

### Nominations Chairperson: Randy Groundwater

Randy presented a tentative list of candidates for elections to be held at the November meeting. Ken Rounge was added to the list. Randy asked members to consider serving on Council to help make decisions affecting Windsor Centre. Only three meetings a year are involved and each is also a bit of social event. We need a librarian to handle our books and subscriptions as well as manage the telescopes available for loan to members.

### Photo show by Tom Sobocan

Tom showed a wide variety of shots taken at our meetings, at the observatory and of the night sky, even capturing M31 and its neighbours M32 and M101 at 6:00 a.m. on a moonlit night with his 300 mm digital SLR mounted piggy back fashion on the Henry Lee telescope. He also had a "sun pillar" shot taken in Windsor and others of the observatory snowed in last Winter. Some were shot under August's full moon looking nearly like daylight photos.

### Director of Observing: Steve Pellarin

Steve gave his usual comprehensive outline of astronomical events and sights for the coming month. A sky map and list was given to all as a guide. The big event is the close approach of Mars on October 29th. See it then or wait until 2018 for the next closest approach.

Look also for the realm of galaxies in Pegasus and NGC 253, a nice big galaxy in Sculptor. At this time of year, under ideal conditions it is possible to see Zodiacal light. There is a meteor shower from Orion (the Orionids) but they are usually faint and only run about 20 per hour. The tail of comet Encke has left us two meteor showers in Taurus (the Taurid showers). They sometimes provide bright fire balls late in October and early November.

Other targets include Messier objects M77, NGC 772 a lopsided galaxy and the "Blue Snowball", a planetary nebula.

Randy Groundwater brought the 10 inch Bawtenheimer telescope from the observatory and will set it up at meeting's end so we can all observe Mars.

Dan Taylor and his wife Carol have generously offered to host a second "Mars Mania" party at their home in the county on Saturday November 12th.

### Coffee break and 50/50 draw:

Steve welcomed new members and guests. The 50/50 draw was won by Kevin Masterson.

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# AURORA



## Flyer

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2006  
8:00 p.m.  
Maidstone K of C Hall  
10720 County Road 34  
(Old Talbot Road)

**Speaker:** Pierre Boulos

**Topic:** TBA

### Upcoming Events

**Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner**  
**December 2 at 7PM (setup at 6:30)**

**Hallam Observatory Open House:**  
**December 10, 2005 7:00 p.m.**

**Celestial Events:**  
November 16/17 Leonid Meteor Shower  
December 9 Venus at magnitude -4.7  
December 12/13 Geminid Meteor Shower  
December 21 December Solstice, 1835 UTC  
January 3, 2006 Quadrantid Meteor Shower  
January 4, 2006 Earth at Perihelion

**Other Events:**

### Link(s) of Note

Image processing software (free):  
[Registax.astronomy.net](http://registax.astronomy.net)

## General Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2005

Chaired by President **Steve Mastellotto**

Steve welcomed all to the meeting and reminded all about the regular meeting procedure re business, director of observing report and main program.

The September meeting minutes were read and a motion to accept them made by Kevin Masterson, seconded by Mel Richardson and carried.

**Correspondence Secretary: Joady Ulrich**

Joady was unable to attend the meeting.

**Treasurer: Ken Garber**

Ken reported our treasury total is \$7663.11. There are 113 paid up members. He told us online membership renewals are backlogged a bit in Toronto. Ken has a stock of 2006 observers' calendars on hand at \$12 each and some planispheres at \$8.00. Fifty-fifty draw tickets can be purchased until the draw is made at intermission.

**Librarian: Milica Rakic**

Randy Groundwater filled in for Milica and told us there was nothing to report regarding the library.

**Newsletter Editor: Ken Garber**

The latest newsletter contain a non-legible map due to a printing problem. In any case, members are advised the usual route to the observatory via Hwy., 401 and Hwy. 77 is still not open. The return route to the West via the newly completed ramp is open.

Meeting reminder notices are e-mailed by Steve Mastellotto. Ken also mentioned he can use member's accounts of experiences for the newsletter.

**Director of Public Education: Randy Groundwater**

Randy hosted 25 Girl Guides, their leaders and some parents in the observatory on a totally clouded out night. All were impressed with the observatory and its capabilities. The visit helped them earn their astronomy badges.

Pierre Boulos will host 20 grade 4 and 5 students from the Montessori school at the observatory next Tuesday night. He has asked for help.

Steve Pellarin did a presentation to about 25 cub scouts at Camp Henry under a clear sky with the Moon, Mars and constellations conveniently visible.

The next event planned by Steve is a presentation at the Riverside Public

Library at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7th. He asked for help from those able to bring telescopes to look at Mars from the parking lot.

**Director of Public Relations: Peter Bondy**

Peter was not able to attend the meeting. Steve reminded all that Saturday evening, November 5th is the next open house night at the Hallam Observatory. Mars will be the main target featured in view of its close approach to Earth at this time.

**Light Pollution Committee: Dan Taylor**

The City of Windsor is asking for input from the public at a booth in the Devonshire Mall on Saturday Nov. 29th at the Devonshire Mall. They are doing a ten year review of the city's master environmental plan. Members are encouraged to make comments regarding existing offensive lighting as the recent legislation applies only to new developments.

Members were also reminded the city's new "311" phone line is a very convenient and effective way to report objectionable lighting. Dan listed three recent buildings with such lighting, "Ground Effects" on Walker Rd., the new CAW Centre and the "Church of God" at 3325 Walker Road.

The New England states are heavily going into lighting legislation to improve their cities and towns. The city of Boston, Dan told us, is changing all their lighting to full cutoff fixtures.

Dan recently met with the Lakeshore Planning Committee re offensive lighting at the new Essex water treatment plant. He will also meet with the MTO in St. Catherines on November 1st. A future meeting is planned with the Windsor Essex County Environmental Committee. There has been no activity regarding the windfarms planned for Essex County.

**National Council Representative: Tim Bennett**

Tim will attend the next meeting in Toronto next week. There has been little exciting news other than the problem of balancing the budget.

**Observatory:**

Steve reminded members their key access to the observatory expires on October 1st. It can be renewed with Ken Garber.

**Membership Chairman: Pierre Boulos**

Pierre was not available for the meeting. Steve reported Pierre has been sending e-mails welcoming new members to Windsor Centre.

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**Main presentation by Paul Preney**

Paul has been a member of Windsor Centre since joining in 1979 as a grade 9 high school student. His prime career interest is in super computing, a field where he holds a Master's degree. He is currently on leave from his Ph.D. thesis to take a degree in education.

His topic perfectly matches his career and astronomy interests. "Open Source Software" is a remarkable development whereby those interested in software and its improvements can contribute to the main program. Their efforts are unpaid and the resultant software is free to those interested.

His presentation addressed a new astronomy program well suited to naked eye and binocular observing. It is called "Stellarium" and can be downloaded from <http://stellarium.sf.net/> .

It is early in its revisions and already has interesting features to make it very realistic. A glow around the moon and ground fog on earth or your own observing site scenery can be added to make screen views look very familiar. A feature members enjoyed was "remove the Earth's atmosphere". This made the daytime sky look black with the Sun just another (but enormous) star in a black sky. Speeding up time while looking at the Sun made our Earth's orbital motion around the Sun highly obvious.

Contributors can send digital astro images for the Stellarium data base and have their name included on the image.

Paul offered help to any member interested in the program. Send him an e-mail referencing Stellarium to his address at [paulpreney@preney.ca](mailto:paulpreney@preney.ca) for assistance. He suggested the program runs best on Linux, an open source operating system. He also offered to supply a CD which can run an entire computer without reference to its previously installed Windows operating system.

Another open source astronomy program called "K-Star" will be covered at a later meeting.

Steve thanked Paul for his interesting presentation and adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Members then gathered behind the building to view Mars in the club's telescope.

David J. Panton  
Recording Secretary