



Regulus



The Newsletter of the RASC Kingston Centre

2001 March-April

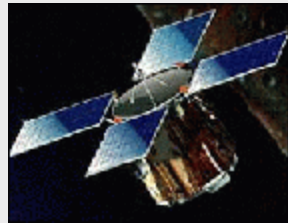
2001 - A Kingston Odyssey

40 years of Astronomy in Kingston RASC

One of the "celebration" ideas we have is to create a 40th anniversary yearbook of the centre, publish it on CDROM and include it in the November/December issue of Regulus. Elsewhere in this issue will be a short article detailing the kind of submissions we are looking for from you, our members.

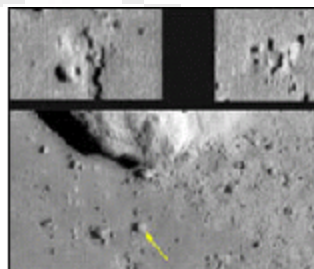
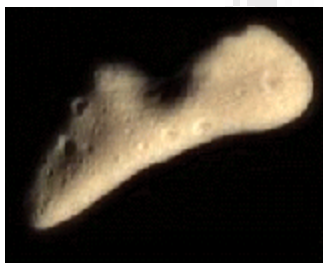
February 14, 2001
RELEASE: 01-20
ASTEROID MISSION
NOT YET "NEAR" AN
END

NASA's NEAR Shoemaker spacecraft, the first spacecraft to touch down and operate on the surface of an asteroid, will not be immediately shut down after all.



The mission will be extended for up to 10 days to gather data from a scientific instrument that could provide unprecedented information about the surface and subsurface composition of the asteroid Eros.

Two days after touchdown, NEAR Shoemaker is still in communication with the NEAR team at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) in Laurel, MD. Earlier this week, the team sent commands to NEAR and guided the robotic researcher to a 4-miles-per-hour touchdown on a rock-strewn plain on the asteroid. The spacecraft gently hit the surface at 3:02 p.m. EST, after a journey of 2 billion miles, and a full year in orbit, around the large space rock.



Douglas Award Winner 2000 Citation

Hank Bartlett has been a long time member of the Kingston Center, and a frequent contributor to the



center's activities over the years. In the past year, Hank has been coordinator of the Youth Observing Group, a responsibility he has executed well. Hank has donated prizes for fundraising draws at the monthly meetings, and conducted many of those draws himself. Hank is a frequent participant in the public and center observing sessions, and has been somewhat of an informal social convener for the Kingston contingent at Starfest, and the Center's overnight observing session. Hank is this year's recipient of the A. Vilbert Douglas Award.



El Presidente's 2001 Inaugural Speech

As your centre president for 2001, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I have been serving the centre in the offices of Secretary (1997, 1998) and Vice President (1999, 2000), so most of you already know me. I joined Kingston Centre shortly after moving to Kingston in 1995, and have been active in almost every committee/group that the centre offers to its members. I have been able to learn many things

about our fascinating hobby as well as about the wonderful people I have had the opportunity to meet. Most of my interest in astronomy is in the mysterious realms of both cosmology and archaeoastronomy, although I do like to observe and have also been part of our Amateur Telescope Makers' Group. I have also been very much involved in our public education program, serving as the chair of the education committee and writing two books for teachers of astronomy which you have probably seen on our centre web page (if you haven't, then go look!) That is my past record, now I shall turn to the future.

This year I would like to see our centre move up to fill the need for public education in astronomy in our community. As many of you know, we are beginning a new millennium this year and false science is creeping up on us from every direction. Take a look at your local bookstore if you need to be convinced. For every foot of shelf space devoted to astronomy, there are twenty feet of astrology and new age books. I think we need to take our role seriously and help people to discover that truth is much more beautiful and enduring than superstition. That is my lofty goal for the year, but I have plans for things which are a little closer to home as well.

We have many members who cannot come to our meetings, but enjoy their fellowship with us from the comfort of their own homes in North America and overseas. We are extremely pleased to have so many distant friends, but one can't help but notice that the reports in Regulus tend to relate more to those who live nearby. I encourage all of you who live far from Kingston to write to us and let us know what interests you in astronomy, what you have been observing or working on, how light pollution affects you in your own area, or anything else you might care to share with us. Regulus is there for you, as it is for all members, to keep in touch with others who share your interests.

For our local members, I hope to see the completion of our 24" telescope, and maybe even

some preliminary scouting for a location for an observatory to keep it in. I would also like to see our centre continue its leadership role in bringing astronomy to the people through observing sessions, both private and public. I am very open to ideas, so don't hesitate to contact me, or any of the executive committee. We are here to serve you, our members.

I look forward to another exciting year.
Clear skies, Laura Gagne

Submissions from Members

Kingston Centre 40th Anniversary Project

by Kim Hay

As stated on the front page, the Kingston Centre is celebrating its 40th anniversary. This is a great chance for all our members (that means **YOU**) to become involved with your Centre. We are asking that all members submit a picture of themselves (include any observing photo's) their telescopes, any astrophotography pictures, or a picture of your observatory. In any format, either electronic (gif, jpg, tiff, bitmap) or a paper version or slide. Please let us know if you wish the paper copy or slide version back, and we will return it to you. Please include your name, event of picture, and all pertinent information. It would also be nice if all members would submit a story, observing event that can be included in the Yearbook. It doesn't have to be pages long, a simple paragraph would be nice, to let us know what your interests are and possibly what you would like your centre to do for you. Please send all submissions to electronically to <kell@cliff.path.queensu.ca> or by postal mail to the Centre Mail address. We look forward to hearing from you, our fellow members!

New Projects By Kim Hay

It is the dream of every Astronomy Club, or even every amateur astronomer to have their own observatory with some land. Well, we at the Kingston Centre, would like to build an observatory, to house the 24-inch mirror that our ATM group is working on. We have the designs for the telescope but we are now coming up with plans for the observatory. It would be nice to have a control room for computers, CCD work, and piers on concrete pads, for our member's telescopes. Parking and of course some cleared land. If **you**, our members have any suggestions on what the Observatory should include, please let us

know, visit our web page at

<http://members.kingston.net/rasc/site.htm>

In order to access the needs of our members and the public, a big question is how far (distance) and the length of time to travel, lack of light pollution (dark skies), safety, location etc. We have used a topographical map of South Eastern Ontario, covering the area from Trenton (West), Brockville (East) and Sharbot Lake (North), if we go south we will be swimming. We used current Centre information to determine where members live in this area by colour coding the information on the map, circled out all the major towns for light pollution, and marked the known locations of members observatories (no names or exact locations). This map will help to determine the area in which a location for an observatory could be placed. Since the terrain of South Eastern Ontario, includes the Canadian Shield (<http://search.britannica.com/>) type in Canadian Shield, an area called the Land O' Lakes (<http://www.LOL.on.ca/>) with lots of water, serious consideration to location and accessibility is a must. We had our first Observatory meeting on February 16 with the above discussions, if you would like to be on this committee, from the ground up, send us any ideas that you may have, after all this is for all members and our public.

**RECOGNITION FOR VARIABLE STAR
MILESTONES BY CENTRE MEMBERS**
by Leo Enright

For many years a few members of the Kingston Centre have been recognized, both by our Society and by the American Association of Variable Star Observers, for their important contributions to variable star observing. However, the most recent newsletter of the AAVSO points out several very significant achievements in this special field of observing. More members of our Centre should be aware of the amazing work and contributions to science by these very active members. The newsletter referred to is the January 2001 issue (**AAVSO Newsletter** -- Number 25, published in Cambridge, MA, USA) which recognizes several very considerable achievements by our members, Ray Berg and Warren Morrison, and by our Honorary President David Levy.

Mr. Ray Berg received an AAVSO Observer Award for having completed over 10,000 observations and estimates. He is now also an elected member of the AAVSO's governing Council, and is an active participant in one of the association's special committees, namely the one devoted to observing what are called The RRLyrae-Type Variables. In fact, the record showed that Ray had completed well over the 10,000 estimates required for the award; his numbers were 11,010 as of the end of 1999. Our sincere congratulations go out to Ray for this very

important achievement. "Keep up the great work in variable observing, Ray!"

Mr. Warren Morrison has achieved an almost incredible number of variable star observations and estimates over the past 25 years. His award was one that is given on only extremely rare occasions, namely, to someone who has completed over 100,000 variable star estimates. [In fact, in the whole history of astronomy (!!!) there are only a "handful" who have exceeded that enormous total.] The record shows that Warren had competed far more than the number required for the award; his total to the end of the year 1999 stood at 105,271!!! A very, very remarkable achievement for Warren. Our congratulations go out to a fine gentleman, whom I am extremely proud to say is a friend and member of our Centre, Mr. Warren Morrison.

The AAVSO also announced at its meeting in Huntsville, Alabama, USA, that the association's winner of its William Tyler Olcott Award was our Honorary President, Mr. David Levy. The citation said that the award was being presented to him for his promotion of variable star astronomy through his many writings and public lectures. David is the author of a standard introduction to variable star observing, **Observing Variable Stars, A Guide For The Beginner** (published by Cambridge University Press, first edition - 1989, 198 +xix pages), and for many years he contributed very high numbers, that is, many thousands, of variable star observations. I am very happy to offer the Centre's congratulations to David Levy for being the winner of this important award, which is named after a very recognized observer and astronomy writer from the early part of the twentieth century. If ever an award was richly deserved, it is this one. David's promotion of, and contributions to, observational astronomy, of both variable stars and other celestial objects, has been enormous. "Once again, well done, David Levy!"

These very prestigious awards to three of our members should be an incentive to us to explore and enjoy the fascinating realm of variable star observing. Even if we do not all achieve the remarkable milestones of these three individuals, we can, in this way, learn ever more about our starry sky.

**THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE
R.A.S.C. KINGSTON CENTRE:
Some Reminiscences On The First Twenty Years Of
The Centre, From 1961 To 1981**
by Leo Enright

[The following is from the notes used for a paper presented to the Kingston Centre on January 12, 2001 to mark the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Centre in 1961.]

Antecedents To The 1961 Founding Of The Kingston Centre

Records from the mid-nineteenth century show that, in the town of Kingston, Canada West, there was a strong local interest in astronomy at the time of, and following, the May 26, 1854 total solar eclipse.

The local amateurs of the time, who were called "gentlemen astronomers" undertook to build an astronomical observatory.

Land and building materials were acquired for the building of the observatory, at a cost of \$600.00. The site was at the west end of the city, in what is at present MacDonald Park. A new 160cm (6 ½ inch) Alvin Clark refractor was purchased for \$600.00. Soon a transit telescope was purchased also, in order to determine time precisely.

Observations of many kinds were made after the completion of the frame structure in 1855.

The observatory was taken over by Queen's University in 1861, and it was replaced by a brick structure in 1862.

Under the Queen's University mathematician, Nathan Dupuis, many kinds of observations -- barometric, surveying, and time-related -- were made at the observatory.

In 1881 the observatory was moved to the Queen's University campus where Astronomy had been taught since 1863. Observations continued for many years.

The observatory was demolished in 1946.

Twelve years later, in 1958, plans were approved for a new 38cm (15 inch) Cassegrain telescope on Ellis Hall.

Early Astronomy "Explorers" In Kingston, Prior To The 1961 Founding Of The Centre

John F. Baker of Queen's University had corresponded with the Toronto "Astronomical Society" (the predecessor of the R.A.S.C.) in 1892 regarding the teaching of astronomy.

Lt.-Col. McGill of The Royal Military College wrote to the Toronto group on a similar topic in the 1890's. He was particularly concerned with the teaching and testing of astronomy in the university and in the schools.

In 1907, very close to the time when Dr. C.A. Chant began the publication of the Journal and the Handbook of the Society, Professor Matheson and Professor Dupuis, both of Queen's University, became R.A.S.C. members. (The Society had just a few years before received its royal charter.)

William Findlay of Toronto, in 1939, referred to a group of "capable members in that vicinity" when he said that Kingston was "one important university city where I feel sure there is a possibility of a good branch being organized." He was the National President at the time.

1939 was a significant year for two other reasons:

(1) Dr. A. Vibert Douglas (B.A., M.Sc., Ph.D., and L.L.D. - all from McGill University, and an

internationally recognized authority in spectroscopic absolute stellar magnitudes and stellar atmospheres) moved from being lecturer in physics and astronomy at McGill University to Queen's University where she becomes Professor of Astronomy from 1942 to 1964 and Emeritus Professor of Astronomy from 1965 to 1988. (She was also recognized for her work on stellar astronomy done in collaboration with Sir Arthur Eddington, of whose official biography she was the author.)

(2) Dr. A. Vibert Douglas became the Second Vice-President of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Later, in 1943 and 1944, she was the National President of the R.A.S.C..

The Founding Events Of The Kingston Centre in 1961

Thursday, January 19, 1961:

- There was a meeting of 20 Queen's University faculty members and students in Room 221, Ellis Hall at 7:30p.m. The meeting was chaired by Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, Professor of Astronomy, who outlined the history and the goals of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.
- Dr. George Harrower talked about the Ellis Hall Observatory
- The feature talk of the evening was by Dr. Douglas, and the topic was "Telescope and the Universe They Reveal".
- An observing session was scheduled for the following week, for Thursday, January 26, 1961.
- Nine people joined the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. The annual fee was \$5.00 for adults, and \$3.00 for students.
- A report of the meeting was sent to the National Executive Secretary of the Society on January 23, 1961.
- Meetings continued to be held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

February 1, 1961:

- A letter of reply was written by the National President, Dr. Peter Millman, expressing the National Council's appreciation for Dr. Douglas's efforts.

March 9, 1961:

- A meeting (the fifth for the group) was held in Room 221, Ellis Hall, to elect the officers for 1961. Those elected to executive positions were as follows: Honorary President: Dr. A.V. Douglas; President: A.K.F. Turner; Vice-President: M.R. Edwards; Secretary-Treasurer: F.M. Taylor.
- (In a letter of the following day, March 10, 1961, Dr. Douglas reported the business of the meeting to the National Executive Secretary, Mrs. Marie Fidler.)

March 23, 1961:

- The Constitution for the Kingston Centre was approved at the second meeting in March.

- The National Council Meeting, which had been held in Toronto on March 17 and 18, had approved the election to membership in the Society of the twenty Kingston members who had joined the Society both at, and subsequent, to the first meeting in Kingston in January, as reported in a letter written by Professor Kennedy, the National Secretary, also on March 23, 1961. In the letter, he suggested that either Dr. Douglas or Mr. Turner submit a letter for Centre status, as required by the National Constitution, so that it might be approved at the June National Council Meeting.

April 10, 1961:

- Dr. Douglas submitted the letter for Centre status, and submitted the proposed Constitution for the Kingston Centre.

April 13, 1961:

- A letter of acknowledgement was sent from Professor Kennedy to Dr. Douglas. It expressed delight with the progress that had been made during the past winter. The request for Centre status would be brought before the National Council at its meeting on June 2, 1961.

June 2, 1961:

- The National Council approved the creation of the Kingston Centre as the sixteenth Centre of the Society, and also approved its Constitution.

The Kingston Centre now existed as the sixteenth Centre of the Society, and during that first year, 1961, it had 23 members. It was a good beginning.

A "University Club--Centre" In The 1960's

- In the following few years and throughout the remainder of the 1960's, maintaining membership proved very difficult, in spite of the efforts by Dr. Douglas and several visits to the Centre by National Executive Members. In 1962 there were only 7 members of the Society in the group. Several reasons are given for the difficulties in maintaining the numbers of members:

- the pressures of university life, with the constant demands of study,
- the short school year, with students arriving in September and leaving in March or April,
- the changing executive from year to year,
- the Queen's University Astronomy Club (Q.U.A.C.) "co-existing with the Centre" and being the more "student visible" aspect of the organization,
- the Q.U.A.C., rather than the R.A.S.C.-Kingston Centre, being responsible to the student government on campus - certainly a unique arrangement among the Centres of the Society..

In spite of these difficulties for the young organization, a number of dedicated individuals put forward a tremendous effort to maintain an active group on campus. There was a real effort to have WEEKLY events: biweekly meetings, alternating (in the other weeks) with observing sessions in

the dome in Ellis Hall. Often the topic for a meeting was a presentation by a group member, or a film, or a presentation by a member of the Queen's faculty, or a talk by a member of the National Executive.

In addition to paying tribute to the efforts by Dr. Douglas, I wish to mention the efforts of certain Queen's students of that era, whom I had the opportunity of knowing: Mr. Paul Brown, Mr. Sandy McHattie, Ms. Susan McDougall, Mr. Chris Sargeant, and Mr. Doug Baker.

A "Turn-Around" In The 1970's

Several very important events occurred in the 1970's, events which marked a renewal and surge in membership of the R.A.S.C. Kingston Centre:

- People from outside the Queen's University community began to join the Centre, though membership of Queen's students continued, and meetings continued to be held in Ellis Hall, Room 222, and the Ellis Hall Observatory continued to be used, as it had in the past.
- A bright morning comet (Comet West) inspired student observing in 1976.
- Efforts to recruit members at the annual Queen's Clubs' Nights (held each year in September or early October in Grant Hall) were quite successful. (I personally remember that David Levy was first spotted at one of these events, and he soon began attending our meetings, joined the Kingston Centre, and became an active member of the group. He had just become an M.A. student in the English Department, and was working on a thesis concerning the writings of the great English poet of the Victorian Age, Gerard Manley Hopkins, who occasionally referred to particular comets of the period and other celestial objects in his beautiful poetic descriptions of the natural world.)
- Astronomy Day started to be observed in Canada; it was promoted in Mall Displays at various Kingston Shopping Centres.
- The General Assembly (the "G.A.") became an increasingly popular annual event of the Society in the 1970's. The Kingston Centre had good representation at the Toronto event in 1977 and the London event in 1979.
- Centre activities were promoted as never before, and new ones were added:
 - Holleford Crater Tours were started.
 - "Summer Solstice Celebrations" were initiated at Leo Enright's place in Sharbot Lake..
 - Visits to Jarnac (David Levy's cottage in the Gatineau Hills) were enjoyed by members.
 - Informal observing sessions were held at members' homes.
 - Member projects were initiated: telescope making was promoted by Larry Manuel, and observatory construction was undertaken.
 - Members participated in eclipse trips to several places in Manitoba for the Total Solar Eclipse of February 26, 1979.

- The "Third Big Magazine of Astronomy" took off with Kingston Centre involvement:

David Levy was a regular "variable star columnist" for "STAR AND SKY".

- Kingston Centre members won major awards for significant contributions to astronomy:

Warren Morrison won the Chilton Prize in 1979; David Levy won the Chant Medal in 1980.

References:

-- R. Peter Broughton: Looking Up, A History of the R.A.S.C.

-- Regulus, The Newsletter of the R.A.S.C. Kingston Centre, particularly the first three issues of the year 1986.

-- slides in the personal collection of the author.

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

By Bill Broderick

People have always been fascinated by the question of origins. How did the world begin? Where did all the living creatures come from? Who are we and how do we relate to everything else? These questions are as old as Man himself and creation myths, some going back many thousands of years, abound on every continent in the world.

The most familiar creation myth to Westerners is the one related in the biblical book of "Genesis," which tells how God created the heavens, the Earth, and all living things, in six days, culminating his labours with the creation of man. Christian religious authorities date the creation at 4004 B.C.

Four Billion Years of Evolution

As far back as two hundred years ago it became apparent to scientists that there was a serious problem with the scenario of special creation. Those who studied the rocks of the Earth found evidence of enormous time-spans beyond the comprehension of most non-scientists and even many scientists of the day, convincing them that Earth's history must extend into the past for many millions, if not billions, of years. James Hutton, the Scottish founder of modern geology, wrote in 1785: "We find no vestige of a beginning—no prospect of an end."

Today it is now accepted that life has been on the Earth for very nearly 4 billion years out of the 4.6 billion that the Earth itself has existed. For most of this enormous period of time it consisted only of viruses, bacteria and other micro-organisms. Higher forms of life came along just within the last 600 million years, multi-celled organisms like corals, jelly-fish, sponges, worms, fishes, insects, plants, animals, and of course people.

Charles Darwin postulated that life began in some "warm little pond" somewhere back in the Earth's

very early days. While it may have happened like that, there are other possible scenarios too. We know today that the terrestrial biosphere extends not only to the bottom of the ocean but also kilometres into the solid rock beneath our feet. We also know that life, both bacterial life and some other multi-cellular organisms, occupy niches like deep-ocean volcanic vents where the water may reach 200 degrees Celsius or higher, and there is a strong suspicion among biologists that some of these may be more likely than Darwin's "warm little pond."

Panspermia

At the same time, life continues to present scientists with a deep mystery. We don't know how it started. We're not even sure that it did "start" on Earth. There is speculation that life in bacterial or other more primitive form came to Earth from space, carried here in comets, meteors, and even in interstellar molecular clouds through which the Sun passes in its 250 million year journey around the galaxy. Panspermia is the concept that life somehow originated elsewhere, perhaps in space, and is carried to Earth and other worlds in spores which germinate wherever they find a suitable environment. Some strength is lent to this hypothesis by the fact that many organic compounds have been found to exist in space, such as carbon monoxide, acetylene, formaldehyde, alcohol, and even amino acids.

Some biologists see biogenesis as an extremely unlikely event, so unlikely that life on Earth could be the only life anywhere. I don't agree, not because I know so much about how life begins, but because insofar as the Earth is concerned, life began just about as soon as it possibly could—about 10 billion years after the Big Bang. Before life could exist anywhere, the basic elements of which the building blocks of life are composed, had to be synthesized. These elements are hydrogen, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, calcium and phosphorus. All elements heavier than hydrogen were synthesized in the stars, and several "generations" of stars were needed to seed the universe with the elements of life. Our Sun is a "third generation" star. Prior to about eight billion years ago, life anywhere just wasn't possible.

So to me, the fact that life existed on Earth so "early in the game" strongly suggests that however and wherever life began, it is a property of the universe. As such, I believe it will take root wherever it can. We are not alone.

END

Completed 19 November, 2000

News From Away

"I was thumbing through the latest Astronomy mag and saw an ad (I always >look at the ads first!) for an online

astronomy radio talk show. Turns out its hosted by David Levy and on the current show he talks with our very own 1st VP Peter Jedicke. Check it out at:

<http://www.letstalkstars.com/> ”

From Dave Lane on the National RASC Chat List

[Ed: I went and listened (via Realaudio Player) to an enjoyable hour of astro talk. Too bad we didn't hear about this sooner... say maybe from the host??? <nudge nudge>]

In any event, here is a list of archived shows available on the net at the website:

12/12/00 show with David Levy, Dean Koenig and Scott Tucker

12/05/00 show with David Levy and Dean Koenig

11/28/00 show with David Levy and Wendee Levy

11/21/00 show with David Levy and Katy Garmany

11/14/00 show with David Levy

11/7/00 show with David Levy with Tim Hunter

10/31/00 show with David Levy with Larry Lebofsky

10/24/00 show with David Levy with Kim Poor

10/17/00 show with David Levy interviewed by Wendee Levy

and even more!

YOG

(Youth Observing Group)
by Hank Bartlett

Parents are encouraged to attend and share this hobby with their child. Parental attendance also allows the parent to learn enough about astronomy to allow them to help their child at home. As this is basically an after dark hobby it is best that children are not left alone, but also it is fun to share this experience with them. Meetings in 2001:

Wednesday March 7th and 21st

Wednesday April 4th and 18th

For more information call Hank at 613-xxx-xxxx or email <knah@adan.kingston.net> .

Notes from the Secretary

Regular Meeting of the Kingston Centre of the RASC

2001 Fri January 12th Regular Meeting Minutes

Laura called the meeting to order at 8 p.m. and began with a round of the usual reports beginning with the **Secretary**. The mail box has been quiet since Christmas except for the usual newsletters from other centres and Buffalo who have passed along an invitation to their Annual Dinner Meeting Friday March 9. There had been

a request for information on Astronomy software and a request from Charlottetown for the list of what is scheduled monthly in Kingston.

John, as Treasurer has reported that calendar sales went well, renewals continue to roll in and the Centre is operating under budget.

Kevin, Newsletter Ed., says you should have your Jan/ Feb Regulus by now, he is attempting to add a historical item to each edition this year in celebration of the 40th anniversary of what is now the Kingston Centre. **Tom announced observing dates** for members at John and Peggy's, Jan 26, at Doug's Feb 16 and public sessions to come are Jan 30 and Feb 27. On the **ATM front** Doug continues to figure the 24 inch and support pieces are being produced. **Tom is also National Rep** and reminds people that issues for discussion at the next National meeting in March should be brought to him ASAP.

David opened the Library and **Jan gave January 20 as the next CCD session** at his house.

It was then time for members presentations. **Steve Manders began with Great Balls of Fire**, a look at the factors affecting all the stuff that comes flying at us as we travel around the Sun, what stays, what burns up and what glances off our atmosphere. Factors discussed were size and composition, speed, entry angle, momentum and kinetic energy, to name a few. A good discussion followed.

Next **Kevin** showed us the giant Tobelerone shaped pin hole camera he used Christmas day to observe the eclipse.

Doug and Kendra then did an ATM slide show and tell to bring us up to date in the progress of the 24 inch.

Through slides of similar scopes and smaller scale pieces that will be use for his 16 inch Doug made it sound so easy! After a generous break there were the door prize draws, 50/50 won by Hank, wine from as far back as the 2nd millennium was won by Tessa.

Next it was time to hear from **Leo** who has promised to give a series of retrospectives on the history of the Centre. He began with a basic date by date history of the Queen's Observatory and the stirrings of amateur interest locally. All of this lead to a first meeting, January 19, 1961, followed by the March 23rd approval of Kingston as the 16th Centre of the Society. This was followed by a great selection of slides from the 70s when Leo and his observing buddies would get together. There were familiar faces in the crowd, David Levy, Angelika Hacket and a visiting Peter Jedicke. There were also pictures of the dedication of the plaque that marked the site of the first city observatory and several other topics. The slide show was very enjoyable and we suspect Leo has more where those came from.

The meeting was adjourned to Harvey's at 22:45.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Kingston Centre RASC, Feb 09, 2001.

Laura (Pres.) called the meeting to order at 8pm. And began the proceedings with Tom as observing chair presenting a new, regular addition to monthly meetings. What is visible this month. With the aid of Starry Night software **Tom** gave a quick rundown of what constellations and what planets are easily observed by beginner observers. Laura also suggested that anyone who was new to observing that the BOG and Sky news would be of great help.

Next **Paul(VP)** introduced our guest speaker for the evening. **Dr Bob Garrison National President of RASC** and U of T Astronomer.

Dr. Garrison described the work underway since being awarded funds through a NASA/NSF grant, to inventory nearby stars.

Q and A followed.

After a short break of ticket selling and visiting, the meeting continued with draws. The usual wine provided by Hank was labeled with a star map of the date of the 1st Kingston Centre meeting, 50/50, and some Valentine candies supplied by Laura.

Kevin then showed us the map he had created indicating where the majority of members live, and what this effort could contribute to determining what the ideal observatory location might be. This will be helpful when the observatory committee gets together.

Paul gave a run down of what can be expected along the lines of speakers for the next few meetings. March-members night, April-Allan Ward, May-Dr. Barry Robertson, June- Terry Dickinsen, July- Richard Schmude, August- Markfest.

Susan (Sec.) announced that there was a good supply of Newsletters from other centres for reading and that we had received notice of this year's Sky is the Limit Festival, July 7th, in which the exec voted to take part.

Kevin (Newsletter Ed.) has given the last Friday in Feb. as the deadline for the next Regulus. Please send material about what you are doing, especially if you are building something.

Tom (Nat. Rep) said he will attend the next meeting, March 10 in Toronto. (Observing Chair), Public Sessions Feb 27 and March 27, next private members session is Feb 16 at Doug's. March and April have no volunteers so call Tom if you would like to offer a dark backyard.

Kendra (ATM) has announced an assembly of pieces for the 24 inch will take place at her house at the ATM meeting March 3rd.

Hank (YOG) 4-5 kids still come out and there is a thought to change it to a beginners group rather than just Youth. One student has purchased his own scope. Help is welcome.

Kim (Light Pollution) is making contacts with Queen's, Bill Broderick and Rob Dick to get the committee going and will have a new pamphlet ready for Astronomy Day. Astronomy Chair is Don and Susan will offer to help out. They will get together next week and nail down the basics.

Stew announced that the Summer Institute for Elementary Teachers might be an opportunity to promote the grade 6 book and the Centre.

It will be held August 20-23 and a presenter must choose an a.m. or p.m. time slot. Submission deadline is March 20th.

Bob Garrison announced that there will be an educators workshop at the GA in London.

Jan (CCD Imaging) announced that the next imaging session at his house will be Feb.17, he would also like to hear from anyone interested in participating in a Messier Marathon.

There would have to be a number of dates chosen and one would have to be ready to start as soon as a clear night came along.

Leo had a copy of an article he has written for Regulus recognizing the observing milestones of Kingston Centre members David Levy, Ray Berg and Warren Morrison. Watch for it in future issues.

The meeting was adjourned to Harvey's

Editor's Corner

by Kevin Kell

We and I are always looking for news about our own members and if you know of any tidbits... send them in! A short email to me with a subject of Regulus submission and a couple of sentences about your topics/idea/bit of info and off to the presses we go!

ATM Group News

Work progresses on figuring of the 24". Construction of the framework is well under way. The next meeting of the Group is on Saturday march 3rd. Later this spring will be a smaller BarnDoor Type IV marathon construction session... Stay Tuned!

CCD Group News

The meetings have been changed from the 3rd Friday of the month to the 3rd Saturday of the month, effective from December 2000 onwards. The location remains the same at the home of Jan Wisniewski just northwest of Harrowsmith.

Public Observing Sessions

Our monthly Public Observing Session is normally held "about the first Tuesday after a New Moon". The sessions generally start with setup around dusk (in the summer, in the winter it's early evening, after dinner) and run for an hour or so and are held at the Murney Tower Museum Park (King & Barrie Sts) in Downtown Kingston

Tuesday March 27th (2 days old)

Tuesday April 24th (1 day old)

RASC Kingston Centre Meetings

The Kingston Centre RASC meets once a month on the 2nd Friday of each month at 8:00 pm (20:00) in Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room B-201 on Queen's University Campus **unless noted otherwise**. We have adopted a policy of moving any meeting that is held on a holiday weekend to the **WEEK BEFORE**.



Event Horizon 2001

- ! **Friday March 9th** Presentations by Members
- ! **Friday April 6th** Guest Speaker: Alan Ward (Moonward Optics) Topic: Mirror Coatings
- ! **Friday May 11th** TBA
- ! **Friday June 8th** Guest Speaker: Terry Dickinson (Skynews) (tentative) Topic: TBA
- ! **Friday July 6th*** Guest Speaker: Richard Schmude (Kingston Centre) Topic: TBA
- ! **Friday August 10th** No regular meeting - Annual Markfest BBQ
- ! **Friday September 14th**
- ! **Friday October 12th**
- ! **Friday November 9th** Dr. Barry Robertson (Queen's University) Topic: SNO
- ! **Friday December 14th**

**** NOTE APRIL AND JULY MEETINGS ARE ONE WEEK EARLY! ****

Other Special Events:

Sky Is The Limit Festival **Sat July 7th**

StarFest **August 16-19**

Charleston Lake Star Party **Fri August 24th**

2001 Officers and Executive Council

PO Box 1793, Kingston, On K7L 5J6

Infoline & answering machine

President: Laura Gagne

Vice President: Paul Winkler

Secretary: Susan Gagnon

Treasurer: John Hurley

Librarian: David Maguire

Editor: Kevin Kell

National Council Rep: Tom Dean

Observing Group Meetings

These are regular meets at the home of members who volunteer their locations and homes to us on or near a new moon. Contact Tom Dean if you are interested in hosting a session.

2001 March: TBA

2001 April: TBA

Check the main web page for the latest info!

Equipment Loan Program: Most of the slides have been out consistently but much of the telescope hardware has not :(

Must be the cloudy skies!

New additions include a 10" Baader Film Solar Filter for the Douglas telescope, and a 4.5" Baader Film Solar Filter for the Orbitor scope.

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 \$10/quarter, \$20/half page, \$50/ full page and should be in electronic format.

Contributions are more than welcome. Submitted material may be edited for brevity or clarity. Copyright 2001. 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.



RASC
Kingston Centre
Box 1793 Kingston
Ontario K7L 5J6

Web Page
<http://www.rasc.ca/kingston>

Secure Web Site
As of 2000 Nov 10
(case sensitive)
userid: xxxxxxxxxx
password: xxxxxx

2001 March


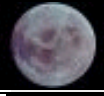




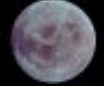
March-April Run=200

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

Newsletter Submission Info: The deadline is the 3rd Friday before regular meetings in odd numbered months. The preferred method is E-MAIL, then disk, lastly paper.
E-mail: <kell@cliff.path.queensu.ca>
Fax: 1-613-533-2907 (with cover page to Kevin Kell)
Post: Box 2033 Kingston Ontario K7L5J8 Canada ascii or most major word processors (Corel WP8 for windows preferred) via E-mail or cdrom or 3.5" PC floppy disk

Kim's Kingston Kosmic Kalendar

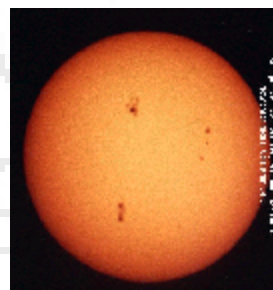
Prepared by Kim Hay

1st Quarter Moon		March 3
Full Moon		March 9
3rd Quarter Moon		March 16
Spring Equinox		March 20 (8:31 am est)
New Moon	DARK SKIES	March 25
1st Quarter Moon		April 1
Daylight Savings Time Begins		April 1 (set clocks ahead one hour at 2 am)
Full Moon		April 7

3 rd Quarter Moon		April 15
Lyrid Meteor Shower		April 22 Peak at 12:00 am
New Moon	DARK SKIES	April 23
International Astronomy Day		April 28
1 st Quarter		April 30
Aquarid Meteor Shower		May 4 Peak at 7:00 pm
Full Moon		May 7
Star Party		May 13-20 http://www.metro.net/~tsp/



For more detailed information, please refer to the RASC 2001 Calendar, and the RASC 2001 Observers Handbook. Available from your local promotions committee or from National Office, <http://www.rasc.ca/>



**RASC
Kingston
Centre**
Box 1793 Kingston
Ontario K7L 5J6

Web Page
[http://www.rasc.ca/
kingston](http://www.rasc.ca/kingston)

Secure Web Site
As of 2000 Nov 10
(case sensitive)
userid: xxxxx
password: xxxxx
2001 March