

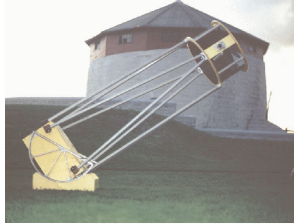


# Regulus



The Newsletter of the RASC Kingston Centre

2002 September



## 2002 - The Year of 61 cm

The 61 cm Venor scope has travelled far and wide the last few months... as far west as River Place, outside of Mount Forest Ontario for Starfest2002 and as far east as Charleston Lake Provincial Park for the 2002 Star Party.

It is turning out to be far more portable than we had originally intended and consequently is seeing a lot more use than it would have otherwise without a permanent home continues.

At Starfest, a field-rigged dew zapper for the secondary mirror was put together by Jan and Kevin from spare parts and amazingly enough, it worked! No dew appeared on the secondary mirror after that night.

activity. By the time I got outside, despite the near full moon, there was a green banding, and a very light spike effect going on.

Yesterday, it was reported that there was a flare off the sun, perhaps we might see more tonight, before the rain clouds hit.

Is anyone interested in an Aurora hotline? There was one when I first joined the Centre, but it faded out over the course of a year. I could head this up if anyone is interested. I would need your phone number, and time frame in which you would be called. The way it works, would be the one spotting the aurora would call the next name after theirs and then the next person would call the next. IF anyone is interested, please contact me via my email address [kimhay@kingston.net](mailto:kimhay@kingston.net)

### **2002 Annual Awards Dinner** Saturday, November 23, 2002

Speaker: TBA

Tickets \$25/person in advance  
Purchase at meetings or mail cheques  
to the RASC mailbox.

Email vegetarian and allergy alerts to  
Susan Gagnon. Cut off date is  
November 19th.

As always, a good time will be had,  
door prizes and various awards  
presented.

Susan Gagnon  
<[sdgagnon@post.kos.net](mailto:sdgagnon@post.kos.net)>



### **ARDEN TRIP REPORT by Ken Kingdon**

The evening of August 7-8, 2002 was very clear, so

I (Ken Kingdon) headed north about 55 minutes from Kingston to a new spot that I had located last January near Arden, Ontario but had not yet visited. The reason I went there is because this site is wide and flat, giving superb views all around, but the east view was the one I needed in order to see the dawn apparition of a brand new comet. I'll discuss this comet last.

I began by examining a lot of the Messier globular clusters in Sagittarius, and although I've looked at M22 hundreds of times, I still said "WOW!" when I saw it at 170x under such a dark sky. M6 was naked-eye and I enjoyed the shape (a big bite is missing from this OC, like PacMan). M69, M70, M54 were nice, but further south M55 was simply exquisite. Saw the neat globular clusters that are close together, NGC6558 & 6559. Had my best ever detailed view of M20 Trifid Nebula, and it really looked much like the long-exposure photos. M8 was simply awesome this night. Saw "Tom Thumb" Cluster, NGC 6451; it has a shape like a thumb that's just been whacked by a 16oz hammer... gosh, poor little thing!

## ***Submissions from Members***

### **Submitted by Kim Hay**

Last night (August 21), we were called by a fellow astronomer, that there was auroral

My best finds:

(1) NGC 6522 & 6528, a very close "twin pair" of GCs in the same 170x field of view, "bubbling" out of the Teapot's spout. 6522 is the brighter globular.  
 (2) The Ink Spot (Barnard 86) is a dark nebula which gives a fabulous view, exactly beside the open cluster NGC 6520 that helps make it so sweet! Now this should have made the RASC Finest NGC List. The Ink Spot is profoundly dark against a strong Milky Way background, and was very distinct, a wonderful object for small telescopes. Kepple & Sanner in their excellent book "The Night Sky Observer's Guide" rate the dark nebula B86 as "one of the showpiece objects, the finest examples of their type". I wished I'd seen this CLASSIC dark nebula years ago.

Further north, in M16 (Eagle Nebula) I could just make out the "Hand of Creation", made famous by that incredible Hubble photo. Not easy.

In Cepheus, NGC 40 is a superb PN, and I observed that the central star was conspicuous. It still cries for more aperture. My friend's 30inch StarMaster GOTO arrives in a month; it should make short work of it! :)

Every deep-sky catalogue has a beginning. So... how many observers have ever seen NGC1? It has a neat bonus that makes it a worthy target... NGC2 is exactly beside it, a very tight pair of Gxs. Now here is a challenge for you - try to find them! They are interesting but faint; and another challenge of this hunt is just to locate them (not shown in SkyAtlas, but you can always get its RA & dec from the internet and plot it on any chart, or see Uranometria or MSA which both show them). Upon acquiring the FOV with a low power eyepiece, I then found that going to 150-200x is a "must" to actually see them. Hey, ... I enjoyed the hunt! Try it.

NGC 7026 is a PN named "Cheesburger Nebula". I have tried, without success further south in the light pollution zone, to observe this PN since I got my 12.5" reflector two years ago. But success came with last night's dark skies, and my Uranometria Atlas was also a big help. Without a nebula filter, it was a distinct disk, and the "hamburger paddy" could just be discerned in moments of good seeing and with averted vision. Its another great object for large apertures.

About 2am, an airplane flew thru my FOV. I followed the plane, and suddenly a meteor, with a bright exploding tail, shot into view and precisely crossed the plane, appearing as if a missile attack had just occurred! Small are the odds of seeing this rare crossing event, but

now I understand a perspective of reports that a missile knocked that airliner out of the night sky over the Atlantic about 4 summers ago.

At 3am Aug.8, a naked-eye NOSS triple-satellite hove into view on a path from Pegasus to Capella. It looked like a giant delta-winged Concorde Jet. While admiring this slow awesome giant, again a meteor shot right thru it! What are the chances twice in a night?! OH, WHAT A NIGHT...!

I saw Comet Hoenig which was first discovered only 2 weeks previously; it was bright, distinct, but tail-less (like a galaxy).

I came for the eastern view that this site afforded, because if I could "hang in there" until about 4:15am, Orion and M42 would rise, and just before onset of daylight, I would have a chance at yet another new comet discovered just a week previously, C2002-06. I retreated to the car to warm up, and to de-fog my eyepieces. Then I heated the secondary (dew was very bad near dawn on this night). A flip of some power switches and my scopere-awoke and purred back to life. With first light pending, the pressure was on! After a few anxious moments of searching, I did find the new comet right beside the naked-eye star Meissa, north of Betelgeuse and Bellatrix. It too was galaxy-like, bright but tail-less still. It may become harder to see, so I'm really glad I got to bag it!

OH, WHAT A NIGHT...! An observing plan really helps, and then too... some nights everything just kinda falls into your lap!!

Ken Kingdon, RASC KINGSTON, ONTARIO,  
[kenkingdon@hotmail.com](mailto:kenkingdon@hotmail.com)



### Arizona of the North By Ken Kingdon

Last Fall, I (Ken Kingdon) began observing in the dark skies near Arden, Ontario because the darker skies allowed me to observe deep-sky objects that I had found too difficult further south. While completing my Finest NGC List, it became apparent that the 30 minutes extra travel time from sites closer to Kingston was far less time than the frustration I was spending trying to find objects that were washed out at light-polluted sites closer to the city.

Last January's issue of "Sky News" had a very useful colour-coded light pollution map (LPM) of North America with these remarks:



1. Yellow-coded sites indicated that even overhead, the sky has deteriorated so that 5.5 mag stars are the faintest available. [Examples near Kingston: Yarker thru Sydenham.]

2. Green-coded indicates areas afflicted with noticeable light pollution on the horizon, but overhead is still good, with close to magnitude 6.0 at zenith. [Examples: Camden Lake, Tower Hill, and even the Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Preserve near Gravenhurst.]

3. Mauve regions yield at least mag 6 across much of the sky. [Examples: Arden Road and Sharbot Lake vicinity.]

4. Grey regions are excellent, and yield mag 6.5 stars. (Note: there are no light domes. The skies would be superbly dark except that the satellites taking the photometric data can detect transient cottages and headlights of vehicles). [Example: vicinity of Bon Echo.] The Grey regions ARE OUR MOST IMPORTANT!

5. Black regions are superbly dark with a complete absence of light pollution, and yield 7.0 mag stars. [Generally, these areas are far too remote for an easy trip. Example: Temiskaming, Que. is the nearest.]

After some effort to scale this LPM so that roads and sites could be explored, I learned that: the Grey region which is the furthest south in Canada is actually right near Kingston! It's in the vicinity of Bon Echo. It is also the closest and darkest site for millions in Eastern North America. SSSShhh... keep that quiet!

Six months ago, a number of us began a serious, all-out, no-holds-barred effort to locate a prime observing site in the vicinity of Bon Echo, which was determined to lie within a Grey region. But despite many miles travelled, the high rolling hills and trees right to the roads blocked the good views. Finally success... an abandoned MNR airstrip was recently found! On Saturday, August 10, I joined a group of Eastern Ontario observers who convened there to assess the airstrip site.

So... how are conditions at a site darker than anything we normally visit? Simply one

word... AWESOME! Yes, you really can see the improvement, which translates to about 16 times darker than say the Yarker to Sydenham zone, our closest observing region from Kingston.

The site has a vast cleared area say 4 times larger than StarFest, Canada's biggest star party. There is not a tree for 1.5 kms along the prime north-south meridian, and the ground is absolutely FLAT! No light domes are visible. There is no light pollution along the entire horizon, so the eye's iris can open to maximum, plus dark adaption can develop to the ultimate attainable, giving quality views "to die for". The Milky Way is visible right smack to the southern horizon, something so beautiful and so rare today. Objects on my observing plan looked much like the great photos we see in Sky News. Also, the Perseid meteors were at their finest for viewing. Star-struck, we drank in the splendor of the fantastic naked-eye sky above.

Is it really worth driving 1.5 hrs and 120 kms from say Kingston? I would say that every serious observer deserves a reward now and then, so a trip to heaven, way before you even get to heaven, is worth it. The ultimate sky at the Irvine Lake Airstrip is worth at least an annual trip. In winter, the roadway in from Hwy.41 is not plowed. At the height of summer, the nights may be too short for the travel distance involved. But, from August through Fall, and again in early Spring, these are prime times. The optimum is August and early September, since night is longer and it's mild enough to snooze in the car before driving home. Also, a restaurant is just 4 km south, and the beautiful Bon Echo Provincial Park is 11 km south, providing good camping or simply a nice "bonus" stop on the next morning's drive home.

Permission for use by everyone has been gained already, so I will be leading a future trip to the "Arizona North". Stay tuned.

Ken Kingdon, RASC KINGSTON, ONTARIO  
[kenkingdon@hotmail.com](mailto:kenkingdon@hotmail.com)



### **OBSERVATION of a near-Miss Asteroid by Ken Kingdon**

The Near-Miss Asteroid 2002 NY40, discovered in July, went past Earth August 18 at a distance of 525,000 km. I (Ken Kingdon) calculated its speed at 20 km/sec, and with a size of almost 1 km, had it hit Earth it would have been The News Story of the

Century! Terrestrially, in one second a crater some kilometers deep would have been created, the ejecta would have obliterated everything for many, many kilometers away; the heat released would have caused devastatingly high temperatures, followed by cold as the dust obliterated the Sun for a prolonged period. Had it hit in any ocean, it would have seared through even the deepest water in less than a second, creating a shock-wave about 4 kms high which would destroy all ships and harbours and populated areas inland for hundreds of kilometers. CNN would have made a fortune mixing news with advertisements; imagine... "We go live to the precise epicentre of the asteroid's impact. Come in Nick, are you there?" "Yes Linda, this is Nick, but we still can't see anything....".

Or, to quote Nietzsche: "Asteroids (like 2002 NY40) that do not hit us, make us stronger". Wholly Cow... what an understatement!!

I heard about this asteroid just a few days previously, via an AstroAlert service from "Sky & Telescope" Magazine which included a decent finder chart. I wanted to see it because this type of astronomical event is rare! "Flybys like this happen every 50 years or so," says Don Yeomans, the manager of NASA's Near-Earth Object Program office at JPL. "The last time (that we know of) was August 31, 1925, when another 800-meter asteroid passed by just outside the Moon's orbit."

At the time of closest approach at 3:00 hours UT, Aug. 18, 2002, I was disappointed when clouds and T-storms approached my suburban backyard. Between brief cloud-breaks, this asteroid quickly moved past my FOV, always just before another cloud arrived. I had to rush to get my 12.5" reflector back indoors. However, no rain fell, so I went back out to lay in the hammock and enjoy incredible views of the flash-lightning up inside the cloud cover. A short nap ensued. At 05:00h UT, Aug. 18, 2002 I awoke to a cloudless and now Moonless sky. I rushed to print a new internet finder-chart, since the asteroid was moving at a "fast" 8 arcminutes per minute and had moved all the way from near M57 (Lyra) to near the Trapezium (Hercules). I used my Uranometria Atlas to refine this internet finder-chart. My plan was to acquire an obvious field pattern of stars well ahead of the asteroid's projected path and "trap" it as it whizzed past. I switched to my 82mm birding scope to give a wider FOV using 45x, since such a close object has a lot of parallax which introduces error into a somewhat crude finder-chart. I parked my scope on a distinctive star-pattern near the variable star

V819. Then I waited, becoming anxious. Would my modified finder-chart be accurate enough? Could I see it? Each minute, Hercules sank lower into the haze and severe atmospheric extinction zone, and I knew that I would only get ONE chance. Would my 82mm scope, capable of mag 11 stars, be indeed able to see the mag 9 asteroid in such poor suburban conditions. A final glance at my watch at 05:45 UT indicated that it should now have into my FOV. Exactly on time and on target, it appeared! It moved slowly, but nonetheless at a rate that was distinctly apparent with every passing second. It was just bright enough to be obvious. I tracked it for 9 minutes until 05:54 UT, when it became too difficult to follow. What a tight window of opportunity!

When I wrote this report at 17:00 UT, August 18th, Asteroid 2002 NY40 had moved such a great distance that Earth then faced the asteroid's shadow-side and the most powerful scopes on earth could no longer see it. It could no longer be viewed that evening, if ever again. Thus, I am VERY pleased that I was lucky enough to enjoy its very brief apparition.

To see a sketch of this asteroid's orbit approaching Earth, plus to view a time-lapse video of its motion (taken 1-2 days before, when its apparent speed was 20-times slower!), try the website below and follow the link marked "here": [http://www.space.com/spacewatch/august\\_asteroid\\_020821.html](http://www.space.com/spacewatch/august_asteroid_020821.html)

Ken Kingdon, RASC KINGSTON, ONTARIO  
[kenkingdon@hotmail.com](mailto:kenkingdon@hotmail.com)

[Ed: Do you get the impression that Ken gets out observing a lot? I certainly do!]



**Looking Back 25 Years  
Part II: The Kingston  
Centre in the Summer  
of 1977**  
by Leo Enright

### Overview

This is the second article of a new feature series of articles for **Regulus**. As explained in the introduction to the first article, the series stems from the interest shown in the history of the Kingston Centre at the time of our fortieth anniversary and from the idea that we could emulate the practice of Leif Robinson, the officially retired senior editor of **Sky and Telescope**, (See David Levy's article about him in **Sky and Telescope**, May 2002, p.73.) who

contributes columns in every issue about that magazine's coverage of news in the astronomical world both 25 years ago and 50 years ago. The hope here is to provide for our current members of the Kingston Centre a genuine feeling for what was taking place in this Centre 25 years ago, and to invite discussion about how we have evolved, and how we might further evolve as a Centre with a mandate similar to all the other Centres within the R.A.S.C. By looking back 25 years, namely to the year 1977, as is the case for all astronomers who do such an exercise, we can easily notice a remarkable set of achievements in the intervening period, as well as the numerous differences of topic, emphasis, and tone that accompanied the considerations of amateur and professional astronomers at that time.

By the decade of the 1970's, as explained in the previous article, the Kingston Centre had undergone some very fundamental changes from the time of its founding in 1961. Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, by then retired from her teaching and administrative duties at Queen's University, maintained a strong interest in the Centre, but for several reasons, could not attend all the regular meetings. By the mid-1970's the Centre had started to attract a 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 1977 summer meetings and other summer activities were held for the first time. In that year, the first serious discussions were held regarding the funding of a Centre-owned telescope and observatory, and in fact, a motion to that effect was passed at a regular Centre meeting. (See the previous article.) For the first time, organized observing sessions were planned for locations outside the city limits. It was the year of the first Centre-sponsored tour of the Holleford Crater. Significant changes to the Centre newsletter also took place.

Since the previous article was primarily concerned with events within the first five months of 1977, this article will review the events and trends of the summer months of that year, namely June, July, and August of 1977.

The next article in this series, namely, a review of our Centre's history for the months of September and October 1977, will be co-authored by someone who, during that time, first became a member of our group, namely David Levy, who is now our Honorary President.

### **Meetings And Other Activities In June, July, and August 1977**

From the time of the founding of the Centre in 1961, most of the group's astronomical

activities for the "current school year" usually ended with the "annual meeting" which was generally held in late March. Since "final exams" took place in April, there would be almost no group activity expected during that month. In most years, even less activity would be expected from the group during the months of May, June, July, and August. Such had been the general routine for the group throughout the 1960's and early 1970's.

By 1977, there were a few members of the group who regarded themselves primarily as members of the R.A.S.C.- Kingston Centre, rather than as members of the Queen's University Astronomy Club. As a result, beginning in that year, the "summer schedule" would be quite different from what it had been ever since 1961. In fact, there was an announcement at the meeting of March 15, 1977 that the next meeting would include a discussion of "future plans", as well as the election of "a slate of executive for the coming year".

The sixth meeting of the 1977 calendar year (which was the THIRD MEETING IN THE MONTH OF MARCH!!!) was held in Room 222 of Ellis Hall, as were all regular meetings, on Tuesday, March 29. It was originally billed as "the last meeting of the year", and the following executive was elected for "the coming year": I was elected president; Doug Baker was elected vice-president; Sue McDougall was re-elected to the combined office of secretary-treasurer. Subsequently, there was discussion about being a more active group during the summer, at least, for those members who stayed in, or lived close to, the Kingston area. There were proposals for: (1) a Holleford Crater Picnic in June, (2) a Summer Solstice Celebration in Sharbot Lake, (3) a "Perseid All-Nighter" in Sharbot Lake, and (4) a late-summer trip to the Forty-Fifth Parallel in North Frontenac so that members could boast of standing on a spot mid-way between the equator and the pole.

The first of the proposals became a reality on Sunday, June 5, 1977. The weather was very good, warm and sunny, in fact. The participants learned a great deal about the site (as I did also, when I had talked to the owner of Crater Farm, the father of the present-day owner and operator of the farm).

Three weeks later, on Sunday, June 26, 1977, the Summer Solstice Celebration was held at my place at Sharbot Lake. The written record from the event shows 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 that is not generally a part of more recent star parties. The record says that “in the water-skiing competition, the team of Paul and Elwyn Brown took first place, and Doug Baker took second.” Later the skies cooperated and even allowed some astrophotography.

The next major event was the General Assembly. On the Canada Day Weekend, Paul Brown and I attended the G.A. 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, a very significant document that has, since then, been referred to as “The Percy Report”, after Dr. John Percy who was its principal author. Events included as part of the G.A. were trips to the David Dunlap Observatory and 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 a Grey Cup!

There were four “summer meetings” held by the Centre after the G.A. All were on Tuesday nights. The dates were July 19, August 2, August 16, and August 30. They began at 9:00 p.m. in Room 222 in Ellis Hall. They were times for discussing recent observing projects, future plans for observing, and the results of the trips that had been organized.

One event that was not regarded as “good news” for the Centre was the fact that Paul Brown, who had been a dedicated and active member of the group for many years left Kingston, having completed his education, and moved to a job in Calgary. He had been National Council Representative for several years, and President of the Centre for several years also.

### **An Evolving Newsletter in the Summer of 1977**

In the early part of 1977 the newsletter of the combined group (the R.A.S.C.- Kingston Centre and the Queen’s University Astronomy Club) had emerged from being a monthly (during the “school year”) page or two of hand-written or typed mimeographed notices about sky events and future meetings into being a more frequent publication composed of notices, reports, and even short articles. From the beginning of the year until the end of April 1977, there had been seven issues, with an additional eighth issue as a supplement mailed in February. (For present-day members concerned about the cost that must have

been involved, it should be remembered that the cost of mailing any of these newsletters, with First Class Postage through Canada Post, was 8 cents per issue, until it increased in March of that year to 10 cents per issue.)

During the summer months of 1977, there were only three issues: one in June and two in July.

The June issue contained information about the proposed summer activities: the Holleford Crater Picnic, the Summer Solstice Outing, The Perseid Observing Session, and the proposed 45th Parallel Trip. There was a “reply form” through which members were to indicate their intentions in regard to each activity. There was also an article about Mars - “Mars And Water”. (Interesting that that topic, the possibility of water being found on the Red Planet, has remained so relevant!)

The first of the July issues reported on the Holleford Crater Trip and the Summer Solstice Event, which had taken place in June, and announced the dates for future meetings.

The second of the July issues reported on the General Assembly in Toronto, the news of Paul Brown’s moving from Kingston to Calgary, and the efforts that I had made to have a regular weekly astronomy column in The Kingston Whig-Standard. (I had succeeded in having two of my columns printed in ‘The Whig’ during June, on June 4th and on June 11th, but could not convince the paper to continue with a weekly column.) The second July issue also carried a “humorous contest” similar to the one that I had included in the second newsletter of January of that year. Prizes were offered, and by the time that all the entries had been submitted in October, there would be some very interesting replies! The requirement for each entry was completion (in 25 words or fewer) of the following statement: “The last time I was out observing the mosquitoes were so bad that ... ..”

The name change of the newsletter in the summer of 1977 was significant. In the early 1970’s it had invariably been called “The Queen’s University Astronomy Club Newsletter”. From late 1976 until the end of June 1977, the double-barrelled name appears, giving equal billing to the RASC, -- “The Queen’s University Astronomy Club and The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Kingston Centre Newsletter”. The title: “RASC Kingston Centre Newsletter” appears for *the very first time* in the first issue of July 1977. However, the title listing both names, *but with the RASC listed first*, becomes standard again with the following issue, and remained in

effect for almost two years, that is, until April 1979.

With its changes in planning, its meeting schedule, its summer activities, and its newsletter revisions, the Kingston Centre experienced some very positive changes in the summer of 1977, twenty-five years ago.

Reflection on the events in our Centre in those days is intended to stimulate comment and discussion -- in relation to the current state of the Kingston Centre.

In subsequent issues of **Regulus**, I intend to continue the review of activities of our Centre twenty-five years ago. In fact, in the next issue of **Regulus**, in which the topic of this series will be our Centre activities of September and October 1977, David Levy, who is now our Honorary President, will join me to co-author the article, since he first joined our Centre at that time.



## Editor's Corner

by Kevin Kell

Busy Busy Busy Busy  
Busy!

Wow. Almost forgot  
about the September  
paper issue deadline! Too

much moving into the country, going to star parties (Starfest), organizing star parties (FallNStars) and in general, what the \*(@#(&\$ happened to the summer?



## Webmaster's Corner

by Kevin Kell

**Locally:**  
Not too many changes  
over the last few months.

With moving house out into the country there has not been a lot of spare time for web development. Some new items online however are images from Starfest, Charleston Lake Star Party and the Sky is the Limit Festival.

These can be found in link near the bottom of the "info about the Centre" page:

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

### Nationally:

Dave Lane (Halifax Centre) has made available back issues of the RASC Journal online at <http://www.rasc.ca/journal/backissues.html>

Note: The most recent six issues are not available on-line. They are only available in print form to subscribers and Society members.

February 1998 - June 2001 are available in adobe acrobat .PDF format Be warned... they are large(1 - 20 mb in size)

I've collected and posted to

<http://www.rasc.ca/private/notices/home.htm>

(note this is in the private members section and not available to the general world wide web public) of emails sent from National Office to the [Centres} email distribution list in the hopes that more members would actually hear about some of the news and notes sent out.



## Kingston Centre Membership Information

Current Membership  
Total of the Kingston  
Centre (as of July 31,

2002 ): 159 (up from 154 last issue)

Welcome our new members!

★Keith Leslie Davies Kingston ON

Email: [ksdavies@sympatico.ca](mailto:ksdavies@sympatico.ca)

★ Tom Connolly, Kingston ON

★ Thomas Froot, Odessa ON

Email: [tfroot@hotmail.com](mailto:tfroot@hotmail.com)

★ Phillip S Martin, Trenton ON

Email: [realequity@hotmail.com](mailto:realequity@hotmail.com)

★ Jonathan Massey-Allard, Kingston ON

★ Sarah Paulson, Kingston ON



## Notes from the Secretary

### Minutes of Friday July 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting

submitted by Susan Gagnon

At 19:30 Peggy called the meeting to order and asked for a quick round of reports.

The secretary report was brief with a reminder about the Charleston Lake night with Terry Dickinson, August 12. The Secretary also informed the members that the nominating committee has been notified that she will not be running again in November.

John as Treasurer reported that we are operating with a balanced budget, and for

members to keep an eye out for their renewals in the mail.

Kevin reported for Tom as observing chair that the next observing session for members will be at John and Peggy's, Public observing will be Tuesday and the August 16 meeting at Mark's will have an observing opportunity if the weather will cooperate.

Our Editor reports the next issue of *Regulus* will be out the end of August.

Other important date reminders were Starfest, Fall'N'Stars, Huronia, Leo also announced that he had some public events coming up in Sharbot Lake August 3 and 16, anyone who wanted to help out should let him know asap.

Kevin gave a brief report on The Sky is the Limit Festival with an estimate of ~400 visitors to the display to talk and observe the sun.

Jan will host a CCD meeting July 20<sup>th</sup>. Camera Building continues and more new parts have arrived. (Yes, last year the CCD meetings were suspended for the summer.)

Dave M. brought a selection of books from the library.

Hank reminded everyone that you can take out the slide sets to look at without having a school visit to do.

Doug then did the Sky this week, and pointed out some highlights easily seen in the am and pm sky. Leo pointed out that the Perseids had already begun even though the peak is not due until August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Doug then introduced our speaker for the evening who was our own Fred Barrett. Fred gave us a presentation of the evolution of his observatory plans including pictures and rationale for various choices. For variety there were also photos of Fred's buddy Bob's observatory in Kanata, Jan's in Harrowsmith, as well as Leo's in Sharbot Lake. A well rounded presentation, Fred discussed many factors such as existing buildings, space available for the structure, available horizon, available cash, and building to suit your equipment, intended use, and local conditions.

The meeting closed with a variety of slides and observing reports. Laura reported that the Tower hill lease was in the process of being amended and we were awaiting it's return. The meeting adjourned at 2140.

**Minutes of Friday August 16<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting** (Markfest, observing group, BBQ)  
submitted by Kevin Kell

The weather did not cooperate completely for this year's Markfest (our Annual Members

BBQ meeting at the home of Mark Kaye and Linda Santry... thanks guys!) The skies opened up during our arrival but cleared out after dinner.

Our special mystery guest speaker was Dr. Larry Widrow  
<http://www.astro.queensu.ca/~widrow/> who gave us a talk on The Dark Matter Mystery.

This was followed by 200 odd pictures from Starfest and Charleston Lake Star Parties (now available on the web site) from Kevin and Kim and a bunch of great slides from Mark.



## 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.

The **September Session** will be held at the  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall'N'Stars Star Party,**

co-hosted with the Belleville Astronomy Club on Friday/Saturday the 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> at Vandewater Conservation Area north of Belleville near Thomasburg Ontario. For more info see <http://lesliedempsey.ca/FallnStars/>

Registration forms are available online but if you have an old one that has "make cheques payable to FallNStars", please disregard. Instead make the cheques out to: Kim Hay, c/o FallNStars, 76 Colebrook Road, Yarker Ontario K0K 3N0  
It turns out that setting up bank accounts is not as easy as it has been in the past, especially with killer service charges!

Registration (includes camp fees)

Single: \$10

Family: \$25 for up to 4 people + \$5 per additional person.

Day Pass (just visiting): \$3

Saturday dinner: \$15\*

\* Non Refundable. All other items refundable up to September 4 2002. See staff for details

**Friday night:** Observing \*

**Saturday Afternoon:** Selected speakers, workshops  
Demonstrations

Retailer Demos: TAL scopes of Kingston and possibly Jim Kendrick  
 Swap Tables  
 Solar and Daytime planetary/stellar Viewing  
 Catered Dinner (tickets required!)

**Saturday Evening:** Main Talk(s) Door prizes.

**Saturday Night:** Observing \*

**Sunday Morning:** Complimentary orange juice and coffee. Pack up and close a wonderful weekend!

\* In the event of rain or cloud, plans for Friday Night, and/or Saturday Night: Movies

The **October Session** will be held at the home of Kim Hay and Kevin Kell in Yarker (see above address) on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> anytime after 7:00pm

November and December sessions are To Be Announced

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## 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.

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### 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](mailto: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  
 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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 September Print Run=200

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

**Newsletter Submission Info:** The deadline is usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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
September 5 (Thursday)	Zodiacal light visible in east before morning twilight for next two weeks
September 6(Friday)	New Moon 23:10 EST(Friday)
September 6-7 (Friday-Saturday)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual 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 <a href="http://lesliedempsey.ca/FallnStars">http://lesliedempsey.ca/FallnStars</a>
September 10 (Tuesday)	Public Observing at Murney Tower, King St. dusk Weather permitting
September 13 (Friday)	Dinner at 5:30 pm. (at Kelseys II Gardiners Rd} let Kevin Kell know if you wish to attend (kell@cliff.path.queensu.ca)
September 13 (Friday)	RASC -KC Regular Meeting Stirling D, Queen's University 7:30 pm. (Friday) <b>Speakers: Atilla Danko (Ottawa Centre) How to Forecast Observing Conditions</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon 23:10 EST(Friday)
September 21 (Saturday)	FullMoon (Harvest Moon) 9:59 EST
September 21 (Saturday)	Astro Get Together (near-equinox celebration) at Kevin & Kim's (see website for more details) CCD Group Meeting at Jan Wisniewski's
September 23(Monday)	Equinox at 12:55 (EST)
September 26 (Thursday)	Venus at greatest brilliancy
September 29 (Sunday)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Moon
October 4 (Friday)	Sputnik, first artificial satellite, launched 45 years ago
October 5 (Saturday)	Zodiacal Light visible in east before morning twilight for next two weeks . Members Observing Session at the home of Kevin & Kim (see website for more details)
October 6 (Sunday)	New Moon at 7:18 EST
October 8 (Tuesday)	Public Observing at Murney Tower, King St. dusk Weather permitting
October 13 (Sunday)	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon at 1:33 EST
October 14 (Monday)	Thanksgiving Day
October 19 (Saturday)	CCD Group Meeting at Jan Wisniewski's
October 21 (Monday)	Full Moon at 3:20 EST (Hunter's Moon)
October 22 (Tuesday)	Orionids Meteor peak 4:00 am EST
October 26 (Saturday)	National Council Meeting at Commerce Court, Toronto Ontario 9:00 am till 4:00 pm, with all members present invited to the Toronto Centre's Observatory (visit <a href="http://www.rasc.ca/toronto/">http://www.rasc.ca/toronto/</a> )
October 27 (Sunday)	Daylight Saving Times Ends 2:00 EDT
October 29 (Tuesday)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Moon at 0:28 EDT
October 31 (Thursday)	Halloween
November 3(Sunday)	S.Taurid meteors peak 3:00 am (EST)
November 5 (Tuesday)	Public Observing at Murney Tower, King St. dusk Weather permitting
November 23 (Saturday)	Kingston Centre -RASC 2003 Awards Dinner (See Sept/Oct Newsletter for more details)

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>