



**April 2016 - Volume 11, Number 4**

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*.  
Email them to the Editor, David Garner at  
[bulletin@rasc.ca](mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca)

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

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## **News from the Society Office**

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

### [RASC Tours:](#)

#### **Arizona Astronomy Tour scheduled for September 2016!**

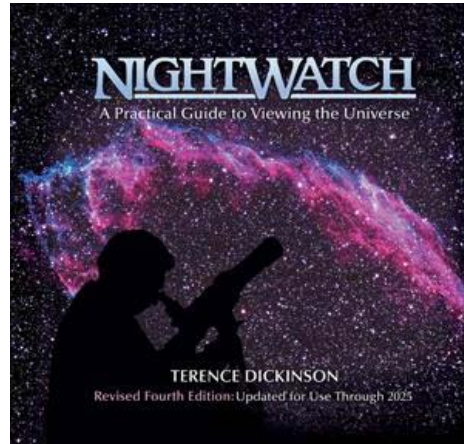
After a successful trip to astronomy and space exploration sites in southern California last November, we are planning a five-day trip to Arizona in September to visit the following amazing astronomy sites: Kitt Peak National Observatory, Mount Lemmon SkyCenter, Lowell Observatory, Arizona Meteor Crater, with sightseeing in Sedona and Canyon de Chelly. Please check out the [website and PDF brochure](#) here!

**If you are interested and want more information please contact Executive Director Randy Attwood at the National Office: [execdir@rasc.ca](mailto:execdir@rasc.ca)**

***NEW* Item: [NightWatch for sale through eStore:](#)**

**Revised Fourth Edition:** updated for use through 2025. Written by Canadian astronomy writer and RASC member Terence Dickinson. The key feature of this classic title is the section of star charts that are cherished by backyard astronomers everywhere. *NightWatch* has been acclaimed as the best general interest introduction to astronomy. This hardcover edition includes star charts for use in the southern hemisphere. There are also dozens of new photographs

throughout the book that show the latest thrilling discoveries made by current space observatories and probes.



*Pricing: \$26.50 + shipping and taxes*

**NEW** Item: **Navy RASC Hooded Sweatshirt!**

Keep warm while you observe with this custom-made RASC navy-blue hoodie. Our initial run did so well, we've re-ordered! (Please email [mempub@rasc.ca](mailto:mempub@rasc.ca) for size availability: sizes listed on the website may not still be available).

**Available in sizes:** S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

**Sizing Chart** (width across chest, under arm): Small = 19" Medium = 21" Large = 23" XL = 25" 2XL = 27" 3XL = 29"



*Pricing: \$45 + shipping and tax*

## **NEW** Item: **Interstellar Value Pack**

Buy this all-in-one pack: RASC Hooded Sweatshirt, RASC Baseball Cap, 2 starfinders and 2 moon gazer guides! You'll also receive the RASC Observer's Calendar 2016 for free!

**Value of \$75 + for only \$48.50.....Limited time offer. Sale ends April 18!**



## **General Assembly in London: May Long Weekend 2016**

The 2016 General Assembly will be hosted by **London Centre, alongside AstroCATS!** It will be held from May 19 to May 23 at Fanshawe College. Plan now to visit London, Ontario this summer! For more information see: <http://events.rasc.ca/>.

## **Annual Report 2015:**

Just a friendly reminder to all Centre Secretaries/Treasurers: please ensure that all Centre Activity Reports and Centre Financial Reports are **complete and submitted ASAP**. Also, please make sure that all Centre Executive and address information is updated in the Centre portal. This is to ensure all Centres are properly represented in the Annual Report for 2015. (Centre photo submissions are welcome!) Any questions please forward to Julia Neeser [mempub@rasc.ca](mailto:mempub@rasc.ca) or Randy Attwood [execdir@rasc.ca](mailto:execdir@rasc.ca).

## The President's Corner

by **James Edgar**, RASC President

### The electronic *Observer's Handbook*

Attention all you Observers!

The electronic version of the *2016 Observer's Handbook* is available to RASC members for the same low price as last year -- \$10 for the data file, plus an activation code good for two installations. The electronic version is available at [www.drmz.net/rasc/DRMZ/OH2016.drmz](http://www.drmz.net/rasc/DRMZ/OH2016.drmz)

A **Javelin** reader is required to access the file, plus payment must be made before obtaining the activation code. To arrange payment and get the activation details, contact the Society Office either by email at [mempub@rasc.ca](mailto:mempub@rasc.ca), or call during the day **1-416-924-7973**.

The Javelin software has recently been upgraded to conform to the latest versions of Windows and Mac, plus it is suitable for iPads, iPhones, and Android devices.

### The 2017 Total Solar Eclipse Bulletin and *2016 Observer's Handbook*

The 2017 Eclipse Bulletin and *2016 Observer's Handbook* are available on the eStore: [Order yours today!](#)

### RASC Observing Certificate Program

The RASC offers six observing certificate programs to promote active observing. By successfully completing these programs, members are eligible for an official certificate from the RASC. Observing certificate programs are a great way to challenge yourself, learn more about the night sky, and get the most out of our challenging and rewarding hobby.

- [Explore the Universe Certificate](#)
- [Messier Certificate](#)
- [Finest NGC Certificate](#)
- [Isabel Williamson Lunar Certificate](#)
- [Deep-Sky Gems](#)
- [Deep-Sky Challenge](#)

For more information see <http://rasc.ca/certificate-programs>

## **Society Election Information**

by [Robyn Foret](#), RASC 2nd Vice-President & Chair-Nominating Committee

### Current Election Information - 2016 Board of Directors Election

Nominations for the RASC Board of Directors are now closed.

The following Candidates, meeting all of the criteria stipulated in RASC Policy B3, are eligible for election to the Board.

- Charles Ennis, Sunshine Coast Centre (Centre President)
- Chris Gainor, Victoria Centre (RASC 1st Vice-President)
- Craig Levine, London Centre (RASC Director)
- Susan Yeo, Calgary Centre (Centre National Council Representative)

Candidates' Statements may be found here <http://www.rasc.ca/society-election-information>

The Nominating Committee encourages all Members in good standing to review the Candidate statements. The election is scheduled to take place April 25 through May 13. Successful Candidates along with the standing Directors will elect the Officers of the Board prior to the General Assembly as defined in RASC Policy B1. The new Board of Directors and Officers will be announced during the General Assembly and we encourage all Members to participate, either in person or via WebEx.

## CASCA News

by **Eric Briggs**, Toronto Centre

The Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie, the association of academic Canadian astronomers, has published its Vernal Equinox 2016 *Cassiopeia* newsletter.

The most notable part of this newsletter's contents concerns Canada's plans for participation in the Thirty Meter Telescope project. The rationale for the continuation of this telescope's construction at the Mauna Kea Observatory must be renegotiated, and the TMT Observatory Corporation is openly studying alternative sites. Prof. Ray Carlberg describes the situation.

<http://casca.ca/?p=6902>

CASCA has also empanelled a group of 9 distinguished astronomers from 7 Canadian universities, the National Research Council of Canada and 1 American university, and the panel has just issued their report on the long-term direction of Canadian astrophysical research. This is part of an ongoing decadal process, similar to the workings of associations of American academic scientists, to fund astrophysical research projects. The new document is titled:

[Unveiling the Cosmos: Canadian Astronomy 2016-2020, Report of the Mid-Term Review 2015 Panel](#)

<http://casca.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/MTR2016nocover.pdf>

## 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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