

## Upcoming Meetings

**Saturday, November 12, 2011**

Annual Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
KAON 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 10, 2011**

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
KAON 7:30 p.m.



**M71 and Comet C/2009 P1 (Garradd)**

Brian McGaffney captured the highlight of 2011's skies from Nutwood Observatory on August 26th at 11 p.m. (EDT) with his 14-inch astrograph and Apogee U16M CCD camera.



### Bill Broderick 1931-2011

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of longtime Kingston/Belleville Centre member (and former *Regulus* editor) Bill Broderick. Read more on page 5.

## Reports & Other Items

### Observer's Calendar / Handbook

A REMINDER THAT 2012 RASC Observer's Calendars will be available for sale at the Saturday, November 12th meeting of the Centre and at the Saturday, December 10th, 2011 ...while supplies last!

The price is \$16 each or two for \$30. Remember that this is a charitable fundraiser for the Centre and that we would appreciate another sellout this year to match last year.

Also available are three copies of the 2012 RASC *Observer's Hand-*

*book* for \$25 each. These would be good as a second copy, to get spiral-bound or to use as a gift!

### Member Assistance Needed

SUSAN GAGNON REPORTS: The December 10 meeting will not be in Ellis 324 due to exam use. We will be the guests of our observatory friends on that evening and so will meet in the warm room on the 4th floor beginning at 6pm. I would like to request that our variable star observing members provide some

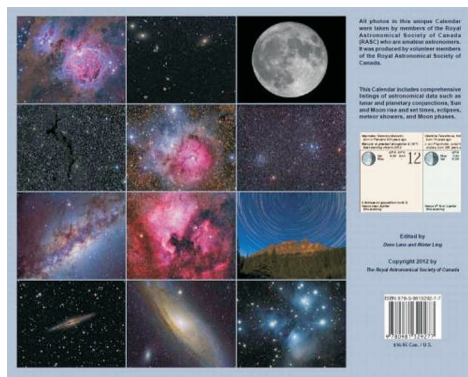
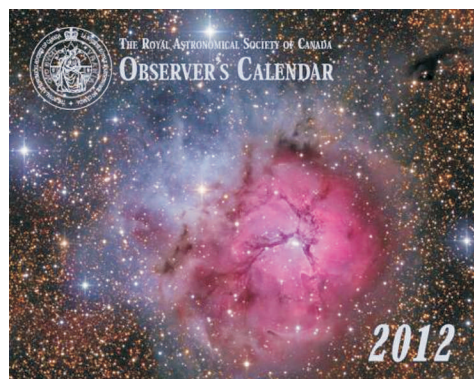
### From Kingston Centre, the RASC, and Beyond...

instruction during this meeting. Pick one or two easy winter targets and give a short description of the type of star it is and what your observing tips may be for variables. If you can prepare an observing chart and send a copy to me by December 6th I can make copies for members who may want one.

### 2012 Science Fair

THE 2012 Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Science Fair is planned

continues on next page...



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## ...Reports & Other Items

...continued from front page

for Thursday, March 29th and Friday, March 30th, 2012 at the McArthur Hall Auditorium, Queen's University in Kingston. The Executive will review the usual prize offered (BOG and \$75) and notify the organizing committee. We would also appreciate a volunteer to act as a judge. It is not usually an onerous task as the Astronomy entries are few and far between these days. I do expect that there may be a year when there will be no suitable winner. We still like to get our prize out there and encourage any participation that may raise the profile of Astronomy in the classroom. E-mail me to let me know if you would be interested in being a judge.

### Double Feature at Regulus

**Kevin Fetter** captured video of the SkyMed-2 satellite and Tiangong 1 space station simultaneously passing by Regulus on the night of October 28th, featured on [spaceweather.com](http://spaceweather.com)

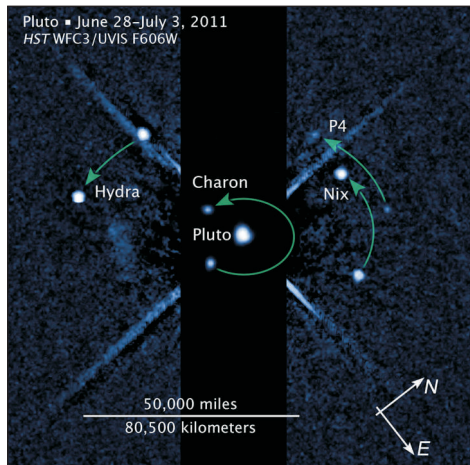


### Virtual Meeting a Success

The New Brunswick Centre webcast its October 15th meeting using [anymeeting.com](http://anymeeting.com). The screen showed video, slides, and a chat interface (questions allowed!). Your editor “attended” for several hours and it was almost like being there!

### Other Items

RANDY ATTWOOD (Mississauga Centre) has been appearing now on the CTV morning show for 30 years talking about various space missions...HUBBLE has discovered a fourth Plutonian moon (labelled P4 in the image below)—that still doesn't make Pluto a full-blown planet though!...COMET ELENIN appears not to have survived its recent perihelion passage...★



## 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

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<b>Webmaster:</b>	Walter MacDonald

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**J**ANUARY 19, 1961 marked the inaugural meeting of the Kingston Centre, under the leadership of Dr. A.V. Douglas. On June 2nd of that same year, RASC National Council approved the application of the Kingston Centre, and hence we became part of the RASC family.

On October 22, 2011 it was a day of Astronomy.

In the afternoon we held a “How to Buy a Telescope” workshop/meeting in the Frontenac County Library. **Brian Hunter** gave an excellent talk and small PowerPoint presentation on the different types of telescopes. This was an educational talk on knowing your telescopes for those who may have them, and not sure how to use them, but also to educate those who were thinking of buying a telescope for the upcoming Christmas season and to know what to get, and what to stay away from.

At the end of the day we gave away a 6" (15cm) Skywatcher Dobsonian to an excited youth. There was a 2nd prize of a small table-top telescope, which another youth won, and a third prize of a \$60.00 gift certificate for Leading Edge Hobbies, where we purchased the first prize for the event. It was a much smaller group than anticipated, however we all enjoyed ourselves and would think about doing it again.

Later that evening we celebrated our 50th Anniversary year with a



The October 22nd meeting was held in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Public Library.

small but joyous group of members and non-members who have had ties with the Kingston Centre over the years. There was a dinner at the Sizzle Restaurant in the Four Points Sheraton Hotel. In the background was a PowerPoint presentation of the 50-year history of the Kingston Centre incorporating very early images of the original Queen's Observatory, Dr. A.V. Douglas and many members, friends and great events held over the years.

After our dinner, we had a great talk by **Patrice Scatollin** of the Centre Francophone de Montréal titled “Space Exploration From the Ground up: With Reality and Fiction.” This was a combination talk on Patrice's journey through life in Astronomy and his visit to the CSA for the last Shuttle launch of Atlantis (STS-135) in July 2011, with fellow RASC Member Katrina Ince-Lum.

His love of astronomy has spilled over to his children and his daughter Clara, who has watched all the episodes of *Star Trek*, apparently in Blu-ray, all renditions and novels, and has become very creative as her *Star Trek Observing List* shows. The list is available here:

[adironackastronomyretreat.org/stlist.html](http://adironackastronomyretreat.org/stlist.html)

The Kingston Centre has its own copy, signed by Clara.

As we now embark on our next leg of history, we look to the past and have learned what has worked and what has not. We can keep the love of Astronomy alive in the ever-changing world of technology, and bring forth a new outlook for our current members and future members. Astronomy itself has come a long way from the time of Galileo and we need to keep the passion alive. We will boldly go where no one has gone before! ★



Patrice Scatollin speaks at the banquet.



Star Trek Observing List display.

MANY OF YOU who do not own a telescope, yet, might often wonder how you can get a good used starter scope at a reasonable price without falling into the trap of buying a trash scope. Believe me, it's far easier to buy a piece of crap than it is to land a half-decent scope. I should know having dealt with stuff from eBay, garage sales, and the like. A lot of patience and due diligence is required.

Just like with buying new equipment, start with the professionals by checking out astronomical retailers like Efstonscience, Astromechanics, and Perceptor. They often have used telescopes that they have checked out and offer to the public at a discount much like buying a used vehicle from a reputable new car dealer. Often they list used equipment on their websites complete with photos so you can get an idea of the condition its in.

A good internet resource is [www.astrobuysell.com](http://www.astrobuysell.com). This is a Canadian website used by amateur astronomers country-wide to sell their surplus gear. It is financially supported by astronomical retailers who have links to their stores at the top of each page. Most amateurs will post pictures of the stuff they are selling. As with buying a used car, privately, *caveat emptor*—the buyer beware—is the rule, however, sales are generally on the up and up with

this website, as a deal gone wrong could ruin someone's reputation in the hobby. And, as an added bonus, some of the astronomical dealers will also post ads for web-only specials.

Then there are local sources like newspaper ads and Kijiji on the net. With these you have to be careful as many of these are trash scopes and the asking price is way more than what they are actually worth. If the deal looks good, don't hesitate to ask the opinion of your fellow members, especially people like **John Crossen** who have seen more trash scopes than he'd like to have.

If the source of the scope is a garage sale the following rule of thumb applies: If it's a 60mm refractor—no more than \$20 as there will be eyepieces and other accessories to buy to make it worthwhile; if it's a cheap reflector (names like Orbitor come to mind)—no more than \$30 for the same reasons as above. If you are unsure, either don't buy it or call a fellow knowledgeable member first.

Sometimes patience rewards you and you just fall into a good deal. One day, **Susan** mentioned an ad she saw on Peterborough Kijiji that had a telescope that I might like. When I viewed it I figured it was possibly one of Stargazer Steve's models. Whether it was or wasn't, it was a Dob and it was going for \$60. SOLD! It did, indeed, turn out to be a



**Stargazer Steve** creation—a 4¼" f/10 planetary reflector on a light weight Dobsonian mount which went for over \$300 in the late 90s. As these scopes (which are no longer made) only came with inexpensive rifle cross-hairs for finders, I added a 6x30 right angle finderscope that I found on eBay for \$20. Since then I have added a healthy coating of fluorescent pink paint and cut down a Seymour Solar (a clone of Thousand Oaks film) solar filter to fit the tube. For under \$90 I now have a quality grab-and-go scope. ★

## Outdoor Laptop Protection for the Winter

Kevin Kell

IN YEARS PAST we had desktop computer systems out in the observatory running 24/7, normally running the all-sky camera system among other things. The winters got cold and the computers did not like that, so we built large wooden boxes to help keep the warm air in (approximately 100 watts of waste heat from the operation of the computer itself). That was all well and good but desktops took up too

much room and had other problems as well. They were replaced by laptops this past spring and now we were worried about how they will stand up to the cold as well.

In the first instance we put the laptop and its power adapter into an old chart box we had built some years back but no longer used.

Basically a 24"x20"x4" wooden box with a plywood bottom and a plexiglass top on hinges. That is now

holding the all-sky camera system laptop and is running fine into our -5C nights so far. The second laptop is running the radiojove radio telescope system and just got its winter environmental box, an 18"x18"x4" box with a plywood base and plexiglass lid.

A small slot near the rear allows the 110VAC power cable in, the ethernet cable, the USB cable to the

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**O**CTOBER 10TH saw the passing of longtime Kingston Centre member Bill Broderick. Before the Belleville Centre came to be, many Belleville people were Kingston members. Bill was one such member and he was very active over the years. Bill participated in light pollution abatement efforts and was the chair of that committee for some time.

Time and energy spent on school visits which included solar observing and Astronomy Day activities were greatly valued by the centre. He received a Messier Certificate in 1993. Bill also participated in the Kingston GA efforts of 1997. A pleasant, easy-going manner made him an ideal committee man. He had a great sense of humour and told a story of how he had attempted to expand his enjoyment of Astronomy by attending an astrology meeting. This was a bit of a disappointment when talk turned to a discussion of the dark side of the Sun. It was obvious that Bill enjoyed Astronomy as a hobby and enjoyed the company of his fellow amateurs. When I attended my first few meetings and later joined the Kingston Centre, it was members like Bill, a bit older (some much older), that told me this can be an enjoyable lifetime pursuit. This is a message that I try to convey to the younger people that I talk to in the course of public outreach. Bill was active in other groups as was noted on the KC chat list by **Rose-Marie Burke**, a recent addition to our membership: *I never met the man, but he was an active contributor to the nature list that I subscribe to. I enjoyed his sense of humour, we would sometimes sidetrack the threads with a bit of joking back and forth about the subject matter. We also managed to work in some Astronomy threads now and then. I will miss his postings.* Bill was a fine example of club and community

involvement.

**Ian Levstein:** Bill was the editor of the Kingston Centre's newsletter *Regulus* from 1990 to 1994. He was a very active participant in the KC and never turned down an opportunity to volunteer his time at public events and Astronomy Day. He was always seeking to improve the KC and was, for many years, active in light-pollution awareness...even long before the RASC LPC was formed. He will be missed.

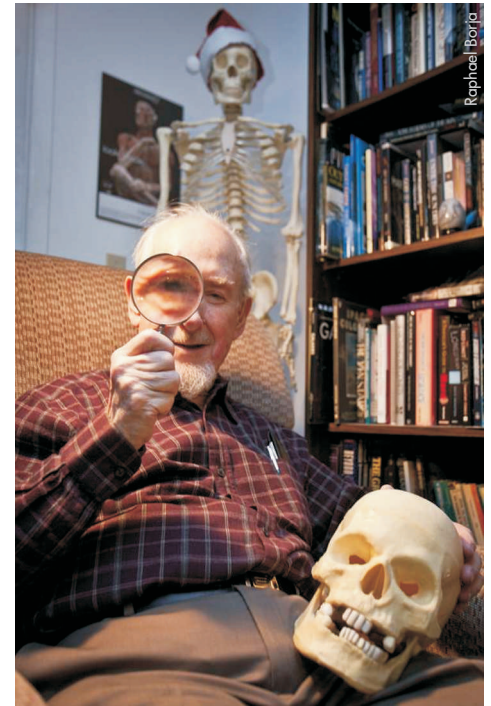
**Paul Winkler:** That's very sad news. I always enjoyed his skeptical viewpoint on various issues; a very enthusiastic person, and very admirable.

**Kim Hay:** Last time we saw and talked to Bill was last year at a Belleville meeting last year. He was a very interesting person to talk to. The Kingston Centre has the Award won by Bill Broderick for the Light Pollution Display at the Calgary GA in 1992.

**Walter MacDonald:** Bill was such a vital part of the Centre back in the 90s and a lot of fun to spend time with. He was very intelligent, articulate, and had a great sense of humour. His base of operations back then was his home near Read where he built a very nice roll-off roof observatory for his C11. From 1990-94 he served with distinction as editor of *Regulus* and the issues from those years are still a great read today.

Bill travelled to Baja for the 1991 solar eclipse with the RASC expedition and later that year was presented with the A. Vibert Douglas Award for his valuable contributions to our Centre.

I remember at a Centre meeting back around that time somebody showed a picture of the "green pig" telescope with Bill standing next to it,



**BRODERICK, William Edward 'Bill'—**

Retired from HRDC Canada—Passed away at the Belleville General Hospital on Monday October 10th, 2011 in his 81st year.

Son of the late Lewis and Ann Broderick. Beloved husband of the late Gisela Broderick-Roos. Survived by his nephews Gerald Cornish, Michael Broderick, by his niece Cheyna Cornish, by Magda Erickson (Roos), Alfred Roos, and Wolfgang Roos.

In keeping with Bill's wishes, cremation has taken place, and there will be no visitation or service.

Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

and **David Stokes** pointed out that the "green pig" referred, of course, to the telescope and not to Bill! We all had a good laugh, not least of all Bill.

Bill wrote a weekly column called "The Human Touch" in the *Trentonian*, some of which are still online. A nice feature on Bill and his life from last May can be found at: [qnetnews.ca/?p=9316](http://qnetnews.ca/?p=9316)★

TUE/WED, AUGUST 30/31

**Kevin Kell:** I saw a –8 Iridium flare from last night around 21:55 EDT, just before the bright meteor that **Mark Kaye** reported earlier (and that we also caught visually). Note that the flare is not symmetrical. It goes from left to right.

Iridium Flare



WED/THU, AUGUST 31/SEPT 1

**Kim Hay:** The clouds have rolled in, as they did last night, but I got up shortly before 4:00 a.m. and went out to observe for an hour. The transparency all around the horizons was not good, but the objects I wanted to observe were OK.

I tried for Comet Garradd, but it was in the west, and it was too cloudy. I looked at M42—always a great sight—with the 2" barlow and 26mm and 9mm Naglers.

Kemble's Cascade in binoculars: I always think of Father Lucian and our conversations, a smile comes to my face.

Jupiter, with the 4 moons. Again with the 2" barlow the 26 and 9mm. The 9mm gave great detail, and I was able to see detail in the bands. I was picking up the two dark ovals on the lower band, and the faint lower band.

I had the Radio Jove receiver on to hear the planet and moons, but was hearing the crackle of the lightning flashes that were happening in the west. It is just so cool to do visual and radio astronomy at the same time, while on the same subject of Jupiter. I

was watching the movement of Ganymede over Io.

There was an app that *Sky & Telescope* had for Mars to see its features, is there such a thing for Jupiter? Mars is coming up, but it is still to low in the east today, and there was a lot of turbulence and cloud in the east.

I saw one Aurigid at 4:29 a.m., mag 2, medium fast, no train, white. The shower's peak was Aug 31/Sept 1—a very minor shower, with an average of 5 meteors per hour.

One big problem that I do find with the 8" is that when putting the barlow and eyepiece combo together, it does become front heavy, but when positioning the scope it does not seem to lock in place and it moves; I cannot get it to stay in the area where I am observing. This is very frustrating; there will be no photography on objects when this keeps happening. I do have a two-pound foot weight, that I could attach to the back end of the scope for equilibrium, but I am wondering if it is not the Teflon bearings that might be the issue? Comments?

The hour I spent outside was well worth it. I do love observing in the early morning.

**Susan Gagnon:** I have to say that I have lately spent evenings with only one eyepiece! It is just too relaxing to observe rather than fiddle with stuff even at such a rudimentary level. Even then, the time really flies. I hope that 3 or 4 nights of good sky can become the norm. I don't think that it is too much to ask. It is great to see observing reports and photos.

FRI/SAT, SEPTEMBER 9/10

**Kevin K:** We went out last night, mainly because it was clear and we haven't had a lot of that in the last week or so. From about 20:00 to 22:00 we spent time troubleshooting

the radio jove radio telescope, working on our new project, and using the 20cm Starbuck to view and image the moon.

The full moon (or close to it) did blot out a lot of stuff. In another 20cm scope, M31, M57 looked wonderful. We could not see M101 at all (last night was supposed to be the peak of the supernova, neither M22 in Sagittarius. We did put in a neutral density filter to look at the moon and the terminator was great!

There were still a few mosquitos out but not too bad at 15C.

MON/TUE, SEPTEMBER 12/13

**Kevin K:** Went out to check out Comet Garradd but under this full moon this evening, could not even find the darn low surface brightness stuff. The full moon does look nice however. Harvest moon it is.

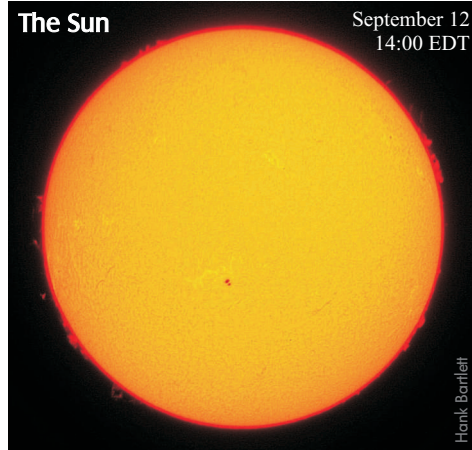
**Hank:** I went out tonight as well. I bought some D cells for the SN10" mount that I now have my SM60/Celestron 80 mounted on. This was just a try out, I used this mount on Saturday night at KAON, it has no slow motion controls as it is meant to be motorized all the time. No wonder this mount could not handle that massive 10" Schmidt-Newt, even with these little scopes the vibration and damping time is too much moving by hand. With the drives it is better but I do need to re-learn the steps for setting up. Using a camera will require a cable shutter as pressing the shutter button directly will make it vibrate too much.

Anyway I had a good look at the moon and Jupiter and I had the crap scared out of me when a low flying goose clipped a hydro line and veered about 5 meters overhead in the darkness. All I saw was a large black silhouetted wing span and then heard the honking as it said, "Holy crap that was close!"

I will have to get a little better set

## Various Members

up to get the tracking right on but it sure helps. At 120x it was not holding well at all but at 40x it only needed tweeking at low speed. I was out in the back driveway so I wasn't near properly polar aligned. I hope to get it all figured out for FnS.



THU/FRI, SEPTEMBER 15/16

**Kevin K:** I really like this vacation thing: it lets you go out on a work night and observe because you don't have to go to work the next day!

We went out last night after 20:30 EDT and stayed until about 22:15. It was getting cold out there. Kim was observing Jupiter, Comet Garrad and other items of interest.

I was getting first light on the new LX200gps setup with the Meade LPI camera. It works! Needs a lot more work! Note to others: laptop/netbook touchpads do not work with gloves on...get a mouse!

The moon rose around 20:32 and Jupiter around 21:03 or so. We had to wait for them to clear the trees but got some very poor imagery nonetheless.

Looking through so much air really really shows up on imaging. Focusing was also quite an issue.

In any event we tried imaging Neptune (nothing showed), Uranus (nothing showed), the Moon, and Jupiter.

Pointing is pretty good so next time I will attempt to do all of this from inside the house.



TUE/WED, OCTOBER 4/5

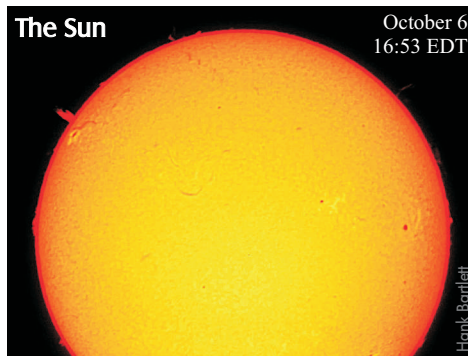
**Kim:** Getting home last night, it was clear but still very hazy. This morning, I could not stand seeing all those stars so I went out on the back deck. I used the 17x80 and the 8x36 binoculars and looked at Mars (just 2° away from the Beehive Cluster, M44), M42, and Jupiter.

**Mark:** It is amazing how many times you have clear skies and I, hardly any distance east have overcast.

**Kevin K:** When I went out at 06:15 to toss compost, check for racoons and pick up some stuff from the lean-to, it was overcast almost everywhere I looked, with a few holes here and there.

THU, OCTOBER 6

**Hank:** At lunch today I took a break from the usual do-this fix-that routine and spent an hour observing. The upper air was a little turbulent and therefore seeing was not that good, but it was TRANQUIL. I sat and watched a long wispy prominence change shape and stretch as if it was



THU/FRI, OCTOBER 6/7

**Kevin K:** Kim & I were outside this morning at 6 a.m. watching the ISS make a nice 64° altitude pass by Jupiter, the Pleiades, and on into the east. It was almost as bright as Jupiter but it was a very long pass.

FRI/SAT, OCTOBER 7/8

**Kevin K:** I can't believe that the last time I was out working on the remote imaging scope setup was September 16th! And we are almost back at full moon again!

In any event, Friday evening was wonderfully warm, no mosquitos or bugs or coyotes (which often come up near the back yard) so I went out, opened up the system and it worked

quite well.

Remove the box, remove the cover from the scope, plug in the USB cable to the camera, turn the power on, and I was using ECU v4 to control the telescope and the Meade Autostar suite to control the Meade LPI camera.

I told the telescope to go to the moon with ECU 4 (very difficult user interface...I suspect I will try out other programs to control the scope in the near future), and it missed by a couple of degrees.

I then went to the LX 200 hand paddle and told it to go to the moon and noticed that it first did a GPS fix initialization. Good to know. This is maybe why the ECU commands did not work as it did not complete the GPS thing first.

So I parked the scope with the hand paddle, shut it down, restarted it and told it to go the moon with the hand paddle. It did the GPS thing then slewed and found the moon. Things are looking up!

Learning the Meade Autostar suite software for the LPI is another challenge but I did get a bunch of shots over the course of the hour before heading inside.

Imaging is *much* better overhead than shooting at targets near the horizon. Here is one of the better shots of Sinus Iridum and the crater Plato (near the top). These are unprocessed with the exception of vertically flipping the image to match human eyeball orientation. [Your editor did some high pass sharpening



on the image.]

**Mark:** It was too bright for observing anything else last night. Lyndsay took this picture last night...



SAT/SUN, OCTOBER 8/9

**Rose-Marie Burke:** I managed to haul myself out just after moonset this morning and set up the barn door tracker, took some shots of Orion/Taurus/Pleiades/Jupiter skyscape. I had gone out last evening to see if I could see any Draconids, nada. Moon was too bright, just got a stiff neck staring upward, soon gave it up.

It's nice to have warm nights this time of year, not freezing my toes off in the pre-dawn like I did last year while the frost was forming around my feet. The minor shower Arietids was supposed to be peaking, I saw a few that originated from around Taurus, lovely to the eye but too dim to show up in the photographs. I had forgotten my slip of paper where I had written down the time the ISS was coming over, and was looking east when it started, but fortunately turned and spotted it moving across the sky and got one shot with part of the trail.

FRI/SAT, OCTOBER 21/22

**Kim:** Waking up after 6:00 a.m., I noticed out of my fuzzy eyeballs, a star in the sky. So I jumped up and hoped to get out and see some Orionids since they peak this



morning. Well, it was wonderfully clear overhead, but I did not see any meteors. After scrambling to find the tripod, I got a few images before the clouds moved back in again.

Of all the images, I did get the Moon and Leo, Mars, Big Dipper, Taurus, Auriga, the Seven Sisters (taken with a Power Shot A495 and 15 sec exposures). The clouds were fast approaching and I missed getting a shot of Orion by mere seconds.

**Rose-Marie:** Mother Nature doesn't tease, she is just downright NASTY. Clouds at 8:00 p.m., clouds at 9:30 p.m., clouds and spitting rain at 11:10 p.m., clouds at 2:00 a.m., clouds 4:15 a.m., and partly cloudy when I woke up at 6:50 a.m. I did see the moon when I took the dog out at 7:00 a.m.

MON/TUE, OCTOBER 24/25

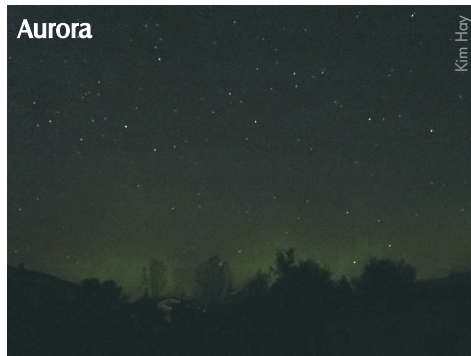
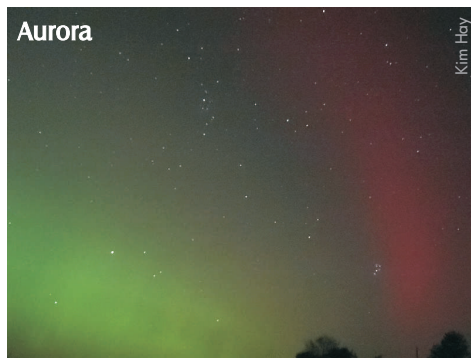
**Kim:** We are getting aurora in Yarker. We have been out taking images, and I have seen green spikes, and there are two bands of green, also with mixed red and pulsating areas.

(**Hank, Mark Coady, and Gilles Arsenault** also reported seeing aurora.)

**Kim:** Here is an image from last night at 20:27 EDT. I woke up at 2:00 a.m. and it was still going on but the eyes

## ...Observing Reports: September–October

were not focusing too well. I went out this morning, and took some more images (05:41 EDT).



**Hank:** Nice image from last night. As I came out of mom's around 10 it was bridging overhead so I got the camera out again and it clouded over that quick. It was nice while it lasted, any other night I would be up a couple of times, last night I slept through.

**Kevin K:** The all-sky camera has been up for many years now but for the most part it was solar minimum, not a lot of solar activity, CMEs, or aurora.

Monday night however was quite special: the first aurora in some time, but one big and bright enough to really put on a show, and to be recorded on the all-sky camera.

[*Editor's Note: the 52 MB animation posted at [starlightcascade.ca](http://starlightcascade.ca) is quite spectacular as the aurora dances around, clouds flow by, and Jupiter crosses the sky!*]

THU/FRI, OCTOBER 27/28

**Hank** drew attention to this evening's Venus-Mercury-Moon conjunction

low in the SW sky.

**Mark Kaye reported:** I easily spotted all three with my Zorgon cloud and Zaphod mist removing filters. Were you also able to spot 71P/Clark? It was right there at mag 15, a mere trifle...

**Hank replied:** Actually yes, although I did have to use the SN10" with a Veldon 125 atmosphere disintegration filter. I find that the single filter (even at it's ASTRONOMICAL cost) is superior to the Zorgon & Zaphod. Good thing I work for Canada Post, there was a "Work Perks" 30% off coupon.

**Rose-Marie:** We had clouds. Miserable just-up-to-the-horizon clouds that cleared just AFTER that scene. What made it more painful was a beautiful sunset splash under the clouds just when I was cooking supper and was at a point where I couldn't just drop it and run out with the camera, so missed that as well.

This morning at 3:00 a.m. the dog had to go out, and it was clear, Orion was "right there," so I got out the tracker and camera. Doggonit, it's getting COLD! Fumbling around with mitts while you're half asleep doesn't make for a good photo session, but I did manage a couple wide-angle shots and shot of Jupiter with the 300mm. That one's nothing to write home about, but I got three moons. One little meteor streaked past Jupiter but didn't get that. Just listened to leaves dropping off the trees and an owl hooting before my toes got cold and I headed back to my warm bed. ★

**Harlow Shapley has been described by Bart Bok as the man who did for our stellar system what Copernicus did for the solar system—put the sun in its place.**

—Helen Sawyer Hogg

## Blast from the Past

Some notable Novembers in Kingston Centre's history:

30 Years Ago:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1981

A Holleford Meteorite Crater outing was planned. Do any current KC members remember this?

20 Years Ago:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1991

This was an interesting night in KC history! **Leo Enright** gave a talk on sunspots, which turned out to be quite an appropriate topic!

*Walter's Notes:* At 17:30 the north sky had a red glow, and by 18:00 (at Trenton) it was obviously an aurora, with a huge column of red going from the NW horizon to the zenith. There was activity in all parts of the sky. I stopped again at 401 & Shannonville Road and the entire sky was quite firmly awash with bright aurora so I decided to go to the meeting instead of north to the farm to observe! Leo gave an interesting talk on sunspots. Someone suggested the Centre hold a computer night sometime. I endorsed the idea, pointing out that after such a meeting we could all go out for a byte! In other news, all indications are that **Terry Hicks** may be appointed National Treasurer of the RASC. After our post-meeting gathering at Harvey's I went to the farm where the aurora raged all over the sky for the entire night!

—See *Regulus*, 1992 Jan-Feb, p.4.

10 Years Ago:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2001

A regular meeting at our new location in Stirling D. Dr. **Barry Robertson** (Queen's University) spoke about the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory.

—See *Regulus*, 2002 Jan-Feb, p.5.

★

## HANK BARTLETT:

Last night I went to only my 2nd or 3rd meeting in a couple of years; for me the move back to a smaller room is a very positive step. I enjoyed the meeting and the ability to talk across the room or field questions without having to yell for the back row, which is great.

It felt like the early days of my membership when participation in the room was at a much higher level. I don't know what will ever bring our meetings back to the attendance they once were but this move should help in bringing members closer.

Having the meeting generally the same night as KAON is another good idea. No one is required to help with KAON but if you wish to it is only one trip in and even if you only stay an hour you are no later than meetings used to run.

Overall I enjoyed being back and will return whenever schedules don't conflict.

## SUSAN GAGNON:

Thanks for all who came out. I also enjoyed the smaller room. I think that the chairs are better too and it is nice to have the little desk space in front for coffee, notes, Timbits—thanks Hank!

A further note that I forgot to mention at the meeting was that **Larry Hum** would like as many orders ahead of time for coffee as possible. Specify type of roast and whole bean or ground, and pick up your order at Fall'n'Stars. Café Justica is a fair trade enterprise and the coffee is good too!

We had general announcements for the next few months:

- ▶ Fall'n'Stars is September 23–25, please see the link at the KC website for registration as time is running out to get your dinner ticket.
- ▶ October KAON will take place as usual at Ellis Hall on October 8.

The observing deck is now clear of construction debris and this is a great improvement.

- ▶ October 22 will be a double header with the afternoon at the Library, taking the place of our regular meeting. Please see the September *Regulus* for details—your help is needed! E-mail Susan with details on what you may be able to contribute.
- ▶ On the evening of the 22nd there will be the Anniversary Dinner at the Four Points Sheraton downtown. See the details in the September *Regulus*. Ticket info, menu, etc. are all on the last two pages of the newsletter; members get a deal on the price! Please come out to celebrate. It will be a great chance to connect after the summer, and when you see the menu you will be unable to resist!
- ▶ The November meeting will be elections for Pres, VP, Treasurer, followed by **Doug Angle's** talk on Astronomy in New Mexico.

We had report on a trip to Las Palmas in the Canary Islands by **Brian Hunter** and plenty of great pictures of the installations and telescopes that he visited there. Thanks Brian.

**Kevin** reported on a very busy astronomy infrastructure refurbishment-filled summer at their house! Wow! To hear more come to Fall'n'Stars and hear about the radio telescope project in the backyard. Thanks Kevin.

We had a round of observing reports and most of the attendees had a report. Let's keep that enthusiasm for observing growing.

We adjourned and those of us who had equipment to set up headed to the deck and some stayed for the KAON talk and came up later. It was a great night, even with the search lights in the sky, very distracting while trying to point your scope. Oh

well, Frosh Week is only once a year.

*Editor's Note: I can remember observing in the rooftop dome at Scarborough College in the mid-1980s one night when there was a big party in the residences to the south. Fortunately there was no extra outdoor lighting associated with the party. However, not only could I hear the music quite well, but when the dome was pointed south I could actually listen to individual conversations and it sounded like the interlocuters were standing right beside me due to the focusing effect of the dome! (This focusing effect could also be quite fun when two people were standing inside the dome talking to each other.)★*

**A knowledge of the construction of the heavens has always been the ultimate object of my observations.**

**–William Herschel**

## ...Laptop Protection

...continued from page 4...

LX200 telescope system and an audio cable to the radio jove receiver. The plexiglass lids in all cases are



mainly meant to allow us to see inside for signs of mice and smoke. After all it is an 8 year old laptop...which reminds me to make a backup of it sometime soon.★

## Treasurer's Report 2010-2011

Kevin Kell

To be presented at the Centre's Annual General Meeting Saturday, November 12, 2011.

### KC Treasurers:

Kevin Kell 2010 Jan–present  
vacant 2009 Nov–2010 Jan  
Kim Hay 2008 Feb–2009 Nov

### KC Auditors:

Doug Angle 2010/11  
Doug Angle 2009/10

Our finances were audited by Doug Angle and his report is given below.

**SUMMARY:** Another quiet year for the Centre. Some one time expenses to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Centre including a large mailout to all members and a 50th Anniversary Dinner. Our membership level as of 2011 September 30 was 85, continuing to be the lowest in a decade. Total Income: \$4331, Total Expenses: \$3960, Net: \$371.

### RASC-KC Balance Sheet, Sep 30, 2011

ASSETS	
Banquet Account .....	0
Fall'N'Stars .....	649
General Operating Account .....	8,445
Observatory .....	15,079
Reserve .....	500
Special Projects .....	1,500
TOTAL ASSETS .....	26,174
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Opening Bal Equity .....	19,114
Retained Earnings .....	6,689
Net Income .....	371
Total Equity .....	26,174
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY ..	26,174

**INCOME NOTES:** membership fees (\$23) \$1534+149+97=\$1780 or 41% of revenue. Total donations this year were \$380 and we raised another \$65 for the banquet.

Fund balances at end of year: Banquet \$0, Star party \$649, Observatory \$15079, Reserve \$500, Special Projects \$1500, General Operating \$8445 for a total of \$26174.

The Centre's \$5 membership surcharge finally worked its way

through the National system in the spring of 2011 but mysteriously reappeared in the summer, only to be removed again in early November.

The 2010-2011 Balance Sheet is shown at left.

### WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Until our activity level goes up, our expenditures will remain low and we will continue to aim for balanced budgets in the future. Investment returns should become significant with rising interest rates and more capital under investments. We have \$20k invested in GIC's returning an average of 1% or \$200. We will have to ramp up our charitable spending to not lose too much ground with the Canada Revenue Agency.

The 60cm Venor Telescope mirror is scheduled for a recoating this year at an estimated cost of around \$1300. We will also be taking another attempt at looking for land to base it on as well as a base for an observing group. ★

## Auditor's Report 2010-2011

Doug Angle

2011 NOVEMBER 3

I HAVE EXAMINED the financial records of the RASC Kingston Centre. The role of an auditor is not to check every transaction, but rather to sample transaction records sufficiently to ensure that proper record keeping and practices are in place.

I am happy to report that I've found the management of Centre finances to be accurate, orderly and responsible. Expenditures are properly recorded, and consistent with the goals of the society.

In last year's audit, I commented on the management of our fixed assets; the various telescopes and other equipment owned by the centre. I note that the financial records now include a complete inventory of these

items, including records of acquisition and disposal where appropriate.

For most of the Centre's business, executive and other members often spend their own money, then look for reimbursement. Large amounts are approved in advance by the executive, while smaller amounts are managed from an approved budget. Those responsible for budget line items can, apparently, make spending decisions up to the limit of the budget. While I'm satisfied with this as an acceptable practice, I didn't find a record anywhere that this is actually the intention. I would suggest that at the next bylaw or procedure review, this part of the Centre's practices be more formally listed.

My thanks to the executive in

general, and the treasurer in particular for their upstanding management of the Centre and its finances. ★

**It can be no coincidence that the move to form an astronomical society followed so closely on the November Leonids shower in 1868. Perhaps a further incentive was the interest occasioned by the total eclipse of the sun which was to sweep a path across the central parts of Canada and the United States on August 7th 1869.**

**–Helen Sawyer Hogg**

You can read about the "Canadian Eclipse Party 1869" by downloading it as an eBook from [gutenberg.org/ebooks/35375](http://gutenberg.org/ebooks/35375) or as a PDF file from the RASC website (go to Observing / Special Projects / Solar Eclipse Expeditions).

## National Council Report: October 29

Susan Gagnon

I SAT IN ON the National Council call for this Saturday meeting. It ran about 6 hours with a lunch break of 30 minutes. It was very good. Teleconferences are a big improvement over the old days. Here is a sampling of a few of the topics covered:

- ▶ Education and Outreach will print and distribute to Centres the new lunar observing card. It will be a great tool for members and outreach.
- ▶ The Astronomical Society of the Pacific is looking for a west coast member to have as a Canadian contact. They are also interested in pairing up for a future event, perhaps a western GA?
- ▶ **Andy Fraknoi** was offered status as an honorary member and he accepted before the end of the meeting! There were 3 new unattached members voted in.
- ▶ Travel policy for public speakers were revised; an increase of 5 cents per km was approved.
- ▶ The treasurer's report was tabled and discussed.
- ▶ **Deborah Thompson** mentioned the Centre support manual in the resources section of the members-only section of the National website.
- ▶ There was also much talk of membership recruitment, retention

and marketing, and communications. Approaching other groups to become centres or join a centre was discussed. Kits telling them how to become centres are going out. 7 clubs have been contacted so far. Centres close to those contacted will be notified in a case where they may be able to help.

- ▶ There will be a review of the Society's Letters Patent.
- ▶ History Committee: **David Levy** has made his log books available for the historical record. Other items that members may feel fall under the category of "Preservation of Important Amateur Observer's Achievement" are requested by the committee.
- ▶ Observing: Transit of Venus 2012: The committee would like to dedicate a page on the national website to this event as well as work out a bulk purchase of solar observing glasses. Centre feedback is requested and there will be a PDF available on the National site to download? Webcast of the Canadian experience. It is suggested that the glasses be handed out as a loan for the event and returned to the centres to prevent use of damaged glasses at a later date. Deadline will be the end of February as it must get into the March budget.
- ▶ There was a discussion of

membership categories which will be continuing as there are issues with full membership as it relates to insurance.

- ▶ LPA: Request for members to contact local parks and suggest that they consider becoming a dark sky preserve. The federal parks system is well indoctrinated in the process but at the provincial level there is less efficient sharing of this type of info.
- ▶ IT: There were many words of praise from very many people for **Walter MacDonald** and his work on the Website. The transfer of information and improved look are much appreciated.
- ▶ GA: there was an invitation from Edmonton to come out to the GA in 2012 and a website will be up soon. 2013 GA will be in Thunder Bay on the Canada Day weekend.
- ▶ There was a long and involved discussion of insurance and some of the results were that the current carrier no longer has a minimum number of 15 Centres to get in on Directors and Officers insurance and National will look into the rates. We will watch for more requests for input from the National Exec.

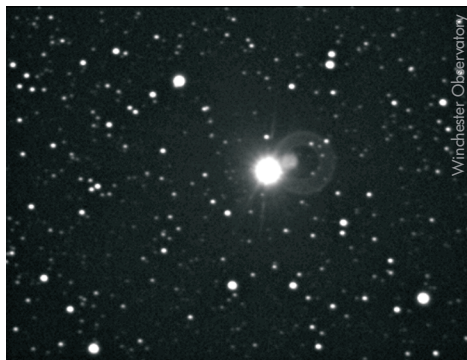
These are some of the highlights. Full minutes are available on the RASC website.★

## Sky Shots: November 5/6

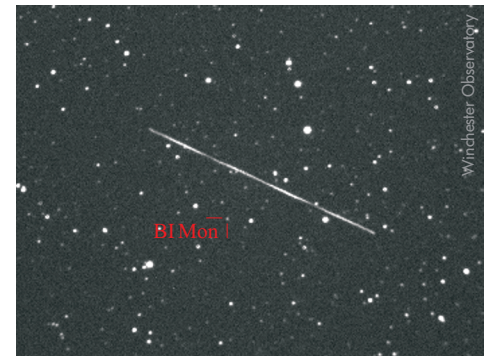
Walter MacDonald



Comet C/2010 G2 (Hill) at mag 10.9 in Auriga. 17x30s, V filter. November 6 at 07:24 UT (midpoint).



Planetary nebula PK198-6.1 (mag 13.9). The bright star is mag 4.1  $\mu$  Orionis. 16x30s, V filter. Can you see this in your telescope?



A variable satellite passes variable star BI Monocerotis. 1x20s, V filter. November 6 at 09:19:33 UT (midpoint).