

## V385 Carinae and its Planetary Nebula

NASA's Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) imaged this nebula around the Wolf-Rayet star V385 Carinae. This star is 35 solar masses and is 16,000 light years distant. Read more at: [jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2010-203](http://jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2010-203)

## Reports & Other Items

### Wilderness Astronomy

Peter McMahon, a member of the centre a couple of years back, has been travelling the country and promoting Astronomy in the Canadian wilderness. You can read all about his adventures (and marvel at the very nice astro-photos by Yuichi Takasaka) on his website:

[wildernessastronomy.com](http://wildernessastronomy.com).

### More RASC Online

Jim Low's extensive 180MB archive

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of material from the 1960s is now online at:

[rasc.ca/archives/cometnova/index.shtml](http://rasc.ca/archives/cometnova/index.shtml)

Don't let the warning at the top of the page fool you, this archive is a lot of fun to poke around in and a fascinating window into past astronomical endeavours.

### Asteroids Aplenty...

A new video shows the Sun's known family of asteroids from 1980 to 2010, highlighting the new discoveries (and their spatial distribution) along the way. In this interval the asteroid population grew from some 30,000 objects to over half a million!

📺 [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S\\_d-gs0WoUw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_d-gs0WoUw)

**Web Link** David Levy's blog: A Fabulous General Assembly  
[blog.sharingthesky.org/SharingtheSkyBlog/tabid/135/EntryID/54/Default.aspx](http://blog.sharingthesky.org/SharingtheSkyBlog/tabid/135/EntryID/54/Default.aspx)

## Upcoming Meetings

**Friday, September 10, 2010**

**Regular Meeting** 7:30-9:30 p.m.

👤 Terence Dickinson

**A Personal Quest for the Finest Star-gazing Location in the World**

**Friday, October 8, 2010**

**Members' Night** 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Stirling Hall Theatre "A" on Bader Lane at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Our meetings are co-sponsored by the Queen's Physics Department and include Astronomy lectures open to the public. ★

## KAON Public Observing

**Saturday, October 9** 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 19** 7:30 p.m.

KAON (Kingston Astronomy Outreach Network) sessions are held at Queen's Observatory on the 4th floor of Ellis Hall. ★

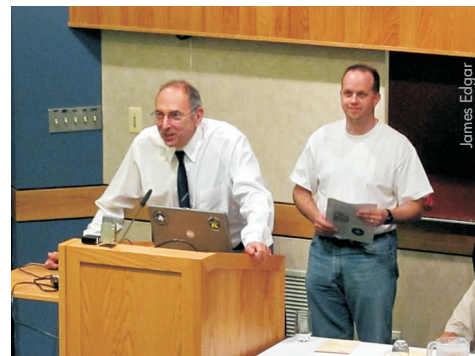
## Other Events



Vanderwater Conservation Area, Thomasburg, Ontario

More info at [kingston.rasc.ca](http://kingston.rasc.ca)

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



### 2010 GA Online

Pictured above, David Levy speaks at the panel discussion on "The Future of the RASC" which was recorded for an episode of *Let's Talk Stars*. You can hear this at [letstalkstars.com](http://letstalkstars.com), and also read David's report of his GA experience (see link below).

Continued on next page...

## ...Reports & Other Items

...continued from front page

### Equipment Loan Program Changes to Inventory

Effective immediately we have reduced some of the inventory in our Equipment Loan program. These items have had little or no use over the last few years and we simply do not have room to store them anymore. Their actual depreciated value is too low to attempt to sell off so instead we are donating them as door prizes to the Fall'N'Stars 2010 star party. The three items are:

#### Bushnell Voyager Telescope (1999)

4.5" f/4.3 (fl=475mm) with two eyepieces: 5mm (100x) and 27mm (19x) Plössl, a blue, padded carry bag, and a User's Manual. This is a good portable scope that needs a picnic table to work from. It is a little hard to aim because of the design.

#### 7x50mm Binoculars (Set #4, 1995)

#### Thousand Oaks Solar Filter

Glass Type III 4.5" filter; gives an orange cast.

#### Perseids 2010

The consensus on this year's Perseid meteor shower is that it was not a



particularly spectacular display (and no, this is not because we have been spoiled by previous spectacles like the 2001 Leonid storm!). Nevertheless everyone enjoyed their time outside and the Starlight Cascade all-sky camera even managed to catch a couple, one of which is shown above. ★



Credit: NASA, ESA, E. Jullo (JPL), P. Natarajan (Yale University), and J.-P. Kneib (Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille, CNRS, France).

## Regulus Needs You!

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS—full articles, or even just a couple of paragraphs are always welcome. Items are gratefully accepted on each and every day of the year! Send items to:

walter2 (at) starlightccd (dot) com  
or:

Walter MacDonald  
PO Box 142  
Winchester ON K0C 2K0

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## RASC-KC Board of Directors

**President:** Susan Gagnon  
**Vice President:** vacant  
**Secretary:** Steve Hart  
**Treasurer:** Kevin Kell  
**Librarian:** David Maguire  
**Editor:** Walter MacDonald  
**National Council Rep:** Brian Hunter

## 2009-10 Committee Chairs/Coordinators

**Equipment Loan:** Kevin Kell  
**KAON:** Susan Gagnon  
**Webmaster:** Walter MacDonald



**T**HE 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the RASC was held at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton NB July 1-4. See the images at: [kingston.rasc.ca/pics/ga/2010/](http://kingston.rasc.ca/pics/ga/2010/).

Having been to most GAs across Canada in the last 10 years, Kim & I decided to drive out to Fredericton as it gave us the chance to explore the scenery and all the highways and byways (mostly byways).

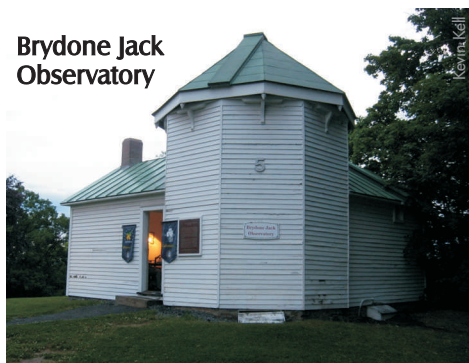
Driving easterly out of Ontario is a lot faster (approx. 3 hours) than driving westerly (approx. 40 hours including an overnighter). We left early on a Saturday morning (5 a.m. or so) with a plan to drive the 401 to Quebec, then the 20 all the way to Riviere du Loup and down into New Brunswick to Mt Carleton Provincial Park for the night. We made it with sunlight to spare but it was dark and cloudy with a little rain.

Mt. Carleton is a designated RASC Dark Sky Preserve ([rasc.ca/lpa/darksky.shtml](http://rasc.ca/lpa/darksky.shtml)) and we wanted to get a good look at it at night. Too bad it was clouded over and the next morning the temperature was a cold +3C!

We packed up quickly and headed for the shoreline through Bathurst, Caraquet (nice place!), Miramichi and through Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada (another dark sky preserve) and into Shediac for lunch. Across the bridge to Prince Edward Island for the night and across the ferry the next morning to Baddeck Nova Scotia for an early start to the Cabot Trail the next morning. It was rainy and cloudy and foggy on the eastern leg but cleared up enough to let us see some scenery on the western leg, along with wonderful fresh seafood everywhere we went. That 4th night we stayed at Havre Boucher and up early the next morning to get to Fredericton that evening as the National Council meeting was early Thursday morning.

The council meeting went forward very quickly with little debate on important stuff and too much on mundane stuff. More from our National Council Rep Brian Hunter is coming, I suspect. Tours of the historically designated Brydone Jack observatory on campus were attended by Kim as I found a cable TV set and was able to watch the Montreal Alouettes at the Saskatchewan Roughriders opening season game. It was a killer game! But I got to look at the tour pictures later. ☺

**Brydone Jack Observatory**



One of the oldest observatories in Canada.

Friday July 2nd was a tour out to Hopewell Rocks at low tide (pretty cool), lunch and then back again for high tide. Not bad... We would have gone ourselves outside of the GA if they did not have this tour. Great fresh seafood again and fresh bakery cookies too!

The GA kicked off for real on Saturday July 3rd at a modern conference centre that worked out quite well. Not that many paper/posters on display but they were nice to see (even one from Leo Enright and Raymond Auclair!).

The paper sessions were in two streams that morning, forcing us to make choices as to what to see. This I did not like. There was time enough to keep one stream running, allowing more people to attend them all. See the members-only section of the [kingston.rasc.ca](http://kingston.rasc.ca) website for more information on the talks.

Rick Huziak and Kathleen Houston were there from the Saskatoon Centre, selling Buzzard Coulee meteorites and we picked up a couple for our personal collections, along with a Whitecourt meteorite.

There were a lot of formal dinners with fresh seafood again and we finally got to the Annual General Meeting. Bad news, the fee increased passed without any strong debate or discussions other than ourselves:

- ▶ In the audience: 63 yes, 10 against
- ▶ Proxies: 56 for, 34 against
- ▶ Total: 119 for, 44 against

From the Kingston Centre were: Kim Hay, Brian Hunter, Kevin Kell, Richard Schmude, and David Levy. Richard drove up from Georgia, gave a talk, left the next day and we really missed being able to chat and catch up with him.



A meeting of the Canada Computer Addicts RASC National Council.

Attendance from “Regular GA goers” is down, and there were not any representatives from Vancouver, Sunshine Coast or Prince George Centres. Again, too bad. General Assemblies are getting more and more expensive to be sure, and unless something changes there will be fewer heading off to Winnipeg in 2011.

Other items that came to mind from the GA were: meeting the new Executive Director Debra Thompson, from whom you will have already received e-mail regarding the

Continues on page 10...

# RASC Council/Annual Meeting Motions

James Edgar, National Recorder

## July 1 Council Meeting:

**MOTION 10201** Moved by Colin Haig, seconded by Charles Darrow, that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

MOTION 10201 was CARRIED

**MOTION 10202** Moved by James Edgar, seconded by Randall Rosenfeld, that the Minutes of National Council Meeting NC101 be adopted as distributed.

MOTION 10202 was CARRIED

**MOTION 10203** Moved by James Edgar, seconded by Mary Lou Whitehorne, that the list of new Unattached Members be accepted as distributed

MOTION 10203 was CARRIED

**MOTION 10204** Chris Weadick moved, seconded by Barry Matthews, that Kejimikujik National Park be designated as a RASC Dark-Sky Preserve.

MOTION 10204 was CARRIED

**MOTION 10205** Moved by the Executive Committee that Mary Lou Whitehorne be appointed as a trustee of the Helm Fund.

MOTION 10205 was CARRIED

**MOTION 10206** Moved by James Edgar, seconded by Mary Lou Whitehorne, that accommodations be included in the covered costs in the policy of the Public Speaker Programme.

MOTION 10206 was CARRIED

**MOTION 10207** Moved by Peter Jedicke, seconded by Charles Darrow, that the meeting adjourn.

MOTION 10207 was CARRIED★



**MOTION AM1001** Moved by Randall Rosenfeld, seconded by Ted Bronson, that the Agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION AM1001 was CARRIED.

**MOTION AM1002** Moved by Brigitte Schaffer, seconded by Richard Christie, that the Minutes of AM 2009 as corrected in the Annual Report 2009, be approved.

MOTION AM1002 was CARRIED

**MOTION AM1003** Moved by Paul Gray, seconded by Charles Darrow, to approve the Financial Statements as published.

MOTION AM1003 was CARRIED

**MOTION AM1004** Moved by Adrien Bordage, seconded by Barry Matthews, that the annual membership fees of the Society be changed as follows:

*For members with Canadian postal addresses:*

1. Ordinary members—changed to \$70.00; and
2. Youth members—no change.

*For members with United States postal addresses (in US dollars):*

1. Ordinary members—changed to \$86.00; and
2. Youth members—no change.

*For members with postal addresses outside Canada and the United States (in US dollars):*

1. Ordinary members—changed to \$115.00; and
2. Youth members—no change.

The current Centre affiliation incentive remains unchanged.

These new fees shall become effective at a date determined by the Executive Committee, except no earlier than 2010 July 4.

MOTION AM1004 was CARRIED

**MOTION AM1005** Moved by Colin Haig, seconded by Brigitte Schaffer, that Tinkham and Associates be appointed as Auditor of the RASC.

MOTION AM1005 was CARRIED

**MOTION AM1006** It was moved by Denis Grey, seconded by Patrice Scattolin, that the meeting adjourn.

MOTION AM1006 was CARRIED.

★

## 2010 GA Pictures



The 2010 Annual General Meeting gets ready to start.



**Chilton Prize recipients** (l to r): Damien Lemay, Kim Hay, Marc Keelan-Bishop, Ron Macnaughton, Dave Lane, Jennifer West, Paul Gray, Ted Dunphy, Remi Lacasse, Chris Weadick, Lise Lacasse, Don Kelly.



Three key IYA people just after receiving their Canada Mint IYA2009 coin (l to r): Jim Hesser, Dave Lane (outgoing RASC president), and Kim Hay.



# RASC National Committees

**James Edgar, National Recorder**

The following are the unofficial motions of National Council meeting NC103, as prepared by James Edgar, Recorder. **Non-voting committee members are denoted by an asterisk.**

**MOTION 10301** Moved by David Parfett, seconded by Charles O'Dale, that the following committees be elected as proposed:

## Executive Committee

E-mail: [executive@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:executive@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: President (ch.), 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Secretary.*

Chair: Mary Lou Whitehorne (President)

Members:

1st VP Glenn Hawley  
2nd VP Colin Haig  
Treasurer Mayer Tchelebon  
Sec./Rec. James Edgar  
Exec. Sec. Deborah Thompson\*—

Executive Director ([Thompson@rasc.ca](mailto:Thompson@rasc.ca))

## Awards Committee

E-mail: [awards@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:awards@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: Past President (ch.), Journal Editor, and up to three others.*

Chair: Dave Lane

Members: Jay Anderson  
James Edgar  
Peter Jedicke  
Scott Young

## Constitution Committee

E-mail: [constitution@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:constitution@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: 1st Vice-President (ch.) and two others.*

Chair: Glenn Hawley

Members: James Edgar  
Patrice Scattolin

## Education Committee

E-mail: [education@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:education@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: three to five members.*

Chair: Ron Macnaughton

Members: Julie Bolduc-Duval\*  
Robyn Foret  
Marc Keelan-Bishop  
Julie Tomé

## Finance Committee

E-mail: [finance@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:finance@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: Treasurer (ch.), 2nd Vice-President, and two others*

Chair: Mayer Tchelebon

Members: James Edgar  
Colin Haig  
Glenn Hawley  
Mary Lou Whitehorne

## History Committee

E-mail: [historical@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:historical@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: Up to seven members.*

Chair: Barry Matthews

Members: Roy Bishop  
Peter Broughton  
Robert Duff  
Chris Gainor  
Robert Garrison\* (Consultant)  
Randall Rosenfeld

## Membership and Promotion Committee

E-mail: [map@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:map@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: Between 3 & 5 members.*

Chair: Chris Weadick

Members: James Ayles  
Holly Ayles  
Roland Dechesne  
Randall Rosenfeld\*  
Jo Taylor\*

## Nominating Committee

E-mail: [nominating@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:nominating@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: One Past President (ch.) and two appointees.*

Chair: Colin Haig

Members: Peter Jedicke  
Frank Tomaras

## Observing Committee

E-mail: [observing@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:observing@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: Five members.*

Chair: Chris Beckett

Members: Edward Essex  
Hugues Lacombe  
Bruce McCurdy  
Alan Whitman

## Property Committee

E-mail: [property@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:property@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: Treasurer (ch.) and two to four others.*

Chair: Mayer Tchelebon

Members: (Vacant)

## Publications Committee

E-mail: [publications@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:publications@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: 1st Vice-President (ch.), Journal Editor, Observer's Handbook Editor, and up to four others.*

Chair: Glenn Hawley

Members: Jay Anderson  
James Edgar  
Pat Kelly  
Craig Levine  
Ian Levstein

MOTION 10301 was CARRIED

## Special Committees

**MOTION 10302** Moved by Richard Christie, seconded by Paul Schumacher, that the following Special Committees be elected as proposed.

## Green-Laser Pointer Committee

(one-year term) [glp@rasc.ca](mailto:glp@rasc.ca)

*Composition: Chair, plus additional members appointed by Chair.*

Chair: Randall Rosenfeld

Members: Chris Beckett  
Dr. Roy Bishop  
Mike Hanes  
Blake Nancarrow  
Paul Schumacher

## Information Technology Committee

(one-year term) [itc@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:itc@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: Chair, plus additional members appointed by the chair.*

Chair: Ryan May

Members: Colin Haig  
Dave Lane  
Walter MacDonald  
Patrice Scattolin

## Light-Pollution Abatement Committee

(one-year term) [lpacomm@lists.rasc.ca](mailto:lpacomm@lists.rasc.ca)

*Composition: Chair, plus additional members appointed by the chair.*

Chair: Robert Dick

Members: Mark Coady  
Roland Dechesne  
Dr. Yvan Dutil  
Brian Lucas  
Bruce McCurdy  
Dorothy Paul  
Chris Weadick

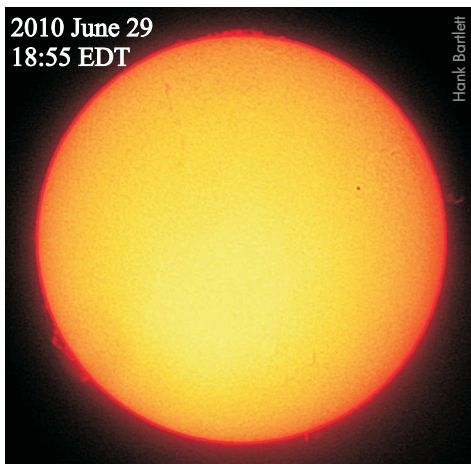
MOTION 10302 was CARRIED

**MOTION 10303** Moved by Charles Darrow, seconded by Rick Huziak, that the meeting adjourn. MOTION 10203 was CARRIED

**Note:** some of the committees have been filled out since these motions passed; the additional names have been included here. ★

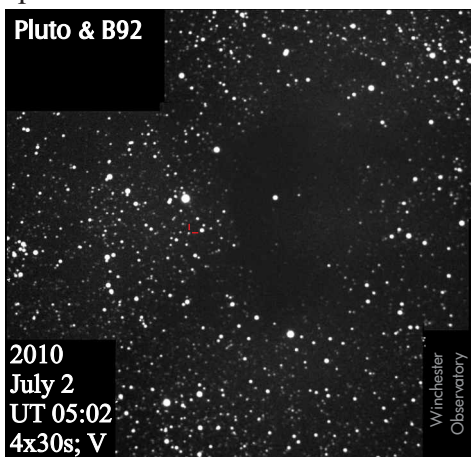
*Tuesday, June 29*

**Hank Bartlett:** Things are looking better, a big sunspot, some filaments and prominences, YEAH!



*Thu/Fri, July 1/2*

**Walter MacDonald:** I took advantage of this clear night just before the hot weather really hit to do a mosaic image of Pluto and the dark nebula Barnard 92. These dark nebulae really image well, so I may have to try some more this summer! I also imaged globular clusters PAL 8, 9, 10, and 11 but they are decidedly **not** spectacular clusters.



**Crossing the void:** Pluto, just a few days prior to its traverse of dark nebula B92.

*Sun/Mon, July 4/5*

**Ken Kingdon:** I observed Pluto earlier this morning (12:30 a.m. EDT, July 5th) from a very dark site 40 km west of Kingston. I got a late start,

and the Moon was just starting to come up (very low and hidden by trees), but I managed to see it at the putative position of my planetarium program, which shows the dimmest stars are still  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mag brighter than Pluto (it's mag 14). Fortunately there are very few stars in front of this dark nebula. Pluto was faint but distinct with direct vision using 180x with  $12\frac{1}{2}$ -inch aperture. Minutes later as the Moon climbed higher, it became seen with averted vision only, then soon became impossible.

Considering that Pluto is crossing the dark nebula B92, I expected it to be easy...it was NOT. It will continue to cross this dark nebula for 3 more nights, but with the forecast for high humidity and haze, it may not be seen further. Please let us know if you observe Pluto!

I then tried Comet 10P/Tempel, and failed. Tempel currently is  $25^\circ$  W of the Moon, and of course it should rise well before the Moon rises...BUT IT DOES NOT! In the east at this time of year, the ecliptic makes a low, shallow angle with the horizon. Further complicating things, the Moon is above the ecliptic, while Tempel is an equal amount below. Thus, when Tempel has finally climbed high enough for an observation, the further east Moon has already beaten it and floods the sky with bright light that kills the comet. It won't be possible to visually see Comet 10P/Tempel until after July 9th or 10th in the early morning sky when the Moon is finally out of the way. BTW, during the 1st week of July, the Moon was rising only about 13 minutes later each night thanks to Mr. Ecliptic, despite having its usual large eastwardly motion every night.

*Sun/Mon, July 11/12*

**Walter:** I notice on the satellite loop that only easternmost Ontario is

under cloud tonight! However, the clouds did part for a few minutes and I just happened to see a satellite flare up near to, and brighter than, Deneb. Checking *Heavens-Above* I see that it was Abrixis, the German X-ray Astronomy satellite about 500 km up. It was a nice high pass and I was able to just barely see it all the way through Cygnus as it faded out. If it hadn't flared I wouldn't have paid any attention to it (it is listed as only mag 3.2), so it was good that it did. It is a nice cool and gently breezy night (a great break from this month's heat and humidity) and I had a nice view of the Milky Way too until the clouds came back in.

**Kim Hay replies:** Nice going Walter. Saturday night, I did see the Venus and Regulus conjunction in the west. It was clear here mostly both Saturday and Sunday nights, but after coming back from holidays, we are now suffering from an east coast bug, which has not been nice.

**Hank:** Did anyone else watch the solar eclipse? [*A total solar eclipse visible in the south Pacific.*]

I could not believe it, I was watching it from the pool and all was clear, I got out for the SolarMax and in came the clouds! Yes they did get some diamond ring and there were oooohsss and ahhhhs but then it went all cloudy and that was it. Imagine paying like \$10k and having that happen.

*Fri/Sat, July 16/17*

**Mark Kaye:** I did some sidewalk astronomy on Friday night and I was able to show people the speck that is Mars right now when I was asked about it becoming as large as the Moon in August. Despite only being a red tiny disk, most people were still thrilled to see it. I was quite surprised, given how featureless it is right now. Saturn was a big hit, a ball with a pin through it...



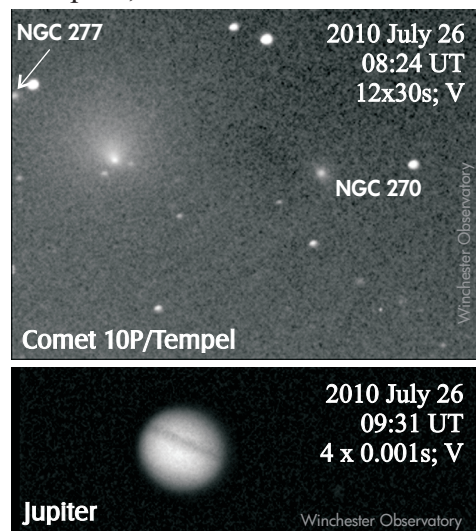
*Sun/Mon, July 25/26*

**Walter:** Mars and Saturn made a nice pair low in the west, though they could not compete with nearby Venus in terms of brightness. Still, it was a nice scene from the dome slot. Too bad Mercury and Regulus were behind a tree.

I started an all-night run on Mira variables—my first variable imaging run in just over two months. Shortly after going to bed, the computer alerted me to a problem: it was a USB lockup (they always occur during an autofocus when there is lots of comm with the camera, and often just after I go to bed!). I went out to the dome, pulled the camera cable out of the USB hub then plugged it back in. After resuming the run, I went back to bed. Things continued without further incident for the rest of the night.

I rose at 4 a.m. so I could image Comet Tempel, which is mag 8.2 in Cetus about 12° SE of Jupiter. This comet was not alone this morning as it was situated right between the galaxies NGC 270 and 277. Going outside with the C8 I took a quick peek at Jupiter visually with its faded SEB.

To finish off the night, I gathered a new set of flat frames just before sunrise and took a few quick images of Jupiter, whose SEB continues to be



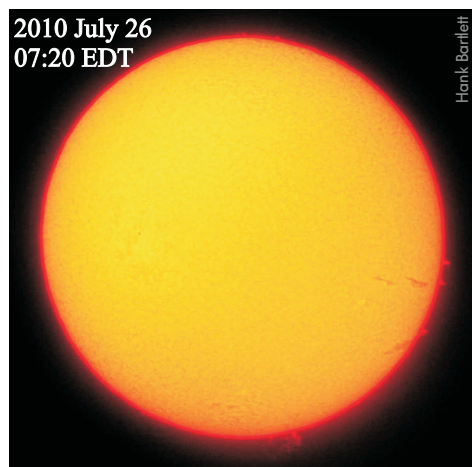
rather subdued, which gives Jupiter a rather different look these nights.

*Monday, July 26*

**Hank:** Things are starting to once again perk up on the sun, but still I do not hold high hopes for the end of this slumber.

I took this image this morning before work, N is right, E is down. In the east you can see a good size prominence coming around the limb. The most interesting feature today however were the filaments in the north. It is hard to image it as seen, filaments are often very wispy shadows. The two upper ones appeared to actually be joined as if one filament that was bounding across the surface and touched down in between.

Things have been very quiet but when you consider 3 filaments, 2 sunspots 1089 (center left with a very large active region not seen well here) & 1090 (the light active region near the double filament), the prominences (the northern ones being continuations of the filaments) and just some cool (ok not so cool) granulation there is a lot to look at.



**Kim replies:** Very nice image Hank. Yes 1089 is starting to dissipate and decay. 1090 did not last long, and prominences and filaments have been reported as very active over the last few days.

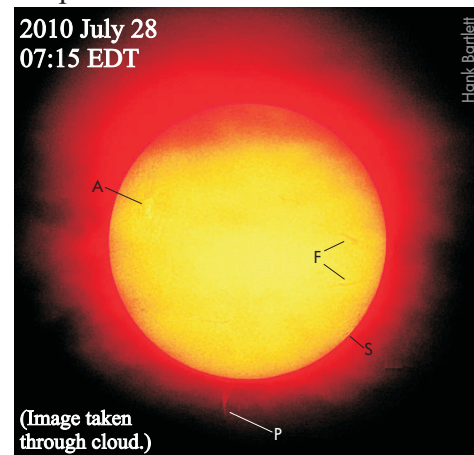
There are many more people now doing observations of the prominences in H $\alpha$  now with classifications. One set of classifications is the Ziron classifications. See here for more detail:

[prairieastronomyclub.org/halpha](http://prairieastronomyclub.org/halpha)

Some observers of the ALPO Solar section have started to submit their H $\alpha$  observations and will be going online after this current Carrington Rotation (CR2099)

*Wednesday, July 28*

**Hank:** Wow nice prominence today off the east side. In the image you will see a long spike: that is not cloud, that is a prominence.



Features on the Sun: **A** Active region 1089. **F** In clear sky these filaments now appear to cross  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the Sun. **P** Nice prominence! **S** Emerging sunspot—looks big!

*Sat/Sun, July 31/August 1*

**Walter:** I took the car and found a nice spot with a very low western horizon not far from the edge of town. By 20:50 I was scanning the horizon for Mercury. Unfortunately there was thin cloud hugging the horizon and I was not able to find it in binoculars. There were a lot of mosquitos around so I drove to the parking lot at the arena in town and set up the C8 to have a quick parting look at Venus, Mars, and Saturn. The seeing was terrible that low down, but Saturn-Mars was a pretty naked

eye conjunction despite their modest magnitudes.

**Susan:** I also ventured out on Saturday night as it was unexpectedly clear. It was great to get the roof open again. Closing the roof was not that smooth as the dogwood behind the observatory has become quite tall. Today I used the branches trapped in the gap between the roof and back wall to gauge what needed to be trimmed, and took care of the problem.

I enjoyed an hour of just driving the scope to a few obvious targets at high power, lazy, yet very entertaining. I spotted a nice pair that was marked in the double star atlas and over breakfast the next day checked it out in Sissy Haas' book of Double Stars. I think that I learned from Leo that you can have a nice night of observing without looking at fifty things but finding out a bit more about one thing.

All friends accounted for, my eye piece was one that I had purchased from Nancy Wellbanks. Very nice and very appreciated by its new owner.

I keep the tarp over the scope at all times now since a couple of weeks ago when it was raining up and some water got in.

### *Sat/Sun, August 7/8*

**Walter:** There was a nice Venus-Saturn-Mars conjunction tonight. Surprisingly I was able to see Venus and Saturn from the dome as I was opening it. Venus was only 5° up at the time. Mars was behind a tree, but it was still a nice view. I started a variable star run but cloud soon put an end to that, after just 10 stars. CSC said it would be clear until 1 a.m. Oh well.

As I closed the dome, I saw a satellite flare, rivalling Vega. It passed west of Vega and I was able to watch it go up through the head of

Draco, passing very close to gamma Draconis. The closest match I could find on *Heavens-Above* is IGS 1B although the track shown is shifted well to the east of what I observed.

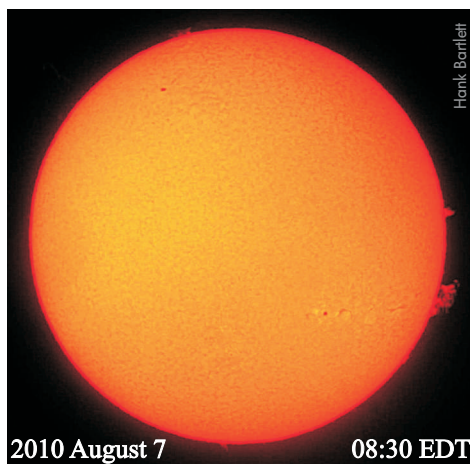
**Kevin Fetter:** I have USA 186 (catalog number = 28888) following that path, and it's known to flare.

As for my sat watching, I watched Satcom C1 give some flashes under 2 minutes apart. It seems to flash around the same time, each night so far, based on my observing of it. I will have to check tonight's obs against the other day.

I have aimed at another flashing geo sat, which is located close to still another flashing geo sat. The nice thing is they both fit in the field of view, so I can observe them both and see when they flash, and how long they take between flashes, so I know if they take more or less time between flashes, as the days pass by. The nice thing about satcom C1 is it takes less time between flashes, over time = what I like to see.

**Walter replies:** Thanks Kevin! It's fun to see these sat flares, and that fun is greatly enhanced by knowing what they are.

**Hank:** This was taken about 7 hours before the M-1 class solar flare. Things are really picking up!



### *Sun/Mon, August 8/9*

**Hank:** After such a lousy weather day who would think the sky

overhead would become so clear. The Milky Way is glowing beautifully. At times like this I think I should buy an SLR. I tried a few 32 and 64 second images but pocket cameras just don't capture it all, even at 1600. No Perseids.

**Kevin K replies:** The SCO all-sky camera has not picked up anything overnight either. The exposure time was changed this morning from 80 sec to 120sec as it increases the overall percentage of "capture time" given the 20 second download time for each frame; since it's new moon, the increased exposure times should not be ruined by a bright moon.

### *Thu/Fri, August 12/13*

**Hank:** Well, it was fun, but out of 58 images at 64sec and ISO1600 there are NO Perseids in any of them. We did see about 25 (of which Di saw most, not me) from 10:19 p.m. EDT to 12:41 a.m. EDT. It started to cloud some so we came in. I did get plenty of Boeing meteors of course.

**Mark comments:** Go back out, the clouds came in and out quite quickly. I just saw some nice ones.

**Kim reports:** I was not out, I was getting a few hours sleep before trying to go out at midnight. The phone alarm was set for the wrong day, and I would wake up every hour and look for meteors, seeing not any. The body did not seem to want to get out of bed. It was the first cool night in a week to sleep.

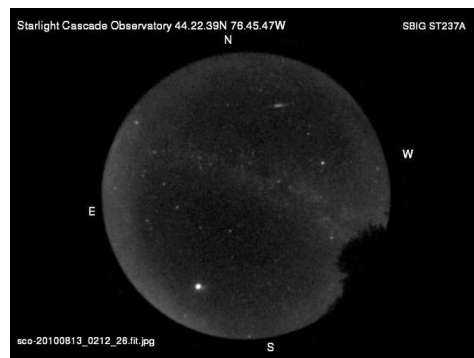
The clouds kept coming by throughout the night. I cannot find my tape recorder to record the observations. Kevin did go out and take some images, but he too believes he did not get anything. He was up watching the football game, so he could go out and observe.

**Kevin K reports:** I went out after the football game, just past midnight and took 6 images, untracked at 64 seconds exposure each: three aimed



at Perseus, two at Jupiter and one at Sagittarius. On first inspection there were no meteors seen. I did see a few while not looking at the camera and it promised to be a spectacular night, but I was already sleepwalking through most of the viewing and just can't do 19 and 20 hour days anymore. ☹

Manual inspection of the all-sky camera pictures turned up one good perseid at 02:12 in the NNW.

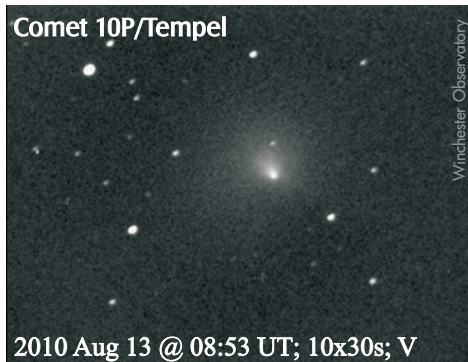


**Walter:** I had the dome fired up at midnight so I could finish off my Miras for another week. Fortunately I did not see any bats in the attic tonight.

The computer's CPU seemed to be overheating so I had to run a floor fan to help cool the machine. Most likely the CPU may need a new coat of thermal grease—I'll have to check things out this weekend. The computer ran all night without incident: the CPU did not melt and there were no USB lockups or system reboots.

I went outside a couple of times to watch for Perseids briefly. At 3:00 a.m. I reclined in a lawn chair for 20 minutes until the mosquitos found me. I saw a few meteors, but nothing to write home about.

At 04:15 I went up to the attic with plans to stop the variable star run so I could image Comet Tempel. As it turns out, my imaging plan finished with just enough time left over to image the comet (though I was into nautical twilight by the time I was done).



### *Fri/Sat, August 13/14*

**Kevin K:** Kim & I went out to observe last night from around 23:00–23:30 and saw a very few Perseids with maybe one good mag –3 or –4 with yellow and a good length of 20 degrees or so. Ten images of 64 seconds were taken but on review, no meteors in them at all.

**Mark:** I hear so many people say that I went out for an hour and I did not see anything. Then I ask them what time did you go out at and they say after twilight. One item that seems to be lost in the translation is that this is an early morning shower. You have to stay up until after midnight to really have a chance of getting into a good patch of meteors. We took the boat out onto the lake at 01:00 (13/14) for an hour, the best horizons I can get are out on the Lake and we saw plenty of meteors. I would say there was an average of one every 30 seconds. Some were quite bright. As usual from my experience with the Perseids, they seemed to come in groups of two or more together, then a minute pause and then another group. My daughter and nephew were very impressed. On the night of Aug. 14/15 there were still lots of meteors, and by far the brightest one of all as well.

### *Wed/Thu, August 18/19*

**Walter:** I observed visually with the C8 this morning from 03:45 to 04:15 and was able to find Comet Tempel—

it is not particularly bright! (ECU lists it at mag 8.5.) It was a nice little diffuse smudge and not too difficult with the C8. This may not be bright enough to see from a city like Kingston.

It was nice and cool at +14C with no wind or dew, and only one mosquito.

At 3:54 I was looking at Tau Ceti (a nearby sun-like star of SETI fame) and saw (in the finderscope) a satellite go by, practically occulting tau. It had a nice slow sinusoidal brightness variation, sort of like a mobile variable star. Very nice!

The Double Cluster in Perseus and the Great Andromeda Galaxy (along with M32 and M110 of course) rounded out the telescopic targets for this session. The Summer Triangle was setting in the NW, so the season is definitely moving on. Orion and Gemini are back now before twilight and it won't be long now until Sirius makes an appearance. I've always thought of the heliacal rising of Sirius as the end of summer. Perhaps if I ignore it the summer will last a little longer. There is hope for a warm autumn this year, hopefully with lots of clear nights (and lots of tomatoes into November!).

**Kevin F replies:** That would be a Japanese rocket (H-2A R/B), catalog number 27369.

### *Friday, August 20*

**Susan:** Putting some of my vacation time to good use I was lying in the shade observing Venus with the binoculars today around 15:00. It is so cool in the daylight, I find it very ping-pong-ball like.

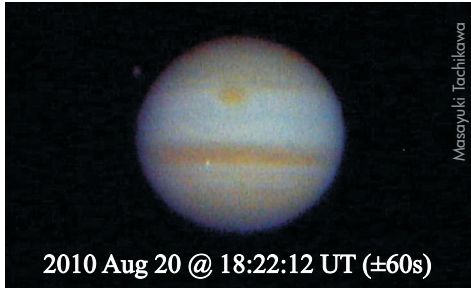
**Hank:** Awesome for you!!! I was going to post tonight that Venus is now a "NEDO" Naked Eye Daylight Object (–4.33)!

I too was out after 3:00 p.m. (3:30) today, but I have no binoculars

## ...Observing Reports

at work. Using *StarryNight* it took me about 15 minutes but I finally nailed it naked eye! Venus was directly S at about 38° above the horizon.

**BIG NEWS:** *At 18:22 UT, an object impacted on Jupiter (the third time in 13 months!) and two Japanese amateurs recorded it on video. How much longer will it be until professional astronomers move in on the Jupiter monitoring game?*



*Fri/Sat, August 27/28*

**Hank:** That was the best pass of the ISS we have ever seen, in the ENE it flared to at least -4.5! Wow that was cool! I think that calls for a “Black Russian” to celebrate!

**Kevin F:** Yes, I was outside and watched the ISS get very bright. It was the best pass of it I have ever seen. My neighbours were over, and got to see the show too.

*Sun/Mon, August 29/30*

**Kevin K:** We missed the great ISS pass on Friday night but caught an 81 degree pass on Sunday night, only it was at 20:14...still well into twilight, barely after sunset—and the mosquitos! The prediction was for -3.4 and it probably was that. We did not see any flares.

*Your editor also observed this pass and did not see any flares either. ★*

Mourn not the passing time that's logged  
As summer turns to fall.  
What's been is blurred, the future's fogged.  
What's real is now, this moment—all.

—Unknown

## ...GA 2010 Report

...continued from page 3

Kevin Kell

fee increases and membership survey; there was a change of guard on the national Executive with Mary Lou Whitehorne the new President, Glen Hawley the 1st VP and Colin Haig as the 2nd VP.

The event wrapped up and we headed out the next morning for Halifax, spent some time at the Maritime Museum and the wonderful boardwalk they have there and ended up outside of Peggy's Cove for the night.

Out early the next day to beat the tour buses with a stop at the SwissAir 111 memorial along the way. Peggy's Cove was very cool and we could have sat there all day listening to and watching the water.

But we had more plans that included being in Digby that night for the best scallops in the world with a stop at Shag Harbour:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shag\\_Harbour\\_UFO\\_incident](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shag_Harbour_UFO_incident)

We could not find the museum in Shag Harbour (it turns out they had just recently relocated) so we carried on and pulled into Digby early enough for a great dinner and found a campsite within the town itself before dark.

The next day was another early start across the Fundy Bay side of Nova Scotia heading to Jost Wineries near Malagash on the Cumberland Strait. We found it easily enough (GPS in cars was a wonderful idea) and we stocked up with wine supplies after rearranging the 20cm Dobsonian scope we brought with us. We ended up that night at Jellystone Park, home of Yogi Bear and Boo-boo, somewhere between Moncton and Fredericton. It was a noisy place

right on the highway, but we did manage to fit in a short stop at Magnetic Hill, near Moncton. The next and last morning was off to Edmunston (which by the way, the highway goes around it now and we did not see any speed traps Ian!), found the Botanical Gardens and spent a couple of hours wandering through them. Back on the road in fairly warm weather into Québec, got alongside Québec City and the heatwave hit: 34, 35, 36, and eventually 38 degrees, going through Montreal in stop-and-go traffic. Ick. We arrived back home that evening and the journey was done—approximately 6500 km in 13 days.

That about covers Canada for us. We have taken the opportunities presented by these conferences to spend more time on our own, exploring Canada and attempting to do so on the ground, rather than fly in and fly out of any particular place.

Since 1995 with Windsor, we have been to Edmonton, Toronto, Winnipeg, London, Montreal, Vancouver, St. John's, Kelowna, Ottawa, Calgary, York, and Cypress Hills Saskatchewan. The only other location that would be nice would be the far north somewhere—we need a Yellowknife Centre!

A General Assembly helps keep you in touch with others (mostly the active members), make new acquaintances, get new ideas, and generally think about astronomy for several days that you would normally not be able to (due to home, work, etc.).

Next year the GA will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. If you are in the area, sign up for sure! ★



Mourn not the passing sky that's logged  
As nighttime turns to day.  
Your objects blurred: the corrector's fogged.  
What's real now is, for a dewcap you'll have to pay.

—Walter (with apologies to unknown)

