

Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, May 12, 2012

Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.
KAON 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Transit of Venus 6:03:49 p.m.

Saturday, June 9, 2012

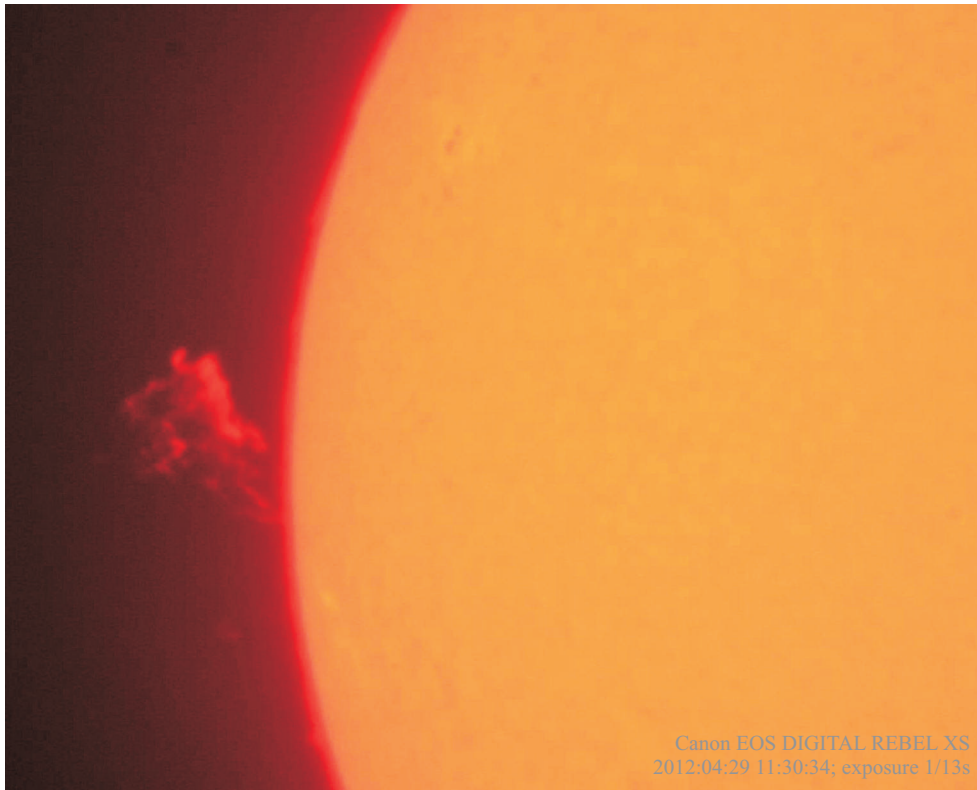
Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.
KAON 9:00 p.m.

Meetings are held in Room 324 at Ellis Hall on University Avenue at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Our meetings are co-sponsored by the Queen's Physics Department and are open to the public. KAON (Kingston Astronomy Outreach Network) sessions are held at Queen's Observatory on the 4th floor of Ellis Hall. ★

RASC Kingston Centre

In this issue:

- ▶ Reports & Other Items 1
- ▶ *Bulletin* Editor Stepping Down . 2
- ▶ April Meeting Reports. 3
- ▶ Observing Reports. 5
- ▶ 2012 CAVE Lecture 7
- ▶ Online with the AAVSO 7
- ▶ Celestron Founder Passes 8



Canon EOS DIGITAL REBEL XS
2012-04-29 11:30:34; exposure 1/13s

Hank Bartlett reports: From 11:20 this morning [April 29th] until 11:55, I witnessed the most beautiful erupting prominence I have seen to date. Unfortunately by the time I got the DSLR set up I had missed imaging the earliest phase. This is one of the 376 images I took during that time. Out of those I picked out 39 to “play” with; this image has not been altered.

Reports & Other Items

RIPHSP

Mark Coady reports: One of Fall'n' Stars' competitors is no more. The Huronia Star Party (HSP) is officially defunct. Quite often it was held on the same weekend as FNS. Dwindling attendance and a lack of support from club members to run it, along with difficulty in booking a suitable weekend with the venue owners, are cited as the reasons for its demise.

EDITOR'S NOTES

The April issue was a couple of weeks late and was somewhat overflowing, so there a few leftovers like **Mark's** note here on HSP and **Ian's** note on page two in this issue. It's nice to see so many observing reports in spite of the bad weather, even

though they are hard to keep up with at times.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

From our Executive Director: I wanted to let you know that **Emily Cornford** has recently left the RASC to take a job in digital media and advertising, which was her field of study in university.

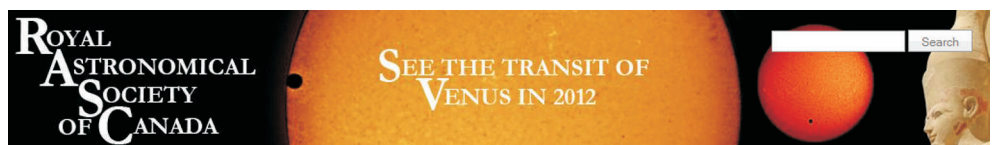
We are very pleased to announce that **Julia Melnikova** will be starting as our new Marketing Coordinator tomorrow. Julia has worked in the not-for-profit sector with the Ontario

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

Society of Professional Engineers, she is bilingual, and is a fundraising and marketing specialist. Please join me in welcoming Julia to the RASC national office team.

KC Webcast?

Kevin Kell reports that he is preparing to use the Centre's dual core netbook at the May meeting in an attempt to do the anymeeting.com broadcast again. This was last attempted in 2011 with a single-core CPU netbook which proved unequal to the task...



Bulletin Editor Stepping Down

Ian Levstein

HELLO MY FRIENDS,

It's not widely known outside the Publications Committee, but the April edition of the *Bulletin* will be my last. After four years at the helm, there's a new editor coming on board for May...but I did want to say something!

The terrific photos from KC members that have been featured over the years is the result of your hard work with astrophotography, and **Rose-Marie's** recent contributions have added an extra dimension given her talented eye for composition. I hope you will all continue your efforts! Unfortunately, after this month's issue, you'll likely not see any more KC photos in the *Bulletin* because the new editor is not a member of Kingston Centre. However, I encourage you all to submit photos to the *Bulletin* for future issues. Keep KC's proud legacy in the forefront.

I'm not leaving RASC and I'm certainly not leaving Kingston Centre...but my final Ph.D. courses are coming up as is my dissertation, and over the next year or two I need to focus my energy on those activities rather than trolling through the messages in my inbox every day, and looking for submissions each month.

Anyway, I wanted you all to know before you read about it, second hand, in the *Bulletin*.

Later, Ian gave a few more details about his endeavour:

I'm going after a Ph.D. in Computing Technology in Education. It's my meager attempt to bring together the two loves of my life: computers and teaching. I was a high school teacher for 13 years (three years at Sharbot Lake HS, seven years at Sydenham HS, three years in Adult education) before moving to Halifax and, ultimately, to Kentucky. Over the past few years, I've become interested in the seedy underbelly of Internet use—online surveillance and cyberstalking—and I hope (I'm not there yet) to develop a dissertation that combines Internet use and education in some way. Anyway...keep Desiderata in your mind:

"Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time." ★



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:

Members of the Kingston Centre receive *Regulus* as a benefit of membership. Non-commercial **advertisements** are free to members of the Centre. Paid commercial advertising is also welcome and should be in electronic format.

Submitted material may be edited for brevity or clarity. © 2012, all rights reserved. Permission is granted to other publications of a similar nature to print material from *Regulus* provided that credit is given to the author and to *Regulus*. We would appreciate you letting us know if you do use material published in *Regulus*. ★



RASC Kingston Centre
PO Box 1793
Kingston ON K7L 5J6

E-mail:
kingston@rasc.ca

Website:
kingston.rasc.ca

RASC-KC Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| President: | Susan Gagnon |
| Vice President: | Kim Hay |
| Secretary: | Steve Hart |
| Treasurer: | Kevin Kell |
| Librarian: | David Maguire |
| Editor: | Walter MacDonald |
| National Council Rep: | Brian Hunter |

Committee Chairs/Coordinators

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Equipment Loan: | Kevin Kell |
| KAON: | Susan Gagnon |
| Webmaster: | Walter MacDonald |

REGULAR MEETING

WE HAD ABOUT 12 PEOPLE ATTEND the 7:30 meeting. Unfortunately it is exam time at Queens and our meeting room was commandeered...actually the entire 3rd floor was commandeered. Luckily the auditorium was empty and we were able to put up a couple of signs on the front door and run the meeting in there.

Susan Gagnon reviewed notes from the last month including the exec retreat, upcoming events and more. Our experiment of meeting nights on Saturday has almost run its course and has not seen the benefits we'd hoped to see, so it will be moving in September to another night, contingent on a member survey and room booking confirmation in August. Watch the newsletter and website for more details. The open house has also been on the rocks for some time now, mainly for budgetary considerations at the University. We may have to come up with alternative venues for our outreach activities.

Kim Hay spoke to the Astronomy Day event on Saturday April 28th. We will be running a small daytime solar event, weather permitting in downtown Kingston. She will provide more details in the near future.

Kevin Kell spoke to the Sheffield Conservation area visit as well as an evaluation of Ft. Henry as a transit of Venus observing site.

Observing reports followed with **Rose Marie Burke** showing her excellent images. **Kevin** showed some of the [Jupiter-Venus](#) conjunction images from the last few weeks as well as the [aurora](#) captured on the all-sky camera on the night of April 12th.

The meeting adjourned around 8:45 but we stayed in the room for some time after talking to a couple of new folks. One of the best things we

can offer as a club is the personal mentorship of new folks.

KAON

THE KINGSTON ASTRONOMY OUTREACH NETWORK Open House was at the Ellis Hall Observatory at 21:00. Again, exams had taken over the 3rd floor of Ellis Hall and the KAON talk had to be moved into the observatory warm room at the last minute.

It was a packed house with standing room only, we estimate about 40 people, who listened to Mr. **Henry Ngo** (Queen's University) on "Where No Dinosaur Has Gone Before: Surviving an Asteroid Threat." It was a good 30-minute talk that the audience enjoyed.

It was completely cloudy so there were no telescopes on the deck at all, so we packed it up and headed home before 22:00. Nathalie and Terry were there running the event.

DISCUSSION OF KC MEETINGS

Susan: Our experiment of meeting nights on Saturday has almost run its course and has not seen the benefits we'd hoped to see, so it will be moving in September to another night, contingent on a member survey and room booking confirmation in August.

Hank: With the demise of the penny, my 2 cents (rounded down to zero) is not worth what it used to be, however I am going to spend mine anyway. As a member who has fallen by the wayside and only attended a few meetings in the past 2 years (or more) I have to say I think the change to Saturday was a good move. I never could understand having RASC Friday and KAON Saturday the same weekend or alternate as being a good idea. This may only be from the point of view of an out of city

member with a non-participating spouse plus I work Saturday mornings and do not relish going out Friday night right after getting home. Using up two nights the same weekend was unacceptable to me but I did it for many years. Now for personal reasons my interest and ability to take the time to get out there has changed.

It is sad to hear that Queen's budget may cause KAON to end at Ellis; the public response is very good. The education and public access to the observatory should certainly be adequate to retain this program. Having that many people willing to come and observe in minus temperatures says something for the interest of the individuals but also for Queen's and RASC as trusted and informative learning institutions. Sure anyone can go online and see better resolution images of any of the night sky objects they see at KAON but if you have been there and heard the oos and ahhs of observers and seen the wonderment in their eyes you truly know how important KAON is. Also I have to say if you are a RAScal and haven't experienced this shame on you, sorry but it is true everyone can come at least once. I dedicated 5 years of KAON nights and others are still going strong at it, I admire their dedication. Is public show and tell for everyone, NO, but it would never hurt anyone to take ONE night out of the year and be there. The same diminishing group of people have been carrying this program for at least 7 years by my records. Do not get me wrong, I am not angry, it is just fact. I think all of us thought we would be able to pass the torch on, as one might say, and free ourselves of the "obligation" to attend KAON nights but that didn't happen. Technology has changed everything and also the participation just isn't there any more on the member/volunteer level.

In closing I just want to say I have a great deal of respect for those of you who have kept this program, the RASC meetings, and RASC Kingston alive in these internet informative times.

Wow, that has to be at least 25 cents worth. Good night.

Hank (again!): I remember when almost that [spontaneous meetings] used to happen at some homes. Back then there was a demand for education programs and public outreach that gave us all a common project to work on. We had observing sessions at members' homes. We did numerous events and showed off our talents and telescopes. Of course we were also YOUNGER, not that we are that old, but we had more energy.

We went to Starfest and DSNOS, we were all into showing what we could do and the ideas we had. Astronomy was really advancing and becoming more affordable. Now with the internet it is all out there, in fact there may not be any different or new ideas out there, do ya think? Digital imaging from Hubble to CCD has made most of our simple imaging look so mournful. BUT I still love taking H-alpha images every day I can, just in case something spectacular happens.

What can be done to get the glow back? I am afraid those days are gone forever ya just can't go back. Can we go forward, hmmm I don't know what has to be done to bring us all back together. I don't even know what has to happen to bring myself back to normal participation.

Kim: A night with eye to the eyepiece, and getting lost in the wonderment.

Hank: This may be the answer, but how? There was a time when most of what I will reluctantly call the "core group" of those days was green and stoked to learn about Astronomy.

There was that wonderment (that Kim mentions, what a great word) about it all, there was a need to talk, share and learn. Really...how else did you find out about astronomy back then? You could read a book or two or three but that is just not the same as sharing personal experience. None of us bragged or rated equipment against each other, however if there was a variance or difference between aperture or type we showed it and learned.

Some of the coolest things I remember was being at **Mark's [Kaye]** at the lake and observing a **supernova** in another galaxy, observing features in **Andromeda Galaxy** through the Venor, observing a fighter pilot in the cockpit from Starfest in the Venor, observing the **Shoemaker-Levy 9** comet impact through my C4.5, observing **Saturn WITHOUT** rings through my C4.5, observing my first moon transit on Jupiter through my C4.5, **OBSERVING THE 2004 VENUS TRANSIT OF THE SUN** through my SN10, to mention a few but best of all, observing my friends and Astronomy family hanging out together sharing many of these experiences.

Can a successful home session be held today? This remains to be seen, first you would have to be able to get people off their butts to come out.

Rose-Marie: A lot of clubs are facing changes; when the digital camera revolution hit the photo club I noticed a big turnover in membership the past few years. Numbers had dropped, then all of a sudden we've got a bunch of new faces. I think one of the things that helped was that someone got hold of our website and really spruced it up. At least the Kingston RASC website has a good format to begin with: you get a whole lotta information from it. The photo club leaves newsletters at camera stores around town for free pickup by

customers, I think what hurts us here is that we don't have a good telescope store in town to draw interest to astronomy.

I'm a new member, so I don't know what meetings were like before this past year. What I can say is that I was hesitant to check the club out, not being "in the sciences" and not having a telescope to begin with I was afraid I'd show up in the midst of a bunch of Queen's profs and students and be totally out of my league. (This happened to a friend of mine in Ottawa when he went to a meeting of a group up there: he never went back. Hearing of his experience didn't help.) What prompted me to check it out was the presentation that **Susan** and some others put on at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area. I took along a few sky pictures I had taken and got talking with Sue, come to find out that you're friendly people like in the photo club and the field naturalists, so I went to a couple meetings and joined up.

The running of any group takes up a lot of time and effort, and there's usually a core group that's dedicated to the maintenance. My hat's off to them; I've been involved with the executive of the field naturalists for 18 years so I have a good idea of what's involved. As Hank says, we're not getting any younger, the energy wanes, and life's responsibilities and the "have-to-do's" increase while the "wanna-do's" take a back seat.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Susan: The Saturday meeting experiment was hoped to provide some if not all of the following advantages...here are the hits and misses:

▶ Meeting folk would be caught up in the magic and wonder of the open house and see that outreach can fill

continues on page 8...

SUN/MON, APRIL 1/2

Rose-Marie: The sky cleared up tonight in time to see the big tea party in the sky: **Venus** and the **Pleiades** are getting closer together. Too bad we can't see this in the dark phase of the moon.



Kevin Kell: Nice shot; selected for the *Bulletin* as well! I really like that one.

We were out on Earth Hour night and it was nice and clear and a little chilly. I took many 15s images of various things, including the **Venus-Pleiades** conjunction, the skydome over Kingston (no noticeable change again this year) and of our bonfire (which was cool!). No neighbours seemed to shut anything off...much like Calgary we hear in the news. It was a cold and depressing Sunday...not too much to do there.

WED/THU, APRIL 4/5

Hank: OK, get out there, I just eyeballed **Venus** at 5:10 p.m. EDT. Mag. -4.4 angular size 26". This is a good test of how old your eyes are getting. Venus is 45° east of the Sun and heading west and getting brighter and bigger as it goes. Today it was ~70° above the southern horizon at 5:00 p.m. One hour earlier today (4:11 p.m.) and with no binoculars, it only took about 15 seconds to spot it. *As Hank later pointed out, it is easier to see if you get in the shade of a building.*

Rose-Marie: Well I missed it, had a meeting last night that kept me in

town until 10:00 p.m. Got home and got out the camera, but the clouds were about 30 seconds ahead of me. Rats.

THU/FRI, APRIL 5/6

Rose-Marie: I was looking in the area where it's been appearing at nightfall. I'm a bit light-sensitive, the sky was just too bright, couldn't find it. Even at sunset I had a little trouble picking it out, then the clouds came rolling in.

I was just out taking a few shots with the 100mm lens; it is clear again, the moon is washing out all but the brightest of stars.

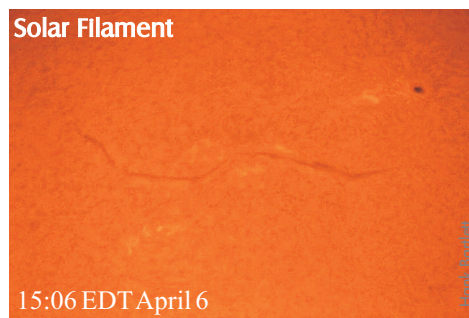
Mark Kaye: The trick I use is to see where it is just at sunset. I know for me right now, **Venus** is two thumb to finger distances plus one thumbless fist from the Sun. Because the Sun, Venus and the Moon are all basically on the ecliptic, use a line through the Sun and Moon and then measure the distance from the Sun.

Once the Moon starts waning, then you just have to remember the approximate angle that Venus makes and measure out that distance.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

Hank: I tried Venus about 10:45 but had to use the binos to initially find it.

A long **filament** is winding across the sun east of SS1450 today. According to spaceweather.com this filament set off three CMEs on April 5th.



SAT/SUN, APRIL 7/8



Kevin: I popped out for a few quick images and snagged a nice little **meteor** in Leo at 21:02 EDT in a 15s exposure.

THU/FRI, APRIL 12/13

Kevin: Checking the all-sky camera we noticed some aurora in the far north running from about 23:00–01:00 EDT overnight. They were probably bright but not very high up off the horizon. Was anyone out and about last night?

Rose-Marie: I saw a big red crescent on the aurora oval on space-weather.com in the afternoon, and kept checking about every half hour after sundown, but didn't see any glow to the north. By about 10:00 p.m. the oval shrank considerably so I gave up. Must have fired up after I went to bed at around 11:20 p.m.; I still didn't see anything when I walked the dog at around 11:00 p.m.

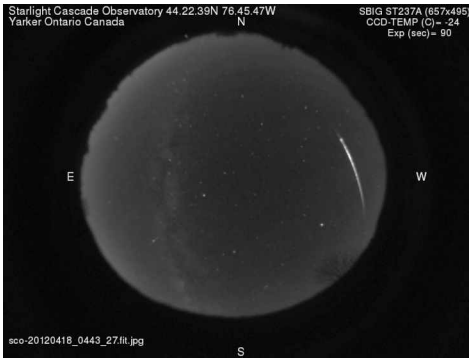
Hank: This was at 23:10 last night, mostly just green along the horizon, not visual though. DSLR 30s at ISO 1600:



TUE/WED, APRIL 17/18

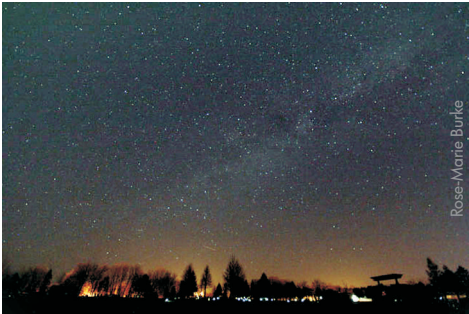
Kevin: Was anyone up and about this morning at or about 04:43 EDT? There was a possible **fireball** captured in this image and we are

Various Members



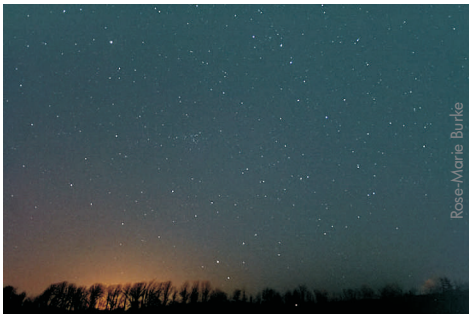
looking for any other reports.

Rose-Marie: Oh see, now that's just plain MEAN of that fireball to wait until I had gone inside! Cruel fate, I was out with the camera for almost an hour, went back in around 4:00 a.m. Saw only one good meteor from overhead run down through Scorpio, just before I had the camera set up.



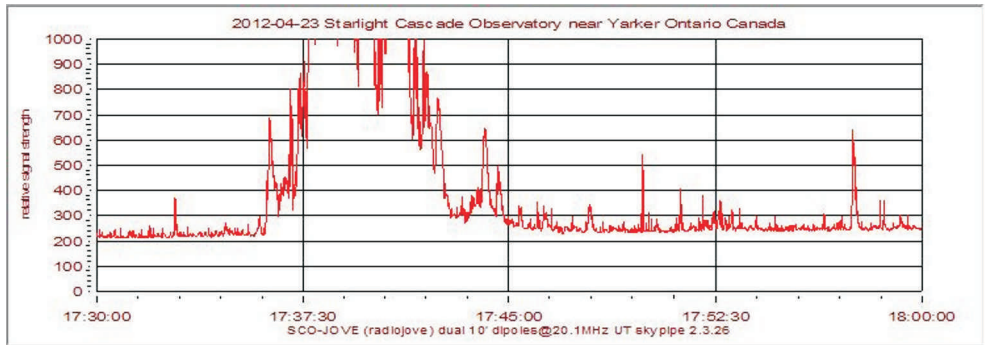
Rose-Marie: Lovely clear night, saw one meteor cut down through Scorpius just before I got the camera set up; thought I saw a couple more tiny *pfffts*, may have been early Lyrids. It's as clear as I've ever seen here close to the city, could even see the Milky Way nice and bright.

Here's a shot with Leo diving into the west, and a glow from where Elginburg would be.



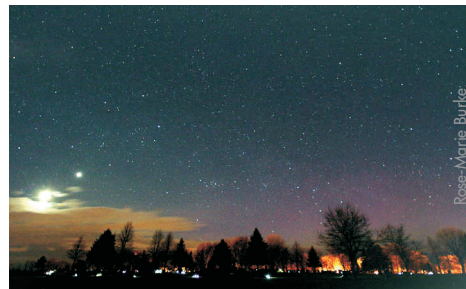
TUE/WED, APRIL 24/25

Paul Winkler: Great conjunction of



Radio activity on Mon/Tue, April 23/24. Audio is also available at starlightcascade.ca

the crescent moon with Venus tonight, clearly visible from central Kingston!



Canon Rebel XT, 10mm f/4.5, ISO 1600, 36s, 21:54 EDT, April 24, 2012.

WED/THU, APRIL 25/26

Hank: Get out there, there is aurora to image!

Rose-Marie: There sure was!! And I was out there!! And got PICTURES!!

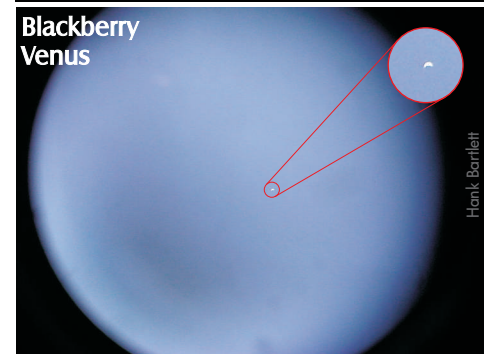
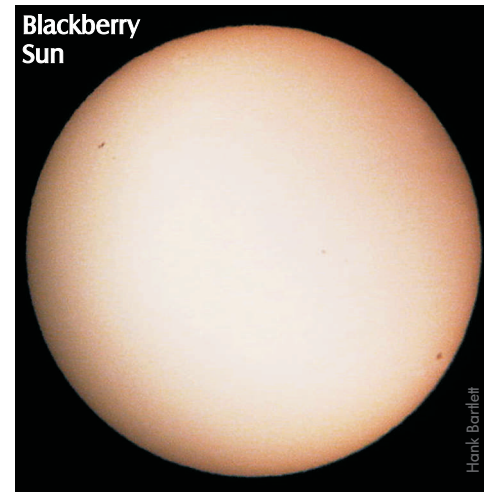
I went out to get some pics of Venus and the moon, and noticed a brightening on the horizon, and went to town when I realized that aurorae were happening.



Kevin K: Damn this work thing! You guys are awake and functional after 23:00 while we are fast asleep having bad dreams about inventory and floods and bad servers. Arrg... but at least the all-sky camera got some B&W images.

SAT/SUN, APRIL 28/29

Hank: Yes, it can be done—just not well. Today at AstroDay there was discussion and attempts at taking images by cell phone. I took these two images with my Blackberry later at home; I only darkened the solar one a bit to bring out the sunspots more.



[Since these pictures were taken with a Blackberry, would that make them RIMshots? Perhaps they should change the sound effect made when a picture is taken accordingly...—Ed.]

continues on page 8...

Meeting Report: 2012 Cave Lecture

Rose-Marie Burke

THERE WAS STANDING ROOM ONLY in Theatre D last night, and an overflow crowd of 100 more in Theatre C who had to watch the talk on a screen. Ah, the wonders of modern technology, cameras, and sound system beaming live to another room. I'm just glad I got there early and got a good seat for the live show. Sure, I missed my regular Thursday night lineup on TV and didn't see **Dr. Sheldon Cooper** arguing with his **Spock** toy, but it's a given that I will enjoy that episode in re-runs.

The talk was certainly entertaining, the speaker makes good use of said technology to emphasize his points. He also has a sense of humour in the clips chosen, a wide variety from *Star Trek* to Bart Simpson to a hilarious spoof on "Who are you?" and DNA, although I could have done without the overly long clip of **Carl Sagan** singing at the end. The talk seemed to bear mainly on the different conditions under which life can appear and evolve, giving speculation as the various possibilities under which it can appear. Given that there are a billion stars in our galaxy alone, fair enough, odds are that somewhere in all those sparklies habitable conditions do exist. What disappointed me, however, was that there wasn't enough presentation of the science and technology being used to discover those habitable planets, and the proof that what we have seen so far gives concrete evidence that it's out there. But, as he was pointing out, there are new technologies being developed, further exploration is being planned, and it's "game on." (Perhaps part of my skepticism in that regard is having read **Ray Villard's** article in the latest *SkyNews* "Planet Discoveries Are Exciting Enough Without the Hype.") I probably should have stayed for a bit after the meeting: "refreshments" were

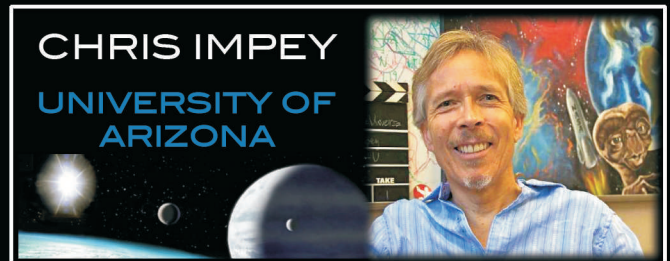
offered, these are the times when people gather around and some of the real discussion takes place and I often find just by munching on treats and eavesdropping on these conversations to pick up bits of added insight. A general sum-up is that it was an enjoyable talk and well worth attending.

So...that's my armchair, amateur, unprofessional, and unsolicited review. Since it had been advertised on the KC chat list a couple of times, I just thought I'd share for those who may have missed it. ★

THE WINTER 2012 CAVE MEMORIAL LECTURE IN PHYSICS

THE SEARCH FOR LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE

ARE WE ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE?



WORLD RENOWNED ASTRONOMER CHRIS IMPEY
REVIEWS ONE OF THE BIGGEST
QUESTIONS IN SCIENCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012 - 8 PM



THEATRE D, STIRLING HALL
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

ADMISSION IS FREE

REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW IN THE FOYER
DISABILITY ACCESS AT REAR OF STIRLING HALL BY STUART STREET ENTRANCE 7:30-7:45PM

Online with the AAVSO

Kevin Kell

WE SAT THROUGH THE AAVSO Citizen sky webinar on April 23rd (7-8 p.m.) and were among only 14 people from around the world that did so. I was a little surprised at the low numbers based on how long they have been promoting the month of webinars.

We had fun watching the background astronomy detail of the Lord of the Rings Middle Earth. The presenter was an astronomy professor down in the US who is big into public outreach and is also one of the contributors of solar images to Kim's solar coordinator work.

As a bonus the door prize draw odds were very good...so good that I was the winner...yay! We'll see how that works out.

There was another door prize given out to those participants who asked a question. Only one person asked a question—they got a door

prize: a \$25 amazon gift certificate!

In other news, the webinar prompted me to rejoin the AAVSO after a ten-year hiatus. I want to get into the AAVSONet of remote telescopes and learn more about them. This month only they have a membership sale: only \$40 for the rest of the year. They have moved to a calendar-year system from a 12-month-long system (like the RASC currently has). Funny that.

The application process went fairly smoothly, but I was really impressed that they still have my old membership info on file. It was all web-transaction handled and completed very quickly. [If you go to aavso.org/demographic-survey-results-and-google-map you will find that they still have all their historical membership records, complete back to 1911! By contrast, RASC records go back less than a decade.—Ed.] ★

...Observing Reports

...continued from page 6

Various Members

Kim: Thank you all (**Hank, Susan, Brian, Kevin, Laurie & Devon**, show-ups from **Judith and Terry Bridges**) for making Astronomy Day 2012 a great success.

There was some haze, but we had great observing with a PST, Solar Max60, SCT Celestron, and DS90 in white light. Over 75 people passed by in two hours (lots of handouts) and we really pushed the Venus Transit, to get people to do this at home.

Susan: Thanks for organizing us Kim, I really enjoyed getting together and doing the event.

It was nice to have spots, I really



Canon Rebel XT, Skywatcher 10-inch Dobsonian, ISO 1600, 1/3200 second, timestamp 22:47.

Rose-Marie Burke

...continued from page 4

...NC/KC Meeting Report

some dark empty corner of their soul. . . miss.

▶ Perhaps there were members that would show up on Saturday that had been unable to get to a Friday meeting. . . miss.

▶ The meeting/outreach combo group would like doing all the stuff on one convenient night. . . miss. I really do not like it. I did not anticipate how early the winter meetings would be— not good.

▶ The open-house public would say ‘What is this thing you call RASC?’ and flock earlier the next month to come out to a meeting. . . miss.

While a failure as an experiment, I think that it was something that was good to try and will feel great to abandon! Ahhh, so much of life feels so great when it just stops!

Like Mark, I really miss the after meeting visiting.

We have several things to look forward to: Astronomy Day in Confederation park (weather permitting), the transit on June 5th, Astrotainment at the BioBlitz on Amherst Island on the June 15/16 overnight, and a Girl Guide event in July.

We are back on track to find a suitable permanent observing site.

I would love help with speakers/

ideas for the last two meetings of the season. I have had bad luck with some invitations I have made, as Kim noted.

The online idea was not the first option that comes to my mind but I do believe that there probably is some middle ground between **Walter’s** e-utopia and **Mark’s** Matrix. **Kevin’s** idea of the remote speaker seems a more plausible effort to me.

Hank, you are still participating, your posts and photos are great to have.

We do have some youth interest by the way: **Laurie Graham**, whom some of you know often shows up and brings her son Devin. He has asked us to accept him as a volunteer for his high school credits. I am making up a form and he will help out on any clear open house night that he can get to.

I appreciate the fact that you are all still interested enough to get into an honest discussion; we will break out of this little slump.

Separating meetings for *us* and public outreach is a good step. We can get out of the shortened meeting. We will return to a balanced season of speakers and member’s nights.

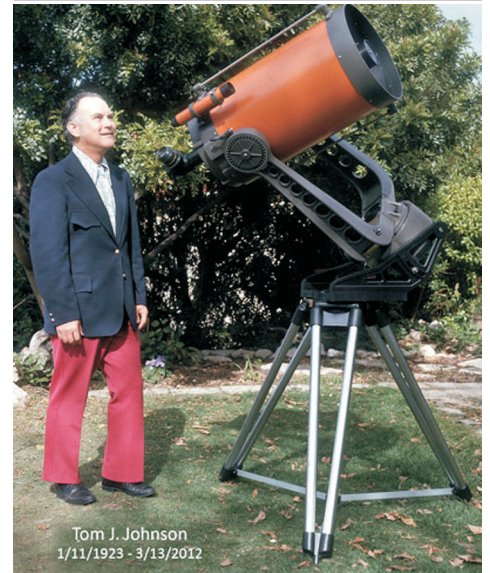
Be sure to watch for your June questionnaires!★

only remember one Astronomy Day that had no spots and it was very DULL! There must have been more events like that, but for many years some of us were inside with a static display and were oblivious to the lack of show our side.

I really prefer the low-load observing session whenever possible. Everyone asks “how do we compete with the internet?” This is really what we can offer that is different enough to engage people.

Rose-Marie: I guess by now y’all know that if I can look through it, sooner or later I’m going to want to slap a camera on it. Got playing with the toys today and discovered that yes, that little adapter I have that works on the 60mm spotting scope works just as well on the Skywatcher Dob. Just had to try it on the moon. Some fiddling, some focusing, bit of cursing, but I managed.★

Founder Passes



Tom J. Johnson
1/11/1923 - 3/13/2012

Celestron founder, Thomas J. Johnson, passed away at 5 a.m. PST on March 13, 2012, in his 90th year.

This is sad news indeed for amateur astronomers of a certain age (including some KC members who shall remain nameless...). Back in the 70s and early 80s orange-tubed SCTs dominated star parties everywhere and these instruments revolutionized observing every bit as much as the Dobsonian revolution did.★