



# Regulus



The Newsletter of the Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada –June 2006

## Coming up...

### RASC Regular Meetings

Queen's University  
Stirling Hall Theatre D 7:30  
p.m.

Friday June 9

Doug Welch "Amateur and  
Professional Optical Astronomy  
in the 21st Century"

Friday July 14

Guy Nason "IOTA- International  
Occultation Timings  
Association"

*Meetings are co-sponsored by  
Queen's Physics and include  
astronomy lectures open to the  
public.*

### KAON Public Observing

Queen's Observatory  
Ellis Hall

**Saturday Jun 10 9:00 - 10:30**

**Saturday July 8 9:00 - 10:30**

### AstroYak

**Friday, June 23 7:00 pm**

at the home of Kevin Kell and  
Kim Hay, *AstroYak is cancelled  
for July*

### Members Observing

Jun 3-11 Lemoine Point



Members set up their telescopes on the  
observing line at Little Cataraqui Creek  
Conservation Authority during Astronomy  
day. For more on Astronomy day events, see  
page 4

Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Box 1793 Kingston Ontario K7L 5J6

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

infoline: 613-377-6029

email: [kingston@rasc.ca](mailto:kingston@rasc.ca)



## President's Tid Bits

Kim Hay

Some of our members have just returned from another successful General Assembly which was held in our Nations Capital Ottawa, and hosted by the Ottawa Centre. Now we can plan for the 2007 GA in Calgary, which will be co-grouped with the AAVSO (American Association of Variable Star Observers) and ALPO (American Lunar and Planetary Observers).

This is always a great time to reunite with old friends and make new ones. We had great talks and tours, and always memories are made for a lifetime.

One great idea that came from the weekend's talks was from Rick Fienberg, Sky and Telescope's Editor in Chief. He wanted to relay that 2009 will be the International Year of Astronomy and it is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Galileo's first discoveries with a telescope. What a great way to unite amateurs and professionals across the globe

Kingston, itself has a twin city located in Cienfuegos, Cuba. Kingston was the first city back in 2004 in Canada to twin itself with another city. What an opportunity to possibly hook up to an Astronomy group in Cuba, to share some outreach, observing targets, and letter correspondence. We could start now. Some preliminary work has been done in research, so stay tuned.

There was also some great interaction with the amateurs and professionals, on if the amateur will have anything to discover first hand, once the new large telescopes such as PANSTARS goes online. The telescopes may be able to

sweep the skies more often and more of them, however, there is still always a chance to discover something new. As one of our members (Arlyne Gillespie) puts it, "I discover something new every time I look through the eyepiece, its something I haven't seen before.

These are just a couple of topics that were discussed. I urge you to take in an astronomy conference, star party, or interesting talk. There is always something to learn and think about.

Till next time, keep looking up!



## Editor's note

Doug Angle

A couple of years ago, we increased the publication of Regulus from 6 issues per year to 12. All twelve issues are available on the Centre web site. In addition six of these are paper copies. Since taking over as editor, I've been finding this schedule a little challenging. I would welcome the addition of an assistant editor, especially to help with the electronic-only issues on alternate months. If you have an interest in helping, please let me know. In addition, this issue and subsequent alternate months will be abridged, with a focus on upcoming Centre activities.

I do want to assure members that there will be no change in the frequency size or content of the paper copies. In a day of when many organizations are increasing costs and reducing services, we recognize that Regulus remains our primary means of communications with our members. It's not our intention to reduce this service, now or in the foreseeable future.

Some members have indicated that they are happy with only electronic copies, and don't necessarily want a paper copy. At this time, the mailing list is derived from a monthly update from the national office. Consequently we haven't had a mechanism for opting out. However, I can set something up if there is sufficient interest. If you do not want to receive paper copies of Regulus in future, send me an email to [angle@personainternet.com](mailto:angle@personainternet.com).

While we are on the subject of mailing addresses, since these come from national, any errors in the address or other membership information can be quickly corrected with a note to [mempub@rasc.ca](mailto:mempub@rasc.ca).



## Upcoming Activities

### Member Observing sessions

Because of very short nights, we have switched to lunar observing. We will continue to meet at 9pm in the South Parking Lot of Lemoine Point Conservation Authority. To get there, take Front Road west from Bayridge drive. Continue past the airport all the way to the western end, and the conservation area parking lot.

June members observing

Floating Period: First clear night Saturday, June 3 to Sunday, June 11. 9pm in the South Parking Lot of Lemoine Point C.A.

July members observing

Floating Period: the first clear night beginning Monday, July 3 right through to Monday, July 10

### Astroyak

Each month Kevin and Kim invite members to their house for AstroYak on the 4th Friday of each month. AstoYak will continue for June, but is cancelled for July.

### Belleville at Bon Echo

Members of the Kingston Centre have been invited to join the Belleville Centre at their annual Bon Echo weekend on July 21-22 at group site #602.

Either camp over, come up for the day etc, it has been a great event in the past. Bring your munchies, refreshments and mosquito Repellent. Share the great day time activities of the park, and nighttime observing, with our friends from Belleville.

Here is the park link

<http://www.lennox-addington.on.ca/tourism/bonecho.html>

There is a park entry fee, paid at the gate. Tell them you are part of the group camping, and you won't have to pay the overnight camping fee.



## Web Site Changes

Kim Hay

Due to Internet Kingston/WTC taking down the ftp server, and without notifying any of their customers, we are unable to make any changes to our webpage. Instead, it was decided that we move the entire RASC-Kingston Centre website to the Queen's server.

What does this mean for you?

If you have the old address  
[www.members.kingston.net/rasc/](http://www.members.kingston.net/rasc/)

bookmarked, you will only have your cached version. You will need to go to [www.rasc.ca/kingston](http://www.rasc.ca/kingston) and create a new bookmark.

If you notice any links that do not seem to work from the new location, please let me know the page you were on, and what you were trying to view.

One of the links is the funpage for the Centre. It has now been changed to show the most recent pictures that people send me, and each person who submits has their own page linked to show what pictures they have submitted in the past.

This is open to everyone. So if you have an image that you would like to share with the group send it to [kim@starlightcascade.ca](mailto:kim@starlightcascade.ca) and I will get it online for you.

## International Astronomy Day 2006



Hank Bartlett & Kim Hay  
(with photos by Kevin Kell)

On Saturday May 6th, International Astronomy Day, the Kingston Centre RASC celebrated by providing solar public observing and displays at the Isabel Turner Library with evening observing and an accompanying power point talk at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

With poor weather reports in the preceding days it was a great relief that Friday's forecast was for 10c and sunny / cloudy on Saturday. When I awoke on Saturday morning and it was POURING was I surprised, nope! Oh well there was still 6 hours to go until the noon set

up. When I arrived at noon volunteers were already setting up displays inside and scopes outside under a less than favourable sky. Room A at the Turner library is just right for the amount of display we have and the location right at the entrance is very good for traffic.



*Outside display at the Isabel Turner Library*

I was told we had about 40-50 people per hour through the room with interest coming from every age group and walk of life. One thing that was brought to our attention though is that we lack displays for children. It has been suggested by our President (Kim Hay) we develop a "Kid Kit", something to interest and inspire the under teenage group. We had a table full of various hand outs and magazines, power point displays, astronomical cards for sale, solar imagery and displays, meteorites and more. Volunteers were ample I am pleased to say, it was great to see so many turn out to help.

The day crew consisted of Kevin Kell, Diane Torney, Susan Gagnon, Leo Enright, Graeme Lees and his daughter Brenda, Paula Smith, Steve Hart and Astronomy Day Chair Hank Bartlett, Kim Hay and a special appearance by

Terry Bridges with the Queen's Coronado Solarmax 70 hydrogen-alpha telescope.  
*The sun in H-alpha, taken through the Queen's*



*Coronado Solarmax 70 by Hank Bartlett.  
 Hand held with a Canon A40 2.1 Mpixel digital Camera set at 1/25 second, f4.8  
 Sunspot AR880 and faculae are right of centre*



*Terry Bridges (Queen's University) setting up the Solarmax at the Library*

After closing and packing up the day crew went to Swiss Chalet on outer Division for supper. \*Warning\* do not order the Chocolate Eruption when you have a presentation to do!

At night we set up at the Little Cataraqui Conservation Area. The night crew was, Kevin Kell, Susan Gagnon, Leo Enright, Steve Hart, David Maguire, Norm Welbanks, Graeme Lees and his daughter Brenda, Kim Hay and Hank Bartlett (the one who had the Chocolate Eruption). I am sure I have missed someone there, please excuse me if your name was missed.

The crew outnumbered the public at night, I do not know if it was the weather or the park fee perhaps it was a combination of both. Regardless, a good time was had by all. We began set up about 7:30 for the intended 8:00 pm start. The power point presentation and

talk "A History of Astronomy" got off to a late start as we waited for more of a crowd to arrive. At 8:30 p.m. the evening was started with the intro, talk and the Sky tonight which ran until 9:20, this allowed 40 minutes for observing which was ample given the crowd.

The clouds were moving out which left us with the waxing gibbous with 64% of the Moon's visible disk illuminated. Jupiter, Saturn and some Messier's were also observed. The area south of the Conservation area looks directly into the light pollution area of Kingston, so this area was washed out. By 10:00 p.m. we were packing up but we were treated to the ISS pass which came from NW to SW. We loaded our vehicles and while listening to the sounds of the night time, we were on our way home.

Overall I was very pleased with our volunteer participation with special thanks to our newest



*Waxing Gibbous moon, taken at Astronomy day observing session. Handheld digital image through 20 cm Skywatcher dobsonian*

helpers. The day displays and observing were very well received. After trying some new techniques this year which did not seem to work so well, we should reconsider sticking to what we had thought about last year and keep the night observing at the QUOD (Queen's University Observing Deck). Although it has light polluted skies, it does have full facilities, it is more accessible, and we can start and stay later.

Astronomy Day 2007 is Saturday April 21st (with a 5 day old moon) and Astronomy week is April 16-22.



## Amateur Telescope Making

Doug Angle

A couple of years ago, we received a donation of a 16" glass suitable for grinding into a telescope mirror. We plan to start on the construction of a 16" Newtonian. The next

meeting of the ATM group will be Wednesday June 14 at 7:00 at my house. If you need directions, please email using the address listed below. No skill is required, just an interest in telescope making.



## The Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Newsletter Submission Info:

I can take most common formats, although I prefer plain text. Pictures should be sent as image files in attachments separate from the articles. Please avoid the use of capitals, asterisks etc for formatting, as I use the publishing software's formats for this kind of emphasis.

E-mail: [angle@personainternet.com](mailto:angle@personainternet.com)  
Post: Doug Angle,

### 2006 Publication Deadlines

For the month	Deadline
July	June 24
August	July 29
September	August 19
October	September 30
November	October 21
December	November 25
January 2007	December 16

**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. Contributions are more than welcome. Submitted material may be edited for brevity or clarity. Copyright 2006 All rights reserved. Permission is granted to other publications of a similar nature to print material from Regulus provided that credit is given to the author and to Regulus. We would appreciate you letting us know if you do use material published in Regulus.



## Kingston Cosmic & Events Calendar

### June and July 2006

By Kim Hay

For more detailed information, please refer to the **RASC 2006 Calendar** and the **RASC 2006 Observers Handbook**. Available from Kevin Kell or from National Office, <http://www.rasc.ca>

June 2 Friday	Relay for Life at RMC- sign up and help promote Astronomy to those who are walking for Cancer.	July 8 Saturday	Sky is the Limit Festival, 9:00-4:00 pm. City Park
June 3 Saturday	First Quarter Moon 19:06	July 8 Saturday	KAON Observing Session- Ellis Hall Queen's Observatory * 9:00 10:30 p.m.*
June 9 Friday	Regular Meeting Stirling Hall Theatre D 7:30 p.m. Doug Welch "Amateur and Professional Optical Astronomy in the 21st Century"	July 10 Monday	Full Moon 23:02
June 10 Saturday	KAON Observing Session- Ellis Hall Queen's Observatory * 9:00 10:30 p.m.*	July 14 Friday	Regular Meeting Stirling Hall Theatre D 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Guy Nason "IOTA-International Occultation Timings Association" <a href="http://www.occultations.org/">http://www.occultations.org/</a>
June 11 Sunday	Full Moon 14:03	July 17 Monday	Last Quarter Moon 15:12
June 16 Friday	Pluto at opposition	July 20 Thursday	Crescent moon occults the Pleiades 4:00 am
June 18 Sunday	Last Quarter Moon 10:08	July 21 Friday	Mars 0.7 degrees N of Regulus, 10 pm.
June 20 Tuesday	Mercury at greatest Elongation E(25 degrees)	July 21-22 (Friday & Saturday)	Belleville Centre at Bon Echo days. Kingston Centre members are invited.
June 21 Wednesday	Summer Solstice 8:26 am	July 25 Tuesday	New Moon 0:31
June 23 Friday	Astro Yak at the home of Kevin Kell & Kim Hay visit <a href="http://members.kingston/~rasc/indexsec.htm">http://members.kingston/~rasc/indexsec.htm</a> for directions	July 28- Friday	S.delta Aquarid meteor peak at 3:00 am.
June 25 Sunday	New Moon 12:05	July 28-30 Friday-Sunday	Stellefane Convention, Springfield VT <a href="http://www.stellefane.com">www.stellefane.com</a>
June Members Observing Session	FLOATING PERIOD: First clear night Saturday, June 3 to Sunday, June 11. 9pm in the South Parking Lot of Lemoine Point C.A.	July 31 Monday	Spica 1.3 degrees N of Moon 11:00 pm
July 3 Monday	Earth at aphelion (152,095,700 km)	July Members Observing Session	First clear night July 3 to July 10 9 pm in the South Parking Lot of Lemoine Point C.A.
July 3 Monday	First Quarter Moon 12:37		