Regulus

Newsletter of the RASC Kingston Centre

Vol. 53 No. 3 March, 2026

In this issue:

President's Report	p. 2
The Editors Keyboard	p. 3
Skyward	p. 4
The Sky This Month	p. 5
Target for Tonight	p. 6
Stuff from Kevin	p. 7
Frontenac News	p. 9
Messier Marathon	p.10
Minutes of the February meeting	p.12
About Us	p.13

Centre Events for February, 2025:

Mar 4: Zoom Social Meeting
Mar 11: Pre-meeting get together at the Portsmouth Tavern, 96 Yonge St. Kingston, ON K7M 1K4
Mar 11: Monthly meeting 7pm at Queens University Room 226, Ellis Hall,
58 University Avenue, Kingston
Mar 18: Zoom Social Meeting
Mar 25: Zoom Social Meeting

President's Report

Malcolm Park

Spring is on its way, and with it comes warmer (ish) evenings under clearing skies. Whether you spent the winter months reading up on deep-sky targets, tinkering with your gear, or just dreaming about warmer nights at the eyepiece, time to clean off those cobwebs.

Galaxy season is another sign of spring. After sunset on spring nights, we get a clear window into deep space — and the galaxies of Virgo and Leo (among others) are waiting. Grab your scope, find a dark sky, and see what you can hunt down.

The big story for me might be comet C/2026 A1 (MAPS) This is a Kreutz sungrazing comet discovered in January 2026 from the Atacama Desert by Alain Maury, Georges Attard, Daniel Parrott, and Florian Signoret — MAPS from their surnames. It's the most distant Kreutz Sungrazer ever discovered. On April 4 it will pass just 160,000 km from the Sun's surface. That's the catch — it could flare into a spectacular naked-eye comet, or the Sun could destroy it entirely.

By late March it should be visible in 8-to-10-inch scopes, though southern hemisphere observers will have a better view. For our latitude it will be a low-horizon challenge near sunset. If it survives perihelion, the show could be remarkable. Worth watching — and worth having your gear ready just in case.

Clear skies!
Malcolm Park
RASC Kingston Centre

Comet Ikeya–Seki, 30 October 1965 showing the full extent of this great comet's tail of some 30 degrees.
Photo by James W. Young (TMO/JPL/NASA) http://www.w7ftt.net/ikeyaseki1.html,
Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=25780380

The Editor's Keyboard

Roger Hill

I mentioned last month that after rebalancing the 'scope, that I had planned to polar align it. However, after testing it, it seemed OK.

Not so! Late in February, with a first quarter moon in the sky, and some high haze, I used APT (AstroPhotography Tool) to do the polar alignment. How it works is to move the telescope to part of the sky east of the meridian and take three images, moving the mount each time, and then figuring out where the pole is after platesolving the three images. It then tells you how far off you are from the North Celestial Pole, and continues to take images every 15 seconds or so, updating how far off it is. It's a lovely routine, and very easy to use. You adjust it in azimuth until it is as close as you can get, and then you do the altitude, adjust in azimuth and then altitude and so on until you're happy.

The problem is that if you start the process from the beginning, it tells you that you are off by an amount that is significantly worse than it reported when you thought you were happy.

So, there has to be something wrong, somewhere. PHD2 will also report that it is not as close as you thought, too, and the guiding is needed, far more than it should be.

So, I tried using the polar alignment routine in PHD2. That seemed to be a bit better, but still not as good as I was craving.

There are a number of programs I have that will also do polar alignment, but I thought I'd give the one in NINA (Nighttime Imaging 'N' Astronomy) a try.

This process involves NINA moving the scope to a point near the North Celestial Pole, and then doing three images followed by platesolving each and moving the scope in Right Ascension only. After this, it displays the error.

Unlike APT, though, NINA's error stayed constant. I got to a point about 9 arc-seconds from the pole, and NINA reported no change if I didn't tough anything. So I had it start again, and the error was the same.

For the final test, I took a 30 second unguided exposure at 1900mm of focal length and got nice round stars. I tried 60 seconds, and nice round stars again. I tried 120 seconds, and again, nice stars. 240 seconds? Finally, there was a little Trailing.

So...as far as I can see, NINA does a better job than APT, and is easier to use than the routing in PHD2.

I could try the routines in other software, but the one in Sharpcap looks very similar to the one in NINA, so I didn't bother.

I'm waiting for another night to try guiding and see what PHD2 has to say, because I'm curious, but two minute exposures at almost 2000mm of focal length seems pretty good to me!

By the time you are reading this, the lunar eclipse will be over.

Clear skies to you!

Roger Hill

Why would I want to write something insulting about Jupiter? After all, Jupiter is the first thing I looked at through a telescope. Only last month I wrote how, when I began searching for comets, I was looking for an activity that did not involve me dealing with other people. I had a few friends as a youngster. Now in my ripe age of 77, I have many good friends, of whom the current editor of Desert Skies is one of my closest. But I still enjoy, more than anything, the idyllic solitude of looking through my telescope, field after field of sky, for a new elusive comet. A related part of that same solitude is looking at the planet Jupiter, which I consider to be a faithful and lifelong friend.

Jupiter and I have been friends since I first looked at it, with Mom and Dad, on 1 September 1960. Since then the planet has never failed to give me an emotional, pathetic look. And thus I introduce that word pathetic. Applied to a person, pathetic could mean a loser. I am pathetic. I do not want to see myself as a loser, but as someone who deals intensely in emotions. Applied to Jupiter, I do not intend for it to be considered a loser of a planet, but rather as a planet that yields always an emotional response in the observer.

Jupiter is pathetic, but not a loser, not insulting. I use the word as a derivative of pathos, an idea from Greco-Roman philosophy. The concept survived all the way into Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, where Brutus exemplifies the stoic, logical personality that is brought to fame at the very end, in Antony's celebrated obituary:

This was the noblest Roman of them all.
All the conspirators save only he,
Did that they did in envy of great Caesar;
He only, in a general honest thought
And common good to all, made one of them.
His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, "This was a man!" (JC.5.5.68-75.)

Pathos alludes to a person's emotions, and it ignites feelings related to those emotions. For my sense, Jupiter is pathetic because it fosters the emotions I felt when I first looked at it. That world is incredibly turbulent; a brief look at the Voyager images from decades ago shows us the roiling of the little clouds as they circle the great Red spot. More important to me, those of us who were alive in 1994 remember the profound effect that the daily addition of big black spots the size of Earth had on that weeping world, as though some cosmic force was pounding the daylights out of the solar system's biggest planet.

Thaxted

According to NASA, my favorite government agency, there is a special musical allusion to this mighty comet's breakup and collision. It is called Thaxted, and on the occasion of NASA's last SL9 press conference late in July, as a way of celebration, they played the Thaxted section of Gustav Holtz's The Planets, from its Jupiter movement. Holtz adapted it in 1921. He loved living in that small English town. In my opinion the Thaxted portion of The Planets, from near the center of the Jupiter movement, is one of the most stunning pieces of music ever written, equivalent to Mozart's Jupiter symphony or Beethoven's Fifth.

The NASA presentation included many images of comet fragments, impacts, and people. Gustav Holtz lived in Thaxted from 1917 to 1925. Holtz wrote the piece as the middle section of the "Jupiter" movement of The Planets. He adapted Thaxted to fit the words of the hymn "I vow to thee, my country":

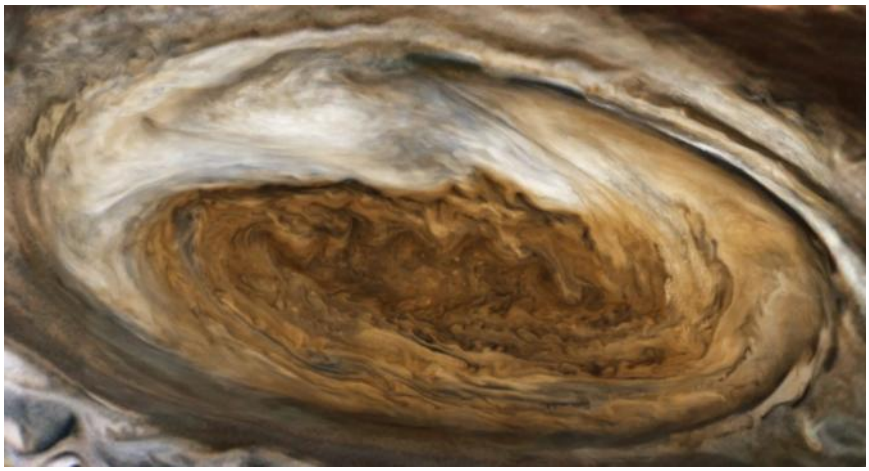
I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no questions, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase, [11]
And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace.

Before returning to pathetic Jupiter, one additional thought about Thaxted and its related hymn; its final line is from Proverbs 3:17. It belongs to a song, "Eitz Chayim", I sing at our synagogue every year on the Day of Atonement:
"Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths are peace."

These words help connect the emotional pathos I feel towards Jupiter with the memorable black spots that graced that world. The dark soot-like spots lasted for months and they dissipated only gradually. As much as my earlier observations of Jupiter stayed in my memory and emotions, watching the comet's impact spots were electrifying; the emotional, pathetic impact on me was unbelievable. These impacts taught us an important lesson. Over the course of cosmic time, Jupiter has been battered by comets and asteroids over and over again, and each time a pathetic or emotional observer might detect planetary tear coming from the eye of Jupiter.

During this particular winter, on each clear night I watch as Jupiter comes up earlier and earlier and I wave at my old friend that has never failed to greet me on a million starlight nights since my teenage years. Its fabulous Red Spot is smaller and fainter than it was on that September evening 66 years ago, and it is a lot smaller than the S-L 9 impact spots. But Jupiter never fails to arouse my deepest emotions. Jupiter's pathos is a part of me, and it always will remain a central part of my life.



My favorite image of Jupiter's Red spot, imaged by Voyager I in 1979.

The Sky This Month: Rick Wagner

Any night of the week offers up a broad range of viewing wonders. A Past President of the Kingston Centre, Rick Wagner keeps an eye on the sky each month, sharing some of the best viewing opportunities as well as timings to catch your favourite night sky target at its best.

Astronomy This Month – March 2026

03 Mar – Full Moon (06:38EST)

03 Mar – !!Sunrise Lunar Eclipse!!

- 03:44EST – penumbral phase begins, moon 30º above WSW horizon
- 04:49EST – umbral phase begins, moon 18.5º above W horizon
- 06:04EST – totality begins, moon 5º above W horizon
- 06:34EST – mid-totality, moon 1º above W horizon
- 06:38EST – moon sets at azimuth 278º
- 06:40EST – sun rises at azimuth 99º

7 Mar – Saturn (mag 1.0) 1º left of 90 times brighter Venus (mag-3.9) very low in W after sunset

08 Mar - Daylight Saving Time starts (02:00EST)

08 Mar – Saturn (mag 1.0) 1º lower left of Venus (mag- 3.9) very low in W after sunset

08 Mar – zodiacal light visible in western sky after evening twilight for next 2 weeks

11 Mar – Last Quarter Moon

11 Mar - gegenschein may be visible from very dark skies near midnight for next 2 weeks

12 Mar - (1027) Aesculapia (mag 15.4) occults star UCAC4 551-044990 (mag 10.1) (23:04EDT)

13 Mar - (222847) 2002 EL85 (mag 19.6) occults star J120321.80+031330.4 (mag 9.6)

18 Mar – New Moon (21:23EDT)

18 Mar - (82) Almene (mag 12.2) occults star TYC 1899-01592-1 (mag 9.5)

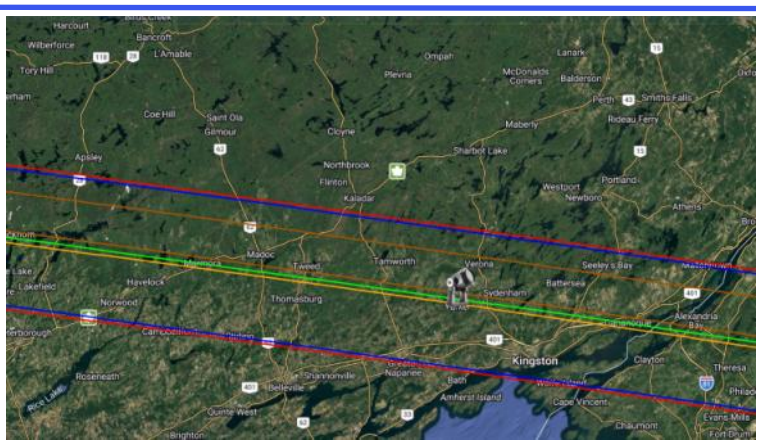
20 Mar – spring equinox – Sun is over the equator, spring begins in Nrn hemisphere (10:46EDT)

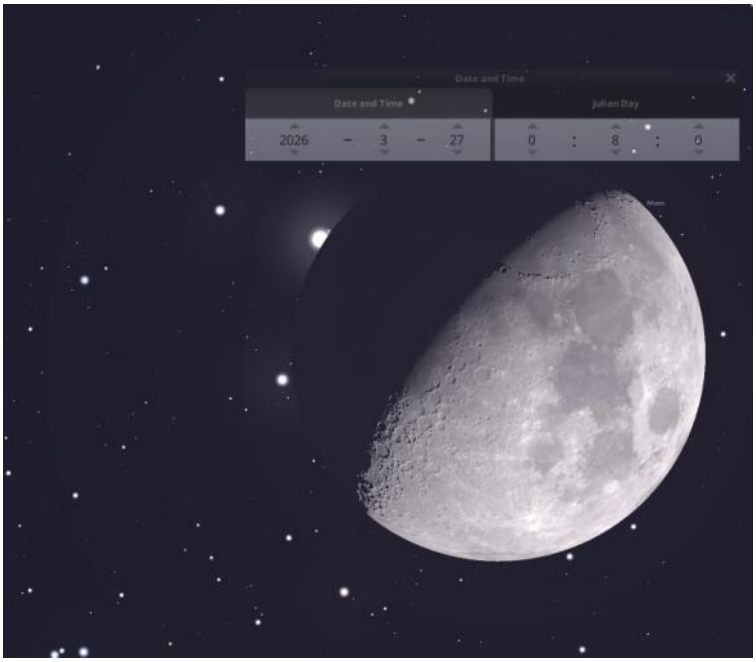
21 Mar - (20) Massalia (mag 8.9) at opposition

25 Mar – First Quarter Moon (15:18EDT)

25 Mar - (15) Eunomia (mag 9.7) at opposition

27 Mar (evening of 26th!) – waxing gibbous Moon occults κ Gem (mag 3.6) Disappearance behind dark limb at 00:08EDT, reappearance from bright limb at 01:10EDT. κ Gem has a mag 9.4 companion which disappears about 10s before κ Gem.





Target for Tonight: Canis Makor

Susan

Orion takes centre stage in winter with so many visual and photographic features but the smaller constellation of Canis Major cannot be ignored when Sirius appears on the scene. The Explore the Universe observing list selects it as a bright star of note in the constellation. It is also a double star system with an 8.44 mag companion that is usually lost in the glare.

145 CMa aka the Winter Albireo is on the Double Star list and is noted for a colour contrast more striking and a closer pairing than the summer favourite.

The Finest NGC list includes NGC2359, better known as Thor's Helmet. This is a very popular astrophotography target as well as there seems no end to the layers of detail that can be coaxed out of the gas and dust bubble surrounding a Wolf-Rayet star.

There is no Deep Sky Challenge for CMa so the required object list is short. However, as usual there are many other objects in the area that are potential targets of interest for one reason or another. Some of the open clusters are faint and blend into the background a bit but you may try NGC 2360. At mag 7.6 it is a very tight cluster. Two galaxies to check out are NGC 2207(mag 11.5/intermediate spiral) and NGC 2293 (mag 11.7/lenticular galaxy). Each of these are examples of colliding galaxies, 2207+IC2163 and 2293+2292. Can the separate bright cores of the colliding galaxies be detected visually or only photographically?

Object	Description	RA	Dec	Mag
NGC 2362	Open Cluster, and on the Levy list	7hr 19'	-24º 57'	4.1 brightest of ~40 stars, a compact arrangement of ~7' of diameter
M 41	Open Cluster	6hr 46'	-20º 45'	Large cluster good binocular target, almost naked eye at mag 4.89
Sirius	Bright star and the constellation for ETU	6hr 45'	-16º 44'	-1.4!
145 CMa	HR 2764 is on the Double Star list	7hr 15'	-23º 19'	5 and 7
NCG 2359	Bright Nebula	7hr 19'	-13º 14	Mag 11.45

NGC2359 from Mark Deslaurier, February 5, 2024
Stack of 68 frames, 544 seconds of exposure (8 seconds each).

NGC2359 from Stephen Craig, January 5, 2024.

Stuff from Kevin

Kevin Kell

Observatory designs pt1. - Fold down roof

There are a great many different designs for observatories. I will attempt to go through a few of them and make comments on the various pros and cons , to help you decide what type you may wish to build in the future.

Part 1 - fold-down roof
Part 2- roll off building
Part 3 - roll off roof
Part 4 - Dome style

This is the SCGO Serenity Mark 1 observatory. About the most minimal size and cost, a 4'x4'x4' cube.

This was built with 2x3 lumber, 24" on centre and Oriented strand board (OSB). A small 100mm Schmidt-Cass telescope on a Meade autostar mount and tripod. The two parts of the roof folded down onto side supports. The building was supported by 4 deck blocks on gravel.

Pros:

- Extremely low cost to build
- It did protect the telescope mount and small laptop computer

Cons:

- Not nearly enough room for visual observing, imaging only.
- Not nearly enough room to work inside. To complete a visual two or three star alignment of the mount, one had to contort themselves inside to use the eyepiece (as an imaging camera at the time had too much magnification and was useless in targeting/pointing a star)
- Because the tripod was on the floor, any movement or stepping into the observatory deflected the telescope pointing.
- The roof slope was not enough to have snow clear itself, so plastic was added as a covering over the white paint OSB.
- The roof halves were still pretty heavy and a rope was needed to open them up, catch them and gently settle on the supports.

After a few years the cons outweighed the pros more than enough to renovate it into a roll off building (next article).

Stuff from Kevin (Continued)

The kingston.rasc.ca website is now live.

Most of the bugs have been found and fixed but I know there are still far more.

1. We changed platforms from Drupal to Wordpress as we were stuck with a deprecated version of Drupal and attempts to upgrade that failed. At the same time we moved away from the Hosting Provider who overcharged in US dollars, to a lower cost Canadian Hosting Provider.
2. Content was migrated across using website building/ migration tools and it looks to have done not a bad job at all.
3. Old URL links that may have been used in the past are now toast. Ie for the latest version of Regulus, the direct link is not there. Rather go to the Regulus collection page at:
   https://kingston.rasc.ca/Regulus/
   and choose the issue from there. The same goes for other publications such as the Annual Reports, the Annual Member Image Galleries, etc.
4. This host supports mobile devices as well, so smartphones and tablets should be presented with a very nice interface!

A big thanks to our Prez, Malcolm Park, who did all of the heavy lifting on this migration.

Please contact me (Kevin) if you:

- spot anything broken;
- have ideas for more content;
- etc.

There is no member only content at this time so website member accounts are not needed... yet.

We will be holding a wordpress editing training session for Board members in the near future, to allow them to add content as needed.

This month all the naked eye visible planets will be seen at some point during the month. Mercury will be in the ESE in the early morning twilight, Venus will be low in the W during evening twilight. Mars is coming around from the far side of the sun and will be visible in the ESE morning twilight late in the month. Jupiter will be high in the S all month, will transit before 9 and set around 4 am. Saturn will be low in the W during twilight early in the month. Hopefully we are clear for the conjunction of the planets on Feb 28th.

If you want to try to see Uranus, it will be just below the Pleiades in Taurus all month. You will need strong binoculars or a small telescope. March is a good time to try to see some of the Messier objects, too, Most of them are visible if you stay up all night! That means the summer constellations are rising in the east before Sunrise gets too bright to see them. Equinox is also this month, so zodiacal light (triangular glow in the E or W before and after Sun rises or sets) and Gegenschein may be visible. Gegenschein is an oval brightening directly opposite from the Sun). This is a challenge to see, but I have seen it in local skies.

March 2 has the star Regulus (brightest star in Leo) just S of the Moon. On the 3rd, there is a full Moon and a Lunar Eclipse. This Full Moon is called the 'Snow Blinding Moon'. The eclipse will begin in the early morning hours and reach the darkest part as the Sun rises. Could be pretty dramatic. Well worth taking a camera with you.

On March 7, Mercury will be in inferior conjunction (passing between the Earth and the Sun on the same side as Earth). On the 10th, Jupiter will be Stationary, the Moon at apogee (furthest from us) and Antares, the brightest star in Scorpius, the heart of Scorpius, will be just N of the Moon. This is a red star so see if you can see the colour.

On the 11th, it is last Quarter Moon, gegenschein could be visible in the S over the next two weeks, as Moonlight will not be 'washing it out'. If you have a telescope, there will be a double shadow crossing on Jupiter in the evening. The Lunar Curtis X will be visible on the 12th and on the 17th Mercury will be N or the Moon and Mars will be S of the Moon. New Moon is on the 18th. Mercury is stationary on the 19th and look for a young crescent Moon in the W soon after Sun set. The 20th is Spring Equinox and Venus will be S of the Moon.

Equinox is the middle of the Solar year. Day and Night are equal in length, which is what the term means in Latin. Many cultures marked this important date with monuments. El Castillo at Chichen Itza is angled so the light from the stairs makes the feathered serpent climb to the top and more. Solstices are also venerated. The pyramids in Egypt are aligned for the Sun and certain stars. Many henges in the United Kingdom have their secrets.

Keep your eyes open for comets near the end of the Month. The Atlas comet that came from outer space, has passed by the Sun as near as it will, and it seems to be brightening a bit. Most likely only visible to Southern hemisphere viewers. Comet 2026 A1 (MAPS) might turn into something really spectacular. It is part of a group of comets that have produced very bright examples. This is a Kreutz Sungrazer, which means it is part of what was once a very large comet that broke apart when it came too close to the Sun. The brightest comets from the last three centuries have been part of this group. They still come very close to the Sun, grazing is an apt description. Some break into several smaller comets, but, if it survives its dive around the sun, it could be daylight visible.

Clear Skies.

Messier Marathon list

Roger Hill

I'm not sure where the term "Messier Marathon" came from, but I remember the phrase showing up when John Dobsons "light buckets" came into fashion, and all of a sudden, all the Messier objects became relatively easy to see. Some smart person realized that is was possible to see all of them in a single night. However, it required careful planning.

I came across this list almost 20 years ago, when I was contemplating an attempt at the list. I realized that none of my usual observing sites were up to the task, though. Trees and other objects would get in the way at all of them. Some, particularly the first and last few objects had to contend with twilight, low surface brightness adding to the problem of a bright sky.

Since there are several people in Kingston with good observing sites, I thought I'd publish the list.

Good luck to all who make the attempt!

Early Evening Objects

Sighted?	M #	Constellation	Type	Rating
	77	Cetus	Galaxy	Difficult
	74	Pisces	Galaxy	Difficult
	33	Triangulum	Galaxy	Difficult
	31	Andromeda	Galaxy	Easy!
	32	Andromeda	Galaxy	Difficult
	110	Andromeda	Galaxy	Difficult
	52	Cassiopeia	Open Cluster	Medium
	103	Cassiopeia	Open Cluster	Medium
	76	Perseus	Planetary Nebula	Medium
	34	Perseus	Open Cluster	Easy!
	45	Taurus	Open Cluster	Easy!
	79	Lepus	Globular Cluster	Medium
	42	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	Easy!
	43	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	Easy!
	78	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	Medium
	1	Taurus	Supernova Remnant	Difficult
	35	Gemini	Open Cluster	Easy!
	37	Auriga	Open Cluster	Medium
	36	Auriga	Open Cluster	Medium
	38	Auriga	Open Cluster	Medium
	41	Canis Major	Open Cluster	Easy!
	93	Puppis	Open Cluster	Medium
	47	Puppis	Open Cluster	Medium
	46	Puppis	Open Cluster	Medium
	50	Monoceros	Open Cluster	Medium
	48	Hydra	Open Cluster	Medium
	44	Cancer	Open Cluster	Easy!
	67	Cancer	Open Cluster	Medium

Ursa Major, Leo, etc.

Sighted?	M 3	Constellation	Type	Rating
	95	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult
	96	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult
	105	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult
	65	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult
	66	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult
	81	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Medium
	82	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Medium
	97	Ursa Major	Planetary Nebula	Difficult
	108	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Difficult
	109	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Difficult
	40	Ursa Major	Double Star	Difficult
	106	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Medium
	94	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Medium
	63	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Medium
	51	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Medium
	101	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Medium
	102	Draco	Galaxy	Difficult
	53	Coma Berenices	Globular Cluster	Medium
	64	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Medium
	3	Canes Venatici	Globular Cluster	Medium
	68	Hydra	Globular Cluster	Difficult
	83	Hydra	Galaxy	Difficult

Messier Marathon list

Roger Hill

The Virgo Cluster

Sighted?	Object	Constellation	Type	Rating
	98	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Medium
	99	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Medium
	100	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Medium
	85	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Medium
	84	Virgo	Galaxy	Medium
	86	Virgo	Galaxy	Medium
	87	Virgo	Galaxy	Medium
	89	Virgo	Galaxy	Difficult
	90	Virgo	Galaxy	Difficult
	88	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Difficult
	91	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Difficult
	58	Virgo	Galaxy	Medium
	59	Virgo	Galaxy	Medium
	60	Virgo	Galaxy	Medium
	49	Virgo	Galaxy	Medium
	61	Virgo	Galaxy	Medium
	104	Virgo	Galaxy	Medium

After Midnight

Sighted?	Object	Constellation	Type	Rating
	5	Serpens	Globular Cluster	Medium
	13	Hercules	Globular Cluster	Easy!
	92	Hercules	Globular Cluster	Medium
	57	Lyra	Planetary Nebula	Medium
	56	Lyra	Globular Cluster	Difficult
	29	Cygnus	Open Cluster	Medium
	39	Cygnus	Open Cluster	Medium
	27	Vulpecula	Planetary Nebula	Easy!
	71	Sagitta	Globular Cluster	Medium
	107	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Medium
	12	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Medium
	10	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Medium
	14	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Medium
	9	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Medium

Scorpius, Sagittarius and the final few

Sighted?	Object	Constellation	Type	Rating
	4	Scorpius	Globular Cluster	Easy!
	80	Scorpius	Globular Cluster	Medium
	19	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Medium
	62	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Medium
	6	Scorpius	Open Cluster	Medium
	7	Scorpius	Open Cluster	Easy!
	11	Scutum	Open Cluster	Easy!
	26	Scutum	Open Cluster	Difficult
	16	Serpens	Open Cluster & Nebula	Easy!
	17	Sagittarius	Diffuse Nebula	Easy!
	18	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy!
	24	Sagittarius	Star Cloud w/open cluster	Easy!
	25	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy!
	23	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy!
	21	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy!
	20	Sagittarius	Diffuse Nebula	Easy!

Sighted?	Object	Constellation	Type	Rating
	8	Sagittarius	Diffuse Nebula	Easy!
	28	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Easy!
	22	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Easy!
	69	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
	70	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
	54	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
	55	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
	75	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
	15	Pegasus	Globular Cluster	Difficult
	2	Aquarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
	72	Aquarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
	73	Aquarius	Open Cluster	Difficult
	30	Capricornus	Globular Cluster	Difficult

Minutes of the Regular meeting Elena Zanetti

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
Minutes of the RASC-KC Regular Monthly Meeting

The meeting, held by Zoom, began at 7:03 pm. Malcolm Park welcomed Kingston Centre members and guests with 21 virtually attending. Other than meeting nights, we host Wednesday night Zoom Socials, with an invitation posted to the Centre's email list. Our monthly newsletter, Regulus, can be found on the RASC Kingston Centre website https://kingston.rasc.ca/

Rick Wagner: Astronomy this Month February 2026

Local Events
12 Feb – QUARG: Gibwa Musoke – Cosmic Ray Acceleration
14 Feb – Queen's Obsy Open House
26 Feb – Hannah Banks – Dark Matter
05 Mar – Eric Blaufuss – IceCube Observatory
08 Mar – Daylight Saving Time starts (02:00EDT)

Sky Events – February
12 Feb – gegenschein visible high in the S at midnight from very dark skies
17 Feb – New Moon (07:01EST)
17 Feb – comet C/2024 E1 (Wierzchos) (mag 7?) visible for the next few days low in SW starting about an hour after sunset
18 Feb – very thin 36hr old crescent Moon 1 degree below Mercury (mag -0.5) very low in WSW during evening twilight, Venus (mag -3.9) 7 degrees below
19 Feb – Mercury (mag -0.4) at greatest elongation east low in W during evening twilight, Venus (mag -3.9) 8 degrees below
20 Feb – Neptune (mag 7.8) 0.8 degrees right of Saturn (mag 1.0) low in W at end of evening twilight (<1 degree from 13-26 Feb)
23 Feb – Moon transits the northern edge of Pleiades, occultations of several bright stars on dark limb (22:15EST)
24 Feb – First Quarter Moon

Sky Events – March
03 Mar – Full Moon (06:38EST) - !!Lunar Eclipse!!
07&08 Mar – Saturn (mag 1.0) 1 degree from Venus (mag -3.9)
08 Mar – zodiacal light
11 Mar – Last Quarter Moon

Comets
24P/Schaumasse (mag 9) – S of Arcturus, rises about midnight, transits nautical dawn
29P/Schwassmann-Wachmann (mag 13) -xtrm Srn Leo, rises mid-evening, transits after midnight

T CrB Rises before midnight, transits at nautical dawn, still faint

Major Planets
Venus (mag -3.9) and Mercury (mag -1.3) emerging into evening sky
Saturn (mag 1.0) & Neptune (mag 7.8) low in WSW after sunset
Uranus (mag 5.7) transits early evening
Jupiter (mag -2.7) transits near midnight, up all night
Mars (mag 1.1) too close to Sun

Small Bodies
11 Feb – (441) Bathilde (mag 13.3) occults TYC 1275-01275-1 (mag 9.1) (23:57EST)
20 Feb – asteroid (15878) 1996 XC3 occults UCAC4571-046413 (mag 10.8) (03:30EST)
23 Feb – asteroid (8) Flora occults UCAC4 350-128765 (mag 9.0) during morning twilight (06:17EST)
27 Feb – (7) Iris (mag 8.7) at opposition

A survey is being taken by Steven Burr from Belleville and through his school in Wales looking for participants who take images of the night sky. The link will be posted on the chat list.

Mike Haines will be our representative for Fall'N'Stars. May 15, 16 & 17, Belleville is hosting their spring star party, South Bay Under the Stars. The registration form is on the Belleville Centre website.

Bruce Elliott shared images of the Sun, Moon, Orion, Crab and Running Man Nebulae, Jupiter and its moons, Uranus, Cigar Galaxy taken with the Centre's SeeStar 50 from the loan program. FL&A Science Fair in person judging is March 26. Please contact Bruce if you would like to participate in vetting the projects put forward.

Meeting speakers are always welcome from a group member. Please contact Malcolm if interested.

If interested in borrowing the Centre's SeeStar 50, please contact Kevin K.

Our monthly newsletter, the Regulus, has been published, thanks to our editor, Roger Hill.

Our website is Kingston.rasc.ca and our Facebook Group is @RASC Kingston Centre Group. YouTube Channel is @RASC Kingston Centre where this meeting will be posted. Join us at www.secure.rasc.ca/membership.

Next meeting, in person at Queen's, Ellis Hall Room 226, on March 11, 7 pm. Our speaker will be Laurie Graham.

Malcolm thanked all for attending and the meeting ended at 8:41 pm.

About Us

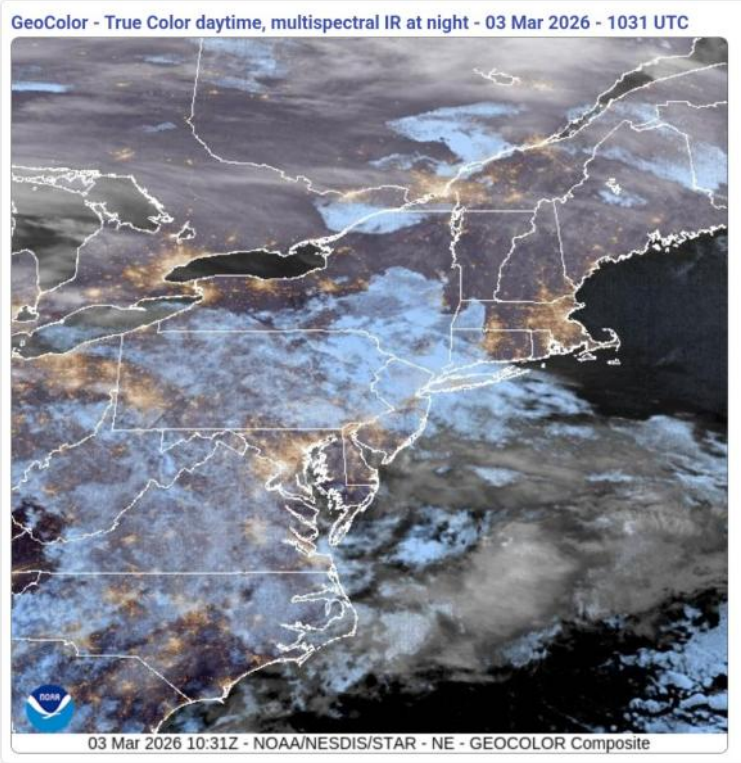
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

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 2025-2026

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Facebook Team	Kim Hay
Fall'N'Stars KC coordinator	TBD
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

Lunar eclipse image from Kevin Kell.

Back page image

Cloud image provided by Roger Hill, who was underneath that cloud west of Montreal and south of Ottawa