



Regulus



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

Coming up...

RASC-KC Meetings

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

Friday 14 November 7:30pm

Friday 12 December 7:30pm

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 8 November 7:30pm

Saturday 13 December 7:30pm

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Saskatchewan Summer Star Party 2006
Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, August 24 - 26

Next year the promise of dark skies for the Annual Meeting hosted by RASC-Saskatoon Centre at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park may prove irresistible to the RASC membership at large, as it did for this 2006 star party. See story on page two. —Photo courtesy of SSSP 2006



This is a group photo from the 2008 FallnStars Star Party, hosted by the Belleville Centre of the RASC this year. —Photo courtesy of Les Dempsey

Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

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Notes from the Prez, by Kevin Kell

A General Assembly (GA) remains one of the best events for members of the RASC to get together and chat outside of the few alternative methods we have to share ideas effectively.

Each year different centres sponsor, organize and run the event, drawing anywhere from 100 to 200 members from across Canada, the US and occasionally abroad.

The 2009 General Assembly promises to be something special... actually holding one in a dark sky preserve during a star party! Imagine that... an astronomy conference that actually does astronomy!

On page one is a group photo from the 2006 event. Kim & I attended, and we recommend it without qualification!

From:

<http://www.rasc.ca/ga2009/index.shtml>

2009 RASC General Assembly

Come and join us at the 2009 General Assembly of the RASC to be held in the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park (CHIPP Centre Block) August 13 - 16, 2009.

We are delighted that the 2009 RASC General Assembly (GA) has been awarded to the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. The 2009 GA will be held in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party. 2009 is also the International Year of Astronomy and the 2009 GA will be held, for the first time, at a dark sky site.

What better place to hold the GA than at the Cypress Hills Dark-Sky Preserve, with light pollution abatement featured as one of IYA's themes? The GA will include all the activities of past GAs but will also include observing and clinics

under magnitude 7+ skies! Cabin, condo and hotel rooms are available. There is also ample room for tents and powered RV sites.

CHIPP and the Cypress Hills DSP are located in southwestern corner of Saskatchewan, 30km south of Maple Creek on Hwy 21. Nearest fly-in centres are Saskatoon, Regina, Calgary (and possibly Medicine Hat, AB). Centre Representatives who are planning to fly in for the weekend should book into Saskatoon (YXE) where they will be met, housed, fed and transported to and from the GA/SSSP'09 by kind, friendly Saskatoon Centre chaperones. We will have some loaner telescopes and camping equipment available for reps that cannot bring their own.

More information will be forthcoming in mid-2008 but in the meantime, check out our 2008 SSSP site on the sidebar at the right for a taste of what will happen in 2009! Our 2009 GA website will be up in a few months!

Also check out the great SCN video - Living Night Skies - taken at the 2006 SSSP! I think it will want to make you start planning your trip!

<http://www.scn.ca/streaming/15minutes-1-14.asx>

Video courtesy SCN "15 Minutes of Fame"

And in 2010 the *tentative* dates are for around the July long weekend. There is no other information on the national RASC web page of the New Brunswick Centre at this time.

Kevin Kell, RASC-Kingston Centre
President

[kevin \(at\) starlightcascade.ca](mailto:kevin(at)starlightcascade.ca)

Chairs: Equipment Loan Program, OAFTN, Observatory

Galileo Lecture Series

Forwarded by Kim Hay

Original Message -----
Subject: [IYA2009 Canada Committee] Galileo Lecture Series - Opportunity
From: "Kim Breland" <iya2009@live.com>
Date: Tue, October 21, 2008 4:42 pm
To: "IYA2009 Canada Committee"

Please forward this notice to anyone who would be interested - thanks!

Galileo Lecture Series (GLS) Application

During 2009, the International Year of Astronomy, ten of Canada's most active and articulate leading researchers will be available for high-impact public lectures on topics of forefront astrophysics. Two goals for the GLS are to introduce the excitement and reach of modern astronomy to non-traditional audiences, and to provide a legacy for the host and the greater community. The Galileo Lecturers have all repeatedly demonstrated that they can make forefront research accessible and can engage the audience in a fun, stimulating manner.

Applications for a Galileo Lecturer will be ranked, in part, on the degree to which the planned event can be woven into a broader cultural setting. To ensure that the lecture itself can reach an even greater audience, a host must commit to audio recording the event for later distribution in a podcast.

We actively encourage smaller venues to combine resources with other potential partners in their vicinities to jointly submit an application for a Galileo Lecturer.

The list of Galileo Lecturers, lecture titles and abstracts, may be found at: <http://www.astronomy2009.ca/GLS>

Application Checklist

Please address the following points in your application for a Galileo Lecturer:

- Your team and its strengths for hosting such an event.
- Your past successes in organizing events of a similar nature.

- Your proposed venue and expected attendance.
- Your plans for marketing the lecture.
- Your plans for calling attention to and making the event attractive to non-traditional audiences (children, youth, families....)
- Your plans for attracting sponsorship to recover local costs for the lecture and lecturer. (Not absolutely required, but desirable.)
- Any ideas you have to involve other local groups (amateur astronomers, musicians, artists, educators....) to broaden the appeal and make the event more memorable.
- Your first three choices for lecturers.
- Your preferred dates for the lecture.

Submitting Your Application

First consideration will be given to complete applications received by Friday, 14 November 2008. (Later applications may be considered depending on the availability of resources.) Please submit application materials by mail or FAX to:

Galileo Lecture Series
Attn: Doug Welch
Department of Physics and Astronomy
McMaster University
Hamilton, ON L8S 4M1
FAX: (905) 546-1252

Notification

Applicants will receive notification of the decision of the selection committee in mid-December.

Contact Information

The following people may be contacted to provide answers to additional questions you may have:

Kim Breland (416) 533-8262 / IYA2009@live.com
Doug Welch (905) 525-9140 [x23186 / welch \(at\) physics.mcmaster.ca](mailto:x23186@welch(at)physics.mcmaster.ca)

--
Kim Hay
<http://www.starlightcascade.ca>
Observatory & Gardens Zone 5b

2008 RASC-KC Annual General Meeting

by Steve Hart

As you know, during our Regular Meeting on Friday, 14 November, 2008, the Centre will be holding our Annual General Meeting. An idea of the meeting agenda can be had by looking over the minutes of the 2007 AGM, which will follow this article.

Aside from some executive reports for the past year, the main part of the AGM will be election of some of the Centre executive for two-year terms. Here are the positions coming vacant, as well as the nominations received to date:

Secretary: Steve Hart
National Council Rep: none received
Editor: none received
Librarian: David Maguire

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, contact the Centre executive or just speak up during the AGM. Since RASC-KC is a volunteer run organization, your contribution will be most welcome.

RASC – Kingston Centre Annual General Meeting Minutes Friday, November 9, 2007

Location: Theatre D, Stirling Hall, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

Meeting called to order at 7:39 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion 070101 Moved: Kim Hay
Seconded: Susan Gagnon

Approve Agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

Approval of 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes:

Motion 070102 Moved: Steve Hart
Seconded: Brian Hunter

Approve 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried.

President's Report:

Motion 070103 Moved: Kim Hay
Seconded: Joe Benderavage

Accept President's Report as presented.

Motion carried.

Secretary's Report:

Motion 070104 Moved: Steve Hart
Seconded: Mark Kaye

Accept Secretary's Report as presented.

Motion carried.

Motion 070105 Moved: Steve Hart
Seconded: Brian Hunter

Authorize Secretary to update Secretary's Report to the end of 2007.

Motion carried

Treasurer's Report:

Motion 070106 Moved: Kevin Kell
Seconded: Steve Hart

Accept Treasurer's Report as presented.

Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

2007 Fall 'N' Stars

KAON 2007 Annual Report

Equipment Loan 2007 Annual Report

Positions up for Election

OaftN 2007 Annual Report

Observatory 2007 Annual Report

Responsible Lighting 2007 Annual Report

Web Team 2007 Annual Report

Elections supervised by Doug Angle of the Nominating Committee.

Election results:

President (2 years 2007-2009)

Kevin Kell

Vice President (2 years 2007-2009)

Susan Gagnon

Treasurer (2 years 2007-2009)

John Pilon

Election of Auditor:

Motion 070107 Moved: Kim Hay

Seconded: Diane Torney

Accept Brian Hunter as Auditor for 2007-2008.

Motion carried.

Other business:

No other business.

Annual Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Board of Directors Positions up for Election for a two year term:
Secretary, National Council Representative, Editor, Librarian

First and foremost you would be Members of the Board of Directors of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Kingston Centre, an incorporated not-for-profit without share, in the province of Ontario and federally registered as a charitable organization.

It is very important that as a Board Member you attend and participate in all meetings of the Board, keep yourself informed of its activities, and perform the duties associated with the position, keeping the best interests of the organization in mind.

Board meetings are typically held throughout the year, as frequently as every month or as little as every two or three months, depending on the agenda items.

To give you an idea of what these positions duties are, from our bylaws:

8.11 Duties Of The Secretary

8.11.1 The Secretary shall

8.11.1.1 * submit for adoption at the annual meeting of the Centre a report on the number of members in each class of membership at the end of the previous membership year,

8.11.1.2 * submit to the Secretary of the Society by January 15th in each membership year the report referred to in clause (a), a list of the current officers, National Council Representatives, and Centre Council members of the Centre, with addresses for the officers and National Council Representatives, and a brief report on the activities and meetings of the Centre during the past calendar year,

8.11.1.3 conduct the correspondence of the Centre and report thereon to Council,

8.11.1.4 have custody of the seal and the current minutes and documents of the Centre,

8.11.1.5 discharge the duty prescribed in Article 10.1.2,

8.11.1.6 be responsible for the preparation and submission of accurate minutes of all meetings of the Council,

8.11.1.7 send to all members of the Council the minutes of all Council meetings referred to in clause 8.11.1.6, and

8.11.1.8 Have such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council.

8.11.2 The Secretary shall be a member of the Executive Committee as prescribed in Article 9.7.

October Meeting Report 2008, by Susan Gagnon

8.13 Duties Of The National Council Representative(s)

8.13.1 The National Council

Representative(s) and alternate(s) shall

8.13.1.1 attend all meetings of the National Council for which he or she is so authorized and as may be reasonably practicable,

8.13.1.2 represent the Centre's interests, subject to the direction of the Centre Council, at the National Council, and

8.13.1.3 report to the Centre Council and to the appropriate Centre officers the business conducted by and the activities of the National Council.

8.14 Duties Of The Editor

8.14.1 The Editor shall be responsible for the publication of the Centre's publications, may appoint other members of the Centre to assist him or her, and shall have such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council.

8.15 Duties Of The Librarian

8.15.1 The Librarian shall

8.15.1.1 have custody of and be responsible for the safekeeping of the books, publications, films and photographs, astronomical instruments, archives and other library materials of the Centre,

8.15.1.2 operate the Centre's library, including the acquisition of new books and other library materials, the lending of library materials, the maintenance of a current catalogue of all library materials, and the exchange with other organizations of library materials, and

8.15.1.3 have such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to Ask! Enquire! Question!

Kevin Kell, RASC-Kingston Centre President

kevin@starlightcascade.ca

Chairs: Equipment Loan Program, OAFSTN, Observatory

Last night was a great meeting for the 14 members who came out. As chair of the meeting I was probably too relaxed and we did not do a lot of business although we did the usual draws and our speaker won the bottle of wine with his latest APOD photo on the label! We gave most of our time over to our speaker, Paul Mortfield and the 2 hours flew by.

We enjoyed an evening of learning about a few more of the nuts and bolts of remote observing, and imaging. Paul gave us a tour of the observing site in California, equipment used (including the weather station), and issues involved in being so far from your scope.

While Paul is far from his scope, his participation in this community of astronomers (Sierra Remote Observatories) allows him a comfort level that is not available to those who set up in a remote site on their own. Eight 10 x 12 observatories in a dark mountain site will be expanded to more than double that size in the future. In the event of a real emergency there are locally based observers who are willing to make a trip to the site to take corrective action.

We made a live visit to the site and viewed Jupiter and the Moon. Since this is a scope devoted to imaging, the method of viewing remains snapping a quick image and downloading it.

Some items that I found interesting were the use of an SBIG Seeing Monitor that delivers a numerical evaluation of seeing. The Bay Switch, a power bar with an IP address for each outlet so that there can be individual control to all equipment plugged in. The chip for delivering the stunning 1/2 degree field views that turn up on APOD is 4Kx4K and it seems that this has resulted in Paul accumulating too much data! Some of the interesting photos we saw were objects imaged with different wavelengths. Galaxies traditionally imaged with RGB reveal hidden structure with OIII and other filters.

October 11, 2008 KAON Report,

by Susan Gagnon

Speaking for myself and other KAON regulars Steve Hart and James Silvester, we were very glad to have Brian Hunter, Don Cook, and Bob Hilson at the session last night.

There were 117 visitors to the roof. James was without grad student help, so Brian took over in the dome when it was time for the talk.

Let's hope that this October session is a sign of lots of good weather to come! The sky was clear and the deck was crowded. Targets chosen were the Moon and Jupiter with an LX200, the Fitz, binoculars, and the dome 16" telescope.

I must say that an evening like this is a big boost to my moral. It was nice to get back out on the deck with scopes.

My Evening with the Venor

by Susan Gagnon

On the afternoon of October 23, Doug Angle called and asked if I would like to come out to his house to observe with the Venor. We had talked about this before as Doug knew that I was making my way through some tough territory for my ETX. We had even discussed a possible trip to Nirvana. I was happy to settle for the 35 minute drive to his house and increase my aperture to greater than 44 times! It was a good sky, not perfect, but hey, with the weather we have been known to have, I was pretty happy. The SQM reading was 20.89, the best I have ever had at my house is 20.44. This was my first chance to have exclusive use of this terrific scope for 2.5 hours. I was nervous and afraid that I would be disappointed with the difficulties of using such a large scope. I have become pretty comfortable in my little

observatory with my little scope. I am accustomed to sitting beside my scope rather than climbing a ladder to get to the eyepiece. My Rigel Quickfinder is very similar to a Telrad but steering a large Dob is very different than a small Mak on a wedge. It was not hard to cope with darker skies, the Telrad was no problem to use on the big scope and in no time I was in business. I had a handful of maps but was happy to stick to Pegasus. You can spend a lot of time on one constellation when you have close to an 86% success rate in locating your targets! I was able to find all of the Levy objects: NGC, 7753, 7664, 7217, 7457, 7814, and the one Finest NGC: 7331. The Deep Sky Challenge galaxy cluster 7317-20 was not possible and Doug suggested that it was sky quality that prevented finding it, as well as Jones 1, a planetary nebula.

Other targets that we checked out were M109. It was really down in the soup by 10 pm and we had no luck. There was an emission nebula in Andromeda (NGC 206) that we looked at with a nebula filter. An outer arm of Andromeda was also visible with a little bit persistence. And just in case you think that looking at big bright things with a large scope is a waste of aperture, think again. The Double Cluster was fabulous, of course one at a time in the eyepiece. What I found impressive here were the pink and ruby red stars embedded in the sea of pale yellow and blue.

How easy was it to use the 24 inch? It moves quite easily on the ground and on the ladder I could tweak the field a bit. The ladder is light and sturdy, easy to maneuver about the scope.

During other observing sessions that lasted more than 90 minutes I would find that my back was stiff from hunching over charts and staring down the eyepiece and at 1 degree C, I can get cold. There was none of this with the Venor. It would seem that the up and down action with the ladder counteracts any ill effects of staring down at charts and helps keep you warm! My little scope provides a great challenge, I am always thrilled when I find an object that I thought was beyond its capabilities, but the Venor is a different experience all together! I look forward to my next chance to use this great scope.

M109, a barred spiral galaxy in Ursa Major, as seen through Slooh.com's Canary Islands Dome 2 High Magnification telescope at 23:19:25 UTC on 22 May 2008, a night that had a sky rating of 5.0 on a scale of 1 to 5. Its angular size is 7.6 x 4.3 arcminutes, and visual magnitude is 9.8 - Ed.

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

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: Doug Angle

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: vacant

Responsible Lighting: Kim Hay

Sky Is the Limit: vacant

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)

December (November 28)

January (December 19)

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*. Thanks to Angus Benderavage for technical assistance.

The RASC 2009 Calendars are here

By Kim Hay

Get your copy now, as the supply is limited. The 2009 Calendars brandish wonderful images of our universe and of local phenomena on Earth. Keep this as a souvenir copy for IYA2009.



Price is \$15.00 each if picked up in person, and calendars will be available at upcoming meetings. If ordering by mail, cost is \$20.00 each, as this covers postage. Contact me at [kim \(at\) starlightcascade.ca](mailto:kim(at)starlightcascade.ca)

FallNStars 2008

Good turnout but totally clouded and rained out this year. Several great talks on the 2008 August 01 Eclipse with people travelling to far away Asia.

Photo credit: Les Dempsey

Kingston Cosmic & Events Calendar, November—December 2008, by Joseph Benderavage

Date	Events	Local Time	
2008 NOVEMBER	02 - Daylight Savings Time ends,	02:00	
	03 - Crescent Moon 2.6° S of <i>Jupiter</i> ,	19:00	
	04 - South Taurid meteors (ZHR=10),	23:00	
	05 - First Quarter Moon,	23:03;	
	06 - <i>Neptune</i> 1.1° S of Moon, occultation at NE tip of Canada,	14:00	
	08 - <i>KAON</i> Observing, Ellis Hall Queen's Observatory	<u>7:30-9:30 pm</u>	
	11 - N. Taurid meteors (ZHR=15),	23:00	
	12 - <i>Venus</i> near M8, visible soon after dark		
	13 - Full Moon, 01:17; Moon 1° E of the Pleiades, best in NE of N. America,	16:00	
	14 - Annual General Meeting includes Elections, and Regular Meeting , Stirling Hall "A" 7:30-9:30pm; Dan Falk will discuss his book, "In Search of Time."		
	14 - Moon at perigee (358 971km), 05:00, Large tides		
	17 - Leonid meteors (ZHR=15),	05:00	
	18 - <i>Venus</i> near M22 and M28, visible soon after dark; Moon 0.7° N of Beehive (M44),	05:00.	
	19 - Last Quarter Moon,	16:31	
	27 - New Moon,	11:55	
	30 - <i>Jupiter</i> 2.0° N of <i>Venus</i> , visible soon after dark; (<i>Venus</i> 2° S of <i>Jupiter</i> (42° E),	19:00)	
	PLANETS for November: <i>Mercury</i> : very low in ESE in morning twilight in first week of month; <i>Venus</i> : at mag -4.2, will dominate the evening sky; very low in SW in evening twilight; <i>Mars</i> : not easily observed; <i>Jupiter</i> : very low in SW after dark, sets in WSW near 8 pm; <i>Saturn</i> : rises in E near 01:30, in SE		
	2008 DECEMBER	01- <i>Jupiter</i> 1.3° N of Moon, 10:00; <i>Venus</i> 0.8° S of Moon, occultation at NE tip of Canada,	11:00
		04 - Pallas at opposition (m=7.4)	
		05 - First Quarter Moon, 16:26; <i>Mars</i> in conjunction with Sun	
		11 - Moon 0.7° N of Pleiades, occultation,	04:00
		12 - Regular Meeting , Stirling "A" 7:30-9:30 pm;	
		12 - Full Moon (largest in 2008), 11:37; closest Moon perigee in 15 years (356 566 km),	17:00, Large tides
		13 - <i>KAON</i> Observing, Ellis Hall Queen's Observatory	<u>7:30-9:30 pm</u>
		13 - Geminid Meteors peak, (ZHR=120),	18:00
		15 - Moon 1.4° S of Beehive (M44),	14:00
		18 - <i>Saturn</i> 6° N of Moon,	22:00
		19 - Vesta stationary; Last Quarter Moon,	5:29
		21 - Winter solstice ,	7:04
		22 - <i>Pluto</i> in conjunction with the Sun; Ursid meteors peak,	03:00
25 - Antares 0.1° S of Moon,		02:00	
26 - Moon at apogee (406 601 km, farthest this year), 13:00; <i>Venus</i> 1.5° S of <i>Neptune</i> (46° E),		20:00	
27 - New Moon,	07:22		
28 - <i>Mercury</i> 0.7° S of Moon,	23:00		
29 - <i>Jupiter</i> 0.6° N of Moon,	04:00		
31 - <i>Mercury</i> 1.3° S of <i>Jupiter</i> (18° E), 00:00; <i>Mercury</i> 1.3° to left of <i>Jupiter</i> visible soon after sunset			
PLANETS for December: <i>Mercury</i> : very low in SW in evening twilight, late in month; <i>Venus</i> : low in SW in evening twilight; <i>Mars</i> : not easily observed; <i>Jupiter</i> : very low in SW in evening twilight, sets in WSW less than 2 hours after sunset; <i>Saturn</i> : rises in E before midnight, high in S before dawn.			