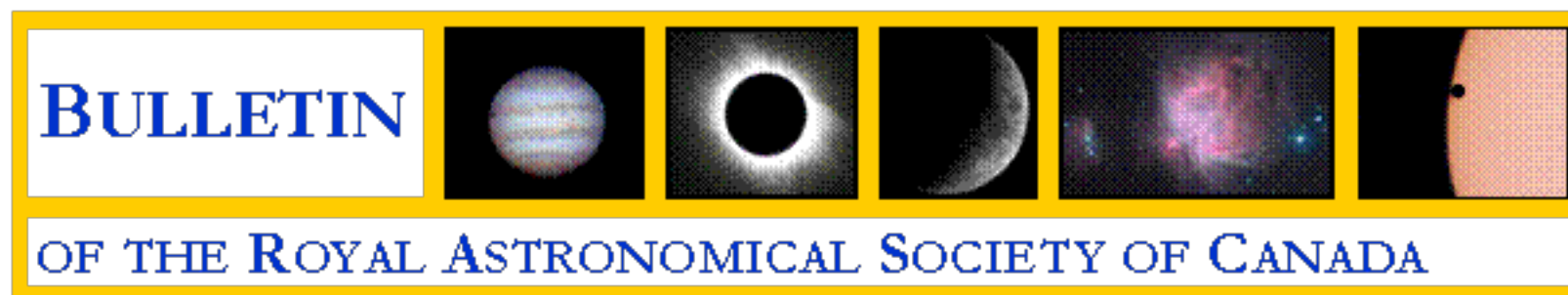


2010-09



September 2010 - Volume 5, Number 9

Ian Levstein, Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. Email them to the Editor at bulletin@rasc.ca [1].

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

International Astronomy Day

by **Ron Macnaughton**, Toronto Centre

Last spring's astronomy day had horrible weather for almost all of us! For Centres that want to try again, the fall date is Saturday, October 16. That's the weekend following Thanksgiving. The Moon will be two days past first quarter, so many shadow patterns on craters will be visible. Jupiter will be nice and high. Also, it's a good season to see what I think is the most distant naked eye object most of us can see: M31.

May everyone have clear skies for the upcoming Star Parties.

2011 Solstice Lunar Eclipse

Reservations are now being taken for a trip to Nabta Playa in Egypt for the 2011 June 15 Lunar Eclipse. The

extensive and exciting agenda is available [here](#) [2]. For more information on this 12-day trip including costs, please contact **Shebby Aras** at Eclipse Traveler (toll free, 800-276-1168) for more details.

Recognition For Volunteerism In Astronomy

by **Rick Stankiewicz**, Unattached RASC Member

At the 2009 RASC GA, National Council unanimously passed a motion to recognize an individual for his amazing demonstration of volunteerism in astronomy, **Bruce Waters** of Toronto, Ontario. As of 2010, Bruce has been volunteering his time, energy and equipment providing a public astronomy program every summer for 25 years, in what is undoubtedly his favourite Provincial Park.

The Killarney Provincial Park Observatory (KPPO) is a small observatory located near the George Lake Campground near Killarney, Ontario. Opened on 2010 July 17, it's the first public observatory running in any Ontario Provincial Park. The KPPO uses a SkyShed GPOD - XL3 and houses a Meade 10" LX5 telescope. The dome is made completely from recycled plastic (Re-HDPE) and the telescope sits on a steel pier. The observatory and telescope were donated by the Waters family to celebrate 25 consecutive years of astronomy lectures by volunteer amateur astronomer Bruce Waters, to over 5,000 park visitors. The telescope and observatory sit on a deck with two ramps (to ease the movement of people) donated by the Friends of Killarney Park. Mr. Waters also donated 25 years of "Starry Starry Nights" programs and text for a book that will be published by the Friends of Killarney in the future.

{CXCXCXCXC}

{CXCXCXCXC}

{CXCXCXCXC}

{CXCXCXCXC}



Bruce Waters (right) receiving the etching from **Alan Ward**. Photo by **Roel Teunissen**

While the Observatory will be used for special large audience presentations and by the Natural Heritage Education (NHE) park interpreters, the real beauty of the facility is that it has been optimized for personal use and allows anyone visiting the park free access to a high quality amateur observatory. The KPPO may well be the first free, public, self-use facility in North America. At the July 17 unveiling, Mr. Waters was presented with awards from the RASC by Sudbury Centre member, **Alan Ward**, and included a framed limited-edition, hand-coloured etching of the earliest surviving image of an observatory in Canada, at Louisburg, Nova Scotia (c. 1753). This was created and generously donated by RASC Archivist, **Randall Rosenfeld**. Also included in the presentations were a congratulatory letter from the National Secretary, **James Edgar**, a 2010 *Observer's Handbook* and a one-year honorary RASC membership. Park Superintendent, **Chuck Miller**, presented a commemorative plaque from Ontario Parks to Mr. Waters for his 25 years of extraordinary generosity in support of astronomy in the Park. All these awards are the first of their kind in recognition of volunteerism in astronomy. Following the formalities and the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Mr. Waters honoured the hundreds of people in attendance with a slideshow and a view of the night sky. There were a number of Sudbury RASC members who set up their telescopes for the public, which turned this event into an impromptu star party. It was a memorable event for all concerned and the RASC is grateful to all who helped make this event successful.

by **Roland Dechesne**, RASC Membership and Promotion Committee A new brochure for use at public events is available for download [here](#) [3]. Called *Understanding and Observing the Moon, its Phases and Eclipses*, the brochure will come in handy for InOMN (see below).

International Observe the Moon Night

by **Alyssa Gilbert** and **Gordon Osinski**, University of Western Ontario The NASA Lunar Science Institute, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, the Gemini Observatory, and Astronomers Without Borders are partnering together again this year to host events for the [International Observe the Moon Night](#) [4] (InOMN) on 2010 September 18. This is the second year this initiative is taking place, and this year they are hoping to have events around the world! There is an international [Facebook event page](#) [5] where you can find out more information. The [Canadian Lunar Research Network](#) [6] (CLRN), in partnership with the [Centre for Planetary Science and Exploration](#) [7] (CPSX), the [Department of Physics and Astronomy](#) [8] at The University of Western Ontario, and the [RASC London Centre](#) [9] will be hosting an InOMN event at the [Hume Cronyn Memorial Observatory](#) [10] on Western's campus. In the years to come, we would like to create a national initiative for this event, but this year our goal is to get the message out and encourage both professional and amateur astronomer groups and associations to host their own event! You can find planning tips and documents on the InOMN website. We also encourage you to reach out to the underserved youth (inner city, Aboriginal, rural) in your area in support of the NSERC PromoScience grant for the BIYA partnership of CASCA, FAAQ, and RASC.

► [Across the RASC](#)

Celebration at Keji DSP

by **Dave Chapman**, Halifax Centre On Saturday, August 7, the inauguration of Canada's twelfth and Nova Scotia's first Dark-Sky Preserve was celebrated at Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site. We had a perfect evening, and we invite you to read the full story at the Astronomy Nova Scotia [Web page](#) [11].

{X}C{X}C{X}C{X}C

{X}C{X}C{X}C{X}C

{X}C{X}C{X}C{X}C

{X}C{X}C{X}C{X}C

{X}C{X}C{X}C{X}C

{X}C{X}C{X}C{X}C

{X}C{X}C{X}C{X}C



On behalf of the Minister of the Environment, the **Hon. Gregg Kerr** receives the Keji Dark-Sky Preserve certificate from RASC President **Mary Lou Whitehorne**

RASCals Star-Party

by **Joe Carr**, Victoria Centre I'm pleased to report that our RASCals Star-Party held at a rural dark site near Victoria on southern Vancouver Island was a success on all counts. We had a new superb dark site and combined with the great weather, allowed the astro-photographers to image objects we normally can't manage from more urban settings. Visual observers were knocking off objects from their lists, and we were all busy showing the general public familiar objects both during the night sky viewing and also solar viewing during the hot, clear days. Night low temperature was running 11.4°C and daytime highs were 27.7°C, with no bugs, no dew, and no dust. We heard from two terrific speakers from the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics for both Friday and Saturday; held workshops under the shade of the oak trees; and generally had fun meeting new people and old friends alike. The kids had a blast just running around, taking part in astro-art activities, and observing on their own terms. Our corporate sponsors were very generous with prizes for both the adults and kids, making the star-party experience fun for all. Our new location this year worked out very well. We found a rural municipality that takes LPA seriously and worked with us to make this event attractive for everyone. This year's attendance was over 200 people, so we did very well as compared with previous years. We always aim to break even on this event, and the preliminary figures indicate we achieved that goal this year, despite it being a new venue with a few "unknowns." Details and photos: [here](#) [12].

BBC Comes to Calgary for Documentary on Light-Pollution Abatement

by **Roland Dechesne**, President, Calgary Centre A crew from the BBC regional television program "Inside Out" visited with the Calgary Centre's Responsible Lighting Committee members **Roland Dechesne, Bob King, Andrew Jones, Steve Donaldson** and **Blair Colborne** while filming a documentary on efforts to reduce light-pollution both in the U.K. and abroad. Their particular emphasis in Calgary was on the RASC's role in the City of Calgary's Envirosmart streetlight retrofit of residential areas in 2001-2003. Although we took pains to explain that we did not emphasize the astronomical aspect of light-pollution while working with the City and the public, that's all they really wanted us to talk about when the camera was rolling. They also spoke with representatives from Calgary Roads and the Calgary Police Service and did some aerial night shots from the Global TV helicopter. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, RASC Calgary did a lot of upfront lobbying with city aldermen, which led administration and the (then named) Department of Streets and Roads to build a plan for greenhouse gas reduction by changing residential streetlights from 200w to 100w at the same time as changing to the flat-lens cutoff luminaire design from the older sag-lens model. The lens change alone reduced the percentage of direct up-light from 30-35% to nearly zero and also reduced the lateral light emitted that leads to glare. Although there was less light on the ground, its value in illuminating the road was greater, since glare always reduces visibility and glare was much reduced after the retrofit. We filmed our portion of the documentary on the lawn next to CTV Calgary's studio, overlooking the city. Thanks to the President of CFCN, we were granted permission to use their site. Other interactions with the local media include the aforementioned BBC's use of Global TV's helicopter for aerial shots and the [story](#) [13] in the *Calgary Herald*.

► The Sky this Month

What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) [14] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know.

► Dates to Remember

- - **2010 September 3-6** - [Spruce Woods Star Party](#) [15], Spruce Woods Provincial Park, Winnipeg, MB
 - **2010 September 3-6** - [Nova East](#) [16], Smileys Provincial Park, NS **Cancelled**
 - **2010 September 7-12** - [Northern Prairie Star Party](#) [17], Black Nugget Lake, AB
 - **2010 September 9-12** - [Annual Algonquin Adventure](#) [18], Mew Lake Campground, ON
 - **2010 September 11-12** - [Alberta Star Party](#) [19], Starland Recreation Area Campground, AB
 - **2010 September 17-19** - [Fall'N'Stars](#) [20], Vanderwater Conservation Area, Thomasburg,



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

203 – 4920 Dundas St W, Toronto ON M9A 1B7 CANADA

Tel: (416) 924-7973, Fax: (416) 924-2911

Member Service: nationaloffice@rasc.ca [21]

Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca [22]

The *Bulletin* of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
is a benefit of membership in the Society.

© 2010 Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

(c) Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - All Rights Reserved

Source URL (retrieved on 2015/08/10 - 09:39): <https://www.rasc.ca/2010-09>

Links:

[1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca?subject=Bulletin%20Mail>

[2] <http://www.eclipsetraveler.com/egypt-lunar-eclipse-summer-solstice-tour.html>

[3] http://calgary.rasc.ca/downloads/Observing_and_understanding_lunar_eclipses.pdf

[4] <http://observethemoonnight.org/>

[5] <https://m.facebook.com/?>

[%21%2Fevent_php%3Fid=103151969742682&refsrc=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2F&_rdr](https://m.facebook.com/?%21%2Fevent_php%3Fid=103151969742682&refsrc=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2F&_rdr)

[6] <http://clrn.uwo.ca/>

[7] <http://cpsx.uwo.ca/>

[8] <http://www.physics.uwo.ca/>

- [9] <http://www.astro.uwo.ca/%7Erasc/>
- [10] <http://clrn.uwo.ca/InOMN/>
- [11] http://www.astronomynovascotia.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=284:keji-dark-sky-preserve-celebration-event-words-and-pictures&catid=1:news&Itemid=50
- [12] <http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/rascals-star-party/>
- [13] <http://www.calgaryherald.com/mobile/iphone/story.html?id=3443979>
- [14] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/northern-skies>
- [15] <http://winnipeg.rasc.ca/>
- [16] <http://halifax.rasc.ca/ne/>
- [17] <http://edmontonrasc.com/northern-prairie-star-party/>
- [18] <http://rascto.ca/index.php>
- [19] <http://calgary.rasc.ca/asp2010.htm>
- [20] <http://rascbelleville.ca/fallinstars/>
- [21] <mailto:nationaloffice@rasc.ca?subject=Request%20for%20Info>
- [22] <http://www.rasc.ca/>