



REGULUS

JANUARY 1990

NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGSTON CENTRE
OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS IN 1990

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ASTRONOMY DAY COORDINATOR.	Stan Manna

Many thanks to Eldon Adams and Murray Anderson who have stepped down for a much-needed rest from the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. And to the newcomers on the executive, welcome and congratulations.

PLUTO DISCOVERER VISITS KINGSTON

On Friday, October 20, members of the Kingston Centre, their families and friends and the general public, had a rare treat, indeed. This was the occasion of Dr. Clyde William Tombaugh's visit and address, which was held at MacArthur Hall, Queen's University. Attendance was estimated at close to 200.

Besides Kingston, Dr. Tombaugh spoke in several other Canadian cities, among them Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal and Ottawa. The purpose of his tour was to raise money for the Tombaugh Scholarship Fund at the New Mexico State University.

In addition to lecture fees, etc., money was also raised through the sale of momentos, including Dr. Tombaugh's book *Out of the Darkness*, co-authored with British astronomer Patrick Moore, which tells the story of how Pluto was discovered.

Copies of all books sold on the tour were to be personally annotated and autographed by Dr. Tombaugh.

Because Dr. Tombaugh is the only living discoverer of a planet, these books are sure to be real "collectors' items" in years to come.

All, in all, it was a signal honour to hear Dr. Tombaugh speak and to meet him afterward. Thanks are due to everyone involved in bringing him to Kingston.

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Kingston Centre are generally held on the **second Friday of each month**, in Room D-214, MacIntosh-Cory Hall, Queen's University, 8 p.m. Non-members are welcome. **Executive members please note:** Executive meetings are one-half hour before regular meetings.

MEETINGS IN 1990

January 12	July 13
February 9	August 10
March 9	September 14
April 20 *	October 12
May 11	November 9
June 8	December 14

* NOTE: April 13 is Good Friday.

TERRENCE DICKINSON is the featured speaker for our meeting on **January 12**. He will be speaking on the **Neptune fly-by**.

ASTRONOMY DAY/WEEK

Stan Hanna, our "Astronomy Day/Week Coordinator", along with **Denise Sabatini** and **Peggy Torney**, are looking for your ideas and suggestions for "Astronomy Day/Week" in April. At the present time, we're planning a **mall exhibit** for April 21--**where** has yet to be determined--and a **public observing party** for April 28. Everyone can help in one way or another--**so don't be shy about coming forward and offering your assistance** in any way you can.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MAY YOUR SKIES BE CLEAR, THE SEEING GOOD AND THE DEW MINIMAL IN 1990.
I'M SURE WE'VE ALL HAD ENOUGH OF CLOUD, RAIN, FOG, DEW AND FROST.
LET'S HOPE FOR BETTER OBSERVING IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

ooOoo

Desert Skies

THE ASTROPHOTOGRAPHER'S DESIDERATA

GO PLACIDLY AMID THE DARK & WIND &
REMEMBER WHAT PEACE THERE IS IN
POLE ALIGNMENT. AS FAR AS POSSIBLE,

without surrender, do not shine your light in another's eyes. Expose your film quietly & clearly and admire the scopes of others, even the homebuilt ones, they too have their advantages. ✂ Avoid mercury and sodium vapor lamps, they are vexations to the emulsion. If you compare your scope with others, you may become vain & bitter for there will always be that guy on a mountaintop in Arizona with clear skies, a 14" and a Byers Drive. Enjoy your star parties as well as your meetings. ✂ Keep interested in your own telescope, however humble, it is a great friend in a recession. Exercise extreme caution in guiding, there is always a trick or two in even the best drives. But let this not blind you to what value there is in hypered film. Everywhere astrophotographers help each other and space is full of undiscovered miracles. ✂ Use a dewcap. Especially do not play loud music. Neither be cynical about bad weather & missed shots, for in the face of moisture & bad seeing, clear skies are as perennial as Sky & Telescope. ✂ Shoot quickly the mountains of the moon, removing the hat after all the vibrations die down. Nurture strength of mount to shield your scope in moments of high wind. Do not distress yourself with moonlight. Many lousy pictures are borne of fatigue and field rotation. Beyond cleaning your optics occasionally, be gentle with your slow motion controls. ✂ You are a child of Eastman Kodak, no less than the stars and the film industry. You have a right to waste film. And whether or not the heavens are clear for you, no doubt the cloud deck is unfolding as it should. ✂ Therefore be at peace with your telescope, whatever its configuration. And whatever your viewing & photographic goals, in the confusion of a star party, keep your guide star in the center of the crosshairs. ✂ With all the bad seeing, clouds, flimsy mountings, skyglow, drive errors, foot binaries, tube flexure & slow film, it is still a beautiful hobby. Drink coffee. ✂ Strive for great pictures. ✂✂

FOUND IN AN OLD OBSERVATORY DATED 1982

Sept. '89