

# BULLETIN



## OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

February 2015 - Volume 10, Number 2

David Garner, Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at [bulletin@rasc.ca](mailto: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 100th Issue of the *Bulletin*!

Thanks to Walter MacDonald for pointing it out.

We have a full Moon on the 2nd and a new Moon on the 18th. There will be a lunar occultation of Uranus on the 21st and of Aldebaran on the 25th.

Mercury is well placed in the morning sky and Venus can be found in the evening twilight. Mars appears low in the evening sky; Jupiter is at opposition on the 6th and Saturn can be found in the dawn sky.

For more details check the 2015 *Observer's Handbook*. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#).

### ➤ News @ RASC.ca

#### News from the Society Office

by [Randy Attwood](#), RASC Executive Director

##### **The February 2015 issue of the Journal**

By now you should have received your complimentary copy of the February 2015 issue of the *Journal*. If you haven't received it yet, it will arrive in the mail shortly.

You can select the print version of the *Journal* when you renew online.

**Please Note:** After you finish reading your copy of the paper *Journal*, why not donate it to your doctor or dentist's office, your school or local library?

##### **Thank you to our 2014 Donors!**

A big thank you to our donors for last year's donations! The list of donors can be found on the RASC Web site here: <http://www.rasc.ca/donations/general>

Click on the different funds to see the lists of donors for that fund. Any members who donated more than \$25 will receive a tax receipt in the mail soon.

### **Introducing "RASC Tours"**

The RASC is partnering with its sponsor MWT Associates, Inc. (melitatrips) – to run several astronomy-related tours in the next few years!

Trips to Los Angeles, Hawaii, Arizona, Yellowknife and Chile are planned, culminating with a national eclipse expedition to Wyoming for the 2017 total solar eclipse.

First up is a one-week trip to **Los Angeles/San Diego** with visits to various astronomy and space exploration related destinations.

**The trip will take place 2015 November 3 - 9.** Here is the itinerary, which includes daily breakfasts, three dinners:

#### **Tuesday, November 3**

-Arrival in **Los Angeles**

#### **Wednesday, November 4**

-A free morning to sightsee **LA** and **Hollywood** with an afternoon visit to Griffith Observatory  
Evening - dinner at the Magic Castle where the up and coming magicians train - magic shows in every room.

#### **Thursday, November 5**

-A free morning to visit other sights, such as the Getty Museum, with an afternoon visit to the California Space Science Center where the Space Shuttle Endeavour is on display.

#### **Friday, November 6**

##### **LA - Pasadena**

-A guided tour of the famous Jet Propulsion Laboratory

#### **Saturday, November 7**

-A visit to the Mount Wilson Observatory

#### **Sunday, November 8**

**San Diego:** A visit to the famous Palomar Observatory

#### **Monday, November 9**

-Return home

If you are interested please email [Randy Attwood](#) to get on the list. Space is limited for this tour. Prices will be confirmed in February. When announced, deposits will be accepted to reserve spaces.

### **Future RASC Tour trips planned:**

**Hawaii - June 2016** A visit to the summit of Mauna Kea

**Wyoming/Idaho - August 2017** Total Solar Eclipse Expedition

**Arizona** Observatories, Meteor Crater, Grand Canyon, Dark-Sky Observing Date : TBA

**Chile Observatories** Dark-Sky Observing Date: TBA

**Yellowknife, NWT** Aurora observing Date: TBA

If you have any questions, please contact [Randy Attwood](#)

#### **General Assembly in Halifax**

The 2015 General Assembly will be hosted by the Halifax Centre. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Halifax Centre. The GA will be held from Wednesday, July 1 to Sunday, July 5 at Saint Mary's University. Plan now to visit the Atlantic Coast this summer!

For more information see [2015 General Assembly](#)



#### **Planispheres**

Our 40/50 and 50/60 Planispheres have recently gone on **sale for just \$4.95!!!** (Regular price: \$9.95) Get one before they're all gone! We're making room for our new Planisphere that we will debut next month.

Check them out here:

[https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc/RASC/Store/Store\\_OBSAIDS.aspx?Category=OBSAIDS](https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc/RASC/Store/Store_OBSAIDS.aspx?Category=OBSAIDS)

## **The 2015 General Assembly**

by [Patrick Kelly](#), RASC Halifax Centre

The GA committee has been working hard on all aspects of the event including a range of souvenirs that we think many will enjoy. It is hoped that the Web site will be open for registrations in early March. For those who plan to see a bit more of Nova Scotia, or who are looking for things to do while in Halifax, be sure to visit <http://www.novascotia.com> to see the wide range of entertainment and activities that our province and host city can offer. You can also order the 2015 Doers' and Dreamers' Travel Guide, Nova Scotia Road Map, and Greater Halifax Visitors Guide here: <http://www.novascotia.com/about-nova-scotia/order-travel-guide>

**Be sure to mark July 1- 5 on your calendar!**

## From the President

by [James Edgar](#), RASC President

The Outreach Event Reporting button has been moved from the RASC home page to the Education and Public Outreach page (right sidebar). <http://www.rasc.ca/education-public-outreach>

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2015 RASC National Awards:

- **Fellows of the RASC (FRASC):** Robert Dick, Dave Lane, Dr. John Percy, Mary Lou Whitehorne
- **Service Awards:** Dave Chapman, Colin Haig, Chris Malicki
- **Qilak Award:** The David Dunlap Observatory Volunteers

A working group formed by the Board of Directors is currently assessing the Society's awards program to determine our best practices, to assess if what we do is sufficient, to determine if we need a new category, and so on. We should expect a report by the GA in Halifax.

The Explore the Universe certificate program was updated last fall, and the changes are embodied in Version 3 on the Web site at <http://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/exploretheuniverse3.pdf>. The Observing Committee Chair wishes to thank James Edgar for his great contribution to this exercise.

## Asteroids with a Canadian Connection

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

The following newly named minor planet has been added to the list of asteroids with Canadian connections:

Asteroid (414026) Bochonko

Richard Bochonko (1941–2014) was for 33 years a passionate professor of mathematics, physics and astronomy at the University of Manitoba. He had very broad interests and generously shared his knowledge with students and the public. He played key roles in the development of the University's Glenlea teaching observatory.

Orbit: Main-belt asteroid

Reference: MPC 91794

Designation: 2007 LX29

Disc. Date: 2007-06-11

Discoverer: Balam, D.D.

Disc. Place: Mauna Kea

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-414026>

These are listed on the Web site, [www.rasc.ca/canadian-asteroids](http://www.rasc.ca/canadian-asteroids).

## **Discover the Universe - Upcoming activities**

by [Julie Bolduc-Duval](#), Coordinator, *Discover the Universe*

*Discover the Universe* offers free astronomy workshops and Webinars for teachers and informal educators all across Canada. Here's an overview of our upcoming activities. Please share the information with anyone interested in your area.

### **Webinar - Astronomy News and 2015 preview**

#### **February 18th at 2pm (Eastern) - 11am (Pacific)**

Several important astronomy events happened in recent months and many more will take place in 2015. This Webinar will allow you to learn about recent research successes and to get information about the events not to miss in 2015. Among them: the first detailed image of a planetary system in formation, an exoplanet like no other, the New Horizons mission to Pluto and more! [Details and registration >>](#).

**Workshop for teachers – March 16th to April 3rd** Is astronomy part of your school curriculum but you feel uncomfortable teaching it to your students? Would you like to feel more confident and better prepared to answer the many questions your students may have? Is so, then this workshop is for you! During those three weeks, we will explain many astronomical concepts, while giving you tips on how to teach them, activities to use in class and access to many resources. [Details and registration >>](#)

*Discover the Universe / À la découverte de l'Univers* is offered by the RASC, the Canadian astronomical Society (CASCA) and the Fédération des astronomes amateurs du Québec (FAAQ) with extra funding from NSERC-Promoscience. All our activities are also offered in French.

For information, contact Julie Bolduc-Duval at [julie@discovertheuniverse.ca](mailto:julie@discovertheuniverse.ca)

## **Upcoming Conferences**

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

The Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie annual conference will be held at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario between May 24 and 27. This is a conference of academic astronomers, but on this occasion CASCA will host the Helen Sawyer Hogg Free Public Lecture, an annual tradition co-sponsored by RASC and CASCA since 1985. The name of the speaker and subject, and conference Web site are not yet available.

Two international conferences to coincide with the UNESCO International Year of Light 2015/2015 Année de la Lumière are coming to Québec in late May.

2nd International Conference on Light Pollution Theory, Modelling and Measurements (LPTMM)

Date: 2015 May 26–29

Location: Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada

More information: <http://lptmm.org>.

3rd International conference on Artificial Light at Night (ALAN 2015) Date: 2015 May 30 – June 1

Location: Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada More information: <http://www.artificiallightatnight.org/>.

AstroCATS will be hosted by the RASC Hamilton Centre at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto on June 27 & 28. AstroCATS is Canada's only astronomy trade show, now in its fourth year. For more information: <http://astrocats.ca/>.

## ACOM/MIAC Archive

by [R.A. Rosenfeld](#), RASC Archivist

Canada has had a significant impact in the international field of meteoritics. Among lasting achievements some will recall the highly successful search for Canadian Shield impact sites led by staff at the Dominion Observatory in the 1960s-early 1980s, or the Meteorite Observation and Recovery Project (MORP) running ca. 1970-1985, or the recovery and analysis of some remarkable falls, such as Tagish lake (C2-ung) in 2000. World-recognized research is presently conducted at Western University, the University of Calgary, the University of Edmonton, and elsewhere, and we can boast some outstanding research collections, such as that at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Cooperative coordination within the Canadian meteoritical community can be traced back to the aftermath of the largest documented fall on Canadian soil, Bruderheim (L6) in 1960, for in its wake was born the Associate Committee on Meteorites (ACOM) of the National Research Council (1960-ca. 1985), which under new patronage became the Meteorites and Impacts Advisory Committee (MIAC, ca. 1988-ca. 2007) to the Canadian Space Agency (CSA). ACOM/MIAC as often as not played a shaping as well as an advisory role in Canadian meteoritics. Many of the developments of those years are important, intriguing, and remain tantalizingly under-explored. And now, thanks to the diligence of Professor Stephen Kissin (Lakehead University), the knowledge and organizing skill of Professor Howard Plotkin, and the initiative of Professor Phil McCausland (both of Western University), there is now an official ACOM/MIAC Archive which is part of the RASC's National Archives at the Society Office. A brief description of the nature of the ACOM/MIAC Archive is available at [https://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/ACOM-MIAC\\_collection.pdf](https://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/ACOM-MIAC_collection.pdf). The archive is in the process of being calendared, and when complete the finding aid will be made publicly available at <https://www.rasc.ca/archives>. Those wishing to consult the ACOM/MIAC Archive should contact the RASC Archivist at <https://www.rasc.ca/contact/history>.

## ➤ Across the RASC

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### News from the Ottawa Centre

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

The Planetary Society is giving the RASC some publicity:

[Crater Exploration with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada \(RASC\)](#).

➤ *Bulletin* Photo of the Month

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## M81

by [Dan Meek](#), RASC Calgary Centre

M81 is about 12 million light-years from Earth in the constellation Ursa Major

This is a 330 minute H-alpha + RGB image taken with a NP127 telescope with a 2X Powermate and QSI583wsg camera.

## Thank You to our Sponsors!

by [Julia Neeser](#), RASC Marketing Coordinator

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has a unique partnership with our friends in the astronomy industry. We are now offering companies the distinction of becoming a charter sponsor of the RASC, Canada's pre-eminent amateur astronomy organization. This offer is available only to those industry leaders who recognize the value in being associated with the amateur astronomy community.

<http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors>.



## 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.

Julia Neeser creates "The Solar System" monthly with data from James Edgar's "Skies" newspaper articles at <http://www.rasc.ca/observing>.



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