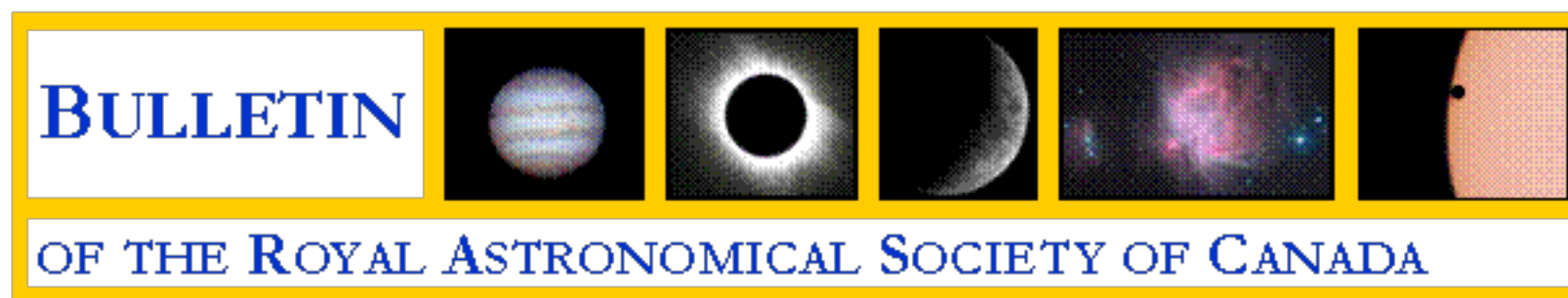


2007-03



March 2007 - Volume 2, Number 3

Andrew Oakes, Editor

[▶ News @ RASC.ca](#)

Historical Minutes On-line

James Edgar (Regina), the National Society's Recorder as well as Production Manager of the *Journal*, notes that the Minutes of the RASC National Council meetings from 1910 to 1934 have been added to the "Members' Only" section of the RASC National website. The Minutes are in both html and PDF format for easy access. Both formats are searchable. The user name and entry password for the Minutes are: rasc and newcomb2005 at www.rasc.ca/private/nationalcouncil.shtml ^[1].

2007 General Assembly – Astronomy Roundup in Calgary

The **Calgary Organizing Committee** would like to alert RASC members that registration opens soon for [Astronomy Roundup 2007](#) ^[2] – a joint meeting of RASC, AAVSO and ALPO June 28 to July 1 in Calgary, Alberta. Optional workshops have been announced for the morning of Friday, June 29:

- [Fireball Investigation Workshop](#) ^[3]
- [Light Pollution Abatement Workshop](#) ^[4]
- [Imaging Workshop](#) ^[5]
- [Introduction to Scientific Observing Workshop](#) ^[6]

Note that registration is limited for these workshops, so register early to avoid disappointment. The early-bird deadline for Astronomy Roundup is **April 30, 2007**.

A reminder that the **Calgary Organizing Committee** invites RASC members to submit proposals for papers or posters to be presented during [Astronomy Roundup](#)

[2007](#) [2]. The proposal deadline is **March 31, 2007**. You will be notified by April 30, 2007 if your paper has been accepted as an oral paper or a poster.

For the most current information on the upcoming General Assembly, see: calgary.rasc.ca/ar2007 [2]. The contact email is: AR2007@shaw.ca [7]

Sky this Month - March 2007

Gary Boyle (Ottawa) features the constellation Gemini and Messier Marathon tips in his monthly column. For details, see www.rasc.ca/news/The_Sky_This_Month_-_March_2007.shtml [8]

► [Across the RASC](#)

RASCAl Joins Order of Canada

Congratulations to RASC member **Dr. Jaymie Matthews** (Vancouver) of the University of British Columbia who was made an Officer of the Order of Canada on February 20, 2007. See www.rasc.ca/news/Matthews_OOC.shtml [9] for more details.

Supernovae Discoveries

Here are the Supernova details promised in the last-minute addition of a "FLASH" notice in the February 2007 *Bulletin* (Volume 2, Number 2):

Jack Newton (Victoria) and **Tim Puckett** (of the Puckett Observatory) reported on February 5, 2007 the discovery of a supernova (magnitude 17.5) on a CCD image taken with a 0.40-m reflector at Portal, Arizona. It was located at R.A. = 5h05m07s.13, Decl. = -18o59'19".9 (equinox 2000.0), 16".4 west and 8".8 south of the center of ESO 552-65. **SN 2007U** was confirmed at magnitude 17.5 on an image taken by T. Orff with a 0.60-m reflector on February 6, 2007. Nothing was visible at the discovery site on images taken by Tim Puckett on January 11, 2007 (limiting magnitude 19.0).

Not to be outdone, and following fast at the heels of Jack Newton (see above as well as the February 2007, *Bulletin*), another RASC member co-discovered two supernovae, this time back-to-back! "Monday night [February 19, 2007], I had lightning strike twice, as I found two supernovae in less than an hour," wrote **Paul Gray** (Moncton).

The International Astronomical Union announcement of the discovery noted that Paul Gray and Tim Puckett reported the discovery of two supernovae on CCD images taken at Ellijay, Georgia, in the course of the Puckett Observatory Supernova Search. Supernova **2007ac** was found with a 0.60-m reflector (limiting magnitude 19.7), and Supernova **2007ad** with a 0.50-m reflector (limiting magnitude 19.3).

For a good wrap-up of recent discoveries, see

Ontario Photo Contest

The RASC **Toronto Centre**, in co-operation with the [Ontario Science Centre](#) [11], is sponsoring an astrophotography competition as part of the [10th Annual CONTACT](#) [12] photography festival being held in Toronto, Ontario, during May 2007.

The competition is open to all RASC members in Ontario. The deadline for entries is **March 31, 2007**. An up-loadable entry form is available on the Toronto Centre's website at www.toronto.rasc.ca/cgi-form/contactpreamble.html [13].

► [RASCals Highlights](#)

Time change, lunar eclipse, clear skies, lunar transit - some of the recent topics on the RASCals discussion list

North American Time Change

Daylight Savings Time (DST) in North America is being extended by four weeks in 2007. The *United States Energy Policy Act of 2005* mandates that DST will start on Sunday, March 11 and end on Sunday November 4. In Canada, eleven of the thirteen provincial and territorial governments have committed to follow the US daylight saving rules. The time change means that systems and applications processing dates and times will be affected. For the NRC - Java Time Clock, see time5.nrc.ca/webclock_e.shtml [14].

March 3rd's Lunar Eclipse

Some RASC members in eastern Canada had a chance to observe the lunar eclipse of March 3, 2007. "It is miraculously clear in Halifax and I watched the partially-eclipsed Moon rise in the East," wrote **Dave Chapman** (Halifax) on the evening of the lunar event. "It is past 6:50 AST and the eclipse is now in its total phase, with the Moon's disk a ruddy complexion with a little brightness at the NW limb, and a deeper red in the SE limb. One thing that always impresses me during such eclipses is how SPHERICAL the moon looks, as opposed to the Full Moon, which to me simply looks like a disk. At this point I think that a casual observer would not notice the Moon in the sky, unless he/she were directed to it."

And later he noted: "I wasn't prepared for this, but I just saw the Moon move in front of a fairly bright star at the Southern limb. The time was 2130 UT, more or less. Must look that up!"

RASCals list members **Randy Attwood** (Toronto), **Larry Wood** (Edmonton) and **Michael Boschat** (Halifax) independently helped out within 57 minutes of zeroing-in on the star's identity. "Probably 59 Leonis," wrote Attwood; "59 Leonis (VY Leonis)," wrote Wood; and Boschat corroborated, adding further information: "It was 59 Leonis

occultated...in the [2007 Observer's] Handbook under Grazing Occultations [page 146]... nice eclipse though." The 2007 OH pegs the star at visual magnitude 5.0.

Meaning of Clear Skies – ‘Priceless’

Clear night skies on crisp winter evenings are awesome. For some observers, the long absence of such Canadian skies is frustrating, creating an effect akin somewhat to an observational withdrawal. But when all is aligned just right, one can hear a cry in the tamed urban environment: “I must have died, as it’s going to be clear this weekend, and I am off. It’s been a very long time since that’s happened,” wrote **Kevin Fetter** on Friday, February 23, 2007 at 4:16 p.m. to other RASCals readers.

“The Moon will occult three stars brighter than magnitude 7 tonight, from my location. So after I get my fix of moving stars, I will watch them. Then go observe higher up satellites. I hardly got any sleep today, can’t miss the clear sky tonight. And so nice to know, no phone calls from my co-workers, saying they need me to work, priceless.”

Spacecraft Sees Lunar Transit

During the last weekend of February 2007, the **STEREO B** spacecraft found itself in the shadow of the Moon, a million miles from Earth. Ultraviolet cameras aboard STEREO B recorded a movie of a lunar transit – the Moon tracking across the solar disk. To view this never-before-witnessed sight, click on the March 3, 2007, Astronomy Picture of the Day at antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap070303.html ^[15].

The RASCals email list is the RASC's town hall where members from across the country gather to chat about astronomy in general. To subscribe to this member-focused forum, visit www.rasc.ca/discussion ^[16].

► Canadian Astronomy

Friend of the Society Dies

John Dickenson, former director of the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia, died on February 4, 2007 at 63. John was beginning to enjoy early retirement when he was stricken with a rare form of Alzheimer’s.

President of RASC’s Vancouver Centre, **Pomponia Martinez**, wished to share the following information with RASC members across the country:

“John Dickenson was a tireless promoter of astronomy in Vancouver and a friend of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. John will be remembered as a visionary leader, someone who took on a passion for science and for the facility he led, and a person who devoted considerable talent and energy towards creating an institution of which the city could be proud. He will also be remembered internationally for his efforts to bring modern management and marketing techniques to the International Planetarium Society.

“Beyond the institutional strengths and energy John brought to his work, he will perhaps best be remembered as an honourable gentleman – and a nice guy. Hard to

beat that as a legacy. John's life touched many people over the years. He will be sorely missed."

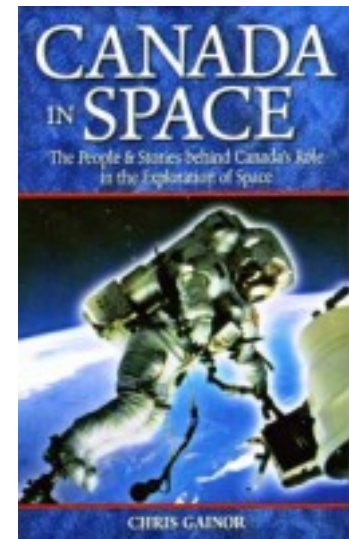
A celebration of Dickenson's life is planned for March 8, 2007 from 4-6 p.m. at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre. If you have any messages that you would like mentioned at the memorial, please send them to ian@ianmclennan.com [17].

CHU Repeived

Canada's time-signal station, CHU, has been licensed to continue broadcasting on 7.335 MHz. See <http://www.rasc.ca/news/CHUUpdate.shtml> [18] for more details.

Canada in Space

Chris Gainor, (Victoria) former RASC National Council representative, recently published a book titled *Canada in Space: The People & Stories behind Canada's Role in the Exploration of Space*. A review is forthcoming in a future issue of the RASC *Journal* [likely the June 2007 edition]. For more details see www.rasc.ca/news/CanadainSpace.shtml [19].



► [The Journal of the RASC](#)

A Keeper Edition

The December 2006 issue of the *Journal* is a special "collector's" edition, celebrating the 100th year of publication. Extra paper copies are available from the National Office. If you are interested in purchasing a copy (for a nominal fee) as a gift for a friend or to distribute a handful to a youth group, please contact **Bonnie Bird** at National Office: nationaloffice@rasc.ca [20] or (888) 924-RASC (7272). To view an e-version click on to www.rasc.ca/currentjrasc/2006-dec-hr.pdf [21], username - jrasc2007 and password - brightstar.

15-Minutes of Fame

Care to be immortalized? The RASC *Journal* is interested in your creative efforts and accomplishments in the field of astronomy. Help bring the fascinating Universe to the Society, its members, and the world through the pages of the *Journal*. If you have something to offer (a story, a photograph, a pencil drawing of a celestial object, or even a full-blown academic research paper), send it along to **Jay Anderson** editor@rasc.ca [22].

Read Editor-in-Chief Anderson's *Editorial* in the October 2006 issue of the *Journal* (page 190) to see what his vision is for RASC's flagship national publication (click on

to www.rasc.ca/journal/currentissue.shtml [23] for the October 2006 issue - username - jrasc2007 - and password - brightstar). Also, see the *Editor's Corner* at www.rasc.ca/journal/editorial.shtml [24] where the Editor-in-Chief focuses his thoughts on the historical role, current trends, and goals of the *Journal*. And for those interested in writing (whether it's popular articles or more robust peer-reviewed academic reports), check out the *Style Guide* at www.rasc.ca/journal/guide.htm [25] and the *Author's Guide* at www.rasc.ca/journal/Journal_AuthorGuide.pdf [26].

► Dates to Remember

- **March 08, 2007** - Celebration of John Dickenson's life
- **March 10, 2007** - National Council Meeting (Toronto)
- **March 11, 2007** - Governance Workshop (Toronto)
- **March 11, 2007** - Clocks changed to Dalight Savings Time
- **March 31, 2007** - Submission deadline for abstracts for 2007 General Assembly
- **March 31, 2007** - Deadline for submissions for CONTACT Astrophoto competition (Ontario)
- **April 21, 2007** - Draw Date for Saskatoon Centre's Raffle
- **April 22, 2007** - International Astronomy Day
- **April 30, 2007** - Notification of accepted papers/posters for 2007 General Assembly
- **June 28 - July 1, 2007** - General Assembly (Calgary). [2]



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Links:

[1] <https://www.rasc.ca/council/minutes>

[2] <http://www.calgary.rasc.ca/ar2007/>

[3] <http://www.calgary.rasc.ca/ar2007/p52.htm#fireball>

[4] <http://www.calgary.rasc.ca/ar2007/p52.htm#lpac>

[5] <http://www.calgary.rasc.ca/ar2007/p52.htm#imaging>

- [6] <http://www.calgary.rasc.ca/ar2007/p52.htm#observing>
- [7] <mailto:AR2007@shaw.ca>
- [8] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/sky-month-march-2007>
- [9] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/jaymie-matthews-named-order-canada>
- [10] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/canadians-contribute-puckett-supernova-search>
- [11] <http://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/>
- [12] <http://scotiabankcontactphoto.com/>
- [13] <http://rascto.ca/index.php>
- [14] http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/services/time/web_clock.html
- [15] <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap070303.html>
- [16] <https://www.rasc.ca/forums/rasc-discussion-groups/rascals>
- [17] <mailto:ian@ianmclennan.com>
- [18] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/chu-shortwave-signal-continue>
- [19] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/canada-space-published-victoria-centre-member>
- [20] <mailto:nationaloffice@rasc.ca>
- [21] <https://www.rasc.ca/content/jrasc-2006-december>
- [22] <mailto:editor@rasc.ca>
- [23] <https://www.rasc.ca/jrasc/recent>
- [24] <https://www.rasc.ca/jrasc/editors-corner>
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- [26] https://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/Journal_AuthorGuide.pdf
- [27] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>
- [28] <http://www.rasc.ca/>