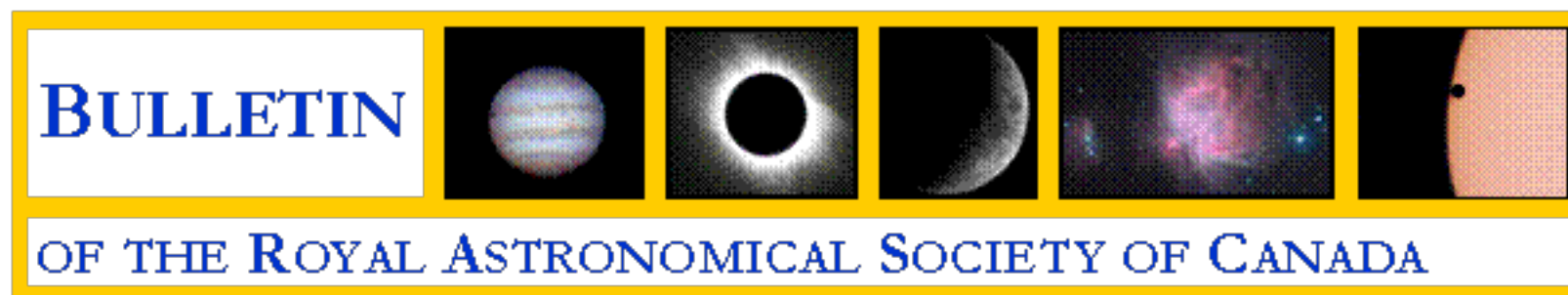


2008-08



August 2008 - Volume 3, Number 8

Ian Levstein, Editor

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

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

Award Recipients Honoured at 2008 GA

The following members of the RASC were honoured during the 2008 General Assembly held at York University in Toronto:

- **Chant Medal - Geoff Gaherty** (Toronto) The Chant Medal is awarded to a RASC member whose body of work over an extended period of time is exemplary.
- **Simon Newcomb Award - Gary Seronik** (Victoria) The Simon Newcomb Award is given for outstanding work in the field of astronomical writing and communications.
- **Ken Chilton Prize - Eric Briggs** (Toronto), **Debra Ceravolo** (Ottawa), **Peter Ceravolo** (Ottawa), **Lou Cox** (Ottawa), **Steve Gauthier** (London), **Doug George** (Ottawa), **Paul Gray** (New Brunswick), **Walter MacDonald** (Kingston), **Jack Newton** (Victoria), **Ajai Sehgal** (Ottawa), **Jennifer Tigner** (Victoria), **David Toth** (London) The Ken Chilton Prize is awarded to RASC members who have made a significant contribution to an astronomical research project over a short period of time. This year's recipients were participants in the Puckett Supernova Search Program.
- **Toronto Centre Gold Medal - Sarah Nickerson** (Toronto) The Toronto Centre Gold Medal is presented annually to the top graduating student in the astronomy programs of York University and the University of Toronto.
- **RASC Service Award - Denis Grey** (Toronto), **Leslie Harvey** (Toronto), **Tony Horvatin** (Toronto) The RASC Service Award is presented to members of the Society who have made a significant contribution of a period over 10 years or more to the activities and operations of the Society, either at the National or Centre level.

Nova East Star Party Update

The [Nova East Star Party](#) [2] is just around the corner. Nova East is the August highlight for the Halifax Centre. Information on Nova East 2008 is summarized in a brochure, a copy of which can be downloaded [here](#) [3].

Reminder: Travel Policy for Members of National Council

by **Mary Lou Whitehorne**, 1st VP Please help your Society to help you and your Centre! Recently there has been some evidence to suggest that Centres and national council reps may benefit from re-familiarizing themselves with the Society's travel policy for members of national council. The travel policy covers certain costs for people attending national council meetings. Please note that it does not cover travel expenses for attending the General Assembly or the Annual Meeting. The person must be present at the council meeting to qualify for travel support. Please refer to the [RASC Travel Policy](#) [4] document which clearly states that travel support is for attendance at the meetings of council:

- *"The Society encourages members of Council to attend all meetings of Council, and for that purpose provides reimbursement for travel to these meetings according to the policies below."*

It is the responsibility of Centre executive members and Centre national council reps to be familiar with the conditions of the travel policy, preferably before making travel arrangements. Please also note that expense claims must be received by the Executive Secretary no later than four weeks after the completion of travel.

CSA Hires Montréal Centre Members

The Canadian Space Agency recently hired two Montréal Centre members.

David Shuman and **Paul Simard** were hired by the CSA, located in Saint-Hubert, across the river from Montréal, to build a complete, full-scale model of the Phoenix lander. The model has been on display at the CSA headquarters, the Montréal



Planetarium, the Montréal Science Centre, and will be touring Canada in the coming months.

David Shuman and Paul Simard with their model of the Phoenix lander at CSA headquarters.

David Dunlap Observatory Sold

On 2008 July 4, the *Star* (Toronto) reported that the University of Toronto had a "firm agreement" to sell the DDO. On July 28, the University of Toronto formally closed the sale. Read about it [here](#) [5].

Sloan Digital Sky Survey

RASC members have an opportunity to help classify unknown spectra in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. **Patrick Hall** of York University's Department of Physics and Astronomy, has prepared a presentation which you can download [here](#) [6]. To sign up for his newsgroup, click [here](#) [7].

► International Year of Astronomy 2009

Amateur Radio Callsign Prefix for IYA2009

by **Malcolm Scrimger**, VE7DAO

The use of a Special Event Prefix callsign has been approved by Industry Canada and can be used by all Canadian Amateur Radio Operators. It commemorates Galileo's first use of an optical telescope and the subsequent discoveries he made in his lifetime. Starting 2009 January 1 until February 28, all Canadian Amateur radio operators may use the special prefix.

- **VE** changes to **CG**
- **VA** changes to **CF**
- **VO** changes to **CH**



• VY changes to CI

It is hoped that this will attract all hams around the world to call and find out what the new call sign is all about and will promote the International Year of Astronomy in and before 2009 on the ham radio bands. The vision of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 is to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and night-time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery.

I have assembled an online website on the Canadian Ham Radio Prefix event. It can be found [here](#) [8]. On the website, there is a Powerpoint presentation that can be downloaded and then used by anyone who would like to present it to their Astronomy or Ham Radio Club. To learn about the International Year of Astronomy, visit [here](#) [9].

► Across the RASC

Binary Stars in New Brunswick

Congratulations are in order for Observing Committee Chair and New Brunswick Centre President **Paul Gray** and his wife Susan, on the safe arrival on July 7 of daughter Miranda Lynn (6 lb 1 oz) and son Connor Frances (5 lb 5 oz). Mum and babes are both doing very well. Paul will be seeing stars day and night for the next while as he and Sue adjust to the sudden doubling of their family.

Bulletin Photo of the Month



This month's offering is a photo taken by **Steve Mastellotto** on 2008 July 5. Steve is a member of RASC Windsor Centre.

The photo was taken about an hour after sunset from the Windsor Centre's Hallam Observatory using a Canon 40D, 15 sec., f/6.3, ISO 200 with a 17-40mm lens @ 26mm.

In order, the Moon, Regulus, Mars, and Saturn extend upwards at a 45° angle to the left of the Moon Also visible in the photo is the inverted "question mark" of the constellation

Leo.

2008 Perseids

The 2008 Perseid meteor shower season has begun. The shower will peak during the dark hours before dawn on Tuesday, August 12th. Forecasters say it should be a good show. Click [here](#) [10] for more information.

What's New in the Sky

Readers are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) [11] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know!

► Dates to Remember

- - **2008 August 7-10** - Starfest, North York Astronomical Association
 - **2008 August 8-10** - 2008 Butterpot Star Party, St. John's Centre
 - **2008 August 8-12** - Manitoulin Star Party
 - **2008 August 28-31** - 2008 Saskatchewan Summer Star Party
 - **2008 August 29-31** - RASCALS Star Party, Victoria Centre
 - **2008 August 29-September 1** - Nova East Star Party
 - **2008 September 2-7** - Northern Prairie Starfest, Edmonton Centre
 - **2008 September 5-7** - Spruce Woods Star Party, Winnipeg Centre
 - **2008 September 25-28** - Alberta Star Party, Calgary Centre
 - **2008 October 4** - Fall Astronomy Day 2008
 - **2008 November 16** - National Council Meeting



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Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca [13]

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Links:

[1] <mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca>

[2] <http://halifax.rasc.ca/ne/>

[3] <http://www.rasc.ca/drupal/system/files/private/NE2008.pdf>

[4] https://www.rasc.ca/system/files/private/Travel_policy.pdf

[5] <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/eceRedirect?articleId=313671>

[6] <http://www.yorku.ca/phall/OUTREACH/rasc08.ppt>

[7] <http://groups.google.com/d/forum/sdssunknown>

[8] <http://hamiya2009.info/>

[9] <http://www.astronomy2009.org>

[10] http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2008/22jul_perseiddawn/

[11] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/northern-skies>

[12] <mailto:mempub@rasc.ca>

[13] <http://www.rasc.ca>