



REGULUS

JULY-AUGUST 1991

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

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

HONORARY PRESIDENT.....	David Levy	(000) 000-0000
PRESIDENT.....	Ian Levstein	(000) 000-0000
VICE PRESIDENT.....	Victor Smida	(000) 000-0000
SECRETARY.....	Kimberley Hay	(000) 000-0000
TREASURER.....	Peter Kirk	(000) 000-0000
LIBRARIAN.....	David Stokes	(000) 000-0000
NEWSLETTER.....	Bill Broderick	(000) 000-0000
NATIONAL COUNCIL REP.....	Leo Enright	(000) 000-0000
ALTERNATE N.C. REP.....	Walter MacDonald	(000) 000-0000

COMMITTEES

EDUCATION.....	Denise Sabatini	(000) 000-0000
PUBLICITY.....	Bill Broderick	(000) 000-0000
OBSERVING.....	Chris Collin	(000) 000-0000
ASTRONOMY DAY.....	Stan Hanna	(000) 000-0000
	Peggy Torney	(000) 000-0000

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Meetings of the Kingston Centre, RASC are held in Room D-216, MacIntosh-Corry Hall, Queen's University, unless otherwise indicated, at 8 p.m. Non-members are welcome. Executive meetings are at 7:30 p.m.

- Fri., July 19 Regular Meeting. Speaker, Denise Sabatini, "Inca Astronomy"
- Fri., Aug. 16 Meeting at Charleston Lake in conjunction with CHARLESTON LAKE STAR PARTY. Speaker, Terence Dickinson (see article on page 5)
- Fri., Sept. 13 Regular Meeting. MEMBERS' NIGHT. Please bring your slides, pictures, reports of observations over the summer, etc.

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NOTE: Please send all contributions to the Editor **Bill Broderick, XXXXXX, XXXXXXXXXXXXX, Ontario XXX XXX.** Other correspondence to our address below:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Ian Levstein

Greetings to all members, and any others. Here is my own version of "Cheers & Jeers". Cheers to **Denise Sabatini** for an excellent NFCAAA banquet and meeting, providing us with much food for thought. Cheers to **Stan Hanna** for organizing the ASTRONOMY DAY celebration which was simply astronomical. Jeers to **Dale Robertson**, who gets 10 lashes with a wet noodle for forgetting to remember, giving us nothing to reflect on. Cheers to **Leo Enright** whose tour of the Holleford Crater was out of this world. Jeers to **Gerald Moriarty-Schieven**, who gets five extra years of Canada Posts's fine service for providing no forwarding address. Cheers to **Bill Broderick** for working his heart out on a lion of a newsletter.

For those who missed it, ASTRONOMY DAY was a terrific success, despite being rained out of our observing session. The Kingston Centre (pun intended) display was well-stocked with books, magazines (courtesy of Astronomy), light pollution information, posters, pamphlets, touchy-feely galaxies, games, planetaria, photographs, and of course, a plethora of telescopes. Hundreds of people stopped by to see and feel. Many thanks to those who gave up their free time to attend this important event, and to those who provided display materials and telescopes. By the way, as of this writing (May 9th), the full moon is still on display--will they ever notice? The NFCAAA tour and subsequent banquet and meeting was great, and our members had the opportunity to meet a number of amateurs from all around Lake Ontario. The guest speaker at the banquet, **Dr. Martin Duncan**, captivated his audience as he spoke of the chaos within the Solar System and our tenuous place therein.



David Stokes and Peter Kirkman Astronomy Day Exhibit at the Kingston Centre. Photo by Leo Enright.



The NFCAAA Holleford Crater Tour Group, on Saturday, May 4th, at Drill-Hole No. 1 on the "floor" of the crater. Leo Enright (back to camera) related the history of the crater's discovery in 1955. Photo by Bill Broderick.

Upcoming events to mark on your calendar must include the annual public observing session to be held at Charleston Lake Provincial Park, on Friday, August 16th. In conjunction (pun intended) with astronomer/author Terence Dickinson, this event has grown over the years into a special evening of slides, information and telescopes, which regularly draws many hundreds of people. Indeed, many families plan their vacation around this **night under the stars**, and the weather has usually been most cooperative. Last year's celestial highlight was Comet Levy. Incidentally, David has, as of this writing, now (co)discovered 11 comets.

Remember--Friday, September 13th, is Members' Night. For anyone not familiar with this event, this is **your big chance** to show us your summer slides/photos, etc., and keep us up-to-date on your ongoing astronomical activities. There will not be a guest speaker that evening in order that any member who wishes to, may present a **short program** on a topic of personal interest. This is a great opportunity to get your feet wet on the lecture circuit, and perhaps be inspired to put together a full program. Please let me know if you wish to present a short talk so that I can properly plan the evening's program.

Well, that's all for now. Remember--you can lead a telescope to dark skies, but you can't polar align without a level.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS AT THE 1991 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The National Council of our Society held three meetings at the time of our 1991 General Assembly at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. The first was on Friday, May 17 at 12:30 pm. at the Gage Residence; the second was in the Curtis Hall Amphitheatre on Saturday, May 18 at 2:30 p.m., and the third was in the same place on Sunday May 19 at 11:30 a.m. following the Annual Meeting of the Society.

At the first meeting the National President, M. Damien Lenny, presided, and fifteen of the twenty-two Centres of the Society were represented by their National Council Representatives. The agenda included reports from the officers and the standing and special committees of the Society, and several important decisions were adopted.

Council approved a request for a \$1500 Special Projects Grant to the Montreal Centre to initiate an educational program. Mr. Karl Miller, the National Treasurer, announced that he would not seek another term in the office, and so would be leaving the position at the end of the current term. A motion from the Treasurer immediately to request a fee increase at the time of the Annual Meeting was defeated. Approval was given to a motion to make the *Annuaire Astronomique* available to all who request it in place of the **Observer's Handbook**. Dr. Tatum, the editor of the **Journal**, reported that that publication had received from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada a grant of \$10000.00 for the current year and \$5000.00 for the coming year, a welcome assistance for our Publications Committee. Dr. Bishop, the editor of the **Observer's Handbook** proposed an increase of \$1.00 to \$14.50 for the single copy price of the 1992 edition of the **Handbook**, and the motion was accepted. Mr. Pat Kelly, the editor of the **Bulletin**, announced that the many changes in the format to the national newsletter had come about smoothly. The Awards Committee announced that there was no winner this year of the Simon Newcomb Award and that Mr. Paul Charboneau was this year's winner of the Plaskett Medal. A motion was passed that the Awards Committee should produce for the Society a suitable award in the memory of Dr. Peter Millman and a committee will work on developing such an award. Mr. Michael Watson, the chairman of the Constitution Committee presented the fifth draft of the model set of Centre By-laws, which were adopted by Council; they were then tabled until the next meeting in order to be studied by the members of the various Centres. As the chairman of the Society-sponsored 1991 Solar Eclipse Expedition, he also reported that the planning for trip to Baja California was proceeding very well.

Approval was given by Council to an invitation from the Halifax Centre to hold the 1993 General Assembly in that city on the Canada Day weekend. Council also approved the establishment of a national Light Pollution Committee. As well, Council rescinded two petitions previously circulated from the Montreal Centre on behalf of the Society, but without the Society's approval. A motion was passed that the Secretary of the Society write a letter to all Centres expressing the concern of the Society over any attempts to promote a cause in the name of the whole Society without the permission of the Society.

In the last of the three Council Meetings, the restructuring of all of the Society's committees for the coming year took place. The following are the standing Committees whose members were elected for 1991-1992: Awards, Constitution, Executive, Finance, Historical, Library, Nominating, Property, and Publications.

Nine Special Committees were constituted for the coming year. These committees, whose membership was renewed or partially replaced, are as follows: the Centennial Committee, the Computer Use Committee, the Membership Survey Committee, the Mini-Handbook Committee, the Society's Seal Committee, the 1991 Solar Eclipse Committee, the Speaker Exchange Committee, the Long Range Planning Committee, and the Light Pollution Committee. The names of the members of these committees may be ascertained from our Centre's National Council Representative.

At the Society's Annual Meeting, held on Sunday, May 19, twenty of the twenty-two Centres were represented. Reports are received from all the officers and committees. Several minor bylaw amendments, about which all members of the Society had been informed by mail two months before the meeting, are passed. New guidelines for the Speakers' Exchange Committee were also approved. Two new officers of the Society, Cathy Cresswell who becomes Librarian, and Mary Anne Harrington who becomes Recorder, were welcomed into their new positions.

More complete details regarding all the items discussed at these meetings may be found in the minutes of these meeting which will be distributed to our Centre President and our National Council Representative.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting will be published in a forthcoming issue of the **Journal**.

Leo Enright (National Council Representative)

THE 1991 CHARLESTON LAKE STAR PARTY

By Terence Dickinson

This summer the annual **CHARLESTON LAKE STAR PARTY** will be held on Friday evening, **August 16th**, at Charleston Lake Provincial Park, 10 km north of Lansdowne. (Lansdowne is about midway between Kingston and Brockville.) This public star party regularly attracts over 400 people since the first event in 1987. It has been at least partly clear every year.

The idea of a stargazing evening for the public originated with park officials who asked me to be an **astronomical tour guide** for the event. The star party begins at dusk with a half-hour talk and slide show in the park amphitheatre. Then everyone walks a few hundred metres to the telescope site for viewing of Saturn, the moon and anything else the telescope operators wish to show.

In previous years, four or five telescopes have been available thanks to kind assistance from Marty McConnell, Hein Van Asperen, among others. There is a small honorarium for telescope operators and I certainly appreciate the help I have had so far.

Anyone reading this is welcome to come and bring their telescope. We need **all the assistance** we can get. There are sometimes lines of 70 or more people at each scope. Furthermore, this is a reasonably good site. I thought mosquitoes would be bad, but so far they have not been a problem. The crowds are gone by about 11:15 and we turn from telescope operators to **telescope users** for the next hour or so.

If you are interested in bringing your telescope, there is no need to contact me or the park. Just show up at the gate around 8 p.m. Tell the guard you are there as a telescope operator for the star party and you will be **admitted free** and given directions to the site. Because this is a park that people pay to enter, the audience wants to be there and everyone seems to have a good time. I have been very impressed with the quality of questions and level of interest in general at this event.

AUGUST MEETING TO BE HELD AT CHARLESTON LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

This year our August meeting will be held at **Charleston Lake Provincial Park** in conjunction with Terence Dickinson's **CHARLESTON LAKE STAR PARTY**. We hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to bring your telescope, binoculars, etc. out to a public function and share your enjoyment of the skies with others.

This year the **moon** (close to First Quarter) and **Saturn** will likely be the main attractions, along with some of the more prominent deep sky objects (i.e. Hercules Cluster, **Ring Nebula**, etc.). Also, the **Perseids** should still be doing their stuff.

Such being the case, let's make this a **sky party to remember**, with lots of telescopes for people to look through. See you on **Friday, August 16th**.

A RECENT SUPERNOVA DISCOVERY

By Leo Enright

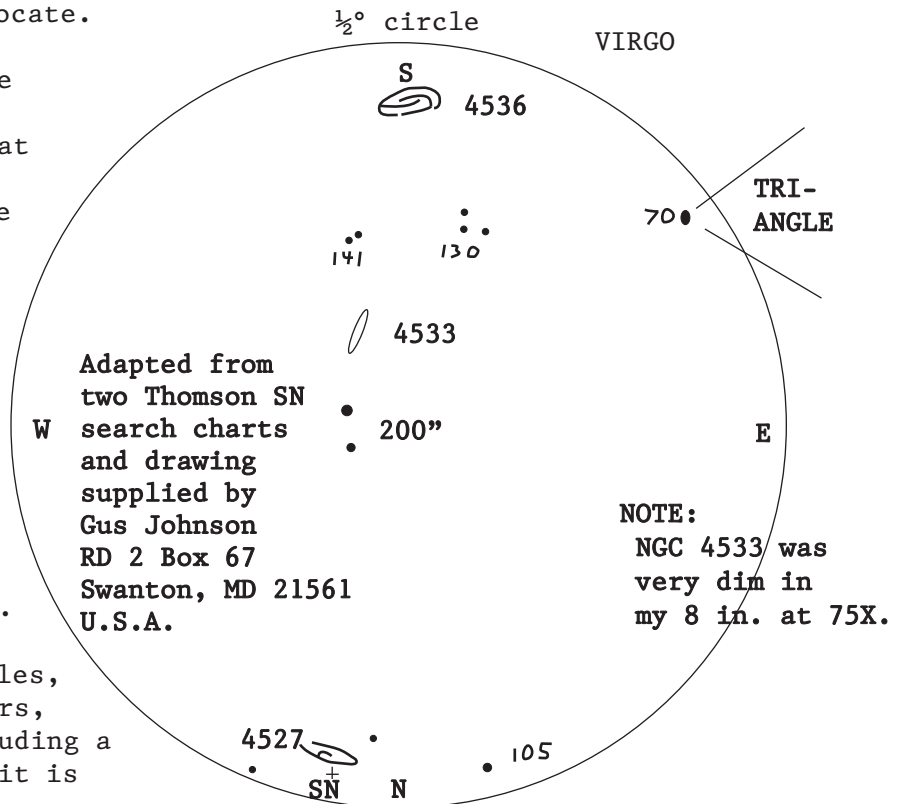
In April of this year several amateur astronomers almost simultaneously discovered a supernova in the galaxy NGC 4527 in the constellation Virgo. The supernova is located only a very short distance north-north-east of the nucleus of the galaxy which is located about five degrees north-north-west of the bright star Gamma Virginis. Those who have a copy of Uranometria 2000.0 will find the galaxy on charts 238 and 239 at R.A. 12h34.1m, Dec +2°39'; they will notice that it is very near to the westernmost member of a triangle of seventh magnitude stars. (The galaxy and the triangle of stars are marked on Charts 13 and 14 of Sky Atlas 2000.0.)

In a recent letter from our good friend and very well-known observer, Mr. Gus Johnson, of Swanton, Maryland in the U.S., I received an excellent drawing of the area of the galaxy with the supernova marked. Mr. Johnson is more than willing to share it with us. I hope this drawing will help some of our members to find the galaxy and perhaps the supernova also. In his drawing the supernova is marked by the letters SN and the magnitudes of stars are given with decimal points removed to avoid confusion with stars. The seventh magnitude star at the upper right of the drawing is the westernmost member of the triangle referred to above. (All three galaxies on his drawing, namely NGC 4536, 4533, and 4527, are marked on Uranometria, though only the first and third are marked on Sky Atlas. The two stars separated by 200 arc seconds and marked on Mr. Johnson's drawing are also marked on Uranometria, though not on Sky Atlas.)

The following is quoted from Mr. Johnson's letter;

"The supernova is easy to locate. A little north of midway between Delta and Eta Virginis is a little triangle. The western star is on the sketch enclosed. Look for that 200" double star with a galaxy on both sides of it. NGC 4527 is the brighter of the two, but even NGC 4536 was also visible in my 80mm refractor stopped down to 58mm using 75X. The IAU cards suggest that it (the supernova) was at magnitude 9.9 on April 4-5, then down into the 13s in mid-April, then up into the 11s by the end of the month. I estimated it at 11.7 on April 30, and 11.5 on April (should that be May?) 7; so it seems peculiar behaviour to me. Could be a kin to the LMC supernova?? Bob Evans of New South Wales, Stephen Knight of Maine, and others, seem to share the discovery, including a Mr. Johnson (of California), but it is not this one."

I very sincerely thank Mr. Johnson for sharing this drawing with us, and I hope that it encourages others to find the galaxy and possibly the supernova. The fact that he could see those two galaxies with such a small instrument should be an encouragement to those who do not have access to large apertures and may erroneously think that the wonders of the Virgo galaxies are completely hidden from them.



ERROR CORRECTION

Apologies to Phil Somers and Stan Hanna for incorrectly listing their phone numbers on the Membership List in the May-June Regulus.

They should read as follows: Stanley Manna, (000) 000-0000, and Phil Somers, (000) 000-0000.

Sorry for any inconvenience, Phil and Stan.

ECLIPSE CHASERS--CLEAR SKIES!

To everyone heading south to Mexico or elsewhere for the "Big One" good luck! Hope the sun "smiles" on you all. Come back with some great pics.

P.S. Don't forget the sun-screen.

LIMERICKS--by Walter MacDonald

There was a man named Jake Hicks,
Who lived up north in the sticks.
He liked to observe the sun,
Which he said was more fun,
So that's how he got his kicks!

There was a man named Jim Quiggly,
Whose telescope mounting was wiggly.
We all liked to laugh
At his astrophotographs,
'Cos his star images were all so
squiggly.

DAVID LEVY DISCOVERS TWELTH COMET!!!

On the morning of June 14th, 1991, Kingston Centre's Honorary President David Levy discovered his **twelfth comet**. This was a visual discovery, at a magnitude of about 7.8, from his backyard in the outskirts of Tucson, Arizona. At the time of discovery, the comet was located nearly on the border of Pisces and Taurus, at R.A. 1 hr 24 min., Dec. 13° 34". Watch Sky & Telescope, Astronomy, etc. for further news of this comet and how to find it, or phone Skyline at 1-617-497-4165. P.S. It's not known at this time if David shares the discovery with anyone else.

ASTRO JUMBLE

Unscramble the letters (see clue), then use the **circled letters** to solve the puzzle. Answer in next issue. Good luck!

CLUE: SOME OF THE STUFF THE FORGETFUL ASTRONOMER TOOK ON HIS ECLIPSE TRIP

R E M A A C

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P O L T E E C E S

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F L I M

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T O R P I D

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S T E T I C K

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BUT HE FORGOT HIS...

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Answer from last issue

BRENT, HOLLEFORD, SUDBURY BASIN,
MANICOUAGAN, CARSWELL

The scar left by a meteorite impact is called an **ASTROBLEME**.

R.A.S.C. KINGSTON CENTRE

AURORA TELEPHONE LINE

NAME	NUMBER	HOW LATE?
1. Leo Enright & Denise Sabatini	(000) 000-0000	Anytime
2. Ian Levstein	(000) 000-0000	12:00
3. Murray Anderson	(000) 000-0000	11:30
4. Stanley Hanna	(000) 000-0000	1:00
5. Frank Cervenko	(000) 000-0000	Anytime
6. Kim Hay	(000) 000-0000	1:00
7. Chris Collin	(000) 000-0000	12:00
8. Peter Kirk	(000) 000-0000	12:00
9. Lynn Dougan	(000) 000-0000	Anytime
10. Christine Kulyk	(000) 000-0000	1:00
11. Walter MacDonald	(Oshawa) (000) 000-0000	Anytime
	(Thomasburg) (000) 000-0000	Anytime
12. Bill Broderick	(000) 000-0000	Anytime
13. Joanne Burns	(000) 000-0000	1:00
14. Peggy Torney	(000) 000-0000	2:00

RULES

1. The person who sees the Aurora should call the person named next on the List.
2. That person should call the person named next on the list, and so on.
3. The last person named should call the first person named.
4. The person who starts the phoning and all others who participate should remind the next person of the name of the person who started the procedure. The one who started it does not want to receive a call from someone else.
5. If it is past the time when the next person wants to be called, the caller should go to the next person named on the list.
6. If there is no answer, the caller should go to the next name on the list.

NOTE: IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR NAME ADDED TO THE "AURORA PHONE LINE" PLEASE CALL DENISE SABATINI, (000) 000-0000.

The Celestial Observer

