



# Regulus



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

## Coming up...

### RASC-KC Meetings

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

**Friday 09 May 7:30-9:30 pm**

**Friday 13 June 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

**Saturday 10 May 9:00-10:30 pm**

**Saturday 14 June 9:00-10:30 pm**

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Efrain Morales Rivera took these pictures through a backyard telescope in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. See story of Saturn's vanishing rings on page 4. —Ed.



This is one I took of Saturn on 2005 October 2nd showing much more ring tilt than the photo above.. This was a Fuji Finepix S3000 3Mpixel camera. 3.2 megapixels, 6x optical (38-228 mm equivalent). —Kevin Kell

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## News from the Prez

Greetings Centre Members!

Summer has finally arrived with a vengeance! along with black flies... but what the heck, at least the astronomer frostbite symptoms are receding. Summer comes with mixed blessings... better temperatures, less frozen precipitation but more critters, cloud and fog and wet precip.

We are attempting a few events this summer so I want to remind you again that we have:

Friday May 9th: a regular meeting with guest speaker Dr. Kristine Spekkens from RMC speaking on The Formation of Galaxies: Theories and Observations. The meeting starts at 19:30 in Stirling Hall Theatre A, Bader Lane on Queen's Campus.

Saturday May 10th: Astronomy Day - weather permitting, a 2 hour solar observing session at our old spot on the Kingston waterfront, the Murney Tower Museum Park on King Street at Barrie, from 14:00-16:00. Did I mention Weather Permitting? We'll have at least a couple of solar telescopes (Thousand Oaks, Baader filters), and maybe even a Coronado HAlpha or two.

That night is our regular KAON (Kingston Astronomy Outreach Network) Public Observing Session at the Queen's Ellis Hall Observatory. We hope to have the Queen's University 20cm LX200 telescope out on the deck, in addition to our 20cm Fitzgerald Dobsonian. That runs from 21:00-22:30.

Friday May 30th is the Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life at RMC. We'll be there with a couple of telescopes, star charts and what's up handouts for the participants. One year we had a -8 Iridium flare that was SPECTACULAR!

Friday June 13th is our last meeting for the next couple of months as we are taking a summer recess from July and August regular meetings.

Saturday June 14th is the regular KAON Public Observing Session at Ellis Hall from 21:00-22:30

Of note is the organization of a Members Observing Night sometime in June at the Queen's Observatory with use of the 40cm Research scope. Details are being worked out and should be announced at least a month before the actual event. The idea will be for members to pick an object or two (come prepared!) and after watching the telescope operator for a couple of trials, operate the scope, point it, and take up to a 5 minute image using the CCD camera. We'll work through maybe 10 members or so this first session and see how it goes.

Saturday July 5th at the Kingston Memorial Centre is our last big event of the summer, the March of Dimes Relay for

Life event, with an estimated attendance of 9500 people. We will be there with handouts, solar telescopes and displays. Drop by and check it out, stay awhile and volunteer to chat with people and kids and run a telescope.

The 2008 General Assembly is also coming up (end of June) and early registration prices will have already passed by (April 30th) by the time you read this. Big things are afoot, including a whole @\*#\$&@ of RASC bylaw changes, votes on financial restructuring, and much more. Contact our Centre National Council Representative John Hurley for more information. Your vote can be represented at the Annual General Meeting with the Proxy form that you will be receiving in the mail soon.

The Kingston Centre Board will focus on implementing a number of National financial and administrative issues coming down the pipeline and after the Annual General Meeting, so please bear with us as we help to get rid of these draining, never ending administrative items and help the RASC get back into what it should be doing, promoting astronomy directly. Things like the International Year of Astronomy 2009 for instance. Clear Skies!

Kevin Kell, RASC-Kingston Centre President

## 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](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](http://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

## Two Supernovae within One Year

Walter MacDonald has matched his May 2007 supernova discovery with another in April 2008, this time from the constellation realm of Draco the dragon. We are proud of you, Walter, and proud that you are a member of our Kingston chapter of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. More precise and detailed information follows forthwith.

—Joseph Benderavage, *Regulus* Newsletter Editor

Congratulations to Walter MacDonald on his 2nd supernova discovery!

From <http://www.rochesterastronomy.org/supernova.html>

# 2008bw, CBET 1346 discovered 2008/04/21.29 by E. Guido, W. MacDonald and Tim Puckett Found in UGC 11241 at R.A. = 18h26m50s.46, Decl. = +51°08'16".6  
 # Located 5".0 east and 4".9 south of the center of UGC 11241 (Discovery image)  
 # Mag 18.0, Type unknown (References: SN 2005cy)  
 (image enclosed)

Electronic Telegram No. 1346

Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams  
 INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION  
 M.S. 18, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory,  
 Cambridge, MA 02138, U.S.A.  
[IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU](mailto:IAUSUBS@CFA.HARVARD.EDU) or FAX 617-495-7231 (subscriptions)  
[CBAT@CFA.HARVARD.EDU](mailto:CBAT@CFA.HARVARD.EDU) (science)  
 URL <http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/iau/cbat.html>

SUPERNOVA 2008bw IN UGC 11241

Further to CBET 1293, E. Guido, Castellammare di Stabia, Italy; W.

MacDonald, Winchester, ON, Canada; and T. Puckett, Ellijay, GA, U.S.A., report the discovery of an apparent supernova (mag 18.0) on an unfiltered CCD frame taken with the 0.60-m reflector at Ellijay on Apr. 21.29 UT in the course of the Puckett Observatory Supernova Search. SN 2008bw is located at R.A. = 18h26m50s.46, Decl. = +51°08'16".6 (equinox 2000.0), which is 5".0 east and 4".9 south of the center of UGC 11241. The new object was confirmed on multiple combined CCD frames taken by Puckett with a 0.60-m reflector on Apr. 22.25 (the new object at mag 18.0). Nothing is visible at this position on images taken by Puckett on 2007 May 12 and 2004 Aug. 10 (limiting mag about 20.0). SN 2005cy also appeared in this galaxy.

## Our Printed History Goes On-line

By Denis Grey, Toronto Mar 10, 2008 [*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](http://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](http://www.rasc.ca/bulletin).

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

### New Editor of the RASC *Bulletin*

Congratulations to Ian Levstein, Past President and current member of The RASC Kingston Centre, on volunteering for and getting the position of Editor of the RASC *Bulletin*.

The *Bulletin*

Ian Levstein, Editor

The *Bulletin* was established by the RASC National Council in November 2006. It is a monthly news digest that is forwarded to all members of the Society highlighting items of interest on the national scene including information from the Society, its Centres and the Canadian astronomical community including:

\* eNews Summary - A summary of eNews articles posted to the national Web site in the prior month along with links to the main stories (where available).

\* *Journal* Summary - In months where the *Journal* is published, the *Journal* notice highlights articles of special interest to members.

\* Deadlines and Notices - Major deadlines and notices (awards, GA, etc.) would also be posted in the *Bulletin* to bring them to the attention of the membership.

\* New Web site Content - Any new Web site content (additions, changes) would be noted along with a link to bring the readers there.

**Starfest 2008****The Vanishing Rings of Saturn**

Please share this information with your friends.

**Starfest 2008 will be held August 7-10 2008 at Riverplace Park.**

On behalf of the North York Astronomical Association, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Starfest, and hope you will join us for our 27th annual event. The theme for this year is "Explore the Universe". Our speakers, who this year include Ivan Semeniuk, Sue French, Alan French, Lynda Gribek, Tom Trusock, Alison Rose, Dr. Brady Johnson, Doug Welch, Steve Barnes, Paul Markov, James Kelly, Malcolm Park, and Ken Davey, will take you on voyages throughout the solar system, and beyond. Learn about some of the expeditions currently under way and those in the planning stages. Find out what exciting observing instruments are probing the depths of space. Discover how you can benefit in your own observing adventures.

**Starfest International Salon of Astrophotography:**

Returning this year after being absent a few years is the Starfest International Salon of Astrophotography. Amateur astronomers are now taking high quality digital images with relative ease and we thought we would give you a chance to show off your material! To submit images, just attach them to an email and send them in. Please see the Starfest website and brochure for details.

<http://nyaa.ca/index.php?page=sf08/sf.salon>

**Starfest Radio:**

New this year, and brought to you by SkyShed, will be Starfest Radio, a local (about 1/4 mile radius) signal that will be available with music, interviews and announcements. Keep your radio tuned to the Starfest channel. More details will be available on the Starfest website and in the brochure.

**Starfest Discussion List:**

We always welcome your feedback and program suggestions for Starfest. This year we started the Starfest Yahoo discussion list, which we hope will facilitate the sharing of your Starfest experiences, suggestions, and other comments, and to provide a way for you to stay in touch with your Starfest friends. This list is moderated by 4 members of the NYAA. You can find the list on Yahoo at the following location

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/NYAAStarfest/>

**Brochure and Program:**

Full program details will be available soon on the Starfest website at

<http://www.nyaa.ca/index.php?page=sf.home>

March 18, 2008: Saturn: jewel of the solar system, taker of breaths, ringed beauty. Even veteran astronomers can't help but gasp when they see her through a small telescope.

**Red Alert: Saturn's rings are vanishing.**

Around the world, amateur astronomers have noticed the change; Saturn's wide open rings are rapidly narrowing into a thin line. Efrain Morales Rivera sends these pictures taken through a backyard telescope in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico:

"The rings have narrowed considerably in the last year," he reports. "The Cassini division (a dark gap in the rings) is getting hard to see."

Four hundred years ago, the same phenomenon puzzled Galileo. Peering through a primitive spy glass, he discovered Saturn's rings in 1610 and immediately wrote to his Medici patrons: "I found another very strange wonder, which I should like to make known to their Highnesses...." He was dumbfounded, however, when the rings winked out little more than a year later.

**What happened?**

The same thing that's happening now: we're experiencing a "ring plane crossing." As Saturn goes around the sun, it periodically turns its rings edge-on to Earth-once every 14-to-15 years. Because the rings are so thin, they can actually disappear when viewed through a small telescope.

In the months ahead, Saturn's rings will become thinner and thinner until, on Sept. 4, 2009, they vanish. When this happened to Galileo in 1612, he briefly abandoned his study of the planet. Big mistake: ring plane crossings are good times to discover new Saturnian moons and faint outer rings.

It's also a good time to behold Saturn's curiously blue north pole. In 2005 the Cassini spacecraft flew over Saturn's northern hemisphere and found the skies there as azure as Earth itself. Saturn is a planet of golden clouds, but for some reason clouds at high northern latitudes have cleared, revealing a dome of surprising blue. For years, only Cassini has enjoyed this view

because from Earth, the blue top of Saturn was hidden behind the rings. No more: "Now that Saturn's rings are only open 8 degrees, we can finally view its northern hemisphere's beautiful teal blue colored belts and zones, which really did look blue through my 10-inch telescope," reports Dan Petersen of Racine, Wisconsin, who took this picture on Feb. 24, 2008.

Galileo never understood the true nature of Saturn's rings. He didn't know that they were a disk-shaped swarm of orbiting moonlets ranging in size from microscopic dust to tumbling houses. (Scientists still aren't sure, but they may be debris from a shattered moon.) He didn't even know the rings were rings. Through his 17th-century telescope, they looked more like ears or planetary lobes of some kind.

Yet, somehow, his intuition guided him to make a correct prediction: "they'll be back," or Italian words to that effect. And he was right. Saturn's rings opened up again and scientists resumed their study. In 1659, Christaan Huygens correctly explained the periodic disappearances as ring plane crossings. In 1660, Jean Chapelain argued that Saturn's rings were not solid, but made instead of many small particles independently orbiting Saturn. His correct suggestion was not widely accepted for nearly two hundred years.

Almost 27 ring plane crossings later, we still marvel at Saturn. Even with rings diminished, she is still a breathtaking sight through the meanest of telescopes. Indeed, this is a good week to look. On Tuesday, March 18th (sky map), and Wednesday, March 19th (sky map), the nearly-full Moon and Saturn will be lined up in the same part of the evening sky. That makes Saturn unusually easy to find: Go outside after sunset and look around for the Moon; Saturn is the bright golden "star" nearby.

Point your telescope and, well, just try not to gasp.

Author: Dr. Tony Phillips  
Credit: Science@NASA

## 2009 International Year of Astronomy

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 \(at\) starlightcascade\(dot\) ca](mailto:kim(at)starlightcascade(dot)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!

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[www.leadingedgehobbies.com](http://www.leadingedgehobbies.com)

**Websites Worth Visiting**, by Kevin Kell

To start: Try to use any other web browser other than Internet Explorer. Firefox is a favourite (fast, safe and secure), available at <http://getfirefox.com/>

**Category: Local astronomy**

\* <http://www.rasc.ca/kingston> Home to The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Kingston Centre. It has a wealth of information for amateur astronomers.

\* <http://observatory.phy.queensu.ca/> Home of the Queen's University Observatory

\* <http://starlightcascade.ca/> Home of the StarlightCascade Observatory near Yarker Ontario, providing a real time weather station, web cam views of the southeastern sky and the Roboscope project, allsky camera, radio meteor detector and more!

**Category: Good places to visit daily:**

\* <http://www.spaceweather.com/> News and information about the Sun-Earth Environment with breaking news about the sun, earth (aurora alerts), planets and more.

\* <http://www.astrobuysell.com/> A Canadian marketplace for new and used telescopes and accessories.

\* <http://www.badastronomy.com/> Phil Plait's Bad Astronomy site with regular blob postings about astronomy and bad astronomy. Good for many a laugh.

\* <http://www.heavens-above.com/> The reference site for satellite pass predictions for your exact location, especially good for the International Space Station, Iridium satellite flares and brighter comets and asteroids.

\* <http://www.space.com/> Daily astronomical news

\* <http://www.universetoday.com/> Daily space and astronomy news from Fraser Cain on Vancouver Island, B.C.

**Category: Good reference sites**

\* <http://www.aavso.org/> The American Association of Variable Star Observers - the reference site for all things variable and stellar.

\* <http://alpo-astronomy.org/> The Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers - An astronomical organization dedicated to lunar and planetary astronomy that...Facilitates an exchange of information and observing data and provides a forum for discussing ideas and observing techniques.

**Category: Monthly Feature sites**

\* <http://ciclops.org/> Cassini Imaging Central Laboratory for operations. Home to the Cassini Spacecraft orbiting Saturn with a wealth of fantastic images.

\* <http://www.netdenizen.com/spacecalendars/> Stunning large format wall calendars to download and print

\* <http://www.delta.edu/slime/scope.html> building a 6"(15cm) Dobsonian Telescope Project

**Astronomy Night in Canada**, by Katrina Ince-Lum

The 2008 General Assembly of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) 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 second 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, internationally renowned astronomer, author, and lecturer. His numerous appearances on radio, television, podcasts, and in front of live audiences have made him a celebrity in science circles, putting 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 RASC about dealing with the public about the International Year of Astronomy;
- Dr. James Hesser, Director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria, B.C. 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. He 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 Limited (MDA). Plan to arrive early for the General Assembly in order to 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 Mission's division of MDA hosts a special tour of their facilities for RASC delegates. The Toronto Telescope Tour will be held later that same day.

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 to 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 observatory of the Department of Physics and Astronomy will be accessible evenings during the GA, weather permitting. If you are 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 International Year of Astronomy in 2009, including a Saturday morning panel session led by Dr. Hesser.

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

Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend, to renew friendships, and to 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](http://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!

**Meeting Notes from 11 April 2008**, by Susan Gagnon

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Susan made announcements about the past KAON session, and the next session on 12 April 2008, with potential targets for viewing if skies were clear. The warm room talk was to be "Star Clusters" and it was a RASC presentation. Kevin displayed the evening's door prizes, a 3D space book, laser pointers and the 50/50. Ian Levstein (one of many illustrious Past Presidents for Life) has donated a stack of books to the centre library, and Kevin accepted them on our behalf. John Hurley gave us the National Council report covering the charitable status/income tax issues, and the subsequent resignation of National President Scott Young over his differences with the board of executives. It was expected that David Lane would take over as National President. (This is indeed what has happened.) The General Assembly is expected to have some interesting council meetings in future.

Other developments at the National level are: a new President's Award; Computer Assisted Certificates for Messier Certificate applicants; and the upcoming \$7 membership fee increase proposal. If the fee increase does not pass, the paper copy of *SkyNews* magazine will have to go. \$1 will actually go to the Centres, but that is needed because some administration fees will be downloaded. There were also minor changes in National Committees.

Kim announced that there was a commitment to participate in the Relay for Life (Cancer Research Fundraiser) again this year. This event will be held at RMC as in the past, and the Kingston Centre stake-out will be at the south end with a slightly better view away from downtown. We will be part of the entertainment for any participants, so there is a plan to have 2 to 3 telescopes out. Drop by and stay as long as you can. The participants stay all night.

We are also committed to the Sky is the Limit Festival; this year it will be held on July 5, a Saturday, and the site this year will be the Memorial Centre. This is a major fundraiser for the March of Dimes in Kingston. The RCMP will be performing the

Musical Ride once or twice during the day. We are not too sure what to expect at this new site. Let Kevin know if you can help out at an information table, or if you can bring a 'scope for solar observing.

Astronomy Day falls on 10 May 2008, and this is a regular KAON night for us, so that works well. There will be no daytime event other than solar observing, weather permitting, at McBurney Park (at the Martello tower in front of City Park), from 2 to 4 in the afternoon.

Susan gave a brief presentation of solar photos and corresponding sun spot sketches from the last few weeks. Kevin announced that it was break time. Cookies were eaten, tickets were sold, and members caught up. After the break the meeting continued (in 3D for Peggy!) with a website update from Walter. There are many historical items including GA photos. Members delivered observing reports. Bob Hilson spoke of his vacation to New Zealand and Fiji, filled with many nights of clear skies. Peggy reported that while she was away from work, a student may have brought in a rather large meteorite, and he was advised to take it to Miller Hall on Queen's U. campus to have it checked out, but the description that Peggy was given sounded very convincing. Joe took the opportunity offered by Earth Hour to get his son looking up with binoculars, excellent work, Joe! Walter set a new personal record on 24 March 2008 by observing 202 variable stars in one night. Kim's video set-up for occultations is coming along. Kevin then showed photos of RASC-Hamilton Centre's Observatory, and there may be a talk about that in the future. We also had a look at the GA promo DVD sent out by the GA committee. The hockey theme is full steam ahead (Astronomy Night in Canada). They even have a RASC-friendly Don Cherry!

That is about it for the goings on at the meeting. We adjourned at 9:30 and a few folks carried on the visit at Wendy's.



# Regulus



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

## 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:* vacant
- Amateur Telescope Makers:* vacant
- Awards:* Kevin Kell
- Banquet:* vacant
- Education:* vacant
- Equipment Loan:* Kevin Kell
- Fall 'N' Stars:* vacant
- KAON:* Susan Gagnon
- OAFN 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, xxxxxxxxxxxx Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7M 4B7

### 2008 Publication Deadlines

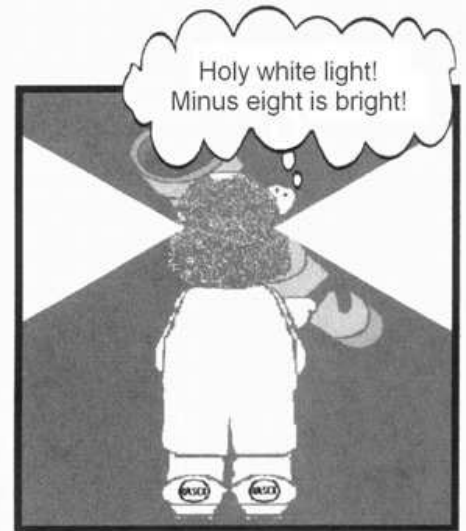
#### For the month (Deadline)

- June (May 30)
- September (August 22)

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## NEWT

by E. Kliptik



characters in this cartoon are adapted from The Print Shop Ensemble

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Local Time</i>
-------------	---------------	-------------------

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 8<br>0<br>0<br>2<br>2<br>Y<br>A<br>M | <p>02 - <b>Mercury</b> 2° to left of Pleiades in evening twilight, best in S of N. America</p> <p>03 - <b>Saturn</b> stationary, 2.2° E of Regulus</p> <p>05 - International Astronomy Week (through May 11th); eta-Aquarid meteors (ZHR=60) 2 pm; New Moon 8:18; Moon at Perigee (357 771 km) <b>large tides</b> at 23:00</p> <p>06 - Young Cr. Moon 2° N of <b>Mercury</b>, visible in evening twilight; best in E of N America; Moon 0.9° N of Pleiades at 8:00</p> <p>09 - <b>Regular Meeting</b> Queen's University Stirling Hall "A" 7:30-9:30 pm. Spkr: Dr. Kristine Spekkens, RMC: "The Formation of Galaxies: Theories and Observations."</p> <p>10 - Celebrate Astronomy Day at Murney Park, 2 to 4 pm, then attend <b>KAON</b> Observing, Ellis Hall Queen's Observatory <b>9:00-10:30 pm</b>. Spkr: Joel Roediger, "Atmospheric Phenomena."</p> <p>10 - <b>Mars</b> 0.2° S of Moon at 10:00; Moon 0.2° S of Beehive 22:00</p> <p>11 - First quarter Moon 23:47</p> <p>12 - Regulus 1.2° N of Moon 15:00, <b>Saturn</b> 3° N of Moon 20:00</p> <p>14 - <b>Mercury</b> at greatest elongation E (22°) best evening view in 2008, best observed during previous week</p> <p>19 - Full Moon (smallest in 2008) 22:11</p> <p>20 - Antares 0.2° N of Moon</p> <p>21 - <b>Mars</b> within Beehive Cluster; visible after dark, today through May 23</p> <p>23 - <b>Mars</b> 0.01° N of Beehive 2:00</p> <p>24 - <b>Jupiter</b> 2° N of Moon 7:00</p> <p>26 - <b>Neptune</b> 0.6° S of Last Quarter Moon 22:57</p> |
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**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.

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| 8<br>0<br>0<br>2<br>2<br>E<br>N<br>J | <p>01 - Double shadow transit on <b>Jupiter</b> 13:20</p> <p>03 - Moon at perigee, large tides; 09:00; New Moon 15:23</p> <p>07 - Moon is 0.4° S of Beehive (M44) 07:00; <b>Mars</b> 1.1° N of Moon 22:00</p> <p>08 - Moon 2.1° S of <b>Mars</b> 12 am; Double shadow transit on <b>Jupiter</b> 15:54; Regulus 1.4° N of Moon 23:00</p> <p>09 - <b>Saturn</b> 3° N of Moon 05:00</p> <p>10 - First Quarter Moon 10:04</p> <p>13 - <b>Regular Meeting</b> Queen's University Stirling Hall "A" 7:30-9:30 pm. Members Night.</p> <p>14 - <b>KAON Public</b> Observing, Queen's University Ellis Hall Observatory <b>9:00-10:30 pm</b></p> <p>15 - Double shadow transit on <b>Jupiter</b> 18:42</p> <p>17 - Antares 0.2° N of Moon 00.100</p> <p>18 - Full Moon 13:30</p> <p>20 - <b>Jupiter</b> 2° N of Moon 09:00; Solstice 20:00</p> <p>22 - Double shadow transit on <b>Jupiter</b> 22:40; visible in E of N America</p> <p>23 - <b>Neptune</b> 0.8° S of Moon, occultation visible in W of N. America 05:00</p> <p>26 - Last Quarter Moon 08:10</p> <p>30 - Moon occults Pleiades best in E of N America 3 am; <b>Mars</b> 0.7° N of Regulus, visible soon after dark</p> |
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**PLANETS** for June: **Mercury**: not easily observed; **Venus**: not easily observed; **Mars**: low in W in evening twilight, sets in WNW near midnight; **Jupiter**: rises in ESE in evening twilight, low in S at dawn; **Saturn**: low in W in evening twilight, sets in WNW after midnight.