

BULLETIN



OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

May 2011 - Volume 6, Number 5

Ian Levstein, 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 at: <http://www.rasc.ca/im/bulletin/201105.pdf>

A text-only version of the *Bulletin* is available at: <http://www.rasc.ca/im/bulletin/201105.txt>

► [News @ RASC.ca](http://News@RASC.ca)

Registration for the General Assembly

by [Jay Anderson](#), GA Chair

We are now approaching the time when the University of Manitoba will no longer protect the residence accommodation that we have reserved. I invite you to go to the [Web page](#) to register for the GA if you are planning on attending.

The General Assembly is where you meet like-minded astronomers from across the country, engage in trading ideas about science, photography, observing, and the RASC itself. We have two barbeques, and a formal dinner as a part of the GA, and a day of papers and posters for you and others to show off astronomy talents.

Our social events include the National Reps BBQ on June 30 (reserved for members of the National Council), a Wine & Cheese at the Manitoba Museum on July 1, the RASC BBQ at the University on July 2, and the wrap-up banquet on July 3. Science and other presentations will take place on July 2 at the University. We will also be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg Centre during the GA.

We have four excellent guest speakers: **Dr. Christine Wilson**, **Dr. Samar Safi-Harb**, **Dr. Paul Delaney**, and **Alan Dyer**. In addition to the business proceedings, we have tours to the Hudson Bay Company fort north of the city, dinosaur-digging expeditions to a quarry in the southwest, tours of the Assiniboine Park Zoo and the Manitoba Museum, and a ride on a century-old steam train. Of course, we also have the traditional GA highlights as well.

You will find all of the details on the GA web site. We look forward to meeting y'all and having you help celebrate our centenary.



RASC is now on Twitter!

by [Mary Lou Whitehorne](#), RASC President

Follow RASC on Twitter. To join the conversation, go to the [RASC Web site](#) and click the link on the upper right corner, or simply follow the tweets on the bottom of the page. And stay tuned, because RASC will soon be on Facebook, too.

twitter

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Have You Considered Subscribing?

by [Deborah Thompson](#), RASC Executive Director



The *Journal* is the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's official, bi-monthly publication.

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As Canada's largest and most active astronomy organization, the RASC's value-for-dollars membership benefits are impossible to beat. Plus, there's the invaluable benefit of interaction with like-minded people who share a passion for the stars. Visit our [Web site](#) to see our new member benefit programs.

2012 Observer's Calendar - Call for Images

by [David Lane](#), National Office

Astronomical images of all types are invited for consideration for publication in the 2012 *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, film, or Webcam. Submitted images must be of sufficient quality and resolution to reproduce well at 9.5" x 12" and must be compatible with the "landscape" orientation of the calendar images.

Generally, this will mean a resolution of at least 1200 pixels tall. We will also consider making a quilt or mosaic of lunar/planetary Webcam-captured images (so as not to over magnify an individual image for publication).

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](#). 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 2011 May 31. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

New Green Laser Pointer (GLP) Resources

by [Randall Rosenfeld](#), GLP Committee

The GLP Committee has launched several new resources to help you promote safe GLP use to fellow amateur astronomers, and the community at large.

The first is a pamphlet by **Dr. Roy Bishop** providing, in clear language, a compendious explanation of some of the physical phenomena of GLP light and its dangers, along with a guide to safe GLP use (this can be printed double-sided on 8.5"x11" stock to form a six-panel document). The GLP Committee has also produced a bookmark, and a flyer which both give the essentials of safe GLP use (both single-panel products - the bookmarks print four to a page and the flyers three to a page on 8.5"x11" stock).

Please feel free to distribute these electronically or, better yet, print them off and distribute them at your next star party.

They can be found [here](#).

Outreach Materials for Astronomy Week/Day Events

by [Roland Dechesne](#), Past President, Calgary Centre

Preparing for your Astronomy Week or Astronomy Day events?

Astronomy brochures on a variety of topics can be found on the RASC Calgary Centre [Web site](#). A light pollution quiz and activity handout is available [here](#).

If you have a computer available for your public displays, you might try running the following PowerPoint slide show which is in the Members' secure section of the RASC [Web site](#). It's a few years old, but still useful.

To inform your guests about the early history of the RASC, have the "Queen" tell the tale in a fun video available on RASC Calgary's [YouTube channel](#). This video is based on the excellent summary provided on our National Web site by **Denis Grey** and **Peter Broughton**. Other videos available on that YouTube channel are a series of short Yuri's Night trivia question videos, and a longer answer video created for the 50th anniversary of Gagarin's historic flight into space on April 12.

Life Looks Up for Residents of the RASC Archives' Rare Book Collection

by R.A. Rosenfeld and James Edgar, National Office



Many members know that in the course of its long institutional life the Society has acquired some interesting astronomical artifacts.

The RASC Archives' Rare Book Collection contains some venerable printed books and manuscripts of the 17th to the 19th century, which bear witness to the development of astronomy during the enlightenment and its aftermath. Being some centuries old, some of these are not in as robust physical condition as they were when

new (the same could be said of the Archivist and National Secretary, but that would be impolitic).

To prolong the life of the binding structures, the History Committee commissioned - from the Canadian firm of [jameswood](#) - a book cradle made to Archival standards, which can be used when consulting such volumes. The accompanying image shows our copy of Alexander Jamieson's *Celestial Atlas* (London: 1822) opened to one of its hand-coloured pages, comfortably supported on the book cradle. Members who make an appointment to consult items from the RASC Archives' Rare Book Collection, can experience first-hand the contented rustling of the leaves as their spines and boards are supported.

► [Across the RASC](#)

Earth Hour in Charlottetown



by [Jane Vicary](#), Secretary,
Charlottetown Centre

Stratford cancelled at 8:15 due to complete cloud cover; there was no break in clouds at all. All of a sudden, the sky opened up so I got my scope out and we viewed Sirius and the Orion Nebula.

Ann counted and about 86 showed up. I think about 30 or so came down to the gate to view what we could see through the scope and binoculars.

Toes not too frozen this year... had fun and we talked to a few people and handed out a couple of brochures.

Guardian photo by Brian McInnis

There's a nice article [here](#).

The Douglas Richard Proctor (Darby) Coats (1892 - 1973) Telescope

by [Larry McNish](#), Calgary Centre

Darby Coats was a prominent member of three RASC Centres during his lifetime. He joined the Montreal Centre as a charter member in 1918, was President of the Winnipeg Centre in 1934-5, 1947-8 and 1952-4, and then moved to Calgary where he joined the Calgary Centre, and where he received the Service Award in 1968.

His telescope was donated to the Calgary Centre by his heirs, and we are now looking for a home for this unique RASC historical item (which used a Model A rear axle as part of its equatorial mount).



Interested Centres should contact [me](#).

► The Sky this Month

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.

► Dates to Remember

- **2011 May 7** - Astronomy Day
- **2011 June 30-July 4** - [2011 General Assembly](#), Winnipeg, MB
- **2011 July 29-31** - [RASCals Star Party](#), Metchosin, BC
- **2011 July 30-31** - [Alberta Star-B-Q](#), Caroline, AB
- **2011 August 25-28** - [Saskatchewan Summer Star Party](#), Cypress Hills Inter-Provincial Park, SK

- 2011 August 26-28 - [Nova East](#), Smileys Provincial Park, NS
- 2011 September 2-4 - [Butter Pot Star Party](#), Butter Pot Provincial Park, NF
- 2011 September 23-25 - [14th Annual Algonquin Adventure](#), Mew Lake Campground, APP, ON
- 2011 September 23-25 - [Fall'N'Stars](#), Thomasburg, ON
- 2011 September 24-25 - [Alberta Star Party](#), Starland Recreation Area Campground, AB
- 2011 September 27-October 2 - [Northern Prairie Star Party](#), Black Nugget Lake, AB



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

203 – 4920 Dundas St W, Toronto ON M9A 1B7 CANADA

Tel: (416) 924-7973, Fax: (416) 924-2911

Member Service: nationaloffice@rasc.ca

Visit Us at: www.rasc.ca

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