



Regulus



The Newsletter of the Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - October 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 October 10th at 7:30pm
at Stirling Hall Theatre D, Queen's University

Member's Night - members give short (<10 minutes!) Talks or slide shows about their recent activities.

Friday November 14th at 7:30pm
at Stirling Hall Theatre D
Annual General Meeting - Executive Reports, General Elections (Voting for 2004 Executive)

Saturday, November 29, 2003
Annual Awards Banquet
Portsmouth Olympic Harbour Restaurant



Contents of this Issue

available at

<http://130.15.144.99/rasc/secure/regulus/reg200310.pdf> and include:

- * Call for Editor
- * President's Voice

- * Fall'N'Stars 2003
- * Building Our First Observatory
- * Responsible Lighting News
- * Ramblings from the Editor

Contents of the September 2003 issue are available at:

<http://130.15.144.99/rasc/secure/regulus/reg200309.pdf> and include:

- * President's Voice
- * Starfest 2003
- * Are We Doing All We Can?
- * Geostationery Satellites
- * Great Mars Party in Belleville
- * Messiers and Messier
- * Nirvana Starparty
- * Ramblings from the Editor

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Call for Editor:

I'll use this space to clearly announce that I will not be standing for election to the position of Editor for the upcoming year. If you have **any** interest whatsoever in this position, please contact me (Kevin Kell) with any questions about the position.

After eight years of this, I feel it's time to step aside for fresh ideas and also to give me a chance to get some astronomy done at home.

(The first paper issue is due out in January which means a late December edit)

RASC Kingston Email Lists:
rasckcchat - about 20 members chat about astronomy



President's Voice by Hank Bartlett

This "Voice" is dedicated to the members and organizers who toughed it out at Fall'n'Stars 2003. History does repeat itself, but rain 3 out of 4 years, this is getting to be just a little too



Group photo by Robert Adye (Belleville)

stressful. In true RASCAl fashion we made the best of it and had a good soggy time. Friday night had some really good sucker holes through the clouds and some really good suckers sitting under them just waiting for clear sky. I bet you wish you had been there already.

Seriously though I was very pleased as one of the organizers to see so many registered astronomers turn out given the stormy weather. Perhaps it was the 50 or so prizes, perhaps it was the possibility of clear sky. Most likely it was the fun of getting together with fellow astronomers in a dark location discussing the hobby we all love.

This year we had a main speaker for the first time, Jenik Hollan from the Czech Republic. A fellow astronomer and dark sky advocate, Jenik spoke to us about the relationship between health and light pollution. The facts and theory that he presented gives one a great deal to consider the next time they put a night light in the baby's room or leave a hall light on for the kids or yourself. As astronomers we promote dark sky and abhor light pollution. Some think of us as selfish hobbyists who are putting the security and safety of others second. Perhaps those people whom use and support excessive lighting (and I can be blamed some here too) are putting more than their security at risk. Good health is very hard to maintain in this junk food and couch

potato time we live in. If unnecessary lighting does affect peoples health we would be wise to mention such to light polluters when they balk at our suggestions to reduce their lighting.

Other speakers were Malcolm Bird from TalScopes on optics ratings, Bob Gulley on collimating tools (unfortunately some of Bob's talk was drowned out by heavy rainfall) and Hank Bartlett on daylight astronomy. Sept. 10-12, 2004 will be the 5th anniversary of Fall'n Stars plan now to be there.

November is centre elections month.

Please consider running for a position on the executive or as a committee chair. New input is the lifeblood of any organization, if the RASC Kingston Centre is to continue to serve its members well it needs fresh ideas and good direction. If you wish to run I strongly advise you to tender your nomination to the current executive as early as possible to allow members the opportunity to know who you are and what you are about. I will not be in attendance at this meeting unfortunately so you will have to pass your nomination to the evening's chair.

I will see you all at the November meeting and the "Big Bang-quet"

Share the view, Hank

Fall'N'Stars 2003

by Kevin Kell



The 4th annual Fall'N'Stars was held on the weekend of September 26-28 at the Boy Scout Camp inside Vanderwater Conservation area just outside Thomasburg Ontario.

We had approx 44 registrants albeit with a few cancellations because of the weather and illness.

The Weather:
Icky icky icky.
Wet, wet, wet.
Windy, windy, windy.

The organizing staff arrived around noon on Friday to unlock the camp, get the big white tent set up, registration tent set up and in general get ready.

Opening Ceremonies were later on that afternoon with a Canadian Flag Raising and a rocket launch (not without a few technical difficulties).



Leo, Joanne and John at lunch



Opening ceremonies.. 19:00.. Thomasburg.. We have a problem! Kevin Kell on the left, Robert Adye (Belleville) on the right.



Unpacking the more than fully loaded vehicles



One of the few non-rainy moments... looking south at some of the campers.



Some of the many fantastic door prizes available for the Saturday night after-dinner draw...



Registration Tent sans registrar



What is this young member smiling at?
 From Left to Right, Diane Torney, Joe Shields (Belleville), Zach Dickeson and Joann Burns (Belleville)



Submissions from Members



Building our First Observatory - the story of Starlight Cascade By Kevin Kell & Kim Hay

Back in the summer of 2002 we moved out to the Yarker countryside to a nice little house on two acres. One of the first hopes we had was to put in a nice observatory... but time and money got in the way and in the Fall of 2002 all we were able to do was to install two piers and an



observing deck. The deck keeps your feet off the cold ground and the piers allowed us to keep a polar aligned mount in position, ready to go.

<http://www.path.queensu.ca/~kell/atm/deck/>



The completed polar aligned equatorial mount on the observing deck pier.

The deck was heavily used especially on weekends and even in the winter! 2003 came along and again time and money got in the way and we were not able to start on the

“big project” as we had hoped. But then an alternative surfaced in the form of a Canadian Tire garden Shed on sale. In memory of Roger Hill’s How to Build an Observatory for under \$500 seminar from a few years back, we jumped on the shed (not literally!) And proceeded over the course of two weeks to: expand the observing deck from 5'x10' to 8'x10'



Expanding the Observing Deck

The deck was made of pressure treated lumber, seeing as how it was resting close to the ground and would be exposed to the severe elements.

Next came the assembly of the shed... Even being “Made in Canada” however did not guarantee instructions that were legible... in fact they were very very bad. We managed to get the corners up first and eventually got all of the walls up.



The Canadian Tire 8'x10' shed, corners assembled.



Walls assembled (doors come later)...

Now the tough part... the roof was originally designed to bolt to the walls and the structure would be sound. We wanted a roll-off roof.. Hmm.. The answer presented itself with an extra piece of kit that came with the shed, a framework floor, which we did not use as we mounted it directly to the deck. So we put together the “floor” frame and attached the roof to that frame.

We quickly determined that the frame was not very stable, the walls were not very stable and that we had some problems.

Going through the options, we decided upon building an internal wood frame inside the building and reinforcing parts of the roof frame with wood as well. This turned out reasonably well and the end product of the shed turned out as so:



We were kind of hoping that the roof may be light enough to pull off and either lay down or have legs that could fold down and support it, but such was not the case... so we built the standard roll-off roof external framework.

November: TBA



The finished product. There will be many minor touches to follow and we won't talk about Hurricane Isabell and the damage she caused just a few days after completion... we'll talk about that in another article.

Some features of the observatory:
8'x10' with two piers set approx 6' apart
four teflon pads on each side of the roof allow the roof to move easily by one person

For more details goto:

<http://www.path.queensu.ca/~kell/atm/observatory/>



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.

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!

Take either Highway 2 or 401 from Kingston to Highway 49. South on 49, over the bridge into the County. Continue south to Bethesda Rd (it is the next one past Sidney Shores Rd). Turn right. About 2 km in, turn [see the secure website for complete directions]

Please RSVP so Diane knows how many to expect!



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 October 28 Sunset at 5:02 pm
Tuesday November 25 Sunset at 4:31 pm

Contact Tom Dean

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)

Messier Hunters
Hank Bartlett (55), Fred Barrett (50), Tom Dean (36), Laura Gagne (76), Kim Hay (19), Peggy Hurley (55), David Maguire (7)

Finest NGC Hunters
Doug Angle (?), Kevin Kell (5)

Responsible Lighting News



New street lighting along Gardiners Road in Kingston... with Full Cutoff Fixtures! Yay!

As well, along highway #38 from the 401 to the northern city of Kingston limits, there are new full cut off lights along the way. There still exist a few old style Cobra Heads though.

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

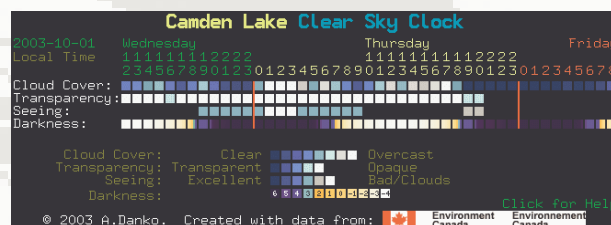
- ☆ Filter Set - ND13, 4 colour, O3 nebula - all 1.25" 2000 September - Intermediate Users
 - ☆ Kodak Ektagraphic 35mm slide projector 2000 November
- Contact Tom Dean

Coming Soon: an *equatorial tracking platform* for Dobsonian telescopes. We've taken delivery of it and now need to sit down with it, write up a manual, test out it's load limits, etc.

Thanks to Kevin Fetter for the donation of a 6mm plossl eyepiece for the Douglas Telescope. This is now included with the telescope.

In other news, the Douglas telescope is currently being reworked, with the center bearings being moved back as to rebalance the telescope... no more counterweight!

Ramblings from the Editor by Kevin Kell



Many of you are aware of Attila Danko's efforts with the clear sky clock. Recently he has been asking for help in maintaining this excellent resource for astronomers: *Sponsors are remarkably wise and kind people who have contributed money to help defray the costs of generating clear sky clocks from CMC data. They have my deepest thanks:*

<http://cleardarksky.com/csk/sponsors.html>

A group of local members have gotten together to sponsor the Camden Lake Clear Sky Clock.

<http://www.cleardarksky.com/c/CamdLkONkey.html?1>

A motion was brought to the Kingston Centre Executive to sponsor the Kingston Clear Sky Clock. This was approved in September but the paperwork may not have gotten through yet.

Keep your eyes open as it should be coming through soon.



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 Oct 10th 7:30 pm Member's Night

Friday November 14th 7:30 pm - General Elections (Voting for 2004 Executive)

Annual Awards Banquet
Saturday, November 29, 2003

Harbour Restaurant, Portsmouth Olympic Harbour.

Drinks: 18:00

Dinner: 19:00

Speaker: **Dr. David Turner, St. Mary's U., Nova Scotia** will join us for dinner and speak about Polaris in particular and Cepheids in general. Title: "Will the North Star Stop Pulsating?"

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at meetings August, Sept, October, and November. or by mailing in cheques to the Centre mailbox (box 1793 Kingston Ontario K7L 5J6), please mark them attn. Susan. Tickets may be requested by telephone to Susan but only cold hard cash (or cheque) will get you beyond the **deadline of November 24 (Monday before)**.

Please notify Susan early if you have any food allergies or vegetarian needs. Menu will be announced well in advance.

Friday December 12th 7:30pm
Last meeting of the year.



The Kingston Centre of the RASC

The Kingston Centre was founded in 1961.
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)

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

We also have an email chat list "rascchat". Send your email address to Kevin Kell to be added to the RASCCHAT list.

Executive Officers - 2003

President: Hank Bartlett

Vice President: Doug Angle

Secretary: Brian Hunter

Treasurer: John Hurley

Librarian: David Maguire

Editor: Kevin Kell

National Council Rep: Peggy Hurley

Regulus is published 6 times per year on paper and 12 times per year in adobe acrobat format files. Both are available on our web site. Views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada or its officers and members. Subscriptions: Members of the Kingston Centre receive Regulus as a benefit of membership. Advertisements are free to members of the Centre. Commercial advertising is \$20/quarter, \$40/half page, \$100/ full page and should be in electronic format.

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August Print Run=0

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

Newsletter Submission Info: The deadline is usually the 3rd Friday of each month. The preferred method of submission is

E-MAIL file attachment.
E-mail: <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

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>



Ramblings from the Editor

by Kevin Kell

Telescope Manuals online!

We have been producing operator's manuals for our equipment loan telescopes and other pieces of equipment. One copy of the manual travel with the instrument, one is kept by the Equipment Loan Chair and the originals are kept online our website.

As of right now: you can access:

★ Douglas Telescope manual at
<http://130.15.144.99/rasc/secure/douglasmanual2003march07.pdf>

★ Venor Telescope manual at
<http://130.15.144.99/rasc/secure/venormanual2003august01.pdf>

★ Bushnell Voyager Telescope manual at
<http://130.15.144.99/rasc/secure/bushnellvoyagermanual2003august01.pdf>

The other manuals are coming along nicely and we should have all of them done by the end of 2003.

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.

2003 PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

Item	Price per unit (Shipping and taxes included) Regular (Member)	Quantity	\$ SubTotal
*Expanding Their Universe 2 nd Edition - The Teacher's Companion for Secondary School Astronomy 161 pg 2002 NEW!	\$30 (\$24)		
*Worlds to Discover 1 st Edition - Astronomy for Elementary School 154 pg 2000	\$15 (\$12)		
*Slide Set #1 companion for Expanding Their Universe 40 slides	\$75 (\$60) \$50		
*Slide Set #2 companion for Expanding Their Universe 40 slides	\$75 (\$60) \$50		
*Slide Set #3 companion for Worlds to Discover 20 slides	\$35 (\$28) \$25		
*Students Guide to Careers in Space, 2 nd edition 33 pg 1998	\$5 (\$4)		
*Secondary School Combo 1: ETU book, Slide Set #1 OR #2 (Circle choice), Careers in Space	\$100 (\$80)		
* Secondary School Combo 2: ETU book, Slide Sets #1 AND #2 (Circle Choice), Careers in Space	\$160 (\$125)		
*Elementary School Combo : WTD book, Slide Set #3, Careers in Space	\$50 (\$40)		
Beginner's Observing Guide by Leo Enright	\$15		
2004 RASC Observer's Calendar	\$17		
2004 Observer's Handbook	\$25		
		Total	

Payment must accompany all orders. Cheques should be made out to: RASC Kingston Centre.

Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards and cash should not be sent through the post.

Mail your order in to: RASC Kingston Centre, Box 1793 Kingston Ontario K7L 5J6 Canada

* 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 December 31**

☺ Slide Sets #1 and #2 NOW ONLY \$50 each (no additional discounts applicable)

☺ Slide Set #3 NOW ONLY \$25 (no additional discounts applicable)