



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

The RASC is a group of astronomy professionals, amateurs and educators. From its beginnings in the mid-19th century, the Society obtained its Royal approval from King Edward VII in 1903. Among other ventures, the mandate of the RASC is to stimulate interest, and to promote and increase knowledge, in astronomy and related sciences.

The RASC currently has over 5000 members throughout Canada and the world, including 80-90 members in the NB Centre. Annual membership fees for the RASC NB Centre, which includes the National fee, are \$75 for Regular members and \$38.75 for Youth members (under age 21, or 25 for students). Special Family Memberships are also available. Membership applications can be made through www.rasc.ca.

As a RASC member you receive the bimonthly Canadian astronomy magazine *Sky News*; the annual *Observer's Handbook*; an electronic copy of the bimonthly *RASC Journal*; and an electronic copy of the Centre's newsletter *Horizon*. Their combined cost is about equal to the Regular member's fee.



RASC New Brunswick Centre

RASC NB normally meets on the third Saturday of alternate months, alternating locations among Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John. Visit our Web site

<http://www.nb.rasc.ca/>

for dates, times and locations. Meetings include about two hours of talks on various aspects of astronomy.

Irving Nature Park

The Irving Nature Park in Saint John was designated by the RASC as Canada's first Urban Star Park. Members of the public are welcome to walk into the park for stargazing after the vehicle gate is locked. Look for public events in summer and in autumn.

Rockwood Park

The Saint John Astronomy Club also teams with Rockwood Park staff to hold public observing events. Check the park Web site for scheduled activities.

<http://rockwoodpark.ca/>

New Brunswick Astronomy Clubs

Saint John Astronomy Club

<http://sjastronomy.ca/>

Chris Curwin: ccurwin@nbnet.nb.ca
June MacDonald: jcdmacd@gmail.com
Mike Powell: mike3002@nbnet.nb.ca
Curt Nason: 506-648-9063 nasonc@nbnet.nb.ca

William Brydone Jack (Fredericton)

www.frederictonastronomy.ca

Don Kelly: donald.kelly@rogers.com
Chris Weadick: Chris.Weadick@gmail.com

Moncton Astronomy Club

Adrien Bordage: abordage@rogers.com
Emma MacPhee: emmamacphee@yahoo.ca

SJ Astronomy Club Email Notification

If you want to be notified of meetings, events and telescope sales, email a request to Curt Nason at the address above. Your address will be hidden.

New Brunswick Star Parties in 2017

Check the RASC NB Web site for info on star parties at Kouchibouguac (June 2-4), Mactaquac (July 28-30), Mount Carleton (August 11-13), and Fundy (September 15-17). There will also be telescope observing at the Kouchibouguac Park Fall Festival (Sept. 22-24). Dark skies and a wide variety of telescopes! If you are thinking about buying telescope, star parties are a great place to see the different types and how to use them.

Watch for special observing events for a Canada-wide Star Party on July 29, a partial solar eclipse on August 21, Astronomy Days (April 29, Sept 30) and Observe the Moon Night on October 28.



The Planets in 2017



Mercury is seen best on evenings in early April and on mornings in early September.

Venus is brilliant in the west in February and March and dominates the morning sky from May through autumn.

Earth: When the Moon is a crescent you can see its unlit portion as a pale gray. That is earthshine - sunlight reflecting off Earth onto the Moon.

Mars is low in the west this winter. Look for it near Venus on the morning of Oct. 5.

Jupiter dominates the evening sky from April to August and is near Venus on the morning of November 13. Look for its 4 moons in binoculars!

Saturn: The ringed planet is well placed for evening viewing from April to September. Its rings are at their best viewing in 15 years and are a spectacular sight in a telescope.

Moon: The best time to observe the Moon in a telescope is in the evening when it is near First Quarter. Look along the shadow line for contrast in craters and mountains. The dark seas are ancient, frozen lava flows.

Partial Solar Eclipse August 21

A total solar eclipse crosses the USA on this day. In New Brunswick we see the Moon covering about half of the Sun. Public observing events will be held to allow you to view the eclipse safely through filters.

Astronomy Tips

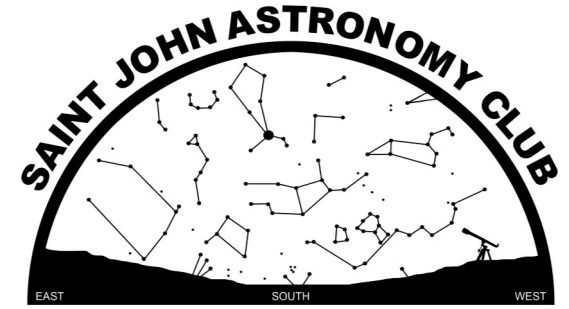
- Get started in astronomy by using a star map to learn the constellations. The most important equipment is your eyes.
- Star maps are available in astronomy magazines such *Sky News* and in many popular phone apps (see below).
- The best “beginner’s telescope” is a pair of binoculars. Even advanced observers use them frequently.
- You will see more stars if you avoid lighted areas. Your eyes adjust to the dark in 15 minutes, letting you see fainter objects. This is called “night vision.”
- To read star maps without ruining your night vision, cover your flashlight with transparent red material. Even better, use dim red LED lights.
- It gets cold when observing, even in the summer. Dress as if the temperature is 10° cooler, and bring extra clothing.

Useful Astronomy Web sites

- rasc.ca
- skyandtelescope.com
- skynewsmagazine.com
- spaceweather.com
- heavens-above.com
- nasa.gov/

Some Recommended Astronomy Apps

- **Sky Safari** and **Sky Satellite**
- **Stellarium**
- **Sky Guide**



Bringing Astronomy to Southern NB

Saint John Astronomy Club (SJAC) Founded in 1987

The club consists of local men and women of ages ranging from teenage to senior citizen. We share an interest in astronomy, and we seek to share our knowledge as we learn ourselves.

Meetings are usually the first Saturday of each month at the Rockwood Park Interpretation Centre. The time may vary, so if you plan to attend for the first time we recommend you contact a member beforehand or visit our Web site at:

<http://sjastronomy.ca>

[https://www.facebook.com/
Saint.John.Astronomy.Club](https://www.facebook.com/Saint.John.Astronomy.Club)

<http://twitter.com/SJAstronomyClub>

We delight in giving presentations and observing sessions for school classes at all levels, Scouts and Guides, and other groups of all ages. Contact one of our members listed in this brochure. For more information see:

[https://www.facebook.com/
astrobythebay](https://www.facebook.com/astrobythebay)