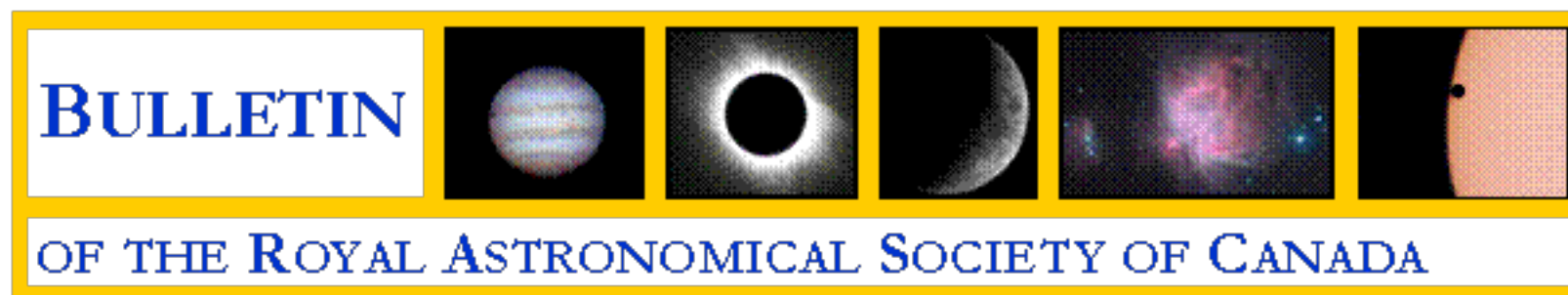


2009-05



May 2009 - Volume 4, Number 5

Ian Levstein, Editor

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

Member: ~FULL_NAME~, RASC ID: ~ID~

► [News @ RASC.ca](#)

[2009 RASC General Assembly and SSSP Registration Now Open](#)

See the RASC [Web site](#) [2] for more details and registration information.

[Catherine Lovekin to Receive 2009 Plaskett Medal](#)

We are very pleased to announce that the 2009 Plaskett Medal will be awarded to **Dr. Catherine Lovekin**. For more info, click [here](#) [3].

[Observer's Challenge for the 2010 *Observer's Handbook*](#)

by **Alister Ling** The Observing Committee of the RASC is pleased to consider your contribution to a future *Observer's Handbook* on any visual phenomenon that will leave sky-watchers around the world inspired and hungry for more. What for you might be an almost delightful routine, will be new and astounding to many observers. In some cases, a featured event could be something you have always wanted to see! The point is not to stump others with an object that requires a huge scope on a remote

mountain-top, but to suggest something that, with some cooperation from Mother Nature, would be a reward for patience and determination. One of the great things about observational astronomy, is that even after thirty years of eyeing the sky, there are still loads of fascinating events and objects to see. The goal of this new section of the *Observer's Handbook* is to get you thinking, "Hey, I've never seen one of those before... that would be cool!" This is the place for you to come to be inspired by fellow observers, to achieve a personal best, and enjoy an experience out of the ordinary.

2010 *Observer's Calendar* - Call for Images and Star Party Dates

by **Dave Lane**, Editor, *Observer's Calendar*, and **Alister Ling**

Astronomical images of all types are invited for consideration for publication in the 2010 *Observer's Calendar* including: deep sky, solar system, and dramatic astronomically-themed landscapes. Images can be prime focus, piggyback, eyepiece projection, or fixed tripod; and recorded on a digital/CCD camera or film.

Submitted images must be of sufficient quality and resolution to reproduce well at 10" x 12.5" and must be compatible with the "landscape" orientation of the calendar images. Generally, this will mean a resolution of at least 1200 pixels tall.

If you already have a gallery of images on your Web site, send me the link, but also direct me to your favourites. Both well-known and obscure objects are published in the calendar, so to avoid having the same objects used too often, I will be screening for those that may have appeared in recent years.

Please email submissions to me [here](#) [4]. While I have a bottomless email box, it's best to send me jpegs first. If your image is selected, I will request a full resolution tiff version. The deadline for submissions is **2009 June 15**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Alister Ling adds: Please ensure your local star party organizing committee receives this message: Preparation for the 2010 RASC *Observer's Calendar* has begun. If you would like your event placed in one of the date boxes in August, please send the date and Web site address to [Alister Ling](#) [5].

► Across the RASC

Flood gets Winnipeg Centre's Observatory Again

by **Jay Anderson**, Winnipeg Centre

What do 1979, 1996, 1997, 2006, and 2009 have in common? For the Winnipeg Centre, those are the years that their observatory flooded.

Glenlea Observatory lies on the flood plain of the Red River, about 200 m from the water and about 10 metres above it. Alas, when the Red has a good flood, the river expands from a width of about 200 m to 20 km. After the 1997 flood, the Centre rebuilt its warm room, setting it on a 1.5 metre platform to keep it

out of the water "the next time." It seems to have worked. The flood this year seems to have peaked about 1 foot below the floor joists of the warm room.

The Centre's observatory had fewer problems, as the telescope is mounted on the second floor of the building. While the equipment has been removed, the dome is now used to store the furniture from the warm room and the chemical toilet. A number of bad jokes have been made as a result of this transmogrification.

The University of Manitoba's observatory, on the same site, has suffered a few inches of water intrusion, and one member's POD is now half-drowned. It is expected to make a full recovery.

Images of the water-logged observatory can be found [here](#) [6].

Toronto Centre to Operate Dunlap Observatory

The Toronto Centre and Metrus Development Inc. felt that Earth Day was an appropriate moment to celebrate the imminent return of one of Canada's most beloved astronomy landmarks to active service. For more info, click [here](#) [7].

Low-Cost China Solar Eclipse Trip 2009

by **Andreas Gada**

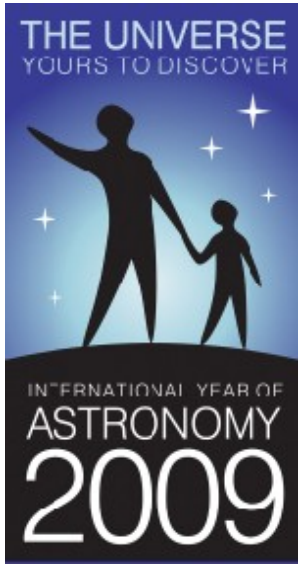
Bonnie Bird and I will be going to China this year for the solar eclipse. We will be traveling with Wild Frontiers, a South African-based adventure tour company. I am the solar eclipse advisor for the trip. This is a short and very inexpensive trip which might be of interest to people on a tight budget.

Wild Frontiers has organized a low-cost (\$920 USD), five-day solar eclipse trip to China. The eclipse will be observed from the [Zhejiang South Lake 1921 Club Hotel](#) [8] in Jiaxing (southwest of Shanghai). At this location, totality will last 5m 51.6s.

Andreas, an unattached member, is an avid astrophotographer and eclipse chaser, and some of his images from the March 2006 Libya eclipse and August 2009 Mongolia eclipse can be found [here](#) [9].

Detailed information about this trip [ED: is no longer available at] [here](#) [10], or via email to [Serisha Sewgambar](#) [11].

Astronomy on YouTube



by **Ron Jerome**, IYA Coordinator, Vancouver Centre As originally reported in the March issue of the *Bulletin*, the Vancouver Centre has now produced its second SUPERnova episode which is available on our [Web site](#) [12]. In episode 2, **Dr. Jaymie Matthews** explains why "listening" to stars with the MOST space telescope is helping us understand our place in the universe. **Harry Klassen** observes our star, the Sun... and Discovery highlights some observable features of Ursa Major. We have been so pleased with the programs and the response from viewers, that we have commissioned a total of 6 episodes.

► [The Sky this Month](#)

What's New in the Sky

Readers are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) [13] section of the RASC Web site. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know!

Finding Vega... Update

In response to **Alister Ling's** article, "Vegans in Broad Daylight!" in the April issue of the *Bulletin*, **Larry McNish** (Calgary Centre) sent the following comment: *I noticed the article on finding Vega in the sky's polarization band in the April Bulletin. My Web page on exactly how this works can be found [here](#) [14].*

► [Bulletin Photo of the Month](#)

Flameboyant Prominence



Solar Prominence photo by Hank Bartlett, taken 2009 April 24

Of his photos, **Hank Bartlett** (Kingston Centre) says: I am definitely a point and shoot astrophotographer using only a Canon A720IS at the 25mm, 2x Barlow Cemax eyepiece of my Coronado SolarMax 60 (1/15s exposure, F4.8, Focal length 34.8mm).

I am not much on processing and I have never stacked an image. In H-alpha this is a serious disadvantage as point and shoot cameras and DSLRs will not come to focus in a Coronado. It's the nature of the narrow red bandwidth of H-alpha. In order to get excellent images processing is a must, however I would rather stay basic and have anyone who sees my images be intrigued enough to see for themselves rather than just be armchair astronomers. I have increased the contrast and brightened this image as well as added an Earth inset for scale.

There is no high tech here; the software I use is old, ACDSee. All I did with this image is tweak the contrast and increase the white and dark level a little. Sometimes, I shift the hue to orange or yellow because this is the colour of Sun people expect to see rather than the red of H-alpha. The secret is to shoot as many images as you can and hope for a few in that "still air" that briefly happens. For this observing session, I shot 152 images and kept 15, that is 10%... that is pretty good!

- - **2009 May 2** - [Astronomy Day](#) [15]
 - **2009 June 19-21** - [EfstonScience Star Party](#), DSP in Gordon's Park, Manitoulin Island, Ontario
 - **2009 July 16-26** - [Total Solar Eclipse Tour](#), China
 - **2009 July 17-21** - [Stargazing Manitoulin](#) [16], DSP in Gordon's Park, Manitoulin Island, Ontario
 - **2009 August 13-16** - **RASC General Assembly 2009**
 - **2009 August 13-16** - [Saskatchewan Summer Star Party](#) [17], Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park
 - **2009 August 14-18** - [Manitoulin Star Party](#) [18], DSP in Gordon's Park, Manitoulin Island, Ontario
 - **2009 August 20–23** – [Starfest 2009](#) [19], River Place Park, Mount Forest Ontario.
 - **2009 August 21-23** - [Nova East Star Party](#) [20], DSP in Smileys Provincial Park, Nova Scotia
 - **2009 September 17-20** - [Huronian Star Party](#) [21], Duntroon, Ontario
 - **2009 September 25-27** - [Fall 'N' Stars](#) [22], Vanderwater Conservation Area, Thomasburg, Ontario



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Links:

- [1] [mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca?subject=Bulletin Mail](mailto:bulletin@rasc.ca?subject=Bulletin%20Mail)
- [2] <http://www.rasc.ca/news/regopen.shtml>
- [3] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/catherine-lovekin-will-be-awarded-2009-plaskett-medal>
- [4] [mailto:dlane@ap.stmarys.ca?subject=2010 Observer's Calendar](mailto:dlane@ap.stmarys.ca?subject=2010%20Observer's%20Calendar)
- [5] [mailto:aling@telus.net?subject=2010 Calendar](mailto:aling@telus.net?subject=2010%20Calendar)
- [6] <http://picasaweb.google.ca/rcberard/GAOFlood09?authkey=Gv1sRgCPPq98Gb0YXnaQ#>
- [7] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/rasc-toronto-centre-operate-dunlap-observatory>
- [8] <http://www.zhejiang1921clubhotel.com/>
- [9] <http://www.nyaa.ca/index.php?page=slideshows>
- [10] <http://www.wildfrontiers.com/>
- [11] [mailto:serisha@wildfrontiers.com?subject=China Eclipse Tour](mailto:serisha@wildfrontiers.com?subject=China%20Eclipse%20Tour)
- [12] <http://rasc-vancouver.com/blog/2011/01/11/supernova-episodes-1-6/>

- [13] <https://www.rasc.ca/news/northern-skies>
- [14] <http://calgary.rasc.ca/daystars/index.htm>
- [15] <https://www.rasc.ca/astronomy-day>
- [16] <http://gordonspark.com/wp-content/uploads/2014-SM-Brochure.pdf>
- [17] <http://www.usask.ca/rasc/starparty.html>
- [18] <http://gordonspark.com/wp-content/uploads/2014-MSP-Brochure.pdf>
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