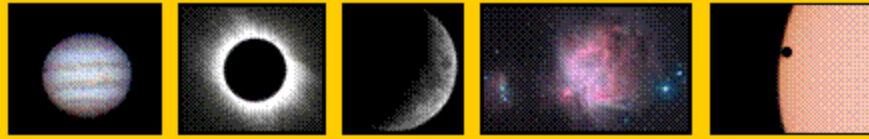


BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

November 2013 - Volume 8, Number 11

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

November's Sky

Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday and we get a new Moon on the same day. Mercury reappears in the dawn sky and Venus is at its greatest eastern elongation right at the beginning of November. Look for a couple of double shadow transits on Jupiter and the full Moon is back on November 17. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#) for complete details.

➤ News @ RASC.ca

Life Achievement Award for Terry Dickinson

by [Robert Dick](#), Chair, LPA Committee



On Saturday, August 31 the County of Lennox-Addington presented Terry Dickinson a Life Achievement award.

Most members know Terry as the editor of SkyNews Magazine, but many members also know him for his work in planetaria back in the late 1960s, which he evolved into a journalism career culminating in his work as an award winning science journalist.

Many people also know him for his engaging and insightful public presentations on astronomy. For young and old, these have been the introduction into the hobby. His multi-edition book "Night Watch" has helped guide novices towards appropriate gear and how to use it.

A permanent plaque is being mounted at the Dark Sky Site in the County located in the Township of Stone Mills, about 37 kilometres north on Hwy 41 from Napanee, Ontario.

Nomination Deadline for RASC National Awards is 31 December

by [Mary Lou Whitehorne](#), Awards Committee Chair

This is a friendly reminder that nominations for the 2014 awards are due by 2013 December 31. Summary information below. More detail, including eligibility and nomination requirements for each award can be found at www.rasc.ca/awards. Click on the links to individual awards for full information. Not sure how to write a nomination? There are many examples of successful nominations on the awards pages of the website. Think about the contributions of those hard working RASC members that you know and whom you believe qualify, and nominate them for an award.

Now is the time! Nominations are due on 2013 December 31.

RASC National Awards

The RASC sponsors several annual national awards that recognize achievement or service by our members. These awards include:

- The **Chant Medal** is awarded, not more than once a year, to an amateur astronomer resident in Canada on the basis of the value of the work carried out in astronomy and closely allied fields, for original investigation, and specifically not for services to the Society, worthy though these may be.
- The **Ken Chilton Prize** is awarded annually to an amateur astronomer resident in Canada, in recognition of a significant piece of astronomical work carried out or published recently.
- The **Qilak Award for Astronomy Outreach and Communication** recognizes individual Canadian residents, or teams of residents, who have made an outstanding contribution, during a particular time period, either to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy in Canada, or to informal astronomy education in Canada, and to promote such activities among the members of the sponsoring organizations.
- The **Service Award** is given to members in recognition of outstanding service, rendered over an extended period of time, where such service has had a major impact on the work of the Society and/or of a Centre of the Society.
- The **Simon Newcomb Award** is intended to encourage members to write on the topic of astronomy

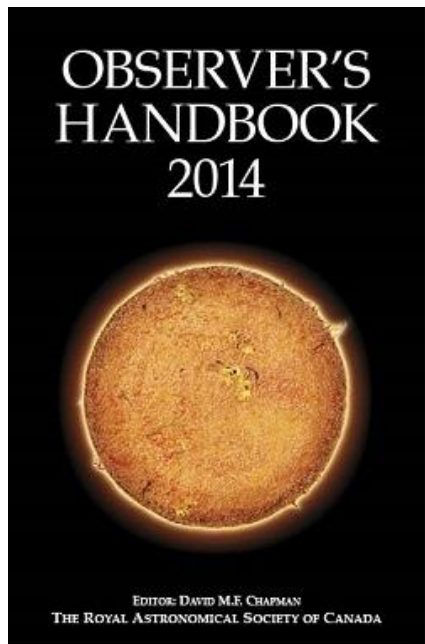
for the Society or the general public, and to recognize the best published works through an annual award.

The deadline for nominations is 2013 December 31. Send your letters of nomination or questions about the awards program to me at mlwhitehorne@hfx.eastlink.ca

Observer's Handbook and Calendar 2014

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

We are pleased to announce that we will start shipping the 2014 Observer's Handbook and 2014 Observer's Calendar the week of October 28.



Reminder: You will receive your complimentary copy of the 2014 Observer's Handbook as a benefit of membership. Please order your 2014 Observer's Calendar today while quantities last.

To order your calendar please visit the RASC [e-store](#) or call the Society office at 416-924-7973 or 888-924-7272 (toll-free in Canada).

RASC News

by [James Edgar](#), RASC, National Secretary

As of the December issue, John Percy, RASC Honorary President is a Journal Contributing Editor with the regular column "Variable-Star Astronomy." The JRASC team looks forward to John's contributions, as he has much to offer. The December Journal is in the proofreading stage right now, with expected publication on or about November 5.

The Society's second Strategic Plan, covering the period 2014-2016, is ready to distribute to the National Advisory Council for their perusal and feedback. It is expected the NAC will conduct their inaugural meeting by teleconference toward the end of November. The plan will then be presented to the membership.

Centre Councils are reminded to advise the National Secretary, James Edgar, of any recent changes to local council members. He needs this information to maintain the Society mailing lists. Email james@jamesedgar.ca

Centre Councils, have you considered that your By-Laws need to be amended to incorporate recent changes to include Family and Affiliate memberships? Contact 1st Vice-President Colin Haig, chair of the Constitution Committee, if assistance is needed. Email astronome@outlook.com

Members, do you know that Family and Affiliate memberships are available now? Affiliate members are those who are members of more than one Centre. It's as simple as a few clicks on the new, improved Member Portal on the RASC Web site <https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc> to the "Membership" tab. Members can download and print a member card at the "My Account" tab. Centres have an editable message area under "My Centre."

While it may still look the same to you, that Member Portal site has been fully upgraded to iMIS 20.0, which fully integrates the eStore with the Moneris gateway -- the first implementation in Canada. The IT Team has been working on this for over two months, going "live" on September 26. All indications are that the new software is a stable, much-needed improvement, and we are already seeing benefits in sales processing and member renewals.

Autumnal Equinox edition of Cassiopeia (Canadian Astronomical Society)

by [Eric Briggs](#), Toronto Centre

The Autumnal Equinox edition of Cassiopeia, the newsletter of the Canadian Astronomical Society can be found at: http://www.kcvs.ca/martin/astro/ecass/issues/2013-ae/content_fs.html.

Table of Highlights

ALMA Update from Prof. Christine Wilson, concerning the Atacama Large Millimetre/Submillimetre Array in South America, the world's largest infrared telescope array which was commissioned into operation in March, includes Canadian participation, is gathering exciting data and has gone through some newsworthy industrial action since then.

News from the Canadian Gemini Office, by Dr. Stéphanie Côté from National Research Council of Canada, concerning the twin 8.2-metre Gemini Telescopes in Hawaii and Chile partly funded by Canadian tax dollars. They have recently received the Gemini Planet Imager for finding extra-solar planets, with international collaboration including Toronto's Dunlap Institute and the University of Montréal.

Update from the Canadian Space Agency by Dr. Denis Laurin, concerning the Space Astronomy spacecraft ASTRO-H (for launch in 2015,) collaboration on the Indian ASTROSAT (for launch in 2014,) collaboration on the Webb Space Telescope (for launch in 2018,) MOST Canadian Space Telescope (launched in 2003, still going) Canada's microsatellite Near Earth Object Surveillance Satellite launched in February, plus the Concept for Canadian Space Telescope, the upcoming Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) collaboration, the Japanese Space Infrared Telescope for Cosmology and Astrophysics (SPICA) collaboration, the Timmins, Ontario Stratospheric Balloon Program and the Concept for Canadian Space Telescope (CASTOR).

Milestones at NRC/HIA (National Research Council Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics) by Dr. Dennis Crabtree, concerning the closure of the Centre of the Universe, visitor statistics at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory near Penticton, new federal official language rules at the Canadian Astronomy Data Centre Web site.

News from the Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy by Prof. Ernie Seaquist, concerning the possibility of Canada helping to fund the Thirty Metre Telescope, where such a recommendation took up several line items in the 2010 Long Range Plan report of Canadian academic astronomers.

Nouvelles d'À la découverte de l'Univers par Julie Bolduc-Duval concerning two new educational webinars about Comet ISON and the Sun.

AstroCATS 2014 Trade Show - Date Announcement May 3 & 4, 2014

by [Gary Bennett](#), Chairman, AstroCATS, RASC Hamilton Centre

Mark this on your calendars. The Canadian Astronomy Telescope Symposium will celebrate its 2nd year on May 3 & 4, 2014 at the David Braley Athletic & Recreation Centre (Mohawk College) in Hamilton.

Last year was a smashing success and our 2014 event will be even bigger and better! We anticipate 50 exhibitors, more seminars and guest speakers. Our speaker line-up will be finalized shortly, but we are pleased to announce that David Levy will be our keynote speaker. We'll be adding some other big-name speakers as well.

Door & Raffle prizes will be even more tempting and we'll be adding a Silent Auction as well (last year we gave away over \$ 15,000 in prizes).

Keep an eye on the Web site as more exhibitors, guest speakers, and prizes are added in the coming months: www.astrocats.ca

AstroCATS is hosted by RASC Hamilton Centre

Gift of Membership

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

Membership to The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) makes a wonderful gift, one that can be enjoyed year-round.

A Gift of Membership can be purchased by calling by the Society office at 416-924-7973 or 888-924-7272 (toll-free in Canada),

9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

A special package to notify your recipient(s) will be sent, at no additional charge.

Donate to The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

by [Deborah Thompson](#), Executive Director

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has a long tradition of encouraging people to look up and explore the night sky. For 145 years the Society has developed educational and outreach programs dedicated to the advancement of astronomy.

Without the ongoing and generous support from the RASC community none of this would be possible.

3 easy ways to Donate!

1. Donate [online](#);
2. Call the Society Office at 416-924-7973 or 888-924-7272 (toll free in Canada);
3. Donate by mail. Cheques can be made to The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and mailed to

4920 Dundas Street, Suite 203,

Toronto ON, M9A 1B7

Tax Receipts will be issued for donations over \$25.00.

Registered Charity Number: 11912 6282 RR0001

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.



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

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Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca

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

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