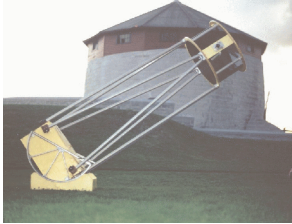




# Regulus



The Newsletter of the Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - July 2003



The 61 cm Venor Dobsonian-Mount telescope.

## 2003 - The Year of The Observatory\*

*\*Our primary goal this year is to find a location to build an observatory for the Centre in general and the Venor telescope in specific.*

### Next Meeting(s)

Friday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
Stirling Hall Theatre D (normal room) on  
Queen's Crescent, Queen's University  
Guest Speaker: Richard Jones  
(Kingston Centre)  
**"Amerigo Vespucci's Measurements of  
Longitude"**

Friday August 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm  
at the home of member Mark Kaye  
(regular meeting at Queens University cancelled)  
Mystery Guest Speaker, BBQ and  
Observing Session (contact the executive for  
directions or pick them up at the July meeting)



### Contents of this Issue

available at  
<http://130.15.144.99/rasc/secure/regulus/reg200307.pdf> and include:

- \* Mars 2003
- \* Variable Star Observing
- \* DDO Tours
- \* What's a New member to do?
- \* President's Voice
- \* News from National
- \* Starfest 2003
- \* NAMN notes
- \* Astronomy Day 2003
- \* Tribute to Honourary Pres
- \* GA2003
- \* Ramblings from the Editor
- \* Annual General Meeting and Elections

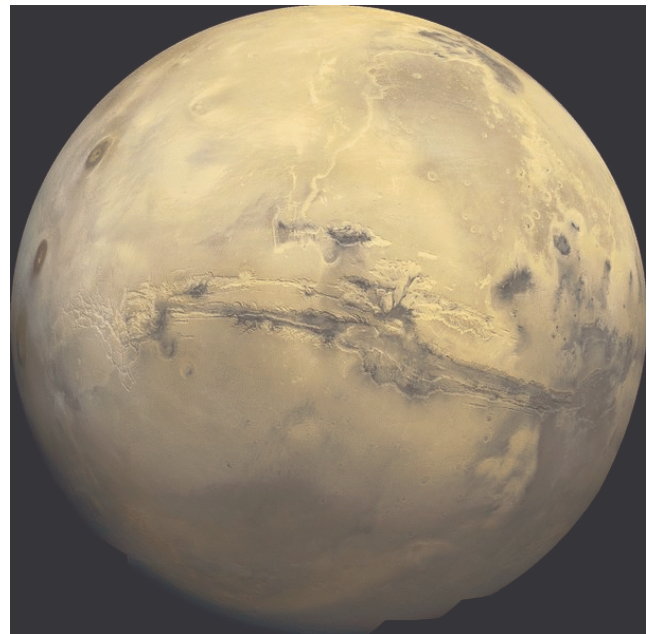
### Contents of the June 2003 issue are available at

<http://130.15.144.99/rasc/secure/regulus/reg200306.pdf>  
and include:

- \* The President's Voice
- \* Starfest 2003
- \* Astronomy Day 2003
- \* Canadian AAVSO Challenge
- \* Mars Society AGM
- \* Ramblings from the Editor
- \* News from the Internet

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of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
Box 1793, Kingston Ontario K7L 5J6  
<http://www.rasc.ca/kingston>  
infoline: 613-377-6029  
email: [rascexec@cliff.path.queensu.ca](mailto:rascexec@cliff.path.queensu.ca)

Welcome the newest addition to the  
RASC: the Belleville Centre  
(Located just an hour west of Kingston)  
\*you folks are invited to Markfest 2003,  
our annual BBQ, Mystery Guest Speaker  
and Observing Session\*



Mars - closest approach August 26-27

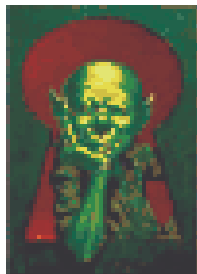
Using *Sky & Telescope's* Mars Profiler, which will open in a new browser window, you can tell at a glance which side of the red planet is facing Earth at any particular date and time.

[http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/planets/article\\_929\\_3.asp](http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/planets/article_929_3.asp)

Starfest will be over at this time (Starfest runs from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>) but be assured many of the scopes there will be looking at the Red Planet.

You may want to take the time beforehand (on cloudy nights of course) to review some of the work previously published on the Red Planet: Hmm.... 108 entries from my source: <http://imdb.com/> let's pare that down to just a few

5. Mars Attacks! (1996)
10. Mars Needs Women (1967)
21. Red Planet (2000)
43. Ghosts of Mars (2001)
53. Mission to Mars (1997)
54. Mission to Mars (2000)
61. Angry Red Planet, The (1959)
69. My Favorite Martian (1999)
73. Invaders from Mars (1953)
80. Devil Girl From Mars (1954)
90. Robinson Crusoe on Mars (1964)
100. Abbott and Costello Go to Mars (1953)



For real info on Mars, do you remember the 1997 Kingston GA?

### Observations and Measurements of Mars during 1996-1997 Richard Schmude Kingston Centre

#### Abstract

An intensive photometric study was undertaken during the 1996-1997 Mars opposition. An SSP-3 solid state photometer and the 51-cm reflecting telescope at Villa Rica, GA have been the instruments used in this study.

In addition to photometry, visual studies were once again undertaken during 1996-1997. The North Polar Cap shrunk at a similar rate to what it did in 1995-1995. Large bright clouds were visible in the Tharsis Region and just west of Mare Acidalium. Hellas was very bright even in the central meridian during March (L5 95°); this brightening was also observed during 1995 and during the early 1980's by members of the British Astronomical Association. My results during 1996-1997 will be summarized in the talk, and values will be updated.

#### Biographical Sketch

Dr. Richard Schmude Jr. grew up in Texas and attended the local public schools there. He then enrolled at North County College and later at Texas A&M University where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Chemistry and Physics, a Master of Science degree in Chemistry and a Ph.D. degree in Physical Chemistry. He is currently teaching both Chemistry and Astronomy at Gordon College; he has held this position for 2.5 years. Dr. Schmude has been interested in Mars since he was 7 years old, and has studied it since 1984. His first Mars publication appeared in 1988. He has published five research papers related to Mars in the Journal of the RASC and has given several talks about Mars.

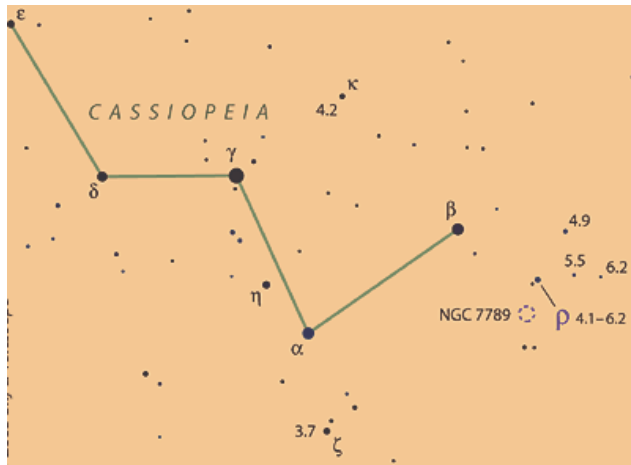
#### RASC Kingston Email Lists:

*rasckcchat* - about 20 members chat about astronomy



## Variable Star Observing

excerpts from Sky & Tel and AAVSO



Rho Cas (type semiregular) is a hypergiant star and one of the most luminous stars in our galaxy. Eruptions on these very rare, very massive stars produce huge mass ejections evidenced by dramatic spectral changes and optical dimming (an ejection in 2000 amounted to 10,000 Earths worth of material and caused a ~1.5-magnitude drop in visual brightness). Understanding hypergiants can help answer fundamental questions related to maximum stellar mass limits.

**Astronomers are anticipating possible major activity in rho Cas over the next few months.** Spectra of rho Cas show that its hydrogen lines have brightened, which indicates the probable onset of an eruption leading to mass ejection and consequent optical fading. This pattern was seen in the last months of 2000, and **astronomers feel that the eruption projected for the coming months may be stronger than the 2000 one.**

**THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS 25 Birch Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 USA INTERNET: [aavso@aavso.org](mailto:aavso@aavso.org) Tel. 617-354-0484 Fax 617-354-0665 AAVSO ALERT NOTICE 301 (May 21, 2003) SUBJECTS: 1041-59 ETA CAR; 2349+56 RHO CAS OBSERVATIONS REQUESTED: 1041-59 ETA CAR and 2349+56 RHO CAS EVENTS:**

**Possible optical brightening of eta Car over next few months Possible optical fading of rho Cas over next few months** Visual, photoelectric, and CCD observers are strongly urged to observe these two stars closely over the coming months, as astronomers anticipate possible significant activity in each of them. **1041-59 ETA CAR** Eta Car (type S Doradus) is a very supermassive (perhaps 100 solar masses), Luminous Blue Variable that historically has shown two types of irregular eruptions - a typical S Doradus-type eruption with a brightening of 1-2 magnitudes in visual wavelength and a duration of years, and a "giant eruption" that shows a significant increase in total luminosity (to that rivaling a supernova) and mass ejection of a solar mass or more. Eta Car has experienced

several of these giant eruptions, the most recent being in the 1840's when the star reached magnitude -1 and much of the material we see as the surrounding Homunculus nebula was ejected (Humphreys et al., Publ. ASP, 111,1124 (1999)). The 5.52-year x-ray eclipse cycle believed to exist in the extremely complex eta Car is expected to produce an x-ray eclipse in late May or mid-July (depending on the model) of 2003. Optical brightening should most probably follow this eclipse, as may be seen in the 1997-2000 visual observations in the AAVSO International Database (<http://www.aavso.org/adata/curvegenerator.shtml>). The present x-ray behavior (see current RXTE x-ray light curve at URL:

[http://heawww.gsfc.nasa.gov/users/corcoran/eta\\_car/etacar\\_r\\_rzte\\_lightcurve/](http://heawww.gsfc.nasa.gov/users/corcoran/eta_car/etacar_r_rzte_lightcurve/)) and very gradual optical brightening reported to the AAVSO by observers indicate that the x-ray eclipse and subsequent optical activity may be about to occur. The multiwavelength observing campaign organized for eta Car is detailed by Dr. Michael Corcoran at the URL:

[http://heawww.gsfc.nasa.gov/users/corcoran/eta\\_car/2003.5/](http://heawww.gsfc.nasa.gov/users/corcoran/eta_car/2003.5/). An article on eta Car will appear in the July 2003 issue of Sky & Telescope, which will be at newsstands very soon - this month. Visit the AAVSO webpage on eta Car for more images, links, and more information at URL:

<http://www.aavso.org/etacar.shtml>. Observers should be aware that NSV 4922 (HIP 52102, HD 92397) on the AAVSO eta Car 'b' chart has a high proper motion (Hipparcos proper motion values: R.A. = -14.29 +/- 0.88 milliarcseconds/year, Dec. = +0.79 +/- 0.74 milliarcseconds/year).

**2349+56 RHO CAS** Rho Cas (type semiregular) is a hypergiant star and one of the most luminous stars in our galaxy. Eruptions on these very rare, very massive stars produce huge mass ejections evidenced by dramatic spectral changes and optical dimming (an ejection in 2000 amounted to 10,000 Earths worth of material and caused a ~1.5-magnitude drop in visual brightness). Understanding hypergiants can help answer fundamental questions related to maximum stellar mass limits. Astronomers are anticipating possible major activity in rho Cas over the next few months. Spectra of rho Cas show that its hydrogen lines have brightened, which indicates the probable onset of an eruption leading to mass ejection and consequent optical fading. This pattern was seen in the last months of 2000, and astronomers feel that the eruption projected for the coming months may be stronger than the 2000 one. An article on rho Cas will appear in the July 2003 issue of Sky & Telescope to be at newsstands this month. A summarized description of the 2000 eruption appears in AAVSO Photoelectric Photometry Newsletter, vol. 22, no. 1

## DDO Tours?



The David Dunlop Observatory is located in Richmond Hill Ontario (near Toronto) and has a series of summer tours scheduled. Toronto RASC members are outside with their scopes as well.

The tours are scheduled for Saturday nights at 21:00 and 22:00 from May 24<sup>th</sup> through July 26<sup>th</sup>, with a couple of

Fridays thrown in for good measure. Hmm there seems to be admission charges as well. For more info see <http://ddo.astro.utoronto.ca/ddohome/outreach/>

## What's a New Member To Do?

by Kevin Kell



So, you've joined the RASC Kingston Centre. Now what?

A lot of "What's a New Member To Do?" depends on the reasons that you joined.

Maybe you want to build your own telescope. Maybe you had a telescope given to you as a gift and now you want to use it and learn how to use it. It's hard to answer specific circumstances, so let's answer some general ones.

**#1 Come out to monthly RASC meetings** to hear guest speakers (some professional, some not) talk about astronomy. Get down and meet some of the local Executive during the break.. Listen to the observing reports from members after the break.

### #2 That was fun! What else?

Weather permitting, pop down to one of the monthly public observing sessions run at the Murney Tower Museum Park (King and Barrie Streets on Kingston's waterfront) on the first Tuesday after a new moon around dusk. We have been running this program since 1996.

### #3 Sign up to the rascckchat email list.

There are about 20 members on the list and just a few messages/day if you are worried about being inundated with email. Ask questions, arrange observing sessions, or just chat.

### #4 Do you have a yen to help out?

We had a "public education event" on Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup>, the Sky is the Limit Festival. This is a charitable event for another organization but the theme fits well with us and we get more public exposure. Normally we have a couple of solar telescopes set up and show people the sun, daytime planets and talk to them about astronomy, responsible lighting and stuff like that.

### #5 Prefer the indoors?

Sign out a book or two from our Librarian at one of the regular monthly meetings. We have a large library currently stored at the home of our Librarian, who brings a different selection every month.

### #6 Like hardware projects?

Check out our members web sites, see what they are up to, and contact them to see if you can help them or they can help you!

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

### #7 Like other projects?

We are looking for people to create some more displays like the three you see at our meetings (RASC-KC, Amateur Telescope Making and Responsible Lighting). We could use displays on: solar observing, lunar observing, the RASC Observing Certificate programs, meteor observing, our education projects, or anything else that you might have an interest in!

## The President's Voice

by Hank Bartlett



Hello all of you summer observers!  
Here we are in one of the best times of the year, the nights are getting longer.  
With every day the sun sets a little

earlier and that means we go out and observe a little earlier too. Maybe soon the mosquitoes will set earlier too. The weather certainly has been better in the Kingston area lately and perhaps we are going to get a decent second half of 2003 in for observing. Last week I spent a beautiful evening until 2:00 a.m. observing and picking up a few more Messier's. I even have now after over eight months finally powered up the SN10 and am slewing, now just to figure out that autostar.

This past weekend Kingston members participated in the Sky is the Limit Festival in Kingston. I believe this is the Centre's 5<sup>th</sup> year at this event and it is always a very satisfying one. There was a good crowd and very reasonable sky for solar observing. It is a pleasure to wow the public showing them sun spots and 375 was a definite favorite and one of the best we have had the opportunity to show. Members displayed related magazines, meteorites, photos, and some beautiful astronomical scarves made by our own Susan G. as well as the observing through four scopes. The solar projection scope worked well and a few of the public looked the design over in hopes of building their own when they went home (perhaps I should do an article on it). If you have never participated in a public event I urge you to come out to a monthly session or our next event and join in. There is no level of astronomical knowledge that is too little when you are dealing with the public, sometimes the novice can relate better and discuss astronomy clearer with people than the seasoned observer. Don't be intimidated, volunteer, it is addicting!

The next main events for Kingston members are Markfest 2003 (our August meeting is replaced with BBQ at the summer home of Mark Kaye, Mark always has a surprise quest speaker lined up for us), Kingston members are always welcome at Starfest which is put on by the NYAA on Aug 21 - 23 this year and then Sept. 26 & 27 our own star party put on in conjunction with the newly formed Belleville RASC is being held. This will be the fourth year for Fall'n'Stars, eastern Ontario's only fall star party. Do make an effort to attend one or all of these events and join in the fun and enjoyment with fellow astronomers. See the RASC Kingston website or Regulus for further information and dates. I look forward to seeing you at one or all of these events.

I would like to extend a Kingston Centre welcome to the Society's newest Centre. The Belleville Astronomy Club has voted to become a RASC Centre and has been accepted. The Kingston Centre and BAC have a history of co-operation involving member and public events. As mentioned above Belleville and Kingston have worked together for four years now in presenting Fall'n'Stars and we look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

Remember, "Share the view" take a relative, neighbour or just the kids on the block and show them just what is out there.

## News from National

by Peggy Hurley



National Council Report

It was a fun filled four days in Vancouver; liquid mirror telescopes, particle accelerators, council meetings, paper talks, boat cruises, a really good speech by a politician and a new RASC Centre. That was the General Assembly this year. First, congratulations to the new RASC Belleville Centre!!

Vancouver hosted the best attended General Assembly to date, at the University of British Columbia. This is the centenary of our Royal Recognition and this made a great theme for the event. Opening ceremonies included a speech by the Lieutenant Governor General of British Columbia, Iola Campinola. This was very well received by those assembled. It seems that Ms. Campinola has an interest in astronomy herself, insisting that her grandchildren join her, wrapped in sleeping bags, every August to watch the Persid Meteor shower. One comment that made reference to pristine skies was greeted with, a rather unexpected, round of applause. Peter Broughton followed this speech with a lecture on the history behind the Royal Recognition. This was quite amusing, even with a British Columbia edge. Following the speeches and light pollution awards were the group photo and an unplanned pyramid. Returning to the building we had more photos taken and were then entertained by a group presenting Chinese traditional dances. Some of those children were amazing.

Meetings were interspersed with talks, workshops and bus trips. The first was to the TRIUMF particle accelerator. This coincided with the first of the National Council meetings so I was not able to attend but I understand that it was quite interesting with paper clips that stood on end. There was also a trip to the Liquid Mirror Telescope on Maple Ridge. This included a look at the Vancouver Centre's Supernova Search telescope and Observatory. After that we were treated to two shows at the Planetarium. Workshops included observing tips with David Levy and Jack Newton, also astrophotography tips with Alan Dyer and Jack Newton. There was also a demonstration of astronomical software.

Meetings were time for work. At the AGM, both the Education Committee and the Observing Committee were changed from Special Committees to Standing Committees, Standing Committee Chairs and Appointed Officers maintained their right to vote at Council and a new Special Committee was authorized to look into some of the wording of the Proxy.

Council meetings dealt with items that authorized money to be spent on an new updated Beginner's Observers Guide and promotional items. Money was not spent, at this time, on revised membership cards or a republication of Helen Sawyer Hogg's "The Stars Belong to Everyone". There is some concern that there may be a deficit this year due to the rising Canadian dollar. This will be watched carefully.

At the second Council meeting, the membership of the Committees was decided. There was a vote for members of the Finance Committee as two people made their interest known for the position of Treasurer (all positions, excepting National Secretary, are up for election next year). The same almost happened for the Publications Committee but two members withdrew their names. The new Special Committee that was asked for at

the General Assembly was also established and will be making their report at the October meeting. There will also be Sample Centre bylaws presented at the October meeting.

Invited speakers included Dr. David Levy, who gave a shipboard rendition of astronomical events and their influence on literature. Dr. Gordon Walker gave the Ruth Northcott Lecture on spectra, which was a topic close to Dr. Northcott's heart. Other invited speakers included Eric Dunn from Cosmic Highway, speaking about astronomy in his life. David Dodge gave an amusing tale about how communications have changed through the ages. And Alan Dyer made us all jealous about his astronomical travels.

All in all, the General Assembly this year was very entertaining.

## News from Other Places



### Starfest 2003

<http://www.nyaa-starfest.com/>

The North York Astronomical Association invites you to attend its twenty-second annual Starfest. Starfest is Canada's largest annual observing convention and star party. It attracts over nine hundred astronomy enthusiasts from Ontario, and neighbouring provinces and states. It has been ranked among the top seven star parties in North America by Sky & Telescope magazine.

Starfest offers a wide variety of observing-oriented activities that address the needs and interests of experienced observers and astrophotographers, as well as those new to the hobby. Activities include observing sessions, formal and informal presentations, workshops, commercial exhibits, and a children's program. You are invited to bring your telescope, astronomical images, and share your observing experiences with others.

Starfest 2003: Not Just A Mars Tour. This year, to celebrate the close approach of Mars, we explore the wonders of our solar system. Our understanding of this amazing place is growing at an incredible pace. As we further probe the surface of Mars, circle the gas giants and their moons, land on asteroids and collect comet dust, we continue to expand our knowledge. The latest discoveries about the sun, planets, moons and asteroids will be examined at Starfest this summer. We will also focus on how to maximize the way in which we observe these solar system objects. You are invited to join us for this unique opportunity to enjoy Mars at its very best, within the context of the solar system as a whole.

Starfest 2003 features over eighteen presentations and workshops, given by leading professional and amateur astronomers. This year's stellar line up includes: Terence Dickinson, Doug Hallman, David Levy, Doug Welch, and many more.

## NAMN Brochure and Handouts...

By Cathy Hall

NAMN, the North American Meteor Network, has a number of items that can be easily printed off for handing out at astronomy events, star parties, or your local club. These items are as follows, and are in Word format:

2003 NAMN brochure (double-sided, tri-fold)  
2003 NAMN 'What are Meteors?'  
2003 NAMN 'Surf the Astro Web'  
2003 NAMN 'Astro Contact Sheet' (with space to insert your local club info)

These are available (free of charge) by email. If you would like copies of these, contact Cathy Hall at [chall@cyberus.ca](mailto:chall@cyberus.ca)

## Submissions from Members



### ASTRONOMY DAY MAY 10 2003

The RASC Kingston Centre Astronomy Day was deemed a success by several centre members. The interaction with the public, although not overwhelming, was steady through out the day. I am pleased with the number of centre members, 23 in all, which showed up to help make this day the success it was.

The venue for Astronomy Day 2003 was the Frontenac Mall. Our set-up crew arrived at about 0800 hrs and all was ready by 0900hrs. Our member displays this year consisted of a video presentation on the phases and eclipse of the moon, a CD program on images from the Hubble Space Telescope, a meteor crater location display, two meteor rock displays, a display on astrophotography, and there was a solar system model plus Czar. The Kingston Centre had the usual handouts of astronomy pictures, astronomy magazines and astronomy books plus leaflets on our centre. The centre also set up several telescope in the mall for display.

Day time observing members had 4 telescopes set up on the side walk of the mall and the public was able to observe the sun and sunspots, the moon plus the planet Venus. The sky was clear for only about a third of the observing time, but windy, but our centre members, manning the scopes, were able to keep the public interested by finding object to observe among the clouds drifting by.

CKWS arrived to cover our event and I quickly volunteered Hank to be interviewed and explain who we were and what Astronomy Day was all about. Good job Hank.

The evening observing was clouded out so the day ended with most of the members going to the Red Lobster for dinner.

Don Cooke  
Chair for Astronomy Day 2003

## A Tribute To Our Honorary President by Leo Enright

On Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> I attended the Spring Convocation of the Science Faculties at McGill University in Montreal, an event at which our Honorary President, David Levy, received a degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*. I was indeed pleased to be able to attend such an impressive ceremony held at the huge R.H. Tomlinson Fieldhouse. Along with David, Honorary Doctor of Science Degrees were given also to the Nobel Prize winner and theoretical physicist, Steven Weinberg, who delivered the convocation address, and to the internationally famous chemist and Order of Canada Officer, Howard Alper. After the long ceremony, at which hundreds of graduating students from 14 different Science Faculties received their degrees, it was good to be able to join David, his wife Wendee, and other members of his family, at the reception which took place in a gymnasium on the McGill campus. That evening, David and Wendee honoured their commitment to have dinner with the President of McGill at his residence. Later, along with several amateur astronomers from Montreal and London, I was pleased to join them at a downtown restaurant for conversation and reminiscences, such as always takes place when long-time members of the RASC gather after not seeing one another for some time. My heartiest congratulations go to a most worthy recipient of this degree from McGill University.

I wish to share with all Kingston Centre members the citation for David, as it appeared in the program for the Spring 2003 McGill Science Faculties Convocation:

### Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science

David H. Levy  
BA (Acadia University)  
MA (Queen's University at Kingston)

As a young child in Montreal, David Levy remembers asking his brother to show him the Big Dipper. At age 12, forced to stay at home with a broken arm, he read a book about the solar system and decided he wanted to become an astronomer or an author of books on astronomy. In 1965, while still a teenager, Dr. Levy saw his first comet, Ikeya-Seki. Soon he began searching for other comets with his telescope in his Montreal backyard.

Indefatigable in his quest for comets, Dr. Levy also studied English literature. He received a bachelor of arts from Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, then a master's from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Each university has subsequently awarded Dr. Levy another degree: an honorary doctorate in science for his comet discoveries.

David Levy became an international celebrity in 1994 when, with world-renowned astronomers Eugene and Caroline Shoemaker, he discovered the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9. When the comet hit Jupiter, it create a mushroom cloud larger than Asia. As no one had ever seen a comet crash into a planet, the images of these collisions became front-page news and forever changed our perception of the earth's place in the solar system.

The Shoemaker-Levy 9 was not the first comet discovered by Dr. Levy. Since his first comet in 1984, he has discovered 20 more, 13 with the Shoemakers at the

Mount Palomar Observatory in California and eight from his own backyard.

Dr. Levy has been a leader in the popularization of scientific knowledge. He appears regularly on television, was part of the Emmy-award winning writing team for the Discovery Channel documentary, *Three Minutes to Impact*, and has created *Comets are Coming!*, a show for 60 planetariums in Canada and the USA. He has a weekly radio program in Tucson, is a regular speaker across the continent, and presents a program for the schools in every community he visits. Dr. Levy is also an instructional specialist with the University of Arizona's Project ARTIST, a program designed to bring astronomy into the elementary schools of Arizona.

A prolific writer, David Levy is the author or editor of 29 books that span historical, cultural, literary, and scientific domains. As the science editor of *Parade Magazine* he reaches more than 78 million people. He is also a contributing editor to *Sky and Telescope* magazine. His book *More Things in Heaven and Earth* is a compilation of ideas from astronomers and poets about the night sky.

Perhaps not since the Renaissance have we seen such broad enlightenment in astronomy. Moreover, David Levy has that most desired goal of a scientist - he has changed the way people understand the universe.



## General Assembly 2003 in Vancouver BC, June 27-29

**It is too late too late to register!**  
The event is done and over with!

The next General Assembly is slated for St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador, date July 1-4, 2004



## 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 Kevin Fetter if you are interested in hosting a session in 2003. Contact one of the Executive, or the host, for directions or visit the members only website.

**July: Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup>: at the home of John & Peggy Hurley near Sharbot Lake**

**August: Cancelled due to Starfest** (alternatively defined as Markfest on Friday August 8<sup>th</sup> after the BBQ and speaker)

**September 26/27: Fall'N'Stars 2003 near Thomasburg** see <http://www.rascbelleville.ca/fallnstars/>

**Saturday October 18, 2003**

**At Diane Torney's home near Picton.**

Note: There is a HOT TUB in case of clouds, so bring your swimsuits!

### The Messier Certificate Holders (16)

Leo Enright (1982), Gus Johnson (1983), Jim Scotti (1983), Mark Sorensen (1986), Stan Hanna (1990), Steve Manders (1990), Bill Broderick (1993), Dan Rombaugh (1993), Ray Berg (1996), Ken Kingdon (1998), David Pianosi (1998), Doug Angle (1999), Vic Smida (2002), Mark Kaye (2003), Norm Welbanks (2003), Kevin Kell (2003)

### The Finest NGC Certificate Holders (5)

Walter MacDonald (1995), Cathy Hall (1997), Leo Enright (1999) Jan Wisniewski (2001), Ken Kingdon (2002)



### Public Observing Sessions

These are the public observing sessions, normally held at Murney Tower Park on the Kingston waterfront on King & Barrie Sts. On the first Tuesday after a

new moon.

**The next POS are:**

**Tuesday August 5<sup>th</sup> at dusk**

**Tuesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at dusk**



### Equipment Loan Program

Members in good standing are able to sign out Centre equipment, including:

- ☆ 25cm (10") f5.5 Douglas Dobsonian Advanced Users

- ☆ 20cm (8") f7 FitzGerald Dobsonian Intermediate Users
  - ☆ 20cm (8") f4.5 Barney Dobsonian Intermediate Users
  - ☆ 11cm (4.5") f4.3 Bushnell Voyager Starter Users
  - ☆ 11cm (4.5") f7.9 Orbitor 3500 Equatorial Starter Users
  - ☆ 5 barndoor tracking platforms 1999 February - Starter Users
  - ☆ Collimating Tool 2001 August - All Users
  - ☆ Binocular Set #1 B&L7x50 1999 April - Starter Users
  - ☆ Binocular Set #2 B&L10x50 1999 April- Starter Users
  - ☆ Binocular Set #3 Bushnell 7x50 1999 April - Starter Users
  - ☆ Binoculars Set #4 Stem 7x50 1995 - Starter Users
  - ☆ 19mm Televue Panoptic Eyepiece 2000 March - Intermediate Users
  - ☆ Filter Set - ND13, 4 colour, O3 nebula - all 1.25" 2000 September - Intermediate Users
  - ☆ Kodak Ektagraphic 35mm slide projector 2000 November
- Contact Tom Dean at xxxxx



### 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.

**Friday July 11th** Dr. Richard E Jones (Kingston) - Amerigo Vespucci's Measurements of Longitude

**Friday Aug 8th 5 pm** Annual BBQ and Observing session at Mark Kaye's - Mystery guest speaker. For directions contact the executive (see below)



### 2003 Officers and Executive Council

PO Box 1793, Kingston, On K7L 5J6  
Infoline & answering machine:  
613-377-6029  
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:** Hank Bartlett  
**Vice President:** Doug Angle  
**Secretary:** Brian Hunter  
**Treasurer:** John Hurley  
**Librarian:** David Maguire  
**Editor:** Kevin Kell  
**National Council Rep:** Peggy Hurley

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**Subscriptions:** Members of the Kingston Centre receive Regulus as a benefit of membership. Advertisements are free to members of the Centre. Commercial advertising is \$20/quarter, \$40/half page, \$100/ full page and should be in electronic format.

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July 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: 76

Colebrook Road RR#1, Yarker Ontario K0K 3N0 Canada  
ascii or most major word processors (Corel WP8 for windows preferred) via E-mail or cdrom or 3.5" PC floppy disk

### Resources Available to Members:

(See bottom of page 10 for passwords to member only RASC web sites)

- **RASC-Kingston Centre Handbook** at:  
<http://130.15.144.99/rasc/secure/kingstonmanual.pdf>

- **RASC National manual** at  
<http://www.rasc.ca/private/rascmanual.pdf>

- **RASC-Kingston Centre Loan Program** at:  
<http://members.kingston.net/rasc/loan.htm>

members. We are putting together a prototype now to get an idea of costs and after that should be able to put together a bunch of kits, lacking just the camera, the single most expensive piece of equipment.



## Ramblings from the Editor

by Kevin Kell

\***Ed Majden's Observatory**  
(Courtenay, BC)



On our recent road trip to the General Assembly in Vancouver, Kim & I stopped off at Ed's on Vancouver Island, had a great visit and came away with the information and motivation to put up an all-sky camera for bolide (fireball) detection. We get to the GA and Doug Hube gave a talk on the very same subject along with a promise of an article in the Journal later this year. We do need an array of cameras for triangulation purposes and have secured expressions of interest in sites near Inverary, Yarker, Newburgh and Sharbot Lake from Centre

### \*Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (Victoria)

We dropped into what once was the worlds largest telescope (for about 6 months) and got a great tour of the new tourist facility "The Centre of the Universe", the telescope itself, and their smaller scope and observing deck.



### \*Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (Penticton)

What a gas.. Not too hard to find and a wonderful facility that has a new admin/office/workshop building and work is progressing on the Square Kilometer Array radio telescope. The panorama image below shows the telescopes involved in the Galactic Plane Survey.



## Annual General Meeting and Elections

The Annual General Meeting is coming up in November and as always, we are looking for people to serve on the Executive of the Kingston Centre. Every year we publish information about the positions and encourage members to ask questions of any of the executive if they are even remotely interested in running in the elections. There are 7 elected executive positions.

### Duties & Responsibilities of Executive - President

- perform a visual audit of all Centre Capital Equipment (list is on secure web site) annually
- perform an inspection of the Centre's finances and sign off the centre accounts annually
- ensure meeting rooms are booked (usually delegated to Secretary or Treasurer) for the year
- Prepare an Annual Report for the Centre Annual General Meeting
- Prepare and review the Centre's Annual Objectives (do we go to STAO? Sky is the Limit Festival?, Charleston Lake Star Party? Any new projects?) and organize support for these events.
- Oversee membership retention, promotion and new memberships .

### Duties & Responsibilities of Executive - Vice-President

- Arrange for guest speakers for meetings throughout the year. If the speaker is from out of town and/or not a Center member, arrange for dinner before the meeting at a local restaurant (we pick up the tab). We do not normally offer an honorarium to any of our speakers. If warranted, some out of town speakers may look to be put up for the night. Center members may offer accommodation to some speakers, but we do not and can not always offer this service.
- Help the President prepare the President's Annual Report for the Centre Annual General Meeting
- encourage and organize speaker exchanges with other centres.

### Duties & Responsibilities of Executive - Treasurer

- standard duties include account keeping of all in and outbound \$\$
- take new memberships and forward them onto National.
- coordinate Group subscriptions to Sky & Tel and Astronomy
- Prepare a monthly balance sheet and report to the Exec
- Prepare an Annual Report for the Centre Annual General Meeting
- sell centre publications
- manage centre assets (cash accounts, other investments)
- maintain (or receive) accurate regular membership updates
- maintain Capital Equipment inventory list

### Duties & Responsibilities of Executive - Secretary

- Check Centre mailbox (downtown Kingston) at least weekly and forward appropriately to other members.
- prepare a budget for the upcoming year (January) (stamps, stationery, etc)
- Prepare an Annual Report for the Centre Annual General Meeting and submission to National Office
- Write up thank you letters to all guest speakers, handle replies to any written inquiries
- take rough minutes of meetings and submit to Editor for newsletter and website publication
- get well cards, sympathy cards, thank you cards to donors and other such correspondence as agreed upon by the Executive Committee
- maintain and send out RASC-KC New Members Kits of information
- works with Membership Coordinator to retain and gain members

### Duties & Responsibilities of Executive - Editor

- newsletter preparation: take submissions and announce deadline 2 weeks before odd numbered month Fridays. Try to get to printing that same day and back for the next Wednesday.
- Monday get the latest membership spreadsheet from Treasurer and prepare mailing labels and return address labels . Create and HTML and PDF version and post online.
- We've been adding in expiry dates and RASC membership numbers to the mailing label. We've also been using Canada Post prestamped envelopes to help cut down on processing time. Wednesday (usually around the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month) get the 200 newsletters, fold and stuff envelopes, add mailing labels and mail out to members. For non-member mailings (all other RASC centres, a few other interested parties), remove any confidential information (like web site passwords on bookmarks and mail out. Get help if at all possible.
- maintain inventory of Centre publications (in conjunction with other Committees, ie Education).
- prepare a budget for the upcoming year (January)
- Prepare an Annual Report for the Centre Annual General Meeting
- Create Executive Member package and distribute as soon as possible in January (typically new year letterhead, copies of Capital equipment, This Centre manual,
- edit and publish centre publications (Careers in Space, ETU9, WTD6, ATM Project Book, etc).
- edit and publish various Centre brochures (KC, getting started, YOG, Astro Day, etc)

**Duties & Responsibilities of Executive - Librarian**

- Annually update the library catalog and audit, distribute at least annually to a centre meeting.
- update and rearrange online/offline catalogs and other items (eg video tapes)
- maintain borrowing library and track down outstanding items
- prepare a budget for the upcoming year (January) with recommended purchases
- Prepare an Annual Report for the Centre Annual General Meeting
- manage donations

**Duties & Responsibilities of Executive - National Council Representative**

- prepare a (travel) budget for the upcoming year (January) (see Executive Motion regarding additional reimbursement not covered by National Office)
- Prepare an Annual Report for the Centre Annual General Meeting
- attend NC meetings and submit minutes/notes to Regulus when appropriate
- Attend GA if at all possible, find delegate otherwise. National Provides travel \$\$ Kingston provides \$\$\$

## 2003 PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

Item	Price per unit (Shipping and taxes included) Regular (Member )	Quantity	\$ Total
*Expanding Their Universe 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition - The Teacher's Companion for Secondary School Astronomy 161 pg 2002 <b>NEW!</b>	\$30 (\$24)		
*Worlds to Discover 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition - Astronomy for Elementary School 154 pg 2000	\$15 (\$12)		
*Slide Set #1 companion for Expanding Their Universe 40 slides	<del>\$75</del> (\$60) \$50		
*Slide Set #2 companion for Expanding Their Universe 40 slides	<del>\$75</del> (\$60) \$50		
*Slide Set #3 companion for Worlds to Discover 20 slides	<del>\$35</del> (\$28) \$25		
*Students Guide to Careers in Space, 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition 33 pg 1998	\$5 (\$4)		
*Secondary School <b>Combo 1:</b> ETU book, Slide Set #1 OR #2 (Circle choice), Careers in Space	\$100 (\$80)		
* Secondary School <b>Combo 2:</b> ETU book, Slide Sets #1 AND #2 (Circle Choice), Careers in Space	\$160 (\$125)		
*Elementary School <b>Combo</b> : WTD book, Slide Set #3, Careers in Space	\$50 (\$40)		
Beginner's Observing Guide by Leo Enright	\$15		

\* Consider a membership in the RASC-KC. It includes a 20% discount on Centre produced material. \* 20% discount now extended to members of RASC (other centres included)

**\*\*SALE effective 2003 June 01 until 2003 August 31**

- ☉ Slide Sets #1 and #2 NOW ONLY \$50 each (no additional discounts applicable)
- ☉ Slide Set #3 NOW ONLY \$25 (no additional discounts applicable)