

Regulus

September 2009

RASC Kingston Centre

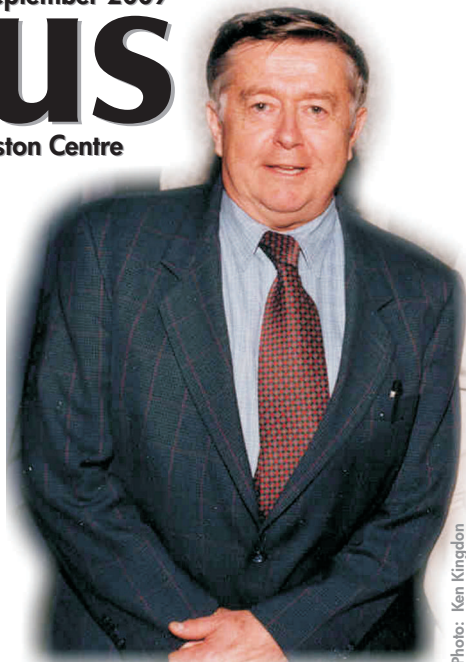


Photo: Ken Kingdon

Leo Enright 1943-2009



Photo: David Brisson, Frontenac News

Just as the Perseids were peaking and the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party/RASC GA were getting underway, members received the sad news that Leo had passed away.

Leo joined the Kingston Centre in late 1973 and the rest, as they say, is history. Indeed, his energy and enthusiasm were formidable and they played a huge role in the transformation of the Centre from a small university astronomy club to a larger, even more dynamic RASC Centre. If any one person could be said to personify the Kingston Centre, truly it was Leo.

Leo's presidency (1977-79) began

the modern era of the Kingston Centre as we know it. Membership expanded as people from outside the university joined. Not only were there twice-monthly meetings, but Leo hosted picnics and observing sessions at *Villa Leonis*, his home on Sharbot Lake. For three decades he also gave guided tours of the Holleford meteor crater to the Centre and to many visiting groups from other Astronomy clubs. Leo was also an early proponent of Astronomy Day, and so the Kingston Centre became an early adopter of this public outreach activity. Before long, Leo was the first national Astronomy Day coordinator for the RASC!

Continues on page 23...

In this issue:

- ▶ From the Editor 2
- ▶ Directors & Coordinators 2
- ▶ *Regulus* Needs You! 2
- ▶ President's Message 3
- ▶ Summer Observing Reports . . . 4
- ▶ Nat'l Council Flash Minutes . . . 6
- ▶ RASC AGM Motions 7
- ▶ National Committees 8
- ▶ Treasurer's Notes 9

- ▶ RASC Awards Report 9
- ▶ Meeting Reports 10
- ▶ Newt 12
- ▶ General Assembly 2009 13
- ▶ Movie Night / RASC Online . . 15
- ▶ Charleston Lake Star Party . . 16
- ▶ May Meeting Report 17
- ▶ New Impact Spot on Jupiter . . 17
- ▶ A Cool Thing 18
- ▶ Thermacell 18
- ▶ Remembering Leo 19

Upcoming Meetings

Friday, September 11, 2009
Members' Night 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Friday, October 9, 2009
Members' Night 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Friday, November 13, 2009
7:30-9:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting & Movie Night
at Chernoff Auditorium
(located next door to Stirling Hall)

Friday, December 11, 2009
**A Perspective of Space Programs
Beyond North America**
Speaker: Raymond Francis, former
member of ESA.

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Stirling Hall Theatre "A" on Bader Lane at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Our meetings are co-sponsored by the Queen's Physics Department and include astronomy lectures open to the public. ★

KAON Public Observing

Saturday, September 19 6:30 p.m.
Special location: Lake Ontario Park on King Street
near Portsmouth Avenue in Kingston.

Saturday, October 10 7:30 p.m.
Brian Hunter will speak on "The Galilean Moons"

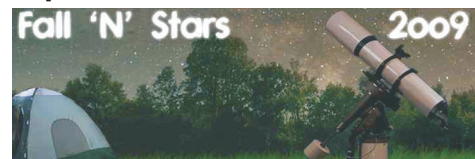
Saturday, November 14 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 12 7:30 p.m.

KAON (Kingston Astronomy Outreach Network) sessions are held at Queen's Observatory on the 4th floor of Ellis Hall. ★

Other Events

September 25-27 **Fall 'N' Stars**



at the Vanderwater Conservation Area Boy Scout Camping Area, Thomasburg, Ontario

For more information, registration, etc. see:
<http://www.rascbelleville.ca/fallstars/>

Rocket launches, flag raising, door prizes and great astronomers will be here at the 2009 Fall 'N' Stars; we hope that you can come as well! ★

More info at kingston.rasc.ca

From the Editor...

Walter MacDonald

REGULUS IS BACK after the July-August summer break the Centre takes from meetings and newsletters. As a result there is lots to get caught up on, such as three months of observing and star party reports, as well as the May and June meeting reports. Hopefully everyone had a good summer despite all of the clouds and rain that dominated.

This issue also contains information about the national council meetings and annual meeting that took place at the society's General Assembly. The GA was unusual in that it was held in August for the first time (traditionally it has been held on either the Victoria Day or Canada Day weekends) and also at a star party (the

Saskatchewan Summer Star Party).

Finally, this issue also contains remembrances of **Leo Enright**, the Centre's guiding light for so many years. No other person has had as big an impact on the Centre as Leo has. A biography starts on the front page of this issue, but seems somewhat inadequate given the breadth and depth of his life.

About half-way through his time as editor, Leo produced an issue with 23 pages—a record that still stands today. As a tribute to Leo, this issue also contains 23 pages. *Regulus* still had a special place in his heart after all these years and I think he would be pleased with this issue too. ★

Regulus Needs You!

Items of interest from members—full articles, or even just a couple of paragraphs are always welcome. Items are gratefully accepted on each and every day of the year! Send items to:

walter2 (at) starlightccd (dot) com
or:

Walter MacDonald
PO Box 142
Winchester ON K0C 2K0

The Fine Print:

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RASC-KC Board of Directors

President:	Kevin Kell
Vice President:	Susan Gagnon
Secretary:	Steve Hart
Treasurer:	Kim Hay
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Editor:	Walter MacDonald
National Council Rep:	<i>vacant</i>

2008-09 Committee Chairs/Coordinators

Astronomy Day:	Kim Hay
Amateur Telescope Makers:	<i>vacant</i>
Awards:	Kevin Kell
Banquet:	<i>vacant</i>
Education:	<i>vacant</i>
Equipment Loan:	Kevin Kell
Fall 'N' Stars:	Kim Hay
KAON:	Susan Gagnon
OAFN Instructors:	<i>vacant</i>
Observing:	<i>vacant</i>
Publicity:	<i>vacant</i>
Relay for Life:	Kim Hay
Responsible Lighting:	Kim Hay
Webmaster:	Walter MacDonald

The time is fast approaching for the start of another year (Sept. 11), the end of our financial year (Sept. 30), the end of term for myself, the Vice President and the Treasurer (November 13th Annual Meeting) and the end of IYA (Dec 31). Where has the time gone?

As noted in my previous monthly e-mail announcements to members, Kim Hay (treasurer) and myself (president) will not be standing for office in the **elections**. It is far past time for fresh people, fresh thoughts and ideas to come forward and take the Centre onward. The *International Year of Astronomy* events have taken their toll this past two years and we hope that 2010 will see a renewed focus on the Centre and its members and services rather than outreach, which we have excelled at for the last decade.

A recap of the last decade: publishing of 3 educational books (*Careers in Space* 1998, *Exploring Their Universe* 2000, and *Worlds to Discover* 2002), hosting of a day long teachers professional day, monthly formalized Kingston Astronomy Outreach Network (KAON) since 2003, four Observational Astronomy for the Novice courses (2005-2007), the creation of three 35mm slide sets, annual Astronomy Day daytime and nighttime public displays and observing, and the Fall'N'Stars Star party co-hosted with RASC Belleville (annually since 2000).

Ideas for refocusing on the Centre and its members have included the **50-in-50 challenge**. Today we have 25 RASC observing certificates awarded to out members. 2011 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Centre. The challenge is to achieve 50 observing certificates to centre members by the end of 2011. This may be a little easier now with

the addition of some new RASC certificates in the recent past. The complete list now includes: ETU, Messier, Finest NGC, Williamson Lunar, Deep Sky Challenge List, and the Levy Deep Sky Gems.

I suspect we will attempt to hold more frequent, organized observing group sessions at various members' homes in 2010.

These last two years have seen the dissolution of the **Observatory Committee** and its task to establish an observing facility for the centre. There is still debate about whether such a facility would reinvigorate the centre and its members with a social centre containing our resources in one location (i.e. library, equipment loan, 60cm Dobsonian, etc) along with a site for members to observe from; many have no site today. The major stumbling block was the lack of land outside of the city of Kingston limits that we could purchase, lease or have donated outright. One hundred acres would be nice but I suspect we could get along with one or two as others centres do.

We recently lost our longest-serving member **Leo Enright**, suddenly, just before the 2009 General Assembly. Thanks to those who were able to attend the memorial. From the November 1973 issue of *Regulus* I note:

The Kingston Centre welcomes two new members, Hans Behrmann Jr. of the Perth Road and Leo Enright of Sharbot Lake, and we hope that they can make it for the next meeting. The Kingston Centre of the R.A.S.C. and the Queen's University Astronomy Club

have 43 members as of 8 November 1973. RASC 14 members, QUAC: 29

We are looking for suggestions from members on how to remember Leo.

I'd like to thank Kim, Susan, Steve, Walter and Dave for serving on the board of directors and for the help they have given in the management and operation of the RASC Kingston Centre. It really is all about the volunteers and we never say "thank you" enough or show our appreciation nearly enough. Thanks!

Winding down for this month, I'd like to remind you of the **Fall'N'Stars** Star Party, on Friday-Sunday, September 25-27, 2009. Even in the cloud and rain we have a good time, chatting with fellow enthusiasts and comparing sizes of equipment.

The September **KAON** session has moved one week to Saturday, September 19th at Lake Ontario Park on King Street near Portsmouth avenue in Kingston. We encourage *all* members to drop in with their telescopes for this humungous telescope extravaganza along with members of RMC and Queens. We hope to have at least centre members and scopes on display for 6:30pm (please RSVP to kingston@rasc.ca) along with maybe ten more from RMC & Queen's. Jupiter will be spectacular, weather permitting. In the event of cloud or bad weather we will still be there with some slide shows and talks and static telescope displays. If you have solar filters bring them along for some late daytime observing.

Clear Skies! ★

Web Links Observing Certificate Programs
Fall'N'Stars

<http://kingston.rasc.ca/observing.php>
<http://rascbelleville.ca/fallnstars>

Summer Observing Reports



Kevin Kell reports on a possible meteor image: We caught this image from 03:26 EDT this morning from the all-sky camera. Searches through heavens-above.com and space-weather.com simple satellite show no Iridium flares or ISS passes anywhere near this time. Comparing it to other images from the system, we are thinking it might be a bright meteor.

The moon has already risen and it outshines Vega in the hazy overcast by quite a bit. The brightness trails off in both directions. The path length looks far too long for an Iridium flare, especially one this bright. Iridiums generally have a shorter trail the brighter they are.

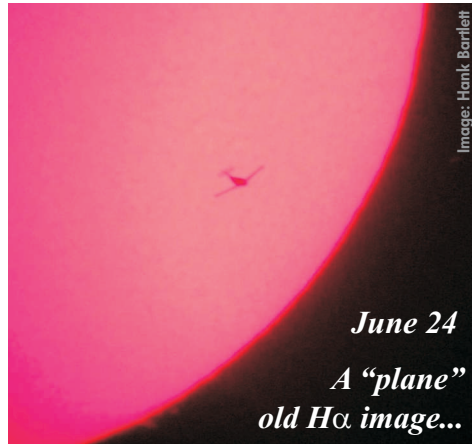
Susan Gagnon replies: I love this camera! Whenever this thing is running you are observing! Can you obtain a real time image from inside the house or do you have to wait to download at the end of a run? I am just thinking that you would have a good idea of the sky quality before going out.

Kevin Kell replies: It takes an image every two minutes or so...I used to adjust it depending on the moon but that was too complicated. So, a 120-second exposure plus a 10-25 second download.

About a month ago some code was added to pull an image out of that stream every 30 minutes and post it to

Web Link — Concam images:
<http://www.starlightcascade.ca/concam>

the concam webpage (see link below). So yes, when the camera is running (it still needs a manual start and a couple of mouse clicks), you can get a real-time image that may be up to 30 minutes old.



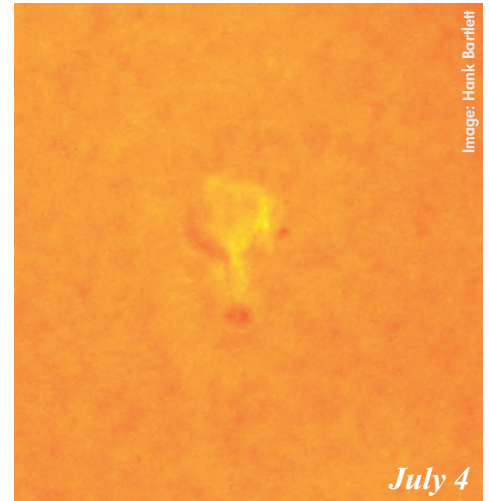
Hank Bartlett reports on an H α "solar jet": Finally I have added a solar jet to my H-alpha imaging. This image is not very sharp as it was taken very quickly; I had just finished a run of 39 images (I take 3 per exposure setting) and had decided to take an eyeball look when there it was! Unfortunately it passed SS1023 while I was snapping the camera back up to the eyepiece and I never really got it situated properly. I was in fact surprised I got it at all.

Although he was just winging it, this image caused quite a flap! At the very least we knew he was seeing red! On another note, never spill any drinks in your keyboard, I just had a new one installed in my laptop, at least now though there are no more `\b\a\c\k\ sl\\as\\es i\n` my typing—that was a real pain.

July 4: Spotting a spot...

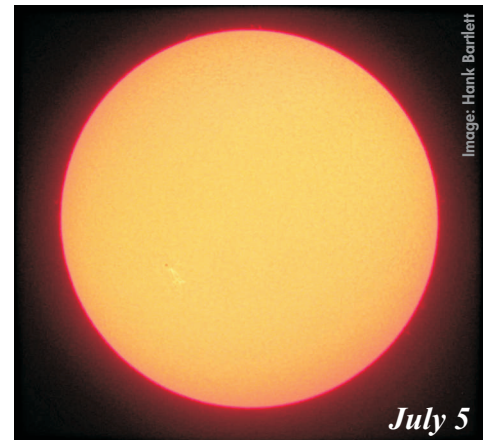
Hank announces a break in a rather minimal solar minimum: If you can find some clear sky get out there! This is the best spot in a long time. I imaged it fleetingly yesterday before it was announced on spaceweather but did not get it very clear and it was mostly active region.

Today there is lots of both active



region and spot, just not much clear sky again. Here are a couple of quick images, not well focussed as the cloud gets in the way; both are H-alpha; I have adjusted the T-Max to accentuate the different features.

Susan Gagnon replies: I did enjoy this spot and was delighted to sketch it.



SS1024 has been so awesome today, I swear I saw at least one eruption evident by a very bright spot near the core (the image above is a raw full disc image that shows 1024 around 11:30 EDT). There was a lot of activity around the edges but it was small and there were also a couple of dim filaments.

Today I also opened the RHA Observatory for the first time in quite a while and took a white light look at SS1024 after we got out of the pool! I hope you all are aware of the excellent ISS passes that are coming up in the next week. I saw the one at

2:41 am today, it was low but very bright.

July 14

Hank Bartlett reports: At approximately 10:19 p.m. I was coming home and about half-way between Mizar (mag. 2.21) and Cor Caroli (mag. 2.87) in Canes Venatici there was a star (mag. 3.5?) that should not be there. I knew as soon as I looked that the configuration for that section of sky was wrong. Then over the next couple of seconds the extra star faded and disappeared; I have never seen anything like it. Would this have been one of the geosats or something? If so, it was really cool, for a brief few seconds the sky was not what it should be and then it was back to normal. If that is what they do, I can understand more now why you [Kevin F.] watch for them; I always thought these were a “flash,” like just one brief blip of light.

KC’s resident satellite expert, **Kevin Fetter** replies: Based on your report, Molyina 3-3 (08425) was in the area, and gave a flash lasting a few seconds, due to its slow rotation.

July 30

At the end of July someone on CBC radio reported that July had had just 5 days without rain! Clear skies were rare indeed this month. Like everyone else, Susan Gagnon was patiently monitoring the Clear Sky Clock website: Just in case some of you have given up hope...keep an eye on the clock for Saturday a.m. It looks good now, but Saturday is a long way off in the land of weather predictions.

Your editor replied: Yes, but as we get closer to full moon the chances of actual clear sky will increase. Of course, a clear full moon night will still be quite useful with a CCD camera and I’d love a chance to see if

mine still works! Come to think of it, I wonder if my LX-200 still works? It hasn’t been on in two months!

As it turns out, Susan Gagnon is a bit more diligent in visiting her observatory during cloudy weather: I make it out to the observatory to remove spiders and wasps every couple of days.

Kim Hay then reports on an actual observing session! Well, I never posted this but I was out observing early this morning from around 1:15 am till 2:30 and it was so clear.

I was testing out a new 9mm Nagler eyepiece that I had purchased a week before. I had the greatest views of Jupiter I have ever seen with the 9mm and 2x barlow. I saw the Great Red Spot, and the curly clouds in the band, and the elongated smudge of the Comet Wesley hit. *On the internet somewhere, someone commented that the impacting object should be named “Wesley’s Crusher” (see page 17).*

Also I saw my first Perseid of the season; it was a very enjoyable hour of observing, with a few mosquitoes and coyotes in the distance.

July 31, August 1

Susan Gagnon reports on two sessions under less-than-ideal skies: I was out at 2:30 one night myself but I was just testing some flea market binoculars that I picked up for public events. It was not that clear, I hope it was the sky that was the problem!

I got out [again] and the sky was not great but it was good to be out doing something! My session was from 2:30 to about 4:15; I saw a couple of Iridium satellites, and also three mosquitos (which I killed).

This is a great time to locate Neptune. It is in an area that has just enough stars to hop to it but not so many close in that you can’t figure out what you are looking at. It makes a nice little

box with three stars.

Kevin Fetter announces the pending demise of the ISS toolbag which he was one of the first to image from terra firma: In a few hours time, the ISS toolbag’s orbit is predicted to decay. Info is on the spaceweather site. Thanks ISS toolbag, for helping me get the last laugh.



Speaking of the last laugh (ha, ha)

Hank Bartlett reports on his latest solar image: Although this is fuzzy it is about the best detail I have imaged of a “small” prominence. Small is a relative thing isn’t it! This prominence was very interesting as it was like a small web full of threads. If only I had the day off to watch it change, but alas my 2¾-hour lunch ended and I had to return to the office.

Budding climatologist Susan Gagnon immediately correlates Hank’s image with her local conditions: Wow! We went outside for lunch today and thought that the sun was pretty hot. I guess we know why!

August 13: Perseid Report

Hank Bartlett reports: Not many would call Di a good wife for waking them at 2:00am, except maybe an astronomer. I was awoken to “Hank you have got to come outside and see the meteors!” Don’t even ask why it was Di who was out there first.

I had been out for an hour at 10:30pm and took forty 30-second images and only caught one Perseid that was bright enough to show. There were of course more but the camera was either pointing the wrong way or processing an image for those. I had not even considered getting up later

Continues on page 14...

THESE ARE THE UNOFFICIAL FLASH MINUTES prepared by James Edgar, Recorder, of the National Council Meeting NC092, 2009 August 13.

MOTION 09201 Moved by Frank Tomaras, seconded by Paul Gray, that the agenda be adopted as distributed. MOTION 09201 was CARRIED

MOTION 09202 Moved by Mary Lou Whitehorne, seconded by Mayer Tchelebon, that the Minutes of National Council Meeting NC091 be adopted as distributed. MOTION 09202 was CARRIED

MOTION 09203 Moved by Peter Jedicke, seconded by Paul Gray, to accept the Unattached Members who joined since last meeting of National Council. There are 11 new members.

MOTION 09203 The Publications and MAP committees move that the Society distribute complimentary copies of current or upcoming *Observer's Handbooks* and *Observer's Calendars* as door prizes to the major star parties in North America, along with advertising flyers for the Handbook and Calendar. This activity is to be added to the Society's annual marketing activities, and is to be included in annual promotional budgets.

Dave Lane said this was a good idea, one that he supported. Kim Hay asked when the cut-off date would be for the current Handbook or Calendar. Dave Lane responded that the star-party organizers will be contacted first, to offer the prizes to them. Mary Lou Whitehorne said the letter will include a coupon(s), starting with the 2010 publications.

Alan Whitman stated that we should include a carefully worded sentence to be read out at the time of the prize being awarded—this announcement

would improve our presence and advertising. Bruce McCurdy pointed out that a coupon for a future publication should include a check box for one of the Handbook, Calendar, or the BOG, rather than a coupon for only one.

MOTION 09203 was CARRIED

MOTION 09204 The MAP Committee moves that Council congratulate Bruce Waters for his outstanding decades-long education and public outreach (EPO) efforts at Killarney Provincial Park (KPP), and his generous donation of an observatory and equipment to create a legacy EPO programme at KPP during the International Year of Astronomy.

MOTION 09205 Paul Gray, Glenn Hawley amended the motion to also include a one-year membership in the RASC.

MOTION 09205 was CARRIED
MOTION 09204 was CARRIED

MOTION 09206 The LPA Committee moves that the RASC accept the nomination of the Mt. Carleton Provincial Park and adjacent Nepisiguit area (New Brunswick) as an RASC Dark-Sky Preserve.

MOTION 09206 was CARRIED

MOTION 09207 The LPA Committee moves that the RASC accept the nomination of the Grasslands Provincial Park (Saskatchewan) as an RASC Dark-Sky Preserve.

MOTION 09207 was CARRIED

MOTION 09208 The LPA Committee moves that the RASC accept the revised documents that define the Dark-Sky Preserve (DSP) and Urban Star Park (USP) Programmes: RASC DSP Guide for Outdoor Lighting RASC DSP

Guidelines RASC USP Guide for Outdoor Lighting RASC USP Guidelines.

MOTION 09209 Moved by Mike Stephens, seconded by Glenn Hawley, that MOTION 09208 be postponed to the fall National Council meeting.

MOTION 09209 was CARRIED by Special Resolution

MOTION 09210 The Nominations Committee moves that Dr. James Hesser be named as our next Honorary President, effective immediately for the usual term of four years.

MOTION 09210 was CARRIED

MOTION 09211 The Observing Committee moves the creation of the RASC's David Levy Deep-Sky Gems Certificate and that the following be added to the RASC Manual:

The standard reference list for the David Levy Deep-Sky Gems is the RASC *Observer's Handbook* list by David Levy and Leo Enright.

Requirements for eligibility for the RASC'S David Levy Deep-Sky Gems Certificate:

1. The applicant must have observed all David Levy's Deep-Sky Gem objects as defined above.

(i) if all objects are found using star-hopping or other "traditional" manual finding methods, the observer is eligible for the "traditional" David Levy Deep-Sky Gems 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” David Levy Deep-Sky Gems 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 154 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 145 objects.
 - (ii) telescope and magnifications used for each observation.
 - (iii) any remarks noted at the time of the observation.
 - (iv) sketch, image, or notes on each object.

MOTION 09212 Moved by Alan Whitman, seconded by Glenn Hawley, to amend MOTION 09211 to remove the name David Levy from the title of the certificate.

MOTION 09212 was DEFEATED
MOTION 09211 was CARRIED

MOTION 09213 Mary Lou Whitehorne Moved, Mayer Tchelebon seconded, that the following paragraphs, relating to Life Membership, in By-Law #1 be changed to read as follows:

Article 3.01 (4) A life member is a member who, prior to the year 2009, paid the then-current life membership fee, or a member upon whom the Council has conferred life membership in recognition of specified

meritorious service to the Society or to a Centre. A life member shall not pay any annual membership fee referred to in Article 3.05(1), however he or she may be required to pay a fee to the Centre, referred to in Article 3.05(2), to which they are attached. (amended, July 1993, July 1999, June 2008, August 2009)

Article 3.05

(1) The annual Society membership fees shall be determined from time to time by ordinary resolution of the Council and of the Society. The Centre affiliation incentive shall be determined from time to time by ordinary resolution of the Council. No fee shall be payable for honorary membership in the Society. (amended, July 1993, February 2006, June 2008, August 2009)

And that Articles 3.05 (4) and (5) be deleted.

[As information, those two articles read:

(4) A member who becomes a life member is not entitled to a refund of any fees paid previously for the current year or for the previous years. (amended, July 1999)

(5) Each Centre is entitled to receive for its own use from the Society on or before 1 March in every year an amount, in respect of every life member attached to it as of the previous 31 December, equivalent to the Centre affiliation incentive for an ordinary member. (amended, July 1999, June 2008)]

MOTION 09213 was CARRIED by Special Resolution

MOTION 09214 Moved by Kim Hay, seconded by Frank Tomaras that the Society send flowers in an

amount not exceeding \$100 to the family of Leo Enright.

MOTION 09214 was CARRIED

MOTION 09215

Moved by Paul Gray, seconded by Glenn Hawley, that the meeting adjourn.

MOTION 09215 was CARRIED★

RASC AGM Motions

MOTION AM0901 Moved by Richard Wagner, seconded by Frank Tomaras, that the Agenda as presented be approved.

MOTION AM0901 was CARRIED

MOTION AM0902 Moved by Stan Runge, seconded by Jim Low, that the Minutes of AM 2008 as presented in the Annual Report 2008 be approved.

MOTION AM0902 was CARRIED

MOTION AM0903

Moved by Frank Tomaras, seconded by Kim Hay, that the definitions previously contained in By-Law #1 section 1.01, which were accidentally omitted from MOTION AM0804, and as this was not the intent of the membership in approving MOTION AM0804, they are to be retained.

MOTION AM0903 was CARRIED by Special Resolution

MOTION AM0904

Moved by Ryan May, seconded by Raymond Auclair, that the following paragraphs, relating to Life Membership, in By-Law #1 be changed to read as follows:

Article 3.01 (4) A life member is a member who, prior to the year 2009, paid the then-current life membership fee, or a member upon whom the Council has conferred life membership in recognition of specified

meritorious service to the Society or to a Centre. A life member shall not pay any annual membership fee referred to in Article 3.05(1), however he or she may be required to pay a fee to the Centre, referred to in Article 3.05(2), to which they are attached. (amended, July 1993, July 1999, June 2008, August 2009)

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MOTION AM0904 was CARRIED by Special Resolution

MOTION AM0905

Moved by Mayer Tchelebon, seconded by Raymond Auclair, that Tinkham and Associates be appointed as Auditor of the RASC.

MOTION AM0905 was CARRIED

MOTION AM0906

It was moved by John McDonald, seconded by Ryan May, to adjourn. MOTION AM0906 was CARRIED. ★

National Committees

These are the unofficial motions from National Council meeting NC093, 2009 August 16 at Cypress Hills Provincial Park, prepared by James Edgar, Recorder. **Non-voting committee members are denoted by an asterisk.**

MOTION 09301 Moved by Mary Lou Whitehorne, seconded by Paul Gray, that the Agenda be adopted. MOTION 09301 was CARRIED

MOTION 09302 Moved by Glenn Hawley, seconded by Chris Gainor, that the following committees be elected as proposed.

Executive Committee

E-mail: executive@lists.rasc.ca
Composition: President (ch.), 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Chair: Dave Lane (President)
Members:
1st VP Mary Lou Whitehorne
2nd VP Glenn Hawley
Treasurer Mayer Tchelebon
Sec./Rec. James Edgar

Executive Secretary

E-mail: nationaloffice@rasc.ca
Jo Taylor

Awards Committee

E-mail: awards@lists.rasc.ca
Composition: Past President (ch), Journal Editor, and up to three others.

Chair: Peter Jedicke
Members: Jay Anderson
James Edgar
Glenn Hawley
Scott Young

Constitution Committee

E-mail: constitution@lists.rasc.ca
Composition: 1st Vice-President (ch.) and two others.

Chair: Denis Grey
Members: Patrice Scattolin
Mary Lou Whitehorne

Education Committee

E-mail: education@lists.rasc.ca
Composition: three to five members.

Chair: Kim Hay
Members: Marc Keelan-Bishop
Robin Foret
Ron Macnaughton
Andrea Meissner
Ed Mizzi*
Julie Tomé*

Finance Committee

E-mail: finance@lists.rasc.ca
Composition: Treasurer (ch.), 2nd Vice-President, and two others.

Chair: Mayer Tchelebon
Members: James Edgar
Glenn Hawley
Mary Lou Whitehorne

History Committee

E-mail: historical@lists.rasc.ca
Composition: Up to seven members.

Chair: Barry Matthews
Members: Roy Bishop
Peter Broughton*
Robert Duff
Randall Rosenfeld

Membership and Promotion Committee

E-mail: map@lists.rasc.ca
Composition: Between three and five members.

Chair: Randall Rosenfeld
Members: Roland Dechesne
Glenn Hawley*
Donna-Lee May
Mike Stephens
Jo Taylor*
Susan Yeo

...National Committees

Nominating Committee

E-mail: nominating@lists.rasc.ca

Composition: One Past President (ch.) and two appointees.

Chair: Glenn Hawley
Members: Peter Jedicke
Frank Tomaras

Observing Committee

E-mail: observing@lists.rasc.ca

Composition: Consists of five members.

Chair: Paul Gray
Members: Chris Beckett
Edward Essex
Hugues Lacombe
Bruce McCurdy

Property Committee

E-mail: property@lists.rasc.ca

Composition: Treasurer (ch.) and two to four others.

Chair: Mayer Tchelebon
Members: (Vacant)

Publications Committee

E-mail: publications@lists.rasc.ca

Composition: 1st Vice-President (ch.), Journal Editor, Observer's Handbook Editor, and up to four others.

Chair: Mary Lou Whitehorne
Members: Jay Anderson
James Edgar
Pat Kelly
Craig Levine
Ian Levstein

MOTION 09302 was CARRIED

MOTION 09303 Moved by Les Dickson, seconded by Pat Kelly, that the following Special Committee be elected as proposed.

Information Technology Committee (one-year term)

E-mail: itc@lists.rasc.ca

Chair: Ryan May
Members: Colin Haig
Mark Kaye
Patrice Scattolin

Light-Pollution Abatement Committee (one-year term)

E-mail: lpacomm@lists.rasc.ca

Composition: Chair, plus additional members appointed by the chair.

Chair: Robert Dick
Members: Mark Coady
Roland Dechesne
Dr. Yvan Dutil
Bruce McCurdy
Dan Taylor
Chris Weadick

MOTION 09303 was CARRIED

MOTION 09304

It was moved by Ryan May, seconded by Ron Warren, that the meeting adjourn.

MOTION 09304 was CARRIED. ★



RASC Awards Committee Report

Note that the following awards were approved at Council's spring meeting (NC091):

- ▶ The **Chilton Prize** to Brian Battersby (MOTION 09104);
- ▶ The **Simon Newcomb Award** to James Edgar (MOTION 09105);
- ▶ **Service Awards** to Robert Duff (London Centre), Kim Hay (Kingston Centre), Richard Huziak (Saskatoon Centre), Walter MacDonald (Kingston Centre), Al Seaman (Ottawa Centre), Patrice Scattolin (Centre Francophone de Montreal), and Alan Whitman (Okanagan Centre) (MOTION 09106).

Award winners who are not present at

KC Treasurer's Notes

Kim Hay

Astronomy Magazine is available for members at a discount price of US \$34.00/year, or 2 years for US\$60.00. If you are interested, please contact Kim Hay at cdnspooky@persona.ca or at the September meeting.

If anyone wishes to make **donations** to the RASC-Kingston Centre for future projects, please make a cheque out to the RASC Kingston Centre. Tax Receipts will be made out for amounts over \$10.00

Since **Regulus** is going to an electronic version, if there are members who wish to still receive the paper edition, please contact Kim Hay at cdnspooky@persona.ca or drop a note to the Centre's mailbox:

RASC-Kingston Centre,
P.O. Box 1793,
Kingston, Ontario K7L 5J6

or drop a message on the Centre's phone line at 613-377-6029. ★

the General Assembly will be contacted individually to determine an appropriate mode of presentation.

Note also that the Executive Committee had awarded the Service Award to Halifax member Clint Shannon prior to NC091. Halifax Centre members report that Mr. Shannon received the Service Award and has since passed away.

- ▶ The **Plaskett Medal** for 2009 was awarded to Dr. Catherine Lovekin of St. Marys University. Dr. Lovekin is working on a postdoc in France during the summer of 2009 and is unable to attend the General Assembly. The Awards Committee will ask Dr. Lovekin when and where she would like to receive her award. ★

Saturday, May 9th

THERE WERE 24 VISITORS and the weather was cloudy with rain. It was the first night for the new Queen's Observatory Coordinator **Melanie Hall**. We had tours of the dome and a presentation by **James Silvester** on two of his astronomy heroes, Herschel and Brahe. We had a cake

to mark the end of James' tour of duty as coordinator and a door prize draw. The door prize was a beautiful glossy astronomy book donated by **Hal Bolden** and the young winner was suitably impressed. RASC volunteers were **Kim Hay, Kevin Kell, Steve Hart**, and I. Thanks to **Hank Bartlett** for the handouts.

Saturday, June 13th

WE HAD 15 VISITORS and the weather was cloudy but without the rain. A talk given by **Pascal Elahi** began at 9:30 on the *Death of the Solar System*. With so few of us there we all felt quite comfortable about asking our questions as the talk proceeded. This did not seem to bother Pascal at all. We had a door prize draw for yet another beautiful book donated by **Hal Bolden**. The winner was one of our regular enthusiastic visitors and he was very pleased. Since there was no observing and the crowd was small, Pascal conducted an internet tour of interesting sites like *Astro Photo of the Day* and *Space Weather*. It was a cozy affair and I think we all enjoyed it. The RASC was represented by **Ian Kennedy** and myself. Thanks as usual to **Hank Bartlett** for the evening's handouts.

Meeting Report: June 12

Kevin Kell

JUNE 12TH WAS THE LAST regular Friday meeting of the RASC Kingston Centre until after the summer recess. My apologies to those who were there for the length and late ending to the meeting.

next two years. This could very well happen: I know of two certificates in pending while the observers get their paperwork submitted. I also know of at least four others who are also working through certificates.

We opened up with some upcoming announcements, especially the Tuesday IYA/CAVE talk by **Dr. Sandra Faber**.

Leo Enright followed with a lengthy observing report from Florida over the past 6 months. Then **Leslie Roberts** displayed more gorgeous photos from his Canon SLR piggybacked and manually guided.

This was followed by presentations to members who have completed their Messier Observing Program Certificates of **Messier Pins**. On hand to receive them were: Doug Angle, Leo Enright, Kim Hay, Steve Manders and myself. The Pins will be sent out to those other recipients: Martin McConnell, Ray Berg, Ken Kingdon, Vic Smida, Mark Kaye, Norm Welbanks, Leo Brodeur and also to other current centre members who finished the program while members of other centres: Walter MacDonald, John Hurley and Jan Wisniewski. Congratulations to all!

We had a break with foodstuffs brought in by **Susan and Kim**, and this was followed by **Steve Manders** who spoke about his trip to Peru and Ecuador and southern-sky observing.

Doug Angle finished the evening off with an analysis of Galileo's observing notes.

Members' night opened with **Kevin Kell** talking about the 50-in-50 Challenge, to expand past our current 28 certificates in Exploring the Universe, Messier, Finest NGC and Williamson Lunar Programs to 50 by the end of 2011—our Centres 50th anniversary. So far, Centre members have received 28 certificates in 48 years and so we need 22 more in the

Thanks to **Doug Angle** and **Nelson Laviolette** for donating items to the centre: an observing box, a Hubble Sky Cap, a plastic eyepiece case and two Orion Plössl eyepieces. Two more book donations were turned over to librarian **David Maguire**. We plan on raffling off the observing box, eyepiece case, and eyepieces at the **Fall'N'Stars Star Party** in late September.

It was good to see **Brian McGaffney**, one of our new members from far away. ★

Saturday, July 9th

THE CLOUDY SKIES did not keep the astronomically curious away on Saturday night. 53 people showed up for the tours of the dome and an astronomy talk. The first order of business was to chase everyone out onto the observing deck to see a fabulous sunset in the west and an electrifying lightning show in the south. The talk for the evening was a Kingston Centre presentation by yours truly on **Online Astronomy Resources**. A handout was provided with a list of the websites and what they provide, as well as some printed charts to demonstrate their quality. There was a brief moment of clearing at the end of the session and a scope was dispatched to the deck with military precision! Volunteers for Kingston Centre were **Steve, Kim, Kevin**, and I. Thanks to **Hank** for his continuing support with the *What's Up* info page and the date-specific all-sky chart. Queen's volunteers were **Melanie** and **Carla**. ★

An Experiment in Sidewalk Astronomy

Susan Gagnon

ON AUGUST 6, with the promise of some clear sky I went downtown to enjoy an outdoor movie and participate in a post-movie bit of sidewalk Astronomy. The movie was *Rocky*—a movie I had never seen, strangely enough. I found myself amidst some very seasoned outdoor movie-goers. It rained three times before the movie started and the umbrellas and ponchos were on and off as needed but, there was no widespread panic.

The clearing of the skies began with the movie and by the time it was over the Moon and Jupiter were high over city hall and made terrific targets for the intense nighttime lighting of the downtown. The movie-goers cleared out pretty fast but at least 20 folks came by to have a look at the sky. **Cameron (RMC)** brought a C5 and I

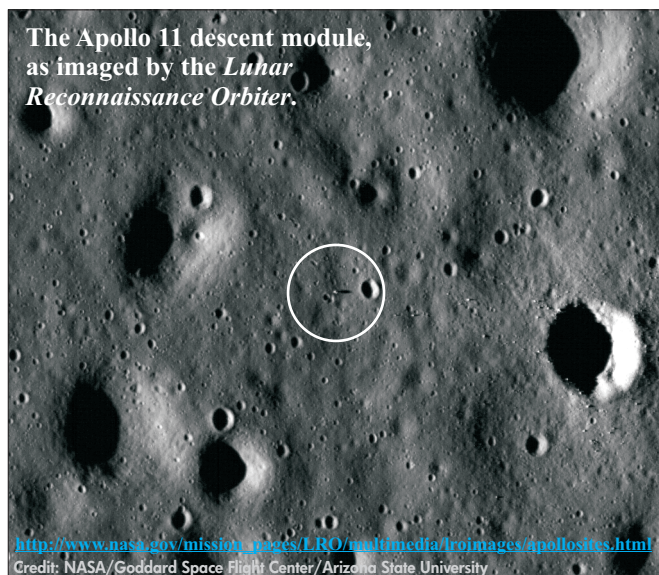
had my 15 x 70 binoculars on a tripod. **Terry, Melanie and Carla** were there for Queen's. We had a good chat with our guests and promoted the September 19th event at Lake Ontario Park.

It was an interesting experiment for me and I have a few opinions on what may be possible another year. This is what would make sense if there was Centre support for this kind of event. If there is no movie night with Jupiter or the Moon or Saturn being above City Hall after the movie...don't bother. This is easily determined with any planetarium program. If there is an Astronomy or sci-fi movie that would bring in a biased crowd, then we could plant that idea in the mind of the City Hall gang who are picking the titles for the season. This requires a movie title choice and date

selection. There would be no advertising, since if it was not clear there would be no set up...a bit of a covert op if you like.

All in all I really enjoyed the outdoor movie thing. The movie was good and there were not a lot of distractions. The people who were there were there for the movie and the only ones who left early had tiny kids. There was a booth for popcorn, but really whatever snack you are into is available as you are surrounded by great restaurants. I was crawling into bed at midnight so some may find it a late night with work the next day if you are a day worker.

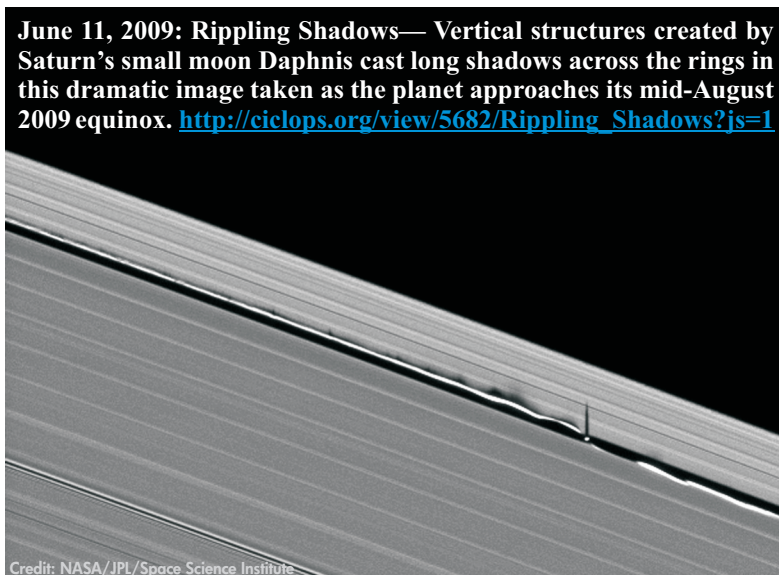
I look forward to the August 13 event for the movie *Contact*. Even if there is no observing it is a great summer thing to do. ★



The Apollo 11 descent module, as imaged by the *Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter*.

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/LRO/multimedia/lroimages/apollosites.html

Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center/Arizona State University



June 11, 2009: Rippling Shadows— Vertical structures created by Saturn's small moon Daphnis cast long shadows across the rings in this dramatic image taken as the planet approaches its mid-August 2009 equinox. http://ciclops.org/view/5682/Rippling_Shadows?js=1

Credit: NASA/JPL/Space Science Institute

KAON Report: August 8

Susan Gagnon

ONCE AGAIN, cloudy skies plagued the observing deck at Ellis Hall but the public came anyway. The talk, *The Solar System*, presented by Queen's speaker **Emily Sheridan** was well received with a lively Q and A afterwards. There were 53 visitors, again. I feared the only action the dark deserted deck would see was two tiny toddlers wound too tight that

were turned loose squealing and giggling with red flashlights. Finally at 10 p.m. there was a brief clearing where the moon was coming up and we dashed out. It was a great big Moon, not just orange but orange 'like' with its pocked surface. With large binoculars on a tripod and two smaller pairs of binoculars passed about, perhaps 20 visitors had a brief

and unexpected observing session. We had an inquiry about joining the RASC and met **Michael** and **Rachel** from Australia; Michael is an unattached member of the RASC. Volunteers for the evening were, **Cedric (RMC?)**, **Carla**, and **Emily (Queen's)**, **Carla's boyfriend** (cheerful draftee), and **Susan (Kingston Centre)**. ★

We are not sure if you all were aware that July 18th was Parks Day across Canada. We had camped at Murphy's Point, starting on Friday to help fellow Kingston Centre member **Frank Hitchens** set up for observing at night. When we checked in, we received the note on what was going on in the Park: that there was a solar session on Saturday afternoon, and observing at night after the talk, down at the beach.

We hung out at the camp site on Saturday afternoon, trying to de-stress from a brutal week at work, but we were also fighting rain since Friday night. There was a massive thunderstorm that went through on Saturday before during and after sunrise. We chased the sun through the trees to do some solar observing, but we have it from other members from Kingston and Belleville that solar scopes were setup on the beach. Except for one 15 minute downpour between 1 and 4 p.m., all went well.

Starting around 5:00 p.m., the skies opened up again, and as we sat under the tarp and firepit, we were really

worried that the night time events would not take place. The clouds parted, and the talk proceeded with Frank talking about Galileo and the first moon landing, of which the 40th anniversary is on July 20. Excellent images, and wonderful audio clips of the Saturn V lift off, lunar landing and clips from the Voyager's spacecraft gold record recordings. This showed everyone that we are still pilgrims on the cosmic voyage in the universe, and wondering "are we alone?"

It was very sad to hear that **Walter Cronkite** had passed away on July 18th. He was the main anchor of the CBS station that covered the lunar mission. Hearing **John F. Kennedy's** speech in 1961 that the Americans will go to the moon, before the end of the decade...always gives me goosebumps.

Once the talk was over, the sky cleared, and we had around 25 people show up to look through telescopes and binoculars. There was **Fred Barrett, Leo Enright, Larry Hum, Dave Pianossi, Kevin Kell** and myself. Frank came down after packing up the electronics.

We had a wonderful view of Sagittarius, Scorpius, lots of satellites, and the estimated -6 ISS long duration flare, (though down as mag. -2.6 from heavens-above.com). It was brighter than Venus in the

morning which is at -4.05. The space shuttle was also attached. It was the brightest ISS pass we have ever seen to date. Around the same time was some good lightning way down on the horizon (near Brockville?) just below Scorpius. That lit up our sky a little as well.

The clouds started to move in from the west again, and around 11:30 we all dispersed. Some stayed. Jupiter was still behind the trees. It was a fantastic night despite the clouds and rain earlier in the day. We arrived back home around noon on Sunday, only to be presented by more clouds and rain. Despite the weather, it was a great weekend away.

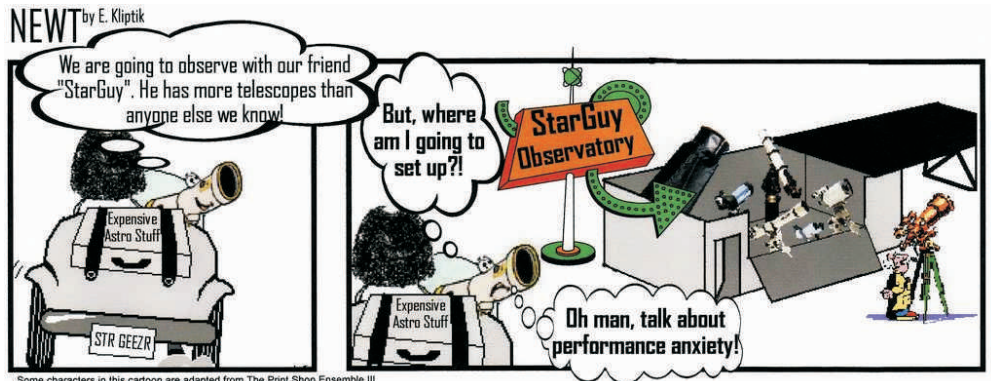
Norm Welbanks went up to Bon Echo to help **Terence Dickinson** who was giving a talk at their pavillion. There was around 300 for the talk, and around 75 to observe. Way to go Norm.

Frank will be giving another astronomy talk on August 27th at Murphy's Point, and would appreciate anyone who would like to take up their scope and set up by the beach. We both back the use of the beach, as it has a wonderful southern exposure, and it is a treat to get out under the skies. ★



"But though our programmes have been interesting, the attendance at some of the meetings has not been as large as we would wish. This has been in part due to the loss of some of our most active and valued members by death or removal, and the inability of others, through advancing age, to attend the evening meetings. I would appeal to those present, who are not members, to unite with us and help on the cause we have at heart."

—from C.A. Chant's President's Address, 1905



Some characters in this cartoon are adapted from The Print Shop Ensemble III

IT WAS NOT A GREAT SUMMER weather-wise for astronomical gatherings. Starfest was pounded by severe weather on Thursday afternoon (August 20th) including a tornado touching down in the nearby town of Durham. Down east, the Nova East star party was cut short by Hurricane Bill. Out west, the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party was also clouded and rained out. For those of us who stuck close to home, the warm, sunny, clear weather that we enjoyed that week is quite a contrast to these other locales!

Fortunately, the GA events were held indoors and the whole event was a great success. Here is Kevin's report on GA 2009.

We're back from the 2009 RASC General Assembly held at the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park near Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. It was a long drive out but we did manage to stay for more than a few hours at Devil's Tower, Wyoming on the way out. Awesome place that.

For the first time in 13 years the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party was rained out. We drove out of Ontario in the rain, got hit by a thunderstorm in Michigan and then up to 33° through the Badlands of South Dakota. Into Saskatchewan and the rains started and did not let up for five days. Three years ago when we were last there it hadn't rained in months and there was a campfire ban due to extreme fire hazard.

A lot of SSSP types headed home early or did not come at all due to the weather but there were still over 400 registrants, up about 100 from a regular star party.

The first national Council meeting was on Thursday and there is not much to note. Flash motion minutes

are included elsewhere in this issue of *Regulus* but there are two highlights:

1) Dr. James Hesser was named as our next Honorary President, effective immediately for the usual term of four years; 2) a new observing certificate program was approved, based on the 154-object list of the David Levy Deep-Sky Gems in the *RASC Observer's Handbook*, as compiled by David Levy and Leo Enright.

James Hesser (*Fr. Lucien Kemble Memorial Lecture*) and Alan Dyer (*Ruth Northcott Lecture*) gave great keynote talks and the paper sessions went ahead, but were fewer in number this year. These included:

- ▶ Keynote Scientific Speaker Dr. Martin Beech on "Meteorites in the Land of Living Skies."
- ▶ Bruce McCurdy on "An Amateur at Buzzard Coulee."
- ▶ Gerald Gartner on "The Cypress Hills Observatory."
- ▶ David M. F. Chapman on "The Galilean Telescope."
- ▶ Remi Lacasse on "The ARP Atlas of Peculiar Galaxies."
- ▶ Dr. Gordon Sarty on "Observing HMXBs with Professional and Space Telescopes."

The Poster Program consisted of scientific posters on walls:

▶ Jim Hesser (NRC-HIA), C. Bartlett (Cape Breton U.), K. Breland (Canadian IYA Project Manager), K. Hay (RASC), D. Lane (RASC), R. Lacasse (FAAQ), D. Lemay (FAAQ), P. Langill (U. Calgary), J. Percy (U. Toronto), D.L. Welch (McMaster U.), A. Woodsworth (Galaxy Consulting): **"IYA 2009: A**

Pictorial Overview."

▶ Kim Hay (Kingston Centre): **"Solar Observing from 1999-2009."**

▶ Randall A. Rosenfeld, Kim D. Hay and the RASC Astrosketchers: **"Galileo Observing Challenge: Interim Report."**

▶ Remi Lacasse (Montréal Centre): **"The ARP Atlas of Peculiar Galaxies."**

▶ Kevin Kell and Kim Hay **"Starlight Cascade Observatory Allsky Camera."**

An excellent and large photo contest had five major categories and dozens of entries along with a non-contest photo gallery for people to display their work.

The General Assembly meeting went fairly quickly with no great noise or bluster. Everything passed and those motion minutes were also posted to the rascals e-mail list. No elections this year—those are next year.

The day we left the weather got better (of course!) A quick side trip to Calgary and another 3½ days to get back home, running from, through and in, thunderstorms and rain.

All in all it was a good GA that would have been great if the weather had cooperated. ★

Rick Huziak gave reasons for all of the rain experienced at the GA:

- 2009 was our 13th star party.
- The rain started on Aug. 13th.
- The 13th registrant was our Prez, Dave Lane.

Thus it is only appropriate that Kevin's report appears on page 13 of *Regulus!* ☺

as the Moon was rising and the sky would wash out. I hope someone sends out a better image than this to share; yes that is a challenge.

Well, it may have been washed out but we saw about 20 meteors in 10 minutes, five of which were very bright and this was only in the WNW area of sky we could see from the back deck chillin' in our pj's. Di headed back to bed and I decided to pull out the camera and tripod. Over the next half hour I took over 20 images and all I got was a Boeing meteor! Dang, what the heck? Oh there were a few meteors but none as bright as we saw the first 10 minutes, I must need a cloak of invisibility for my camera! That 10 minute period put me in mind of my first Perseid night back in the early '70s, it was like watching someone turning on long fluorescent tubes in the sky, a beautiful sight.

Di, what a good wife to wake me—well as long as it is for something astronomical.

August 18: Zenith Vision

Susan Gagnon reports: So you may have noticed that the cloudless sky is really only remotely clear at the zenith this week. So if it ain't in Cygnus, etc. I am not seeing it.

A while ago I had put my OIII filter away because with Baby's aperature of 90 mm I could not see anything. So last night I dug it out and put it to work on the 10" and even with a much less than perfect sky I was able to see two separate portions of the Veil Nebula. The North American and Pelican area were too diffuse and flat, not enough contrast; I found that the field seemed a bit less crisp but nothing concrete. The thin strips of the Veil though were quite obvious.

August 24/25

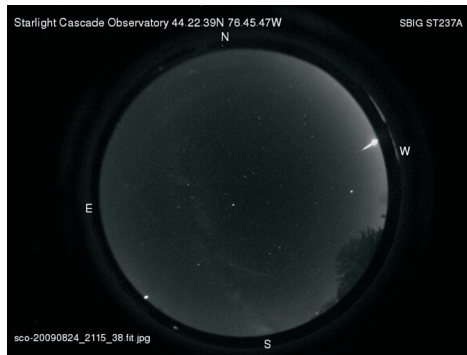
Your editor reports: I fired up the dome tonight and had a quick half-

hour visual session with the 10" LX-200. Comet Christensen was easily seen near 5th magnitude 13 Sagittae. The comet had a stellar "nucleus" and a nice round, diffuse coma. It is favourably placed in Sagitta (just a couple of degrees from M71) and transits just before 11 p.m. So get out there and observe it this week if you can before the moon starts to interfere!

Kim Hay replies: I totally forgot about the comet; I was bent on getting at least one NGC last night, and did manage to get NGC 6633. However going after NGC 6572 and 6369 were a bit tougher, and will have to try again tonight, as 6369 was behind the trees by 10:45 and I think I may have found NGC 6572 but need a better map.

I will have to find it tonight.

Kevin Kell reports: Hope Charleston Lake went well for you folks who went Here near Yarker it was quite clear and cool with few mosquitos—enough to get me out observing for the first time in weeks.



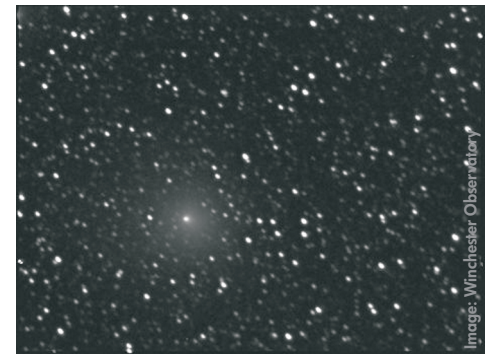
Both Kim & I visually observed a -6 to -8 fireball around 21:15 EDT in the west, right along the line of the big dipper handle arcing to Arcturus but heading straight down into the west. The cool thing is that the all-sky camera got it too (see image above). This was a 120 second exposure but the camera seemed to be cycling between exposures and only caught the last part of the burn, as we saw it

starting an equivalent amount above the line/arc/Arcturus/Dipper.

Another highlight was observing Neptune in 10x50 binocs and 17x80 binocs. Its position in the star field made its mag. 7.8 easy to pick out by star hopping inside the single field of view of both sets. Lots of easy guide stars.

Mark Kaye replies: This fireball was spotted by NYAA members in the Toronto region as well.

August 26/27: Comet Christensen
Your editor was out enjoying some visual deep sky observing with the 17½" Dob while the dome cranked away on variable stars (219 variables were imaged on this night!). At the start of the session, Comet Christensen was imaged on CCD (8x30s, Johnson V filter).



Hank Bartlett: I just stepped out at 10:09 to look for the area where Comet Christensen is when passing through Delphinus I saw a bright blue flash, then a satellite, then another dimmer flash, and then the satellite continuing northward. Just east of that 20° I spotted another satellite on the same track (NOSS?). Anyway it was cool! The first flash was a bright mag. 1-2 bluish colour and that is most what caught my eye.

Kevin Fetter was once again running his satellite observations, which this night included Telstar 11 and satellite 34382. Later he identified Hank's bluish flashing

...Summer Observing Reports

satellite as USA 186 (catalog #28888).

Hank Bartlett adds: I must say Kevin, in an otherwise boring and stagnant sky lately these satellites are becoming more interesting all the time. **Kevin Fetter** was quite pleased to see Hank unwittingly being transformed into a satellite observer... **Hank** speculated that the bluish colour "may have been just atmospheric conditions or my old eyes."

Mark Kaye was also out observing: Good evening everyone. I went out to look at Jupiter, only to discover that it is a tough target from here right now. I have let the trees get ahead of me and the southern skies are now blocked by our box elder. Chainsaw time...

I played branch dodge for a while, but it was Lyndsay who was first able to spot a black dot of a shadow. The view was very fleeting.

I remembered that there is a fairly bright outburst comet well placed for viewing, so I turned my scope towards that. For the very first time, I used the digital setting circles to find an object that I have never found before. Using ECU and the DSC, I was able to plop comet Christensen in the centre of my 15mm Pan first try. If it is that easy to spot, it is not a nearly 12th magnitude comet.

So while I was in the region, I also took some time to find some old favourites. M27 only requires that one push the scope up in dec. to be right there and M71 is also only a quick push away, as well as some small open clusters. It is a beautiful night. Typical that it would happen a few nights after Starfest...

Hank Bartlett replies: Thanks Mark for the reminder; I did go back out and check Jupiter but in the 4.5" I only noted the larger shadow (could

be the rum). Jupiter does look odd with only one moon.

Kevin Kell adds: Kim and I made it out for the 2nd time this week under skies slightly less clear than Monday (SQM Monday was 21.1 and Wednesday about 20.68). The moon was up longer as well, interfering with attempts at NGC hunting.

We tracked down Comet C2006/W3 Christensen, just of Sagitta. It is listed in *Starry Night Pro* v3.1 as mag 11.9 but it must have been brighter as it was just on the edge of averted vision visibility in the 20cm scope.

I updated the SBIG all-sky camera drivers and they seemed to work afterwards! Always a good thing!

This had Hank lamenting: No wonder it didn't show in the 4.5! I should have opened the RHAO.

Mark Kaye replies: It has undergone some sort of outburst and is way brighter than listed: estimates put it more in the eighth magnitude range. I believe that you should be able to find it in your 4.5.



Hank Bartlett reports: an awesome sun, but not worth all that rain!

Kevin Kell proclaims: Never fiddle with automation! Did that last night with the allsky camera and lost some of its settings and it didn't work. ★

Movie Night #2

Susan Gagnon



THE AUGUST 13TH MOVIE NIGHT WAS GOOD. Clear skies all night! Judith did the intro and gave the plug for September 19th and the website.

I had never seen the IYA trailer on such a big screen with big sound! I liked it before but on that scale...it is goose bump material!!!!

Afterwards, Cameron had the C5, and I had my binoculars, and Mel had handouts. We believe that we had 50 visitors (there could have been a few more because we had a steady stream). We had a single target, Jupiter, with a uniform presentation of moons like I have never seen.

I think that *Contact* was an excellent choice for the anniversary of Galileo's observations. I believe that the most significant role that Galileo played in the birth of science was the fact that his findings were to be reported 'spin-free,' which was a constant theme in the movie. ★



More RASC Online

Walter MacDonald

Two more of the RASC's historic publications are now available online, both at the national website (go to "Publications", then "Our Printed History") and locally from the KC website (go to "Publications"):

1) **Looking Up: A History of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada** by R. Peter Broughton

2) **Observer's Handbook 1907**, with a special introduction by former Handbook editor Roy Bishop. ★

Charleston Lake Star Party

Hank Bartlett, Kevin Fetter

There were two star parties at Charleston Lake Provincial Park (each with a talk by Terry Dickinson): on Monday, August 24 and Friday, August 28. Friday was clouded out, but two reports were posted about the Monday night event.

HANK BARTLETT REPORTS:

Last night I returned to Charleston Lake having not been there for about 7 years. The trees are much taller around that little field and therefore the south was limited. At first I was not sure that Jupiter would stay above the tree line. There were about a dozen scopes from Kingston Centre, Ottawa, and others. I took a few images of the scopes but needed long exposure and therefore the people are blurred from movement.

Did I have a good time? YES. It is always invigorating to talk astronomy and show the night sky to those that appreciate it and are excited about what they see. There was a heavy dew but that settled eventually and the sky was also clear nicely overhead.

Norm and I travelled up together and it was nice to see Ken Kingdon, Kevin Fetter, and Frank Hitchens and share some chat while waiting. We left about 11:30 and most were beginning to pack up as the crowd had left. It was a good time and we may return Friday if it is clear.

KEVIN FETTER COMMENTS: Yes it was a nice time, and a good turnout of people. I got there as the sky was already dark, so I had to go and play spot-the-others, to see where they were.

There were no bright iridium flares to show, so I showed Jupiter and a geo sat called Intelsat 1R that flared up, so a few people got to see a satellite over 35 000 km away. ★

HANK BARTLETT REPORTS AGAIN! It was a dark and stormy night. Oh no wait, it actually was pretty clear for a change. Norm and I arrived at the campsite on Monday night the 24th of August just before dark with just enough time to set up and have a



A few people from the Ottawa Centre came out with their telescopes.



A last minute check of the Welbank...



Ken and Norm do the mosquito dance!



"Gee, thanks for the light!"

break before the crowd arrived. I didn't take note of the time but shortly after dark a wave of flashlight bearing guests arrived and were given the warm greeting "KEEP THOSE FLASHLIGHTS POINTED AT THE GROUND!" followed by a more friendly and subdued warning as to what bright light does to night vision. Who could blame them, they were so wound up from Terry Dickinson's talk that even if he did tell them that in advance they would have forgotten it.

The next hour and a half was full of oohs, aahs and wows. As they were treated to views of, and information about, the universe around us, many had trouble rationalizing it all. The time machine aspect of astronomy always seems to overwhelm and confuse people. As much as they enjoy us showing the night sky I must say we enjoyed doing it. Monday was a very satisfying night (we did not get there Friday night). Although it was not a great sky, it was good overhead and the Milky Way glowed brightly. The Galilean Moons were high-lighted and people were left to ponder what it must have been like for Galileo 400 years ago to discover their orbits and how that changed everything.

Now of course we were not alone: there were at least a dozen scopes from Ottawa, Kingston, and the surrounding area. There was a wide variety from my small Celestron C4.5" to Ken's Portaball (12½"?). It was great to see some astrofriends again (I have been lax at participating for some time). If a reader gets anything out of this article it should be that it is easy and fun—yes fun—to participate in such an event and dazzle the general public with observing and tidbits of astronomical information. Try it, it can be addictive! ★

MARCUS LEECH SPOKE to the Centre at the May meeting about the radio telescope at Shirley's Bay. Marcus created a consortium over two years ago, and the Shirley's Bay 60-foot telescope that had been lying dormant for 10 years is now coming to life thanks to his efforts. All of the work is done by volunteers; they are always looking for people to help with engineering and mechanical work, painting, etc. Once it is fixed up, the intention is to do some work on cosmic transients.

The telescope is located on the Shirley's Bay Campus, which is on DND property, so it is very well guarded. **Kim Hay** asked about a tour, and it can be done, but it would need to be carefully coordinated. If any Centre members are interested in a tour of this facility, let her know, and she can talk to Marcus about the

possibilities of making it happen.

For more information on the Shirley's Bay site, and their e-mail list (which is quite fascinating), go to <http://www.sbrac.org>

We then talked about some of the centre's activities, had our 50/50 refreshment draw—which was won by **Steve Manders** and **Ian Kennedy**—and then our observing reports. There was not too much in the way of observing reports, though Leo talked a little bit about his observing in Florida over the winter. Steve Manders is on his way to Peru soon, and will be taking some images of the sky with his new camera; he will be back to share those with us at the June Meeting.

As the meeting ended, some went to Wendy's and some braved the

drenched ride home.

THE MEMBERSHIP "DISHES":

Kim Hay says that Marcus' talk has rejuvenated my hope that someday I too will have the radio dish in our back yard up and running—perhaps even an interferometer.

Susan Gagnon replies: Kim, when you get all your *dishes in a row* you will have to get a jazzy name for it with "Array" in the title...*vla* (in lower case, for "very little array") perhaps.

Saturday night is our regular KAON night, though the weather looks pitiful, but there will be a cake to thank **James Silvester** for his work as the past Observatory Coordinator, and to welcome **Melanie Hall** who has now taken over the reigns. ★

New Impact Spot on Jupiter

Dave Pianosi

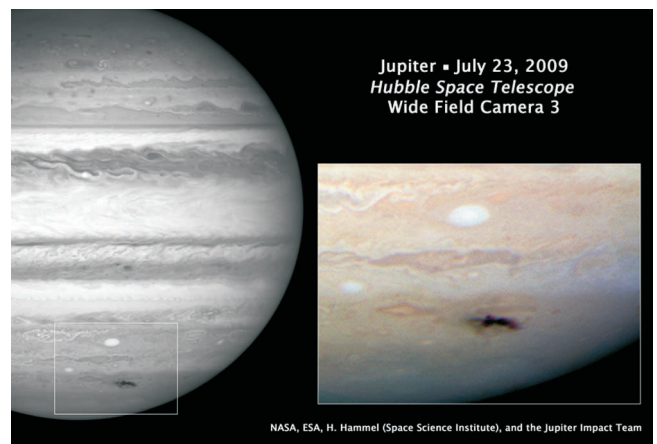
LAST NIGHT I HAD the opportunity of a life time. My second observation of an impact site on another planet—Jupiter.

On July 25, 1994 at about 9:30 p.m., I put my old 6" Newt GEM on Jupiter and was totally shocked to see two large well defined black spots on the southern polar region of Jupiter. Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 was a well-known object, including its trajectory, but what wasn't certain was if we would be able to see anything from Earth. So there I was in my backyard watching the most unusual thing—real time Astronomy. It wasn't there days ago but there it was now!

Now some 15 years later I headed out to my observatory and my 10" Dob. Starting at about 22:45 I tried looking for the spot but the atmosphere, although decent, wasn't good enough

for that kind of detail. I'd have to wait for Jupiter to climb a bit more.

Over the course of the next two hours I observed the spot only fleetingly but it was exactly repeatable in location and appearance so I was confident that what I was seeing was real, even if it was only in glimpses. The belts were well seen with darkened spots in the northwestern belts. Some festoons were readily seen at times too. Then along about 00:30 I got a sustained look at the thing—it was there for more than a mere second or two and was very real in the southwestern polar region and heading toward the limb. I was using between 150x and 240x maximum. It was not clear and obvious like a



Jovian moon transit though, and it seemed to be elongated.

This new spot was nothing compared to the clarity of the Shoemaker-Levy impacts, even though I have a larger scope and a better mirror now. I was expecting this spot to be as easily seen as the '94 impact but it wasn't. An interesting note is that both of the impact sites are in the southern polar regions. ★

A Cool Thing

Dave Pianosi

A message appeared from Dave in late July on the RASCals list that gives an interesting perspective on telescopic power that we seldom, if ever, stop to think about...

Well, I finally replaced my aging old honourable well used 10" Newt Dob. She needed new coatings and a nice Crayford and such. Plus she was banged up a bit but her optics made it worth the new cost. Well, a new used scope with the exact same parameters came up for sale locally for cheaper than what needed to be done to my old scope. So here I was with two identical telescopes. What do you do with that? Comparisons!

Well, the weather has sucked lately as you may have noticed, so I simply trained the two scopes on the top of an old 50-foot tall Spruce approx. 100 metres away. Since it was

daytime I couldn't check the obvious things like star tests and such, so I simply wondered what I other differences I could see. Overall, both scopes were just about identical except for a tad better contrast on the more newly-coated mirror.

As I was looking at the top of this spruce, and noting the finest details I could, along came a large bodied wasp into the field. I hoped it would hang around for a few moments up there and it did! I jumped back and forth between the two side-by-side Dobs with a few different eyepieces and got to do some really fine detail. I could easily see the abdomen stripes and every once in a while I could actually see the antennae when they were backdropped against the overcast sky! Cool.

I hadn't really looked naked eye at the tree in a good while; I was simply

bouncing back and forth between views. I started with the bug's details and I was lost in space. The really cool part of this tale is when it finally started to spit rain (what else!) I gave up and stood back to look at the tree. I simply couldn't believe it! Looking at this tree 100 metres out, naked eye, I couldn't believe I was readily detecting a wasp's banding and antennae! I was shocked really.

With our eyes to the night sky, one never gets to really understand certain things. There is difficulty with scale when looking at the night sky, but when looking at something that you always see up close in everyday life, and then use your scope on that same thing at a distance, it really was something. It will help me when I look again at the deep sky—if ever the clouds leave.

Anyways, that's my story. ★

Thermacell—A Cure for the Mosquito Problem?

Dave Pianosi

I am just so excited...I don't know if this has come up on the list previously but I just had to tell you: get a Thermacell!

After 4 recent attempts to use my 10x10' observatory this past couple of weeks I was completely skittered out!! I went out many times each attempt thinking that the buggers will die down as the night wore on and yet even well past midnight I simply couldn't do any observing whatsoever!

I had just purchased a new scope and wanted to give it a trial run but I couldn't. I simply couldn't concentrate or sit still for more than two seconds (if I was lucky) and all times within 10 minutes I gave up in anger.

I've had a couple of friends tell me that they have a Thermacell and that they do actually work (thanks very

much Ken Kingdon), but I'm always the doubting Thomas and I also know about the very real placebo effect after one spends money on a gadget—it is something that must be considered. So I doubtfully handed over the \$23 for the unit with one refill included. I opened the package with care as I expected to return it the next day—you gotta love Canadian Tire!

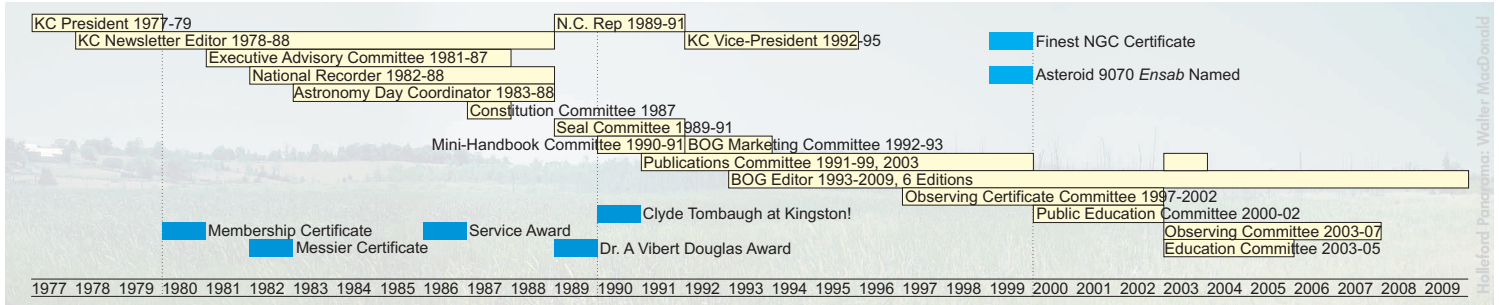
A friend posted that the new impact site on Jupiter (see page 17) would be visible tonight so out I went at 21:30 to open the observatory and light up the Thermacell. Again, within a couple of minutes (while trying to align my newly-installed Telrad) I was in a worse-than-ever attack and I ran back to the house after less than five minutes of poking around.

The Thermacell takes 30 minutes to create a 'zone,' stated as 15x15' on

the package. So thirty minutes later I headed out again to see if I can split Epsilon Lyrae with the new scope. Well, after 30 seconds I'm already starting to get excited—I should be swatting at my ears and legs by now—after a couple of minutes, I know the thing is working and from then on I forgot I was even using the Thermacell as I was so enthralled with my new scope's mirror! (It's a fine mirror.) The point is, I simply forgot about the mosquitoes and there is no way to actually forget about mosquitoes unless they aren't there!

I'm not saying there wasn't the odd swat or two—probably 6 swats in 25 minutes! But compare that to having both ears buzzing and eyes and nose and everything else being attacked in under a minute and running into the house in five minutes.

By the way, tonight I was out in



A timeline of Leo's involvement with the Kingston Centre and the RASC nationally starts to give an idea of the magnitude of his contributions and achievements over the last three decades. **Below right:** Leo at the Holleford meteor crater drill hole #1 in 1984.

Further Reading

A brief biography of Leo appears on page 263 of *Looking Up* (see page 15) in the chapter titled "The Enterprise Returns."

Leo's *NightSkies* columns and obituary in the *Frontenac News*: http://www.frontenacnews.ca/2009/nightskies_09.html

David Levy profiled Leo in his *Evening Stars* column: "Kingston's Astronomical Dynamo" in the October 2009 *Astronomy*.



...Thermacell—A Cure for the Mosquito Problem?

Dave Pianosi

shorts, sandals and t-shirt and it rained all night and right up until 1 p.m. today. It seems impossibly good but it's true; it's better than I'd dreamt and I'll happily spend my money and head out and purchase the refill pack tomorrow.

It is a no-wind device only and it probably works amazing for me because the walls of my observatory really keep the vaporized repellent contained in my location. It might not work so well in other settings and definitely won't work with any breeze. I have not heard of any damaging effect thus far in regards to possible lens or mirror coating damage, but I will stay tuned on that.

I'm off again to the observatory just to make sure I'm not dreaming.

Mark Kaye: The Thermacells work by killing the local mosquito population near the unit. If you are in a relatively enclosed space like an observatory, I find they work very well. But if you are in an open field,

the conditions have to be dead still in order to work. Even a slight breeze will reduce the unit's effectiveness. Then it comes down to numbers. When I work outside during the day on our property, I find that all I have to do is go to an area, sit still for a few minutes and kill any mosquitoes that land on me. Once I clear that area, I can work there. But in the evenings, when the mosquitoes come out in force, this technique does not work any longer. Same thing with the Thermacell to a large degree. It can, as you point out, be overwhelmed by the incoming bugs. It will help to reduce the number, but they will still come. The secret is to know the patterns of where you want to set up and then work around them.

Avoiding mosquitoes at dusk is best done by not being outdoors and attracting them to where you want to be. If out observing, I would try and set up before dusk, turn on the cell, go sit in a place that is mosquito free until it is fully dark and then go out. If you are moving around attracting

mosquitoes at dusk, you will have them all night.

Dave: I'm also curious about any health risks. It's pretty specific about not inhaling the fumes (keep out of reach of children, etc.). Is this stuff just DEET potpourri or is there something else in it?

Mark: It is an unfortunate sign of our times when these warnings appear, not because they are real, but because they are covering their duffs in case it may be harmful with respect to a future lawsuit. Sure, breathing the stuff in as smoke is likely to be harmful, but what are the real risks of low level exposure for brief periods? Which is worse: a little smoke, or west Nile or some other lovely mosquito-borne disease? It is hard to tell or get the straight goods. The pads are soaked in a chemical akin to the mosquito coils that have been around for years, allethrine. ★

See also "A Cure for Mosquitos," *Regulus*, May-June 1992, page 5.

...Remembering Leo

Ken Kingdon:

I am very saddened to report that Leo Enright passed away early Tuesday, August 11th. He died quietly in his sleep.

I last spoke to Leo on Monday evening the 10th, and we eagerly looked forward to our next morning's visit to the proposed site of the O.M.I. scope north of his home in Sharbot Lake, followed by lunch at a fine restaurant in Clarendon, then a return to his lakefront home that evening for the annual spectacle of the Perseids under his superbly dark skies.

I arrived at his home Tuesday morning, got no answer, but found him in bed...he had passed away painlessly overnight.

Many RASC members will know of his many accomplishments and efforts to spread the thrill of astronomy. Most people will know him as the author of the RASC publication, *The Beginner's Observing Guide*. Leo was a co-founder of the RASC Kingston Centre as we know it today. He had a long-term role at the National level of RASC. He and his wife Denise Sabatini have asteroid, *Ensab*, named after them (thank you, Peter). The list goes on extensively.

He often spoke fondly of his many fine astronomy friends across North America. His knowledge of the night sky was profound. He was a mentor to many, and I personally benefitted greatly from our many discussions, visits, and observing sessions together.

Besides astronomy, there is another side of Leo that few knew, as he was a reserved and humble man. His knowledge of baseball, football, and hockey was absolutely enormous and what a pleasure he was to be with on

our trips to see the Jays play; together, we never missed a Queen's home football game, and his knowledge of rules and strategy was unparalleled; during the NHL season, we discussed hockey almost daily. For the years that we had been in almost daily contact, astronomy was only one-third of it...our favourite sports, and life in general, made up the other two-thirds.

But here is the real shocker...Leo did not just talk sports; he played them. In his mid-life, he was a star baseball player, and a real slugger. As a high school English teacher, he also ran the weight-lifting program and a former student of his told me that no strapping youth nor any adult in the school could out-lift him, though they all tried—and gained inspiration. He loved water skiing, an expert at slalom; as a younger man, a photo of him in his life jacket shows a handsome, broad-shouldered water skier built like a small, strong bull; he was skilled at carving sharp turns just inches off the surface. He got into snowmobiling in the 1970s, and acquired a machine that, to this day, is still one of the hottest ever made, and he was still proud to show me that beauty recently. Who'da thunkit?

In the last decade, Leo had been ravaged by a heart attack, and life was no longer so kind to him. He was forced to surrender his youth, and I was impressed that he did this gracefully. I watched and always learned more from a true mentor.

So, it was not just the Astronomy; he was also a great sportsman, and a quiet gentleman. He lived by the creed...if you do not play a sport, BE ONE.

Brenda Shaw:

Last week I brought home a few boxes of books from my mother's

Various Centre & Society Members

house in Kingston, and I found my original copy of the BOG I won (along with a calendar, and a year's youth membership) at a science fair when I was sixteen. It was part of a prize from Kingston Centre, and Leo was the judge, so I think he was my first contact with the RASC.

I didn't go to the school where he taught, but I don't think they make teachers (in or out of classrooms) like that anymore.



Leo at the Centre's Astronomy Day display in 2002.

Ian Levstein:

This is sad news indeed. I worked with Leo for a number of years when I lived in Sharbot Lake and taught at the high school. In the summer time, he would get in his canoe and paddle around the lake and past my house. He and Denise introduced me to Astronomy and it was at his urging that I attended my first meeting of the Kingston Centre in 1989.

He will be sadly missed.

Peter Jedicke:

We're at the General Assembly in SK and this is a very sad way to start a happy occasion. Raymond and Hélène Auclair say they spoke with Leo on Sunday evening and he was looking forward to upcoming events. Please send any other details along. Most of us won't be back in Ontario until next Monday or Tuesday, but I'm sure we'd like to hear about funeral or other arrangements.

Dave Pianosi:

Leo was a nice guy, and friend to anyone who came within range. I've known Leo since '93 and no more organized or dedicated a person was there...I was lucky enough to be observing with Leo at Murhpy's Point Provincial Park a few week-ends ago during a public outreach event. During the day event there was good old Leo with his gear and charts and photos and bristol board full of interesting astro facts...man the guy just loved to spread the word.

I gotta hand it to Leo...he was able to get out do what he loved right to the end. It was clear to me just a few weeks ago that he was seriously short of breath as I helped him haul some of his gear to the beach from the car park and I was flattered as he couldn't thank me enough for such a small thing that I did for him. I recall one of his proud moments when he discovered an error in Uranometria...a star that was listed on the charts but didn't exist in reality and of course Leo picked it up and reported it to the publishers.

Leo was a nice guy.

Peggy Hurley:

I had the pleasure of working with Leo at Sharbot Lake H.S. and living nearby. He and Denise also introduced me to RASC, bringing Ian [Levstein] and I down to that first meeting in 1989. He will be missed.

Geoff Gaherty:

I made sure to include T Coronae Borealis in my variable star observations last night in memory of Leo's email address:

tcorbor@frontenac.net.

I'm reminded of him every night I observe because I use his recording system in my observing log. Such are the subtle and pervasive influences a man like Leo has on so

many of us.

Paul Winkler:

I was just thinking of Leo the other day, imagining that he was back to his hale and hearty self. Apparently it was not to be.

I recall often, as a member of Kingston Centre, how deeply impressed I was by Leo's constant striving for more knowledge and understanding, and especially for spreading the word about astronomy. I felt honoured to know him personally. His penchant for Harvey's veggie burgers even made me consider (albeit briefly) actually trying one (you have to be pretty high on the honours list for that!)

Leo was, in a way, the conscience of the Kingston Centre, reminding us of our history, and of the roles played by people who had moved away or passed away, so their memories were not lost. He kept us up-to-date on accomplishments of past members with whom he maintained a correspondence. He was just a wonderful person.

Living as I now do on the Left Coast, I miss him all the more today.

Goodbye Leo; thanks for everything.



Susan Gagnon:

The service in Read was very nice. It is a lovely, well-preserved Catholic church of considerable size. It was a well attended service with locals, retired teachers, extended family, and 14 of us representing Leo's Astronomy community. It was great to see Denise. She was well supported by family from home.

It was a high mass, with some good singing. Ken and one of Leo's

brothers made the service special by providing a bit of a character study to make the moment more personal and much more meaningful.

The cemetery was very hot and we were all happy to return to the church hall where it was cool with an unending supply of cold water. A traditional church luncheon was served of sandwiches and squares. Leo would have enjoyed it, lots of good food, lots of stories and laughter.

Walter MacDonald:

For anyone who has not seen it, Leo's obituary can be found here:

<http://www.ebituaries.ca/Ebit.aspx?DaId=856859001>

Also, for those of you who have not already done so, be sure to go to http://www.letstalkstars.com/recent_2009.htm and have a listen to the June 30th program in which Leo was the featured interviewee. It is so nice that David Levy was able to do this while Leo was still with us.

I made it to the evening visitation in Belleville on Friday, August 14 and was quite pleased to see a good group of astro people there: Tom Dean, Peggy & John, Diane H., Ken Kingdon, and Bill Broderick. There was also a guy there in a wheelchair who was from the Belleville Centre (I can't recall his name, unfortunately). A quick scan of the visitor's log showed that Ruth and Terry Hicks had attended the afternoon visitation. It was really good to see Tom and Bill again after so many years! Denise was there, of course, and it was good to see her again (after some 15 years or so) despite the circumstances. Afterwards, I headed up to the old MacDonald farm (near "Tommyburg" as Leo used to jokingly refer to it) for an overnight stay.

Saturday morning I headed down to Read. Guess I should have zoomed

...Remembering Leo

in a little more on Google maps! When I arrived at the intersection of Harmony and Read roads, Read was not there. So with a 50-50 chance, I turned south. After a couple of kilometres it was obvious that I had made the incorrect choice. Going north, I soon found myself in “downtown” Read. The old General Store was there (and appears to have been out of business for some time now), and a school, but no church. At this point logic indicated to me that if the church was not in Read, then it would be either N, S, E, or W of Read. Since I had approached from the south, I knew it wasn’t that way. I continued north but the lands became quickly uninhabited and I turned around just north of the big transmitter tower. Returning to Read, I started out east but could see no sign of a church down the road. I pulled in to a driveway to turn around—the name on the box was “T Enright.” Well, if nothing else, I could say that I found out where one of Leo’s brothers lives! Finally, I proceeded west (after encountering another lost car—with someone from Toronto Centre behind the wheel) and left Read behind. There was still no sign of a church, but I figured that at least I was headed back towards Thomasburg. A couple of minutes later I came upon the church, and I was only a few minutes late! Judging by the number of cars there and how far I had to park from the church, the turnout looked quite good, and indeed it was.

The church was surprisingly large and beautiful, with the graveyard just a couple of doors over and the parish hall directly across the road from the graveyard. It was a nice ceremony, and at its conclusion we all proceeded to the graveyard. A slight breeze came up shortly after we arrived graveside which helped a little with the hot sun. Leo’s resting place has

nice low horizons all around and a rugged beauty typical of that part of the province.

The astronomical community was again well-represented. Susan Gagnon, Doug Angle, Dieter Brueckner, Ken Kingdon, and Joanne Burns were there, and I thought I saw Judith Irwin briefly as well. The great surprise of this day was seeing David Stokes! Perhaps with a little cajoling we can get him active in the Centre again. The Toronto Centre member disappeared right after the interment so I didn’t get a chance to find out his name. As Susan noted, the reception at the hall was quite enjoyable. The only thing I can add to her report is that she and Doug almost had to be surgically separated from the desert trays!

Saturday night was clear once again, though the transparency was starting to slip a bit. The Milky Way arched overhead as beautiful as ever, cascading all the way down to Sagittarius, which was right on the meridian at the start of astronomical darkness. Scorpius was already sliding down towards the horizon in the southwest, and at its heart Antares was noticeably dimmer than usual—perhaps an appropriate tribute to our loss. ★



Leo in 1977.

Various Centre & Society Members

Dear friends at the Kingston Center,

We are all grieving today over the loss of our dear friend and mentor, Leo. He was a mentor of the very highest caliber. We will miss his great wisdom, his ideas, his perseverance, his humour, his love of hockey as well as Astronomy, and so many other things.

I like an old Jewish tradition that says that every star in the sky is a *Yitgadal* that we say in memory of a dear friend who has died. Last night the “Tears of St. Lawrence”—the Perseids—were also tears for Leo. I nominate Vega as our special star in memory of him.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the honour you give me to make me your honorary president. It is one of the biggest honours of my life. Thank you so much for writing me this letter.

With love, respect, and friendship,
David H. Levy

David’s closing reference is to a letter sent to him by the Kingston Centre this summer in recognition of his 20 years as our Honorary President.

Later there was some discussion about a choosing star in memory of Leo:

Mark Kaye: If we are going to pick a star for Leo, it should be Regulus...

Walter MacDonald: I was thinking that too, in view of his long tenure as editor and his role in getting the newsletter named. Then again, Vega is of much greater magnitude and passes much closer to the zenith, and was up at night at the time of his passing. I wonder if he could be allowed to have more than one star? ★

The Centre's newsletter was also transformed during Leo's tenure. He served as editor for 11 years, from 1978-88. The Centre's newsletter did not have a name when Leo became editor. He first suggested that a name was needed in the January 1978 issue. In April 1979 he announced a contest for members to submit names. With no entries received (apathy was alive and well back then too!) the Centre executive discussed the matter and chose a name at their May 31st meeting. The June 1979 newsletter was the first to carry the name *Regulus*.

Like everything else Astronomical, *Regulus* was a labour of love for Leo, and the high quality of the writing reflected that. It was a very personal and friendly style with lots of items on current Astronomical news and upcoming sky events. Editorials, contests, correspondence with far-flung members, and features like *For Your Compendium of Esoteric Facts* made *Regulus* a fun and compelling read. The frequency of publication evolved from twice per month to six times per year with more pages per issue.

In addition to writing for *Regulus*, Leo wrote some Astronomy columns that appeared in the *Whig-Standard* in June 1977. Later on, he would also write a column, *NightSkies*, for the *Frontenac News* for many years.

At meetings he attended, Leo was a huge presence. He always had a contribution to make: a talk, an observing report, an idea, or a news item of some kind. He was always encouraging others to participate and to achieve and he was a one-man cheering section when they did.

Leo was a voracious observer, and no matter the circumstances it always seemed like he was out-observing the



Leo at an Astronomy Day display at the Cataragui Mall in 1984.

rest of the Centre combined! He greatly enjoyed the very dark skies of Sharbot Lake for many years and Oso Observatory was built just steps from his house. Here he observed with binoculars, a C8, and a C14. (You can hear Leo talk about his observatory on David Levy's internet radio program *Let's Talk Stars*). He also enjoyed watching aurorae and conjunctions with the naked eye as well as hunting down very young crescent moons or the planet Mercury. Like so many of us, he also did a good deal of astrophotography.

In 1982, Leo was just the 5th person to receive the RASC's Messier Certificate for observing all 110 M objects. In 1999, he received the Society's Finest NGC Certificate for observing all 110 objects on that list. Leo received two further honours from the RASC: a Membership Certificate in 1980 and a Service Award in 1986.

From 1982-88, Leo served as

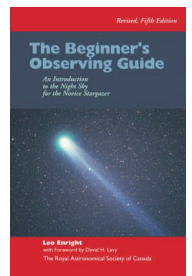
National Recorder for the RASC—a quite labourious job, but he performed it with his usual high standard. Following this he served a two-year term as a National Council Representative (1989-91) and then two two-year terms (1992-95) as Vice-President of the Centre. Over the years, he served on many RASC committees (see page 19).

To mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Kingston Centre, in 1986 Leo spearheaded an effort to create an award to recognize the contributions and achievements of Centre members. The Dr. A. Vibert Douglas Award was first presented on January 23rd. Just three years later, Leo himself became a most deserving recipient of this award.

Leo married fellow amateur astronomer Denise Sabatini in 1988. On their 5th wedding anniversary asteroid 1993 OZ2 was discovered and in 1999 was named 9070 *Ensab* in their honour.

In 1990 Leo played a key role in getting Clyde Tombaugh, the discoverer of Pluto, to speak at Kingston—truly the greatest night in the history of the Centre!

Another significant contribution that Leo made to the national society was writing the *Beginner's Observing Guide*, which stands in the front rank of the Society's publications. It has been very successful, going through five editions over two decades. He was nearing completion on a new edition at the time of his passing.



Leo will be greatly missed by his many friends locally, across Canada, and beyond.★