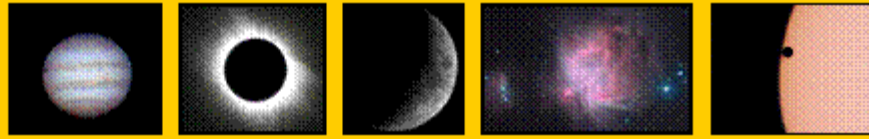


# BULLETIN



## OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

April 2015 - Volume 10, Number 4

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

### April's Sky

We have a full Moon on the 4th and a new Moon on the 18th. For anyone travelling to the Pacific Ocean or thereabouts, you will get to see a total lunar eclipse. If you are in northwestern Canada, the Moon will be occulting Aldebaran on the 21st.

Mars and Venus are in the western evening sky whereas Jupiter is well placed in the evening sky and Saturn rises in late evening.

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

#### RASC Tours Update

**Join other RASC members on a trip to Los Angeles/San Diego in November 2015!**

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

For more information see:

<http://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/RASC%20flyer%20email.pdf>.

#### 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 General Assembly 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: <https://www.rasc.ca/events/>

#### 2015 Board of Directors Election

Nominations Deadline: **2015 May 15**

Campaign Period: **2014 May 20 - 2015 Jun 19**

Election Period: **2015 Jun 20 - 2015 Jun 30**

Participation on the RASC Board of Directors is a leadership experience that provides rich opportunity for personal and astronomical growth!

For more information: <http://www.rasc.ca/news/election-directors>

### **Stock up on Educational Handouts for this season's Star Parties!**

We would like to encourage our Centres to purchase the educational and observing handouts available to them. The "Getting Started in Astronomy" brochure is available for order, along with Star Finders and Moon Gazer guides. Please email Julia Neeser at [mempub@rasc.ca](mailto:mempub@rasc.ca) for the current Centre Price List!

**\*Please note\*** the Society office is closed for Good Friday. (Apr. 03, 2015)

We'd like to wish all of our members a **Happy Easter!**

**Check out this "Spacey" Easter craft you (or the kids) can do!**

<http://www.dreamalittlebigger.com/post/galaxy-easter-eggs.html>

## **The electronic Observer's Handbook**

by [James Edgar](#), RASC President

The *Observer's Handbook* is available in a downloadable version. For members only, it costs \$10 to download a copy of the Handbook to your computer, tablet, or smart phone.

To view the eBook you will need a special free PDF reader called Javelin, which is available from the site where you purchase the Handbook. Copies of the Handbook are available for mainstream Window PCs and Mac OSX computers (OSX 10.6 or later), and for iPADS (IOS6 and later) and Android devices (ideally OS4 and later).

You may order a copy here <http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-member-benefit-programs>

James Edgar, UE  
President  
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

## **2015 April 4 Lunar Eclipse Brochure Available for Download**

by [Roland Dechesne](#), Membership and Development Committee

Are you hosting a public viewing event or just want to read up on the circumstances of the early morning April lunar eclipse? An updated brochure is available here:

[http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/Observing\\_and\\_Understanding\\_Lunar\\_Eclipses\\_Apr\\_2015.pdf](http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/Observing_and_Understanding_Lunar_Eclipses_Apr_2015.pdf).

Other brochures, useful for public events, are available at this location:

<http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/index.htm>.

## **Mark Bratton does *Sky and Telescope***

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

Check out the April 2015 *Sky & Telescope* magazine for the feature article *William Herschel's Extraordinary Night of Discovery: Recreating the Legendary Sweep of April 11, 1785* by Mark Bratton of the RASC Regina Centre (and formerly of the Montréal Centre). Mark is the author of *The Complete Guide to the Herschel Objects* (Cambridge University Press, 2011).

## **I'Observatoire Mont-Mégantic**

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

In mid-February, l'Observatoire Mont-Mégantic went through a brief crisis when it announced it would permanently close on April 1st. OMM is a 1.6-metre-aperture optical telescope operated jointly by Université de Montreal and Laval in the middle of a 5500-square-km park which was inaugurated as the International Dark-Sky Association's first International Dark-Sky Reserve in 2008. After Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council funding for OMM dried up in 2011, OMM received significant one-time investments from the Canada Economic Action Plan and the Canada Foundation for Innovation. The resulting February 2015 crisis was remedied when the Member of Parliament for Mégantic-l'Érable promised \$500,000 for OMM to stay open for the next two years, from the Canada Economic Development for Québec Regions fund.

<http://omm-astro.ca/soutenez-lomm/>

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

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

Date: 2015 May 26–29

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

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

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

## **CASCA News**

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

The Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie, the association of Canadian academic astronomers, has published its 2015 Vernal Equinox Cassiopeia Newsletter, edited by Magdalen Normandeau and Joanne Rosvick. For more information: <http://casca.ca/?p=5588>.

## **Discover the Universe - Online workshop for Teachers**

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

Do you know any teachers who could benefit from our free workshop? The 4th edition of our popular three-week online workshop for teachers is starting on 2015 March 16th. Teachers can join us to gain understanding of many astronomical concepts linked to the curriculum, get access to activities and resources and just overall feel more confident about teaching astronomy. Visit our website for more information and to register.

<http://www.discovertheuniverse.ca>. Please pass this along to anyone who might be interested!

*Discover the Universe / À la découverte de l'Univers* is an astronomy training program offered by the RASC, the Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA) and the Federations des astronomes amateurs du Québec (FAAQ). All our programs are offered online, in English and French and offered at no charge.

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

## ➤ Across the RASC

---

### **News from the Calgary Centre**

by [George Cavanaugh](#), RASC Calgary Centre

All Star Telescope Star party took place from 2015 February 14th to the 21st in Rodeo, New Mexico @ the Painted Pony Resort and Dude Ranch.

This year's star party was a great experience with 28 guests. Although the weather was not ideal, when the skies cleared we took advantage of the beautiful dark skies.

One of the attendees took a great aerial view of the scopes with his quadcopter while waiting for the night to appear.

The Painted Pony Ranch in Rodeo, New Mexico offers not only great pristine dark skies for Astrophotography and viewing, but also numerous daytime activities.

For more information about the area please visit:

<https://www.all-startelescope.com/information/2013-all-star-alberta-party>.

Please Enjoy some of these photos

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vka0fsalixto3tf/AACjY3XAR\\_cx0UQoBCodcBQIa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vka0fsalixto3tf/AACjY3XAR_cx0UQoBCodcBQIa?dl=0).

## ➤ *Bulletin Photo of the Month*

---

### **NGC 4565 The Needle Galaxy**

by [Dan Meek](#), Calgary Centre

The image is a 420 minute LRGB image taken with an 11" EDGE SCT 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 website. 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>.



**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](mailto:nationaloffice@rasc.ca)

Visit Us at: [www.rasc.ca](http://www.rasc.ca)

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

© 2015 Royal Astronomical Society of Canada