



Regulus



The Newsletter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Kingston Centre — 2008 April

Coming up...

RASC-KC Meetings

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

Friday 11 April 7:30-9:30 pm

Friday 09 May 7:30-9:30 pm

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 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Saturday 12 April 9:00-10:30 pm

Saturday 10 May 9:00-10:30 pm

List of contents

Solar Photo

President's Notes

RASC Resignation

March Meeting Reports

RASC History Online

Winchester Observatory Notes

Internat'l Year of Astronomy

Volunteer Hours Update

National Council Report

Astronomy Night in Canada

Masthead

2008 General Assembly

Kingston Cosmic & Events

Calendar



The 2008 Sun has awakened

Wow what a sun today!!!! You gotta see this. I was so wowed by the prominences. Resizing this image for email did not do it justice but at least you can all get the idea. —Hank Bartlett

Several prominences and other structures festoon this recent image of the Sun.. Hank's email was dated 6 April 2008 at 8:25 in the evening. At least seven features are visible on both east and west limbs, and should show up readily under further magnification. —Ed.

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 (at) rasc (dot). ca

President's Notes, by Kevin Kell

Greetings Rascals! We are now moving into spring and the snow is just about gone.

We have confirmed that we have invites to both the Sky Is the Limit Festival and the Relay for Life, both of which we skipped in 2007 due to some volunteer burnout. More details will follow shortly but the Sky Is the Limit Festival is scheduled for Saturday July 5th and it will take place at the Memorial Centre. This is a fun public outreach event where we have solar telescopes, a couple of displays and lotsa handouts for families and kids.

Relay for Life is set for the Royal Military College... sometime on Friday May 30th, I think. Here we set up for nighttime observations from before dusk to around midnight or so. We are proud to support the March of Dimes, Kingston Youth Diversion Program, and the Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Remember that we have cancelled the regular 2nd Friday of the month meetings of the RASC-KC for July and August.

KAON (Kingston Astronomy Outreach Network) will continue on for the foreseeable future. Even as we say goodbye to Terry Bridges and wish him good luck at his new job in Australia, we welcome James Silvester as the new Queen's Observatory Coordinator. Saturday April 12th will be Terry's last KAON session... come out and wish him off!

For those interested in lunar phenomena, the Lunar X feature is

predicted to make an appearance on Saturday April 12th as well.

I hope to see many of you at our next regular Meeting on Friday April 11th at 7:30pm in Stirling Hall Theatre "A" on Bader Lane at Queen's University Campus. This will be a members' night; in May we shall have a guest speaker, and in June, it will be the last members' night before summer break. Our May Guest speaker's topic is: The Formation of Galaxies: Theories and Observations, and she is Dr. Kristine Spekkens, RMC.

Clear Skies!

Kevin Kell, RASC-Kingston Centre
President

RASC Resignation, by Kevin Kell

This is a note from the RASC President Scott Young, sent out to the National Council on April 5th, 2008. There is more detail in the note but my thoughts were that they should not be made public (public public as in on the web site) but if members are interested they can track down the details in the members only sections of the national website.

April 5, 2008

TO: The Council of the RASC

RE: Letter of resignation

I wish to inform Council that I must regretfully resign my post as President of the Society, effective immediately. Over the past week I have been unable to reach consensus with the rest of the Executive in the matter of Council's Motion 08114.

...[edited] ...

I would like to thank Council and in particular the members of the Board Pilot Committee for working to bring the Society into the 21st century, and tackling these difficult issues. I also thank the Society's staff, Bonnie Bird and Jo Taylor, for their help during my time in office. I wish the current Executive and Council luck in resolving this critical issue, and hope that it finds the wisdom to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Young

Regular Meeting of the Centre, March 14, 2008, by Susan Gagnon

The March 14th speaker was Dr. Joseph Buckley and his topic was Radarsat 2. Dr. Buckley has been at RMC since 1995. He did his undergraduate work at McMaster University, followed by graduate studies at UBC. He is a member of the Radarsat 2 Applications Working Group.

This night we found out a bit about the capabilities of Radarsat 2 and why its future is uncertain. Although the focus of this system is to observe Earth rather than the heavens, the science community has a great interest in the fate of such a success story.

Radarsat 2 is a Canadian satellite. Its design is geared for physical oceanography, and as the name suggests, it is imaging radar. It makes use of a synthetic aperture system that allows it to gather information as though it had a larger antenna. This has allowed the system to bring resolution down to 7.5 m, close to a theoretical ideal.

The second component that enables a radar satellite to do more is the fact that the signal emitted is polarized on several planes. Each surface encountered will reflect each of these polarized signals in a unique fashion allowing more information to be gathered. The satellite has left- and right-looking capabilities which mean that it can observe twice as much surface than other satellites can during one orbit.

The most coveted spy feature of the satellite is real-time motion detection, which is a side benefit of its design. Orientation is controlled though a sun sensor, very important for the solar panels and for maintaining a sun synchronous orbit. Because Radarsat flies below the GPS satellites, it can take full advantage of them for its own orientation and for the mapping of its target areas.

The Radarsat 2 "Bus" or central structure was made in Italy, unlike the Radarsat 1 "Bus", which was a U.S. product and consequently was subject to U.S. laws that prevented it from being used to look at things that may be considered security issues.

Radarsat 2 was assembled at the David Florida Labs in Ottawa where it was tested for technical function and launch survivability. It was launched from Baikonur, Kazakhstan, on December 14, 2007. Its main use is for agriculture, but it can be used for forestry, wetland surveys, and geology.

Who uses it? 25% of its use is dedicated to the Canadian Government: 40% ice service in shipping, 30% DND for arctic and maritime surveillance among other things, and 30% for Other Government Departments for RCMP, Stats Can, Agriculture Canada, CSA etc.

75% of its imaging capability is available for commercial sale.

Who owns Radarsat 2? The Government of Canada invested \$500 million in the project and when it was launched, the satellite was given to MDA in exchange for \$500 million worth of imaging. The issue in the news today is the potential sale of the space sector of MDA to an arms manufacturer in the U.S. Following this comment there was an interesting discussion of various conspiracy theories.

It was an informative session and Dr. Buckley encouraged concerned individuals to contact their MP and the Minister for Trade to voice their objections to the sale.

After the break the meeting continued with observing reports and members' photos of the February lunar eclipse.

14 March 2008 Regular Meeting Notes,

Another perspective by Kevin Kell

The Regular meeting of The RASC - Kingston Centre was held on Friday March 14th and our guest speaker was Dr. Joseph Buckley from the Royal Military College. He talked for about 50 minutes on the topic of Radarsat 2, from design, building through many political obstacles to the launch last December.

This was very topical as the government gave ownership of the satellite to MDA, in exchange for free future imagery, and now MDA is being sold to a US arms company.

Stockholders of MDA have approved the deal but many prominent groups and individual Canadians, including Mark Garneau, past president of the Canadian Space Agency, oppose the deal.

If you have comments about this deal, you can reach the last Canadian Government official who can veto the deal, industry minister Jim Prentice at prentice.j@parl.gc.ca

25 guests were in attendance and we adjourned at 9:29 EDT.

--

KAON REPORT, 8 March 2008, by Susan Gagnon

March 8th session was a washout for RASC. The weather was nasty with requests for people to avoid driving if possible. A couple of Queen's folks made it out, on foot, and we had 8 visitors to the observatory. The talk will be presented in June.

The next open house will be April 12, and we are on summer hours, beginning at 9 pm and running to 10:30pm. The topic will be Star Clusters and this is a RASC presentation. The next RASC presentation night will be the July session, and there was a title submitted for publicity purposes. A Star of a Different Colour is the title and it is still officially open for anyone who wants to grab this theme and run with it. In the mean time I will anticipate doing the talk, but I do

not want to hog all the fun so let me know if there is any interest.

April will also be Terry Bridges last session as Observatory Coordinator. He will be in Australia by the end of the month. Terry has notified us that James Silvester will be taking over temporarily as coordinator. This is good news for us as James is

Our Printed History Goes On-line

Contributed by Denis Grey, Toronto

Mar 10, 2008, 21:15

[National Newsletter]

Thanks to Walter MacDonald of the Kingston Centre, a significant part of the Society's recent history has been added to the National website. Back issues of the Bulletin and the National Newsletter are now available at www.rasc.ca/publications/printhistory.shtml.

Beginning in 1970, the National Newsletter was published as a supplement to the Journal. Focusing on Society news and information the National Newsletter tells the stories of the Society throughout the 70's, 80's and 90's. In 1991, the National Newsletter became the Bulletin and it was published concurrently with the Journal until the Journal was relaunched in 1997.

In 1997, the Journal was redesigned and the content of the Bulletin became an integral part of the Journal. Its legacy is continued today in the on-line Bulletin which is published electronically every month. To find out more about the Bulletin visit www.rasc.ca/bulletin.

The articles and information contained in these back issues are very interesting and many are still relevant and interesting today. Download a trip through memory lane today!

Winchester Observatory—2007 Report, Part 3, by Walter MacDonald

The highlight of the year occurred in May with my first official supernova discovery. After scanning some 18,000 images over 12 months I finally had a discovery! It was very faint at magnitude 17.9, and in an obscure galaxy (MCG +02-39-21), and the discovery image was trailed slightly, but it was still a thing of beauty to me. Hopefully there will be more discoveries to come, but one thing that is clear is that supernova hunting requires a lot of dedication, hard work, and perseverance. There is a lot of competition, and only so many supernovae to go around!

A corrupted network bridge put the observatory computer almost entirely out of action for a few days (it would only run in safe mode) until I was able to fix it. Later, a contact broke in the dome, but fortunately it was still possible to operate the shutter motor (to open and close the dome). After the contact was replaced, a problem developed with the dome electronics that caused the azimuth value to jump by 140 degrees whenever the dome passed through the "home" position while moving counterclockwise. Any time this happened the dome would very soon become out of sync with the telescope and I would wind up with a bunch of pictures of the inside of the dome. A few minutes after that the computer would decide that since there were no more stars visible, it was time to stop the session and play music to wake me up. Through a combination of planning, and the occasional manual turn of the dome, I was able to keep things running. In July, a firmware chip transplant made the problem worse: there was no longer any computer control of the dome at all! An August motherboard transplant failed to correct things also (the replacement turned out to be defective). A second motherboard transplant (in October, after I returned from an extended work assignment) solved this problem, and marked a return to fully automatic operation. I did have to camp out in the dome for a few nights in the summertime so as not to lose those nights. Does that make my dome the world's most expensive tent? At any rate, it was neat to watch the scope in action while the stars wheeled overhead, and I was able to see a few meteors and satellites (including ISS) go by as well.

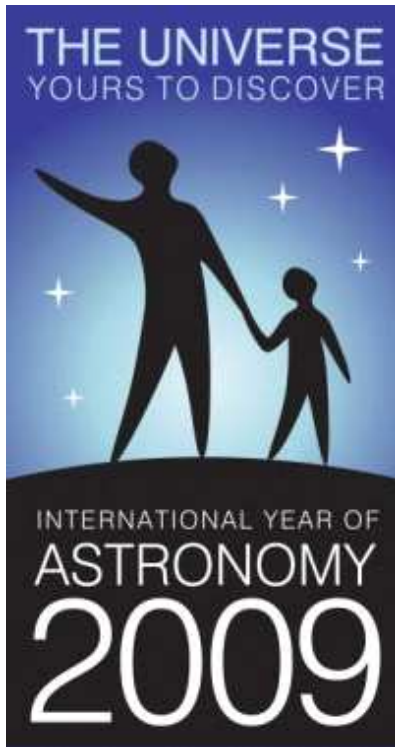
Comet Holmes stole the show in October, experiencing a "superoutburst" and shining a dozen or so magnitudes more brightly than it otherwise would have been. Naked eye comets are always a treat, and it was nice to have one so well placed for northern hemisphere observers (in contrast to the less-than-ideal placement of McNaught in January). In the early days of the outburst, the surface brightness was so high that the visual appearance was identical to what was seen in CCD images. As the comet grew in apparent (and actual) size, the views diverged but were both still quite enjoyable! Before long, Comet Holmes outgrew the field-of-view of my imaging setup! Yet, despite its increase in size, it remained naked eye (with the exception of a few days around its close approach to Mirfak) right through mid-December. December 17th was the last clear night of the year, so there was no Christmas-time observing in 2007.

Wow, what a year -- hope I didn't forget anything! I'll just close this report with a few more statistics. On the supernova search front, 20,174 images were scanned during the entire calendar year; 8,735 were scanned from the time of my discovery to the end of 2007. On the home front, Winchester Observatory acquired 25,000 images of 6,200 targets over 700 hours of operation. (These numbers have been rounded off for neatness.) Although there were a few hardware problems, they were all solved, and 2007 turned out to be the best year yet for me in Astronomy. Here's hoping 2008 can continue the trend! Clear skies and happy observing to all!

2009 International Year of Astronomy Volunteer Hours Logging Project Update

Kim Hay (chair of the 2009 IYA-KC Committee)

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy and astronomers all over the RASC are getting excited. This is where we can all shine in helping to promote Astronomy to everyone! It is also the celebration of 400 years since Galileo first used the telescope....and we have come a long way!



The RASC has funding available this year (2008) and again in (2009) for Astronomical projects that will promote astronomy to all age groups. February 29 was the deadline for these projects and it will be exciting to see what comes forth.

Locally, we are still in the planning phases, but some ideas have come forth, to help promote 2009 IYA. If you wish to be part of the team to help organize events, or just want to help out at an event, please let me know at kim@starlightcascade.ca with IYA2009 in the subject line.

We can use 2008 and its Astronomical events to springboard into 2009!
Come on along and be part of the excitement!

In general, volunteer hours compiled during any organizing activity for the Board of Directors (regular meeting preparation, attending regular meetings, public talks, public outreach events, preparation for any of those events) count.

For regular members, volunteer hours compiled during public outreach activities, preparation for those events, but perhaps not actually attending a regular function like a meeting, will count.

2007 October	44 personhours
2007 November	58 personhours
2007 December	53 personhours
2008 January	50 personhours
2008 February	49 personhours
2008 March	51 personhours
Year to date subtotal	305 personhours

Kevin Kell
RASC-Kingston Centre President

LEADING EDGE HOBBIES

We are proud to carry the complete line of Sky-Watcher Telescopes. Come by and see what we have in stock today!



699 Gardiners Rd.
Kingston, ON
Tel: 613-389-4878
Toll Free: 866-389-4878
www.leadingedgehobbies.com

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

Date sent: Tue, 01 Apr 2008 19:59:45 -0600
From: James Edgar <[jamesedgar \(at\) Sasktel.net](mailto:jamesedgar@ Sasktel.net)>
To: The Council of the RASC
Copies to: [rascals](#)
Subject: Re: [RASC Council] Flash Minutes from NC081

Hi everyone,

James Edgar wrote: These are the unofficial flash minutes prepared by James Edgar, Recorder, of the National Council Meeting (NC081) 2007 March 30.

MOTION 08101

It was moved by Don Town, seconded by Barry Matthews, to adopt the minutes of NC075 (2007-11-24) as distributed.

MOTION 08101 was CARRIED

Library Committee

MOTION 08102 Moved by Patrice Scattolin, seconded by Barry Matthews, Remove the Librarian and Replace the Historical and Library Committees with a History Committee

Moved that By-Law #1 be amended as follows with the purpose removing the Librarian as an appointed officer and replacing the Historical and Library Committees with a single History Committee:

- o Article 6.02 (2) shall have the "the Librarian," removed
- o Articles 6.02 (3-19) shall be renumbered as appropriate
- o Article 6.14 shall be rescinded
- o Article 7.01 (1) (g) shall be rescinded
- o Article 7.01 (1) (f) shall be changed to "History Committee"
- o Articles 7.01 (1) (h-l) shall be renumbered as appropriate
- o Article 7.11 shall be rescinded
- o Article 7.12 shall be replaced with:

"7.11 HISTORY COMMITTEE

(1) The History Committee shall consist of at least three members of the Society.

(2) The History Committee shall

(a) maintain the historical records of the Society and make them available to the membership, as well as anyone with a demonstrable interest in using the Society's collections (subject to rules to be established by the committee),

(b) administer the Society's collection of books, manuscripts, instruments, periodicals, letters, and photographs, and ensure that they are adequately stored, catalogued, and cared for,

(c) maintain an up-to-date electronic copy of newsletters and archival items on whatever medium is current to ensure that future inquiries can be answered in a timely manner,

- (d) promote and encourage the study and awareness of the history of astronomy in Canada, and
- (e) have such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council."

o Articles 7.12 - 7.19 shall be renumbered as appropriate

MOTION 08102 was CARRIED by Special Resolution

1. Chant Medal

MOTION 08103 Moved by Peter Jedicke, seconded by James Edgar, that the Chant Medal be awarded to Geoff Gaherty (Toronto Centre).

MOTION 08103 was CARRIED

2. Chilton Prize

MOTION 08104 Moved by Peter Jedicke, seconded by James Edgar, that, whereas supernovae are used as probes of the Universe in leading-edge astronomical research, and whereas the Puckett Supernova Search Team has been very competitive with professional search programs in making these valuable discoveries, the Chilton Prize be awarded to Society members who have found supernovae as part of the Puckett Supernova Search Team.

MOTION 08104 was CARRIED

MOTION 08105 Moved by Peter Jedicke, seconded by James Edgar, that the cost for a Chilton plaque and two tickets to the General Assembly's awards banquet for each award winner be paid by the Society.

MOTION 08105 was CARRIED

MOTION 08106 Moved by Peter Jedicke and seconded by James Edgar that Service Awards be given to three members of the Toronto Centre [who shall remain unnamed here until they have been personally advised of the award].

MOTION 08106 was CARRIED

MOTION 08107 Moved by Peter Jedicke, seconded by James Edgar, that the Simon Newcomb Award be granted to Gary Seronik (Victoria Centre).

MOTION 08107 was CARRIED

MOTION 08108 Moved by Peter Jedicke, seconded by James Edgar, that the Society institute a new award, called the President's Award, to be given at the President's discretion, usually once a year, to a member who has made an important contribution to the Society, and to be presented by the President either at the General Assembly or during a visit by the President to the home Centre of the recipient.

MOTION 08108 was CARRIED

MOTION 08109 It is moved that the RASC adopt the Dark Sky Preserve and Urban Star Park Program as represented in the RASC Program Guidelines and Guidelines for Outdoor Lighting for DSPs and USPs (March 2008).

MOTION 08109 was CARRIED

MOTION 08110 The Observing Committee moves that the requirements for the eligibility of the RASC'S Messier Certificate as written in the RASC Manual be amended as follows:

The standard reference list for the Messier Objects is the RASC Observer's Handbook Messier Catalogue by Alan Dyer. This includes all 110 objects currently recognized.

Requirements for eligibility for the RASC'S Messier Certificate.

1. The applicant must have observed all 110 Messier objects as defined above.
 - (i) if all 110 objects are found using star hopping or other "traditional" method, the observer is eligible for the "traditional" Messier certificate.
 - (ii) If some or all of the objects are found with the use of digital setting circles or computer-aided telescopes, the observer is then eligible for the "computer-aided" Messier certificate.
2. The applicant must have located each of the objects without assistance from other observers.
3. The applicant must list on the application form instrument(s) used, observing site(s) used and time period over which the observations were made.
4. Members or associate members must provide a signed declaration that he/she has observed all 110 objects, has met the above criteria and submitted either
 - a) the declaration signed by two witnesses: or
 - b) a log book/record of observations which records
 - (i) the date and time of observation of each of the 110 Messier objects.
 - (ii) telescope and magnifications used for each observation.
 - (iii) any remarks noted, and/or a sketch or image of each object at the time of the observation.

MOTION 08110 was CARRIED

MOTION 08111 The Observing Committee moves that the requirements for the eligibility of the RASC'S NGC Certificate as written in the RASC Manual be amended as follows:

The standard reference list for the 110 Finest NGC Objects is the RASC Observer's Handbook NGC Objects Catalogue by Alan Dyer.

Requirements for eligibility for the RASC'S FINEST NGC OBJECTS CERTIFICATE

1. The applicant must have observed all 110 NGC objects as defined above.
 - (i) if all 110 objects are found using star hopping or other "traditional" manual finding methods, the observer is eligible for the "traditional" NGC certificate.
 - (ii) If some or all of the objects are found using digital setting circles or computer-aided telescopes, the observer is then eligible for the "computer-aided" NGC certificate.
2. The applicant must have located each of the objects without assistance from other observers.
3. The applicant must list on the application form, instrument(s) used, observing site(s) used and time period over which the observations were made.

4. Members or associate members must provide a signed declaration that he/she has observed all 110 objects, has met the above criteria and submitted either

a) the declaration signed by two witnesses: or

b) a log book/record of observations which records

(i) the date and time of observation of each of the 110 NGC objects.

(ii) telescope and magnification used for each observation.

(iii) any remarks noted, and/or a sketch or image of each object at the time of the observation.

MOTION 08111 was CARRIED

MOTION 08112 The Observing Committee moves that a Deep-Sky Challenge Certificate be created and that the RASC manual be updated to show the following:

The standard reference list for the 45 Deep-Sky Challenge Objects is the RASC Observer's Handbook Deep-Sky Challenge list by Alan Dyer and Alister Ling.

Requirements for eligibility for the RASC'S Deep-Sky Challenge Certificate

1. The applicant must have observed all 45 Deep-Sky Challenge objects as defined above.

2. The applicant must list on the application form, instrument(s) used, observing site(s) used and time period over which the observations were made.

3. Members or associate members must provide a signed declaration that he/she has observed all 45 objects, has met the above criteria and submitted either

a) the declaration signed by two witnesses: or

b) a log book/record of observations which records

(i) the date and time of observation of each of the 45 Deep-Sky Challenge objects.

(ii) telescope and magnification used for each observation.

(iii) any remarks noted, and/or a sketch or image of each object at the time of the observation.

MOTION 08113 Moved by Glenn Hawley, seconded by Ryan May, that the words "or image" be removed from the motion.

MOTION 08113 was CARRIED

MOTION 08112 was CARRIED as amended

MOTION 08114 Moved by Denis Grey, seconded by Mayer Tchelebon, that National Council authorize the Executive, in consultation with the Board Pilot Committee, to make a voluntary disclosure concerning our financial status to the CRA as soon as possible.

MOTION 08114 was CARRIED

MOTION 08115 Moved by Dave Lane, seconded by Mayer Tchelebon, that National Council authorize the Executive to enter into fee-collection agreements, under the general terms provided in the report to Council, with all Centres as soon as possible.

MOTION 08115 was CARRIED

MOTION 08116 Moved by Dave Lane, seconded by Glenn Hawley, that the Discounted Membership Fee for Centre Members By-Law amendments be drafted by the Executive Committee with the help of the Constitution Committee for adoption at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Society.

MOTION 08116 was CARRIED

MOTION 08117 Moved by Dave Lane, seconded by Geoff Gilmour-Taylor, that the Executive Committee and the BPC survey Centre Executives and Life Members to seek their input regarding how to deal with Life Member money transfers to Centres.

MOTION 08117 was CARRIED

MOTION 08118 Moved by Dave Lane, seconded by Ryan May, that Council approve an additional \$25,000 over the amount included in the 2008 Budget to pay un-budgeted legal fees either spent to date or required to finish the work outlined in the document Resolution of Charitable Issues Going Forward.

MOTION 08118 was CARRIED

Pending fee-increase enabling motions from the Board Pilot Committee:

Motion 1: Resolution of National Council

MOTION 08119 Moved by the Board Pilot Committee that the following resolution be adopted by Council:

Whereas,

1. The Society has and continues to face chronic financial uncertainty with respect to changes in the Canadian dollar and changes in publication revenues;

2. The cost of servicing each member is estimated as being approximately \$7-10 more than the current membership fee collected from each member annually; and,

3. The Society's income from publications is presently applied to enhancing membership benefits rather than advancing astronomy,

be it RESOLVED that the Council of the Society recommends to the membership that appropriate measures be taken to bring the cost of membership into balance with the membership fees collected to ensure the long-term stability of the Society and to enhance the Society's capabilities to advance astronomy and astronomy education in Canada.

MOTION 08119 was CARRIED (There was no opposition to the motion.)

Motion 2: Change to Timing of Handbook Mailings for New Members

MOTION 08120 Moved by the Board Pilot Committee that article 3.06 of By-Law #1 be amended as follows:

"3.06 (3) Every person who is

(a) a member of the Society as of November 1; or

(b) joins the Society as a new member between November 1 and December 31 in any year is entitled to receive the Observer's Handbook published for the next calendar year. Every person who joins the Society as a new member

between January 1 and January 31 in any year is entitled to receive the Observer's Handbook published for the current calendar year."

MOTION 08120 was CARRIED by Special Resolution

Motion 3: Corrective Membership Fee Increase

MOTION 08121 Moved by the Board Pilot Committee that the annual and Life-Membership fees of the Society be changed as follows:

1. For members with Canadian postal addresses:

Ordinary members - changed to \$66.00 with the Society portion equal to \$44.00 and the Centre portion equal to \$22.00; and,

Youth members - changed to \$41.00 with the Society portion equal to \$27.30 and the Centre portion equal to \$13.70,

2. For members with United States postal addresses (in US dollars, unless stated):

Ordinary members - changed to \$82.00 with the Society portion equal to \$60.00 and the Centre portion equal to CDN\$22.00; and

Youth members - changed to \$57.00 with the Society portion equal to \$43.30 and the Centre portion equal to CDN\$13.70,

3. For members with postal addresses outside Canada and the United States (in US dollars, unless stated):

Ordinary members - changed to \$111.00 with the Society portion equal to \$89.00 and the Centre portion equal to CDN\$22.00; and

Youth members - changed to \$86.00 with the Society portion equal to \$72.30 and the Centre portion equal to CDN\$13.70,

4. and that the Life Membership fee be increased from \$2100.00 to \$2345.00. These new fees shall become effective at a date determined by the Executive Committee, except no earlier than 2008 July 1.

MOTION 08122 Moved by Tony Horvatin, seconded by Geoff Gilmour-Taylor, that the Centre portion of Ordinary members in all different geographic areas be increased by \$1.

MOTION 08122 was CARRIED

MOTION 08123 Moved by Dave Lane, that the Life Membership fee for persons with Canadian postal addresses be increased from \$2100 to \$2345, and for persons outside of Canada be increased from \$2100 to \$4000 US.

MOTION 08123 was CARRIED

MOTION 08121 was CARRIED as amended

Motion 4: Contingency for Changes in Services

MOTION 08124 Moved by the Board Pilot Committee that, should the Society membership not approve increases to fees proposed at the next Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to terminate the current SkyNews bundling agreement and to negotiate a new agreement that provides access to an electronic version of SkyNews to all members and a preferentially priced printed subscription.

MOTION 08124 was CARRIED

Nominating Committee

MOTION 08125 Moved by Peter Jedicke, seconded by James Edgar, that Honorary Membership be offered to Brent Tully of the Institute for Astronomy, Hawaii.

MOTION 08125 was CARRIED

MOTION 08126 Moved by Peter Jedicke, seconded by James Edgar, that Article 3.30(5) be amended so that the final sentence reads "There shall be no more than twenty (20) honorary members of the Society at any time."

MOTION 08126 was defeated

MOTION 08127 Moved by the BPC to change the make-up of Nominating Committee to consist of a Past President, and two other Society members, who would be appointed by National Council.

MOTION 08127 was CARRIED

MOTION 08128 Moved by Dave Lane, seconded by Mary Lou Whitehorne, that National Council allocate an additional \$10,000 (total of \$30,000) from the Feibelman Fund for IYA projects. With part of this additional money we propose to conduct a mail out fund-raising campaign (up to \$2500 total cost) targeted to our Canadian-based members (that have been members for 3 years or more). We also recommend that the first five highest rated IYA proposals, with the Moon Map being put into the Sidewalk Astronomer Handbook, be funded, subject to negotiation and confirmation of details with the proposers on how their projects would be implemented for best effectiveness within the RASC, considering potential cooperation with other IYA stakeholders in Canada.

MOTION 08128 was CARRIED

MOTION 08129

It was moved by Don Town to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION 08129 was CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

James Edgar
Recorder

Astronomy Night in Canada, by Katrina Ince-Lum

The 2008 General Assembly of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will be held in Toronto at York University, Keele Campus, from June 27 to July 1, 2008.

This year's General Assembly (GA) will be co-hosted by the Hamilton, Mississauga, and Toronto Centres along with the Department of Physics and Astronomy at York University. These Centres would like to invite members from across the country to join them for the GA, and to help them celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Hamilton Centre, the 140th anniversary of the Toronto Centre and the 2nd anniversary of the Mississauga Centre. The GA will also serve as a launch pad and forum for the exciting events and programs that will highlight astronomy in Canada and around the world in 2009 during the International Year of Astronomy. The theme of this year's GA is "Astronomy Night in Canada" and the schedule will feature many entertaining mash-ups between hockey and astronomy!"

We are very fortunate to have an excellent line up for the GA. Speakers so far include:

- Dr. Phil Plait, an internationally renowned astronomer, author, and lecturer. His numerous appearances on radio, television, podcasts, and in front of audiences have made him a celebrity in science circles, and put him in demand as an expert on astronomical matters. Dr. Plait will be giving the Helen Sawyer Hogg lecture this year, as well as talking to the Society about dealing with the public about the International Year of Astronomy;
- Dr. James Hesser, Director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria, BC. His research applies ground and space-based facilities, like the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope and the Hubble Space Telescope, to questions concerning the history of how the Milky Way and other galaxies formed and have evolved, with particular emphasis on the oldest stars and on clusters of stars. He joins us at the 2008 General Assembly in his role as Canada's national representative for the International Year of Astronomy.
- Terence Dickinson, editor of SkyNews since the magazine's first issue in 1995. He has been involved in astronomy full-time since 1967 as a writer, an editor, a teacher and a broadcaster and will celebrate his 50th anniversary as a member of the Society at the 2008 General Assembly.
- Scott Young, the Society's National President. He is an accomplished science educator, Director of the Planetarium at the Manitoba Museum, and speaker. Scott will be speaking at the closing banquet of the 2008 General Assembly setting forth his vision for the Society as we enter the International Year of Astronomy.

Friday is tour day at the GA. In the afternoon, we plan to visit MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. (MDA) Plan to arrive early for the General Assembly and get a firsthand look at Canada's role in space exploration. The creators of Canadarm I and II, components for the Mars Phoenix Lander and other space hardware, along with the Dextre Manipulator System launched aboard STS-123 and transferred to the International Space Station in March 2008. The Space Missions division of MDA hosts a special tour of their facilities for RASC delegates. Later that day, will be the Toronto Telescope Tour. Transportation will be provided to dinner at a deli situated between two of Toronto's telescope stores, Efston Science and Kahnscope Centre. There will be time to eat (members from Montreal can critique Toronto smoked meat sandwiches!), and shop. These tours have limited capacity, so book early.

There will be two banquets during the GA. On Sunday June 29, the Hamilton Centre will be celebrating its centenary at the Ontario Science Centre, with an early arrival planned to view the exciting new exhibit "Facing Mars". On Monday, the Toronto Centre hosts the closing banquet following the Helen Sawyer Hogg lecture.

GAs are not usually renowned for the observing, especially in an urban environment. However, the Department of Physics and Astronomy's observatory will be accessible during the evenings at the GA, weather permitting. If on vacation, there is much to do in Toronto during the summer months for members and their families. There is a TTC (Toronto Transit Commission) bus stop within short walking distance of the Vanier residence building, which provides public transportation to Downsview subway station, and to downtown Toronto and all its attractions.

There will be many opportunities to talk about how to best celebrate the International Year of Astronomy in 2009, including a panel session on Saturday morning, led by Dr. Hesser.

After the official ceremonies have ended, plan to stay in Toronto for an extra day or two and spend Canada Day at the Toronto Centre's E.C. Carr Astronomical Observatory (CAO), one of the best amateur observatories in Canada, located on the beautiful Niagara Escarpment overlooking Georgian Bay. Come and see it for yourself.

Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend, to renew friendships, and meet members from all Centres across the country.

Registration is now open and early bird registration ends April 30. Please visit www.rasc.ca/ga2008 for more information, to register and to apply to present a paper session. Check back regularly for updates as more information becomes available.

Come and join us for the opening face-off on 2008 June 28!

RASC-KC Board of Directors

President: Kevin Kell

Vice President: Susan Gagnon

Secretary: Steve Hart

Treasurer: Kim Hay

Librarian: David Maguire

Editor: Joseph Benderavage

National Council Rep: John Hurley

2007-2008 Committee Chairs/Coordinators:

Astronomy Day: inactive

Amateur Telescope Makers: inactive

Awards: Kevin Kell

Banquet: vacant

Education: vacant

Equipment Loan: Kevin Kell

Fall 'N' Stars: vacant

KAON: Susan Gagnon

OAFTN Instructors: Doug Angle, Brian Hunter

Observing: vacant

Publicity: vacant

Relay for Life: Kim Hay

Responsible Lighting: Kim Hay

Sky Is the Limit: Kevin Kell

Webmaster: Walter MacDonald

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada— Kingston Centre

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: lbenderavage (at) sympatico (dot) ca

Post: Joseph Benderavage, 147 Braemar Road, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7M 4B7

2008 Publication Deadlines

For the month (Deadline)

May (April 18)

June (May)

Subscriptions: Members of the Kingston Centre receive Regulus as a benefit of membership. Advertisements are free to members of the Centre. Commercial advertising should be in electronic format. Contributions are more than welcome. Submitted material may be edited for brevity or clarity. Copyright 2008 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.

2008 General Assembly

Hello everyone,

The 2008 General Assembly is coming up fast and we want this year's event to be the largest and best-attended of any GA in recent history. To help make this happen we need your help to promote the GA within your Centres.

We are looking for every Centre in the Society to help us out in two easy ways:

* Forward the attached article to your newsletter editor and ask them to publish it as soon as possible. Feel free to add local flavour like car-pooling plans or the location of your Aunt Mildred's house in Toronto where everyone can stay!

* Look for the 2008 GA promotional DVD which will be mailed to your Centre later this week and arriving by the end of March. Please set aside 10 minutes on the agenda of your next Centre meeting in April to show the promo DVD to your Centre.

Many people who are new to the Society think that the "General Assembly" is a stuffy affair where advanced astronomy is discussed. Many don't realize that it is a very friendly and entertaining event so be sure to talk up the social aspect of our Society's annual gathering when you speak to your members.

The official "Astronomy Night in Canada" logo can be downloaded from http://www.rasc.ca/im/GA2008_Logo_160.jpg. Larger versions are also available (please contact me off-list) if needed.

Finally, stay tuned to the GA news channel at www.rasc.ca/news/ga2008.shtml for program and event updates as they become available.

See you in Toronto!

Denis Grey, Chair

2008 General Assembly Organizing Committee

Kingston Cosmic & Events Calendar, April—May 2008, by Joseph Benderavage

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Local Time</i>		
A P R I L	02	- <i>Neptune</i> 0.0° S of Moon	5:00		
	04	- <i>Venus</i> 5° S of Moon	21:00		
	05	- New Moon	23:55; Two shadows on <i>Jupiter</i> visible in E of N.America, best in NE	2:59	
	08	- Moon 1° N of Pleiades (M45)	22:00		
	11	- Regular Meeting Stirling Hall "A"	7:30-9:30 pm. Members Night.		
	12	- KAON Observing, Ellis Hall Queen's Observatory	<u>9:00-10:30 pm.</u>		
	12	- First Quarter Moon	14:32; Moon 0.5° N of <i>Mars</i> , best in W of N.America	2:00	
	13	- Moon 0.1° N of Beehive (M44)	16:00		
	15	- Regulus 0.9° N of Moon	10:00; Saturn 3° N of Moon	14:00	
	20	- Full Moon	6:25		
	22	- Lyrid Meteors (ZHR=20)	00:00		
	23	- Antares 0.3° N of Moon,	13:00		
	26	- Double shadow transit on <i>Jupiter</i>	16:29		
	27	- <i>Jupiter</i> 3° N of Moon	01:00		
	28	- Last Quarter Moon	10:12; <i>Mars</i> 5° S of Pollux (75° E)	15:00	
	29	- <i>Neptune</i> 0.3° S of Moon	15:00		
		<p>PLANETS for April: <i>Mercury</i> very low in WNW in evening twilight for last few days of April; <i>Venus</i> not easily observed; <i>Mars</i> high in WSW after dark, sets in NW near 2:30 a.m.; <i>Jupiter</i> rises in ESE near 2:30 a.m., low in SE at dawn; <i>Saturn</i> high in S after dark, sets in WNW about two hours before sunrise</p>			
	M A Y	02	- <i>Mercury</i> 2° to left of Pleiades in evening twilight, best in S of N. America		
		03	- <i>Saturn</i> stationary, 2.2° E of Regulus		
		05	- International Astronomy Week (through May 11th); eta-Aquarid meteors (ZHR=60) 2 pm; New Moon	8:18; Moon at Perigee (357 771 km) large tides at 23:00	
		06	- Young Cr. Moon 2° N of <i>Mercury</i> , visible in evening twilight; best in E of N America; Moon 0.9° N of Pleiades at 8:00		
		09	- Regular Meeting Stirling Hall "A"	7:30-9:30 pm. Spkr: Dr. Kristine Spekkens, RMC: "The Formation of Galaxies: Theories and Observations."	
		10	- KAON Observing, Ellis Hall Queen's Observatory	<u>9:00-10:30 pm.</u>	
		10	- International Astronomy Day; <i>Mars</i> 0.2° S of Moon at 10:00; Moon 0.2° S of Beehive	22:00	
		11	- First quarter Moon	23:47	
		12	- Regulus 1.2° N of Moon	15:00, <i>Saturn</i> 3° N of Moon	20:00
		14	- <i>Mercury</i> at greatest elongation E (22 deg) best evening view in 2008, best observed during previous week		
		19	- Full Moon (smallest in 2008)	22:11	
		20	- Antares 0.2° N of Moon		
21		- <i>Mars</i> within Beehive Cluster; visible after dark, today through May 23			
23		- <i>Mars</i> 0.01° N of Beehive	2:00		
24	- <i>Jupiter</i> 2° N of Moon	7:00			
26	- <i>Neptune</i> 0.6° S of Last Quarter Moon	22:57			

PLANETS for May: *Mercury* very low in WNW in evening twilight except late in month; *Venus* not easily observed; *Mars* in W after dark, sets in WNW near 1:30 a.m.; *Jupiter* rises in ESE soon after midnight, low in SSE at dawn; *Saturn* in WSW after dark, sets in WNW by 3 a.m.