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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

July's Sky

We have a new Moon on the 16th and a full Moon on the 31st. Mercury is well placed in the morning sky from the 1st to the 16th and Venus reaches maximum brightness on the 10th. On the 19th Venus will have a close conjunction with the crescent Moon. Mars is not visible but will emerge from the solar glare late next month. Jupiter is low in the evening twilight whereas Saturn is well placed in the evening sky in Libra.

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 RASC Purchases SkyNews

The Board of Directors of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) are pleased to announce that the RASC has purchased SkyNews Incorporated.

SkyNews is the Canadian magazine for amateur astronomers and is the only popular, English-language science magazine for adults published in Canada.

The RASC and SkyNews Inc. have had a long relationship. RASC members have received issues of *SkyNews* magazine as a benefit of membership since 1997. Many members of the RASC contribute articles and photographs which are published in the magazine.

For more information about the RASC purchase of *SkyNews* see:

<http://www.rasc.ca/news/rasc-purchases-skynews>.

RASC Tours Update

RASC 2015 Southern California Tour

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>.

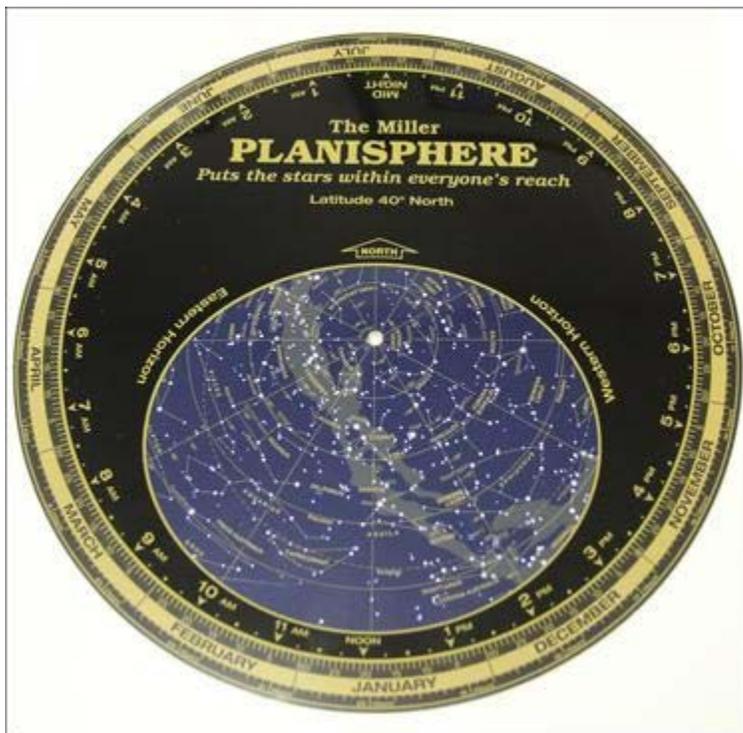
RASC 2017 Total Eclipse Expedition

Have you made plans for 2017 yet? Join other RASC members and view this unforgettable event with the breath-taking Grand Tetons of Wyoming in the background. For more information on our Great American Solar Eclipse 2017 Tour see:

<http://www.rasc.ca/news/great-american-total-solar-eclipse-tour-book-now>.

July RASC Summer Sale

40/50 and 50/60 Planispheres On sale for **\$8.00** !



Available at the RASC store:

https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc/RASC/Store/Store_OBSAIDS.aspx?Category=OBSAIDS

RASC Crests on Sale for \$3.00 !



Available at the RASC store:

https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc/RASC/Store/Store_PROMOWEAR.aspx?Category=PROMOWEAR

Annual Report 2014/2015

[The RASC Extended Annual Report is available here.](#)

Office Closure

The National Office will be closed from Wednesday July 1st for the General Assembly in Halifax. We will re-open Tuesday July 7th.

RASC Special Projects Program

by [James Edgar](#), RASC President

The Board of Directors have recently initiated a new program within the Society to accept applications from individual members or Centres for grants not exceeding \$2000 per application. The program is funded to a maximum of \$10,000 from the Ruth Northcott Fund. The preamble reads:

Similar to the Public Speaker Program, the goal of the Special Projects Program (SPP) is to encourage Centres or individual Society members to conduct specific outreach activities or research related to astronomy and the allied sciences. The Society encourages its members to develop outreach activities or to travel to distant locations by providing funding for travel and accommodation expenses.

The three trustees recently appointed by the Board are:

Barb Wright (Administrative) (Victoria Centre)

Katrina Ince-Lum (Toronto Centre)

Dr. Howard Trottier (Vancouver Centre)

Complete details of this exciting new program are available online at

http://www.rasc.ca/system/files/private/RASC_Policy_Manual_2015_Ver4.6.pdf

Charitable Donations to RASC

by [James Edgar](#), RASC President
and [Colin Haig](#), RASC 1st Vice-President

Colin Haig:

With the RASC's recent fundraising appeal well under way, I thought it was time to do my part. My idea was to make the donation I could afford. My employer, SAP Canada Inc., offers a charitable match program through Benevity. SAP generously matches employee charitable contributions to registered Canadian charities, to a maximum of \$250. So, my \$250 donation turned into \$500. I encourage you to find out if your employer has a charitable matching program.

James Edgar:

I received a letter in the mail recently from CN (my former employer in a time long, long ago), offering to donate an amount on behalf of retiree volunteers. I applied and was quickly notified that, in recognition of my volunteerism, the RASC would receive a grant. The letter reads:

Dear James Edgar,

This is to let you know that your request for a CN Railroaders in the Community Retired Employee Volunteer Grant has been approved. A cheque for \$500 will be sent to The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada / la Societe Royale d'Astronomie du Canada within the next quarter.

We have also sent a notification to Randy Attwood to advise them of the grant and to inform them of your involvement in the CN Railroaders in the Community Retired Employee Volunteer Grant.

We applaud your volunteer commitment and your efforts to strengthen our communities.

Have a safe day.

CN Railroaders in the Community

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>

CASCA Summer Solstice Newsletter

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

The Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie, the association of Canadian academic astronomers, has published its 2015 Summer Solstice Cassiopeia Newsletter, edited by Magdalen Normandeau and Joanne Rosvick.

This edition contains information regarding the Thirty Meter Telescope. Go to: <http://casca.ca/?p=5963>

Asteroids with a Canadian Connection

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

The following have been added to the list of asteroids with Canadian connections:

(427695) Johnpazder = 2004 FV16

Discovered 2004 Mar. 16 by D. D. Balam at Mauna Kea.

Named for John Pazder (b. 1967) of the National Research Council of Canada. John is the team leader of the optics group of the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics and optical engineer for the Thirty Meter Telescope project. He has been a near lifelong friend of the discoverer.

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-427695>

(423097) Richardjarrell = 2003 YL177

Discovered 2003 Dec. 16 by D. D. Balam at Mauna Kea.

Richard Adrian Jarrell (1946–2013) was a Canadian historian of science and technology, who was instrumental in shaping the teaching of those subjects at York University, and furthering their pursuit in Canada. He is best known for having authored *The Cold Light of Dawn* (1988).

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-423097>

(31281) Stothers = 1998 FK34

Discovered 1998 Mar. 20 by the Lincoln Laboratory Near-Earth Asteroid Research Team at Socorro.

Duncan Bayard Stothers (b. 1997) was awarded first place in the 2014 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for his electrical and mechanical engineering project. He attends the St. George's School, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/asteroid-31281>

These are listed on the Web site, www.rasc.ca/canadian-asteroids.

➤ Across the RASC

RASC Sponsors the Canada Wide Science Fair / Expo-Sciences Pan-Canadienne

by [Robyn Foret](#), RASC Chair, Education & Public Outreach Committee

Within the National Science Fair Program, the Canada-Wide Science Fair constitutes the national championship round, where finalists from Regional Science Fairs across the country meet and compete. This year's event in Fredericton, New Brunswick awarded two students with our sponsored awards for Excellence in Astronomy.

The Intermediate Excellence in Astronomy Award was granted to Caleb Winder from Camlachie, ON for his "Fusion + Fission = Future" project.

The Junior Excellence in Astronomy Award was granted to Janet Dawson of Victoria, BC for her project "Goodnight Sun!"

Congratulations to both! For more information:

http://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/Science_Fair.pdf

➤ *Bulletin Photo of the Month*

June 30: Venus and Jupiter

by [Peter Ceravolo](#),
Okanagan Centre

We are having some spectacular weather in the Okanagan. Here is our view of Venus and Jupiter the night of June 30th with Osoyoos in the foreground.



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>.



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