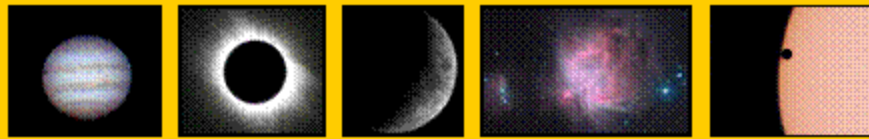


BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

January 2014 - Volume 9, Number 1

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

January's Sky

We begin January with a new Moon and have another on January 30. In between those dates, the full Moon of January 16 will appear at its smallest size for 2014. Mercury is moving past superior conjunction and will reach its greatest eastern elongation on January 31st. Watch for Venus to reappear in the dawn sky by January 18. Jupiter is easily visible all night. You should also refer to the updates for the *2014 Observer's Handbook* as noted below by Dave Chapman. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#) for complete details.

► News @ RASC.ca

Fellows of the RASC (FRASC)

by [James Edgar](#), RASC, National Secretary

The RASC Fellowship Award is a major, and senior, national award. It is intended to be the Society's most senior award and the highest honour the Society can pay to a member. Candidate's service and contributions to the Society must have had a significant positive impact on the work of the Society over an extended period, and must have contributed to the Society's success in attaining its stated objectives, mission, and vision. Such contributions can be at both the Centre and national level, but at least half of the service contribution must have been rendered at the national level.

The first three Fellows under this program have been named on 2013 December 18. They are: **Randy Attwood**, **Dr. Roy Bishop**, and **Peter Broughton**. Congratulations to all three!

Their individual citations can be found at: www.rasc.ca/awards/fellowship.

The 2014 General Assembly

by [Paul Schumacher](#), Victoria Centre, Co-chair of 2014 GA Organizing Committee



2014 GA : Victoria Centre : June 26 - June 29

Join the members of Victoria Centre as we celebrate 100 years of being a RASC centre at our 2014 RASC General Assembly. To add to the festivities, we will also be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, located in Saanich, B.C., just to the north of downtown Victoria.

The 2014 General Assembly will showcase the DAO, University of Victoria's new observatory located on the campus, which is our assembly headquarters, a wide-ranging scientific and cultural program for your entire family, and all this conducted against the spectacular natural beauty of Canada's West Coast. Guest Speakers include Dr Laura Ferrarese, Bob McDonald of CBC's *Quirks and Quarks*, and RASC's own Peter Broughton.

Victoria is serviced by both of our domestic air carriers and can be reached by convenient car ferry service connecting Victoria to Vancouver, B.C. and Seattle, Washington.

From on-campus accommodation at the University of Victoria to nearby hotel and RV facilities, there are many lodging options available to our members in Greater Victoria.

Registration will go live 2014 March 1 at RASC.ca.

Please join us in Victoria, June 26 to June 29 for the 2014 GA.

RASC VICTORIA CENTRE

2014 General Assembly Organizing Committee

Mark Bohlman, Co-Chair mbohlman@shaw.ca

Paul Schumacher, Co-Chair docpschu@shaw.ca

Correction to *Observer's Handbook*

by [Dave Chapman](#), Observer's Handbook Editor

The *2014 Observer's Handbook* is now "in effect." The "Editor's Comments" on page 8 provide an overview of the significant changes for the 2014 issue, including the "Feature Constellation." Corrections to all reported Handbook errors can be found at the URL www.rasc.ca/2014-edition-updates. In particular, in "The Sky Month by Month," on p. 99, the listing for January Events has the wrong diagram for the appearance of Jupiter's Moons! , and in this case there is a complete replacement page (in PDF form) to download and print.

Clear skies!

CASCA Newsletter

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

The Winter Solstice 2013 newsletter from CASCA, the Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie has been published.

http://www.kcvs.ca/martin/astro/ecass/issues/2013-ws/content_fs.html

This issue leads off with 'Continued Evolution of the JCMT' concerning the end and possible renewal of Canadian funding of the James Clerk Maxwell Infra-Red Telescope on Mauna Kea. JCMT has been operating for several years with the instrument SCUBA-2 built jointly in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. Infrared Astronomy funds in Canada these days are moving more towards the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA), also featured in this newsletter. Although the JCMT partnership is due to dissolve next year, this article sheds light on the possibility of the telescope continuing to operate with more international funding, some Canadian.

Herzberg Institute update: Nothing dreadful in this update, although a slight delay in Next-Generation CFHT plans is described. The Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope is a partly Canadian-funded 3.6-metre telescope on Mauna Kea which is considering replacing its instrument with a 10-metre-class telescope. Herzberg is also involved in successful new tests for the Webb Space Telescope due to launch in 2018. Herzberg is also involved in plans for a radiotelescope array technology pathfinder with the Square Kilometre Array of radiotelescopes in Australia. No news from the Centre of the Universe at DAO, although there has been some good news elsewhere in the press since it was closed earlier this year.

ALMA Update by Christine Wilson: As described, and this report from the Atacama Desert is mostly technical as the array swings further into gear.

Arctic Update: The Dunlap Institute Arctic Telescope at PEARL near Eureka, Nunavut is beginning another long night's work this winter.

➤ Across the RASC

Ottawa Centre RASC News

by [Charles O'Dale](#), RASC, Ottawa Centre

Please visit the Ottawa Centre's Video/Data archive for new articles:

[http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Ottawa Centre, RASC Presentations](http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Ottawa+Centre,+RASC+Presentations)

Specific updates:

1. Paul Klauninger documents a UFO - no kidding!! It's an Unidentified Floating Object;

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2krCsCMTuw&feature=youtu.be>

2. Simon Hanmer posts new data and video regarding planetary geology;

<http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Hanmer-Articles>

3. Chuck O'Dale illustrates a possible impact structure at Touchwood Hills, Saskatchewan;

[http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Odale articles touchwood](http://ottawa-rasc.ca/wiki/index.php?title=Odale+articles+touchwood)

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.



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