



FROM THE EYEPIECE BY: MARK KAYE

Hello everyone. I had hoped to have all sorts of observations to report on. Instead, I have only a handful of night's worth. Mars has been a treat. The night of July 16th, the Moon slipped within a few minutes of Mars and the night was one of those uncharacteristic nights where it cleared at sunset and clouded over after sunrise. It was an entirely pleasant night, warm, but without bugs and a lazy celestial event carrying on. With Mars being so close to the Moon after sunrise, it was an easy feat to follow Mars in the daylight sky until both objects moved behind the trees in the west after eight in the morning. Every time I get a chance, I look at Mars, because some of the best views come on nights otherwise unsuitable for observing. The best night, as far as detail has been concerned, was the morning of August eighth. This has been the only occasion when I could run up to department store telescope power levels of 508X and still be able to see a sharp image. Hopefully, when Mars is closest, there will be some fine nights so that everyone can get out and have a good look.

But that is about it. Even the night of the power outage was not a good night for observing here. Haze and clouds and then the rising Moon made the night skies seem pretty much normal despite the lack of streetlight.

I attended the Vancouver General Assembly of the RASC held over the last weekend of June. This was the 100th anniversary of the Royal charter and the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Iona Campagnolo, officially opened the proceedings on behalf of the Queen.

As meetings go, this was a quiet one. We voted to accept a brand new centre into the RASC, the Belleville Centre. That makes a total of 27 centres across the land. There is not going to be a price increase in membership this year as the society is in good financial standing. We approved the production of a fifth edition of the Beginners Observer's Guide (BOG) and it will be expanded, have a nicer cover, include more images and some colour images. A new publication is being created called "Skyways". This will be a publication for helping educators. A budget was approved and it is hoped that publication of the first edition will happen in the fall.

Four positions come up for renewal on the executive of national council: President, two Vices and Treasurer. Nominations must be in for these positions before the

end of April. The positions will be filled at the St. John's, NF, G.A. The 2005 G.A. will be held in May and be hosted by the Okanagan Centre.

We approved changes made to the Calgary and Moncton centre's by-laws. This means that Calgary will be opting into the membership system run by national, leaving Toronto centre as the only hold out to the flexible membership year system.

At the 02-10 meeting, a new insurance scheme was suggested by Toronto centre where all centres would be blanketed by the coverage of national at about a third of the cost. This turned out to be too good to be true. Due to changes in the insurance industries, what would have flown not even a year ago will not fly now and individual centres are going to have to continue getting insurance independently at their present costs.

The membership and promotions committee is playing with an idea to make the cover sheet for "Journal" and "Sky News" mailings into a multi-use printing. There will be six different cover sheets produced. The large part of the sheet will be the address, but a section on each sheet will be used to give each member a membership card, promote upcoming events, advertise the G.A. or promote upcoming events and sky happening. It is actually quite a clever idea that will take a sheet of paper that does one thing and cover a lot of useful ground.

At the annual general meeting, three bylaw amendments were voted upon. The Public Education and the Observing Committees had their status changed from special to standing committees. This means that these committees become part of the permanent committee structure, giving votes to the chairs at national meetings. A vote on whether or not appointed positions should be allowed to vote on council was discussed and this motion did not carry so committee chairs can still vote at council.

Finally, at the second council meeting, a committee was struck to overhaul the proxy process. It is hoped that a firm proxy policy can be come up with to hopefully end the recriminations caused by the use or ill use of proxies at general meetings.

I am sure that I have missed something, but I have gone on long enough as it is. I look forward to the fall and a new slate of centre meetings. September's meeting will be our annual member's night, so bring out a sample and talk about what you have done with our wonderful hobby over the last year. October's meeting will be our annual general meeting. Please consider

joining our council and helping out with the future of our fine centre.

Clear skies!
MK

STARFEST WRAP UP

By Grant Maguire

It appears as if Starfest 2003 is going to be another success for the North York Astronomical Association. Many RASC Hamilton Centre members attended this event, including Steve Barnes, Derek Baker, Ken Lemke, Roger Hill, Bruce Weber, John Gauvreau, Gordon Bulger, Bert Rhebergen, Scott Barrie, Tina Coppolino, David and Blanca Boci and myself. There

Beginners Observing Group

If you are interest in the Beginners Observing Group contact Ken Lemke by e-mail at cfs@worldchat.com (day time) or klemke@attcanada.ca (night time or week-ends). His phone number is 905-634-5168 (day time) or 905-639-5127 (night time and week-ends) or Gary Colwell at glcolwell@sympatico.ca

September General Meeting

Please remember that Thursday September 4 is our General Meeting and the program for the evening is "members night" Bring along any astronomical photos that you took during the summer and share them with us.

Explore the Universe

"Explore the universe" is available to all RASC members especially beginners.

What is Explore the Universe? Explorer the Universe is an observing certificate program. This program is designed to provide the observer with a well-rounded introduction to the night sky.

Why should you get involved? Using this observing program is an excellent way to gain knowledge and experience in astronomy. This program will help introduce you to amateur astronomy and prepare you for other more challenging certificate programs such as *Messier* and *Finest NGC*.

Do I need a telescope to participate? No.

Binoculars are an ideal first observing instrument and this program has been designed so that it can be completed using binoculars alone. While a telescope can show many objects on this list in more detail, experienced observers always have a pair of binoculars handy.

Will I need a guide or a star atlas? Explore the Universe Observing Certificate program can be used in conjunction with *The Beginner's Observing Guide*. This

may have been others that I did not bump into, my apologizes.

We were blessed with 5 nights of beautiful clear skies, and one evening with a very powerful thunderstorm. I personally had a great time camping along side Roger Hill and Ken Lemke. I spent most evenings locating deep sky objects on the Messier List while taking time to observe Mars. The creamy glow of the Milky Way was a special treat that we are not given at the Hamilton Centre Observatory. We were also treated with three nights of Aurora Borealis. Anyone who is interested in a camping long weekend with beautiful dark skies should consider Starfest on next years vacation schedule.

publication provides a clear introduction to observing techniques. In addition you will need a star map or atlas to assist you with locating a number of objects in this program. The Leslie V. Powis Observatory, library has many star maps and atlases that you can sign out or use while you are at the observatory.

How is RASC – Hamilton Centre going to assist me? The Hamilton Centre is applying to be a *Local Certification Centre*. This will allow us to locally administer the program with our members, evaluate the progress of participants, lend assistance to participants, and award their observing certificates at general meetings.

What do I need to get started with Explore the Universe?

- A list of observing objectives and objects that the user must complete.
- A submission form for forwarding to the Hamilton Centre.
- Sample logbook pages and guidelines for observations.

These documents are available in hardcopy by contacting Grant Maguire at email gmaquire@lara.on.ca Phone number (905) 639-8926. These documents are also available for download in PDF format by visiting the RASC website at <http://rasc.ca/observing/page2.html>. If you require ADOBE reader to read PDF files it can be downloaded at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>.

If you require further information or assistance please contact me in the evenings.

Annual General Meeting

By: Grant Maguire

As stipulated by our by-laws our Annual General Meeting will be held in the month of October. This years' Annual meeting is on Thursday October 2, 2003 at 8:00 pm at the Hamilton Steam and Technology Museum. A new slate of directors will be elected at this meeting. Please take note of the following excerpts from the

Hamilton Centre By-Laws. If you know anybody who is interested or if you are interested in being a board member please use the attached nomination form and mail it to:

RASC Hamilton Centre
Box 1223
Waterdown, ON
L0R 2H0

to be received by the Secretary 10 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

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ARTICLE 5 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5.01 COMPOSITION

The Board shall be composed of twelve Directors, each of whom at the time of election and throughout the term of office must be a voting member of the Centre.

5.03 ELIGIBILITY

Every voting member has the right to stand for election or appointment to the Board provided that the member:

- (i) shall be eighteen years of age or older at the time of election or appointment,
- (ii) shall have been a member of the for one year or more at the time of election or appointment.

5.04 NOMINATIONS

Any member of the Centre may make nominations to the Board. Such nominations shall be submitted by the member to the Secretary of the Centre in writing at least ten (10) days before the annual meeting, and shall contain the name of the nominator and the written consent to the nomination by the nominee.

5.05 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

- (1) Where there are more than twelve nominations for the Board, the Secretary shall prepare a ballot listing in alphabetical order all eligible nominees

for which an election must be held at the annual meeting. A ballot will be distributed at the annual meeting to each voting member of the Centre in attendance or represented by proxy.

- (2) All marked ballots shall be counted by two scrutineers appointed by the members. The twelve candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting.

- (3) Where there are no more than twelve nominations the Board shall be declared elected by acclamation.

5.06 TERM OF OFFICE

- (1) Each Director shall be elected to hold office until the next annual meeting.
- (2) The whole Board shall be retired at each annual meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election if otherwise qualified.

8.03 ANNUAL MEETINGS

- (1) The Centre shall hold an Annual Meeting of its members in the month of October.
- (2) At every Annual Meeting the report of the Directors and the Financial Statements for the Centre's previous fiscal year shall be submitted for adoption by the members.
- (3) If required, the auditors shall be appointed for the ensuing year and the remuneration of the auditors shall be fixed.
- (4) The election for the Board of Directors shall be held at every Annual Meeting.
- (5) At least ten (10) days before the date of the Annual Meeting the Secretary shall notify each voting member of the Annual Meeting specifying its time, place and agenda.

- (6) At any Annual Meeting of the Centre only such business as is specified in the agenda shall be conducted.

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Hamilton Centre Logo Clothing

Ken Lemke has generously offered to coordinate the sale of various clothing items with a very distinct Hamilton Centre Logo on them. The logo is shown as the header on page one of Orbit. Here is a list of the clothing items and our introductory special prices. If you are interested in ordering items please contact Ken Lemke by e-mail at cfs@worldchat.com (day time) or klemke@attcanada.ca (night time or week-ends). His phone number is 905-634-5168 (day time) or 905-639-5127 (night time and week-ends). To make the ordering process as easy as possible we are requesting that you pay for your garments upon ordering with a cheque payable to "RASC Hamilton Centre"

Item	Style Number	Price
Ladies North End Fleece Vest	ASH70086	\$39.00
Denim Shirt Long Sleeve	WD7120	\$36.00
Sweat Top "Heavy Cotton"	WD18430-D	\$30.00
Men's Micro Plus Lined Wind shirt	ASH88001	\$53.00
High Point Golf Shirt	WD5600-01	\$34.00

Men's Extreme Cotton Long Sleeve Pique Golf Shirt	ASH85017	\$33.00
Ladies Extreme Fashion Cut Pique Golf Shirt	ASH75008	\$27.00
Men's North End Fleece Vest	ASH88005	\$49.00
Elements Polyester Fleece Toque	ASH441006	\$16.00
Elements Polyester Fleece Headband	ASH441007	\$16.00
Gildan Long Sleeve T-Shirt	WD2400	\$23.00

2003 Sidewalk Astronomy Program

Here are the dates for this years Program: Friday September 5, 2003 Friday October 3, 2003

September 2003

Hamilton, Ontario

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Sun Rise: 6:42am Sun Set: 7:56pm Moon Rise: 12:28pm Moon Set: 10:40pm	2 Sun Rise: 6:43am Sun Set: 7:54pm Moon Rise: 1:45pm Moon Set: 11:14pm	3 Sun Rise: 6:44am Sun Set: 7:52pm Moon Rise: 3:01pm Moon Set: 11:56pm First Qtr: 7:35am	4 General Meeting - Steam and Tech Museum Sun Rise: 6:45am Sun Set: 7:51pm Moon Rise: 4:12pm Moon Set: none	5 Sidewalk Astronomy Sun Rise: 6:47am Sun Set: 7:49pm Moon Rise: 5:14pm Moon Set: 12:49am	6 Sun Rise: 6:48am Sun Set: 7:47pm Moon Rise: 6:05pm Moon Set: 1:51am
7 Sun Rise: 6:49am Sun Set: 7:45pm Moon Rise: 6:45pm Moon Set: 2:59am	8 Sun Rise: 6:50am Sun Set: 7:43pm Moon Rise: 7:17pm Moon Set: 4:11am	9 Sun Rise: 6:51am Sun Set: 7:42pm Moon Rise: 7:43pm Moon Set: 5:23am	10 Sun Rise: 6:52am Sun Set: 7:40pm Moon Rise: 8:06pm Moon Set: 6:32am Full Moon: 11:37am	11 Board Meeting - Observatory Sun Rise: 6:53am Sun Set: 7:38pm Moon Rise: 8:26pm Moon Set: 7:39am	12 Public Observing - Observatory Sun Rise: 6:54am Sun Set: 7:36pm Moon Rise: 8:46pm Moon Set: 8:43am	13 Sun Rise: 6:55am Sun Set: 7:35pm Moon Rise: 9:06pm Moon Set: 9:46am
14 Sun Rise: 6:56am Sun Set: 7:33pm Moon Rise: 9:27pm Moon Set: 10:49am	15 Sun Rise: 6:57am Sun Set: 7:31pm Moon Rise: 9:52pm Moon Set: 11:52am	16 Sun Rise: 6:58am Sun Set: 7:29pm Moon Rise: 10:20pm Moon Set: 12:55pm	17 Sun Rise: 7:00am Sun Set: 7:27pm Moon Rise: 10:55pm Moon Set: 1:58pm	18 Sun Rise: 7:01am Sun Set: 7:26pm Moon Rise: 11:37pm Moon Set: 2:58pm Last Qtr: 2:03pm	19 Sun Rise: 7:02am Sun Set: 7:24pm Moon Rise: none Moon Set: 3:54pm	20 Sun Rise: 7:03am Sun Set: 7:22pm Moon Rise: 12:28am Moon Set: 4:44pm
21 Sun Rise: 7:04am Sun Set: 7:20pm Moon Rise: 1:28am Moon Set: 5:26pm	22 Sun Rise: 7:05am Sun Set: 7:18pm Moon Rise: 2:35am Moon Set: 6:01pm	23 Sun Rise: 7:06am Sun Set: 7:17pm Moon Rise: 3:47am Moon Set: 6:31pm	24 Sun Rise: 7:07am Sun Set: 7:15pm Moon Rise: 5:02am Moon Set: 6:58pm	25 Sun Rise: 7:08am Sun Set: 7:13pm Moon Rise: 6:17am Moon Set: 7:22pm New Moon: 10:10pm	26 Public Observing - Observatory Sun Rise: 7:09am Sun Set: 7:11pm Moon Rise: 7:33am Moon Set: 7:46pm	27 Sun Rise: 7:11am Sun Set: 7:09pm Moon Rise: 8:51am Moon Set: 8:12pm
28 Sun Rise: 7:12am Sun Set: 7:08pm Moon Rise: 10:10am Moon Set: 8:40pm	29 Sun Rise: 7:13am Sun Set: 7:06pm Moon Rise: 11:30am Moon Set: 9:13pm	30 Sun Rise: 7:14am Sun Set: 7:04pm Moon Rise: 12:50pm Moon Set: 9:53pm				

Annual General Meeting – Thursday October 2, 2003

* NOMINATION FORM *

Nominator

I, (print) _____, being a member in good standing of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Hamilton Centre, do here-by nominate (print) _____ for election to the Board of Directors of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Hamilton Centre, above election to be carried out at the Annual Meeting.

Signature of nominator

Dated.

Nominee

I, (print) _____, being a member in good standing of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Hamilton Centre and being at least 18 years of age, do hereby accept my nomination to the Board of Directors of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Hamilton Centre.

Signature of nominee

Dated.

Please indicate any special areas of interest.

Art. 5.04 of the Royal Astronomical Society, Hamilton Centre By-Laws.
(Jan. 5th 1989.)

“Any member of the Centre may make nominations to the Board. Such nomination shall be submitted by the member to the secretary of the Centre in writing at least ten (10) days before the annual meeting, and shall contain the name of the nominator and the written consent to the nomination by the nominee.”

Board of Directors

Position	Name	Email	Position	Name	Email
President	Mark Kaye	mark.kaye@sympatico.ca	Obs. Director	Gary Colwell	glcolwell@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	Tina Coppolino	tinacoppolino@cogeco.ca	Webmaster	Ev Rilett	erilett@cogeco.ca
Secretary	Ken Lemke	cfs@worldchat.com	Librarian	John Williamson	john.williamson@sympatico.ca
Recorder	Roger Hill	roger.hill@sympatico.ca	Orbit Editor	Grant Maguire	maguires@lara.on.ca
1st VP/ Edu.	Michael Spicer	lawfirm@lara.on.ca	Curator	Heather Neproszel	hneproszel@aol.com