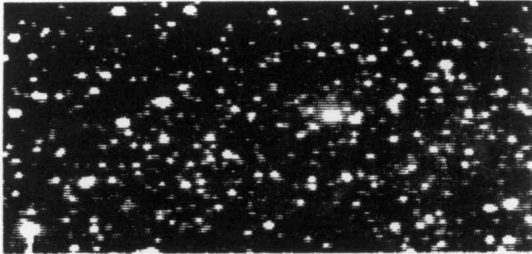




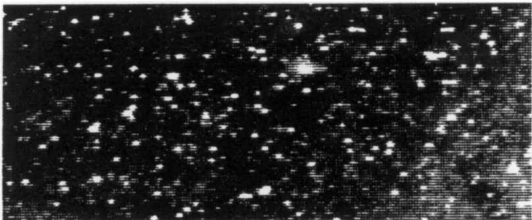
Regulus

Sept - Oct 1995

Newsletter of the Kingston Centre
of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada



July 31 02:40UT



Aug 01 02:10UT

Comet Hale-Bopp
Four minute Exposures with Meade Lx200 8" f/6.3

COMET HALE-BOPP
Date: August 15 1995
IAC80 Telescope (0.82m)
Teide Observatory (Tenerife, Canary Island))

Images taken by M.R. Kidge,
reduced and processed by J.N. González Pérez

Wanted: Persons willing to
serve on the centre council
and with the committees

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The Centre

Officers and Executive Council

Honorary President	David Levy	(000) 000-0000
President	Walter MacDonald	(000) 000-0000
Vice President	Leo Enright	(000) 000-0000
Secretary	Ruth Hicks	(000) 000-0000
Treasurer	Kim Hay	(000) 000-0000
Regulus Editor	Peter Kirk	(000) 000-0000
Librarian	Kevin Kell	(000) 000-0000
National Council		
Representative	Cathy Hall	(000) 000-0000
Alternate	Kim Hay	(000) 000-0000

Committees

Astronomy Day	Cathy Hall	(000) 000-0000
Education	Denise Sabatini	(000) 000-0000
Publicity	Bill Broderick	(000) 000-0000
Observing	Steven Manders	(000) 000-0000
Light Pollution	Bill Broderick	(000) 000-0000
GA Bid	Peggy Torney	(000) 000-0000

Centre Address

RASC - Kingston Centre
P.O. Box 1793
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 5J6

Meetings and Events

Sept 8	“Members’ Night” Our annual “What I did during my (astronomical) summer vacation” meeting! Bring your slides, etc. to show at the meeting.
Oct 13	“How to Observe Meteors” - Cathy Hall Kingston Centre Annual Meeting (Elections)
Nov 10	TBA
Dec 8	TBA Centre Christmas Dinner
Jan 12	TBA
Feb 9	TBA

Meetings

Regular Meetings of the Kingston Centre, RASC are held on the **second Friday** of each month (unless noted otherwise) at 8 p.m., in Room B-201, *Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Queen’s University*. Non-members are welcome. Executive meetings are at 7:30 p.m.

Regulus is published six times per year. Views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the official position of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada or its officers and members unless so indicated.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Members of the Centre receive REGULUS as a benefit of membership. Non-members may subscribe for \$10 per year.

ADVERTISING: Classified advertisements re items to sell, buy or trade are free to members of the centre. Commercial advertising is \$25 per half page \$50 for full page. Commercial advertisers must supply clean camera-ready copy.

CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED articles, notes on observation, humour, poetry artwork, anything on astronomy or related topics are invited. Submitted material may be edited for brevity or clarity.

Deadline for receipt of material is the 15th of the month prior to Publication.

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R.A.S.C. National Council Meeting

Cathy Hall

At the R.A.S.C. General Assembly in Windsor, Ontario this summer, a National Council meeting of the Society was held. It was well attended by people from many of our centres across Canada. It is at these National Council meetings, held 4 times a year, that much of our Society's business is carried out.

All members are welcome to attend, and contribute their ideas and opinions. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 25th, in Toronto, Ontario. For details, contact me at 99999.9999@compuserve.com, or by phone at 0-000-000-0000. If you can't attend but would like an issue raised, let me know.

The summer meeting started with reports by the Society's officers, and was followed by committee reports, and then other matters and new business.

The President, Dr. Doug Hube, has been visiting many of the centres across the country during his term. He also attended a meeting of the Okanagan Astronomical Society in British Columbia, a group with about 80 members, which may be considering joining our national organization. He talked about the professional organization in Canada, C.A.S.C.A., and their activities, and commented on the proposed new R.A.S.C. publication. It was announced that the Hamilton, Ontario school observatory proposal had been approved by the school board concerned. Lastly, the concept of a Worldwide Home Page for the R.A.S.C. was being looked into.

The Secretary, Dr. Randall Brooks, reviewed recent correspondence. Our insurance brokers have changed their

name to Baron. For copies of our coverage, contact Dr. Brooks at xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx. He has received a request from a group in Sao Paulo, Brazil, for instruments, books, and other astronomical material. If you have any items you could donate, please contact him, and he will make appropriate arrangements. Some correspondence from Cuba was received, and was being followed up on. The deaths of several members were reported - Dr. William Wehlau (London), Mr. Gordon Patterson (Saskatoon), and Abbee G. Bechard (Quebec). Certificates awarded for membership, Messier objects, and NGC objects were announced. For more details on how to apply for the observing certificates, contact Dr. Brooks. Lastly, a revised R.A.S.C. manual for Centres will be available to Centre Secretaries by the end of August.

The Treasurer, Dr. Rajiv Gupta, presented an interim financial statement, and detailed the treatment of the Society's special funds. A paper by Randy Attwood of the Toronto Centre was presented, on the use of special purpose Funds in the R.A.S.C.. This will be examined by the Finance and Long Range Planning Committees, with a view towards better use of our funds for worthwhile projects for our members. If you have any comments on this, contact Rajiv at xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.

The National Librarian, Walter MacDonald, mentioned that the periodicals in the library have now been inventoried, and that the updated computerized inventory of books and periodicals is now available on diskette for Centres. It is, of course, a reference library now, not a loan library. Should you have any requests For information, contact the Librarian at RASC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

The R.A.S.C. Handbook Editor, Dr. Roy Bishop, mentioned that Handbook sales were down slightly, but that the revenue was still strong. There was a discussion on whether a computerized

version of the Handbook would be of use at sometime in the future. Rates for 1996 and 1997 were set. If members have any comments or suggestions on the Handbook, they may contact Dr. Bishop at xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

The Beginners Observing Guide Editor, Leo Enright, talked about planned advertisements to publicize the Guide. He also spoke of contact with the Boy Scouts for use of this resource. For more info on obtaining quantities of these Guides for use by your own observing group, contact Leo at xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

The 1st Vice President, Doug George, talked about the progress of the prototype of our new R.A.S.C. publication, tentatively called 'Astronomy Canada'. It is coming along well. Details of the handling of membership lists were discussed, as was the handling of a brochure to be inserted into the Handbook

For 1996, Astronomy Day will be Saturday, April 20th, with Astronomy Week, for those planning longer programs, as April 15-21.

Following were brief reports from other standing committees including Awards, Constitution, Historical, Membership and Promotion, and Property. Ed Kennedy of Saskatoon is working on detailing historical resources in Canada. Don Hladiuk of Calgary distributed a paper on 'Promoting your Centre'. Copies may be obtained by contacting Don at 99 XXXXXXXXX, XXXXXX, XXXXX. XXX XXX, or at xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

Special committee reports were given - Computer Use, General Assembly Guidelines, Light Pollution, Long Range Planning, Publication Revitalization, and Election Guidelines. David Lane talked about a Halifax web site. Rosemary Freeman, R.A.S.C. Secretary, thanked Walter MacDonald for all his computer assistance at the R.A.S.C. National Office

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in Toronto. Christine Kulyk, of the Kingston Centre, was added to the G.A. Guidelines Committee, as the 1997 General Assembly will be held in Kingston, Ontario on the July 1st weekend. On the Light pollution front, the new Chairman of the National Light Pollution Committee is now Bill Broderick, again of the Kingston Centre. Bill can be reached by fax at 0-000-000-0000.

The Long Range Planning Committee report was given by Peter Ceravolo. Topics under consideration are: improving information flow, possible inclusion of SkyNews with membership, promoting the R.A.S.C., central handling of membership lists, amateur research grants, and more free discussion periods at National Council meetings. Peter is open for ideas - contact him at xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.

The Publications Revitalization Committee, headed by David Lane, talked about the draft version of 'Astronomy Canada', and presented a detailed report covering layout and design, content, financial considerations and budget, and management and staffing. Copies of the draft version were circulated.

The eligibility for Messier and NGC Certificates was changed to include members or associate members.

Windsor was thanked for the 1995 General Assembly, Kingston approved for 1997, and an expression of interest received from Victoria for 1998. Of course, the 1996 General Assembly will be hosted by Edmonton, and all were invited to attend.

The meeting was ended in good time, and the date for the next National Council meeting set, as noted above, as Saturday November 25, 1995.

<p>Centre Elections</p> <p>Kim Hay</p>

Every year the Kingston Centre-RASC holds elections for its Officers and Chairpersons for its various Committees. On October 13, 1995, we will be holding elections for all Officer positions and Committee Chairperson's.

If you feel up to the challenge and wish to participate in your Centre's decision making, please get involved and try out for a position.

Listed below are the positions available and what each entails, direct from our Centre's bylaws. If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact any of the Officers or Committee Chairpersons listed at the end of this message.

**Article IV
The Officers and the Executive Council**

1. The officers of the Centre shall be Honorary President, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, National Council Representative, and Librarian.
2. The Executive Council shall be made up of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Newsletter Editor, the National Council Representative, and the Librarian.
3. The Executive Council shall have the responsibility for the direction and management of the Centre.

**Article V
Election of Officers**

- The conditions of nomination shall be:
1. That the person nominated shall be a member in good standing of the Centre.
 2. That the assent of the nominee shall have

been obtained.
3. That at least two who are members in good standing of the Centre shall make the nomination.

**Article VI
Duties of Officers**

1. The President shall preside at all meetings at which he or she is present; in his absence the Vice-President shall preside and in the absence of these Officers, the meeting shall appoint a chairman.

2. The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, preside at the meetings, and in other ways assist when possible with the management of the Centre.

3. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all regular Centre meetings and the meetings of the Executive Council and other activities of the Centre, conduct the correspondence of the Centre, and work with the Newsletter Editor to see that members are informed about meetings. The Secretary shall submit to the Annual Meeting a report on membership, meetings, and other Centre activities for the preceding year. After the report has been approved by the Executive Council, it will be sent by the Secretary to the Secretary of the R.A.S.C. before the 15th day of January in each year.

4(a). The Treasurer shall keep accurate records of all subscription fees and other monies received, pay bills as sanctioned by the Executive Council, and submit to the Annual Meeting a financial statement for the Centre's preceding year including a statement of revenues and expenses and a statement of assets and liabilities. These statements shall, after being approved by the Annual Meeting of the Centre, be forwarded by the Treasurer of the Centre to the Treasurer of the R.A.S.C. before the 15th day of January in each year.

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RASC

PROMOTIONS

Hello Fellow RASC Members!!

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has for sale, the below listed items. These items can be purchased from your Centre's Treasurer, Promotions Department or can be ordered directly from the RASC Promotional Co-ordinator, Kim Hay.

Items in stock: (Prices and shipping costs)

RASC lapel pins (blue, white & silver)	\$4.00 each \$1.00 shipping
RASC stickers (blue with white overlay)	\$1.25 each \$1.00 shipping per order
Golf shirts (white(sm, med) lt blue(med))	\$20.00 each
Turtleneck sweaters (dk blue with yellow writing)	\$20.00 each \$4.00 shipping
Toques (Black with Yellow writing)	\$15.00 each \$2.00 shipping
RASC Mugs (Thermal mugs-Blue/white)	\$4.00 each \$1.50 shipping
RASC Keychains(Clear acrylic-Blue/white)	\$2.00 each \$0.50 shipping

All taxes included in prices. If at anytime you have questions or future ideas for RASC Promotions please contact me at the address below.

Address:

Kim Hay
999 XXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXX
Ontario, XXX XXX

phone: (000)000-0000
email: xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Please make Canadian cheques and Money Orders payable to:
(US Orders in US Funds)

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC)

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4(b). On the 15th day of January, April, July, October of each year the Treasurer of the Centre shall submit to the Treasurer of the R.A.S.C. the required 60% of all membership fees received by him during the quarter-year ended on the last day of the preceding month along with a report listing the names of the members who paid their fees during the said quarter-year, the amounts paid by each of them, and other pertinent information.

5. The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for the production at regular intervals of the Centre's Newsletter.

6. The Librarian shall be responsible for maintaining the Centre's Library of books, periodicals, newsletters, and other materials.

7. The National Council Representative will represent the Centre at all National Council Meetings held 4 times per year. In the absence of the delegated National Council Rep, an alternate is chosen at the beginning of each Membership year to go in the Reps place if the Representative is unable to make it.

Committee's
(The Committee's functions, are not in our bylaws, but have held the same principles over the years)

Education: Help to educate the public in Astronomy and related subjects. Not required, but any help in doing Guide and Scout talks or school talks is appreciated.

Publicity: Contacting various local media (radio/newspapers) for meetings, special talks and get togethers.

Observing: Setting up observing sessions for the Centre Members and special events.

Astronomy Day: Organizing the set up for the Centre in various malls for public awareness on Astronomy Day. Organizing events and observing sessions along with the Observing Chair for the public to coincide with Astronomy Day.

Light Pollution: Organizing the Centre, its members and the community on the problem of Light Pollution. Helping to inform the public and businesses on the different lighting available and how all the public can help in reducing Light Pollution.

Current Executives and Chairperson's of Committee's

President:
Walter MacDonald (000) 000-0000
Past President:
Christine Kulyk (000) 000-0000
Alternate NC. Rep:
Kim Hay (000) 000-0000
Honorary President:
David Levy (602) 000-0000
Vice President:
Leo Enright (000) 000-0000
Secretary:
Ruth Hicks (000) 000-0000
Treasurer:
Kim Hay (000) 000-0000
Librarian:
Kevin Kell (000) 000-0000
Newsletter Editor:
Peter Kirk (000) 000-0000
National Council Rep:
Cathy Hall (000) 000-0000
Committees
Publicity:
Bill Broderick (000) 000-0000
Observing:
Steve Manders (000) 000-0000
Astronomy Day:
Cathy Hall (000) 000-0000
Light Pollution:
Bill Broderick (000) 000-0000
Education:
Denise Sabatini (000) 000-0000

Is There Astronomy Beyond Technology?

Cathy Hall

Canada's largest amateur astronomical observing convention was held on the August new moon weekend, near Mount Forest, Ontario. On the cover of this year's 'Starfest' brochure was the caption 'Windows on a Warped Universe'. There were many excellent and renowned speakers who talked on a diversity of technical and involved subjects. Are we really opening a new window on the universe though, or has our view of the universe become, indeed, warped?

What is amateur astronomy these days? We are inundated with technology and computers and gadgets. Look at the telescopes and the people around you. Just think about how they've changed.

People used to buy mirror grinding kits, 6" or 8" size, set themselves up with a grinding stand perhaps made out of an old oil barrel, and spend hours pushing two pieces of glass together. The result was one convex piece, and one concave - the astronomical mirror. People learned from this. They had pride of achievement. They'd get themselves a piece of sonotube, paint it, make a diagonal holder out of bent metal, an eyepiece holder out of pipe fittings, install their finished mirror, and perhaps mount the tube assembly on a homemade pipe mount.

You would see ingenuity in action. I've seen telescope tubes made out of laminated wood, and metal garbage cans. I've seen miniature telescopes - reproductions. I've seen telescope tubes 12' long. I remember the year at Stellafane when Roger Tuthill first brought his 20.1" reflector, the largest scope ever displayed

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move when I updated to the year 2000 version. I also managed to locate myself a copy of the SAO Atlas, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory atlas. My copy used to belong to H.A. Rey, who wrote the well loved book 'The Stars'. I treasure it.

Look at what we use today. If our scopes don't require minivans to transport them; if we don't need the latest in computer equipment to control them; if we don't require half the power output of a small generator to run them - then we're just not 'serious' enough about our hobby. There are really people who think this way. They have the latest toys - the CCD cameras, the exotic eyepieces, the computerized systems to locate deep sky objects for them, the latest that technology can provide. Is this wrong? Of course not. Is this what astronomy is today? Yes - and no.

Astronomy is what you make it. I cut my observing teeth on naked eye astronomy. I taught myself the constellations from the little Golden Guidebook 'The Stars' - still the best book I've ever found for learning the sky. I was always fascinated by things that moved - meteors, satellites, and weather balloons. Once I finally located an astronomy group, I got into organized meteor observing, and learned the naked eye sky in more detail. The club eventually built an observatory - the R.A.S.C. Ottawa Centre's 16". It was the first telescope I ever used all by myself, and one of the members there, Rolf Meier, taught me everything I knew about telescopes.

Several years ago I bought a telescope of my own - my very first! It's a 4.7" refractor, made by AstroPhysics, and I'm absolutely delighted with it. I'd started grinding a mirror years ago, but quickly discovered that I enjoyed observing with telescopes more than making them. So, I scrimped and saved, and took a year or so to shop around, and see what scopes were

out there. I looked at all the various features, and tried different ones out at star parties. I wanted something that had good

optics, and was portable enough for me to set up and take down all by myself - without having to ask for help from any of the guys!

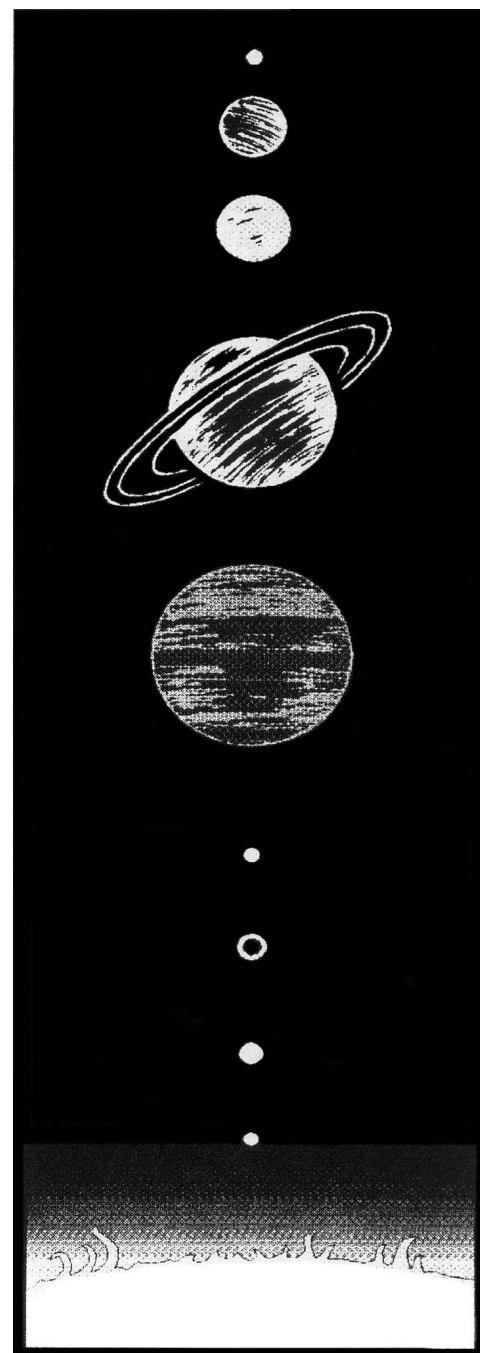
I have simple accessories. Yes, it has a drive, although unless I'm looking at planets I rarely use it. In fact, I don't even use the mount's fine control knobs, or ever lock the axes of the mount. I adjusted the balance on the mount's axes so that I just point the scope anywhere I want in the sky, and it stays there! I put a Telrad on as a finderscope, and it works well. A friend of mine in the North York group, Jerry Spevak, made me a dew zapper system out of resistors. I also use a large piece of dense blue campcot foam as an extra dewshield, held in place with a bungee cord. There was one weekend last winter when my observing companion, Walter MacDonald, and I observed all night for several nights at minus 20 degrees, and the campcot material saved me from frosting over when my power pack froze. My favorite eyepiece is a 2" Celestron 50mm Plossl that gives me a magnification of about 20, and a nice field of somewhere between 2 and 3 degrees in the sky. It's great for cruising.

Do I plan to turn into a technophile one of these days? I doubt it. My main interests now are comets and meteors, although I'm learning deep sky objects now that I have a telescope. I use Uranometria to supplement my handy Norton's Star Atlas. Perhaps sometime I may have access to some of the astronomy programs on computer, which may provide a diversion on stormy nights, but I don't plan to use them while observing. Nor do I plan to let come computer find my objects for me. I like finding them myself, hopping from star to star.

I enjoy travelling around the sky,

stopping to browse at interesting objects, challenging myself to find faint little galaxies and clusters. I'm curious when I find something unusual, and I stop to find out what it is. If I hear about a comet that is up and about, I go after it.

Is there astronomy beyond technology? Definitely! There always has been - and there's always will be. Everyone has their own 'Window on the Universe', their own interests, their own astronomical pursuits. Nothing will ever change that - not even technology.



***** DUES***DUES***DUES***DUES***DUES*****

Renewal time is upon us.

The Kingston Centre-RASC Membership year runs from Oct 1 to Sept 30.

The Membership dues are at \$45.00 (Regular)
 \$11.00 (Associate)
 \$25.00 (Student/Youth)

(Prices have remained unchanged for the last 2 years.)

Please fill in this form and send along with the required remittance to the address below, or come and see Kim Hay (Treasurer) for your Membership signup.

New for this year, we are asking for your email address if you have one so we can contact you via the internet for any updated information. Its also another way to keep in contact with all centre members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: () _____

Email Address: _____

Optional:

Other Hobbies: _____

Occupation: _____

Address:

Kim Hay
999 XXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Ontario, XXX XXX

phone: (000)000-0000
email: xxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx

****NOTE****

All previously Unattached Members who have joined the Kingston Centre-RASC, your dues are paid in full.

***** DUES***DUES***DUES***DUES***DUES*****