

# Regulus

Newsletter of the RASC Kingston Centre



Vol. 53 No. 6

June, 2026



## In this issue:

President's Report	p. 2
The Editors Keyboard	p. 3
Skyward	p. 4
The Sky This Month	p. 5
Target for Tonight	p. 6
Stuff from Kevin	p. 7
Our New Arrival—Seestar S30 Pro	p. 8
Frontenac News	p. 9
Observatory Designs—Part 4	p.10
Service Award Presentation	p.11
Minutes of the April Public meeting	p.12
About Us	p.13

## Centre Events for Summer, 2026!

Every Wednesday not listed below:  
Zoom Social at 7pm. See your email for the Zoom link.

June 10: Pre-meeting get together at the Portsmouth Tavern, 96 Yonge Street, Kingston

June 10: Monthly Public meeting 7pm at Queens Room B201, Macintosh-Corry Hall, 68 University Avenue, Kingston

July 8: Picnic at Lake Ontario Park, 4pm

July 22: Summer BBQ, Amherst Island, 2pm

Aug 12: Picnic at Lake Ontario Park, 4pm



Big news in June! The County of Lennox & Addington and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada — Kingston Centre are pleased to announce the deployment of the Attila Danko 25" Obsession Dobsonian telescope to the L&A Dark Sky Viewing Area. Its large aperture and superior optics will give guests outstanding views of the night sky.

The telescope was donated to the RASC Kingston Centre in 2025 by the Estate of the late Attila Danko. Attila is best known for his award-winning Clear Sky Charts, born of his love of "faint fuzzies." He was also a devoted outreach astronomer who spent countless hours bringing large telescopes to star parties — most notably this 25" Obsession.

The Lennox & Addington Dark Sky Viewing Area is Ontario's most southerly dark-sky site, located 37 kilometres north of Napanee near Erinsville. It features a large concrete pad for telescopes and cameras, free admission year-round, and, views of the night sky that rival conditions from a century ago.

The site draws thousands of amateur and professional, astronomers each year. Its viewing platform, the Terence Dickinson Observation Deck, is named in honour of the late stargazing author, SkyNews Magazine founder, and Lennox & Addington resident.

First Light will be in mid-June, we will have pictures for a future edition of Regulus.



*This image is from the Centre's new Seastar S30 Pro. It is 51 images stacked together, each 20 seconds long, of M86. It was taken by Rick Wagner*



I am still waiting for my new telescope. In mid-April, the good people at Astronomy Plus in Montreal quoted a 4-to-8-week delivery time. As of writing, it has been 5 weeks. Yes, I am getting impatient!

The vast majority of my past telescopes were purchased used. While I once owned a Meade Personal Solar Telescope and a Meade ETX90, those were never my "main" instruments. I have owned a number of telescopes over the years, and I still keep most of them.

My very first was a 4" reflector made from porthole glass, which I received for my 10th birthday. These days, I wouldn't recommend such a setup for a beginner, but times were different then. I loved that little scope and still have it. Every few years, I take it out to look through it again. The images are still decent, though it really needs collimating. This scope accompanied me to my first two total solar eclipses: 1972 in Gaspé, and 1979 in Gimli, Manitoba. It was at that 1972 event where I saw a Celestron C8 for the very first time.

After working for a few years, I saved up enough money to buy a used C8 from a gentleman in Stouffville, just outside Toronto. At the time, I was working in the IT department at Sears Canada. I asked a young woman, whom I had taken out for only our second date a few days prior, if she wanted to join me for the drive to pick it up. She said yes. Since we arrived early, we grabbed a meal at a local pub where I told her all about my passion for astronomy.

I saw some wondrous things through that telescope, including the 1991 eclipse in Baja California. That lovely orange scope boasted excellent optics and served me well for over 20 years before I eventually sold it to Joe O'Neil in London. As for the girl? She is still with me; we just celebrated our 43rd wedding anniversary at the end of May.

The C8 was eventually replaced by a Meade 12" SCT, which I bought from Rock Mallin of MallinCam fame. It had, and still has, superb optics. Like my previous two scopes, it also stood in the path of a total solar eclipse—this time in Lac-Mégantic, for what remains the best totality I have ever witnessed. This telescope successfully bridged my transition from film astrophotography into the digital age. I never would have imagined back then that by the time I replaced it, I would be imaging 20th-magnitude objects. I have seen incredible sights through it, and although I have since upgraded the mount, the glass remains excellent. It is showing its age, though. Then again, considering the optics are nearly 25 years old, it is astonishing that it can still gather enough light in just 30 seconds to image a quasar 3.89 billion light-years away.

The incoming scope will bring its own set of challenges. I have never owned a truss-tube system before, so a black shroud will be essential. This leaves me wondering: should I remove the shroud after every observing session? If I leave it on, how easy will it be to slip the primary and secondary mirror covers into place?

I currently use a nylon cover for the 12" to protect it just in case my SkyShed POD isn't perfectly sealed.

The cover is actually designed for my wife's electric mobility scooter (we ordered one and accidentally received two). She prefers the pink one, so I claimed the red one for the scope. It is plenty large enough for the new Ritchey-Chrétien (RC), and it features a highly useful silver-coated interior.

I will also need to source a new filter wheel for 2" filters. My current wheel works fine for the sensor on my monochrome camera, but I plan to replace it in a couple of years.

Additionally, a different focal reducer is required. The 12" SCT currently utilizes a Starizona Mark IV corrector in its optical train, which does a fantastic job of reducing the focal length from 3048mm to 1950mm. It is designed specifically for standard SCTs and beautifully corrects the system's inherent coma. If you own a standard SCT (not a Meade ACF or a Celestron EdgeHD), it is well worth the investment. For the new setup, I will need the Starizona APEX ED-L Reducer/Flattener instead. This will yield a focal length of 1850mm with a 355mm aperture, running at f/5.2.

However, that purchase will wait until later in the year. In the meantime, I must modify my observatory. I will either need to lower the deck it sits on or increase the height of the pier. I won't know the exact measurements until the new telescope is physically installed. I should also modify my POD Zenithal Table (PZT) to make the height adjustable.

Needless to say, there is plenty of work happening around my observatory this year!

On a final note, the Kemptville District Library "Nerd Out Night" went very well. The talk I gave was highly received, and I will be delivering it next to the Astronomers Guild—the wonderful new astronomy group in Cornwall—at their upcoming meeting on June 8th. They meet at the Saunders Hydro Dam Visitor Centre (2500B Second Street West, Cornwall) on the second Monday of each month.

Normally, I take the summer off from writing, but I am toying with the idea of producing a special Summer Issue. Would readers be interested in this? If so, please let me know!

Clear skies to you!  
Roger Hill



This month's article is more personal than most of the others, and it is only distantly related to the night sky. Over the last few months, particularly around the time of the March 2026 eclipse of the Moon, I began to encounter dizzy spells that grew in intensity. Near the end of April, I suffered through a terrible day during which I fainted 15 times, the last of which resulted in broken ribs. I do not know

how my iPhone found its way to my side that night. When I was discharged from a second hospital three days later, I had been diagnosed with a severe hypoxemia. When I arrived my blood oxygen level was down to a near-fatal level of 5 but as I write these words it is up to 9.5; still too low but better. I also have three ulcers. I was forced to cancel a planned visit to Kalamazoo, Michigan, but I did successfully present my lecture over zoom.

Thanks to good family support and the help of my friends David and Pam Rossetter and Tim Hunter, I am at home and improving. I have restarted my observing. I am able to resume my nightly field checks of T Coronae Borealis, and even a little comet hunting. I do appreciate your words and prayers.

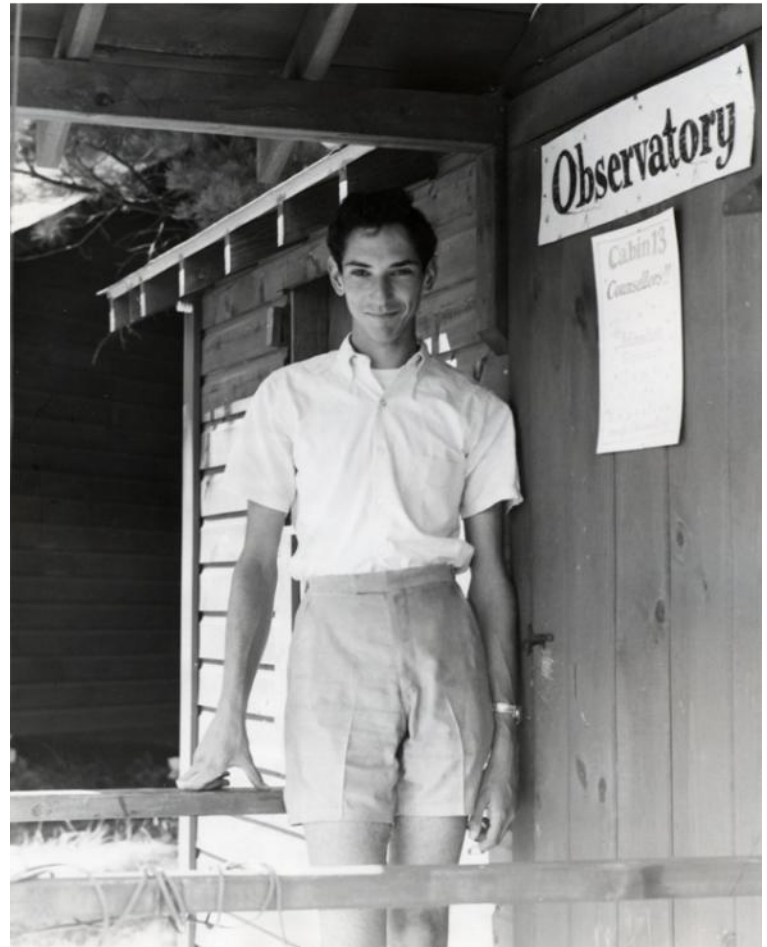
I feel as though I am emerging from a very long tunnel. The experience has been excruciating but wondrous also. Except of course, for last night. The setting Sun brought a beautiful clear sky. Jupiter was hanging in the upper west. Venus was not too far away from giant Jupiter. All the stars were out. As I got my eyes adapted to the darkness, the friendship of the stars began to take hold. Sirius, shining clearly at magnitude minus 1.5, beckoned me to try to spot its companion, which I have observed before. As constellation after constellation, asterism after asterism, made their grand entrances, each one had a unique story to tell. Some stories are established legends, and others could be as fresh as a child's imagination and fresh approach to what that part of the sky can teach.

When I was a teenager, my particular love was comets. It still is. They are so magical, so precious, so much fun, and so unique. I have observed more than 240 comets, of which 23 are comets I have discovered or co-discovered. From my own point of view they are also friendly. Each one has a distinct, well-established personality. I love them all, but more than that I have a special place in my heart for each one of the 23 comets I have found, either on my own or with Carolyn and Gene Shoemaker. And just last night, David Rossetter and I resumed our monthly observing at our society's Chiricahua Astronomy complex. The night was sparkling and I will never forget it.

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Right now, I have to concentrate on my recovery, on getting better. In this difficult time I think of Walt Whitman, truly one of my favorite poets, and his superb rhyme entitled "A Clear Midnight."

*This is thy hour, O Soul, thy free flight into the wordless,  
Away from books, away from art, the day erased, the lesson done,  
Thee fully-forth emerging, silent, gazing, pondering the themes  
thou lovest best,  
Night, sleep, death, and the stars.*



In the summer of 1966, Joseph Howard took this photograph of me standing in front our cabin at the Adirondack Science Camp.

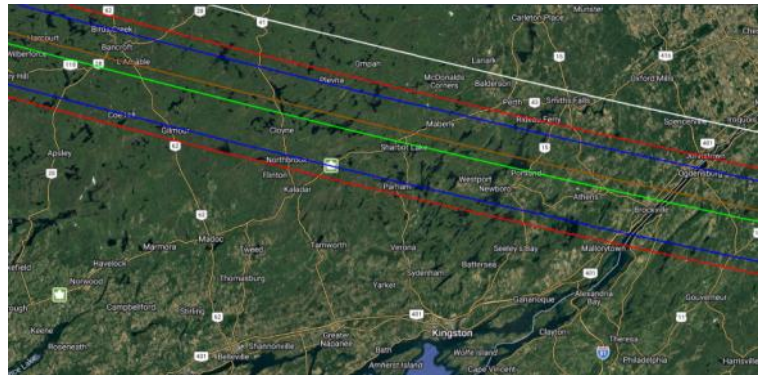
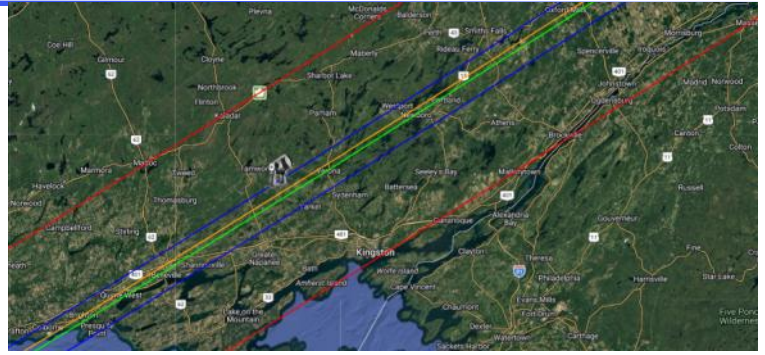
# The Sky This Month: Rick Wagner



Any night of the week offers up a broad range of viewing wonders. A Past President of the Kingston Centre, Rick Wagner keeps an eye on the sky each month, sharing some of the best viewing opportunities as well as timings to catch your favourite night sky target at its best.

## Astronomy This Month – June 2026

- 05 Jun – (172073) 2002 AF85 (mag 19.5) occults TYC 5709-00977-1 (mag 9.5) over Centreville & Verona 02:04EDT
- 08 Jun – Arietid meteor shower peaks during morning twilight; broad peak may be visible for a week or two before or after
- 08 Jun – Last Quarter Moon
- 09 Jun – Venus (mag -4.0) 1.6° north of Jupiter (mag -1.9) in the west during evening twilight; Mercury (mag 0.2) 13° to their lower right, Castor and Pollux upper right
- 09 Jun – double moon shadows on Jupiter starting 21:25EDT; Europa on the disk until 21:40EDT
- 14 Jun – extremely thin crescent Moon with earthshine (<24hr before new) very low in NE before sunrise
- 14 Jun – New Moon (22:54EDT)
- 14 Jun – minor planet (3428) Roberts (mag 15.7) occults UCAC4 371-077582 (mag 11.5) through Sharbot Lake, Westport and Elgin (23:46EDT)
- 15 Jun – Mercury (mag 0.5) at greatest elongation east low in the WNW during evening twilight
- 15 Jun – extremely thin crescent Moon with earthshine (~27hr old) very low in NW after sunset
- 15 Jun – minor planet (14) Irene (mag 9.4) at opposition
- 16 Jun – Venus (mag -4.0), Jupiter (mag -1.8), Mercury (mag 0.6), crescent Moon, Castor, and Pollux form compact triangle low in W after sunset
- 17 Jun – crescent Moon occults Venus (mag -4.0) during daylight (15:40-16:58EDT)
- 17 Jun – crescent Moon transits M44 (Beehive Cluster) during dusk
- 19 Jun – Venus (mag -4.9) on N edge of the Beehive
- 19 Jun – Moon, Regulus, Venus, Jupiter, Mercury in 44° line low in W after sunset
- 21 Jun – Summer Solstice (04:25EDT)
- 21 Jun – First Quarter Moon
- 29 Jun – Full Moon (19:57EDT)
- 30 Jun – (8622) Mayimbialik (mag 17.7) occults UCAC4 341-089984 (mag 11.1) for Sharbot Lake, Westport and Athens (00:41EDT)
- 30 Jun – (33107) 1997 YL16 (mag 16.8) occults TYC 6322-00966-1 (mag 10.1) for Battersea (03:14EDT)



Images above are visibility maps of the asteroid occultation events listed, and are presented in the order in which they occur.



With his left foot firmly planted in the Milky Way it should come as no surprise that there is plenty to see in Ophiuchus aka the Serpent Bearer. Between the Messier list and the Levy Deep Sky Gems, Ophiuchus provides an introduction to globular clusters with 10 on these lists alone. M9, M14 and M107 are cited as GCs

that may suffer from proximity to dark nebulae, where intervening material dims the object overall or causes it to look unfocused. Both Herschel and Shapley have commented on M62 being asymmetrical. M12 and M10 might be picked up in the same binocular field.

There are several dark nebula in this region and Barnard 72, the Snake Nebula, makes the Deep Sky Challenge list. Dark nebula need dark skies!

All 3 of the Finest NGC targets are included in Stephen O'Meara's Hidden Treasures. 6369 is a planetary nebula called the Little Ghost, the remains of a star similar in mass to our Sun. The resulting white dwarf is mag 16 (I found that the Cambridge Double Star Atlas has mislabeled this object as NGC 6235 which is actually a GC in the same constellation). 6572, also a PN known as the Emerald Eye is worth the trouble just for the colour, even my suburban sky cannot diminish it. I found both of these PNs had nice distinctive star fields for identification. 6633 is one of 2 large open clusters, the second being IC 4756 across the border in Serpens Cauda. 6633 is dominated by several bright stars and 4756 is larger and more open. These 2 are also known as Tweedledee and Tweedledum!

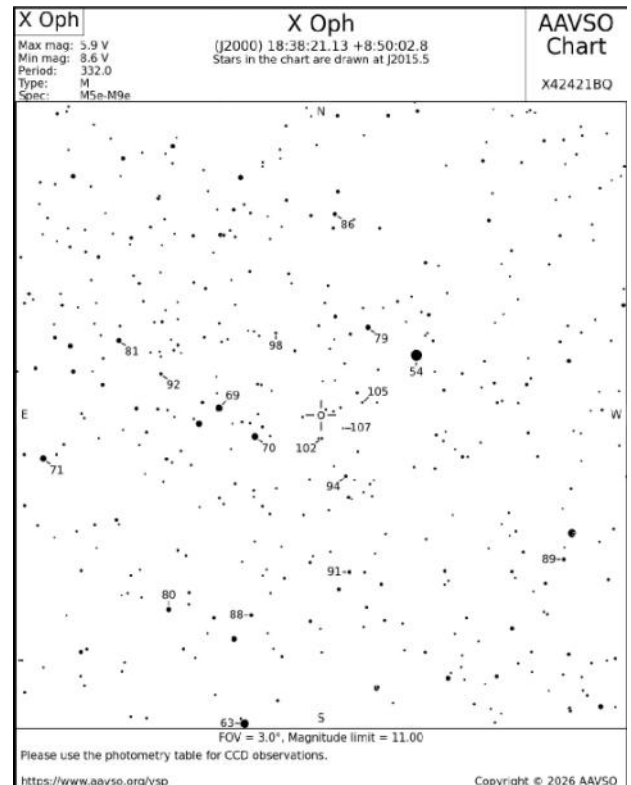
The only galaxy in our lists is Levy's NGC 6384, a spiral galaxy presenting not quite face on. A range of magnitudes have been recorded, 10.4 to 13.2. A 10 inch scope has been recommended.

The ETU optional item is X Ophiuchi, a variable. It is also named HD17217. I have included a 3 degree AAVSO variable star chart for interest should someone like to try an estimate. X Oph is a well studied Mira type variable. It is a Long Period Variable meaning it is a pulsing red giant with a period from 75 days to 2 years or more. Cartes du Ciel information begin this search with binoculars and because this chart has a good supply of comparison stars, the chart and binoculars may be all you need to do an estimate. Binoculars will need to be on a tripod.

About variable star charts: magnitudes have had the decimal removed so the star marked 54 is mag 5.4, just so the decimal is not confused with a star. There is no other labeling of the stars. If you are doing estimates on fainter stars and using a goto mount hitting 'go' and verifying the field is a single step. If you are using binoculars, goto is not an option. This is a great star to try a variable estimate with a little star hop. A 3 degree FOV chart that contains a near naked eye star is not always available. At least one 'bright' star on the variable chart, in this case 54, coupled with the RA/Dec and surrounding star pattern make finding the area on a smaller scale chart and the star hop easier.

If time is short and you need to consider efficiency, Messiers 9, 19, and 62, B72, and NGCs 6342, 6369, 6287 are all in a very tight region between Sagittarius and Scorpius!

OBJECT	Description	Mag	RA	Declination
NGC 6369	Finest , PN	12	17:29	-23:46
NGC 6572	Finest, PN	10.8	18:12	+6:51
NGC 6633	Finest, Open Cluster (OC)	4.6, brightest star, 7.6	18:27	-6:31
Messier 12	Globular Cluster (GC)	8.52	16:47	-1:57
Messier 10	GC	6.6	16:57	-4:06
Messier 62	GC	8.55	17:01	-30:07
Messier 19	GC	8.45	17:03	-26:16
Messier 9	GC	9.36	17:19	-18:31
Messier 14	GC	9.55	17:38	-3:15
Messier 107	GC	9.96	16:33	-13:03
B72	DSC, Barnard72 Dark nebula, the Snake		17:24	-23:38
X Oph	ETU variable option	5.9-8.6	18:38	+8:50
NGC 6287	Levy, GC	11.5	17, 05	-22:42
NGC 6342	Levy, GC	11.2	17:21	-19:35
NGC 6384	Levy, galaxy	13.2	17:32	+07:04
NGC 6426	Levy, GC	10.9	17:45	+03:10





One of the mission statements of the RASC-KC is:  
In conjunction with the objectives of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, to promote and foster a greater awareness, understanding, and appreciation of astronomy and allied sciences among the public at large, and particularly among our youth and in the schools, and with groups and

individuals who invite our assistance;

To further that, we have outreach resources available for any member to borrow for any outreach they may want to do.

This is a collection of mostly 24"x36" foam core mounted posters that can fit into the metal sandwich board for display. It is fairly low to the ground so is especially suitable for vertically challenged young astronomers.

From left to right: Moon Map, The Sun, Mars, Our Moon, Planetary sizes (not 2'x3'), Messier List, Universe and older IYA2009 sign (not 2'x3'), more for history than current events. Also is a carry portfolio that fits all of the posters.

Ask via email to Kim or Kevin directly, or through the centre email address indirectly [kingston@rasc.ca](mailto:kingston@rasc.ca)

We have received an equipment donation: A Coronado Personal Solar Telescope.

While most people use it with a standard camera tripod, testing it with a ball joint mount proved very unstable. Even without the ball joint, the tripod setup still exhibited significant flexure.

Item #61 Coronado PST Personal Solar Telescope (2026)  
Storage/Use location: at the home of Equipment Coord Kevin Kell  
History: 2026May  
Notes: Serial 99633  
Comes with case, 20mm Kellner 5/4" eyepiece, and case.



The Centre recently purchased a ZWO Seestar S30 Pro smart telescope and a tablet to add to our loan library. The scope will be released for monthly loans to members starting at the June meeting. I was privileged to be the first user in order to test it out and document it.

The S30 is in some ways very similar to the S50 we already own. Indeed, it uses the same app on your phone or tablet, so much of what follows and many of the new features apply to the S50 as well. The latest version of the app includes some new features since I last used the S50 a few months ago. So I'll cover a few of the more interesting tools below. But first the hardware.

The S30 is basically an upgraded but smaller version of the S50. In fact it's so much smaller you could carry it in a medium-sized purse (or manbag.) It has a smaller 30mm aperture and 160mm focal length four-element apo lens on the main 'tele' camera (note the foreshadowing.) The chip is a Sony IMX585 backlit sensor with 2160x3840 pixels (yes, keeping in sync with our phone-crazed world and like the S50 the chip is oriented in portrait mode – taller than wide.) The pixels are 2.9µm square or 3.73 arcsec.

The field of view is 4.0 x 2.25 degrees – you can capture the whole of M31 in a single frame yet the resolution is good enough to resolve some individual stars in a globular cluster. In case that field isn't large enough the scope features a mosaic mode. In the Star Atlas tool you can expand the field by up to two times (and also rotate the field to better frame your target.) The scope automatically takes the necessary subframes and stacks and mosaics them to give up to an 8K image (4320x7680 pixels!) Of course, covering the larger area (double the frame size means 4x more area) requires correspondingly longer stacking for the same quality of image. But the S30 also includes a wide-field camera – an IMX586 chip behind a 6mm focal length lens giving 32x54° field of view, also with 2160x3840 (1.6µm pixels) resolution. And you can pump that up even further – it features automated '8K stitching' in which the scope can automatically mosaic two frames either vertically or horizontally for even wider fields. Also very cool – you now can shoot both tele and wide subjects at the same time, though of course they must be centred at the same point in the sky. Think of a nice deep tele image of the Lagoon nebula with a wide-field shot situating it

*The Moon, Sun, star trails, and a mosaic of 160 stacked images, 20 second exposures, of the area around Gamma Scuti. Back Page is of 51 stacked images, 20 second exposures, of M86.*



and showing its neighbours. And it has an star trails mode in which the tracking stops and it continuously adds exposures together into a star trails image until you tell it to stop.

In addition to Deep Sky (tele camera) and Milky Way (wide camera) imaging modes there are Solar System and Scenery modes. Both offer still, video, and timelapse modes. Solar system mode includes the Sun, Moon, major planets plus dwarf planet Pluto. It takes nice photos of the Sun and Moon, particularly at 2x digital zoom, but the planets are all too small to show any detail (Venus's crescent may show up when at its largest.) (Digital zoom is 'false magnification' obtained by cropping the frame to apparently increase the zoom. Cropping the 1x image after the fact would give the same result, with the exception that, because the camera is downloading fewer pixels videos are smoother.) Scenery mode allows shooting with either camera. In fact the wide camera can be used as a finder for the tele camera. The near focus of the tele camera is a little long at ~6m but at 2x digital zoom it does a nice job on small birds and animals.

This is a great addition to the Centre's loan library and I expect that demand will be at least as strong as it has been for the S50.



This month should be noted for long hours of sunlit skies. Hopefully they will be dryish and relatively clear. I don't know anything, just wishful thinking.

Mercury, Venus and Jupiter will be visible in the evening twilight. All are in the West or Northwest and will set before dusk. Mercury is in the WNW, Venus W and Jupiter in NW. Mars will be low in the ESE during morning twilight all month. Saturn will rise in the E at 2 am and be in the ESE at dawn.

The first week of June has the moon waning from full, so quite bright and hard to see fainter objects. With the Earth tilted so the Northern hemisphere gets more sunlight, there are fewer hours of darkness. Last Quarter Moon is on the 8th. Venus will be 1.6 degrees North of Jupiter on the 9th and if you have a telescope, Neptune will be 4 degrees South of the Moon, shadows of Callisto and Europa (9:22 pm) will cross Jupiter. From the 11th to the 13th several Globular Clusters are relatively easy to find: M 5, M 92, M10, M 12 and M14. These are tightly packed grouping of millions stars that are found around the nucleus of a galaxy. All of the ones mentioned above are in our galaxy. If you have a large enough telescope you can see the globulars in other galaxies. Globular clusters are thought to be made of very old stars.

The New Moon will be at perigee (closest) on June 14th. This will cause tides to be larger for a couple of days and the old crescent Moon may be seen in the E before sunrise. The young crescent Moon should be visible in the W at sunset on the 15th. The 16th has Mercury 3 degrees S of the Moon. On the 17th, both Jupiter (3 degrees) and Venus (0.3 degrees) will be S of the Moon. Regulus (Leo's brightest star) will be 0.3 degrees N of the Moon on the 19th. Summer Solstice is on the 21 and the Moon will be at First Quarter. On the 27th, Antares, the brightest star in Scorpius, will be (0.4 degrees) N of the Moon. The Moon will be farthest on the 28th and Mercury will appear stationary from the Earth. Full Moon is on the 29th "Trees Fully Leafed Moon".

Summer Solstice is when, from Earth, the Sun appears to rise in the same place for three days. This year's actual day is the 21st. It isn't always. Sunset also reaches its maximum. As our planet is tilted on its axis and wobbles a bit around the ecliptic, which part of the planet is receiving more direct sunlight changes throughout the year. It is this tilt that causes our seasons and hours of daylight. Earth is actually a little bit closer to the Sun during the Northern Winter. The further you are from the Equator the longer your hours of sunlight in the summer (opposite in winter).

Many people have been telling me about some of the issues they are having setting up new telescopes. If you are using your equatorial 'scope in your backyard there are some things you can do to help.

First you need to find Polaris. This is a Yellow Supergiant pulsating star that is presently very close to our rotational axis. It is not the brightest star, it is the one that doesn't move! Look for the asterism 'the Big Dipper'. It is part of the Great Bear and circles the pole so start looking North. Remember this shape because that will be what you'll be looking for. Find the two stars on the outer edge of the Big Dipper's bowl. These are the pointer stars. Draw an imaginary line through them and about five times the width of the dipper. This will lead you to Polaris. It is the tip of the handle of the Little Dipper. So to confirm you have the right star, the Little Dipper should look like its pouring into the Big Dipper. Now you need to point your telescope at Polaris. If you have an equatorial mount you may need to change the angle the telescope is mounted at. Like the lines of latitude on Earth, they can be projected into space. We're around 44 degrees here. If you are using the same place to observe from but putting the 'scope away, you should mark where the feet go when it's in the right place. That will make set up much faster. Unless you are planning on taking long exposures, that should be enough to find and track roughly.

Why not check that you have the **Straight** right star by taking a time exposure showing the trails? Clear skies.



Above: M13, through an 8" Dobsonian



Above: Finding Polaris

I'd like to start with a Thank-you to Kevin for starting this series, I've found it very informative. He has asked for someone with a dome style observatory to finish things off and I put my hand up.

I want to say that the best observatory style is the one that you have and are using, Peggy and I spent years thinking about how great it would be to not have to lug all the equipment outside every night and then back inside. When we finally were ready to build something, we went big. We added a large garage with a deck that we put a SkyShed POD-S on.

The cost of the POD was not that different to building something from scratch. The POD is made from the same plastic that playground equipment is and is very UV resistant. The system we went with is very customizable to your needs. The base unit is 7 feet around and you can add up to 5 bays for more space and the walls can also be ordered in two different heights.

As for the Dome it also comes in two different options, one is hemispheric in that you open up half of the dome and spin the other half around to get to the spot of the sky that you want to observe. The second option is a more traditional dome style with a slot that opens and the whole dome rotates. This option also can be motorized for tracking but moving the dome manually is very easy.

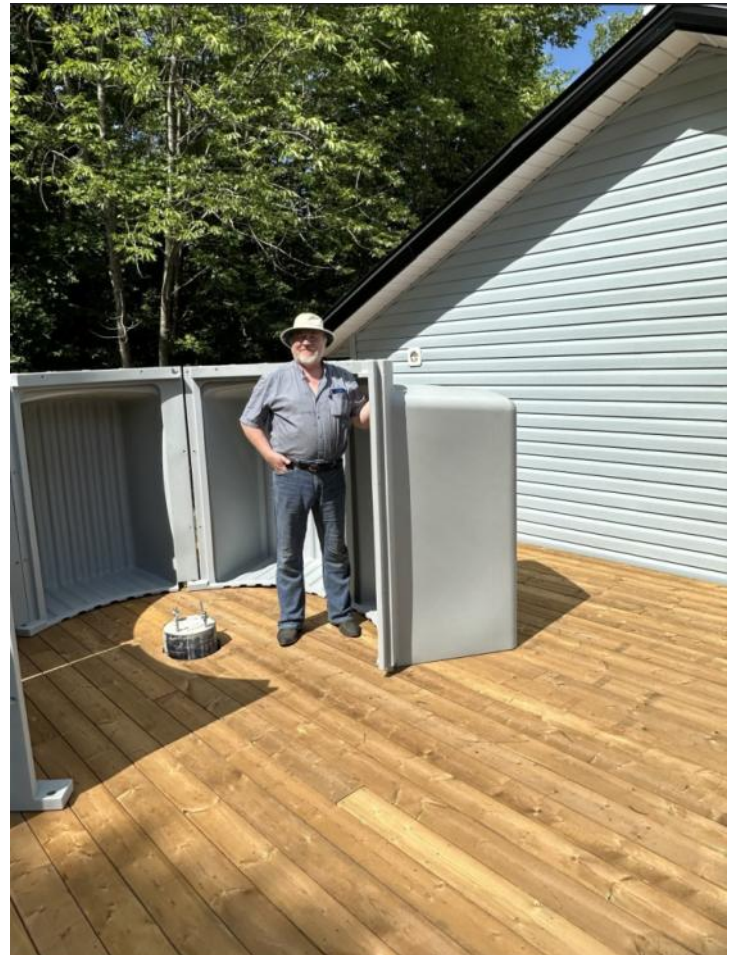
Some of the advantages of this system are that it goes together very easily, it took Peggy and I only two very hot days one summer to put together, with only a few tools and supplies needed.

The biggest advantage I have found is the protection from the wind that the dome provides when outside observing at the eyepiece.

The plan is to control our system from the house someday and be able to take pictures that we can share.

The one bad thing I would say is that with a dome you are now limited to the size of observing rig that you can put into the dome, but if you are not changing optic tubes often this may not be a problem.

Having someplace that your equipment is setup and ready with just a few minutes to get things organized is a real game changer.



"The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is, at its heart, a volunteer-driven community. Our ability to share the wonders of the universe depends entirely on the passion and talent of our members. To honor this spirit, the Service Award was established in 1959. It is one of our most prestigious honours, reserved for those whose dedication has profoundly shaped the vitality of the Society—whether at the National level or within local Centres like our own.

Tonight, we recognize an individual whose outstanding contributions have left a lasting mark on our organization. Malcolm Park's selfless dedication is the epitome of service to the astronomical community in Canada, and the Kingston Centre in particular. Quite simply, I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition by his peers.

Malcolm joined the Society in 2014, and even while I was tucked away in a Centre at the other end of Lake Ontario, I quickly became aware of him. Even my good friend Les Nagy—who was living in Chile at the time—was telling me about Malcolm's work. When I retired during the height of the pandemic and moved to Eastern Ontario, I finally joined the Kingston Centre; yet, due to the lockdowns we all faced, it still took another year before I could actually meet the man in person.

You only have to read his A.V. Douglas Award citation to realize the sheer impact he has had on this Centre. But it isn't just about what he has done; it is about how he does it.

Malcolm is a genuinely lovely person who, unlike so many others, is truly eager to share his hard-won knowledge and expertise with anyone willing to learn.

In my time, I have had the great good fortune to nominate two others for Service Awards: Colin Haig and Mark Kaye. In Mark's case, I'll admit I was in a hurry to nominate him for his work in Hamilton before someone from Kingston beat me to it!

The Kingston Centre has an inordinately long list of people who have left an indelible mark on astronomy. We stand on the shoulders of giants who have passed on—our founder Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, Arthur Covington, Warren Morrison, Terry Dickinson, and Leo Enright. We are also bolstered by the talents we enjoy today: David Levy, Mark Kaye, Kevin Kell, Walter McDonald, Kim Hay, and Susan Gagnon. Others, too, have been recipients of National Awards and remain vital contributors here, such as Rick Wagner and Mike Hanes. And, while modesty should perhaps forbid me from saying so, it won't tonight, my name is also on the list.

Now, rightfully, Malcolm Park's name has been added to this illustrious group, and I suspect that there is far more to come.

Please, would you all rise and join me in a warm round of applause for Malcolm Park as he is presented with the RASC Service Award."



Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Minutes of the RASC-KC Regular Monthly Meeting

Macintosh-Corry Hall Rm B201, Queen's University, Kingston instead of Ellis Hall, Room 226, due to renovations.

The meeting began at 19:00 EDT with 24 in attendance.

Malcolm welcomed Kingston Centre members and guests and began the meeting by sharing an image of Comet PANSTARRS taken a few days earlier, welcoming its survival on its trip around the sun.

The RASC Kingston Centre acknowledges that we are on the traditional homeland of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Huron-Wendat, and we thank these nations for their care and stewardship over these lands.

Speaker: Mike Haines, 'Astronomy in Arizona'. In 2007, Mike and a couple of friends toured 50 observatories in about 10 days. Kitt Peak alone had 22 of these, 2 radio and 20 optical. Mike shared photos and stories of his trip, starting at the 3:55 mark on the YouTube video of this meeting.

RASC Service Award presentation: Roger Hill was honoured to present Malcolm Park with the RASC Service Medal. This award is presented to members who have made outstanding contributions to their local Centre or the National Society. Members in our Centre who have received this Medal in the past include Susan Gagnon, Rick Wagner, Kim Hay, Walter MacDonald, Mark Kaye, Kevin Kell, Roger Hill, Mike Hanes and A. Vibert Douglas.

## Rick Wagner: What's Up in the Sky

Astronomy This Month May 2026

### Local Events

23 May – EcoFest Westport – astronomy outreach @ The Cove restaurant

### BAA Events

03 Jun – BAA Mtg and George Alcock Lecture

05 Jun – RAZoom – Observations and instrumentation using home built modular 3 metre L-band dish

### AAVSO

26 May – exoplanet SIG Mtg

31 May – CV SIG Mtg

### Lennox and Addington Dark Sky Viewing Area

15 & 16 May – Laser-guided star tour

06 Jun – Astrophotographers Assemble

### North Frontenac Astronomy Park

22 & 23 May – Jupiter, Venus, First Quarter Moon

### Sky Events – May

14 May – Exoplanet HD189733b transit (01:00-03:18EDT)

15 May – Double shadow transit on Jupiter low in west (23:20EDT)

16 May – New Moon (16:01EDT)

18 May – Earth lit crescent Moon 3 degrees right of gibbous Venus (mag -3.9)

19 May – Earth lit crescent Moon between Venus (mag -3.9) and Jupiter (mag -1.9)

22 May - Uranus (mag 5.8) occulted by the Sun (mag -26.7)

23 May – First Quarter Moon

31 May – Full Moon (04:45EDT)

31 May – Venus attains greatest altitude at end of nautical twilight

### Sky Events – June

08 Jun – Last Quarter Moon

09 Jun – double shadow transit on Jupiter (21:20EDT)

09 Jun – Venus (mag -4.0) 1.6 degrees N of Jupiter (mag -1.9)

### T CrB

Up all night and still fainter

### Major Planets

Uranus behind the Sun

Mercury (mag -0.8) very low in W after sunset at month's end

Venus (mag -3.9) low in W after sunset

Jupiter (mag -1.9) low in W at dusk, sets about midnight

Neptune (mag 7.8)

Saturn (mag 0.9)

Mars (mag 1.3) low in E before sunrise

### Small Bodies

29 May (29) Amphitrite (\*mag 9.5) at opposition

30 May (21) Lutetia (mag 9.8) at opposition

### Asteroid Occultations

17 May (46310) 2001 QQ11 19.6 TYC 4981-01318-1 9.2 10.2 0.5s

17 May (39135) 2000 WX59 19.6 UCAC4 360.14549 10.9 7.8 0.6s

20 May (118452) 1999 VH127 19.2 UCA C4 402-087579 10.9 8.9 1.5s

29 May (110771) 2001 UQ27 19.6 UCAC4 528-067040 11.3 8.6 0.75s

05 Jun (172073) 2002 AF85 19.5 TYC 5709-00977-1 9.5 10.0 0.9s

**Bruce Elliott: Science Rendezvous**, May 9th, was very successful. Volunteers were Peggy and John Hurley, Susan Gagnon, Rick Wagner, Kim Hay, Laurie Graham, Devin Graham-Ancsin, Elena Zanetti and Bruce Elliott. Bruce also shared images taken with his new ZWO Seestar S30 Pro, of landscape and of the Sun.

**The RASC Kingston Centre** May edition of the monthly newsletter *Regulus* is available, thank you to our editor Roger Hill. It can be found on the RASC Kingston Centre website [Kingston.rasc.ca](http://Kingston.rasc.ca). Other than meeting nights, we host Wednesday night Zoom Socials, with an invitation posted to the Centre's email list. On Facebook we are @RASC Kingston Centre,

**YouTube channel** @RASC Kingston Centre. Join our group at [secure.rasc.ca/membership](https://secure.rasc.ca/membership).

**Next meeting**, in person at Queen's, Macintosh-Corry Hall Room B201, June 10, 7 pm and our last meeting before the summer break. Our presenter is Andrea Girones, on starting out in astrophotography.

**We will have picnics** at Lake Ontario Park in July/August. Malcolm thanked all for attending and the meeting ended at 8:43 pm.

**Our Centre** has received an email from the daughter of a gentleman living at Genburnie Fairmount Home. He is a Queen's electrical engineer and now has limited mobility. He needs help with a recent purchase of a NexStar 6SE. The staff is overwhelmed with the complexity of the scope. Contact Malcolm if you can help.

**You** are invited to join us at [rasc.ca/join](http://rasc.ca/join).

**Malcolm** thanked all for attending and the meeting ended at 9:11 pm.

# About Us

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## The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

The RASC is a national, non-profit, charitable organization devoted to the advancement of astronomy and related sciences. Founded in 1868, The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is Canada's leading astronomy organization, bringing together over 5000 enthusiastic amateurs, educators, and professionals. In addition to many national services, our 30 Centres offer local programs across Canada.

## The RASC Kingston Centre

We are Kingston's Astronomy Club, a local centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, that was founded on June 2nd, 1961. We hold monthly meetings, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September to December and March to June via zoom videoconferencing and in person, from 7:00-9:00pm Eastern Time. Meetings are held in January and February, but are available by Zoom only.

- We do public outreach programs in the form of helping the Cubs and Guides, teachers, Science Fairs and many public Education and Public Outreach events.
- We help our members with questions in astronomy and equipment use.
- We hold private observing sessions.
- We hold public sessions with Queen's University Observatory Open House, on the third Saturday of each month, at Ellis Hall, Queen's University. Details can be found at <https://www.queensu.ca/observatory/>
- We support the local Frontenac, Lennox & Addington County Science Fair (FLASF) with a prize in astronomy.
- We are happy to answer your questions on astronomy.

*A note about the poem The Beehives Secret. My apologies, but it was actually written by Google's AI, Gemini. I told it that "I need a sonnet about the Beehive cluster in the constellation of Cancer; how it is a little cloud to unaided eyes, but a small telescope, or binoculars, can make the individual stars stand out boldly as tiny pearls"*

*I asked for this, rather than just have some empty white space on the screen, or page.*

## Front cover image

Our Science Rendezvous Heroes for 2026: Peggy Hurley, John Hurley, Bruce Elliott, Rick Wagner, Kim Hay, Laurie Graham, Susan Gagnon, Elena Zanetti. Absent from the photo: Devin Graham.

## Board of Directors & Officers for 2025-2026

### Directors:

Laurie Graham, Roger Hill, John Hurley, Kevin Kell, Bruce Murray, Malcolm Park, Elena Zanetti

### Officers:

President	Malcolm Park
Vice President	Laurie Graham
Treasurer	Bruce Murray
Regulus Editor	Roger Hill
NC Rep	John Hurley
Equipment Coordinator	Kevin Kell
Secretary	Elena Zanetti
Librarian	Kim Hay
Equipment coordinator	Kevin Kell
Science Rendezvous/FLASF	Bruce Elliott
Annual Member Image Gallery	Brian McCracken
Queen's Open House coord	Laurie Graham
Web Team	Kevin Kell and Walter McDonald
Social Convenor	Malcolm Park
Email Chat List Moderator	Mike Hanes
Facebook Team	Kim Hay
Membership Coordinator:	Kim Hay
Fall'N'Stars KC coordinator	Mike Hanes
<b>Honourary President:</b>	David H. Levy

## The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

**Kingston Centre** was provincially incorporated as a Not-For-Profit Corporation in September 2005 and has been a registered Charity with the Canada Revenue Agency since September 2006. Our CRA Registration: 827905720RR0001

## Benefits of Membership:

### RASC benefits:

- Annual edition of the Observers Handbook
- Bi-monthly RASC Journal (digital)
- Monthly Bulletin of the RASC (digital)

### Kingston Centre benefits:

- Monthly Centre Newsletter – Regulus
- Weekly social videoconference chat for members and invited guests.
- On the 2nd Wednesday evening of the month, there are meetings are open to the public: In-person in March to June and September to December at Queens, July and August outdoors at Lake Ontario Park; and two in January and February that are video-conference only.
- Equipment loan program