



Astronomy Day Report

R.A.S.C. Kingston Recruits Extra-Terrestrial Members! (or "How to Have Fun at Astronomy Day!") - by Cathy Hall

The R.A.S.C. Kingston Centre had a wonderful turnout this year for International Astronomy Day, celebrated on Saturday May 2nd, at the Cataraqui Town Centre mall in Kingston, Ontario. We even had our newest Kingston member in attendance, the alien "CSAR", thanks to Hank Bartlett, our extra-terrestrial recruiter!

This year we really had a lot of fun doing our planning and organizing, and our sense of humour was constantly activated! We booked early to get the choice location in Kingston's largest shopping complex... and were really amused to find out at the last minute that our mall contact had overbooked. I thought they only did that on airlines! We were kept in a 'holding pattern' for a while... but everything finally worked out...

We made phone contact several days before the event, to touch base and make sure everything was in place for all our exhibits being set up on the Saturday morning. Yes, the lady assured me... everything was fine. I reminded her that we would be using all the five tables again this year. "Oh, you're bringing tables with you?" was her reply. I reminded her (cheerfully) that the mall provided the tables...

"Oh, you'll be pleased to hear that we will have a notice about Astronomy Day up on our outdoor billboard again this year!" she told me. I told the lady that was great! She said, yes, it will read "Astrological Displays here today!". Smiling through the phone, I politely corrected her, saying that would be a spelling mistake, and would she please correct it. She said she would try to remember to tell the night staff... At this point I was racking my brain for any other obvious things this lady could misinterpret... Our prime spot in the mall is a large round, recessed area that is normally used as a sunken fountain, and is filled with water most of the time. I reminded her that she should also speak to the night staff, and ask that our area be drained on the Friday night.... She said "Oh, yes! I must remind the night staff of that too".... I smiled through my teeth, thanked her profusely for all her help, and kept my fingers crossed for the Saturday...

Being Kingston Centre members, of course, we are always prepared for everything...

Hank Bartlett volunteered to bring his rubber raft... just in case our illustrious mall contact forgot to get our area drained. We figured we could put our new alien member in the raft, holding a pair of binoculars, to demonstrate the Kingston Centre's method of teaching deep sky objects... (By the way, the full fleet will be in attendance this year at Starfest... just look for our dock!) As luck would have it... our area was high and dry for Astronomy Day!

Peggy and John Hurley, our President and Treasurer respectively, brought wooden easels, courtesy of the art department of the Sharbot Lake school. They were much appreciated!

Joe Shields and Joanne Burns of the Belleville Astronomy Club brought Joe's big bright red Dobsonian telescope, and some wonderful wooden mounted display boards with custom built easels. Thank you both for driving in from out of town in rather inclement weather!

Yours truly brought a large assortment of colourful astronomical display boards, a large inflatable sky globe with all the mythical sky creatures on it... and a colourful assortment of astronomical balloons, which we attached to all the displays.

Telescopes were varied and plenty. We had so many offers of telescopes that we had to turn some down! Thanks go out to Joe Shields, Kendra Angle, Doug Angle, Leo Enright, Hank Bartlett, Brenda Shaw, Tom Dean, Norm Welbanks, Laura Gagne, Karel Chrastina, et al....

We had a barndoor mount, courtesy of Frank Hitchens. Thanks so much for showing people what they can do with an innovative camera setup. We had a display on mirror grinding, courtesy of Tom Dean, who also brought several examples of the Centre's efforts. Thank you!

We had a special display put on by the Kingston Centre's Youth Group. This is a special group, with special astronomical activities, for which Kingston applied, and received a sizable government grant for in 1998. Kendra Angle's award-winning telescope was also on display, suitably attired with her gold medal from the 1998 Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Science Fair. Congratulations again, Kendra!

Did we have handouts for the public? Oh, yes, we had more handouts than we have ever had before! Astronomy Magazine basically adopted us!! They sent us display material, 8 incredible astronomical books as door prizes, a gift of a year's subscription as an additional door prize, and literally boxes of hundreds of copies of the various 1998 issues of Astronomy Magazine for handout to the public. We were absolutely overwhelmed!! We sent them back a very special letter and several gifts from our Centre. Thank you so much! (Continued on page 9)



The Centre

The Newsletter of the Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Newsletter Submission Info: The deadline is the Friday before regular meetings in odd numbered months. The preferred method is E-MAIL, then disk, lastly paper (I hate retyping... too many mistakes happen). E-mail: kell (at) cliff (dot) path (dot) queensu(dot)ca

Fax: 1-613-545-2907 (with cover page to Kevin Kell) Post: Box 2033 Kingston Ontario K7L5J8 Canada ascii or most major word processors (WP6.1 for windows preferred) via E-mail or 3.5" DOS floppy disk

Our Web page can be found at:
<http://www.rasc.ca/kingston>

Officers and Executive Council

President: Peggy Hurley

Vice President: Bill Broderick

Secretary: Laura Gagné

Treasurer: John Hurley

Editor: Kevin Kell

National Council Rep: Susan Gagnon

Librarian: Brenda Shaw

Honorary President: David Levy

Committee Chairs:

Observing Group: Tom Dean

ATM Group: Tom Dean

Youth Group: Brenda Shaw & Laura Gagné

To Send E-mail to all members of the Kingston Executive, address it to: <*kingston (at) rasc (dot) ca*>

To join the National E-mail List, send a message to: <*listserver (at) astrotech (dot) stmarys (dot) ca*>

In the body of the message put:
subscribe rasclist Your Name (Center)

Centre Location: RASC - Kingston Centre, PO Box 1793, Kingston, Ontario K7L 5J6 Canada
Approx Lat: 44 deg 14 min N Long 76 deg 39 min W

Upcoming Meetings



1998

Friday July 10th Laura Gagne with "Black Holes, Wormholes and Time Travel."

Friday August 14th 2nd Annual BBQ Dinner Meeting at the home of Mark Kaye (maps available at earlier meetings)

Friday September 11th

Friday October 2nd*

Friday November 13th

Annual General Meeting

Friday December 11th

* special meeting dates one week early due to holiday Fridays

Regular Meetings of the Kingston Centre are held on the 2nd Friday of each month (unless noted otherwise) at 20:00 local time in **Room B-201, Mackintosh-Corry Hall** at Queen's University (parking available off Union Street at Frontenac).

Regulus is published 6 times per year. Views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada or its officers and members.

Subscriptions: Members of the Kingston Centre receive Regulus as a benefit of membership.

Advertisements are free to members of the Centre. Commercial advertising is \$25 per half page, \$50 for full page and must be camera ready copy.

Contributions are more than welcome. Submitted material may be edited for brevity or clarity. Copyright 1998. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to other publications of a similar nature to print material from Regulus provided that full credit is given to the author and to Regulus.



From The Editor

Changes/corrections of address received (I pass any I receive on to the Centre Treasurer who passes them on to UTP) since the master January list was published:
Trisha Blasko has moved to Nepean, Ontario

The **Educational Slide Set Collection** spearheaded by Hank Bartlett has now reached a huge 126 slides and more are in the production pipeline. Hank is working on the documentation and we have ordered several commercial sets as well, due in any time now. Remember as well that the collection is online the web site!

Additions to the Web site now include:

Meeting minutes, updated membership list and membership summaries (Kingston & National). These are password protected and not meant to be spread around the Internet. There are too many weirdos, hackers and evil spammers out there. To access this follow the link to membership list. It will prompt you for a userid and password. The userid is rasckington the password is xxxxxxxxxxxx Use all small caps as it is case sensitive.

The last issue contained a survey for the Executive to look at. To date I have received back only 6 results. So there will be no summaries this issue. I will however pass out

From The Prez

No blurbs this month.

From The Secretary

Minutes - June 12, 1998

Called to order: 8:13 pm

A draw was held for a bottle of vintage Marian Mist and a Mars rover postage stamp donated by Hank Bartlett.

Martian Mist - Kim Hay

Postage stamp - Trisha Blasko

Announcements:

Life member Valia Krotkov passed away in March. A card was passed around to be signed by members present in the name of the Kingston Centre to express our sympathy to her family. A memorial service for Mrs Krotkov was held at the University Club, Queen's University from 4-6pm on June 21st. All RASC members are welcome to attend.

The Space Science Institute has offered astronomy clubs a chance to purchase a CD Rom with Hubble images on it for

\$33.95 US if 10 or more are ordered. Only 3 people present at the meeting showed an interest. If any member reading this who did not attend the meeting would be interested, contact Laura Gagne. If 10 people are interested, those who have given their names will be notified.

The 1999 GA will be held in Toronto in conjunction with the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and the American Amateur Variable Star Observers. Watch for more details of this unique opportunity as the time approaches.

Grass Creek Park. On Saturday, July 18 the centre will be entering a display in the March of Dimes "The Sky is the Limit" event. Our theme will be (loosely) "Science Fiction vs Science Fact". We are looking at Sci-fi films and UFO/aliens. If you would like to help or just to be there contact Laura Gagne.

Reports:

Treasurer - We have about \$8000 in the bank at the moment. We need to start a future planning committee to decide how this money will be spent. Those interested in serving on this committee contact John Hurley.

Secretary - see minutes.....and announcements

Youth. - The group is meeting in Room B201 from 2-5 pm on the last Saturday of each month. We have 35 people who have filled out surveys, with about a dozen in attendance at any one meeting. Last month we had Terry Dickinson talk to us. It was great, and the youth had a chance to "chat" and get autographs. I think they were pretty impressed. June's meeting will feature Martin Duncan from Queen's and also Leo Enright who will talk about how to observe. We will be giving each person their own copy of the Beginner's Observing Guide. The July meeting will be a field trip to the Miller Hall Museum of Geology and the Holleford meteorite crater. August will be a mini "Starfest" at Lemoine Point hosted by the ATM group and the centre. Anyone interested in helping out at any of the meetings can contact Laura Gagne or Brenda Shaw. Anyone willing to come to the park in August with their telescopes or binoculars can contact Laura or Brenda.

Observers Group and ATM - Ken Kingdon qualified for his Messier Certificate at the last Observing Session at Laura Gagne's home. Congratulations!!!! The next session will be Friday June 26th at a site in Arden. Interested persons are asked to meet at John and Peggy's place between 7:45 and 8:00 pm. We will convoy to the site from there. For information, contact Peggy or John. July's observers' meeting will be at the home of Tessa Clarke. August is at the cottage of Mark Kaye. September will be at the home of Steve Manders. To volunteer to offer your dark sky site, contact Tom Dean. The centre has just purchased a grinding machine that it had sold to York University some time ago.



It will grind at least a 12 inch mirror. The next meeting of the group will be Sunday June 28th at Doug Angle's home at 2:00 pm.

Steve Manders provided maps to his favourite site. If you did not receive a copy and would like one, then contact Steve or a member of the centre executive.

Fireball Hotline: Tom Dean is always looking for volunteers to check the voice message service of the fireball hotline. The job requires one to check the voice mail every day or two and return the calls that may be left there. If there are many calls, then call Tom and other members will help return them. If there is a meteorite fall, then the group may be asked to help search for and recover the meteorite. Contact Tom for details and to volunteer. It is really no work at all, and lots of fun. Kim Hay will take the calls for June.

National Council Rep - The next National Council meeting will be at the GA in Victoria. On the agenda for our centre is the ratification of our amended constitution to allow us to issue receipts for charitable donations.

Newsletter - send contributions to Kevin.

Guest Speaker: Mrs Peggy Hurley presented a fabulous talk about the solar celebrations of ancient people. She explained the calendar events such as the two solstices and equinoxes and other celebrations in between, like Ground Hog's day and Hallowe'en. Part of her talk centred on ancient observatories such as Stonehenge and the Mayan and Aztec pyramids. There are many fascinating and bloody rituals surrounding most of the celebrations which, fortunately, have been lost over time. The talk was a fascinating romp through time, highlighted by the echoes of ancient celebrations found in our own calendars as we mark the passing of the seasons.

Observing - Mark Kaye showed us a video he made of the moon at the Hamilton Centre Observatory.

Doug and Kevin showed some slides that they had taken. Steve Manders informed us that now is the best time to see Pluto if we have not done so already. It is currently at 13.7 magnitude and will be decreasing as it enters the Sagittarius Star cloud.

adjourned : 10:50 pm

These are the minutes of the meeting of Friday, May 8th.

The Executive minutes contained no items not discussed at the meeting, so to avoid boring repetitious redundancies I have decided not to send them separately (so there!).

Meeting called to order 8:20 pm.

Announcements:

Raffle: there was a raffle for a bottle of Galilean Gold wine provided by Hank Bartlett. Four bottles of ultrapure water for

cleaning optics were donated by Kevin Kell as second prizes for the raffle. The winners were: Wine - Steve Manders Water- Ken Kingdon, Kim Hay, Don Kropp, and Tim Seitz congratulations!

Adoption of Regulus as the centre star from the Queen's Adopt-a-star campaign: Our centre will attempt to raise funds from the membership to adopt the \$2500 star, Regulus, to help raise money for the Queen's Astronomy Research Group's new telescope. After one month, the centre will double the amount raised by individual members, and make the donation to Queen's. Tax receipts are available on request for substantial individual donations.

The Sky is the Limit festival:

The Ontario March of Dimes will be holding a fundraising festival on July 18th from 9:00am to 8:00 pm at Grass Creek Park on Highway 2, behind the MacLaughlin Woodworking Museum. Our Centre has been invited to participate in the event by having a display and possibly even a few mini-lectures. The executive voted to participate in the festival, and the membership showed a similar willingness to be there. We need to create more public awareness of astronomy, and this is a fantastic opportunity since thousands are expected to attend. All members may come along to help out. Contact Laura Gagne <xxx@xxx.xxx.xxx>, or (613) xxxxxxxx for more information.

National Council report:

The next national council meeting will be in Victoria during the GA. Our request for a tax number for charitable donations will be on the agenda. The constitution committee received our proposed changes to our constitution in November of 1997. If anyone has anything to add to the agenda, they must speak to Sue Gagnon before she leaves for Victoria.

Light Pollution Committee:

Bill Broderick, National Light Pollution Committee Chair, received a request from someone in the USA who visited the RASC website and wanted more information about fighting light pollution. It seems that our campaign is beginning to show some results.

Observers' Group and Amateur Telescope Makers:

The next observers' group meeting will be at the home of Laura Gagne on the 23rd of May. The next ATM meeting will be on the 24th of May, at the home of Doug Angle. everyone is welcome...no equipment or experience necessary.

Nametags

Kevin has printed nametags for centre members who do public lectures, help with mall displays or public star parties, etc. If you do not yet have yours, and need one, contact Kevin.

Astronomy Day:



Cathy Hall thanked everyone who was involved in Astronomy Day this year. Two of the door prizes from Astronomy Magazine were won by centre members! Kim Hay and Hank Bartlett both won beautiful books! congratulations.

The Douglas Telescope:

Leo Enright shared some of the history of the centre's oldest telescope. David Levy was instrumental in helping to procure the telescope from a member of the Montreal Centre. He told Mr. Papacosmos (I hope that is close) that our centre had no resources such as a telescope or observatory. Mr. Papacosmos graciously donated his ten inch reflector to the centre. It was later redesigned to be a dobsonian and the cardboard tube was replaced by the current wooden box.

Special Thanks:

The centre thanks Mark Kaye for his donation of an eyepiece warmer for the centre telescope.

Speakers:

Tonight's meeting was a telescope workshop run by Tom Dean, Mark Kaye and Doug Angle. Tom taught us collimation and cleaning of a reflecting telescope, but advises that we not try to do either on our own. The three gentlemen then formed small groups of members with telescopes and helped those members collimate and clean their telescopes. Thank you to each of them. I know that there are some members of our centre (and one member of our youth group) who are very grateful! The meeting was adjourned at 10:17, but it was too cloudy to go to the observatory. Maybe next time!

Youth Group News

Martin Duncan was the first guest speaker at the June meeting. Leo Enright followed up with the Beginners' Observing Guide. July's meeting is on Saturday the 25th at 10:30am for the Miller Hall Tour and after lunch the Holleford Crater Trip.

ATM Group News

The ATM group will be meeting every Saturday in the month of July in an attempt to get the 20cm mirror done in time for transport to Starfest for it's coating job. Contact Tom Dean for locations.

Observing Group News

June was rained out... Boy was it rained out... Thunder & Lightning, a little bitty clear spot then more clouds.

1998 Observing Schedule

1998 Saturday July 25:

Meet at the home of Tessa Clarke
From Highways 15 and 401
Go North on Hwy 15, cross over 401
& over CN rail, turn left on Kingston
Mills road (west) turn right on canal
drive (north) - xxxx
Watch out for chickens rabbits and
turtles!!



1998 Friday August 14

Meet at the home of Mark Kaye
From the 401 and Sydenham Road go north on Sydenham
road and follow the map provided at the meeting (past
Elginburg, turn right on Latimer and go 2.5 km... then it
turns into Davidson Road Road. Xxxx

Syracuse Summer Seminar The summer seminar is August 14 - 16.

StarFest Thursday-Sunday August 20-23 NYAA sponsored Canada's largest star party held in Mount Forest (west of Barrie). See the website for details:
<http://www.interlog.com/~nyaa>

National News

Date: Sat, 20 Jun 1998 13:20:40 -0400
From: Peter Jedicke <pjedicke@fanshawec.on.ca>
Subject: **FLASH Minutes of the first National Council meeting from the G.A. in Victoria**

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA Motions of National Council 1998 06 19

Note: the following is presented merely to foster discussion and rapid communication within the Society. This list of the motions considered at the meeting of National Council is completely unofficial and is the responsibility of the National Recorder. For official purposes, wait for the completed minutes in a few weeks.

MOTION 98201 It was moved by Dr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Haig to approve the minutes of the meeting of National Council held 1998 02 14 as distributed. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98202 It was moved by Dr. Gupta and seconded by Mr. Lane to accept the list of unattached members as circulated and amended. The motion was CARRIED by special resolution.



MOTION 98203 It was moved by Mr. Auclair and seconded by Mr. Haig to award Messier Certificates to Mr. David Pianosi (Kingston), Mr. Joseph Gurney (London), Mr. Harry Adams (Ottawa), Mr. Darrel Chatfield (Saskatoon), Ms. Sandy Ferguson (Saskatoon), Mr. Dale Jeffrey (Saskatoon), and Mr. Ken F. Rounq (Windsor). The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98204 It was moved by Mr. Auclair and seconded by Mr. Shearman to award NGC Certificates to Ms. Carol Weis (Calgary) and Mr. Alan Whitman (Okanagan). The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98205 It was moved by Mr. Auclair and seconded by Mr. Pihack to award Membership Certificates to Mr. J. Brian Clarke (Calgary), Mr. Blair Colborne (Calgary), Mr. Roland G. Dechesne (Calgary), Mr. J. Cam Fahrner (Calgary), Ms. Dennis Goodman (Calgary), Mr. Ulrich Haasyk (Calgary), Mr. Don Hladiuk (Calgary), Mr. Philip Johnson (Calgary), Fr. Lucian J. Kemble (Calgary), Mr. Robert F. Loblaw (Calgary), Mr. John C. Mirtle (Calgary), Mr. Kenneth Pawson (Calgary), and Mr. Peter Sim (Calgary).

MOTION 98206 It was moved by Mr. Attwood and seconded by Mr. Loehde that MOTION 98205 be amended by adding the name of Mr. Raymond Auclair to the list. The motion to amend MOTION 98205 was CARRIED. MOTION 98205 was CARRIED as amended.

MOTION 98207 It was moved by the Finance Committee that \$3,000 be granted to the Niagara Centre from the Special Projects Fund. MOTION 98207 was CARRIED.

MOTION 98208 It was moved by Mr. May and seconded by Mr. Attwood that thanks be given to Dr. Gupta for his excellent efforts as Treasurer. The motion was CARRIED. A round of applause followed.

MOTION 98209 It was moved by Mr. Jedicke and seconded by Mr. Haig to move into committee of the whole to discuss the matter of Strategic Ink. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98210 It was moved by Mr. George and seconded by Dr. Gupta that committee of the whole rise and report. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98211 It was moved by Mr. Attwood and seconded by Mr. Hawley that the price for a single issue of the Journal be set at \$20. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98212 It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Whitman that the Society continue to purchase SkyNews or Ciel Info and distribute the appropriate magazine as a benefit of membership. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98213 It was moved by Dr. Bishop and seconded by Mr. Loehde that the price schedule for the 2000 Observer's Handbook be as presented in Dr. Bishop's report.

The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98214 ***This motion was moved by Dr. Gupta and seconded by Mr. Hawley and dealt with the price structure of the Observer's Calendar. Details are in Dr. Gupta's report.*** The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98215 It was moved by Dr. Gupta and seconded by Dr. Bishop that a letter be sent expressing the gratitude of the Society to University of Toronto Press for their efforts. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98216 It was moved by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mr. Haig that a new version of email mailing list software be purchased. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98217 It was moved by Mr. Hawley and seconded by Dr. Bishop that the changes proposed by the Calgary Centre to the Calgary Centre bylaws be approved. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98218 It was moved by Dr. Turner that the meeting adjourn. The motion was CARRIED.

Subject: FLASH minutes of the Annual Meeting held 1998 06 21

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA Motions of the Annual Meeting 1998 06 21

MOTION AM9801 It was moved by Mr. Dick and seconded by Mr. Brodeur to approve the agenda. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION AM9802 It was moved by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mr. Haig to adopt the minutes of the 1997 Annual Meeting. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION AM9803 It was moved by Dr. Gupta and seconded by Mr. Lane to adopt the audited financial statement as published in the 1997 Annual Report. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION AM9804 It was moved by Dr. Gupta and seconded by Mr. Haig that C. J. Tinkham and Associates be reappointed as auditors for the Society. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION AM9805 It was moved by Dr. Bishop and seconded by Mr. McCausland that gratitude be expressed to Mr. George for his service as President of the Society. The motion was CARRIED. A round of applause followed.

MOTION AM9806 It was moved by Mr. Wagner that the meeting adjourn. The motion was CARRIED at 11h27 edt.

Subject: FLASH minutes of the National Council meeting held 1998 06 21

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA



Motions of National Council 1998 06 21

MOTION 98301 It was moved by Mr. George and seconded by Mr. Kaye to approve the composition of the Standing Committees. The motion was CARRIED.

Here's the list:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The following elected officers: President Mr. Randy Attwood (Chair), 1st Vice-President Dr. Robert Garrison, 2nd Vice-President Dr. Rajiv Gupta, Secretary Mr. Raymond Auclair, Treasurer Mr. Michael Watson.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Mr. Doug George (Chair), Mr. David Chapman, Dr. Doug Hube, Dr. David Turner.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE:

Mr. Michael Watson (Chair), 1st Vice-President Dr. Robert Garrison, Dr. Rajiv Gupta.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Treasurer Mr. Michael Watson (Chair), Dr. Rajiv Gupta, Mr. Colin Haig, Mr. David Lane.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: Mr. Andrew Oakes (Chair), Mr. Peter Broughton, Dr. Roy L. Bishop.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE: Mr. Andrew Oakes (Chair), Mr. Kevin Kell, Mr. Ian MacGregor.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE: Mr. Don Hladiuk (Chair), Ms. Kim Hay, Mr. Erich Keser.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Three Past Presidents: Mr. Doug George, Mr. Doug Hube (Chair), Mr. Peter Broughton.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Mr. Robert May (Chair), Mr. Colin Haig, Treasurer Mr. Michael Watson.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: 1st Vice-President Dr. Robert Garrison (Chair), Editor of the Journal Dr. David Turner, Editor of the Observer's Handbook Dr. Roy L. Bishop, Mr. Pat Kelly, Mr. David Lane, Mr. Leo Enright, Dr. Rajiv Gupta.

ASTRONOMY DAY CO-ORDINATOR Mr. Scott Young.

MOTION 98302 It was moved by Mr. Bennett and seconded by Dr. Garrison to constitute the Computer Use Committee and that the Committee consist of Mr. David Lane (Chair), Mr. Colin Haig, Ms. Kim Hay. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98303 It was moved by Mr. George and seconded by Dr. Garrison to rescind MOTION 97303. Mr. Attwood noted that the effect of this motion would be to dissolve the Light Pollution Committee. The motion to rescind MOTION 97303 was CARRIED.

MOTION 98304 It was moved by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Kaye that a Light Pollution Abatement Committee be constituted with a term of one year and consist of Mr. Robert Dick (Chair), Mr. William Broderick, Mr. Richard Huziak (Saskatoon), Mr. Bob King (Calgary), Ms. Christine Kulyk (Kingston), and Mr. George Liv (Kingston). The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98305 It was moved by Mr. Loehde and seconded by Mr. Whitman to terminate the Long Range Planning Committee. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98306 It was moved by Ms. Yeo and seconded by Mr. Jedicke to reconstitute the Observing Certificate Committee with a term of one year, that the mandate of the Committee be to develop observing certificates to recognize achievements of members, and that the Committee consist of Mr. Richard Wagner (Chair), Mr. Roland Dechesne, Mr. Leo Enright, and Mr. Phil McCausland. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98307 It was moved by Mr. George and seconded by Dr. Turner that the proposed changes to the rules for the Simon Newcomb Award be approved and adopted. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98308 It was moved by Mr. Dick and seconded by Mr. George that a budget of \$725 be approved for the Light Pollution Abatement Committee. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98309 It was moved by Dr. Bishop and seconded by Dr. Garrison that the Society become a corporate member of the International Dark Sky Association. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98310 It was moved by Mr. George and seconded by Mr. Bronson that the Society accept the invitation of the Winnipeg Centre and hold the 2000 General Assembly in Winnipeg. The motion was CARRIED.

MOTION 98311 It was moved by Dr. Turner that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was CARRIED at 14h02.

BBS News

The following Kingston BBS's are RASC support boards: *Observatory East (Mark Kaye) 613-353-6495 FidoNet 1:249/109 2400-28800 bps 8N1V.34
* StarStream (Kevin Kell) 613-546-6403 FidoNet 1:249/112 14400-28800 bps 8N1V.34
* Moonlight Cascade (Kim Hay) 613-353-7369 FidoNet 1:249/133 2400-28800 bps 8N1V.FC

Fireball Group Submitted by Tom Dean

Fireball Report Line: 545-6000 ext xxxx.

Fireball Web reporting form:

<http://www.astro.queensu.ca/~irwin/fireballs/fbhome.html>

Space Calendar

The Space Calendar covers space-related for the coming months. This Calendar is compiled and maintained by Ron



Baalke. Please send any updates or corrections to
<baalke (at) kelvin(dot)jpl(dot)nasa(dot)gov>

You can find this on the web at:

<http://newproducts.jpl.nasa.gov/calendar>

Due to a lack of space the calendar will not appear in this issue.

Submissions from Members

Get Primitive By E. Kliptic

R.A., Dec., NGC, and Messier's. So we call ourselves amateur astronomers eh. WOW! Well when was the last time you got primitive? No I don't mean going without the bug spray, or using just binoculars, **I mean primitive!** When was the last time you laid under the stars as you would the clouds on a warm afternoon and saw shapes and told stories?

Long before any written history or language, our past and our fate was charted in the stars. Our ancient ancestors used the stars (constellations) as a guide to remembering and passing on stories of great hunts, battles and love. What a truly dark sky it must have been and what tales have long been lost. Predating cave and rock drawings this is perhaps the most magnificent medium mankind has ever had, practically unchanging with the passing of time. Today we could tell the same stories, with the same "key" star groups as a guide as was done eons ago. Where language has evolved the stars have basically remained as our ancestors saw them, our most ancient record of our origin.

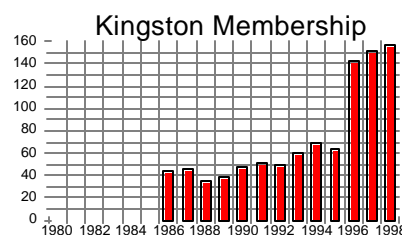
So if you have kids, or an interested spouse or friend, next time it is a clear warm night, drag out your boat (or just a blanket if you haven't a boat yet) and show a few shapes, tell a few ancient myths (The Audobon Society Field Guide to the Night Sky is full of them) or even have fun making up your own tales. Look at the stars for what they used to be to us, wondrous colourful points of light in the darkness and forget about the galaxies, nebulas and clusters. **Get primitive!**

Kingston Centre Membership Summary

For a more complete summary, see the Web site for both Kingston & National Membership and Financial Summaries going back for 10 years.

	Members	Change
1998	156	4
1997	152	10
1996	142	79

1995	63	-6
1994	69	9
1993	60	10
1992	50	-2
1991	52	4
1990	48	10
1989	38	3
1988	35	-11
1987	46	2



For Sale: Kendrick "Quick Focus" for 8" aperture \$20.
Call Norm Welbanks xxx-xxxx

For Sale: 6" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope on an equatorial mount. Comes with plastic tote. Purchased from Terry Dickinson in 1986. Best offer. Call Margaret Austin at xxx-xxxx.

For Sale: 90mm ETX Maksutov-Cassegrain telescope. Comes with 28mm, 9mm, 7mm eyepieces, 2x Barlow, 5 planet filters, "Jens Mobile" declination motor and a carrying case. Used only once. Asking \$1500 cdn funds for everything. Call Russel Fowler (613) xxx-xxxx (Odessa number); leave a message with his son.

Dr. AV Douglas

July 2nd was the 10th anniversary of the passing of Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, the founder of the Kingston Centre in 1961. A pioneering Canadian astrophysics teacher, Douglas achieved an international reputation in the field at a time when few astronomers were women. Known by her students as "Dr. D" throughout her 20 years as Dean of Women, the



Montreal native befriended many women graduates after retiring in 1964. Douglas was made a member of the Order of the British Empire for her work in the London War Office during the First World War. She became interested in astronomy while studying at Cambridge under Sir Arthur Eddington, a leading astronomer of the time. In 1956 she wrote his biography. Before coming to Queen's as Dean of Women. She completed her doctorate in astronomy at McGill and stayed until 1939 to lecture in physics and astrophysics. While at Queen's she served as National President of the RASC.

Pluto Alert! By Steve Manders

For those astronomers that haven't seen Pluto yet, time is running out! It is currently located near Zeta Ophiucus, high in the summer evening sky at magnitude 13.7 with good marker stars nearby for easy identification and it is almost as close to earth as it can get. However, it is just entering the edge of the Sagittarius star cloud and will pass near the Eagle and Swan nebula about 2010. By then it will be about 14th mag. You will need lots of luck to find it there. For the young astronomers with infinite patience, you will not be rewarded for your patience. When Pluto finally clears the star cloud in 2020 it will have dimmed to about mag 14.3 or about half as bright. By then the pupils of your eyes will have contracted, admitting about 30% less light as well.

As Pluto moves away from the sun, its brightness decreases with twice the square of the distance. Both the brightness of illumination of the surface and the area being illuminated decrease with the square of the distance so you get 1/8 of the brightness at twice the distance. To make matters worse, it is descending below the ecliptic making for poor viewing in the Northern Hemisphere. It will pass one degree below the star Mira in Cetus in the year 2098, at about 1/6 the brightness as it is now.

You could add one inch (2.54 cm) to your scope every 5 years to keep up with it. However there is a better solution, attend your nearest star party and push to have the big scopes aimed at Pluto. You will never have it as good again.

News from the Net

Comet Discovery Award Announced

Published: 1998 June 15 6:08 pm ET (2208 UT)

Amateur astronomers who discover new comets will now not only win fame, they'll win fortune, too -- up to \$20,000 in prize money in an award announced by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) June 15.

The Edgar Wilson award will provide amateur astronomers world wide \$20,000 a year for comet discoveries made by amateurs using privately-owned equipment. The prize money will be divided among all qualifying amateurs based on the number of comets each astronomer discovers.

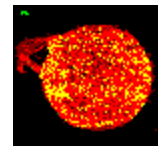
The prize money will be awarded on an annual basis. The first prize period started at 8pm EDT June 10 (0000 UT June 11), with the first award to be given out on or about July 1, 1999. the prize will be administered by the Central Bureau of Astronomical Telegrams, the clearinghouse for comet discoveries, for the SAO.

The prize is similar to the Benson Prize announced last year. The prize, funded by SpaceDev president James Benson, awards \$500 for each of the first ten near-Earth asteroids discovered by amateur astronomers.

The Edgar Wilson prize is named after a long-time resident of Lexington, Kentucky, who was active in agriculture and business. After his death in 1976, a perpetual trust was established which included a provision for supporting an award for comet discoveries. The award was to take effect five years after the death of his brother, Oscar. Oscar Wilson passed away on June 10, 1993.

The Next Generation Space Telescope

The Hubble Space Telescope is slated for retirement between 2007 and 2010 and work is already underway for it's replacement. The NGST (like much newer technology) will be better, cheaper, lighter and is scheduled for launch in 2007. For more info see <http://www.ngst.nasa.gov/>



Interested in Solar Weather? Check out

<http://www.sel.noaa.gov> for daily solar imagery and activity and forecasts.

Items to Bring to a StarParty

Telescope: you'll have hours of fun polar aligning it!
Finderscope: points at what the telescope points at.



- Telrad:** points at what the finderscope points at.
- Red Flashlight:** to look at your star chart and find out what the telescope, finderscope and Telrad are all pointing at.
- White Flashlight:** to find the Red Flashlight (preferably solar powered).
- Dew Shield:** To fight the Dew.
- Corrector Plate Windshield Wiper:** to fight really bad dew.



- Ladder:** only for dobsonian owners
- Dobsonians:** only for ladder owners
- Chairs:** place to sit down when tired
- Cooler:** place to sit down when others have borrowed your chair.
- Two km of spare wire:** just in case.
- Umbrella:** so you can continue observing while it's raining.

Astronomy Day (continued from Page 1)

A big thank you also goes to Sky and Telescope magazine, who sent us reams of material for beginners, and catalogues! There were much appreciated.

Did we have brochures on the RASC? Oh, yes! We have never had so many different brochures as handouts. We had wonderful 3-fold brochures on RASC Kingston, brochures on the RASC Kingston Youth Group, and brochures on getting started in astronomy, all designed and done up by the very able team of Kim Hay and Kevin Kell. We had 3-fold brochures on the Belleville Astronomy Club, courtesy of Joe Shields. We had brochures on how to get into meteor observing, done up by yours truly, on behalf of the North American Meteor Network. We had information sheets on choosing telescopes, and getting into astrophotography, written up by Frank Hitchens. We also had many different handouts put together by Kevin Kell, on everything from Mir pass times to complete kits of put-together cardboard spacecraft... Thank you all!

Special handouts were full-colour astronomical postcards, courtesy of Dieter Bruekner. They were very popular! Thank you, Dieter!

A special thank-you also goes to Leo Enright for his wonderful photographic table display, a highlight each year. He captivated many members of the public with his incredible photos!

There were many other Kingston members not already mentioned above who helped with talking to the public or in other ways... Vic Smida, Susan Gagnon, Dr. Judith Irwin, Nancy Welbanks, Susan Phillips, Ruth Hicks, Diane Bartlett, Mrs. Bartlett and others.... Every year, we have between 25 and 30 members who all come out to help! Thank you!

Lastly, our appreciation goes out to Kathy Perrett of the Astronomy Group at Queen's University. Every year we seem to have inclement weather for our planned evening observing, yet every year she has been ready and willing to show the public through the observatory at Queen's. Thank you so much for all your efforts!

All in all, Astronomy Day 1998 was a great success! In spite of a number of interesting episodes, we had an incredible turnout, both in terms of all our members who contributed in various ways to making this a very special day, and all the public who stopped by to chat and find out information on astronomy. It has been a pleasure to serve as Astronomy Day Coordinator again this year! Thank you all!

From Astronomy Magazine....

The following is a note received by Cathy Hall, Astronomy Day Coordinator, from Astronomy Magazine in the U.S. ... Marlene sent our Centre an incredible amount of wonderful material for our Astronomy Day this year, and we had sent her a long thank-you letter, some photos of the event, and some RASC mementos..

Hello Cathy,

Thanks for your kind letter, the photos and gifts.....we appreciate it! The photos are great for us to see, makes us feel a part of it. Sorry the banner didn't work - but at least the other items were useful. Please call me early next year if you wish us to again partner with you. It's been a pleasure working with your group.

Kind regards, e Show Manager
Kalmbach Publishing

National Membership

