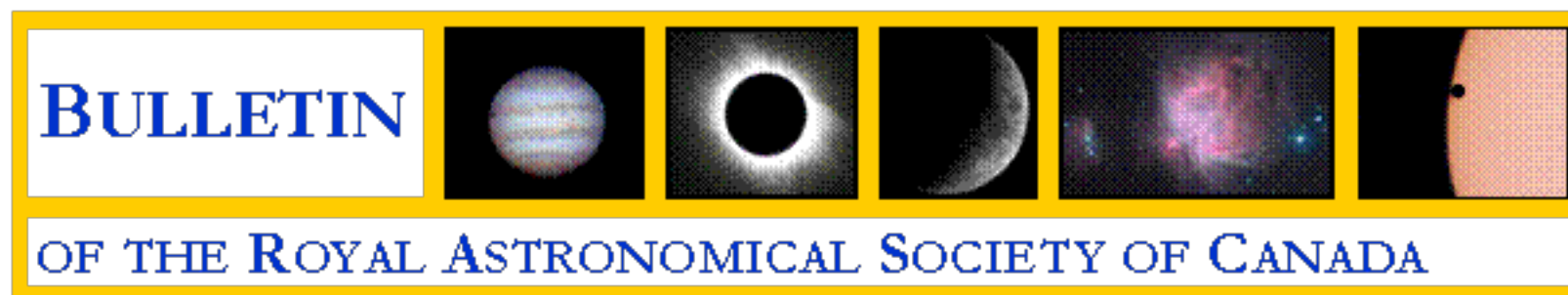


# 2007-06



June 2007 - Volume 2, Number 6

Denis Grey, Acting Editor

We welcome your comments on the *Bulletin*. email them to the Editor at [bulletin@rasc.ca](mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca) [1].

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

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## [National Council Meeting Highlights - June 2, 2007 \(NC072\)](#)

The RASC's National Council held a meeting via teleconference on Saturday, June 2. [Flash minutes](#) [2] are available on the Society's Web site. The meeting was convened out of the regular schedule in order to deal with three specific and time-sensitive issues. The replacement for our **membership handling system** was approved, as were two award nominees for the [Service Award](#) [3] and one for the [Simon Newcomb Award](#) [4]. Also approved was the formation of a special committee of National Council – the **Board Pilot Committee** (BPC). This committee will see seven Society members elected to help the Executive manage the business of the Society, and to develop a budget and operating plan for 2008. Complete details for this important committee are outlined below.

[Formal minutes](#) [5] from the meeting will be made available in the members-only section of the Society's Web site when they are prepared by the Recorder.

## [2007 Annual Meeting / 2006 Annual Report](#)

The Annual Meeting of the Society will be held on Sunday, July 1, 2007 from 13:00 to 16:00 MDT in the MacEwan Ballroom, of the University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta during the 2007 General Assembly. The agenda plus the 2006 Annual Report of the Society can be downloaded from the Members' section of the Web site at [www.rasc.ca/private/governance/annualreports.shtml](http://www.rasc.ca/private/governance/annualreports.shtml) [6].

## Last Call for On-line Registration for Astronomy Roundup 2007



On-line registration for the 2007 General Assembly - Astronomy Roundup 2007 - is only available until midnight on **June 11**; after this date, only on-site registration will be offered and some optional items may not be available.

This year's GA promises to be an exceptional experience where we will be joined by astronomy enthusiasts from the American Association of Variable Star Observers [7] and the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers [8]. Guest speakers include **Ray Villard**, of the Space Telescope Science Institute, **Dr. Eric Donovan**, Principal Investigator of the Canadian component of the **THEMIS MIDEX** auroral imaging project and **Dr. Jaymie Matthews**, principal investigator on the MOST satellite. There are also over 35 contributed papers and posters from members of the three organizations.

For more information on speakers, optional workshops and tours, accommodations and meals, visit the Astronomy Roundup 2007 [9] Web site.

### Call for Nominations - RASC Board Pilot Committee

The Board Pilot Committee (BPC) is a special committee of National Council with a term beginning June 28, 2007 and lasting until June 30, 2008. The Committee is made up of the Executive and seven other members of the Society to be elected at the General Assembly in Calgary. The BPC is to:

- handle the Society's ongoing business and ensure that existing programs and services continue to be delivered to members, Centres, and customers;
- develop the 2008 budget and operational plan for the Society for review and approval by National Council by November 2007;
- address key issues such as membership growth and retention, implementation of the new membership handling software, and volunteerism in the Society; and
- begin work on a long-term strategic plan for the Society, in consultation with Council, the Centres, National Office, members, customers, other astronomy groups, and other stakeholders.

The Society is seeking enthusiastic and energetic members to submit their names for election to this important committee. The committee will meet frequently in person and by teleconference and it is anticipated that all members of the BPC will be tasked with work to complete between meetings. Any member of the Society may nominate themselves for this Committee by submitting a **Candidate's Statement** [10]. The nomination deadline is June 21, 2007.

For additional background and information on this committee and its goals, see the report at www.rasc.ca/private/reports/governance20070602.pdf [11]. When reading this report note that both motions listed in Appendix A were adopted by National Council at NC072 on June 2nd.

If you have any questions regarding this Committee or the nominations process please direct them to Society President, Scott Young, at sdymts@mts.net [12] or via

telephone to Bonnie Bird at National Office at (888) 924-7272.

## **New Administrative System Approved**

After an intensive search process the Society has approved the purchase of a new administrative system to keep up with the expanding needs of the membership. The new system will replace customized software that has been used for membership handling since 1997.

Project Sponsor and 1st Vice-President, **David Lane**, noted that the new system incorporates many out-of-the-box features that will allow the Society to better serve its members via the Web. Implementation will begin in June 2007 with back-office components and infrastructure. A new member portal and eStore should be available by early 2008. Stay tuned to the Bulletin for updates as they become available.

## **► *The Journal of the RASC***

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### **June 2007 Journal On-line**

Members may go to [www.rasc.ca/journal/currentissue.shtml](http://www.rasc.ca/journal/currentissue.shtml) [13] to download your copy. The username and password are contained in the Announce email forwarded to your current email address.

This month's issue highlights some excellent lunar photography by Michael Wirths (Ottawa) as well as an editorial and regular column by 2007 Service Award winner Bruce McCurdy (Edmonton).

## **► *Across the RASC***

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### **Star Party Season!**

The summer star party season is now officially just around the corner with many RASC Centres planning to host one or more star parties this year. A complete listing of RASC-sponsored star parties is available at [www.rasc.ca/centres/events.shtml](http://www.rasc.ca/centres/events.shtml) [14]. If you are planning to travel this summer why don't you try to take in one or more events sponsored by your fellow RASCals?

### **Toronto Centre Member Featured in Sky & Telescope**

**Paul Markov**, an active member of the Toronto Centre and host of the popular astronomy site [www.astrobuysell.com](http://www.astrobuysell.com) [15] has been featured in the July 2007 issue of Sky and Telescope. His article on [observing logbooks](#) [16] is based in part on his contribution to the Observer's Handbook. Paul notes that the LX200 that he is pictured with in the article belonged to the Toronto Centre and his own LX200 is only 10" in diameter!

### **Past President Publishes New Book**

**John Percy**, member of the Mississauga Centre and Past President of the Society (1978-80) is publishing a new book this month. Understanding Variable Stars [17] is aimed at advanced amateur astronomers as well as undergraduate students and builds on Dr. Percy's extensive experience in variable star research and education.

## ► The Sky this Month

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### See an Asteroid this Month

Asteroid 4 Vesta is in Ophiuchus just a few degrees above Jupiter. At magnitude 5.4 it will be visible to the unaided eye from dark skies for the next few weeks. See this Sky & Telescope finder chart [18] and try to spot this elusive target for yourself. Check out Gary Boyle's regular The Sky This Month [19] for more observing highlights.

## ► Dates to Remember

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- **June 11, 2007** - On-line registration ends for RASC General Assembly.
- **June 17, 2007** - Nomination deadline for Board Pilot Committee.
- **June 28 - July 2, 2007** - RASC General Assembly [20] hosted by the Calgary Centre
- **July 14-15, 2007** - Star BQ [21] (Calgary)
- **June 20-22, 2007** - Butterpot Star Party [22] (St. John's)
- **June 20-22, 2007** - CAFTA Telescope Making Contest (C.F. de Montreal)
- **August 9-12, 2007** - Saskatchewan Summer Star Party [23] (Regina/Saskatoon)
- **August 17-19, 2007** - NOVA East Star Party [24] (Halifax)
- **August 22-24, 2007** - RASCals Star Party [25] (Victoria)
- **August 28, 2007** - Total Lunar Eclipse (best in Western Canada)
- **September 7-9, 2007** - 10th Annual Algonquin Adventure Star Party [26] (Toronto)



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## Links:

- [1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>
- [2] [http://www.rasc.ca/news/NC072\\_Flash.shtml](http://www.rasc.ca/news/NC072_Flash.shtml)
- [3] <https://www.rasc.ca/>
- [4] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/alan-dyer-receive-simon-newcomb-award>
- [5] <https://www.rasc.ca/council/minutes>
- [6] <https://www.rasc.ca/governance/annualreports>
- [7] <http://www.aavso.org>
- [8] <http://www.lpl.arizona.edu/alpo/>
- [9] <http://calgary.rasc.ca/ar2007/>
- [10] <https://www.anadynesystems3.com/servlets/frhclientformdisplay?xr4=&formts=2007-06-04%2009:15:47.152410>
- [11] <https://www.rasc.ca/system/files/private/governance20070602.pdf>
- [12] <mailto:sdymts@mts.net>
- [13] <https://www.rasc.ca/jrasc/recent>
- [14] <https://www.rasc.ca/star-parties-and-events>
- [15] <http://www.astrobuysell.com>
- [16] <http://media.skytonight.com/documents/200707082086.pdf>
- [17] <http://www.cambridge.org/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521232531>
- [18] [http://media.skytonight.com/images/Vesta07\\_Finder\\_BW.gif](http://media.skytonight.com/images/Vesta07_Finder_BW.gif)
- [19] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/sky-month-june-2007>
- [20] <http://www.calgary.rasc.ca/ar2007/>
- [21] <http://calgary.rasc.ca/starbq2007.htm>
- [22] <http://www.stjohnsrasc.ca/star-party.shtml>
- [23] <http://www.usask.ca/psychology/sarty/rasc/sssp2007.html>
- [24] <http://halifax.rasc.ca/ne/>
- [25] <http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/rascals-star-party/>
- [26] <http://rascto.ca/index.php>
- [27] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>
- [28] <http://www.rasc.ca>