



Regulus

The Newsletter of The Royal Astronomical Society of
Canada - Kingston Centre - October 2015

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday 2015 October 8th

7pm Ellis Hall Room 324, Queen's University
Regular Meeting
Fall'N'Stars Reports
Total Lunar Eclipse of 2015 Sept 27 reports

Thursday 2015 November 12th

7pm Ellis Hall Room 324, Queen's University.
Annual General Meeting and Elections.
Agenda:
Welcome
Presentation of Agenda
Approval of Agenda
Approval of minutes of the 2014 AGM
Reading of annual reports: President, Secretary
(report and approval), Treasurer (report and
approval), Library, Editor
Centre Elections: President, Vice-president, Treasurer
Adjourn
Regular Meeting follows the AGM from approx
7:15-9:00pm

Thursday 2015 December 10th

6pm * Special Holiday Dinner - NO Regular
Meeting
Location To Be Announced
Please RSVP to Kim Hay as seating is limited



Rick with our Fall'N'Stars 2015
Guest Speaker Dave McCarter -
notice the shadows... it was sunny
on Friday! (Photo: Kevin Kell)

Upcoming Events

Saturday October 10th

North Frontenac Dark Sky Site– contact: Guy Nason
The planet Uranus will be bright enough this
weekend to be seen with unaided eyes! Rain date:
Sunday October 11th

Saturday November 14th 7pm KAON Public
Observing Session, Queen's University Ellis Hall
Observatory

Saturday December 12th 7pm KAON Public
Observing Session, Queen's University Ellis Hall
Observatory



Group Photo Fall'N'Stars 2015 (Photo: Randy Boddam)

Fall'N'Stars 2015 (16th Annual!)

The skies did *not* clear Saturday and
Sunday at the 2015 Fall'N'Stars star party, held at
Camp Sagonka in the Vandewater Conservation area
near Thomasburg Ontario. 25mm of rain on
Saturday, 35mm on Sunday turned it into a really wet
time for all.

Guest Editors

Our Editor, Walter MacDonald, is otherwise occupied with the 2015 Federal Election, so we (Kim Hay & Kevin Kell) have stepped in to put together a small, short edition of Regulus using one of the old templates we had sitting around home.

RASC 2016 Calendars

We have ordered 25 RASC 2016 calendars and hope to have them on hand at the AGM meeting in November and at the December Holiday meeting Dinner. Cover price is \$17+tax. We will be selling at \$20 total. Remember that these are fund raisers for the Centre!

We have also ordered some 2016 Observers Handbooks for those who wish to purchase an extra one over and above the one you receive with membership.

More Fall'N'Stars

* Fall'n'Stars 2015 regardless of cloud/showers becoming rain/pouring/t-storms was in my opinion another wonderful success. Thank you to the organizing team for putting on one of the best sessions ever, thank you to Dave McCarter for his talks. Galaxy quest last night was FUN! Thank you to all my astronomical friends for sharing so much. If you didn't get there you missed a great weekend event. - Hank Bartlett



Here is the best of the few images I took Friday afternoon before the deluge began. SS2414 looking good but acting rather blah.

was a great deal of haze in the sky but those that looked enjoyed. SS2414 had grown rapidly in the previous 24 hours but in the end never gave off anything more than a few lower C class flares. It was excellent weather for setting up, eating snacks, socializing and drinking wine! After all that is what

Yes we observed... briefly. Although FnS was clouded/rained out this year the early scope still gets the observation. As you can tell from this image there

FnS is about, observing is a bonus if it stays clear.

For those of you whom did not or could not attend it was a wonderful time just the same with I believe we had near full attendance for Saturday dinner. The dinner was the usual roast beast or turkey with delicious desserts. There was a light show Saturday night from about 1 - 2 am was WOW, although thunder and lightning when in a tent is a little unsettling. Too bad it was raining or I would have stepped out to watch. Regardless of the weather we had wonderful time and the main presentations by Dave McCarter both days as well as member talks made it very interesting and educational. We also filled the day socializing, playing scrabble and other games, you may think it doesn't sound exciting but it was a real good time.

This was the only FnS I have ever taken money for the swap, \$300 was burning a hole in my pocket and the swap never happened, dang! As always there was a good supply of prizes and everyone went home with something. If you have never been to FnS make a plan to be there next year and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow astronomers.



A gathering of some of the 29 people before dinner. Copious door prizes can be seen at the back of the room. (Photo: Randy Boddam)



Greg - the Lucky Draw raffle winner (Photo: Randy Boddam)



Never too early to start thinking about the next Total Solar Eclipse!

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: walter (dot) macdonald2 (at) gmail (dot) com

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. © 2015, 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-KC Board of Directors

Committee Chairs/Coordinators

President: Kim Hay

Vice President: Greg Latiak

Secretary: Susan Gagnon

Treasurer: Kevin Kell

Librarian: David Maguire

Editor: Walter MacDonald

Nat'l Advisory Council Rep: vacant

Directors without Portfolio: Rose-Marie Burke, Bruce Elliott, Paul Winkler

Equipment Loan: Kevin Kell

KAON: Susan Gagnon

Webmaster: Walter MacDonald

Contact Info

RASC Kingston Centre
c/o 76 Colebrook Road,
RR#1, Yarker, ON K0K 3N0
E-mail: kingston@rasc.ca
Website: kingston.rasc.ca

Summer Notes



Kim Hay - The RASCKC Storage Shed gets some trim painting in August



The Centre's LX200GPS

The tiny box observatory that has housed the Centre's LX200GPS for the last few years has been dismantled. It has had issues over the years, insufficient pier, earwigs and worst of all, growing trees. So the scope was removed and installed in the clamshell dome, located much farther away from those pesky trees.



The tiny box observatory being dismantled... with a lot of earwig “stuff” left behind.



The sand filled interior of the pier.. With free earwigs!



The LX200 in the clamshell

In the last issue of Regulus, there was a suggested paint job for the Torus telescope observatory.



There were also other suggestions, including this one:



This suggestion merited some serious consideration especially considering possible double duties... but since the observatory was already named the “tardis” we thought it was best to go through with the original intent and chose this design.



This is the extent of the work on the Torus for this summer. Clouds, mosquitos and more biting insects pretty much stifled any commissioning work. There remain just a little more work do be done on the observatory (the top Police sign), and we hope that will be done this month.

Queen's Observatory now open!

Date: Sat, 26 Sep 2015 20:21:05

Hello there,

My name is Amanda Desouza and I am the new observatory coordinator at Queen's University. I'm pleased to announce that the queen's observatory is finally open for business again. Our first open house will take place on October 3rd. I would like to invite RASC members to bring their telescopes to the terrace by the observatory again. I look forward to meeting everyone at the next open house.

Cheers,

Amanda Desouza

Queen's Observatory coordinator



Stephane Courteau, Queen's Observatory Director, introduced us to Amanda Desouza, the new Queen's Observatory coordinator, here on the right (Stephane on the left).

KAON Report October 3, 2015 by Susan Gagnon

After a prolonged recess our public outreach efforts with Queen's Observatory have resumed! This month's choice of date was anomalous and the November date (14th) will see a return to the second Saturday of the month. While it was cloudy there was still plenty that happened. About 45 people attended with a decent showing of KC support. Stephane Courteau gave an excellent primer on dark matter with a little video showing the inside of the SNOLAB in Sudbury. There was a good deal of QandA. After the

talk Stephane introduced the KC as an important member of the Queen's outreach team and your KAON Coordinator gave a brief overview of RASC meetings and a website info. Once that was done I had the pleasure of presenting the plaque we had made this spring honouring the efforts of all the Observatory Coordinators we have worked with over the years. It was very fortunate that Nathalie Oullette was there to accept on behalf of the Coordinators as hers was the longest term. It was a real surprise to Nathalie and Stephane which made it pretty cool and they were keen to have it put up in the observatory. We were also introduced to Amanda Desouza who is the new Coordinator and comes to the position with years of experience in the same job at York University where she ran open house events weekly. At this point we were invited to go to the 4th floor to tour the dome and warm room. The capacity of the dome is still 20 but the floor is approved for 60 people now that a second exit stairwell has been installed. This is a great improvement. I look forward to this new season of outreach after a good rest and of course to enjoy all the clear skies we are due to have.

Presentation to Queens

Susan Gagnon, Secretary of the RASC-KC, and our KAON coordinator, presenting the outgoing Queen's Observatory Coordinator, Nathalie Ouellette, with a plaque of recognition. The partial inscription reads:

To Queen's University Observatory Coordinators

Nathalie Ouellette: 2010 -2014

Melanie Hall: 2009 May- 2010

James Silvester: 2008 Apr - 2009 Apr

Terry Bridges: 2004 - 2008

Otto Mehes: 2001 - 2004

Kathy Perrett: 1995 - 2001

For enthusiastic dedication to their collaborative efforts with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Kingston Centre, in bringing the science of Astronomy to the public.

Presented by RASC, Kingston Centre, 2015



Susan Gagnon presenting to Nathalie Ouellette

GemStorm 2015!

On behalf of the Kingston Lapidary and Mineral Club, I would like to invite you to attend our 46th annual Gem Storm to be held at the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, Kingston. The gem and mineral show will be Saturday October 17th from 10 - 6PM and Sunday October 18th from 10AM - 5PM. Please mark this date in your calendar and plan on attending. This is an excellent opportunity to start your Christmas shopping or find those special minerals you've been looking for.

Eileen Moss
Publicity
Kingston Lapidary and Mineral Club, Kingston,
Ontario

Total Lunar Eclipse 2015 Sept 27th



Rose-Marie
Burke

No mosquitoes here, there was a breeze off the lake. Clouds rolled in around 7:30, but it looked like bits of clearing around 9:30 so I drove the truck down the hill and set up the camera. Anyway...we had about 15 to 20 minutes of gaps in the clouds, so I managed a few

shots. Here are 2 of them, it was just getting to totality when the clouds rolled back in.

Richard Weigand

I was able to see the eclipse as well from Sandhurst, from the start to the totality. Unfortunately, clouds came in pretty heavy near the end when the full eclipse was evident. Still, very pleased to see my first eclipse.

Greg Latiak

It was pretty good from Amherst Island as well. The clouds did a now you see it, now you don't right up to the onset of totality. Being backlit made for some interesting visual effects. A few minutes after the onset of totality the clouds closed in. Were solid every time I checked after that -- of course. Glad we saw some if it anyhow instead of the usual solid cloud cover with great reports from elsewhere.

Walter MacDonald

It was clear in Winchester until about 22:20, then only had views through holes in the cloud. So it was worth the drive.



Hank Bartlett

This is as good as it got here in the burg, 2015_09_27
21:29:57 ISO200 1/180s dslr/Mak90.

Kim Hay & Kevin Kell



Kim made several sketches through the eyepiece of our 20cm dobsonian telescope "Starbuck". Kim also took many digital images with our compact Canon camera and her new Samsung smartphone through the eyepiece as well.

Kevin attached a video camera to the Torus telescope, which may not be collimated, but still tracks well and also attempted some dslr images with the new Canon 300D and 18-55mm lens.

July BBQ

Kevin & Kim

A BBQ was hosted for RASC KC centre members and their guests on Saturday July 11th at 5pm.

We are in [address deleted] Yarker ON

I will defer adding lat/long :)

We had a good turnout despite the heavy infestation of

mosquitos

We provided hamburgers and sausages and appreciated the small salad or desserts that you brought. The weather was not too bad, better looking than the earlier forecasts: Sunny 26C and 20% POP with 15kph winds.

Mosquitos were very bad. Tours of the SCGO afterward went ahead but, some training and imaging with the Torus scope did not due to bugs.

Clear Skies!

RASC purchases SkyNews Inc.

July 2, 2015



The Board of Directors of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) are pleased to announce that the RASC has purchased SkyNews Incorporated.

SkyNews Inc. has published SkyNews magazine since 1999. SkyNews Inc. also owns SkyNews.ca and

publishes a monthly e-newsletter. SkyNews is the Canadian magazine for amateur astronomers and is the only popular, English-language science magazine for adults published in Canada.

The RASC and SkyNews Inc. have had a long relationship. RASC members have received issues of SkyNews magazine as a benefit of membership since 1997. Many members of the RASC contribute articles and photographs which are published in the magazine.

The Editor of SkyNews Magazine, Terence Dickinson has been writing popular books about backyard astronomy for over forty years. Although he will step down as Editor in the next year, he has agreed to remain as Editor Emeritus and will continue to contribute in his own column.

CASCA Summer Solstice Newsletter

by Eric Briggs, Toronto Centre
The Canadian Astronomical Society/Société Canadienne d'Astronomie, the association of Canadian academic astronomers, has published its 2015 Summer Solstice Cassiopeia Newsletter, edited by Magdalen Normandeau and Joanne Rosvick. This edition contains information regarding the Thirty Meter Telescope. Go to: <http://casca.ca/?p=5963>

May 14, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Kingston Center

President, Kim Hay called the meeting to order at 18:56hrs with 19 members in attendance. Reports began with Susan Gagnon reporting on Science Rendezvous held at the K-Rock Center May 9th. There were many visits to the 4 scopes available and there were sunspots to be seen. It was a busy day. Bruce Elliot reported on the Science Fair. The winning project was a study on how to estimate the amount of Helium 3 accumulation on objects in space (planets etc. the content varies directly with the surface area). Good demonstration of statistics and good general knowledge of astronomy. The winner was Justin MacKeigan of Calvin Park Public School. Bruce also announced that he and Susan would be doing a Girl Guide event on June 19 or 20 depending on weather. Starfest, Aug 13 to 16th, is open for registration. Fall'N'Stars, September 11 to 13, has a new chair Greg Latiak. Kingston committee will get together with Belleville soon and registration forms should be ready by the June meeting. There was a reminder that the next North Frontenac Dark Sky Viewing Site date is May 16th with a rain date of the 23rd. See northfrontenac.com. A round of introductions followed the announcements. The first presentation for the evening was Malcolm Parks with a Sky Safari demo. It is a phone application that works with any I phone or Android device. It will run demos of various astronomical events (comets, moon phases, planet positions) and provide basic astronomical data. In addition to this software Malcolm showed us SkyFi which works with a wireless network and has the functionality of a hand paddle ie compatible with most

mounts as long as you can make the connection. It allows you to factor in all equipment variables and present a preview of the photo frame. Home observatory presentations then took up the remainder of the meeting.

Greg Latiak showed his 8' Sky Shed Pod, Brian Hunter, his octagonal compact design with a rotating roof, unique!

Hank Bartlett, modified garden shed, 7.5x7.5.

Keith Neumark, roll off 8x12,

Rick Wagner discussed Sky Shed plans he is considering 8x10 or 12.

Malcolm, Sky Shed Pod with

modification to solve access to Zenith issues.

Susan, 8x8 roll off.

Mark Kaye, roof top with 2 story pier.

Kim and Kevin, 8x10 modified garden shed. These presented plenty of ideas for anyone planning an observatory.

The meeting adjourned at 21:12.

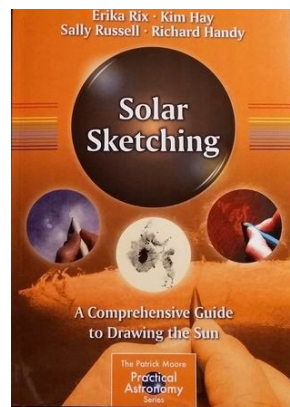
RASC Fees raised effective 2015 Summer

We are sorry to report that the membership fees for the RASC have been increased, again.

As a Centre, we have first reduced and then eliminated the \$9 surcharge we had in the past, mitigating these increases. Unfortunately we have reached a \$0 surcharge some years back and cannot go any lower.

New Regular member fees for those in Canada is now \$75Can. The centre portion is \$23.

Solar Sketching is a comprehensive guide filled with richly illustrated, detailed drawing tutorials that cover a variety of solar phenomena.



Kim Hay, President RASC-KC is one of the coauthors of this new book, available on amazon.ca She has donated a signed copy to the RASC-KC library.