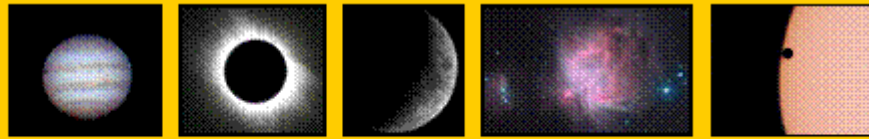


BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

July 2013 - Volume 8, Number 7

David Garner, Editor

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

A PDF version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

A Web-based version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

➤ Editor's Notebook

by David Garner

July's Sky

Look for Mars and Jupiter in the dawn twilight. Saturn can be found in the western evening sky while Uranus and Neptune rise later in the evening. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#) for complete details.

➤ News @ RASC.ca

RASC Now Operating Under New Bylaw

by [Chris Gainor](#), RASC Second Vice-President

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has entered a new era of governance with the passage of a new Bylaw and a new Policy Manual at the General Assembly in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Under constitutional changes mandated by new federal legislation, the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, the RASC changed its Bylaw and Constitution so that it is run by a board of directors instead of the National Council, as in the past. In this transition year, the board will contain eight members, including the five members of the executive from the past year headed by President Glenn Hawley, along with three other board members elected in membership election held this spring, Paul Schumacher of the Victoria Centre, Paul Gray of the Halifax Centre, and Francois van Heerden of the Toronto Centre.

Next year, all nine members who will sit on the RASC board will be elected by the membership at large, and the executive will be chosen from the ranks of the board. A National Advisory Council will provide input to the board from centre representatives.

The new Bylaw will give the RASC more flexibility to change its operating procedures as circumstances warrant. Immediately after the Society's Annual General Meeting on June 30, the new Bylaw came into effect and the new Board and the National Advisory Committee held their first meetings.

The new Bylaw and Policy Manual represent the completion of years of work and discussion by National Council and the RASC Executive.

Volunteer Survey Results

by [Denis Grey](#), RASC Treasurer

The survey was sent out to all members of National Council as well as all members of standing and temporary committees working at the National level.

We received 33 responses out of 80 for a 41% response rate. A big missing piece was that we did not explicitly identify "National Council" as a committee. My apologies for that - we will fix that for future surveys.

The survey was meant to be held in confidence which means that some of the comments are not appropriate to share, however, they will be reviewed in confidence at the Board level and acted upon. Here are some selected points for your information:

- Suggestion for better inter-committee cooperation and communication outside of Council meetings.
- Committees need to meet (in person or via phone/Skype/TeamSpeak etc) at least twice a year. Generally, most committee work is ad-hoc and done via email, and after a brief discussion, no more is said of whatever was the issue of the day. This results in a diminished sense of value given or felt for work done by members of committees (if any tasks are parceled out at all. Much work is just a request for input or comment, with little feedback).
- There remains the constant problem of a few members who are happy to nit pick and criticize but are unwilling to step up and take on tasks. RASC remains overwhelmingly male. Female voices, as a general rule, still do not carry the same degree of credibility as male voices.
- I wish national would communicate to committees before making policy decisions - more of an interactive process, more transparency of day to day decisions and rationale.
- At times, the Chair tends to run with things on his/her own, and so some committee work tends to be approval granting and spit-polishing as opposed to contributing.
- Need to have more structure around some committees.
- Terms of reference required and more structured meetings.

While there are criticisms and options for improvement mentioned I think we need to celebrate the fact that:

- Most respondents felt very appreciated in their roles.
- Most respondents felt that they got along well with their colleagues.
- Most respondents were also involved with Centre volunteering.
- Most respondents are willing to continue their valued work.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent Society Volunteer Survey. As you can all appreciate our volunteers are our most precious resource and one that we need to nurture and enable in order to achieve great things as a Society.

Discover the Universe Upcoming Workshops

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

Discover the Universe is offered in partnership with the Canadian Astronomical Society, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, and the Federation des astronomes amateurs du Québec. These workshops are free and entirely online. Please feel free to distribute this information to your Centre members, networks and contacts.

- **Are you a teacher or an educator working with youth groups?**
- **You would like to organize astronomy activities but you don't know where to start?**
- **You want to feel more comfortable teaching this science?**

There is a solution! **Discover the Universe** is a training program offered by Canadian astronomers to help teachers and educators share this fascinating science.

All activities and resources are offered online and free!

Based on school curriculum and includes activities to do in class, teaching resources and tips on how to teach astronomy in a fun and innovative way.

[Workshop for teachers](#) - September 30 to October 18

This workshop is especially designed for teachers of grades 5 to 8. We will cover basic astronomy concepts covered by the pan-Canadian school curriculum and will offer ideas for in-class activities. You will also learn to recognize the main constellations and how to include observational projects in your teaching. All our workshops are [also offered in French](#).

Please visit our Web site for more information and to register: www.discovertheuniverse.ca.

Discover the Universe is offered in partnership with the [Canadian Astronomical Society](#), the [Royal Astronomical Society of Canada](#) and the [Federation des astronomes amateurs du Québec](#).

RASC Membership Development News

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

The RASC Membership Development News for June 2013 is available at: [RASC Member Development News June 2013](#).

► In Memoriam

John Alexander Galt, 1925-2012

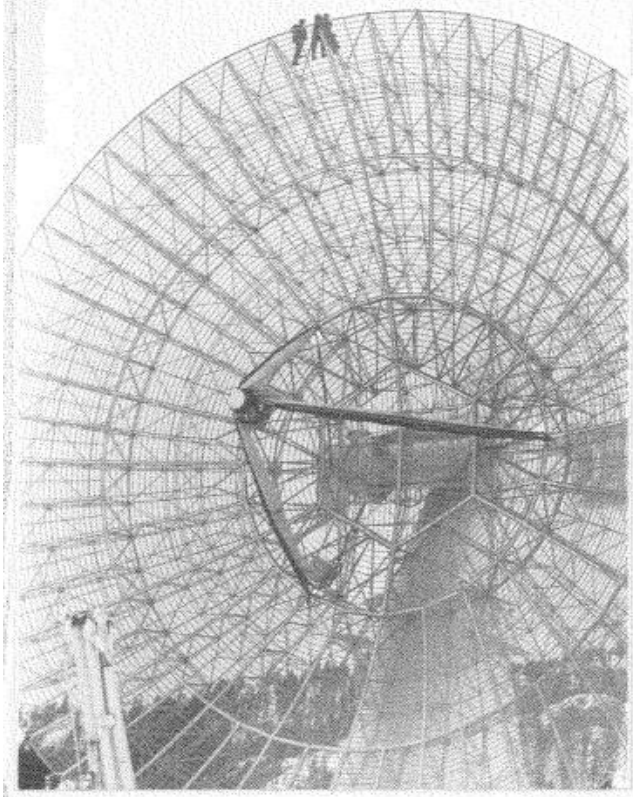
by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

As noted by the American Astronomical Society and CASCA, John Galt, one of the pioneers of Very Long Baseline Interferometry, died on Boxing Day morning, 2012 December 26. John was the first employee of the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in Penticton, BC (DRAO) in 1959, its Director from 1963 until 1980, and, with his many novel experiments on the 25.6-m Telescope across a number of fields of astrophysics, helped establish the importance of radio astronomy as a scientific endeavor in Canada and raised the international profile of DRAO. Dr. Galt was a charter member of the Canadian Astronomical Society.

Dr. Galt was the Secretary of the RASC Toronto Centre for the years 1951 and 52. The Toronto Centre still has correspondence from Dominion Astronomer Carlyle Beals to Dr. Galt from that time. Beals hand-picked Galt in 1957 for the beginning of the DRAO, and sent him off to the Jodrell Bank radio observatory in England for a year at the peak of that facility's novelty, before the discovery of quasars in 1964 and pulsars in 1968. Galt's photograph appeared in JRASC in 2011 June in the context of Victor Gaizauskas' essay 'The Grand Schism in Canadian Astronomy I: The Rise and Fall of Mount Kobau', where Dr. Galt assisted in abortive tests for the Queen Elizabeth II Telescope there in 1966. Dr. Galt and Dr. C.H. Costain (1932-89) were named by Helen Sawyer Hogg in her Toronto Star astronomy column in 1966 May 21 for their work on Long Wavelength Arrays (frequencies about 22.5 MHz) built at DRAO with up to 250 metres on a side, used in an all-sky survey.

The 25.6-metre dish, suitable for studies at 1420 MHz was also used by Galt and his colleagues for an all-sky survey in the 1960s. The late 1960s saw the first experiments with the Aperture Synthesis Array at DRAO which now has a baseline of 600m in a single dimension, also the first Very-Long-Baseline Interferometry done between the DRAO and Algonquin radiotelescopes - a baseline of 3074 km in a single dimension. Both experiments could resolve non-equatorial objects in two dimensions (and a third dimension, radially) with the rotation of the Earth, since both are aligned east-west. The VLBI technique has been used in many different astrophysical experiments since then.

The photo below is from John H. Hodgson, 'The Heavens Above and the Earth Beneath: A History of the Dominion Observatories' (Geological Survey of Canada Open File 1945) showing Galt and a couple of colleagues atop the 25.6-metre radiotelescope dish at DRAO.



A close-up of the paraboloid. I asked Dr. Galt to give me a photograph showing him at work; this was his contribution.

➤ The Sky this Month

What's New in the Sky

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



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