

September 2015 - Volume 10, Number 9

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca.

► Editor's Notebook by David Garner

September's Sky

We have a new Moon on the 13th and the largest full Moon (at perigee) of the year on the 28th; plus, on that same evening we can observe another total lunar eclipse. This is the last of four consecutive total lunar eclipses - a series known as a tetrad.

Mercury is well placed in the evening twilight early in the month. Venus is at maximum brightness (-4.8 mag.) in the dawn sky and Mars can be found low in the eastern twilight. By mid-month, Jupiter reappears in the morning sky whereas Saturn is in the southwest mid-evening sky.

The autumnal equinox occurs on the 23rd, at 8:21 A.M. (UTC).

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

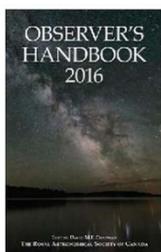
► News @ RASC.ca

News from the Society Office

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

The 2016 Observer's Handbook and 2016 Observer's Calendar

The *2016 Observer's Handbook* and *2016 Observer's Calendar* are now available on the eStore: [Pre-Order yours today!](#)



RASC Tours

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:

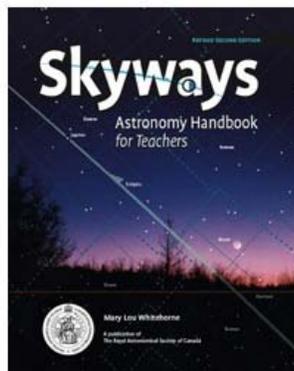
<http://www.rasc.ca/news/great-american-total-solar-eclipse-tour-book-now>.

Back-to-School September Sale!

Skyways: Astronomy Handbook for Teachers on **SALE** for \$14.95!

Teaching Astronomy? Skyways makes it easy!

Skyways is ideal for teachers, youth group leaders, and anyone interested in hands-on astronomy education. Written by a Canadian with Canadian teachers and astronomy educators in mind. Instructions for hands-on activities on a wide range of topics including: Seasons, Stars, and the Solar System. **Order yours today!**



Special Projects Program

by **Barbara Wright**, Administrative Trustee

Program Description

The goal of the program is to make Society funds available for projects that further the RASC mandate, carried out by individual members or groups of members. Such projects may include but are not restricted to: research projects (not connected with any academic institution), brochures or handouts, booklets, display materials, web sites, workshops, classes, school visits, special lectures, GA travel for members who have had a paper accepted for presentation, support such as materials or field trips for elementary or secondary school students.

Projects must be completed within one year of the date of the grant. Progress reports must be supplied at three month intervals, and a final accounting of money spent, including receipts, and goals achieved must be submitted in writing to the Trustees at completion.

In addition to the grant, successful applicants may be asked, as a requirement of the Program and if appropriate, to prepare and deliver public presentations of their results or otherwise report on their activities to their home Centres, and be willing to travel to any other Centres which may be interested in sponsoring them under the Public Speaker Program.

Administration

The program is funded from the Ruth Northcott Fund to an amount not exceeding \$10,000 annually. Applications will be evaluated and approved by three Trustees, appointed from time to time by the Board, with one of the Trustees designated as Special Projects Administrator. Maximum allowable per application is \$2000.

One Trustee will be assigned to monitor each successful proposal, receive and comment on progress reports and follow-up on any required presentations.

Distribution of funds to successful applicants is handled by the Society Office staff. All contact regarding the program shall be through the Special Projects Administrator spp@rasc.ca , who shall promote the program to the Society at least twice annually.

This notification will be the first to kickoff the program, seeking applications for the coming year, with a one-off deadline of 2015 December 31. Further notifications will be forthcoming as the year progresses, depending on uptake and fund availability.

How to Apply

Each application must include:

- Date of application
- Justification for and goals of the project
- Description of the activities to be carried out or the end product
- A paragraph explaining how the project supports the RASC vision and mission
- List of materials or resources required
- Detailed budget
- Project schedule including projected completion date
- Amount requested
- Other sources of support (financial or otherwise) that will be used
- Names and contact information for all persons involved
- Details of any work or preparations already completed
- Possibilities for future use or follow-on outcomes of the project

Application Evaluation by the Trustees

As soon as is practicable after receiving an application, the Trustees shall evaluate the proposal on the basis of available funding, completeness and practicality of the proposal, and the proposal's relationship to the Society's aims.

The Trustees will consider each application separately and may approach the applicant for additional information before making a decision. Applicants will be informed of the decision not more than two months after the date of applying. For those whose application was not funded, an explanation shall be provided.

Since successful projects are funded in the order they are received, those not funded solely due to lack of funds in the current year may re-apply for the following budget year.

The application form is located at: <http://www.rasc.ca/special-projects-program>

RASC's New Website

by **James Edgar**, RASC President

A hearty congratulations to Denis Grey and the rest of the Webteam, the Information Technology Committee, and our summer hiree, Joseph Astillero, for the bangup job of creating our new website. Kudos all 'round!

Society Election Information

by **Robyn Foret**, RASC 2nd Vice-President

Current Election Information - 2016 Board of Directors Election

The 2016 General Assembly is scheduled earlier than usual, hosted by the London Centre May 20 – 22. Coincidentally, our Treasurer's term is up, expiring on 2016 May 22. As a result, the Nominating Committee is communicating to the Membership well in advance in the hope that more of you will have time to consider a Board position.

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

- Be part of our leadership team at The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.
- The Nominating Committee is seeking at least three candidates to run for the Board of Directors.
- The President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be drawn from the ranks of the Board, which will include the three members chosen in this election and six members who were elected in 2014 and 2015 for terms expiring in 2016 and 2017.

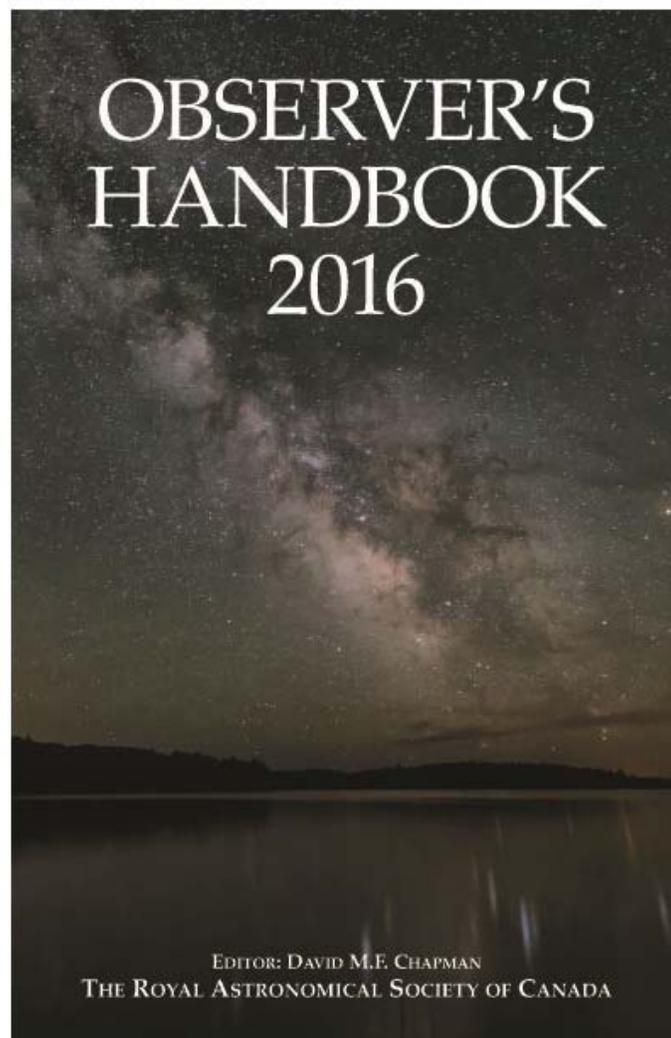
For more information regarding nominations and eligibility please see: [here](#).

2016 RASC *Observer's Handbook*

by **Dave Chapman**, Editor: *Observer's Handbook*

I am pleased to report that the 2016 edition of the Handbook is now a complete first draft, and is with the proofreaders for checking. It will go to the printer in mid-September and should be mailed to all members and pre-order customers in early October. There are a few special elements in this edition, my last as editor, but I will leave those as surprises.

To whet your appetite, I would like to share the cover with you (keen-eyed readers of SkyNews may have seen a miniature of the 2016 cover in the RASC advertising). The cover photo was taken by photographer Chris Green of Liverpool, Nova Scotia inside Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site (also an RASC Dark-Sky Preserve). He took the photo from the shore of Keji Lake, near a location sacred to the Mi'kmaq First Nation. I specifically requested Chris to shoot this photo, and I am pleased to share it with the RASC.



Bring Back Science Education

by **Chris Gainor**, RASC, First Vice President

Help Bring Back Science Education to the Centre of the Universe. The effort to keep the Centre of the Universe educational facility at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory near Victoria is entering a new phase with the creation of a new society to run the centre. As well, a fundraising effort is beginning on indiegogo.

The RASC Victoria Centre has a long history of public outreach events at the DAO with the cooperation of the National Research Council of Canada. In 2001, the NRC opened the Centre of the Universe visitors' centre next to the historic Plaskett Telescope at the DAO. The centre operated until the NRC decided to close it in 2013 due to budget reductions.

People in Victoria and astronomers from across Canada protested this move, and when the RASC Victoria Centre stepped forward along with other community groups and agencies, the NRC agreed to facilitate outreach programs run by volunteers from the Victoria Centre. Saturday night outreach sessions, which include astronomy talks and observatory tours, proved to be a big success in the summer of 2014, and expanded programs this summer have also been highly popular with people from around Victoria. As well, educational programs have been run at the Centre of the Universe by the Science Venture program of the University of Victoria.

Earlier this year, the Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory Society was incorporated to expand the outreach and educational offerings of the past two years. The not-for-profit society hopes to restart school tours of the DAO, which will celebrate 100 years of astronomy in 2018, and then to create a new and more exciting visitors experience at the Centre of the Universe.

The initial goal for the society is to raise \$9,500 to match grant funding to fund new school tours and begin to acquire new equipment.

Anyone interested in contributing to this effort can go to:

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/bringing-back-science-education-at-the-observatory#/story>.

More information and a membership form for the society are available at:

<http://www.observatoryhill.org/>.

2015 Lunar Eclipse Brochure Available

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 September lunar eclipse? An updated brochure is available here:

http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/Observing_and_Understanding_Lunar_Eclipses_Sept_2015.pdf.

Other brochures, useful for public events, are available at this location: <http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/index.htm>.

Webinar about the lunar eclipse on *Discover the Universe*

by **Julie Bolduc-Duval**, Coordinator, *Discover the Universe*

Discover the Universe will offer a free webinar about the upcoming lunar eclipse to help teachers and educators learn about this event and organize activities with their groups. Please share this information to anyone who might be interested in your centres and local networks.

Lunar eclipse of Sept. 27th

Webinar offered on September 15th at 2pm eastern – 11am pacific.

For more information and to register: <http://www.discovertheuniverse.ca>.

We also have other interesting webinars planned for this fall, including one about the New Horizons mission in October. Stay tuned for more details!

Discover the Universe is an online training program offered by the RASC, the Canadian Astronomical Society and the Federation des astronomes amateurs du Quebec.

For information, contact Julie Bolduc-Duval at julie@discovertheuniverse.ca

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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is a benefit of membership in the Society.

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