Regulus

Newsletter of the RASC Kingston Centre

Vol. 52 No. 6 June, 2025

In this issue:

Centre Events for June, July and August, 2025:

June 4: Zoom Social Meeting
June 11: Monthly meeting 7pm at Queens University
Room 226, Ellis Hall,
58 University Avenue, Kingston
June 12: Astrophotography 101 (Members Only)
Every Wednesday in the summer: Zoom Social Meeting
Except for:
July 9: Picnic at Lake Ontario Park
July 16: Rain Date for Picnic at Lake Ontario Park
Aug 13: Picnic at Lake Ontario Park
Aug 27: Rain Date for Picnic at Lake Ontario Park
Aug 31: Deadline for September issue of Regulus

President's Report

Malcolm Park

Greetings, members of the RASC Kingston Centre.

The summer is almost upon us and the nights will soon begin to get longer!

Our summer picnics are back again this year with tentative dates of July 9th, and August 13th. Bring a lawn chair, a meal and join us at Lake Ontario Park for a late afternoon hanging out by the lake! Announcements will be made on the email chat list with go/no-go based on the weather. If weather does NOT permit, we will attempt again the following Wednesday.

The Kingston Centre has an Astrospheric account, and if we get one more member we unlock the free Pro level features for Amateur Astronomy Clubs.

This includes ensemble forecasts and better maps. (Screen grab of Fallin Stars Forecast attached)

Astrospheric provides weather data, like the Clear Sky Chart in presentation, but has more bells and whistles. I use both for different things at different times. They each have value for amateur astronomers looking for weather apps.

In Astrospheric, please join the group by first going to the Astrospheric.com website and creating your profile.

Then click Subspace, Join Group and select the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Kingston Centre.

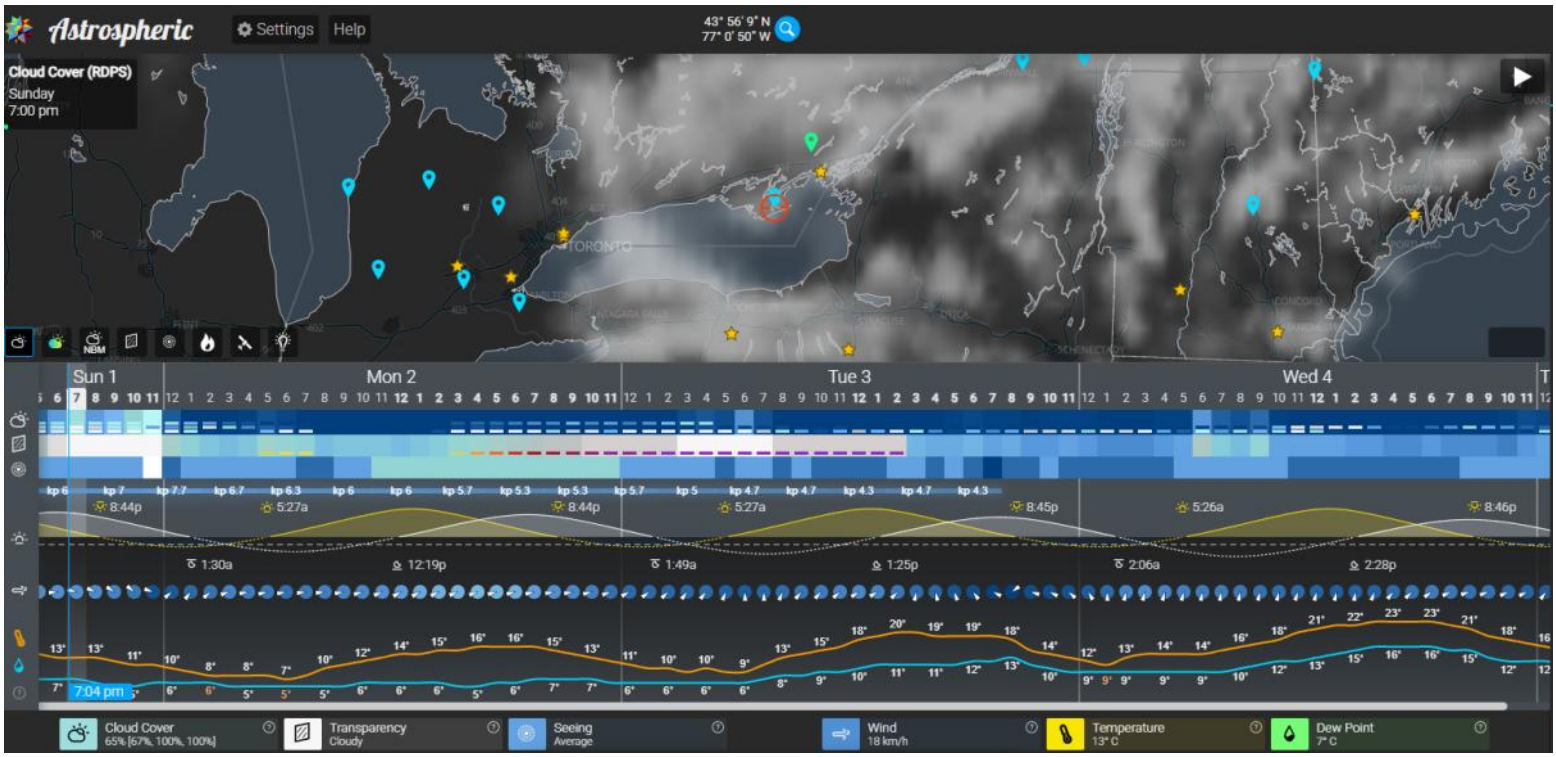
Use this code: S_ab228cf8

I will see your request and approve it.

Our next meeting is on June 11th, and our presenter will be Jenna Hinds from the National office. Jenna is Executive Director of the RASC. She will have an interesting talk to be sure, covering lots of things that the Society is doing, and some recent events.

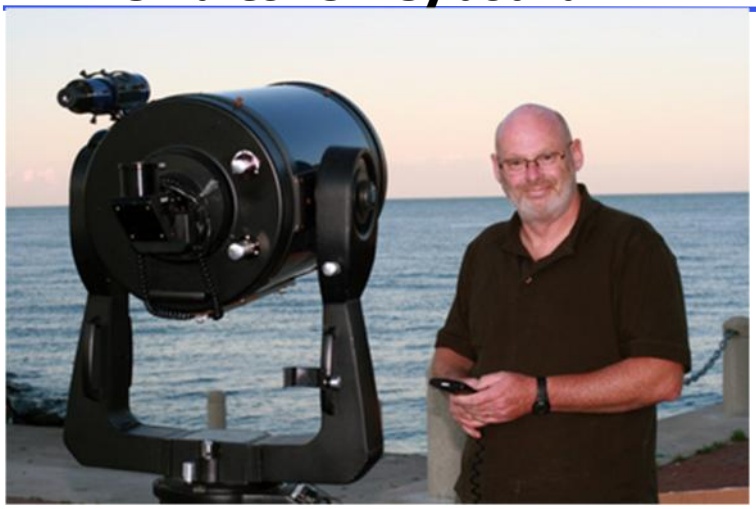
On June 12th, we have our next installment of Astrophotography 101, and the subject will be Planetary Imaging. Our presentation will be via Zoom, and it will be Ben Law presenting.

Our Zoom socials continue on Wednesday's if we are not having a regular meeting or a picnic.



The Editor's Keyboard

Roger Hill



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Science Rendezvous was a lot of fun.

I've done a lot of public outreach over the years, mostly when I was based at the west end of Lake Ontario. In the first few years, I helped out when visiting public libraries, explaining the science behind Apollo, with some other like-minded souls. At one point, in High School, I had a community TV based astronomy show on Cable 4 in Burlington. During a lunar eclipse, I pointed one of their small TV cameras through an eyepiece to record the event. The camera was connected to an Ampex video tape recorder, and I still have the tape somewhere, although I'm not sure there's anyplace outside of maybe the CBC Archives that could play it.

As the years passed, I'd help out at events at the Hamilton Centre's Observatory, particularly active at times like when Comet IRAS-Iraki-Alcock swung by Earth at only 0.0312 AU away. Halley's Comet, too, meant lot's of visitors to the Centre's observatory. This was made more difficult by the low southern declination of the comet. One night in January 1986, I took my C8 there shortly after sunset, wanting to use the scope to take some piggy-back pictures of this most famous of comets. There was only one spot on the observatory grounds where this was possible from (the observatory there is on the site of an old Christmas tree farm that was owned by the city of Hamilton, and the Centre has a 99 year lease on the site) due to the trees in the way. I got a polar alignment done that I was not unhappy with, and was just about to start taking some slides when a group of 30 boy scouts just showed up out of the blue. I was annoyed, but what are you going to do when people just show up and your scope is the ONLY ONE THERE that can see the comet? By the time all the Scouts had had a look, and their leaders (and some parents), the comet was just barely above the treeline. Still, I like to think that maybe one or two of them will still be around in August 2061, and they'll be asked about seeing Halley before, and they'll mention the guy with a telescope.

I've also helped out at Science North in Sudbury in 2003 for the great Mars apparition that year. They had taken delivery of a 12" Meade SCT earlier in the day, but really had no idea how to use it. They set it up in a courtyard, and despite many people who had arrived to look through it, they could not get it to track. However, I had my little Meade ETX 90 with me, so I set it up, and dozens of people got a chance to see Mars, one of its polar caps and some hazy markings on the planet.

Since moving to the shore of the St. Lawrence Seaway, I haven't done much in the way of public outreach. Part of the problem was the lack of a portable mount that could track, but that has been solved now.

So that was how I found myself driving down to Kingston at 7am on a Saturday morning, heading to somewhere with the improbable name of Slush Puppy Place. By the time I arrived, some other Kinston Centre members were already there. It took me a few minutes to set up my EQ5 and 150mm F/9 Ritchey-Chretien. The controlling software for the mount, running on my phone and connected via Bluetooth, worked quite well, but it was sometime before I realized that the mount was running on Sidereal rate, rather than solar. Prior to that, I'd assumed that the reason why I had to keep adjusting it was people tugging on the scope (despite my polite requests to not do so).

Anyway, once I was set up, shortly after 9am, the number of people wanting to have a look never let up for more that a couple of minutes at a time. The flood of people slowed to a trickle after 2pm, and I finally got a chance to leave my post, relieve myself, and quickly check out the other exhibits.

I'm glad there were some sunspots, though, it would have been really difficult to talk about why you have all this equipment with nothing to see.

I did meet some very nice people, though, as I sometimes called out to one of the other Sciencey types who'd pass by if they'd like to look through a telescope, and the vast majority did. There was also a young couple with Spanish accents, but not Mexican, and I asked them where they were from. Chile, they said! I asked them to be a bit more specific, and was told Santiago. I replied that I'd been to the top of the Costanera Centre (a 62 storey tall building in the most earthquake prone country on the planet!), and then we chatted about San Pedro de Atacama and La Serena. They told me I had to visit Patagonia.

So, I presume that next year's event will be on the second Saturday of May, which means there will be a last quarter Moon visible in the morning, with Jupiter and Venus visible later in the day.

Clear skies to you!

Roger Hill

In just the last few months, we have enjoyed a parade of no fewer than three comets. Last fall there was Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS, discovered by the Purple Mountain Observatory in east China, near Nanjing. The comet sported a very long tail and it was visible without a telescope for several weeks. It was the highlight of an observing session a local high school shared with its students. As the students sat and gazed at the sky, they could easily spot the tail stretching proudly across the western heavens.

Just a few weeks later, in December a second ATLAS comet began to brighten significantly. I tried hard to see it as it was apparently visible for less than an hour during evening twilight, but couldn't find it.

My close friend Steve Edberg, however, did. He and his family had to evacuate their home in La Canada during to the fires burning at the time. On the evening of 14 January, while strolling along San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, he spotted Comet Atlas low in the west. He is one of the very few observers in the northern hemisphere to see it. He was so excited about it that he called me over the telephone. Our conversation was the first in more than two years but it resumed a friendship that has lasted for decades. I was proud of him that night over his sighting, and still am.

Over the next few days, until Comet ATLAS sank below the southern horizon, I attempted unsuccessfully to spot the comet. But then, on 25 January, I was outside looking at some cirrus clouds. Behind them, in the southern portion of the sky, there is something else—strange, misshapen. It might have been the tail of Comet ATLAS. I recorded it as a possible sighting.

When Sky & Telescope's June issue appeared with its pictures of the great "ghost comet," meaning that the head had disintegrated, the actual tail looked identical to what I saw on photographs taken just two days earlier than my sighting. I changed my record from "possible" to "probable." Comet ATLAS is the 236th comet I have seen since Comet Ikeya-Seki in 1965.

There was yet a third comet. Comet Swan (C/2025 F2) was discovered in March 2025. The discoverers used the Solar and Hemispheric Observatory spacecraft's SWAN (Solar Wind Anisotropies) instrument. The SWAN instrument has discovered over five thousand comets. I saw this lovely comet on the morning of 10 April 2025. This SWAN instrument aboard SOHO, and SOHO itself, by the way, has discovered more than five thousand comets.

Three wonderful comets over just a few months is unusual, interesting, and fun: But all three have departed. As Hopkins wrote in 1864,

But then her tether calls her; she falls off,
And as she dwindles sheds her smock of gold…
And then goes out into the cavernous dark.
So I go out; my little sweet is done:
I have drawn heat from this contagious sun:
To not ungentle death now forth I run."

This pictures shows Eureka, one of my remaining four telescopes and the one I use most for comet hunting. I also use Minerva, a 15cm telescope.

The Sky This Month

Rick Wagner

Any night of the week can offer up a broad range of viewing wonders. RASC KC Past President Rick Wagner keeps an eye on the sky for us each month, sharing some of the best viewing opportunities as well as timings to catch your favourite night sky target at its best.

The Skies in June

01 Jun – Venus at Greatest Elongation West
01 Jun - crescent Moon just 3/4º N of Regulus
03 Jun – First Quarter Moon
11 Jun – Full Moon (03:44EDT) just 17º above the southern horizon
16 Jun – Titan's shadow starts to transit Saturn's disk shortly before sunrise
18 Jun – Last Quarter Moon
18 Jun - Mars just 3/4º N of Regulus low in the west after sunset
20 Jun – Summer Solstice (22:42EDT) - longest day of the year and astronomical summer begins in northern hemisphere
24 Jun – Jupiter in conjunction with the Sun
25 Jun – New Moon (06:32EDT)
25 Jun – Extremely thin crescent Moon (less than 15hr old) very low in WNW sky shortly after sunset
26 Jun - thin crescent Moon 5º right of Mercury (mag 0.2) low in the west after sunset
29 Jun - crescent Moon passes just south of Mars during the evening

A Note to My Fellow Kingston Centre Members:

I have been on the executive for some years now and this November I will resign from the Board. As many know I've most recently held the office of Treasurer and that is why I am keen to make my resignation known early. This allows time for someone to think about running for the Board of Directors with a view to taking on that office.

Here are a few points about the job:

- The financial year for the Centre is October 1 to September 30. This means that 2024-2025 will be mostly wrapped up before you take over.
- The Centre books are quite straightforward and I have opted for a simple spreadsheet model rather than an accounting software package that contains too many mysterious operations! If you have accounting experience you may choose a different method, it is up to you.
- The Centre Policy Manual will be updated to reflect current practices and deadlines.
- Previous annual reports are all on file.
- I will be around to help if there are any questions that come up.

Please consider joining your Centre Board of Directors.

Sincerely

Susan Gagnon

Target for Tonight: Ursa Major

Susan Gagnon

The Big Dipper is not just an asterism, it is an open cluster. This was determined as early as 1869 when it was found that many component stars have a common proper motion. While the Dipper is a more easily recognized asterism, the Bear is more representative of the 3.1% of the sky that the constellation occupies. This month we will look at the relationship between visual magnitude and surface brightness to help manage expectations as to what one may be able to see. Test a few of these examples.

M101 is a great start, it forms an almost perfect equilateral triangle with Alkaid and Mizar at its base. From M101, NGC objects 5473 and 5474 are each less than a half degree away.

Object	Magnitude	Surface Brightness	Object size (sec)
M101	8.46	23.97 (14.8)	24 x 23
NGC 5473	11.4	22.60	2 x 1.5
NGC 5474	11.28	21.75	2.4 x 1.6

While the magnitude is a measure of the luminosity of the entire object, as if you swept all the light into a point source it would equal a star of that magnitude. The surface brightness is the opposite. If the light were spread evenly across the whole of the object 1 second square area would represent a star of this diluted magnitude. If you are using Cartes du Ciel these stats are presented for most objects. While I was unable to find details of the CdC calculation of this metric, the huge drop in mag to s.b. suggests that the area of the object is taken from photos and therefore larger than typical view at the eyepiece. Others report a calculation based on the brightest areas only. The Stephen O'Meara estimates in brackets give a more realistic number based on estimates made at the eyepiece. Stars suspected of matching the mag of the object are defocused until the area covered by the star matches the area of the object. I say 'realistic' because I have seen M101, M82 and M81 and I have never seen a mag 22 star.

Other closely situated comparison objects are M81, a large face on galaxy and M82 an irregular galaxy. Extend a line from Phecda to Dubhe a similar distance to M81 and with a slight adjustment you may get both in the same field.

Object	Magnitude	Surface Brightness	Object size (sec)
M81	7.89	22.78 (13.0)	21.6 x 11.3
M82	9.30	22.22 (12.8)	11.0 x 5.1

3 Galaxies on the Bear's Mu/Lambda leg: NGC objects: 3198, 3319, and 3184.

Isolated between the Nu UMa leg of the Bear and Canes Venatici is NGC 3941: within a triangle of 6.4 to 7.5 mag stars (mag 11.45, sb 22.73)

2 galaxies in the Theta leg: NGC 2841 and NGC 3079. Use NGC 3079 to help find Levy List 337: Q0957+561 (This is the only object not in Cartes du Ciel). A double quasar, actually a single quasar viewed twice under the gravitational lensing effect of a faint foreground galaxy. Both images are very faint and difficult to separate. Deep sky Corner provides a great map to locate this object complete with a nice asterism pointing the way. https://www.deepskycorner.ch/obj/qso0957+561.en.php , also see...https://www.skyhound.com/observing/archives/mar/Q0957+0561A.html , where the galaxy NGC 3079 (a Finest NGC obj) points to its location. Also nearby, NGC 3310 which is mag 12.45 but is quite tiny and round so while not 'stellar' the surface brightness drop should not be as extreme.

Megrez provides a starting point for the bulk of the targets in Uma.

M40 is actually a double star, an odd choice for Messier.

NGC 4605, galaxy, mag 10.94

NGC 3958, galaxy (near a much fainter 3963, easily seen in same field).

Double star HD100054. While cross referencing the HD and HIP designations with the Struve (Σ)catalogue is difficult, by RA and Dec this would seem to be Σ 1544 and Sissy Haas, Double Stars for Small Telescopes describes this as 'a bright easy pair in a black background. A peach-white and a blue-white star, mildly unequal that are split by a modest gap'.

Close to Phecda is M109. Locating this object with a good chart is no problem but seeing it is another thing altogether, yet even with my ever limiting suburban skies it was visible last month. If you can locate the string of 3faint stars that border one edge of this galaxy, and you can slide the fov slowly over it and back you will detect a broad faint smudge. Below Phecda there are some NCGs that make a nice cluster: 4157, 4026, 4088. And beside Chi UMa lies NGC 3788.

Below the vessel that is the dipper, between Phecda and Merak there is M108 (galaxy), M97 (owl nebula), and NGCs 3738, 3718, and the double HR4363. This double is Σ1520 and Sissy Hass describes it as 'bright yellow star with a white star beside, attractively close while wide enough to be very easy'.

Terence Desmond Hicks: January 4, 1928 - April 15, 2025

Kevin Kell

Terence Desmond Hicks ()
Lt. Cdr. (Ret'd.) Terence Desmond Hicks passed away peacefully on April 15, 2025, at the Veteran's wing of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, Ontario, at the age of 97.

From: https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/reid/obituaries/terence-desmond-hicks/140650.html

Born on January 4, 1928, in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Terry lived a full life dedicated to service, education, and family. He was predeceased by his parents, Douglas Laidley Hicks and Florence Mabel Hicks (née Nixon), his beloved wife Ruth Elizabeth Hicks (née Redmond), as well as his brother Douglas, and his sisters Claribel and Sheila.

Terry is survived by his two sons, Douglas Hicks and Donald Hicks (Leslie Langdon), and his grandson Colin Hicks (son of Donald and Leslie). He will be dearly missed by many nieces and nephews.

Terry proudly served in the Canadian Navy from 1948 to 1972, with service including as a navigator and navigational instructor on HMCS Ontario (1948-1952) and as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the Royal Military College (1963-1972) until he retired. Following his retirement from the Navy, he joined the Department of Mathematics of Kingston Collegiate Vocational Institute in 1972

He and Ruth joined the RASC Kingston in the late 1970's and Terry was President of the RASC Kingston Centre in 1982, and Ruth was President in 1986-1987.

Terry was also the RASC-KC National Council Representative from 1983-1985

In 1992-1993, he served as the RASC National Treasurer, serving with Peter Broughton (President), David Tindall (Secretary), and Rosemary Freeman (Executive Secretary).

Terry gave many talks to the Kingston Centre over the years. I was only able to find references to these:

1981 April 30 Terry Hicks, "Determining Latitude".

1981 November 12 Terry Hicks, "Calculating the Position of the Sun".
1982 April 30 Terry Hicks presented a well-researched talk on the topic "Finding Your Latitude With Great Precision". It was a delight.
1982 November 12 Terry Hicks, " A Review of the Book: Practical Astronomy with Your Calculator"
1990 July Terry Hicks, "Where will the Sun Set?".
1996 Friday Feb 9th Terry Hicks, "Gregorian Calendars".

I also have a vivid memory of Terry calculating on a blackboard the concept of a leap year and how each correction (every fourth year, but not divisible by 100, etc) brought one closer to either side of the true value of the earth's orbit.. to many decimal places!

Terry was an avid mathematician, a great instructor, a great friend and over all a great guy.

They don't make' 'em like they used to.

We miss you Terry! We miss you Ruth!

Science Rendezvous May, 2025 — Kevin Kell

Greetings!

Science Rendezvous Kingston is a FREE, annual science festival for Southeastern Ontario families hosted by Queen's University.

Our 2025 event will took place Saturday, May 10, from 10 am to 3 pm, at the Slush Puppie Place on The Tragically Hip Way, featuring: 60 booths

RASC-KC participated again this year. We have not been involved every year since 2011 but have been darn close to most of the events.

A big thanks to the volunteers. Bruce, Laurie, Devon, John, Peggy, Rick, Susan, Roger, Kim and myself .

We parked across the street ($12) and started setting up at 08:30. We had a shade tent, 3 tables and 8 chairs that were provided by Science Redezvous.

Notes and thoughts for next year.

Stickers continue to be a big hit in the 3-8 year olds range. Starfinders again a big hit... most of the little ones do not have smartphones yet :)

Moon charts not as popular. We also had some leftover colour pages, mazes, etc. That might still be a popular take home item.

Lunch was provided.. sandwich, fruit, cookie and water.

This is the best outreach event... we don't organize but piggyback and help out someone else's event.

From SciRen:
We're still in the process of gathering final numbers, but I'm happy to share that we had approximately 4,700 visitors throughout the day.

Our location was right next to the entrance/exit and as a result we got the best foot traffic of all of the booths.

Scopes were set out on the road with extension cords from the building (we provided).

We have donated an organizing clear plastic bin to store items in from event to event, stored at our home.

Bringing your own telescope operating comfy chair is a good plan, as well as a cover and rope/bungie cord for when you need to go on a biobreak.

Also recommended to spend some time and go through the event yourself.

1) The shade tent might be nice but most years there are bad winds and the tent quickly becomes a liability. We had to take it down midday. Here's a thought. Lets NOT request the tent next time. If the weather is really bad, we would move indoors.

2) The winds again... We hang poster off the tent at the back and invariably they get blown around, damaged, and cannot actually be looked at.

Suggest: NO Large posters outdoors next year.

3) Table displays. Winds again.. We need to come up with better wind resistant table displays. We brought some rocks and clips but they were not enough.

4) power. the x5 extension cords worked out but there was still a tripping hazard, running children, wagons, strollers, etc.

I would suggest moving to portable battery power for those that can use 12vdc and also 110vac inverters and batteries for others. The Centre should pick up another 1 or 2 batteries for this style of outreach and we should encourage members to get their own as well.

5) signage. We could not find the large centre sign this year but even then, when put on the front of the table, it cannot be seen because of people standing in front. We need some more RASC-KC Centre signage that is smaller perhaps.. ie laminated 8.5"x11" that just have our name and logo and website.. also "Kingston Astronomy Club"

6) I counted my own encounters by having 75 cards at the start and handing them out to each person who stopped, chatted or looked through the Gibbs Dobsonian telescope. I ran out and got another 100 and gave out about 75. So my encounters were around 150. I did shut down several times for lunch, walking around etc.

Most of the telescopes were solar observing.. there was no moon or other target available. I used the RASC-KC Gibbs 6" Dobsonian telescope to allow everyone to handle and touch and move the scope around... mostly looking at the apartment building under construction. This was also a big hit as we normally don't allow the little ones to manhandle the solar scopes.

I took over 100 images of the event, all of its booths, and tried very hard this year to get each volunteer in action. This is the best method at the moment for you to see these images:


LCBO


TICKETS

This month the planets are visible in both the morning and evening. Mercury will be low in the West North West in evening twilight. It will appear best near the middle of the month. Venus will be low in the East in the morning twilight all month. Mars will be high in the West during evening twilight and will set before 1 a.m. Jupiter will be setting in the North West during evening twilight while Saturn will be rising in the East before 2 a.m.

First Quarter Moon will take place on June 2 with the bright star, Spica (Virgo), just to the North on June 6. Full Moon will be June 11. This is sometimes called 'the Trees Fully Leafed'. June 18 is the Last Quarter Moon and Saturn will be visible near each other in the morning sky. June 20 is Summer Solstice. June 25 is New Moon and an hours old Moon may be visible after sunset. On the 26th, Mercury with a thin crescent Moon, Pollux and Castor will be visible close to each other in the West during twilight. Mercury will be hardest to see. Castor and Pollux are bright stars in Gemini.

Stars and planets do look a bit different from each other when you are observing. Stars are a point of light so they appear to twinkle. Planets are spherical and reflect the light of the sun so they have a steady light. Sometimes, if the planet is low on the horizon it will appear to change colour or even size. This is caused by the amount of atmosphere between the object and observer.

Summer Solstice is a very important day in many cultures. For the Northern Hemisphere, it is when the sun appears to rise at its most northernly point. As a result, the sun appears to climb higher in the sky, there are more hours of sunlight and the sun's rays are more intense. The sun has not changed position, Earth's relationship to it has changed. Due to the angle of the axis the Earth rotates on, the Northern Hemisphere is turned toward the sun in summer. The orbit of Earth is almost circular so the difference in distance to the Sun has no effect.

From the point of view of someone on Earth, the sun will appear to rise in the same spot for about three days and then go back toward the south.(The same happens for Sunset) To find the same spot again, you need only mark where you are observing from and where sunrise happened. This is what Stonehenge does in a very elaborate structure. Lines caused by glaciers in the Avenue from the River Avon may be why the henge was placed where it was.

Solstices could be the beginning or end of the year, depending on how you interpreted the daylight hours growing less. In some cultures Solstice was Midsummer. The Norse held bonfires on hilltops to remember the god Baldr who was murdered on Midsummer. Baldr was the much beloved son of Odin and Frigg. His mother had all the plants and animals promise not to hurt Baldr, so for many years the other gods would have fun throwing things at him just to watch how the objects avoided hitting him. Mistletoe was not a plant of the ground and Frigg missed it when she was collecting promises. Loki learned of this and took a sprig of mistletoe to make a lance. He then gave this to Hodr (Baldr's blind twin brother) to throw at Baldr. And this killed Baldr.

There are many stories about the stars. There are 88 official constellations and many of those have a Greek base. But every place on the Earth sees the grouping of stars a little differently. We now call these Asterisms. Some groups have many names — the Sky Hook, the Plow, the Cave and the Big Dipper. There is a grouping called 'the Summer Triangle' (made of three bright stars from three constellations). Asterisms vary in size and importance and cultural significance.

So, find out what your family call the different asterisms and learn their stories. Share them! (Maybe around a Midsummer bonfire?)

May 2025 Meeting Minutes

Elena Zanetti

Wednesday, May 14, 2025
Minutes of the RASC-KC Regular Monthly Meeting

The meeting began at 19:00 EDT with 28 people onsite and 3 on Zoom. Malcolm Park welcomed Kingston Centre members and guests.

The RASC Kingston Centre acknowledges that we are on the traditional homeland of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Huron-Wendat Nations and we thank them for their care and stewardship of these lands.

Announcements: Every Wednesday (except Regular Meeting nights) we have a social on Zoom, to join let us know at Kingston@rasc.ca. The next Astrophotography Session by Zoom will be May 22, on Mosaics. The monthly newsletter, Regulus, current and past issues on our website Kingston.rasc.ca.

Guest Speaker: John Moores, "Daydreaming in the Solar System". Using vignettes taken from his book of the same name, John took us through a journey touching down on planets, the moon, asteroids and comets, experiencing them using our senses, then followed by the science behind the story.

Rick Wagner: Astronomy This Month May 2025
Local Events
12 Apr – Queen's Observatory Open House
03 May – Int'l Astronomy Day
British Astronomical Association Events
04 Jun – BAA Mtg (YouTube 12:00PM)
- Dr. David Boyd – A Spectroscopist's Journey
- Prof Malcolm Fairbairn – Dark energy/dark matter
06 Jun – RAZoom
American Association of Variable Star Observers
15 May – SNEWS Firedrill Info
07 Jun – Exoplanet, Young Stellar Objects, and Solar Observing SIGS in the spotlight
Lennox and Addington Dark Sky Viewing Area
24 May – Astrophotographers Assemble
30 & 31 May – Laser-guided Tour (reg'n req'd)
07 Jun – Up Close with the Moon
North Frontenac Astronomy Park
17 & 18 May – Mars & Jupiter
Sky Events – May
12 May – Full Moon (12:56EDT)
20 May – Last Quarter Moon
22-24 May – watch the thin crescent Moon pass Saturn (mag12.1) Venus (mag -4.5) low in the eastern dawn sky
26 May – very old (18.5 hrs before new) Moon extremely low in ENE just before sunrise
26 May – New Moon (23:02EDT)
28 May - very young (21.5 hrs after new) Moon extremely low in NW just after sunset

Sky Events – May
31 May – Titan's shadow starts to transit Saturn's disk shortly before sunrise
31 May – Venus (mag -4.4) at Greatest Elongation West from the Sun in the dawn sky

Sky Events – June
03 Jun – First Quarter Moon
10 Jun – Arietid meteor shower
11 Jun – Full Moon (03:44EDT)
T CrB
- Well up in evening sky
- Still faint
Major Planets
Jupiter (mag -2.0) very low in the WNW after sunset
Mars (mag 0.7) high in WSW
Saturn (mag 1.1)
Neptune (mag 7.8)
Venus (mag -4.5)
All low in E or ESE at nautical twilight
Mercury (mag -1.6)
Uranus (mag 5.9)
Too close to sun to observe
Conjunctions
29 May – (16955) 1998 KU48 occults UCAC4 354-181493 from Bellrock through Yarker and Centreville to Bath (about 03:20EDT)
Rick shared images of M106, NGC3991 and NGC 3466.

John Criswick reported on his work with the NWNC Dark Sky Project (Narrows Lock/Westport/ Newboro/Chaffeys Lock). Within the next few years, they hope to cover a roughly 42,000 square-kilometre area that includes about 75 towns and townships and more than half a million residents in this region. The goal is to have it declared a Dark Sky Preserve through Dark Sky International.

Bruce Elliott thanked all the volunteers at Science Rendezvous, Kim Hay, Kevin Kell, Susan Gagnon, Laurie Graham, Devin Graham-Anscin, Roger Hill, Rick Wagner, and Peggy and John Hurley with approximately 4,700 in attendance. Thanks was given to Bruce for his leadership. Bruce also shared images from the March 14th lunar eclipse.

We are: website is Kingston.rasc.ca. Facebook is @RASC Kingston Centre. YouTube channel is @RASC Kingston Centre. To join www.secure.rasc.ca/membership. Our next meeting is June 11 at 7:00 pm, our presenter is Jenna Hinds.

Malcolm thanked all for attending and the meeting ended at 20:34 EDT.

About Us

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

The RASC is a national, non-profit, charitable organization devoted to the advancement of astronomy and related sciences. Founded in 1868, The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is Canada's leading astronomy organization, bringing together over 5000 enthusiastic amateurs, educators, and professionals. In addition to many national services, our 30 Centres offer local programs across Canada.

The RASC Kingston Centre

We are Kingston's Astronomy Club, a local centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, that was founded on June 2nd, 1961. We hold monthly meetings, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September to December and March to June via zoom videoconferencing and in person, from 7:00-9:00pm Eastern Time. Meetings are held in January and February, but are available by Zoom only.

- We do public outreach programs in the form of helping the Cubs and Guides, teachers, Science Fairs and many public Education and Public Outreach events.
- We help our members with questions in astronomy and equipment use.
- We hold private observing sessions.
- We hold public sessions with Queen's University Observatory Open House, on the third Saturday of each month, at Ellis Hall, Queen's University. Details can be found at https://www.queensu.ca/observatory/
- We support the local Frontenac, Lennox & Addington County Science Fair (FLASF) with a prize in astronomy.
- We are happy to answer your questions on astronomy.

Board of Directors & Officers for 2024-2025

Directors:

Susan Gagnon, Kim Hay, Roger Hill, John Hurley, Kevin Kell, Malcolm Park, Elena Zanetti

Officers:

President: Malcolm Park
Vice President: Kim Hay
Secretary: Elena Zanetti
Treasurer: Susan Gagnon
Regulus Editor: Roger Hill
Nation Council Representative: John Hurley
Librarian: Kim Hay
Past President: Rick Wagner
Loan Equipment: Kevin Kell
Webmaster: Walter MacDonald
Honourary President: David H. Levy

The **Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Kingston Centre** was provincially incorporated as a Not-For-Profit Corporation in September 2005 and has been a registered Charity with the Canada Revenue Agency since September 2006. Our CRA Registration: 827905720RR0001

Benefits of Membership:

RASC benefits:

- Annual edition of the Observers Handbook
- Bi-monthly RASC Journal (digital)
- Monthly Bulletin of the RASC (digital)

Kingston Centre benefits:

- Monthly Centre Newsletter – Regulus
- Weekly social videoconference chat for members and invited guests.
- On the 2nd Wednesday evening of the month, there are meetings are open to the public: In-person in March to June and September to December at Queens, July and August outdoors at Lake Ontario Park; and two in January and February that are video-conference only.
- Equipment loan program

Front cover image

This is the group of people who helped out with Science Rendezvous in 2025, and who lived to tell the tale!

The photo was taken by Kevin Kell.

It should be noted that this was taken after more than 5 hours of these people being on their feet.