



Regulus



The Newsletter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Kingston Centre — 2007 July

Coming up...

RSC-KC Meetings

Stirling Hall Theatre A, Baader Lane, Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario.

Regular Meetings:

July 13 Friday 7:30pm-10:00pm

NOTA BENE :

Markfest BBQ from 5:30-11pm

On Friday August 17 at home of Mark Kaye will replace August meeting at Queen's University

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

KAON Public Observing:

Queen's Observatory Ellis Hall, 4th floor from 9:00 pm to 10:30 pm

July 14 Saturday 9:00pm-10:30pm

August 12 Saturday 9:00-10:30pm

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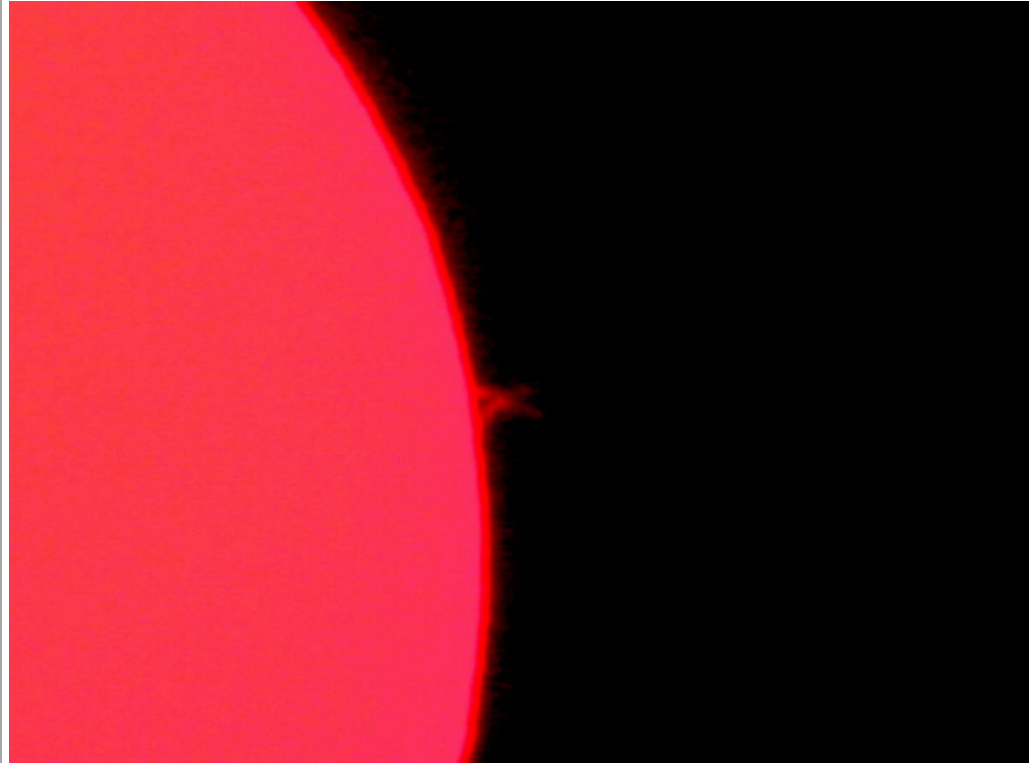
Remote Observing

Observing Morning of June 23

Target for Tonight

Cosmic & Events Calendar

Newt



Solar "X" Marks the Hot Spot

Some of you will be familiar with the Lunar X that Ken Kingdon showed us about a year ago.

On the Sun today there was a Solar X. The X was more pronounced than the image shows, still haven't got that all figured out yet, but what a cool Father's day gift!

Hank Bartlett

Rogues' Hollow Astronomical Observatory (RHAO)

If you are an Astronomer remember to "Share the View".

RHA Observatory 44.32647N. 76.87486W, 111m

<http://members.kingston.net/knah/knah.html>

Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

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Presidents Tidbits, by Kim Hay

The message to members, short and sweet this month: get out and observe; cover yourself from the mosquitoes; and enjoy the summer sky. We (Kevin Kell & I) are getting ready to head out to the GA in Calgary, the Roundup 2007, featuring the RASC, ALPO, and the AAVSO. Dates are June 28-July 1, 2007 with a few extra days tacked on for sight-seeing and being a tourist.

We received in the mail several copies of Starfest brochures, and these will be available at the next meeting July 13. Starfest is located in Mt. Forest, and it is a Star party which runs from August 9-12. Visit www.nyaa-starfest.com for more information.

Remember also in August the Perseid Meteor Shower which peaks at 1:00 am on Monday August 13, so plan a meteor watching party in your backyard, and invite your neighbours, it will be a light show for sure.

Take care all, and see you at the meeting, or next month in the pages of Regulus. Till then, clear skies.

***** SolObs 2007/07/04 8:38:32 AM

Solar data from: HAYK

Kim Hay

76 Colebrook Rd

RR#1 Yarker, Ontario

Canada, K0K 3N0

613-377-6028

kim@starlightcascade.ca

For the month of: June 2007

Instrument: SCT Method: Direct Filter: 1000 Oaks Solar Filter Aperture: 100 EP: 26 mm plossel

Day	seeing	UT	g	s	W	ng	sg	ns	ss	Observer	Remarks
01	POOR	1616	2	5	25	0	2	0	5	HAYK	MCLASS 3 FLARE PEAK1500UT
02	POOR	1732	2	16	36	0	2	0	16	HAYK	AR10959 AR10960
03	POOR	1919	1	9	19	0	1	0	9	HAYK	AR10960 MCLASS FLARE
07	FAIR	2137	2	14	34	0	2	0	14	HAYK	AR10959 AR10960
08	POOR	1615	1	9	19	0	1	0	9	HAYK	AR10960
09	E	1616	1	3	13	0	1	0	3	HAYK	AR10960
10	E	1737	1	2	12	0	1	0	2	HAYK	AR10960
11	FAIR	1620	1	2	12	0	1	0	2	HAYK	AR10960
12	E	1614	1	1	11	0	1	0	2	HAYK	AR10960 PHLANGING
13	FAIR	1605	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HAYK	BLANK SUN
14	E	1612	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HAYK	BLANK SUN
15	FAIR	2118	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HAYK	
16	E	1251	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HAYK	
18	FAIR	2215	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HAYK	
19	POOR	2100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HAYK	
20	FAIR	2242	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HAYK	
21	E	1647	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HAYK	SOLSTICE
23	E	1647	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HAYK	
24	FAIR	1905	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HAYK	
25	FAIR	1213	1	1	11	1	0	1	0	HAYK	AR10961 COMING ON

General Assembly 2007 by Kevin Kell

This is a story of two young astronomers from the country, who took a week to go to the big city and meet up with over 200 "relatives" over the 2007 July long weekend in Calgary Alberta.

The two were innocent in the ways of their larger urban cousins, who bandied about terms such as CCD, Cretaceous, Badlands, and Stellar Archaeology. So they jumped into the deep end with talks and posters of their own, telling their story to the masses and all was well. It was great! Kim & I had a blast!

The General Assembly, much like Starfest, and to a lesser extent, Fall'N'Stars, exposes one to hundreds of others who share similar interests and can rekindle a smoldering or waning interest in Astronomy into huge out-of-control wildfire.

Where to start? Perhaps with a simple narrative.

This was a joint meeting of the RASC, the AAVSO (American Association of Variable Star Observers) and ALPO (Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers). Some of our own RASC-KC members are also members of these other organizations, such as Richard Schmude (ALPO), Kim Hay (AAVSO, ALPO), Walter MacDonald (AAVSO), to name a few. Of the estimated 250 attendees, approx 40 or so were from AAVSO and approx 20 or so

from ALPO along with over 20 other double or triple members. The Venue was the University of Calgary Residence and Conference Facilities.

Day One (Thursday June 28th) was the RASC National Council Meeting, which went so fast it was in danger of being completed before the lunch break. (More on that in another story). That evening there was a field trip out to the UofC Rothney Astrophysical Observatory. What a facility! Three domes, three scopes and a huge new visitors centre. The money flows in Alberta! We were treated to a short talk inside and then went to Visit some of the 'scopes and domes, including an old Baker-Nunn Camera. For more info see

<http://www.ism.ucalgary.ca/top/rao/>

Day Two (Friday June 29h)

In the morning were three workshops:

* Intro to Scientific Observing with AAVSO Arne Henden; RASC, ALPO Richard Schmude; ALPO Matthew Will; RASC, AAVSO Gary Billings; RASC, AAVSO, ALPO Kim Hay)

* Fireball Investigation Workshop with Martin Beech and Alan Hildebrand (I attended this).

* Imaging Workshop with Alan Dyer

The afternoon started the paper sessions, running in one track today, two tomorrow.

*Jaymie Matthews (UBC) started with MOST Canada's Space Telescope, with a last second surprise announcement that MOST would start accepting observing proposals from Canadians. See <http://www.astro.ubc.ca/MOST/> for more details.

* David Turner (St. Marys U) followed with Pro-Am collaborations

* Daniel Majaess (St. Mary's U) followed with his graduate studies using Dave Lane's Automated ARO facility <http://www.davelane.ca/aro/>

* Jerry Horne spoke on variable star EV Lyrae

* Gary Billings (Calgary) talked about Algol- type variables

Two tours of the UofC Meteorite Lab were sold out and we could not attend.

Day Three (Saturday June 30th)

The morning started with two track paper sessions: Planets, SSSBs and Meteorites; Variable Stars 2 followed by a group photo. The afternoon bore more invited speakers: Tracey Delaney (Stellar Archaeology), Ray Villard (Hubble Space Telescope's Legacy) followed by a dinner of Bison Burgers and another talk from Michael Wilson (Medicine Wheels). Murphy night followed with very few Murphys (boo-boos) per se and more general comedy styling. Highlights were the Edmonton Centre's Red Green parody and Mary Lou Whitehorne (Halifax Center) notified of an asteroid being named after her.

Day Four (Sunday July 1st)

The morning session were more paper talks running in two tracks: Satellites and Occultations ; Education and Outreach and then Telescopes and Observatories; Looking at the Skies. The afternoon had the General Meetings of all three societies and surprise, surprise! The RASC meeting let out first in 90 minutes! That evening was the Banquet and Northcott speaker Eric Donovan (Using the Aurora to Study Space).

RASC Service Awards were presented to Rajiv Gupta and Bruce McCurdy and Alan Dyer. AAVSO and ALPO awards were also presented. The AAVSO award went to Vance Petriew (Regina Center) for his huge work in leading and preparing the AAVSO chart database for live generation on the web. I am sorry that I do not remember the ALPO award details.

That was the formal end of the event. The next two days were for tourists. Kim & I stayed the first day (Monday July 2nd) for a trip to the Cretaceous/Tertiary Boundary (where we got to see, take pictures of and poke at the iridium layer from 65 million years ago that whacked the dinosaurs) and further on for 4 hours at the Tyrell (Dinosaur) Museum. Playing in the dirt was great fun. The museum was overrun on its busiest day of the year with thousands of running-amuck-rugrats. Still, it's a "don't miss" if you are within 300km of the place.

That wraps up another General Assembly. We return with loads of new information, plans, ideas, and understanding. We have met many of the people we deal with by email every day but have not previously seen. The social times outside of scheduled events are still the best times.

Next year is a joint Hamilton-Mississauga-Toronto Centre event being held at York University over the July long weekend. The Hogg Speaker will be Phil Plait (bad astronomer fame)

<http://www.badastronomy.com/>

2009 will be at the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park in Southwest

Saskatchewan, hosted by Saskatoon with assistance from Regina. A First! A General Assembly meeting about Astronomy actually involving observing and astronomy!

As an aside... Alberta is ... different. Help Wanted signs are *everywhere*. Construction *everywhere*. Prices. . . a little high (food, lodging, etc). The sun sets after 22:00 in Calgary. It didn't *ever* get dark. More like Twilight all night long. Pre-GA we visited the Muttart Conservatory in Edmonton www.edmonton.ca/muttart, the Columbia Ice Fields and Athabasca Glacier on the Parkway between Jasper and Banff <http://www.columbiaicefield.com/>, Lake Louise and all of the stops along the way. The glaciers are all receding... a lot.

Images from the GA will be online the RASC-KC website late in the 2nd week of July and a short presentation will be done at the July RASC-KC meeting on Friday July 13th at Queen's Stirling Hall Theatre A at 19:30.

Kevin Kell at Starlight Cascade Observatory and Gardens

2007 Annual General Meeting, by Kevin Kell

The RASC 2007 Annual General Meeting was held at the Calgary General Assembly on Sunday July 1st, 2007. All three groups (AAVSO, ALPO and RASC) held simultaneous meetings in different rooms. One shock this year was the RASC meeting let out first, after 93 minutes.

Dave Clark stepped down at the end of his term as Treasurer and Alan Whitman stepped in. No other changes to the Executive occurred this year. There was no indication of finding a new person for Recorder as James Edgar now holds both Secretary and Recorder portfolios. Next year there are a lot of elections.

The 2007 Annual report (available online) covers most of the reporting details in terms of financials, etc. One motion to appoint auditors and that was it. Several centres did not have representatives there at all. A very quiet AGM.

Kevin Kell at Starlight Cascade Observatory and Gardens

Recapitulation of June 2007 Meeting, by Kevin Kell

Good meeting. For those that we missed there, here is a short synopsis:

We were in Stirling Hall Theatre "A" on Queen's University campus and got started just before 19:30 by tapping into the Internet and watching Discovery.ca's live web cast, with RASC Kingston Centre member Peter McMahan, of the space shuttle Atlantis launch. It lifted out successfully at 19:38 to much applause. Next time we will try out sending some images back upstream with a local web cam.

Kim led off with announcements about Arlyne and how she was doing, Walter and how he was doing. RASC Belleville Centre has invited our members to a Bon Echo Provincial Park camp weekend for observing, in mid July. Check their web site for more info. www.rascbelleville.ca

John Hurley, our NCREP, talked about the Pilot Board for National RASC. Nomination deadlines are fast approaching.

Kevin spoke briefly on the Observatory Committee 2 page summary handout and the Search for Land starts, and that the FallNStars 2007 web site is up and registration will be available soon.

Kim then introduced Guest speaker Mark Coady, Chair of the Peterborough Astronomical Associations LPA Committee. Mark gave a detailed hour long multimedia presentation (PowerPoint, and DVD) on the PAA's efforts and results in fighting light pollution. Q&A broke out after that, followed by a short presentation to Kim Hay, President, for completing her RASC Messier Certificate. Way to go Kim! Then we adjourned into our 20 minute regular break.

Thanks to Hank Bartlett and John Pilon for donation raffle items, won by Susan and Joe. Diane Torney found more astronomical items to help fundraise for the banquet.

We sold our penultimate Madoc rock coaster set and will be looking into another order and perhaps other smaller items as well.

We broke out into observing reports after the break and had mostly tales of woe in not seeing an asteroid

occultation last month, but lots of success with the Venus moon conjunction, with some images from the RASC-KC web Image Gallery. Mark Kaye showed some comet imagery, and Bob Neilson, a new member, also showed off some of his lunar images.

Doug Angle reported that he is over the 100 target mark in his quest for the Finest NGC Certificate. We adjourned around 21:25 to Wendy's on Princess.

The RASC Kingston Centre is on the hunt for Observatory Land... and you can help! by Kevin Kell, Chair Observatory Search Committee

At the last regular meeting and lecture on Friday June 8th, we released a two page colour summary for members to take home and think about. Basically it is a guide to help you help us by keeping your eyes and ears open for any possibility of land. The summary describes many of the practical requirements and we hope to have dozens of possibilities generated from you, our members.

So look around, ask friends or relatives, check the papers and drive around the countryside a lot :))

You can see a copy of this by going to our web site and following the links to Committees, then Observatory, or by going direct to <http://130.15.144.99/rasc/observatory>

If you wish to print it out, do so in colour as some of the data disappears in black and white.

The web page also describes some of the updates of the Committee as well as some photographic resources (observatory tours) were used to generate our initial reports. All of these are located within the "members only" section so as to preserve privacy and security of the private observatories.

Hogg Lecture 2007, by Kevin Kell

Wow. In a nutshell ... great talk!

The Helen Sawyer Hogg Prize Lecture was initiated in 1985 by the Canadian Astronomical Society with the participation of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, the Planetarium Association of Canada, and the Royal Canadian Institute. It continues as an annual public lecture co-sponsored by Cascatrust and the RASC, given alternately at the annual meetings of both societies, in recognition of the sustained and diverse contributions of Helen Sawyer Hogg to public appreciation of the universe around us. The 2007 recipient of the H.S. Hogg Prize is Dr. Steven Squyres.

This astronomer is the principle investigator on the two Martian rovers that are currently toodling around the desert. The two Mars exploration rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, touched down on Mars in January 2004 and are well past their 90 day minimum design lifespan.

The talk ran for about 75 or 80 minutes with questions that went on and on and probably would never have ended without the moderator (CASCA president Peter Martin) stepping in.

Steven Squyres gave a tremendous big picture overview of the 800 million dollar twin rover project from design and testing through launch, landing and exploration. Highlights of the 1218 sols life of the Spirit rover at Gusev crater and the 1198 sols life of Opportunity at Medidiani went by quickly.

So, step aside from the content and look at the speaker. This guy

is in my top ten list, easy! If you have never seen some of these people speak in public, make it a point to! Right up there with Julie Payette (Canadian astronaut at Grant Hall on Queens Campus some years ago) and Nagin Cox (Galileo probe engineer at Starfest some years ago) as vibrantly alive speakers who draw you right in and you wonder where the last two hours have gone at the end.

A side bonus for us was the Discovery Channel broadcast of the PBS NOVA show "Mars: Dead or Alive?" last weekend, which was all about Steven and the twins. Find it and watch it if you can!

A good turnout from RASC-KC members (I counted 10) of the 200 or so people in the audience at Currie Hall at the Royal Military College.

We also had a chance to take a peek at over 100 posters on display in Yeo Hall. Wow... astronomy overload!

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: "Gerry Allain" <gallain@nbnet.nb.ca>

To: rascals@lists.rasc.ca

Date sent: Mon, 28 May 2007 19:47:47 -0300

Priority: normal

Subject: [RASCals] new name for RASC Moncton

Send reply to: RASCals Discussion List

<rascals@lists.rasc.ca>

<mailto:rascals-

request@lists.rasc.ca?subject=unsubscribe>

<mailto:rascals-

request@lists.rasc.ca?subject=subscribe>

[Double-click this line for list subscription options]

Fellow RASCals,

Please update your links to RASC Moncton. We are now called RASC New Brunswick and our new website address is: www.nb.rasc.ca

Clear skies, Gerry Allain, RASC NB webmaster

rascals@lists.rasc.ca ---

<http://crux.stmarys.ca/mm21/listinfo/rascals>

----- End of forwarded message -----

OAFSTN Course Announcement

Observational Astronomy for the Novice (OAFSTN) is a nine week course, running on Monday evenings from September 17th to November 12th, 2007 from 6:30-8:30pm.

OAFSTN will teach the novice:

- * How to get around the night sky
- * The use of star maps
- * Introduce the constellations
- * Teach basic telescope principles.
- * Moons & Eclipses
- * Solar Systems & Stars
- * and much much more...

As part of the course you will complete the RASC "Explore the Universe" Certificate.

The cost of the course is \$150 (\$90 for members without renewal). This includes:

- * a one year membership in the RASC Kingston Centre (which includes the RASC *Observer's Handbook*), a one year subscription to *Skynews* magazine, and a one year e-subscription to the RASC *Journal*;
- * *The Beginner's Observing Guide*.

The Observational Astronomy for the Novice Course registration form is now available and online at

<http://130.15.144.99/rasc/Observing/courses.php>

This is our 4th annual course and we encourage you to think about signing up, or at least keeping it in mind to tell your friends!

For more information contact Kevin Kell or the instructors Doug Angle and Brian Hunter.

Sky & Telescope Club Program Changes

By Kevin Kell, RASC-KC Treasurer

We have been notified of some changes Sky Publishing is making to its Club Program discount subscriptions to *Sky&Telescope* Magazine.

Typically we are charged \$40US for a one year subscription, which is about \$10 better than the regular price. In this \$1.00US=\$0.90Can environment this is about \$45 Can. At \$1.00US=\$0.95Can it is about \$43.

1) If you are a NEW subscriber, you still go through the Treasurer to subscribe or if you are renewing outside of the Club Program and want to join it.

2) For all other existing Club Program subscribers, you can now renew directly yourself, without going through the RASC-KC treasurer. You can either mail your renewal directly in with payment or telephone a toll number with credit card.

This will eliminate any delays by an extra middleman in the system (me) in getting your renewal processed.

How will Sky Publishing know that you are still a member in good standing? They will continue to communicate with me regularly to verify subscribers are still RASC-KC members.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask at: kingston@rasc.ca

KAON Coverage, by Kevin Kell

Last Saturday night was our "solstice KAON", or the worst night of the year for brightness on the deck at 21:00. It will be better in July ... a little.

We were starting to setup on the deck around 20:45 and yes there were people early yet again, but it was still so very, very bright.

Venus stood out but it was a good 45 minutes, or 21:30, before Saturn started to show naked eye. We completely missed Mercury, but Jupiter was quite spectacular down in the southeastern muck.

Just showing the planets and their moons last night, we had 108 visitors and had to shoo people out at 22:30. James Sylvester gave a great talk inside the warm room to a packed house, while Melissa and her helper were up in the dome driving the 'scope around.

Steve was greeting and directing people as they came in. We printed off 75 copies of Hank's *Starcharts*, and *What's Up in the Sky*; I think they were all gone by the end of the night.

Out on the deck we had Hank and Kim driving scopes and had some help from Bob, Paul, and Mark.

The mosquitoes were biting, but otherwise it was a nice night ... warm and a little breezy.

Kevin Kell at Starlight Cascade Observatory and Gardens
outside Yarker Ontario Canada
www.starlightcascade.ca

Gleanings from *Regulus* of 30 and 25 Years Ago

By Leo Enright

Thirty years ago, in 1977, the predecessor of **Regulus** was known as **The RASC-KC—QUAC Newsletter**. (The second part of the acronym stood for “Queen’s University Astronomy Club”.)

In July of that year there were two issues. Our Secretary Doug Baker typed and mailed out a one-pager in early July. It provided a brief review of the two summer events that had already taken place—the Holleford Crater trip and the Summer Solstice outing at my place in Sharbot Lake—and an urgent request for members to attend the remaining regular meetings scheduled for July and August, that is, those of July 19th, August 2nd, 16th, and 30th. In late July, I typed out a three-pager which covered a half-dozen timely topics. They included suggested plans for two more summer activities, a report on the recent General Assembly, a notice about a member who was leaving us and another who was joining the group, and an invitation for suggested meeting topics for the coming year, since for the coming year (which in those days meant “the school year”, i.e., from September to May or June) I had been elected Centre President and would be responsible for the meetings as well as responsible for most of the newsletters.

The General Assembly had just been held from June 30th to July 3rd in Toronto on the University of Toronto campus. Paul Brown and I were delegates from the Kingston Centre. One of the highlights of the event was the fact that National Council received what became known as “The Percy Report,” a 16-page study relating to the condition and health of the Society at that time and written by Dr. John Percy, then First Vice-President of the Society. The guest speaker at the GA banquet was Terence Dickinson, and the topic was ‘Frank Drake’s SETI Equation’. (The equation tries to predict the possibility of success in the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.) Attendance at that GA was excellent. In those days before ‘the human pyramid’ became a standard form of diversion for GA attendees, we had our traditional ‘informal East-West touch football game’. (East may have been the winner, but I am not certain.) One of the ‘field trips’ was to the David Dunlop Observatory where we had an informal meal outdoors. Another trip was further north to the site of Jack Newton’s observatory where guests were thrilled to view M51 through his 12.5-inch (31.75-centimetre) telescope, which was certainly one of the largest amateur instruments in the country at that time.

I noted that Paul Brown, who had served the Centre-Club for a good number of years, would soon be leaving the Centre, since, having now graduated from Queen’s, he would be accepting employment in Calgary. At the same time we were able to welcome to the Centre someone who was not a Queen’s student, Mr. Donnelly from Hay Bay.

While inviting suggestions for topics or speakers for the coming year, I suggested that I foresaw no change in the meeting schedule since no one had been complaining about it. The existing practice of holding meetings every second week on Tuesday nights would continue. [Author’s Note: Yes, EVERY SECOND TUESDAY NIGHT! How about

driving to a meeting that often?]

As was sometimes the case in those days, I filled up the last quarter-page of the newsletter with the announcement of a contest open to members of the Centre. They were invited to complete, in 25 words or fewer, the following sentence:

“The last time I was out observing the mosquitoes were so bad that . . .” It perhaps grew out of some of our experiences of observing in June and July of that year!

Twenty-five years ago, the name **Regulus** had been established, and the subtitle of the June-July 1982 issue was “Special Summer ‘82 Eclipse Issue”. It referred to the fact that Canadians had a chance to see a very long-duration Total Lunar Eclipse on July 5th-6th, 1982. The moon was in Sagittarius, above the ‘Handle of the Teapot’, and the total phase of the eclipse lasted an amazing 107 minutes, from 2:37 a.m. EDT to 4:24 a.m. The concluding partial phase ended at 5:29 a.m. and the moon set locally at 5:43 a.m. Truly an “all-nighter” event for eclipse lovers!

A subsequent [August-September 1982] issue of **Regulus** reported that it was well observed in this area. There was some intermittent cloud, but there was reported to have been “enough clear sky to observe one of the darkest eclipses seen by many observers. A dark orangish tint was seen, in the southern part of the moon especially.”

On the night of July 13-14, I observed “an intense Coronal Aurora flooding the entire sky.” To me, its intensity seemed second only to that of the incredible aurora of April 11-12, 1981.

On July 16th, I travelled to London to complete the Kingston Centre – London Centre Exchange Program which had begun with the visit of Peter Jedicke to our Centre in May. My talk in London was on the topic ‘The Identification and Verification of The Holleford Meteorite Crater’.

During July, 1982, I also reported in **Regulus** about observing Omicron Ceti (Mira), the prototype Long Period Variable at a bright magnitude 2.5. On July 29th at 3:30 a.m., I completed my Messier List, and was looking forward to beginning the Herschel List. The *Observer’s Handbook* had not yet published the Finest NGC List. (Only later would Alan Dyer ask some of us to “test drive” his prototype of that list, and I would be glad to help in that task.)

On July 23rd, David Stokes gave an excellent talk explaining his research on Arabic Star Names.

Our member in Swanton, Maryland, Gus Johnson reported in a letter that he had had “a rare night of clarity” on July 21-22, and was able to see below magnitude 14 with his 8-inch (20-centimetre) reflector. He also described resolving, or attempting to resolve, several very close double-stars, including Nu Scorpii, Xi Scorpii, Delta Cygni, and Eta Coronae Borealis. [Note: Twenty-five years later, Gus Johnson still corresponds with me regarding his observing programs.]

Reviewing the pages of **Regulus** and its predecessor from 25 and 30 years ago gives one an opportunity to recall how fortunate we have been in this Centre to have had so many people with a remarkable dedication to observing the wonders of the heavens for a very long period of time.

A Dialogue of Remote Possibilities on 24 June 2007

Kevin Fetter wrote: > Naturally I can only track one sat, but that's fine with me, since I am tracking a geo sat.

Walter MacDonald replied: D'oh! Why is that? Is there no facility for queuing sat runs? It would be nice if you could track one sat for a while, and then automatically switch to another. I don't suppose the system is scriptable? Failing that, if your home computer is running XP Pro and you had a notebook computer at work then you could Remote Desktop in periodically and set up a run on another sat. Gotta be a way to increase the number of sats you can watch with the equipment you have! It's always nice to get the machines working for us instead of the other way around.

K.F.: I check to see where the clouds are, by looking at the sat images. If I feel it might rain, I tie a bag to the mount, in such a way it won't interfere with the mount's movement. The azimuth drive is ok; the altitude drive is the one I have to watch, as water could get into it. But the bag method works, at keeping water out. Only once I think it ended up raining, my mount was a ok, when I got home. I don't recommend people do what I do, to be safe and take no chances.

W.M.: Ah, life on the edge—been there, done that! Much more exciting than going to a casino... :)

K.F.: Now to replay the video captured last night, to see when ATS 6 was flashing. It did get cloudy.

W.M.: Yes, this is not the first night that CSC said it would be cloudy and it wasn't! Based on what I saw from the satellite loop, I think we just got lucky. It didn't cloud over here until just before 3am—the computer woke me up when this happened. You can see the final moment of the run here: <http://www.starlightccd.com/walter/picturebook/webcams/wo-session.htm>

Thanks to the Miras (which often take only a minute or less to do if they are bright) I was able to crank through 70 stars last night despite losing about 45 minutes off the end of the night to cloud. BTW, for cloud watching I find this loop particularly useful:

<http://www.rap.ucar.edu/weather/satellite/displaySat.php?region=ALB&itype=irbw&size=large&endDate=20060810&endTime=-1&duration=4>

On iffy nights I watch the precip radar here:

http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/radar/index_e.html?id=XFT

—Walter MacDonald II [MDW]

Observing Morning of June 23, by Kim Hay

Well, a wee nap in the evening, and then I started my holiday period off with some great observing. Getting up around 1:13 am (5:13 UT) the moon was just setting. A SQM reading of 21.04 with the temps at 11C was quite nice, but I put an extra sweater on, as it was getting damp.

I marvelled at Jupiter, which was on its track SW in Scorpius, and I tried using my

2 & 2.5 x's Barlow with 26 mm and 9mm to zoom in on its cloud belts, but I was only able to see the southern belt, and it was on again off again. This is Jupiter, and four moons.

This is how they appeared to me at 1:13 in the morning.

However, the 2nd moon dropped down was closer to its top counterpart. So, they were Europa, Jupiter, Io (top), Ganymede (bottom) & Callisto.

Pegasus is up, folks, and M31, M32, M110 were naked eye. Very impressive as seen in the 15 x 70 bins, very impressive in the telescope (8" dob) and 26 mm eyepiece.

Three sporadic meteors were seen; two very fast, one medium fast from the zenith down to SE, all white, and no trains. One satellite at 2:35 am (6:35 UT) was going south, past the zenith that I'd seen; I am sure there were more.

Rho Cass, a variable star, was observed, and again it was fainter than its comparison stars at 5.00 mag. Looking at Perseus and the double double is always a treat, in the bins and in the telescope; one could lose oneself in that realm of stars.

At 2:04 am (6:04 UT) there were several bright flashes in the sky toward Kingston: lightning, flares? Unknown at this time. I was waiting for Mars to rise, and though still in the murk, it is small and faint, but red just the same. I could not see any detail, but Mars will be at Opposition this year, so check out the ephemeris, and here for more information online:

http://www.tnni.net/~dustymars/Article_2007.htm

Information is also available in your *Observer's Handbook*.

Temperature went down to 4C by the time I ended my observing run at 6:46 UT (2:46 am), and the SQM readings started at 21.04, 21.12 to 21.19. It was quite an enjoyable time.

Kim

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Target for Tonight, By Susan Gagnon

Updates from previous lists...

Aquila (August 06)

Deep Sky Challenge: Palomar 11.

Levy List: 98 (NGC 6709), 110 (NGC 6760), 262 (NGC 6814), 245 (NGC 6781)

Cygnus (August 06)

Deep Sky Challenge: PK 64+5.1, M 1-92, IC1318, PK80-6.1, IC5146

Ursa Minor

ETU: Polaris.

Messier: none

Finest NGC: none

Levy List: none.

Deep Sky Challenge: NGC3172

(See the Observers Handbook for ways to use the Polaris region to determine limiting magnitude. You can also check this regularly at your observing site to monitor sky quality)

Canes Venatici

ETU: Double star 15 and 17. Y Canum Venaticorum.

Messier: M106, M94, M63, M51, M3.

Finest NGC: 4111, 4214, 4244, 4449, 4490, 4631, 4656/7, 5005, 5033.

Levy List: 186 (NGC 5371), 189 (NGC 5127), 190 (NGC 4056), 261 (NGC 5350)

Deep Sky Challenge: none

Kingston Cosmic & Events Calendar, July & August 2007, by Kim Hay*Date & Time* *Events*

July 6 Friday Earth at aphelion (152,097,100 km) at 8:00 pm

July 7 Saturday Last Quarter Moon 12:54

July 12 Thursday Venus at greatest brilliancy

July 13 Friday Regular Meeting Guest Speaker: Walter MacDonald Topic "Astro Imaging"

July 13-16 Friday-Sunday: Stargazing Manitoulin www.gordonspark.com

July 14 Saturday: KAON Observing Session, Ellis Hall, Queen's Observatory ** 9:00-10:30 p.m. For more information visit <http://130.15.144.99/rasc/Observing/kaon.php> ** Note New Time **

July 14 Saturday New Moon 8:04

July 20 Friday Mercury at greatest elongation W (20°)

July 21 Saturday-Sunday: The Dam Star Party, Fredericton, NB see www.rascmonton.ca

July 22 Sunday First Quarter Moon 2:29

July 29 Sunday Full Moon 20:48

Planets this month: Mercury very low in ENE in morning twilight, Venus very low in West in evening twilight, lost near the end of July

Jupiter in the South after dark, sets in WSW near 3 am. and Saturn is very low in the West in evening twilight, early in July.

Aug 5 Sunday Last Quarter moon 17:20

Aug 9-12 Thursday-Sunday: Starfest- Mount Forest ON www.nyaa-starfest.com

Aug 10-12 Friday-Sunday: Stellafane Convention, Springfield Vermont www.stellafane.com

Aug 11-19 Saturday- Sunday: Mount Kobau Star Party, Osoyoos BC www.mksp.ca

Aug 12 Sunday New Moon 19:02

Aug 13 Monday Perseid Meteor peak 1:00 am

Aug 17 Friday Markfest BBQ home of Mark Kaye & Linda Santry- 5:30-?? bring a salad, dessert or munchies, your own chair, sausages, hotdogs, hamburgers provided.

Aug 17-19 Friday-Sunday: Nova East, Smileys Provincial Park, NS halifax.rasc.ca/ne

Aug 18 Saturday Venus at inferior conjunction

Aug 20 Monday First Quarter moon 19:54

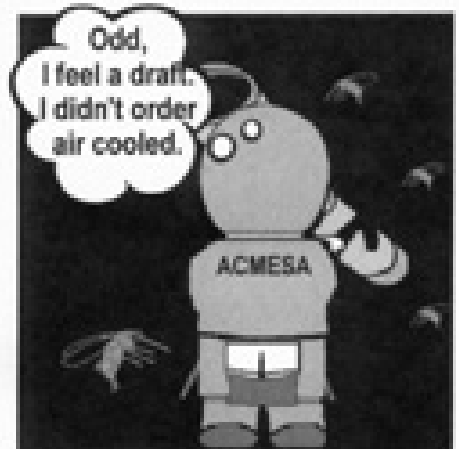
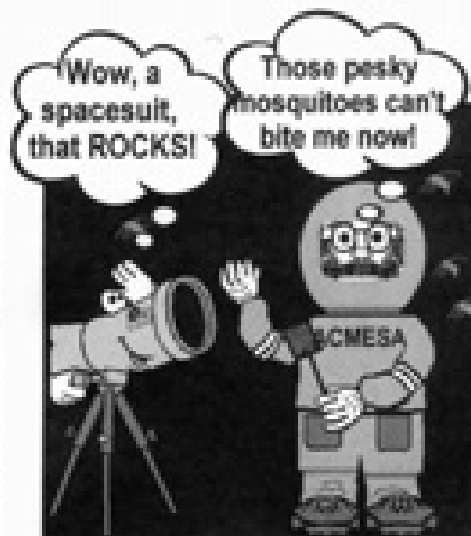
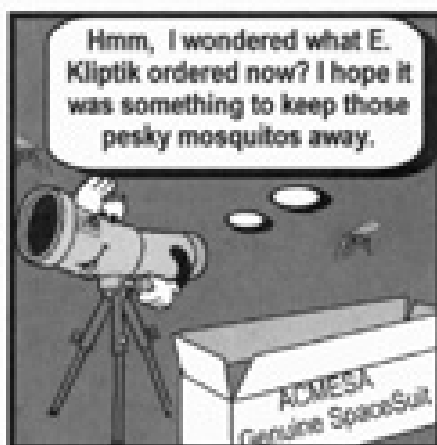
Aug 21 Tuesday Saturn in conjunction with the Sun, Moon 1.5° S of Antares

Aug 28 Tuesday Full Moon 6:35 , Total Lunar Eclipse 6:37 am, best in west, but try for it.

For more detailed information, please refer to the RASC 2007 Calendar, and the RASC 2007 Observers Handbook. Available from our Treasurer or <http://www.store.rasc.ca/>

NEWT

by E. Kliptik



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