



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR'S CORNER

RASC members are an open and friendly community. We share a common interest, and when we meet, we immediately give an inviting smile. Just go to a General Assembly, and you will see people from all over Canada who want to get to know one another.

Unfortunately, we don't often know what other Centres are up to. I know the Kitchener-Waterloo Centre, as that is the one I belong to. I occasionally know a bit about the goings-on at the Montreal and Toronto Centres, but practically nothing beyond that. I would like to know more, and I think it would bring the whole group of us closer together if we all shared information about our meetings, star parties and public-outreach events. The *Bulletin* provides some sense of national community, so there is no reason not to continue that in this National Newsletter.

In this issue, take a look at the article "Focus on the Montreal Centre" by Carl Jorgensen. Of course, not all observing sessions go perfectly, but sometimes they work out better than expected.

I'm sure that many RASC members across Canada would like to know what your Centre is up to these days. Send me an e-mail about what you are doing—we'd all love to hear from you.

—David Garner, Editor



NGC4725 is a barred spiral galaxy about 40 million light-years away, in the constellation Coma Berenices. This 11-hour LRGB was taken with an 11-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and a QSI 583wsg camera.

—Dan Meek, Calgary Centre

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CONTACT US

We invite all Centres to contribute articles about their latest activities. Have you had any public star parties, award ceremonies, special events or observatory activities? Photos are welcome. Please send articles and pictures to newsletter@rasc.ca.

PULL OUT NEWSLETTER TO VIEW SKYNEWS STAR CHART



An estimated 600 visitors were in attendance at the "Dark as Keji" launch and star party, which included an astronomy information session. Photos courtesy Ian Corbett

KEJI DARK-SKY PRESERVE—NOW IN A BOTTLE!

Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site, in southwest Nova Scotia, enjoys dark skies in a natural setting. In 2010, the RASC declared Keji a Dark-Sky Preserve, and thousands of visitors enjoy the skies and night-sky programs every season. This year, the Boxing Rock Brewing Company has honoured the Keji Dark-Sky Preserve by introducing its Dark as Keji black India pale ale. The packaging is dark-sky-themed, including the RASC DSP logo. A portion of every sale goes to the Friends of Keji Cooperating Association to support dark-sky education programs.

Dark as Keji was officially launched at the Dark-Sky Preserve on the evening of May 20, the first camping weekend of the season. The park was full, and there were no other programs offered, so the tasting event and star party were very well attended. An estimated 600 visitors came, to the extent that the free samples were consumed before sundown! By



then, the telescopes and binoculars—manned by RASC Halifax Centre volunteers Tony Schellinck, Wayne Mansfield and Dave Chapman—were trained on Jupiter. Later, Parks Canada interpreter Colleen Anderson provided a laser sky tour at the Sky Circle, a decked viewing platform with reclined benches. The volunteers were kept busy showing the sky as late as 11:30 p.m.

Night-sky programs at the Sky Circle will be offered by Parks Canada interpreters Thursday and Saturday evenings in July and August. The traditional Dark Sky Weekend, including partner RASC Halifax Centre, will be held August 11-13, and a similar new event, Fall for the Stars, will take place September 22-24.

—Dave Chapman, Assistant Editor

Boxing Rock's Dark as Keji black IPA. Photo courtesy Boxing Rock Brewing Company

A WARM WELCOME

The RASC welcomes the following new members to its Centres across Canada:

Anthony Adamson, Sukrit Ahluwalia, Tarun Ahuja, Brent Alexander, Anandan Anbudaiyan, Ryan Anbudaiyan, Alec Anderson, Kaeren Anderson, Graeme Andrews, Laura Apostoloiu, Alexander Arsenic, Laura Arsenic, Michael Arsenic, Gerald Barlage, Eliezer Barreto, Ernesto Barreto, Marilyn Barton, Samuel Baruco, Rhea Bitanga, Mike Blois, Ivan Bodrov, Michel Bois, Mark Boisvert, Nathan Boisvert, Tanis Boisvert, Noah Boschman, Matt Bourdeau, Nick Boyd, Kyle Boyles, Christopher Brunet, Andy Bryson, Len Buzzetti, Jonah Byron, Don Campbell, Lynn Capling, Angela Carson, Chris Carson, Gabe Carson, Steve Cassotta, Chen Chen, Shaowei Chen, David Chomin, Steven Chomin, Bryce Christensen, Stan Clark, Daemon Cline,

Simon Clowater, Walter Coates, Rob Cobby, Colton Coppock, Wayne Coppock, Joe Costanzo, Stephen Cousins, Jonathan Cowan, Garrett Cox, Stan Cox, Donald Croft, Robert Cromartie, Brent Cunningham, Karen Cunningham, Allan Dalke, Ben Decarie-Groening, Zoe Decarie-Groening, Renee DesRoberts, Amelia DeVries, Jeffrey DeVries, Filippo Dicosola, Neil Doerksen, Sean Dougherty, David Dressler, Cledwyn D'Silva, Michael Egan, Bruce Erb, Janet Fairfield, Kris Fedick, Bobby Fillier, Meredith Fillmore, Michael Fisher, Richard Fisher, Margaret Ford, Ryan Forsythe, Hugo Forte, Dev Fox, Bjorn Franzone, Charlotta Franzone, Evelina Franzone, Katarina Franzone, Susan Franzone, Christina Fraser, Edward French, Rolf Fuchs, Kevin Galka, Michael Garrison, Jonathan Geehan, Chris Gendreau, Mike Gilchrist, Keith Gilson, Mandy Gommerud, Peter Gommerud, Simon Gommerud, Donald Goodfellow, Michael Gray, Kristy

Grear, Brian Greenberg, Doug Griffith, Adam Groening, Stanley Gross, Aditya Gupta, Deepak Gupta, Jason Hammond, Robert Harpur, Rose Harryman, Cameron Harvey, Steve Haskell, Lori Haydu, Adie Hayes, Adam Hebert, Kristina Hernandez, Samer Hobeika, James Hodge, Mary Horodyski, Glenn Hunter, James Hynes, Robert Ingraham, Chris Johnston, Jodi Johnston, Daniel Jones, David Jones, Reggie Jones, Candice Jonnson, Aparna Joshi, Avi Joshi, Prasad Kajale, Ana Karbajian, Timothy Keating, Adelle Kennedy, Gabrielle Kennedy, Usmen Khan, Abdallah Kobeissy, Gerry Kohlman, Mike Kowluk, Altin Kurti, Hassan Kurwa, Khalil Kurwa, Michelle LaCrosse, Peter LaCrosse, Tom Lajoie, Barbara Lane, Kurt Lane, Yana Lebedeva, Kendall LeDez, Kenneth LeDez, Marc Legrand, Jacqueline Lennon, William Lenselink, Ritchie Leslie, Robert Levesque, Geordie Ma, Christopher MacDonald,

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WINNERS OF THE CANADIAN AND NASA SPACE APPS CHALLENGES

My daughter, Arushi Nath (7 years), participated in the Canadian Space Apps Challenge organized by the Canadian Space Agency to analyze the data provided by Canadian satellites. Her project, "Yes I Can," re-created the Canada 150 logo using the satellite images of the Canadian RADARSAT-2. One of the winners, she has been invited to present her project at the CSA headquarters.

My son, Artash Nath (10 years), participated in the NASA Space Apps Challenge. His project, "Drop the Drought!" won from Toronto and is a NASA Global Nominee.

"Drop the Drought!" is aimed at predicting climate-change-induced droughts and migration patterns using satellite data (Terra MODIS and Landsat).

We have been RASC Toronto Centre family members for several years and credit the Society for motivating us in the direction of space and astronomy.

—Vikas Nath, Toronto Centre



For more information on Arushi's and Artash's work, see:

www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/blog/2017/06/02/space-apps-challenge-2017-a-first-for-csa.asp

twitter.com/csa_asc/status/872453497152819200

2017.spaceappschallenge.org/challenges/our-ecological-neighborhood/our-planet-our-home/teams/drop-the-drought/project

Jyl MacDonald, John MacKellar, Andie MacKenzie, James MacKenzie, Mike Maggipinto, David Major, Agnes Mallard, Gordon Martin, Ariel Masters, Liam Masters, Lachlan McConnell, Shannon McGinty, Tim McIvor, Lorna Minz, Umair Miraj, Charles Mitchell, Nathan Mitten, Irene Moore, Tara More, Normand Moreau, Andrew Motyliwski, Brenden Murphy, Yevhen Nesterenko, Yuliana Nesterenko, Yanic Nicolas-Pelletier, Stephen Nicolle, Daemon Nightshade, Stan Noble, Ashley O'Brien, Christopher O'Brien, Delaney Odell, Gary Odell, Mayve Odell, Sharon Odell, Mark Ogilvie, Michael Oman-Reagan, Joanne Osborne-Paulson, Glen Overend, Robert Palazzi, Phil Parent, Ian Parker, Oriana Parker, Julian Parks, Parshati Patel, Brian Pearson, Celeste Peters, Brent Platt, John Preston, Doug Primeau, Curt Purcell, Harry Purcell, Margo Purcell, Aaron Radwanski, Helen Ramsay, Michael Ramsay,

Jack Ratnik, Craig Rautenstrauch, Louis Rifkin, Leanne Ritchie, Terry Roberts, Jasmine Robertson, Kaidyn Robertson, Laurie Robertson, Matt Robertson, Sébastien Roche, Amanda Rorat, Patrick Rorat, Robert Rorat, Evan Rose, Graydon Rose, Jason Rose, Tessa Rose, Scott Rosendahl, Kim Rosing, Steven Ross, Mohammad Ruhomaun, Linda Ryall, Kloe Salvador, Kai San, Quinn San, Someth San, Antonella Santia, Mahmoud Sarhan, Michelle Schmidt, Joy Scott, Riley Scott, Spencer Scott, Hany Shaltout, Jerry Shen, David Shepherd, Hayden Shewchuk, Gord Simonin, Darren Sleen, George Sleen, Wilma Slenders, Kyle Slinn, Lizzy Smyth, Lulu Smyth, Jim Sparks, Emmanuel Spartalis, Froukje Staal, Alexandru Stanomir, Andrada Stanomir, Jeff St. Aubin, Tim Stephenson, Liam Stitt, William Stitt, David Stolk, Christopher Strejch, Chris Stringer, Lauren Sudeyko, Eric Taivainen, Brenda Tate, Michael Taylor, Declan Terry-

BOARD NEWS

As of this writing in early June, it appears that we will have a Board consisting of faces new and old (as in "have been around for a while, but not yet ready for the seniors' home").

Here is the new lineup, with the predicted Executive:

President: Colin Haig

1st Vice-President: Chris Gainor

2nd Vice-President: Robyn Foret

Treasurer: Anthony Gucciardo

National Secretary: Charles Ennis

Directors: Heather Laird

Craig Levine

Rob Thacker

Michael Watson

—James Edgar
Past President, RASC

LaCrosse, Karun Thanjavur, Bertrand Thibodeau, Isaak Thiessen, Shaila Thingalaya, Robin Thoen, Jim Thompson, Ambrose Tierney, Flora Tierney, Martin Tierney, Shauna Tierney, Skye Tierney, Howard Titman, Erinn Todd, Zhidan Tong, Zixuan Tong, Edith Tovey, Craig Townsend, Hannah Townsend, Mark Trevors, Cam Turner, Chris Turner, Brian Underdown, Liz Urbina, Grant Ursaki, Nandan Varma, Preetha Ravi Varma, Santhosh Varma, Unnathi Varma, Dan Vasiu, James Vassallo, Brian Vaughan, Jessica Vaughan, Antoine Vézina, Shanelle Weber, Gillian Webster, Graham White, Lianne Wiens, Ingrid Wilcox, Teresa Willman, Avery Witherden, Harris Witherden, Richard Witherden, Stuart Witherden, Anastasia Wong, Cynthia Wong, Eddie Wong, Terry Wood, Helen Xu, Jill Yates, Brook Yitna, Moe Yousof, Kitty Zhang, Xiaoyan Zhang.

—Julia Neeser



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FOCUS ON THE MONTREAL CENTRE



On the evening of May 27, the RASC Montreal Centre had planned to have a Members Observing Night at one of our dark-sky sites (Thompson Park, 726 Rue Main, Hudson, QC J0P 1H0). Because of cloudy skies, however, only three members of the Centre showed up (Ron Baran, Constantine Papacosmas and me).

On arriving at 8:30 p.m., I was disappointed to find that the skies were totally clouded over. Ron was already there with his camera set up on a tripod; Constantine arrived later. I delayed setting up my 8-inch Dobsonian reflector because of the clouds.

Around 10 p.m., there were some breaks in the clouds, so I began observing with my 15x70 Celestron binoculars. By 11 p.m., the skies had completely cleared. I set up my Dobsonian and started observing.

At about 11:20 p.m., I said to my fellow observers, "Look to the north. The clouds are playing tricks with us. They look like the aurora borealis."

Constantine and Ron responded shortly after: "Those aren't clouds. They *are* the northern lights." Ron started taking photos with his Canon EOS Rebel camera fitted with a wide-angle lens. Our patience rewarded us with a beautiful auroral display!

—Carl Jorgensen
Montreal Centre

DISCOVER THE UNIVERSE

Astronomy is engaging, especially to young people. It can spark an interest in science or even a science career. Astronomy is in the school science curriculum everywhere in Canada. Unfortunately, few teachers have any background in astronomy or astronomy teaching. They need and deserve support. That was the motivation behind Discover the Universe (DU), a national, bilingual, open, free resource for teachers. In the last issue of this Newsletter, I introduced DU from the perspective of the students. Here, I introduce it as a high-impact form of outreach: Every teacher reaches hundreds of students during his or her career.

DU was an outgrowth of International Year of Astronomy 2009 in Canada, a 148-country celebration of Galileo's development and first use of the astronomical telescope. The RASC, in partnership with the Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA) and la Fédération des astronomes amateurs du Québec (FAAQ), organized over 3,700 events, reaching almost two million Canadians face-to-face. DU received initial funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and is now sponsored by CASCA and the Dunlap Institute (University of Toronto), in partnership with the RASC and FAAQ. DU provides webinars, workshops and news and has created two educational modules; more are in the works.

DU needs to be known across Canada, so if you have teacher friends or are in contact with organizations that might be interested in DU, please spread the word. Many RASC members and Centres do outreach to schools and may be able to use DU themselves. In future, there may also be opportunities for you or others to serve as DU ambassadors, bringing the DU resources to teachers at the local level. So check out www.discovertheuniverse.ca or www.decouvertedelunivers.ca. Follow DU on Facebook and Twitter.

DU is directed (in both official languages) by astronomer/educator Julie Bolduc-Duval (julie@discovertheuniverse.ca). If you have questions, please contact her. There are also some excellent astronomy education ideas and references in the RASC's *Observer's Handbook* section "Teaching and the *Observer's Handbook*" by Heather Theijsmeijer. And check out the RASC's education webpage, www.rasc.ca/education-public-outreach.

—John Percy, University of Toronto

RASC Lapel Pins!

You asked, and we answered!
We now have two stylish lapel pins for sale on the RASC eStore! Stop by our eStore and order one today! www.rasc.ca
ALSO: SEE OUR NEW RASC 150th PRODUCTS!



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