



Regulus



The Newsletter of the RASC Kingston Centre
ONLINE EDITION
2002 June Issue #4

Online Edition of Regulus!

Hmmm all recent issues of Regulus have been online.

OK.. How about the first online ONLY edition of Regulus?

Sounds a little bit better but it still lacks something!

How about E-Regulus?

Still missing something... let's ask our members for a name to reflect what the new alternating monthly edition of Regulus will be.

Ramblings from the Editor:

A reminder as to the whys of this, from the 2002 May issue:

Regulus Publishing Change

Starting in June, we will start publishing an alternate-month, bimonthly electronic issue of Regulus. Paper one month, electronic the next, paper the next... you get the idea.

The first reason for this is to allow for distributing better quality imagery to you, as the B&W photocopies often turn an astrophoto into an ugly mess (see this issue for examples).

Secondly the timeliness of important news is improved.

Thirdly, we can pass on far more information and more pages than we can with Canada Post's mailing limits and fees.

In the long term I hope to reduce and possibly eliminate the paper mailed version, as the newsletter is the centre's single biggest annual expense. Other centres have already stopped producing paper copies and I suspect more will follow suit.

To announce the release of the new newsletter, I will be sending out a notice with a web URL in the monthly email announcement list that many of you currently receive.

A change to the numbering system: in the past Regulus issues were numbered 1-6. The new system (when fully implemented) will be 1-12. The transition will be a little strange. January/February 2002 was Issue 1, March/April was Issue #2, May was Issue #3 and June will be Issue #4, July #5 and so on. Starting in 2003 the system will be completely in place.

General Assembly 2002



The 2002 General Assembly in Montreal - Group Photo

Let's talk about the General Assembly. This year it was to be held in Montreal. I haven't been to Montreal in decades, so it sounded like a good idea. After all, for one that does not travel, General Assemblies are more of an opportunity to travel and see new places as much as they are a chance to meet fellow RASCALS and to find out more of what is happening within the Society. So off to Montreal we went, on Thursday night May 16th with a few other RASC-KC'ers and arrive at the *HUGE* train station a few hours later. We were met by local Montreal Centre members (a nice GA touch that) who escorted us on a 15 minute walk to the accommodations. It was a reasonably warm night, albeit cloudy and overcast, a foreshadowing of weather to come. The first night saw renewing of acquaintances with folks from Regina and Winnipeg, amongst others. We trotted up the MOUNTAIN to the Montreal Centre's Observatory (no longer operational) where the first of many things happened.

One of the neat things about visiting other Centres is to get ideas to promote astronomy back home. One of them I came across is this:



The Messier Club Chart of the Montreal Centre

A small chart with the progress of members on their Messier Certificate quest. What a great idea! Something to boost the hunt for Messier objects and help get people out and observing!

So at the June meeting of the Kingston Center you will see a new display about the Messier and Finest NGC certificates along with a progress chart for those members pursuing them.

The National Council Meetings came and went, as did the General Assembly Meeting. More on those in the July 2002 Regulus. The short of it is: Decoupling failed, the rest passed.

It was so busy again that we never had a chance to take in the Planetarium. It may take a day trip in from Kingston to attend!



As always, there is work to be done at a GA and paper to be carried!

The next General Assembly will be in Vancouver over the July long weekend. UBC campus is right on the ocean and the city actually has a working planetarium (unlike Toronto).

2004 is looking like St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador. Talk about Coast to Coast.

Kingston hosted the GA for the first time in 1997. Maybe it's time to start thinking about another one?

Our Special May Meeting

We were lucky to be able to schedule in our Honourary President, David Levy, for a quick talk on his way to the General Assembly in Montreal. In our history of speakers web page I see David last listed as 1996 April 12th but then he was here in 1997 as a speaker at the General Assembly.



Our Special May Meeting saw Honourary President David Levy (right) in attendance, as well as Ex-President-For-Life Walter MacDonald (far left).



Just a few Tidbits... err Timbits to think about



Some serious Astro-related discussions during the May meeting break (right) and some attempts to count beyond the number four (left).



Some members from the Belleville Area trying to tell the time in Stirling Hall

The Tower Hill Tour



The view to the west from the Enterprise Tower Hill, a potential new observing site for the Centre. The digital camera that took this picture can only expose for 4 seconds at ISO 200 equivalent, and thus does not quite show the planetary conjunction taking place with Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter.

We have been negotiating with Bell Canada, owners of the highest bit of ground between Toronto and Montreal (at least near the Seaway) for the use of the Hill as an observing site. Progress is underway and final details will hopefully be announced soon!

The Executive and other interested parties took a tour a few weeks back and although there are some issues with access, it doesn't look too bad.



The Tower Hill Building - outside



The Tower Hill Building - inside

The Sky Is The Limit Festival

Saturday July 6th



2001 Festival



2001 Festival

This is another public event that we have been going to for the last five years for publicity purposes and bringing astronomy to the public, part of our educational mandate. We have had a gas (eg great time) at the outdoor event, mainly solar observing with 3, 4 or 5 stations set up.

We will be attending again in 2002. The location for the third straight year will be in City Park. Our participation will be scaled down this year, mainly because that weekend is too close to the House Moving Date of the Editor (Festival Coord) and his Number One Volunteer.

In the past we had two or three people at an information table, three or four at solar scopes, one at a mirror grinding event and another at a Stomp-Rocket Launching Pad to handle last years onslaught of 5000 people. Of those numbers we get several hundred stopping by to look and chat.

This year we are planning on one or two solar scopes and a single self-service information table.

VOLUNTEERS are requested to bring a scope with Solar Filter. If you can't stay for the whole event (usually 8:00am to 4:00pm), pick a morning or afternoon shift and Contact Kevin Kell (<kell@cliff.path.queensu.ca>). You can also just stop by and chat with folks and answer questions. We normally go through several hundred people, to give you an idea on how popular the Festival is, equivalent to an Astronomy Day Display at a local mall.

Light Pollution Abatement

RASC Kingston Centre is moving towards a more active Light Pollution Abatement Group. As part of the activities of the group, an LPA display has been created, along with an LPA brochure (available on our web site on the LPA page) and an online collection of local Kingston Area LPA images.



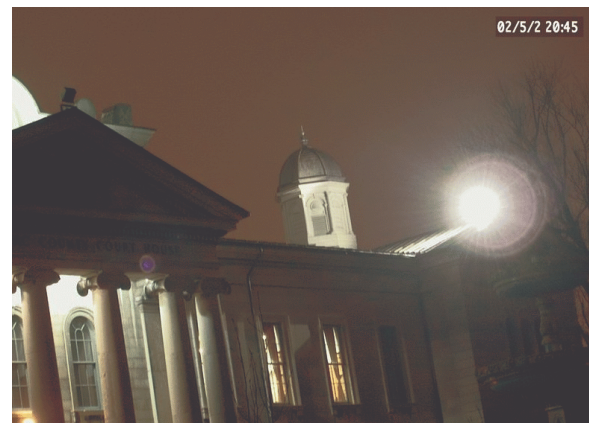
Standard Cobra Head Fixtures - bad!



Full Cutoff fixture now being introduced into Kingston



Queen's University Parking Lot near the Observatory



Lighting at the nearby Frontenac County Courthouse

What is Light Pollution?

Light pollution is a generic term that encompasses many different aspects of improper lighting.. The three major components of light pollution are **light trespass, glare, and urban sky glow.**

Cobra Head fixtures (top left) contribute to all three. Full Cutoff Fixtures (top right) contribute to only the general urban sky glow. The parking lot (bottom left) lighting could easily be fully cutoff by replacement or by having shielding added, to cut back on the light falling directly into the observatory. Purely decorative lighting like the Courthouse (bottom right) may prove impossible to "fix" due to too many uncaring people saying "but it looks pretty!"

RASC Kingston Centre Meetings

The Kingston Centre RASC meets once a month on the **2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm (19:30) in Stirling Hall** Theatre D on Queen's University Campus **unless noted otherwise**. We have adopted a policy of moving any meeting that is held on a holiday weekend.

2002 Officers and Executive Council

Elections are held annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Kingston Centre, usually in November. The terms of office are all one year taking effect January 1st.

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Infoline & answering machine: 613-377-6029 (effective July 2nd, 2002)

Email: rascexec@cliff.path.queensu.ca Mail sent here gets forwarded to all members of the Kingston Centre Executive. We also have a Kingston Centre email chat list called "raschat". Send your email address to Kevin Kell to be added to the RASCCHAT list.

President:	Laura Gagne
Vice President:	Paul Winkler
Secretary:	Susan Gagnon
Treasurer:	John Hurley
Librarian:	David Maguire
Editor:	Kevin Kell
National Council Rep:	Peggy Hurley

2002 Committee Chairs

ATM Group Chair:	Doug Angle
Astronomy Day Chair:	Kim Hay
Awards Chair:	Peggy Hurley
CCD Group Chair:	Jan Wisniewski
Education Group Chair:	Laura Gagne
FallNStars2002:	Kevin Kell
Light Pollution Abatement Chair:	Kim Hay
Membership Chair:	Kim Hay
Observing Chair:	Tom Dean
Publicity Chair:	Kim Hay
Social Activities:	Susan Gagnon
Youth Group:	vacant

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

Newsletter Submission Info: The deadline is usually 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

A note that all of the pictures seen in this issue are available on our web site. Go to our web site at <http://members.kingston.net/rasc> and click on Centre Information, then scroll down to the bottom and click on Picture Album. Have fun!



Kingston Kosmic & Event Kalendar 2002

Prepared by Kim Hay

For more detailed information, please refer to the RASC 2002 Calendar, and the RASC 2002 Observers Handbook. Available from your local promotions committee or from National Office,

<http://www.rasc.ca/>

Month and Date	Event
Saturday June 1	Members Observing at Doug Angle's- Sydenham
Sunday June 2	3 rd Quarter 20:05 EDT
Friday June 7	Pluto at opposition
Monday June 10	Annular Solar Eclipse, partial phase visible in most of N. America except extreme east. New Moon at 19:46 EDT
Wednesday June 12	Jupiter 2° to left of Crescent moon at 8:00 pm EDT
Thursday June 13	Venus 2° East of Crescent moon at 8:00 pm EDT
Friday June 14	RASC -KC Regular Meeting Stirling D, Queen's University 7:30 pm. Speakers: Science Fair(Astronomy Related) Participants from April 6, 2002
Saturday June 15	CCD Imaging Group- Host Jan Wisniewski
Monday June 17	1 st Quarter Moon at 20:29 EDT
Friday June 21	Summer Solstice at 9:24 am EDT Mercury at greatest elongation W.(23°)
Monday June 24	Full Moon 17:42 EDT

For more detailed information, please refer to the RASC 2002 Calendar, and the RASC 2002 Observers Handbook. Available from your local promotions committee or from National Office, <http://www.rasc.ca/>