



June KAON Public Observing Session

Kevin Kell

The Kingston Astronomy Outreach Network held the regular 2nd Saturday of the month Public Observing Session at the Queen's Ellis Hall Observatory from 21:00-22:30 EDT. The weather was almost completely overcast but we did get a few holes to see Jupiter and the Moon, plus as a bonus, there were no mosquitos! Volunteers included Hank Bartlett, Norm Welbanks, Steve Hart, Kim Hay, Kevin Kell, and Susan Gagnon. Terry Bridges, Observatory Coordinator, showed off the 16" telescope and Dr. Stéphane Courteau gave two short talks inside to 17 guests. We had three telescopes outside on the Observing Deck, the 20 cm LX200GPS, the 20cm Fitzgerald Dobsonian, and Hank brought his 11cm equatorial newtonian.



STARFEST 2006

The Starfest Team

The North York Astronomical Association invites you to attend the 25th anniversary of Starfest. In keeping with the founding principles of the NYAA and Starfest, to celebrate this milestone, a special program has been prepared based on the theme "Fellowship Under The Stars". Using this theme we explore the rich diversity of activities that are available to today's amateurs and how these activities are shared with others. Observing and astro-imaging will be emphasized.

Starfest 2006 features over nineteen presentations and workshops, given by an astronaut and leading professional and amateur astronomers. This year's

stellar line up includes: Story Musgrave, Doug Welch, Terrence Dickinson, Scott Ireland, and many more.

Full details to help you plan your agenda are available on our website at www.nyaa-starfest.com.



Responsible Lighting and Your Home, Part 4

Kevin Kell

Over the last year or so I've been sharing our adventures of retrofitting our home exterior lighting to better conform to the principles of Responsible Lighting (use light only where you need it, use full cutoff fixtures to use the light only where you need it, and use appropriate wattages and not more than you need).

As the new price of electricity generation has now increased to 5.8 cents/kwh and 6.7 cents/kwh over the first 600kwh, with other charges doubling that base amount, you may want to go back and revisit some of the articles and perhaps save on some of your energy costs.

So back to our story... one day while browsing through the lighting section of the Home Depot, we saw the logo of the IDA (International Dark Sky Association) on a lighting product box. Intrigued we took a closer look and thought this would be an excellent replacement for the front door (see image 20060609-02.jpg) light, being both a motion sensor and a full cutoff fixture. Previous attempts at modifying the front door carriage light style fixture included replacing the 100 watt incandescent bulb with a 40 watt and then with a 10 watt white compact fluorescent and then finally a red 10 watt CF bulb.



This cut down on the glare and power usage but the light still had to be manually turned on and off (usually resulting in it being left on all night) and didn't really effectively light up the area of interest (the door keylock and steps).

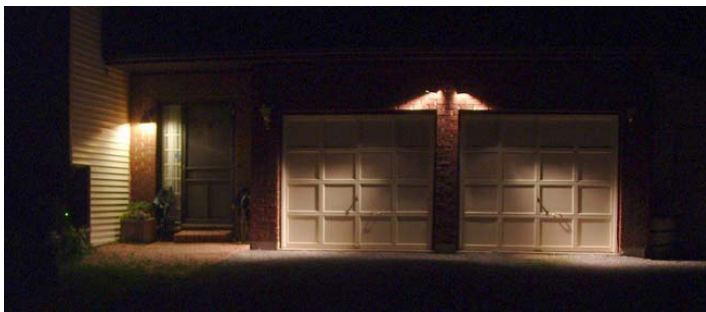
This \$50 fixture solved all of the existing problems. We are able to use a 14 watt CF white bulb, giving more than enough light where we need it, on a motion sensor so that it comes on only when needed, and is full cutoff, which wouldn't blind us by glare as we approach the steps.

You can perhaps see the difference in the before (above) and after (below) pictures.

Two of the carriage type fixtures on the garage have even had their bulbs removed permanently.



The before image shows approx 600 watts of unshielded incandescent lighting. The human eye adapts to bright point sources of light much like the camera meter and exposes for it, leaving much of the scene dark in comparison.



The after image shows approximately 60 watts of fully shielded compact fluorescent lighting with only a few bright hotspots of lighting on the immediate wall surfaces and much better even lighting.

We strongly recommend this lighting product by Hampton Bay and others like it approved by the IDA, especially with its motion sensor with many timing and sensitivity settings for your home.

-- Kevin Kell

From the Starlight Cascade Observatory just outside Yarker Ontario

RASC - Kingston Centre - Treasurer

The Kingston Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

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I can take most common formats, although I prefer plain text. Pictures should be sent as image files in attachments separate from the articles. Please avoid the use of capitals, asterisks etc for formatting, as I use the publishing software's formats for this kind of emphasis.

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2006 Publication Deadlines

For the month

August
September
October
November
December
January 2007

Deadline

July 29
August 19
September 30
October 21
November 25
December 16



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