal length: 9.95 mm.

## ► The Sky this Month

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## What's New in the Sky

This month, Gary celebrates his **50th** column in the Sky This Month series. Members are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) [19] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know... and congratulations on this terrific milestone!

## ► Dates to Remember

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- - **2010 March 27** - National Council Meeting, Toronto, ON
  - **2010 April 19-25** - Astronomy Week
  - **2010 April 24** - Astronomy Day
  - **2010 July 1** - National Council Meeting, Fredericton, NB
  - **2010 July 1-4** - **RASC General Assembly 2010** [3], Fredericton, NB
  - **2010 July 9-12** - [Stargazing Manitoulin](#) [20], Gordon's Park DSP, Manitoulin Island
  - **2010 August 6-9** - [Manitoulin Star Party](#) [21], Gordon's Park DSP, Manitoulin Island





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- [2] [http://www.rasc.ca/NO/NO\\_Tour.pdf](http://www.rasc.ca/NO/NO_Tour.pdf)
- [3] <https://www.rasc.ca/ga/history/2010s#2010>
- [4] <https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc>
- [5] <http://www.rasc.ca/portalfaq.shtml>
- [6] [mailto:dlane@ap.stmarys.ca?subject=2011 Observer's Calendar](mailto:dlane@ap.stmarys.ca?subject=2011%20Observer's%20Calendar)
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- [11] <mailto:jamesedgar@sasktel.net?subject=PSP>
- [12] <http://www.rasc.ca/drupal/system/files/private/education/psp.pdf>
- [13] <http://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/ExecPerspectMarch10Bulletin.doc>
- [14] <http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Odale-Articles-UpheavalDome>
- [15] <http://www.globeatnight.org/>
- [16] <http://calgary.rasc.ca/skybrightness2010.htm>
- [17] [http://webapps3.ucalgary.ca/%7Edppvan/star\\_gazing/](http://webapps3.ucalgary.ca/%7Edppvan/star_gazing/)
- [18] <http://members.kingston.net/knah/knah.html>
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