



Regulus



The Newsletter of the RASC Kingston Centre

2002 July

1961-2002 - 41 Years of Astronomy in Kingston



Ken Kingdon receiving his RASC Finest NGC Observing Certificate.

Late Breaking News!

The Kingston Centre will be procuring plaques, one for Messier Certificate holders and one for Finest NGC Certificate holders,

on which we will be putting holders names and the year in which they received their Certificate. That combined with the new Messier/Finest NGC Display Board that I will attempt to bring to each meeting may provide added incentive to get out there and GET OBSERVING!

We have 13 Messier Certificate Holders and 5 Finest NGC Certificate Holders from the first 41 years. Let's see if we can double these numbers in the next five!

From The Prez

by Laura Gagne

Summer has finally arrived...at least the summer solstice has. While our non-astronomer friends are celebrating the longer days, the rest of us are bemoaning the shorter nights. Of course, we could take advantage of the extra daylight hours to observe our very own star - the sun. Many of us think that the best views through our telescopes are only available after astronomical twilight has left the sky good and dark, and consequently we are missing out on some of the more spectacular viewing we could have. Our sun is the only star whose surface you can actually resolve in a telescope. With modest equipment you can see many sunspots and watch as they rotate with the sun's face. Sunspots are great for practicing your

sketching skills too. You can make a number of large circles in your log book to represent the sun, then each day you observe, you can draw the sunspots you see. Of course, you should NEVER look at the sun, especially with binoculars or a telescope, without proper filters.

Another great thing to do in the summer is to grab a picnic blanket and spread it out on your lawn at night. Lie down on your back and just look up with unaided eyes. I find that since I bought a telescope, I do this less and less, but this year I intend to remedy that. If you have a reclining lawnchair, you can do this in style. Take your SkyNews out with you and try to find a few new constellations. If you already know the sky, then just enjoy the gorgeous panoramic view of the milky way that you miss when you are out looking through your telescope. Meteor watching is also a lot more body-friendly in the summer too. Check your Observer's Handbook or RASC calendar for dates of showers.

If you don't already own a good pair of binoculars, now is a great time to get some. They are great for finding faint objects and fun to use for observing. One essential accessory for binoculars is an inflatable boat. Terry Dickinson shared this with us a few years ago and now many local members own what is affectionately known as a BOP (binocular observing platform). Inflate it almost fully, but not so that it is rock hard. Lie inside the boat with your head at the front end and your legs over the back end. Hold your binoculars to your eyes with your elbows resting on the sides of the boat. Adjust your position by pressing down with your legs. Your binoculars remain fairly steady, but your arms won't get tired. Now you can look at great binocular objects like the coat hanger cluster near triangulum without the object swimming about.

Whether you travel to star parties, to the cottage or to your own backyard, remember there are great things to see both night and day. Astronomy is a great hobby, and there's no time like the summer time to share it with your friends and family.

Submissions from Members

“Looking Back 25 Years”

Part I: The Kingston Centre in Early 1977 *by Leo Enright*

Overview

Last year when our Kingston Centre marked its fortieth anniversary, there was a healthy interest in the early history of our organization, in the people who were part of this group in the 1960's and 1970's, and in their considerable achievements in the first twenty years of the Centre.

In more recent times, a special section of the monthly magazine, **Sky and Telescope**, which reviews the topics of interest in that publication and in the astronomical world both 25 years ago and 40 years ago is one of its most popular sections. Written by senior (and officially retired) editor, Leif Robinson, these two sections provide reminders, month after month, of how far our hobby and our science have advanced in both a four-decade period and in a quarter-century. Written by someone who was active with the magazine in those times, these short columns are read every month with considerable interest, and they stimulate many comparisons between “things then” and “things now”.

My intention in this article, and I hope in the series which will follow, is similarly to provide, for the present-day members of the Kingston Centre, a feeling for what was taking place in this Centre 25 years ago and to invite deliberation on how we have evolved since then. I have deliberately chosen not to write about the period of 40 years ago, because, as mentioned in my review of the history of the Centre at the time of the 40th anniversary of its founding, the first year, and several subsequent years, following the beginning of the Society's sixteenth Centre in Kingston were difficult times, as Dr. Douglas and a few other students and faculty at Queen's University, were engaged in an ongoing struggle to maintain a minimum membership.

By choosing a “look back” period of 25 years, namely looking back to 1977, we are able to see many things at once. Obviously, as previously mentioned in the case of Robinson's column, whenever any astronomer, amateur or

professional, looks back over a period of a quarter-century, he or she is able to see a remarkable set of achievements in the intervening period, as well as numerous differences of topic, tone, and style that accompany the way of proceeding in the science at that time.

In the 1970's, the Kingston Centre had begun to undergo some fundamental changes. Though by now quite elderly and officially retired from her teaching and administrative duties at Queen's, Dr. Douglas maintained a strong interest in the Kingston Centre and was still able to attend a number of the regular meetings. The Centre had just within the last few years begun to attract a very small number of members from outside the Queen's community, and by 1977, the first *non-Queen's* person was elected to the executive. In that year, for the first time, *summer meetings* were held and other summer activities were organized. In 1977 the first serious discussion was held regarding the funding of a *Centre-owned telescope* and observatory; in fact, a motion to that effect was passed at a regular Centre meeting during that year. Though observing sessions by members of the group had been held on Fort Henry Hill in previous years, 1977 marked the first year that organized observing sessions were planned outside the city limits. It was also the year of the first Centre-sponsored tour of the Holleford Crater. In that year there were some very significant changes to the group's newsletter. Indeed, looking back 25 years brings us to a very special year in the life of this Centre.

Meetings And Other Activities of Early 1977

Being an organization, in general, of people associated with Queen's University, our group held all its activities at, or near, the university, as they had been since the formation of the Centre in 1961, and in fact, Ellis Hall's Room 222 continued to be group's meeting room. Following the meetings, when skies permitted, members of the group often went to the third floor and thence to the observatory for a short observing session. As would also be expected in an organization composed mainly of university faculty and students, most activities, including the regular program of meetings, would take place in the months January through March and September through December, with little activity at other times. With “final exams” taking place in early April, there would be almost no activity expected in that month, and probably even less from then until mid-September, by which time students would have returned for the “next school year”, or even until late September, by which time they would have begun to organize their clubs for the “coming school year”. Such had been the routine for the group during the 1960's and early 1970's, but by 1977 there were more than just a couple of members who looked on themselves as belonging to the R.A.S.C.- Kingston Centre, rather than to the Queen's University Astronomy Club. For this reason, during 1977, some of the routines of meetings were changing, while others remained as they had been for a

long time. Meetings of the first three months of the year were considered part of "the 1976-1977 school year", and in order to be well prepared for the next year, namely, "the 1977-1978 school year", the group elected its executive at the last meeting in March, 1977. An added advantage was that the new executive could plan "summer activities" which were being considered for the first time.

The schedule of meetings in early 1977 is an interesting list. On Tuesday, January 18, at the year's first meeting, the chairman was the president, Chris Sargeant. There was considerable discussion regarding plans for obtaining a telescope and suitable observing site for the group. The matter was seen as demanding some urgency because of the recent sale by the National Executive of the R.A.S.C. of what was known as "252 College Street". "252 College" was the address of a large and old house in downtown Toronto (prime location!!) - a house that the Society had owned for many, many years, and one that, over the years, had provided space for the National Office, several reading rooms, the National Library of the Society, and a large room to accommodate telescope making groups. The sale of this valuable property had provided the Society with a "windfall", some of which would be used for the purchase of another property for the Society headquarters, but the speculation throughout the 18 Centres was that some of the money would, and should, be shared among the Centres for carefully planned projects that the Centre executives might want to undertake. (Note that, with the addition of the St. John's and the Saskatoon Centres, the Society now had two more than the 16 Centres that it had after the Kingston Centre joined in 1961.) After a discussion, the following motion was proposed and passed: "Be it resolved that a committee be set up to formulate, by March 15, 1977, a detailed proposal to build or acquire a telescope and observing site of suitable quality for the members of this club to work on worthwhile projects and that the proposal be submitted to the National Council of the R.A.S.C. with the suggestion that the club be given financial aid." The committee was formed and an invitation was issued for ideas for its consideration.

The second meeting of the calendar year 1977 was on Tuesday, February 1. Paul Brown, the National Council Representative, reported on the National Council Meeting that he had attended in Toronto on the previous Saturday, January 29. He had presented to Council the motion passed at the previous meeting in Kingston, but it would be some time before any substantive results were realized! New Kingston Centre T-shirts were also for sale at the meeting. Not too many members of the group complained of the cost, even though the price was \$3.50 per T-shirt!

The third meeting of the year was on Tuesday, February 15. Several members made presentations about observing, and Paul Brown showed a set of slides that he had borrowed from the National Office.

On Saturday, February 12, the group met at Fort Henry Hill for a combined tobogganing party/observing session. Binoculars were the instrument of choice.

The fourth meeting was on Tuesday, March 1. It was time to discuss the upcoming G.A. - to be held in Toronto at the University of Toronto on the Canada Day Weekend.

The fifth meeting was on Tuesday, March 15. With an announcement that the next meeting would be "the last meeting of the year", it was time to discuss future plans and directions for the group and to think about presenting a slate of executive for "the coming year".

The sixth meeting of the year (and the THIRD REGULAR MEETING OF THE MONTH!!!) was held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29. At that meeting, the following executive was elected for "the coming year": I was elected president. Doug Baker was elected vice-president. Susan McDougall was elected to continue in the combined offices of secretary/treasurer. There was considerable discussion about being a more active group over the coming summer than it had been in past summers - at least, for those members who stayed in, or lived permanently close to, the Kingston area. Plans included a proposed Holleford Crater Picnic in June, a Summer Solstice Celebration in Sharbot Lake, a "Perseid All-Nighter" in Sharbot Lake, and a late-summer trip to the Forty-Fifth Parallel in North Frontenac, so that members could boast of standing on a spot that was mid-way between the equator and the pole. A committee that had been set up to look at long-range plans for the Queen's University Astronomy Club/Royal Astronomical Society of Canada-Kingston Centre proposed that the group buy a telescope-making kit over the summer, and that the group begin building a *portable* telescope. Discussion of the proposal led to discussion of an alternative suggestion - namely, borrowing for the use of the group a telescope that might be available on loan from the National Office. It was decided that the members of this committee, now called the Telescope Committee, would meet in one week, on Tuesday, April 5, at Paul Brown's apartment in Kingston for further discussion.

At the special Telescope Committee Meeting on April 5, the decision was made to buy a 6-inch mirror that had been offered to the group for \$10.00. There was discussion of a proposal to buy a tube suitable for an 8-inch telescope so that such a mirror could later replace the 6-inch. The proposed mount for the telescope was to be a split horseshoe type, like the one shown in an issue of *Sky and Telescope* in late 1976.

The Holleford Crater Outing was on Sunday, June 5. The weather was good. Those who participated learned a great deal about the site (as I did also, on arranging for the trip, when I talked to the farm owner whose land covered

part of the crater - the father of the present-day owner and operator of Crater Farm).

On Sunday, June 26, the Summer Solstice Celebration was held at my place at Sharbot Lake. Records from the event show that we had "three telescopes and one pair of tripod-mounted binoculars set up all in a row." The record also shows that, while waiting for twilight and darkness, the participants engaged in a sporting event not always found at star parties. The record says that "in the water-skiing competition, the team of Elwyn and Paul Brown took first place, and Doug Baker took second." Later, the skies cooperated and even allowed for some astrophotography.

On the Canada Day Weekend, Paul Brown and I attended the General Assembly in Toronto. A highlight of the National Council Meeting was the tabling of the Report on the State of the Society, a comprehensive study of the membership, finances, achievements, and proposed directions for the Society, an important document that has, since then, been referred to as The Percy Report, after Dr. John Percy who has its principal author. The special invited speaker was Terence Dickinson. Trips included one to the David Dunlap Observatory and one to Jack Newton's observatory north of Toronto. In an era that was two years before the first G.A. Pyramid, attendees had an opportunity to participate in a touch football game - an east-west classic for something less than the Grey Cup!

An Evolving Newsletter In 1977

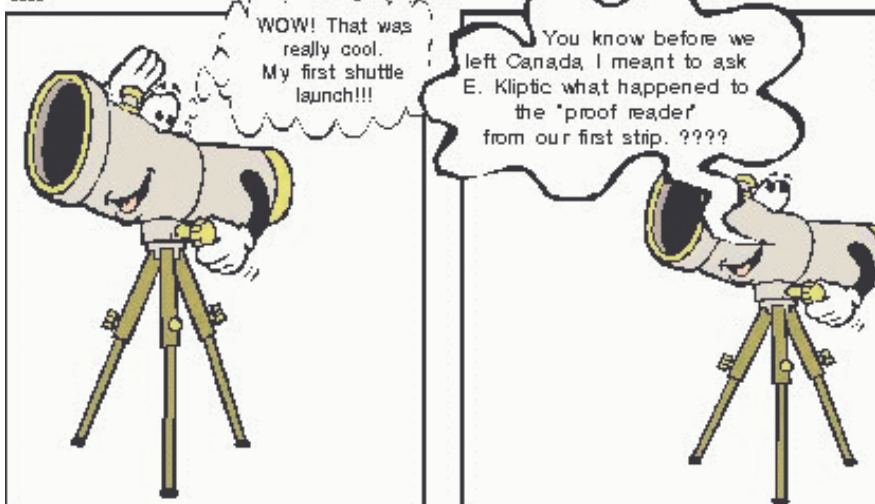
In the years prior to 1977, the secretary of the group normally sent out a brief (usually one page long) notice of the upcoming meeting or meetings. Since most meetings were held during six or seven months of the year, that is, January through March and September or October through December, there would normally be six or seven short newsletters during the year. The newsletter might also contain a list of sky events for the coming month or the

coming two-week period.

In 1977 there was a remarkable change in both frequency and size of the newsletters. In that year there were two newsletters in each of Jan., Feb., Mar., July, Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec. In Apr. and June there were single issues. A third one-page supplement was mailed in February! In total there were 19 mailings of newsletters!!!! It might also be mentioned that, for the first two months of the year, an 8-cent stamp was required to mail each newsletter, by first class mail, to any place in Canada. After that, a steep rise in postal charges by Canada Post forced us to pay 10 cents per First Class Mailing, until March 1978. For a few of the heavier ones we even had to pay 12 cents.

The contents of the newsletters in 1977 began to include short articles on astronomical concepts, astronomy news items, and humorous sketches relating to our observing experiences. In the first of the two issues of January 1977, I added three pages to the single page that the secretary had prepared to announce the next meeting and list some of the sky events of the coming month. Doug Baker, the vice-president, also frequently added a page or two about his observing experiences or a report on a news item from the world of astronomy. What had been a one-page announcement sheet became throughout 1977, typically, a four- or five-page newsletter. I began, in the first issue of January 1977 to write the short section, often only a paragraph or two, called *For Your Compendium of Esoteric Facts*. It stated or explained an unusual fact or little-known story from the world of astronomy. For example, the first one in January mentions the comet-discovery record of Jean-Louis Pons: 45 comets, and the second one mentions that some very famous astronomers never once observed Mercury. In the second issue of January, I invited readers to enter a "*Cold Observing Contest*" by completing, in 25 words or fewer, the statement: "On the coldest night I have ever been out

NEWT
2002 by E. Klip1k



observing, it was so cold that" A prize was offered, and there were some good entries. Later in the year, I had a similar "*Bad Mosquitoes Contest*" which also had some interesting entries.

The changes in the name of the evolving newsletter are quite significant. Throughout the early 1970's, the title was invariably "The Queen's University Astronomy Club Newsletter". In the autumn of 1976, the double-barrelled name appears: "*The Queen's University Astronomy Club and The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Kingston Centre Newsletter*". Throughout the first half of 1977, that is, up to and including the issue of June 1977, this is the designation of the newsletter. The title "*RASC Kingston Centre Newsletter*" appears for the first time in the first issue of July, 1977. However, the title listing both names becomes standard with the next issue, that is, the one for late July, 1977, and this remains the title for almost two years: "*The Newsletter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Kingston Centre and The Queen's University Astronomy Club*". The RASC designation appeared first and remained thus until April 1979, when "the Queen's club" reference was dropped. Within two months, by June 1979, the decision was made that the "ancient kingly star" Regulus was most properly associated astronomical news and literature written in the place scholars called Regiopolis ("the king's city", or "a city of kings with its University of Queen's").

From its membership to its meetings and summer activities, to its outlook and its plans and its newsletter -- the Kingston Centre went through very positive and profound changes in 1977. Reflection on this review is intended to stimulate comment and discussion -- in relation to the current state of the Centre. In subsequent issues of *Regulus*, I intend to review the activities of the Kingston Centre in the late summer, autumn and winter of 1977, that is from July to December of that year. Perhaps it may continue even beyond this year. Your positive comments are invited .

Webmaster's Corner

by Kevin Kell & KimHay

Locally: updates to events continue on a regular basis. A home page redesign is scheduled for a rainy weekend this summer... sometime...

Nationally:

Peter Jedicke (London Centre) has recently compiled a list of asteroids with Canadian Connections. A recent addition is a link to an orbital calculator to show you it's position.

Find this at <http://www.rasc.ca/faq/asteroids/home.htm>

One example relevant to RASC-KC is:

3269 Vibert-Douglas

1981 EX16 1981-03-06 by S. J. Bus at Siding Spring Named in honour of Alice Vibert Douglas (b. 1894, d. 1988), the pioneer in the teaching of astronomy at McGill University and later dean of women at Queen's University. Her research interests included spectroscopic absolute magnitudes of stars and the Stark effect in stellar atmospheres. An authority on historical astronomy, she was the biographer of Eddington, as well as an early advocate of an increased role for women in science.

She was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. MPC 13481 JRASC Vol. 82, No. 6, p. 309-311 (1988)

Asteroid 3269 Vibert-Douglas (1981 EX16)

Alternate Designations: 1969 RG, 1969 RR1, 1979 YH1

OSCULATING ORBITAL ELEMENTS

(heliocentric ecliptic reference frame)

Epoch of Osculation (Julian Day, ET)	2452200.5
Epoch of Osculation (Calendar Date, ET)	2001-10-18
Mean Anomaly (deg)	287.8360718
Argument of Perihelion (deg)	43.5155372
Longitude of the Ascending Node (deg)	353.5925503
Inclination (deg)	17.1951197
Eccentricity	0.156699817
Semi-major Axis (AU)	2.786245806
Perihelion Passage (Julian Day, ET)	2452541.0220452
Perihelion Passage (Calendar Date, ET)	2002-09-23.5220452
Perihelion Distance (AU)	2.349641597

PHYSICAL PARAMETERS

GM (km ³ s ⁻²)	unknown
Radius (km)	unknown
H (absolute magnitude)	12.700
G (magnitude slope parameter)	0.15
Color Index (B-V)	unknown
Rotation Period (h)	unknown
Geometric Albedo	unknown
Spectral Class	unknown
Orbit Solution Data Arc	1969-1990
Observations used in Orbit Solution	66

Kingston Centre Membership Information

Current Membership Total of the Kingston Centre (as of May 31, 2002): 154

Profile on: Andrew Brooks

I am one of your newest members of RASC Kingston. Recently I received the new member kit and found it quite extensive.

Also, as an introduction I should let you know a little about myself. Astronomy as been a hobby for me since

Apollo 11 -- now you know how aged I am. Four years ago I moved to a dark-site north-west of Sharbot Lake. My instrument is a 10" LX200 that I use on a permanent pier (No observatory--yet). A cookbook camera is in progress. And so on....



I am looking forward to my membership with the Kingston centre and meeting with you.

Thanks for your time,
Andrew Brooks

Attachment is a picture of me visiting the Royal Greenwich Observatory in London, England---home to the Prime Meridian.

Light Pollution Abatement

New brochures were done up this past month and are available online if you happen to need some quick to hand out at some event. Go to the Centre's LPA page at <http://members.kingston.net/rasc/lpa.htm> and print it off (it is in adobe acrobat format and us legal sized).

Amateur Telescope Making Group

Work continues on upgrading the 24" scope with mechanical drive components (expected summer 2002) and drive electronics (expected summer 2002). We're going with the Mel Bartel software on a laptop system until we get more of the black box completed and up and running sometime in 2003.

Notes from the Secretary

Minutes of Friday May 13th Regular Meeting

submitted by Susan Gagnon

Laura called the meeting to order at 19:45 and the next observing nights were announced: The Observing Group Saturday June 1st at Doug Angle's, Saturday July 13th at John and Peggy Hurley's. Public Observing Tuesday June 11th and July 16th. Paul then gave some details of next month's meeting that includes a group of short presentations by students from the Science Fair (Friday June 14th). Kim reported that Astronomy Day was a hit with the mall and the public. The mall would like to have us back, perhaps in September. Space Day (May 2nd) was

also good at Queen's Observatory, we spent a bit of time in the dome and then in the lecture hall, a small turnout resulted in a good chat with the Astronomy Department members. Laura read a letter from the Venor family expressing their disappointment in being unable to attend first light of the Venor Telescope, but they will be in Kingston later in the year, possibly June. Laura also reported on the exec visit to the Tower Hill site, beautiful clear skies but a few bugs to work out. It was then time for our guest speaker to be introduced by Paul Winkler.

David Levy, a great story teller, then entertained us with the tale of how astronomy came to him and then played hard to get. Years of waiting to see a meteor storm, years of searching for that first comet, and finally the big, once-in-a-lifetime event, ShoemakerLevy9. David's talk was followed by a Question and Answer session. After a short break there were slides from Mark Kaye. Bill Broderick announced that a People and the Planet Conference was being hosted in Kingston, at Queen's University from June 5-9 by the Sierra Club Canada and the Society for Conservation Biology. Information on the conference can be found at <http://www.sierraclub.ca/national>

Bill will be conducting a seminar on light pollution June 7th. His main focus is on how light pollution has impacted on astronomy, but will be talking about related environmental and health issues as well. The meeting then adjourned after a book signing session with David.

Minutes of Friday June 14th Regular Meeting

Submitted by Kim Hay for our Secretary Susan Gagnon

It was a good-sized meeting with 52 people (members and guests) present. Our meeting started at 7:41 pm with the introduction to the night sky by Doug Angle who showed us what planets were in the sky (Venus, Jupiter-night time, Saturn, Mars and Mercury in the daytime). Various M objects were shown along with the Summer Triangle Constellation.

This led us into our main speakers of the night, the winners and presenters at this years 2002 Science Fair. We had the following presenters give their presentations to us all: Heather Angle - full cut-off lighting, Winter Gurnsey - Mars, Jonathan Massey-Allard - stellar light spectra, Simon and Kateri Massey-Allard - Why are there no craters on Earth? Ashley Jugwood - Rings of Saturn, Terri Phillips and Kelly Kenney - Proof that Earth rotates and Alison Haynes - Sudbury Neutrino Observatory.

Each of the presenters received an individualized certificate and Kingston Centre pin for coming to give us their presentation.

Our break was spent looking at the displays and talking to the presenters. A special treat was the observation of meteorites on loan from one of our

members. There was great interest to see meteorites up close.

After our break we had reports from the Treasurer (John Hurley), in which all finances are well, and that we had 3 new members Ryan Low (winner of the Astronomy Day Membership), Ariane Menard (Our Science Fair 1st place winner) and Andrew Brooks. Welcome to the Kingston Centre. Next, we had a report from our National Council Representative (Peggy Hurley) on what went on at the General Assembly that was held in Montreal, Quebec on May 17-19, 2002. Peggy has a full report in the newsletter, please read it to catch all the news on the National Society, and what transpired.

Our Newsletter Editor (Kevin Kell) let us know about the deadline for the July issue of Regulus (June 21 at noon). Also, as a bonus feature, we will now have an online edition of Regulus every 2nd month with colour pictures, and available in the members only section of the Webpage. Kevin also presented a new idea, which was seen at the Montreal Centre's observatory, a central layout of Messier and NGC winners as well as a type of score card on how many each member who is actively seeking these objects, have seen and recorded in their log books. Bring your logbooks to the next meeting and put your objects on the board, or put your name on the board if you are just starting out. It's a great way to observe, and possibly team up with someone who has observed the objects that you are trying to find.

Our Librarian, David Mcguire let us know that several books were available at the meeting for take out, and that several books were already out.

Our President, Laura Gagné presented Ken Kingdon with his NGC Certificate, which was approved at the National Council Meeting on May 17 in Montreal. Several pictures were taken and a round of applause was given to Ken for his great accomplishment.

Our upcoming events are The Sky is the Limit Festival on July 6, at City Park. If you would like to volunteer either for a couple of hours or the whole day please contact Kevin Kell at kell@cliff.path.queensu.ca

Our next meeting is July 12, at 7:30 pm with guest speaker, Fred Barrett speaking on building observatories and other things. The next Members Observing session is July 13th, at the home of John & Peggy Hurley, and our next Public Observing Session is July 16th. In August, we have Star Fest Aug 8-11) (in which the next meeting is pushed ahead 1 week) to Aug 16 at the home of Mark Kaye & Linda Santry for the annual BBQ, who will the surprise speaker be this year?

We had several presentations from our members.

Jan Wisniewski showed us a beautiful graphical showing of Deep Sky Happenings in Scorpius and Ophiuchus. Many observational M objects and NGC objects can be seen in this area of the sky.

Mark Kaye showed us the June 10th partial eclipse from Georgetown (Kingston was clouded/hazed out), yes it was like a cookie bite out the sun...infact some sunspots could be seen.... or was that a chocolate chip cookie?

Leo Enright gave us a tour of the southern sky from his time in Florida, and showed us the dance of the planets (Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus and Mercury). And ended with some slides of our out going President of the RASC, Dr. Bob Garrison and our new President, Dr. Rajiv Gupta from the General Assembly

Our meeting finished up at 10:07 pm, with many vehicles heading off to Harvey's for the Astro wrap up.

National Council Report

by Peggy Hurley

The General Assembly of the RASC took place over the Victoria Day weekend this year. The first meeting of the weekend took place on Friday, May 17th. This meeting incorporated final year end reports from many of the committees. As Bob Garrison was stepping down as National President, his report included his activities through his years as President. He managed to visit 23 centres across the country. He has now retired from his position as a professor at the University of Toronto. Peter Jedicke reported on his continued search for Canadian connections for asteroid names. He has now set up a website which interested people can explore. He is also looking for contributions if references are known to you.

National Secretary, Kim Hay, reported on the new Honorary Members and read Carolyn Shoemaker's acceptance into the minutes. She also asked for a minute silence to remember those members who died this year. Next the names of Messier Certificate recipients were read and then NGC certificates. Congratulations to Ken Kingdon on his NGC Certificate. Also included in this report were new members of the Society. Bonnie Bird, the Executive Secretary, made her report. She felt that this year was finally 'normal' for activities, membership, mailings, etc. The e-store is doing well and she and Isaac have been kept very busy.

Michael Watson made the Treasurer's Report. The major issue here was due to the increased cost of mailing the Annual Report and Handbook. There has been a change in the policy for mailing (either from Canada Heritage which has been sponsoring the posting of these types of publications or from Canada Post). Neither the Handbook nor the Annual Report are covered for mailing at the lower rate used for magazines. These now must be mailed as first class at a cost of about \$2.10 per issue. This significantly increases the cost of postage.

Rajiv Gupta made the Publications Report. His concerns over the cost of postage were also expressed. All publications are going well. The calendar will have some photographs that were not taken by members of RASC

this year. They are still considered amateur photographs. The Annual Report had reports in on time from all centres this year. This is a first. Now the problem is the length of some of those reports especially if a format change for the Annual Report is needed due to the mailing costs. Sales for many of the publications is down at this time, but this is normal for the time of year. A thirty year index is being prepared for the Journal. This will be available at cost or on line and is not intended to earn funds. Reports were also made by the "Journal" Editor, the editor of "The Beginner's Observing Guide" and the editor of "The Observer's Handbook". The editor of the BOG, Leo Enright, expressed concern over unauthorized use of BOG information, particularly on websites. Mr. Watson requested information on those involved and will attempt to deal with the problem.

Scott Young, the Astronomy Day co-ordinator, announced the date of the next Astronomy Day as May 10, 2003. He also informed us that Suburu Telescope had contacted him with a request for how to handle an Astronomy Day. They ended up with over 1000 participants. There was no report from the National Librarian. The National Library is facing a space crisis and needs someone who can be physically near the books and can put together a working committee to make some major decisions. Bob Garrison has volunteered to help with this but more people are needed. The Standing Committees reported next. This included a reminder from the Awards Committee not to spill the beans to the Simon Newcombe Award winner as he was not aware of the Honour yet. It was with great surprise that Dr. David Levy accepted the Award after the BBQ that night after hearing the citation read by Nominator Susan Gagnon.

The Historical Committee is in the process of arranging a meeting between the National President and the Queen during her 2003 visit to Canada. That year marks the 100th anniversary of our becoming a Royal Society. There are also plans in the works for creating Federal plaques marking the sites of the Venus transit observation from 1761 and 1769. All of these events are also planned to be marked by the host GA Centres involved (Vancouver and St. John's). There was a long discussion during the Constitution Committee's report. This involved planned amendments for the planned decoupling of the fees. As this constitutional change did not pass at the General Meeting, the planned amendments could be worked into a new proposal. There was an even longer discussion about the pros and cons of the decoupling issue at the General Meeting. At this point in time, no further discussion has taken place. There was also a long discussion concerning the treatment of proxies during the voting. There will be a committee formed to look at rewriting the proxy into a clear, non-conflicting form. Promotion and Marketing are looking for new ideas. Property Committee submitted a written report. The property is in good shape and new gardens have been added. The Light Pollution Abatement Committee has

been involved in interviews and has had many telephone calls over the Globe and Mail article. There appears to be a lot of activity for light pollution abatement right now. The committee is also looking for photographs showing the good/ the bad and the ugly. Computer Use committee has purchased a new computer for Bonnie. It had arrived just before the meeting and was not set up at that time. The old system will be used as a backup. New Observing Certificates are now available either through the Centre or through National.

The Education Committee report was moved to the second National Council Meeting following the General Meeting due to time constraints. At that time, the Skyways teacher's guide prepared by Marylou Whitehorse was presented. The desire is to publish this as a National publication and sell it at near cost levels. Although the motion to publish this at this time was defeated, a thank-you was sent to Marylou and intent to publish once the work has reached an acceptable level was passed.

Invitations to the next GAs in Vancouver and St. John's were also presented. Also, the Toronto Centre has invited the National Council to their new Observatory for the fall meeting.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday. Most of this involved presenting the committee reports. There was also the important issues of constitutional changes. Of the three changes that were submitted this year, the first, to allow electronic attendance at NC meetings, was passed as was the second motion, to allow a person to hold an office more than once but not more than two consecutive terms. The third motion was to de-couple the fees and that was defeated.

The second NC meeting of the weekend dealt mainly with setting up committees. Here is a list of who is whom.

* Executive Committee: Pres. , VP 1& 2, Nat'l Sec., Treasurer Rajiv, Peter J., Scott Young, Kim Hay, Michael W.

* Executive Sec.: Bonnie Bird

*Membership and Publications Co-ordinator: Isaac McGillis

*National Recorder: Heide Debond

*Awards Committee: Past Pres., Editor of JRASC and up to three others Chair: Bob Garrison Members: Wayne Barkhouse 1. Fred Smith 2. David Chapman 3. Jim Tisdale

* Constitution Committee: 1st VP and 2 others Peter Jedicke 1. Michael Watson 2. Randy Atwood

* Finance: Treas., Scott Young 1. Pomponia 2. Tim Bennett

* Historical: Chair: Peter Broughton

* Old committee plus Barry Matthews (Randy Atwood as consultant)

* Library: Chair: Colin Haig (Librarian)

1. Bob Garrison 2. Mark Bratton 3. Susan Yeo

* Membership and Promotion: Chair: Roland Dechesne
1. Kim Hay 2. Dennis Gray

* Nominating: Three past presidents Chair: Bob Garrison
 1. Randy Atwood 2. Doug George
 * Property: Treasurer plus 2 to 4 others Chair: Bob May
 1. Michael Watson remain as previous year
 * Publications: 1st VP, Ed JRASC, Ed OH and 4 others
 Chair: Peter Jedicke 1. Rajiv Gupta 2. Wayne
 Barkhouse 3. David Gardner 4. Patrice 5. David Lane

Special Committees

* Astronomy Day Co-ordinator (three year position)
 Bruce McCurdy
 * Computer Use: Chair: committee as stands -- drop Kim
 Hay off
 * Light Pollution: as before
 * Observing Certificate: Chris Fleming as chair, Leo
 Enright, Denis Grey, Adrian Bordage
 * Public Education: Chair: Randy Atwood
 Members same but take of Lee Beck Add Dave Clark

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.

July: Saturday 13th at the home of John & Peggy Hurley -
 Sharbot Lake

August: Friday 16th at the home of Mark Kaye - Inverary

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

PO Box 1793, Kingston, On K7L 5J6
 Infoline & answering machine: 613-377-6029 (effective
 July 2nd)

Email: rascexec@cliff.path.queensu.ca

We also have an email chat list "rascchat". 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

FallINStars2002: 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



Kingston Kosmic & Event Kalendar 2002

Prepared by Kim Hay

Month and Date	Event
July 2	3 rd Quarter Moon 13:19 EDT (Tuesday)
July 6	Earth at aphelion (12,094 mn) 12:00 am(Saturday)
July 6	Sky is the Limit Festival (setup 8:00am) runs till 4:00 pm- volunteers needed contact Kevin Kell at kell@cliff.path.queensu.ca
July 7	Comet Shoemaker Levy fragments into 21 pieces 10 years ago(Sunday)
July 10	New Moon 6:26 EDT (Wednesday)
July 12-14	North Bay Astronomy Club, Gateway Starparty, Powassan, Ontario Contact Merlin at 1-705-472-182 or Tom Ouellette at 1-705-474-7666 galaxy@efni.com
July 12	RASC –KC Regular Meeting Stirling D, Queen's University 7:30 pm. (Friday) Speaker: Fred Barrett -Observatory Building
July 16	Public Observing Session Public Observing Session(dusk) Murney Tower (weather permitting)
July 17	1 st Quarter Moom 0:47 EDT (Wednesday)
July 20	CCD Imaging Group- Host Jan Wisniewski (Saturday)
July 24	New Moon 5:07 EDT (Wednesday)
July 28	S_*-Aquadid meteor peak 8:00 pm EDT (Sunday)
August 1	3 rd Quarter Moon 6:22 EDT (Thursday)
August 3	Mount Kobau Star Party, Osoyoos BC www.mksp.ca (through August 11)
August 8	New Moon 15:15 EDT (Thursday)
August 8	Starfest Starparty, Mount Forest www.nyaa-starfest.com (through August 11)
August 9	RASC –KC Regular Meeting Stirling D, Queen's University 7:30 pm. (Friday) Meeting Cancelled due to many going to Starfest-See August 16
August 9	Stellafane Convention, Springfield, VT www.stellefane.com (through August 10) Saskatchewan Star Party, Cypress Hills, SK prana.usask.ca/~rasc.html (through August 11) Nova East, Smiley's Provincial Park, NS halifax.rasc.ca/ne (through August 11)
August 12	Perseid Meteor Peak 6:00 pm EDT (Monday)
August 12	Charleston Lake Observing with Terry Dickinson, talk starts at 8:00 pm come early and setup your telescopes to help out
August 12-18	Great Manitou Star Party, Gordon's Park and Carter Bay Resort, Manitoulin Island, http://www.manitoulin-link.com/starparty
August 15	1 st Quarter Moon 6:12 EDT (Thursday)
August 16	RASC-KC BBQ Meeting held at the home of Mark Kaye starting 5:30 pm See website for map details- Mystery Guest Speaker (Friday)
August 22	Full Moon 18:29 EDT (Thursday)
August 30	3 rd Quarter Moon 22:31 EDT (Friday)
September 5	Zodiacal light visible in east before morning twilight for next two weeks
September 6	New Moon 23:10 EDT(Friday)
September 6-7	Fall 'N' Stars Star Party, hosted by the Belleville Astronomy Club and the Kingston Centre-RASC, at Vanderwater Conservation Area, Boy Scout Camp, Thomasburg, Ontario http://lesliedempsey.ca/FallnStars
September 13	RASC –KC Regular Meeting Stirling D, Queen's University 7:30 pm. (Friday) Guest Speaker: Atilla Danko (Ottawa Centre) on the Clear Sky Clock 1 st Quarter Moon 23:10 EDT(Friday)

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>

