



Regulus



The Newsletter of the Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada –November 2005

Coming up...

RASC Regular Meetings

Queen's University
Stirling Hall Theatre D

Friday, November 11 7:30 pm
Speaker: Kevin Kell

Friday December 9 7:30
Speaker: Paul Mortfield
Meetings are cosponsored by Queen's Physics and include astronomy lectures open to the public.

KAON Public Observing

Queen's Observatory
Ellis Hall
Saturday, Nov 12 7:30 – 9:30
Saturday, Dec 10 7:30 - 9:30

AstroYak

Friday, November 18 7:00 pm
Friday, December 16 7:00 pm
at the home of Kevin Kell and
Kim Hay,

Members Observing

Nov 23 – Dec 4 7:00 Lemoine Pt

Big Bang – quiet

November 25 6:30

The RASC - Kingston Centre *Incorporated*

That's right! We've now received notice that our incorporation has now been approved. In order to complete the process, we will be bringing a motion to the annual meeting in November.

"We move to incorporate the current "The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Kingston Centre" under the Ontario Incorporation Laws, and transfer all assets and membership of the Kingston Centre to the new "The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Kingston Centre Inc."

For more on incorporation, see page 2

2005 Big **Bang**-Quet

Annual Awards Banquet of the Kingston Centre of the
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Friday November 25

Cash Bar opens at 05:30 pm

Dinner begins at 06:30 pm

Tickets are \$40 per person

See Susan Gagnon for tickets.

For more on the Banquet, see page 5

Don't forget: Executive elections will be held at the November meeting. For more on elections, see page 6.

Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

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RASC - Kingston Centre Incorporation

Doug Angle

Background: A number of RASC Centres, as well as the national body of the RASC are already incorporated. We've been working on incorporating the centre for the last several years, with a couple of delays along the way. This application was initially submitted in 2004, and in late September we received notice that it had been approved.

Benefits: Although we date the RASC-KC as being founded in 1961, it really does not have any legal status. For example, the Centre cannot own land or other assets (the law would recognize national RASC as owner of our equipment), enter into contracts and so on. Incorporation changes that, giving us more control over our own affairs. In addition it limits the liability of our members, and allows us to apply for charity status, which it turn would mean we could issue our own tax receipts.

The Process: From our perspective, we just want to incorporate the Centre we recognize as existing since 1961. In practice, since this isn't recognized in law, we need to create a new corporation. That's now been done, and approved by the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Business Services. However, other than the officers we listed in the application, the corporation has no members or assets. We now need to move the organization from the "old" Kingston Centre to the new Kingston Centre Inc.

What's next: There are a number of administrative details left to address, such as the actual transfer of membership, setting up accounts, changing letterhead, filing the

relevant reports etc. The motion listed on page 1 will give the executive the mandate to complete the process of incorporation. There isn't anything else that individual members will need to do, and most won't notice any difference.



Presidents 2005 Report

Kim Hay

What a fantastic year!!

The centre has been very active this year, and it could not have happened without all the great volunteers we have that help when and where they can. My words alone cannot express my thanks and gratitude to all our volunteers. It takes a team to make our Centre run, and it did, like, well aligned optics on a telescope. Thank you all so much.

I will not repeat all the events we did this year, as the Secretaries report will cover that very important information, but we have done a few things behind the scenes that will benefit us all, now, and in the future.

After several years, we are finally coming to the finish line on our incorporation so that we will be a legal entity that can benefit in owning or leasing land. At the Annual Meeting on November 11, 2005, we will be voting on the motion that will "transfer all the assets (Equipment, Library, Bank Holdings) from the old RASC-KC to the new incorporated RASC-KC Inc." The official wording on this motion will be presented by the Secretary. We will still belong to the RASC as a Centre, but this gives us the ability to strengthen and grow. There will be a board of directors, and an Executive as always, but this is a legal step we

must take to give us the strong foundation to grow.

The paperwork involved each year may be a few extra hours of work for our Treasurer, but each of you as a member of the Kingston Centre has a say and a vote on how you would like to see the Centre grow and flourish. There are so many possibilities that we as a centre can do, and we need your help in making it happen. Think of where you may want an observatory located, which has been a dream of our centre for many years. How far would you be willing to drive to observe, be with friends, peruse the library, and sit to read an astronomical book from our vast library collection, or have a discussion over a cup of coffee and talk Astronomy?

Of course we do this now, in bits and pieces here and there, but being able to come together in one place is a dream that will come true.

We will have much administration work to do in the next few months to help carry the reality of the dream to the next level. There are Centre bylaw updates to come inline with the National bylaws, which is a goal to have this done early next year (2006). We also want to enhance our Centre with an application for our own federal charitable status, so that we can apply for grants, and accept donations to help build a strong centre for all members and achieve the projects we wish to do.

Most importantly we have tried to keep our communication open with our membership, both present and those who have left us for one reason or another, and will extend an invitation to welcome them back. We have continued with our newsletter, *Regulus*, enhanced our website, and have our local email list where you talk Astronomy and find

out what is going on locally day by day and major announcements to members via email.

Our work on KAON (Kingston Astronomy Outreach Network) with the Department of Physics, Engineering Physics and Astronomy was a great success the past two years. Since this fulfills the Trillium agreement, we are currently working with Queen's again to see if we can extend this project and perhaps do a few more.

We have acquired a few new eyepieces and filters for the Equipment Loan program, and the LX200 will be a loaner scope within the next few months once the case is prepared for transport.

Everything we did this year, we did with the help from Centre members, the Executive, the novices, the armchair astronomers, to the advanced observers. We made the Centre strong with all the help of the volunteers throughout the year with all the public outreach we did, we enhanced the subject of Astronomy. The teachers of astronomy courses and instructors that, brought astronomy to the guides and scouts. We reach people in many ways, by talking about a simple astronomical event to a non-astronomer, to engaging in deep conversation about cataclysmic variable stars and novae.

I am proud to have been the President of the Kingston Centre in 2005, and I am proud to see how it has evolved over the years, and how it has grown and flourished and will continue to grow. We are about to start down a new road, one that is full of promise and hope, and I want all our members to be there when we start the walk. I am looking forward to it, and hope that you will be as well.

Thank you all for a great year, and I know that we will continue to have a great future.

Respectfully Submitted
Kim Hay
RASC-KC President 2005



Secretary's 2005 Report

Steve Hart

We currently have 125 Affiliated Members.

Regular Meetings were held on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Theatre D, Stirling Hall, Queen's University.

January 14: Dr. Sun Kwok "Cosmic Butterflies"

February 11: Members Night featuring short presentations by Kim Hay, Kevin Kell, and Ken Kingdon.

March 11: Melissa Ruiters "The Globular Cluster Systems of selected Virgo Galaxies: What do they tell us?"

April 8: Peter Jedicke. "Astronomy in Hawaii: Research, Outreach, Observing - and Politics"

May 02: Dr. David Levy "I'm Dreaming Of A Moon Shadow: My Adventures With Eclipses" (special meeting in Chernoff Hall Auditorium, Queen's U.)

May 13: Laura Gagne "Sirius dating in Egypt" and Stephen Gagne "Reading the weather for observers"

June 10: Members Night featuring short presentations by John Hurley, Ken Kingdon,

Kevin Kell, Susan Gagnon, Kim Hay, Leo Enright.

July 8: Richard Schmude "Photoelectric photometry of Jupiter"

August 12: Annual "MarkFest" BBQ at Mark Kaye's.

September 9: Members Night featuring short presentations by Ken Kingdon, Dave Hunter, Doug Angle, Leslie Roberts.

October 14: Ken Kingdon "Mars"

November 11: Annual General Meeting

November 25: 2005 "Big-Bang-Quet" Annual Awards Banquet Dr. Bryce Bennett "Tracking Objects in Space: Orbit Determination from Kepler to CASTOR"

December 9: TBA

Along with Astronomy Day, in 2005 the Kingston Centre offered displays and public observing at two charity events; "The Sky is the Limit Festival" and the "Relay for Life".

Kingston Centre members also held several combined presentations and observing sessions at the Little Cataraqui Conservation Area and also at two Girl Scout camps. Members visited several area schools. In addition to a member who volunteered as a judge, an award and a prize were contributed to the area Science Fair.

Our monthly public observing sessions, held at the Queen's University Observatory, fulfilled the final obligations of a two-year Trillium Foundation grant. This partnership has been extremely successful, and we hope to continue

this close relationship with the Queen's University Physics Department.

While "weather luck" helped to revitalize our private observing sessions, at various dark sky sites, the innovation of scheduling a "floating date" contributed to a satisfying observing year.

We had a gratifying response to the first nine-week session of our "Observational Astronomy for the Novice" course, which incorporated the RASC Prince George Centre's "NOVA" course material into our own RASC-KC mini-course.

Fall 'N' Stars 2005, hosted jointly with the RASC Belleville Centre, was a wonderful weekend of observing, presentations, and a chance to meet people from several RASC Centres.

Lastly, 2005 saw an exciting milestone. "The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Kingston Centre" has incorporated under the Ontario Incorporation Laws.

Note: The December meeting and the AGM election results will need to be added to this provisional report. Also, events during the November AGM may require revisions of this report.

Steve Hart
Secretary, RASC - Kingston Centre



2005 Big Bang-Quet

Susan Gagnon

Annual Awards Banquet of the Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Friday November 25

Cash Bar opens at 05:30 pm

Dinner begins at 06:30 pm

Speaker, Awards, and door prizes to follow.

Location: The Sir John A. Macdonald Room at The Holiday Inn on Kingston's downtown waterfront (bottom of Princess).

Tickets are \$40 per person, and the event is open to the public as well as members and their guests.

This year's meal will be a buffet with plenty of selection for all. The door prize list includes a 1.25", Celestron, 0III filter.

Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. Bryce Bennett and his topic is "Tracking Objects in Space: Orbit Determination from Kepler to CASTOR and Beyond." The talk will begin with a brief account of how Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) was able to come up with the Laws of Planetary motion that bear his name. We will then compare this to the work that is going on at present at RMC with telescopic tracking systems. The content should be fairly accessible to everyone.

Dr. Bennett has been with the RMC Department of Physics since 2000, where he is an associate professor of physics. In addition to teaching he is a senior researcher, and works on the Canadian Surveillance of Space Concept Demonstrator (formerly CASTOR) This system consists of 3 remotely operable robotic observatories, each with a 14" scope - one in Kingston, one in Valcartier PQ, and one in Suffield AB. This is Canada's first optical space tracking system.

Dr. Bennett has a BSc. in Physics (Queen's '88) and a Phd. in History and Philosophy of Science (University of Western Ontario '99) His dissertation was on Kepler's 'new astronomy'.

You may order tickets and arrange payment and delivery by emailing Susan at sdgagnon (at) kos (dot) net , or call the Centre info line at 613-377-6029 and leave a name and number where you can be reached.

Tickets may also be purchased at the next regular meeting November 11th.



It's Election night at the RASC-Kingston Centre

Kim Hay

November is elections month. Every position on the RASC KC Executive is open for any member to hold office. These are elected positions, and will be filled on November 11, 2005 at the Annual Meeting. The terms of the office are located on <http://members.kingston.net/rasc/exec.htm>.

Some individuals have come forward to run for these positions already, but all positions are open until the time of elections. Nominations will be accepted any time up to the meeting, and from the floor on meeting night.

Committee chairs are held by those who have an interest in a particular area and wish to see the work done. The Chairs are generally picked by the Executive , however if someone comes forward, then the name goes on the list. If the positions on the Committees are not filled, then these will either be picked up by one of the Executive members, or the program may not run for that year. If you might be interested in chairing a committee please go to <http://members.kingston.net/rasc/committees.htm> and click on each committee to find out what they do.

The positions that are highlighted in the tables below are ones that don't yet have nominees.

Nominating Slate for 2006

Executive Positions

Position	Running for 2006	Current 2005
President	Kim Hay	Kim Hay
<i>Vice President</i>		Norm Wellbanks
Secretary	Steven Hart	Steven Hart
Treasurer	Kevin Kell	Kevin Kell
Librarian	David Mcguire	David Mcguire
<i>National Council Representative (up to 2 years)</i>		John Hurley
Editor	Doug Angle	Doug Angle

Nominating Slate for 2006

Committee Chairs

Position	Expressed interest for 2006	Current 2005
Astronomy Day	Hank Bartlett	Susan Gagnon
<i>ATM</i>		Inactive in 2005
Awards	President, 1 member of executive, 1 other member	Kim Hay, Hank Bartlett, David Mcguire
<i>Banquet (Social)</i>		Susan Gagnon
<i>CCD</i>		Inactive in 2005
Education	Hank Bartlett	Kim Hay
Fall 'n Stars (Alternates with RASC Belleville member)	No chair needed as Belleville will be chairing 2006, but volunteers needed for the committee. Kingston Chair for 2007	Arlyne Gillespie
<i>KAON (Public Observing)</i>		Kevin Kell
Little Cataraqui Conservation Area	Hank Bartlett	Kim Hay
Equipment Loan	Kevin Kell	Kevin Kell
Observing	Ken Kingdon	Ken Kingdon
Publicity	Steven Hart	Steven Hart
Relay for Live (new in 2005)	Hank Bartlett	Susan Gagnon
Responsible Lighting		Kim Hay
Sky is the Limit	Hank Bartlett	Susan Gagnon
Webmaster	Kim Hay	Kevin Fetter



Member Observing

Ken Kingdon

November - Deep-Sky Observing at Lemoine Point Conservation Area

Deep-sky highlights, learn some star-hopping techniques, plus Mars continues.

Don't miss this fine opportunity for a few hours observing after supper and then home to bed.

Floating Period: The first clear night beginning Wed., Nov.23 right through to Sunday Dec. 4th.

Meet: at 7pm in the South Parking Lot of Lemoine Point Conservation Area.

Directions: proceed south on Bayridge Drive to its very end at Front Road. Turn west (right) onto Front Road, and proceed past the Airport almost 1 km. At the very end of Front Road, slow to turn right into the Conservation Area, and proceed 400m to the South Parking Lot.



A bunch of Rocks

Kevin Kell

One of the popular attractions at the Sky Is The Limit Festival on 2005 July 9th, was this "Which Rock Comes From Outer Space" quiz. There are 9 rocks in the display case, one of which is a real live meteor!

Guests were invited to pick up, scratch, sniff, each of the sample rocks and then make a guess. They would then pick up the card, turn it over and look at the answer. It was a blast! "Smart" parents would be wrong and kids

would be right, there would be competitions amongst groups of kids or among families. Better yet it was all self serve.

The idea from this came from the Belleville Centre meeting of a few months ago. They had a guest speaker who brought along 50 or so rock samples and talked about meteorites. He then put them all out and had the audience wander around and guess "rock" or "meteorite" recorded on paper. Afterwards he went through each rock, identifying it. We had a blast! Good hands-on interactive fun.



Just a bunch of rocks or are any of them special? See if you can pick out the meteorite from the common rocks.

We were actually 3 rocks short when we got there in the morning to set up. I had placed 3 chocolate almonds in the empty slots and told folks that if they found a good "fake meteorite" they could have the almond. Wow ... you never saw such activity!
(continued on page 9)

For Sale

Newtonian Telescope

Skywatcher - slo motion control on both axis

F= 500 mm D = 114 mm

Optional 2x Barlow

Eyepieces:

Super Wide Angle 25mm Super 10mm

Red Dot finder

Aluminum tripod

Filters

EQ1 Mount

One Year old

Cost: \$450.00 Asking \$250

Contact Bruce Paisley 353-2385

RASC Observers Calendar 2006 are now available.

Buy 1 for \$15, two for \$29 or three for \$42. You can purchase them from Kevin Kell (Treasurer) at Astroyak (Friday November 18th, or December 16th), from a RASC KC Public Talk / Meeting (Friday November 11th or December 9th) or at a KAON Public Observing Session (Saturday November 12th or December 10th).

A Bunch of Rocks (continued from page 8)
We ended up with a chunk of concrete off the sidewalk, a tiny little rock and something that looked like a piece of wood. In the end we filled up the display with 8 real rocks, some of which were unusual, like lava from the Kelowna GA, and like limestone with tar from our front driveway. One of them was actually closely related to a meteorite ... it was a tektite, which results from earth rock being near a meteorite impact site and being changed by that impact. The tektite was donated by Hank Bartlett, one of our members.

The meteor was on loan from another member. The centre should actually think about acquiring a meteorite (or collection!) of their own for displays, public education, etc.

At least 50 different people or groups of people came through and tried this display out. Highly recommended for other public events! Try it yourself! Which rock is a meteorite? The answer will be in the next issue of Regulus.





Kingston Cosmic & Events Calendar November & December 2005

By Kim Hay

For more detailed information, please refer to the **RASC 2005 Calendar** and the **RASC 2005 Observers Handbook**. Available from Kevin Kell or from National Office, <http://www.rasc.ca>

Date	Events
Nov 1 Tuesday	New Moon 20:25
Nov 1 Tuesday	Observational Astronomy for Novice Course 7:00 pm Ellis Hall Room 323
Nov 3 Thursday	Mercury at greatest elongation (not easily seen) E 24° Venus at greatest elongation E 47°
Nov 5 Saturday	Little Cataraqui Conservation Area-Public Talk 7:00-9:00 pm
Nov 5 Saturday	S.Taurid Meteor peak 5:00 am
Nov 7 Monday	Mars at opposition
Nov 8 Tuesday	Observational Astronomy for Novice Course 7:00 pm Ellis Hall- Observatory 4 th floor- Observing night ** Last Class Night** It's been Great!!! First Quarter Moon 20:57
Nov 11 Friday	Regular Meeting Stirling Hall Theatre D 7:30 p.m. Election Night-All positions Open Guest Speaker -Kevin Kell
Nov 12 Saturday	KAON Observing Session- Ellis Hall Queen's Observatory 7:30-9:30 p.m. for more information visit http://members.kingston.net/rasc/pubobs.htm
Nov 12 Saturday	N.Taurid meteor peak 4:00 am
Nov 15 Tuesday	Full Moon 19:57 Mars 2.5° S of Moon
Nov 16 Wednesday	Moon 0.7° S of the Pleiades 8:00 am *Challenge Object
Nov 17 Thursday	Leonid Meteor Peak 10:00 am
Nov 18 Friday	Astro Yak at the home of Kevin Kell & Kim Hay visit http://members.kingston/~rasc/indexsec.htm for directions
Nov 20 Sunday	Executive Meeting 1:30-4:00 pm. Front door of Richardson Labs , Stuart St. Free parking out front "Old & New Executive & Committee Chairs"
Nov 23 Wednesday	Lecture: Climate Change caused by Solar Activity- Dr. Sturt Manning Watson Hall Room 517- Queen's University
Nov 23 Wednesday	Last Quarter Moon 17:11

Nov 25 Friday	RASC-KC Awards Banquet at the Holiday Inn, for more information and tickets visit http://members.kingston.net/rasc/Banquet.htm
Nov 23- Dec 4	Floating Period for Members Observing at Lemoine Point- 1 st clear night
Dec 1 Thursday	New Moon 10:01
Dec 8 Thursday	First Quarter Moon 4:36
Dec 9 Friday	Regular Meeting Stirling Hall Theatre D 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker -Paul Mortfield from Toronto
Dec 10 Saturday	KAON Observing Session- Ellis Hall Queen's Observatory 7:30-9:30 p.m. for more information visit http://members.kingston.net/rasc/pubobs.htm
Dec 12 Monday	Mars 1.0° S of Moon 1 am
Dec 13 Tuesday	Geminid Meteor Peak 11 pm
Dec 15 Thursday	Full Moon 11:15
Dec 16 Friday	Astro Yak at the home of Kevin Kell & Kim Hay visit http://members.kingston/~rasc/indexsec.htm for directions
Dec 21 Wednesday	Winter Solstice 1:35 pm
Dec 22 Thursday	Ursid Meteor Peak 8 am
Dec 25 Sunday	 Happy Holiday Season from the RASC- Kingston Centre to Everyone!
Dec 25 Sunday	Moon occults Spica best in NW of North America 8:00 am
Dec 26- Jan 2	Floating Period for Members Observing at Mike Wirths-Equuleus Observatory near Perth-1 st clear night
Dec 30 Friday	New Moon 22:12
Dec 31 Saturday Jan 1, 2006	Out with the old, and in with the new, may 2006 be a year full of dark clear skies and lots of observing! 