



March 2015 - Volume 10, Number 3

David Garner, 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 [here](#).

A Web-based version of the *Bulletin* is available [here](#).

► Editor's Notebook by David Garner

March's Sky

Daylight Saving Time begins on the 8th.

We have a full Moon on the 5th and a new Moon on the 20th. For anyone traveling to the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans on March 20th you might want to watch for a Total Solar Eclipse. If you are in northwestern Canada, the Moon will be occulting Aldebaran on the 25th.

Mars and Venus are in the western evening sky whereas Jupiter is well-placed in the evening sky and Saturn rises near midnight.

For more details check the *2015 Observer's Handbook*. Don't forget to check out Gary Boyle's [Northern Skies](#).

► News @ RASC.ca

News from the Society Office

by [Randy Attwood](#), RASC Executive Director

The February 2015 issue of the *Journal*.

By now you should have received your complimentary copy of the February 2015 issue of the *Journal*.

There is valuable information in each issue of the *Journal*. We are hoping that all members will consider spending the \$21 (average cost) on a subscription to the print version of the *Journal*. A real bargain @ \$3.50 per issue!

You can select the print version of the *Journal* when you renew online, or phone the Society Office: 1-888-924-7272.

Please Note: Once you have read your copy, consider donating it to your doctor or dentist's office, your school or local library.

RASC Tours Update

Join other RASC members on a trip to Los Angeles/San Diego in November 2015!

The RASC is partnering with its sponsor MWT Associates, Inc. (melitatrips) – to run several astronomy-related tours in the next few years!

The first trip is a one-week trip to **Los Angeles/San Diego** with visits to various astronomy and space exploration related destinations.

The trip will take place 2015 November 3 - 9. Here is the itinerary, which includes daily breakfasts, three dinners:

[Tuesday, 2015 November 3](#)

-Arrival in **Los Angeles**

[Wednesday, 2015 November 4](#)

-A free morning to sightsee **LA** and **Hollywood** with an afternoon visit to Griffith Observatory
Evening - dinner at the Magic Castle where the up and coming magicians train - magic shows in every room.

[Thursday, 2015 November 5](#)

-A free morning to visit other sights, such as the Getty Museum, with an afternoon visit to the California Space Science Center where the Space Shuttle Endeavour is on display.

[Friday, 2015 November 6](#)

LA - Pasadena

-A guided tour of the famous Jet Propulsion Laboratory

[Saturday, 2015 November 7](#)

-A visit to the Mount Wilson Observatory

[Sunday, 2015 November 8](#)

San Diego: A visit to the famous Palomar Observatory

[Monday, 2015 November 9](#)

-Return home

Pricing (\$US) (land costs only)

If deposited no later than 2015 MAY 1 - \$2135 per person, double occupancy

\$495 Single Supplement

If deposited 2015 MAY 2 or after - \$2395 per person, double occupancy

\$575 Single Supplement

First Deposit: \$300 per person to reserve

If you are interested please contact MWT Associates in San Jose.

Email: tours@melitatrips.com

Phone: 408-279-5589

If you have any questions please contact Randy Attwood, Executive Director execdir@rasc.ca.

Phone: 888-924-7272

Planispheres

Our new Planispheres have arrived! Check them out here:

https://secure.rasc.ca/rasc/RASC/Store/Store_OBSAIDS.aspx?Category=OBSAIDS

General Assembly in Halifax

The 2015 General Assembly will be hosted by the Halifax Centre. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Halifax Centre. The General Assembly will be held from Wednesday, July 1 to Sunday, July 5 at Saint Mary's University. Plan now to visit the Atlantic Coast this summer!

For more information see [2015 General Assembly](#)



The 2015 General Assembly Update

by [Patrick Kelly](#), RASC Halifax Centre

We plan to have the website up and ready for registration by March 15th, but it may be open before that. At that time we will publicize it by the *RASClist*, the Council list and the RASC *eNews*. In the last *Bulletin*, we provided a link for Nova Scotia tourism. This time, we thought it would be good to give you a link to tourist information about Halifax itself so that you can see what things might you might want to see while you are here. <http://www.destinationhalifax.com>

Call for Papers and Posters:

Once registration is open, people planning to submit papers or posters will be able to do so from the Participation tab on the website. We can accommodate both 15-minute papers as well as 20-minute papers. Note that the number of 20-minute slots is limited. Your proposal, using the form on the website, and be received by the deadline of 2015 April 19. Late proposals will be considered only if space permits. Detailed instructions will be emailed to the submitters of accepted proposals after May 1st.

To help you prepare your submission, you will need to submit the following pieces of information: name; email address; evening phone number; presentation type: Oral presentation (15 minute maximum), Oral presentation (20 minute maximum), or Poster presentation; Centre or organization affiliation, title (maximum of 100 characters); and abstract (maximum of 200 words). As an option you can submit one image to supplement the description.

Be sure to mark July 1- 5 on your calendar!

Call for Nominations

by [Chris Gainor](#), Chair, Nominating Committee RASC

2015 Board of Directors Election

Nominations Deadline: 2015 May 15

Campaign Period: 2014 May 20 - 2015 Jun 19

Election Period: 2015 Jun 20 - 2015 Jun 30

Participation on the RASC Board of Directors is a leadership experience that provides rich opportunity for personal and astronomical growth!

- Be part of our leadership team at The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
- The Nominating Committee is seeking at least three candidates to run for the Board of Directors
- The President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be drawn from the ranks of the Board, which will include the three members chosen in this election and six members who were elected in 2014 for terms expiring in 2016 and 2017.

The Nominating Committee can be reached through the Society Office at 888-924-7272 or by email at [Chris Gainor](#)

Here are the rules for candidate eligibility as set out in the RASC Policy Manual:

Candidate Eligibility

The Nominating Committee will ensure that candidates for the RASC Board of Directors meet the following criteria:

1. be a member in good standing of the Society;
2. meet the requirements for being a Board member as outlined by the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, and, specifically:
3. be over the age of 18 at the time of the Annual General Meeting (this year, June 29);
4. be an individual person (i.e. not a body corporate);
5. be solvent (not bankrupt);
6. have agreed to stand for election in writing;
7. have the support in writing of at least 3 people, one of whom is a member of the Society; and
8. have agreed to abide by the Society's Directors and Officer's Code of Conduct and indicated their willingness to sign the Society's Board of Director's agreement prior to assuming office.

Candidate's Statement

As part of the nomination process, candidates will be asked to provide a **Candidate's Statement**, including:

- their previous experience with councils and committees of the Society at both the National and Centre levels;
- a suitable photograph in electronic format as well as contact information as required;
- committee work and experience outside of the Society that may be relevant to the Society; and
- their goals for the Society and how they would contribute to the Board if elected.

Anyone wishing to be a candidate should write or email the RASC Nominating Committee through its chair, Christopher Gainor. Each candidate should state that they understand the eligibility requirements and state that they meet those requirements. Candidates should agree to abide by the RASC Director's and Officers Code of Conduct. They should also indicate whether they intend to seek a position on the Executive, and if so, what position they are seeking. Candidates should also send a candidate's statement as set out above. The three supporters for each candidate should also write or email the committee. Candidates and their supporters must inform the Nominating Committee of their intention to run or support for a candidate by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, 2015 May 15.

Candidates' statements will be posted on the RASC website no later than 2015 May 15. Candidates can campaign from 2015 May 1 through 2015 June 19. All members of the RASC will be eligible to vote, and facilities to vote on line will be available as well as paper ballots on request from the Society Office.

The nominating committee will be pleased to answer questions from any member of the RASC about this election process.

The nominating committee will be pleased to answer questions from any member of the RASC about this election process. The Nominating Committee can be reached by mail through the Society Office of the RASC, 203 - 4920 Dundas Street W, Toronto ON M9A 1B7 or by email at cgainor@shaw.ca

Christopher Gainor, Ph.D.
Chair, Nominating Committee RASC

The electronic Observer's Handbook

by [James Edgar](#), RASC President

The *Observer's Handbook* is available in a downloadable version. For members only, it costs \$10 to download a copy of the Handbook to your computer, tablet, or smart phone.

To view the eBook you will need a special free PDF reader called Javelin, which is available from the site where you purchase the Handbook. Copies of the Handbook are available for mainstream Window PCs and Mac OSX computers (OSX 10.6 or later), and for iPADS (IOS6 and later) and Android devices (ideally OS4 and later).

You may order a copy here <http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-member-benefit-programs>

James Edgar, UE
President
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

From the President

by [James Edgar](#), RASC President

Over the weekend of February 18 to 22, I toured the Atlantic RASC Centres St. John's, NL, Halifax, and Moncton as part of my presidential duties. One of the Strategic Plan items is for each Society Centre to receive a visit by one or more Board members this year. (Charlottetown is no longer a Centre, unfortunately; they voluntarily gave up their status after a recent meeting there to decide their future only attracted five members. Those few remaining members have converted to Unattached status.)

My tour began when I arrived in St. John's and was met by Vice-President Garry Dymond, who was my billeting host. He and his wife Marie made me feel very much at home. Their cat Clancy also came out from hiding for a very rare appearance.



I talked at the Centre meeting on the Synthesis of Elements in Stars. A special moment for me was meeting Jim Edgar of the St. John's Centre, whom I had emailed over the years in connection with my genealogy research -- no, he isn't family -- different DNA type!



The St. John's Centre have a tradition of having a visiting National President sign and present certificates to members of long standing who have provided outstanding service. I was pleased to be there to sign some 25 certificates. Of special note was a 15-year certificate that I presented to Jim Edgar, and one member, Randy Dodge, received a 45-year certificate!

Garry Dymond and I spent Thursday afternoon at the Geo Centre on Signal Hill -- not much to see outside that day! And, the Centre Executive took me out for supper that evening.



Next morning, I was on my way to Halifax, where Mary Lou Whitehorne met me and put me up in her home -- she says I got to stay in the "Edgar Room" at Chez Whitehorne. The afternoon was taken up visiting the folks at Cansel MDC, where our *Journal*, *Star Finders*, and *Moon Gazer's Guides* are printed. In the evening, we joined the Halifax Executive for supper, followed by their regular meeting, where I gave the same talk on the Elements. It was a great time that night to actually do some visual astronomy -- the close cluster of the Moon, Venus, and Mars made a very photogenic opportunity, and my hand-held capture was one of very many taken that night by people the world over!



On Saturday morning, Halifax Centre President Paul Gray drove me to Moncton to visit with the Centre Executive and then speak to the gathered members in the afternoon. I had given my Elements talk there last year, so this time I spoke about our own personal star, The Sun. On a different note, one of the Moncton members, Francois Theriault, has created a wooden masterpiece short-tube telescope -- he carved several of the well-known constellations onto the outside of the tube -- magnificent!



Another meal -- this time with the Moncton Centre Executive and gathered members -- did I mention I was well fed during my trip? The weather wasn't the nicest, since the Maritimes had been hammered with high winds and lots of snow before I got there, but everything worked out well with my travels, which went off without a hitch, though Paul Gray did take a scenic tour through the Wentworth Valley to avoid the Cobequid Pass highway. I even managed to practice snow shovelling at the Dymond and Whitehorne residences.

Thanks to all who contributed, who made me feel so welcome, and to all those who politely applauded my talks!

James Edgar, UE
President
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Home (306) 728-4819 **Mobile** (306) 728-8722

Summer IT Job Available at Society Office

by [Denis Grey](#), RASC Treasurer, Toronto Centre

Subject to budget approval, the Society is proposing to hire a summer student to help lead the Society's efforts to renew and modernize our web properties. If you know of a student who is pursuing studies in computer science and who might be a good candidate, please let them know about this interesting and responsible opportunity.

<http://www.rasc.ca/news/summer-co-op-job-placement-available>

Discover the Universe - Online workshop for Teachers

by [Julie Bolduc-Duval](#), Coordinator, *Discover the Universe*

Do you know any teachers who could benefit from our free workshop? The 4th edition of our popular three-week online workshop for teachers is starting on 2015 March 16th. Teachers can join us to gain understanding of many astronomical concepts linked to the curriculum, get access to activities and resources and just overall feel more confident about teaching astronomy. Visit our website for more information and to register.

<http://www.discovertheuniverse.ca>. Please pass this along to anyone who might be interested!

Discover the Universe / À la découverte de l'Univers is an astronomy training program offered by the RASC, the Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA) and the Federations des astronomes amateurs du Québec (FAAQ). All our programs are offered online, in English and French and offered at no charge.

For information, contact Julie Bolduc-Duval at julie@discovertheuniverse.ca

Thank You to our Sponsors!

by [Julia Neeser](#), RASC Marketing Coordinator

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has a unique partnership with our friends in the astronomy industry. We are now offering companies the distinction of becoming a charter sponsor of the RASC, Canada's pre-eminent amateur astronomy organization. This offer is available only to those industry leaders who recognize the value in being associated with the amateur astronomy community.

<http://www.rasc.ca/rasc-sponsors>.



What's New in the Sky

Members are encouraged to check out the [Northern Skies](#) section of the RASC website. Thanks to **Gary Boyle** for keeping us all in the know.

Julia Neeser creates "The Solar System" monthly with data from James Edgar's "Skies" newspaper articles at <http://www.rasc.ca/observing>.



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