



New Staff Update

Unfortunately, Eric Wickham from the communications department had his last working day on October 9th. We wish him all the best for his future endeavors. For inquiries surrounding marketing contact Dr. Phil Groff at phil@rasc.ca. As a response to our need for more employees in the departments of outreach, communication, and marketing, two new staff members were hired during the month of October:



My name is Samantha, and I am the new Astronomy Outreach Assistant, you can reach me through my email outreach@rasc.ca. I will be assisting Jenna with a variety of outreach projects and administrative activities. The two main projects I will be working on are the Grade 9 Robotic Telescope Program and creating online resources for our members! I have a BSc in Physics with an Astrophysics Specialization, and currently pursuing a Master's in Science Education. I have a passion for teaching & learning about space, and cannot wait to share this passion with the RASC!



My name is Reem Khalifeh and I am excited to work for the RASC considering I am a fifth year major in Astronomy & Astrophysics with a specialist in architecture at U of T. You can email me at communications@rasc.ca for additions/information on the monthly bulletin, monthly uplink, and weekly newsletter as well as concerns regarding the social media platforms since I will be taking care of communications and marketing. I am looking forward to working with RASC and discussing ways to improve marketing and communications!

Environmental Outreach Intern

We're thrilled to announce Nick Hammar has been appointed Environmental Outreach Intern! Nick has a BSc. Physics and Astronomy Combined, Honours from BC's University of Victoria. While completing his degree, Nick had astronomy related internships in three different countries: at the Gemini Observatory in Chile, Sao Paulo State University in Brazil and William Herschel Telescope / Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes on the island of La Palma, Spain. His responsibilities on these assignments included testing fibre optics, processing and analyzing astronomical images and writing Python code to combine and compare observations of elliptical galaxies. In collaboration with Light-Pollution Abatement Chair Bob King and committee members, Nick will support and promote LPA initiatives, Dark Sky Preserves and document existing light pollution strategies as well as provincial and municipal regulations and bylaws. This six month appointment runs until April 30, 2021 and was made possible through a grant from Nova Scotia's Clean Foundation. Nick is based in Victoria, British Columbia and can be reached at nhammar@rasc.ca. Please join us in welcoming Nick to the team!

New National RASC Database Coming Soon

As you may have heard, we have been working on modernizing our national membership system. The company we are working with, [Lifeline Design](#) is based out of Toronto and offers three integrated platforms: DonorEngine, VolunteerEngine and MemberEngine. Each component tracks different information relevant to its title, leading to a seamless platform for you to use to keep your membership up-to-date and work with other RASC members. We are currently planning to roll out the new system in mid-January. This system will bring a lot of exciting new features that you as a member may be able to take advantage of.

Features

- *Integrated Forum / Listserv Hybrid:* The new system will feature a Listserv that also has a forum view. Communication will be synced in real time between the two views, so no matter how you choose to communicate with other members, you won't miss out on anything! This is where RASCals and our other lists will be moving.

- *Integrated Workgroup Facilitation:* If you work with a committee or group of other members, the new system has a workgroup function that will allow you to collaborate on documents in real time for document creation. This can be used for remote teams to make minutes while on a conference call or any other type of document collaborate required.

- *Auto-renew Options:* If you'd like your membership to automatically renew each year, you'll be able to store payment information securely in your secure private member portal.

- *Document Library:* The new system has a searchable document library that will let us organize and tag our institutional knowledge, so moving forward if you need to find a document, you won't have to search page by page to find it!

Timelines

Our new database system is scheduled to roll out on January 18th, 2021. Starting on that date, secure.rasc.ca will look very different, as that will be where our new system will come into effect.

We will begin offering trainings for members starting later in November and into December. Please keep an eye on future bulletins and on our [website calendar](#) for future training events.

Training Sessions

We will be offering training sessions for members covering common topics, such as how to change your membership information and mail list preferences, how to access and use work groups, and how to assign and complete tasks. All training sessions will be advertised through the Monthly Bulletin and on our [website calendar](#) and will be available afterwards [here](#).

Gift Memberships

The holiday season may look a little different this year,, but we have the perfect idea to brighten up the lives of your closest astronomy enthusiasts!

This holiday season, give the gift of RASC membership to your friends and loved ones, offering them access to not only astronomical resources, publications, and equipment, but a welcoming community of astronomy supporters, all across the globe! Now that we are all spending more time at home, our annual membership, available for individuals and families, is the perfect gift for anyone interested in taking up or returning to their passion of astronomy!

To purchase a gift membership, please contact Membership Coordinator, Adela Zyfi at mempub@rasc.ca.

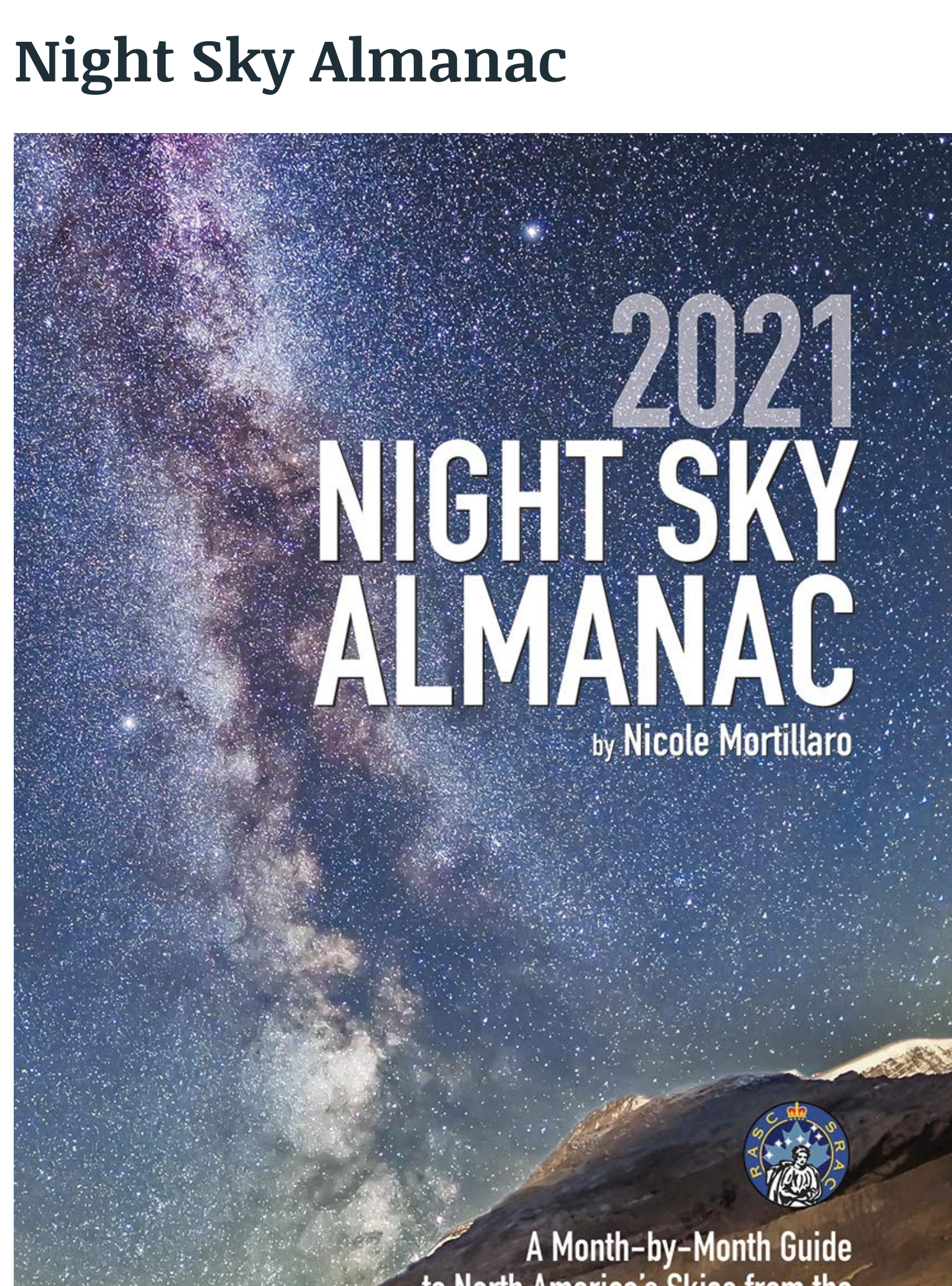
2021 Observer's Handbook and Calendar now available for order



Our annual Observer's Calendar is now available for purchase! The Observer's Calendar is created by our very own RASC members, featuring spectacular astro-images taken by amateur astronomers. With the observing at the forefront, the calendar has been designed to contain comprehensive astronomical data and predictions, in addition to other astronomically relevant dates and anniversaries. Visit our webstore or contact Membership Coordinator, Adela Zyfi at mempub@rasc.ca to purchase your copy before the new year begins!

[Order Now](#)

Night Sky Almanac



New product alert!
The 2021 Night Sky Almanac is the ideal resource for both novice and experienced sky watchers in the United States and Canada, with all of the advice, information and data that enthusiasts need to understand and enjoy the wonders of the night sky.

[Buy Now](#)



RASC Halifax has published a series of 10 astronomy talks presented at the 2015 RASC General Assembly, showcasing a wide variety of topics by a diverse group of presenters. The project was completed with the support of the RASC Special Projects Fund and RASC Toronto. View the playlist [here](#) or search for RASC Halifax on YouTube.

Are you interested in seeing what other RASC Centres are up to? [Check out this playlist](#) on our YouTube channel! If you have a video you'd like us to add, please contact Jenna at jenna.hinds@rasc.ca.