



**June 2016 - Volume 11, Number 6**

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:**

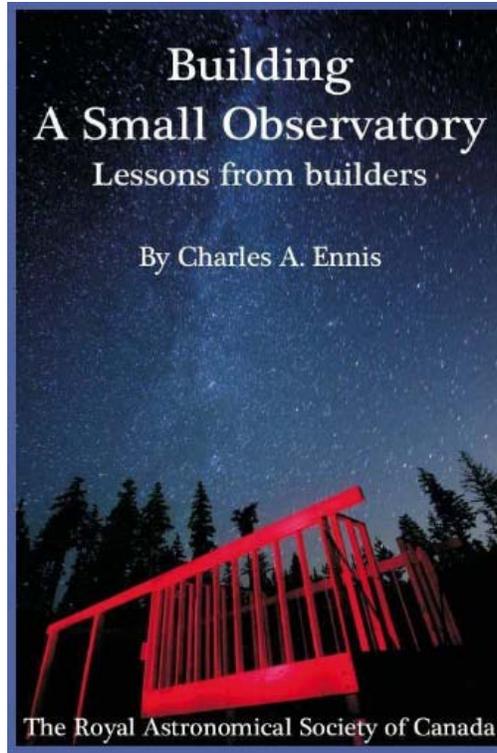
#### **Arizona Astronomy Tour scheduled for September 2016!**

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: [Building a Small Observatory for sale on eStore:](#)**

This book is the result of interviews with 140 small observatory owners in 10 countries to discover what it takes to fund, build, and operate a small observatory. As a planning guide, it will help you maximize your chances of successfully creating a trouble free installation, and help find the best site and equipment. Learn from the experience of those who went before you. Don't make the mistakes that others have made! **Pricing: \$17.95 + shipping and taxes.**



**Large Slide Holder/Viewer Table and Storage still available: FREE!!!**  
Please contact [execdir@rasc.ca](mailto:execdir@rasc.ca) for information. Available immediately for pick-up at 4920 Dundas St. W, Toronto.





RASC Society Office staff (plus RASC Board member Charles Ennis) with astronaut Jeremy Hansen at the General Assembly in London May 2016.

The RASC is proud to announce its new Diamond Sponsor - **Subaru Canada!**  
Check out their Dark Sky campaign!



## Inauguration of the Yukon Centre to the RASC

by **Anthony Gucciardo**, RASC, Yukon Centre

On Monday June 6th, the Yukon Astronomical Society (YAS) will be hosting James Edgar, Past President of the RASC, to inaugurate the **Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Yukon Centre**. This will be combined with a presentation about *Synthesis of Elements in Stars*, all to be held at the Yukon College. That's right... the Yukon Astronomical Society has officially joined the ranks of the RASC, and has become its **29th Centre!** (<http://www.rasc.ca/news/new-rasc-centre>)

This event will be **FREE** and open to the public.

The YAS is pleased to invite its members, and the general public, to join us on Monday June 6th, for a celebration and free presentation. The 90 minute presentation will be held at the Yukon College, room A2402 (<http://yukonastronomicalsociety.com/our-programs/meetings/>). The **inauguration ceremony** begins at 7:00 p.m. in the courtyard (next to C-Wing) of the Yukon College, and the presentation will begin shortly after at 7:30 p.m..

It is also fitting that the YAS will have some solar telescopes out that evening, so that the attendees may have a look at our closest star... the Sun. Solar viewing will begin at 6:30 (weather permitting) in the courtyard. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this event.

## Special Offer – Sky Tools

by **Blake Nancarrow**, RASC, Toronto Centre

Special Offer - SkyTools

The RASC is considering a plan to extend discounts to RASC members for the SkyTools software. The developer offers reduced pricing for astronomy groups and clubs. If you are interested in obtaining this software, please let us know. With sufficient interest we will obtain the software which members can then purchase via the RASC online store. Show of hands, please?

SkyTools is a powerful astronomy planning application. It is used by visual astronomers as well as photographers. One can plan observing or imaging sessions, filter target lists based on the date and time, location, Moon phase, target elevation, etc. It works well for star hoppers and people using push-to and go-to telescopes. The tool includes a variety of visualizations and charts and supports logging. See the April 2015 Journal for a review.

For more information go to the SkyHound web site:

<http://skyhound.com/skytools.html>.

Contact Blake Nancarrow at [astronomy@computer-ease.com](mailto:astronomy@computer-ease.com) to register your interest.

## **The President's Corner**

by **James Edgar**, Past President RASC

### **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 New RASC Board

At the General Assembly in London, on May 19, the Board of Directors elected a new President, Craig Levine of London. The Board's makeup is now as follows:

President – Craig Levine  
1st Vice-President – Dr. Chris Gainor  
2nd Vice-President – Robyn Foret  
Treasurer – Susan Yeo  
National Secretary – Charles Ennis  
Director – Dr. Randy Boddam  
Director – James Edgar  
Director – Colin Haig  
Director – Heather Laird  
Executive Director – Randy Attwood

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

by **Andrea Misner**, Chair, Education and Public Outreach

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 Montreal, Quebec awarded two students with our sponsored awards for Excellence in Astronomy.



The Intermediate Excellence in Astronomy Award was granted to William Gadoury from St-Jean-de-Matha, Quebec for his Discovery from Space project. Here's an abstract:

As recorded by news media around the globe, William's theory is that Mayans located their cities to correspond with the stars of various constellations. It is reported that he studied the locations of 117 known Mayan cities, compared them with 23 different constellations, and in one case found 3 stars but only 2 cities. Searching on line maps and satellite imagery, he reported his findings and earned a trip to an international conference in Quebec City organized by the Canadian Space Agency. He used this opportunity to request images captured by the CSA's RADARSAT-2 satellite. "He was very persuasive," said CSA project officer Daniel Deslisle. "But just by looking at the canopy itself, it's possible to see some linear features that do not look natural and would suggest that there is some infrastructure underneath the vegetation. We are pretty sure that there are some features hidden there ... I think there's a high potential of finding a city," Deslisle said.

The RASC awarded William with a NexStar 4SE, a PowerTank12 and a 1 year Youth Membership in the RASC, Montreal Centre.

The Junior Excellence in Astronomy Award was granted to Eungyung Kim of Prince George, BC for her project “Reconnaissance Sensory Space Glove Prototype”.

Here’s an abstract:

A sensory space glove prototype was developed and built to address the critical issue of the lack of multi-sensory ability in current space gloves. Space exploration provides many direct benefits to humans. Improving the safety and effectiveness of space exploration will have immediate and lasting results on Earth. The Prototype developed was successful in increasing the wearer’s tactile sensitivity and sensory ability.

The RASC awarded Eungyung with an Orion Starblast 6 Astro and a 1 year Youth Membership in the RASC Prince George Centre.

Special thanks to Patrice Scattolin, who graciously represented the RASC at the Fair held on the McGill University campus in Montreal.

Thank you also to All-Star Telescope’s Ken From for his special consideration; supplying the telescopes, accessories and Power Tanks within the confines of the EPO budget.

The RASC has been a proud sponsor of the CWSF/ESPC since its inception in 1962.

## **Astronomy Workshop for Informal Educators: June 6-24**

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

Discover the Universe invites all educators from parks, summer camps, youth groups or interpretive centres to join us for our free online astronomy workshop. Participants will discover astronomy activities to do with their groups while learning about basic concepts in a fun and innovative way. Visit our website for more information and to register: [www.discovertheuniverse.ca](http://www.discovertheuniverse.ca) (Workshop also available in French: [www.decouvertedelunivers.ca](http://www.decouvertedelunivers.ca))

## May 9, 2016 Transit of Mercury

by **Peter Barbaro**, Membership and Development Committee



The equipment used was a Celestron 8-in. with 6.3 focal reducer and the Nikon 5100 on the NexStar Alt/Az mount.

## 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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