



Photo: Tony Schellink



December 21, 2020 to January 3, 2021

RASC Weekly: The Great Conjunction and a Star Party!

Monday, December 21, 2020 - 19:30 to 21:30 EST
Global Star Party with Explore Scientific

RASC is partnering with Explore Scientific to bring you a star party of epic proportions! Explore Scientific will be livestreaming throughout the day on their channels ([list and links available here](#)). RASC members will be joining for the evening livestream, starting at 7:30pm EST. There will be presenters from across the country, including:

- Robyn Foret, RASC President
- Dave Chapman and Cathy LeBlanc, Mi'kmaw Moons and RASC Halifax
- Mark Tovey and Peter Jedicke, RASC London
- Tim Yaworski, LivingSkyGuy and RASC Saskatoon
- Taara Jaffer, RASC Montreal
- Gary Crawford, RASC Mississauga
- Chris Gainor, past RASC President and RASC Victoria
- Jenna Hinds, RASC National

Follow Explore Scientific on their platforms to catch this livestream!

Astro-image of the Week

Tony Schellink

We are featuring winners of RASC's Astromaging Certificate. Winners will be featured in the banner of RASC Weekly. More information on the RASC Astromaging Certificate is available [here](#).

JUPITER WITH MOONS:

Moons from Jupiter outwards are Io Europa Ganymede and Callisto One of a series of photos taken to show the movement of Jupiter's moons over one night. Only two of them moved sufficiently in the time span to see in the final clip.

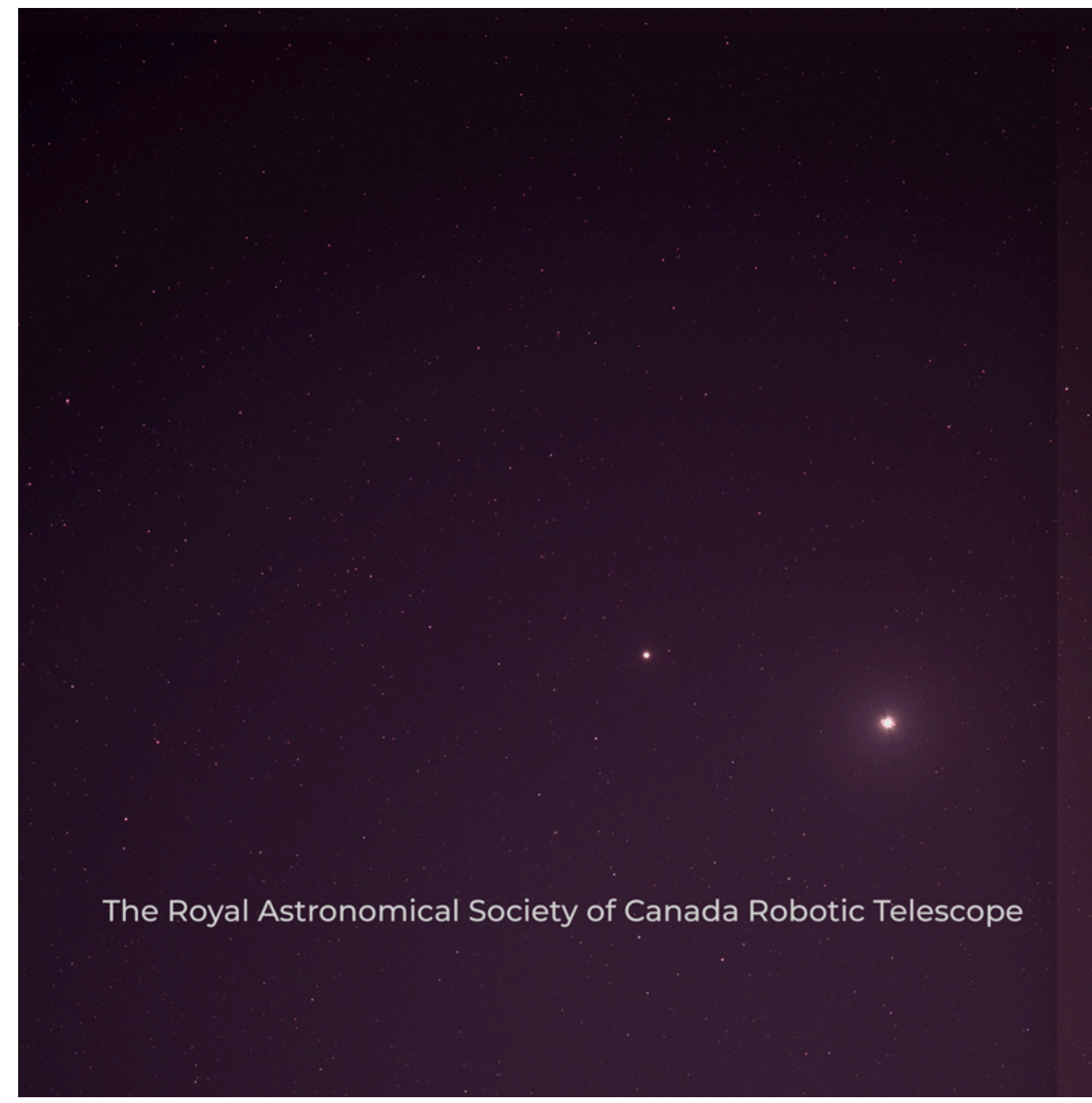


Fri Aug 28 2009 01:17
Canon EOS Rebel XSi
Celestron 8inch SC on CG5 mount.
Exposure 0.6 seconds, ISO 1600
Port Mouton, Nova Scotia

To see the large image, check out the [RASC Astromaging Zenfolio page](#).

Follow along as we image the Great Conjunction!

We are using the DSLR on the back of RASC's Robotic Telescope to capture Saturn and Jupiter as they conjunct! Follow us on social media to catch our daily photos of the planets.



Data Available For Purchase

Calling all astroimagers! The data from our Robotic Telescope is finally available for purchase. This is the perfect gift for the aspiring astroimagers in your life, and with no shipping costs! ALL of the data from the RASC Robotic Telescope for 2019 and 2020 is now available for purchase. You'll receive data for over 30 different narrowband and LRGB targets, including targets from our DSLR camera.

Head to our online store to purchase this item! Choose the item (adult or student) that applies to you or the person you're buying the item for. If you plan on gifting this purchase to someone, please email telescope@rasc.ca to inform them of your intent.

Buy Now

Gift Memberships

This holiday season, give the gift of a RASC membership to your friends and loved ones! A RASC membership includes a wealth of resources and a chance to connect with a large community of astronomy enthusiasts. If you have a budding astronomer in your life, our annual membership makes an excellent gift! To purchase a membership, contact our Membership Coordinator, Adela Zyfi at mempub@rasc.ca or (519) 783-1529.

RASC National Office Closure

RASC National Office will be closed from 12:00pm EST December 24th, 2020 until 9:00am EST January 3rd, 2021. Have a safe and happy holiday from the National Office staff!

This Week's Observing Targets

Send in your Observing Certificate applications!

Did you complete Explore the Universe, Explore the Moon, or another one of the RASC Observing Programs? Send in your application to your Centre's representative or to the chair of the Observing Committee at observing@rasc.ca as soon as possible! We will be including a list of those who achieved their observing certificates in 2020 in the January 1st Bulletin to our members. Congratulations in advance to those of you who have received your certificates!

Monday, December 21, 2020 - 5:02 EST

December Solstice

Tonight is the longest night of the year: the Winter Solstice! It's only the Winter Solstice for the Northern Hemisphere though, where the Earth's axis is tilted away from the Sun, leading to short days and long nights. In the Southern Hemisphere, it's the Summer Solstice as the South Pole tilts towards the Sun!

Monday, December 21, 2020 - 19:00 EST

The Great Conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter

This is one of the most significant astronomical events this year! Tonight, Jupiter and Saturn will appear only 6 arcmins from each other (a tenth the width of your pinky finger held at arm's length!) They'll be so close to each other that they'll look like a bright double-planet. The last time they were this close at conjunction was in 1623, when they would have been practically impossible to observe. To view this event, look southwest after sunset!

December 21 - December 22, 2020

Ursids Meteor Shower

Producing up to 10 meteors per hour, this minor meteor shower is the result of dust grains from a comet. The Ursids occur annually from the 17th till the 25th of December and will peak during the evening of the 21st of December. Best viewing will be just after midnight from a dark location. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Ursa Minor, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

Tuesday, December 29, 2020 - 22:00 EST

Full Moon

When the Moon is on the opposite side of the Earth to the Sun, it will be fully illuminated. This month's full moon is known as *Kesikewiku's*, or the Winter Time Moon, in Mi'kmaw. For more information about the Mi'kmaw Moons, [subscribe to Mi'kmaw Moons on YouTube](#).

January 2 - January 3, 2021

Quadrantids Meteor Shower

The Quadrantids is an above average meteor shower, with up to 40 meteors per hour at its peak. It is thought to be produced by dust grains left behind by an extinct comet known as 2003 EH1. The shower runs annually from January 1-5. It peaks this year on the night of the 2nd and morning of the 3rd. The waning gibbous moon will block out most of the faintest meteors this year. But if you are patient, you should still be able to catch a few good ones. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Bootes, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

Member Highlights

Do you know a member who you think deserves a spot in our newsletter? Let us know! Email communications@rasc.ca with your submissions.

[view this email in your browser](#)