

Correspondence Sect'y Joady Ulrich
 Treasurer Ken Garber
 National Council Rep. Tim Bennett

Councillors:

Harry Brydon Steve Pellarin
 Paul Preney Ken Rounge
 Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu Robin Smallwood
 Tina Chichkan (nominated by Tom Sobocan)

Appointed positions:

Honorary President Dr. William Bayliss
 Newsletter Editor Ken Garber
 Librarian Rick Marion
 Director of Observing Steve Pellarin
 Director of Public Education Randy Groundwater
 Recording Secretary Dave Panton

A show of hands vote accepted the above nominations for the coming year.

Observing Report: Given by Randy Groundwater to assist Steve Pellarin, Randy asked for member's reports and found Tina had seen some Taurid meteors from the observatory. Randy was becoming familiar with his new binocular viewers, using them in the club telescope and seeing spectacular views of Mars.

He reviewed the astronomical sights to be seen in the coming month including such items as the Leonid and Geminid meteor showers. Saturn in the early morning hours is always a gem. Mercury will soon join the list of visible planets.

A member's night at the observatory will be held in December, weather permitting.

Coffee break and 50/50 draw:

The 50/50 draw was won by Mario Fabris.

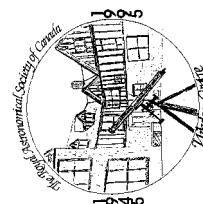
Main presentation by Steve Pellarin

Steve gave us the second half of his Saturn explorations by the Cassini Spacecraft presentation. The animated shots of a pair of shepherd moons gravity swirling a the substance of a ring was memorable. We heard radio sounds from particles hitting the spacecraft. Moons Prometheus and Pandora were shown to have the texture and substance of rubble piles.

Steve provide reams of data and dozens of fascinating animations and photographs of various moons and their many strange and wonderful geological features. They will surely tempt many more Saturn missions in future space exploration.

President Steve Mastellotto thanked Steve for his vivid presentation and adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

David J. Panton
 Recording Secretary



AURORA



Jan. 2006 The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 31, Number 6

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 21, 2006
 8:00 p.m.
 Maidstone K of C Hall
 10720 County Road 34
 (Old Talbot Road)

Speaker: Steve Mastellotto

Topic: Digital Astrophotography

Upcoming Events

Hallam Observatory Open House:

February 4th 7:00 p.m.
 March 4th 7:30 p.m.
 April 1st 8:30 p.m.

Celestial Events:

Jan 23 Double shadow transit for Jupiter
 Jan 27 Saturn at opposition to the Sun
 Feb 1 Saturn near the Beehive
 Feb 2 Asteroid 4 Vesta at mag 6.9
 Feb 4 Asteroids 11 Parthenope (mag 11.2) &
 16 Psyche (mag 10.7) near each other
 Feb - Venus at -4.6 magnitude
 Feb 6 Moon in Pleiades
 Feb 24 Mercury at greatest elongation

Observatory News

Going to the observatory? The 401/Hiway 77
 (Comber) exit has reopened in all directions.

General Meeting Minutes November 15, 2005.

Chaired by President Steve Mastellotto

A welcome to all was given by Steve and the minutes from the October meeting read. A motion to accept them was made by Harry Brydon, seconded by Rick Marion and carried.

Correspondence Secretary: Joady Ulrich
Joady had no correspondence.

Treasurer: Ken Garber

Ken provided a one page year end financial report and commented on its various figures. The most important feature is revenues exceeded expenditures. The greatest single cost is observatory insurance. There are currently 104 paid up members and the current bank balance is \$7400.

Pierre Boulos made a motion to accept the report, Joady seconded and the motion carried.

Librarian: Milica Rakic

Randy Groundwater substituted for Milica and said all the books have been relocated to the observatory. The collection always needs additions, particularly recently published books.

There are loan telescopes available to members for three to six month periods. Only a \$20 refundable deposit is required.

Newsletter Editor: Ken Garber

A full newsletter is coming in December. Members contributions of their astronomical experiences are always welcome.

Director of Public Education: Randy Groundwater

Poor night skies in 2005 spoiled 5 of 8 public and educational events at the observatory. The telescope and large deck are wonderful assets for presentations.

A course of 8 two hour sessions was given at the Centre for Learning in Retirement. One session was added for a trip to the observatory.

In the media, Randy and Rod Clark both write regular astronomy articles for local papers. Rod for the Tecumseh Tribune and Randy, monthly for the Windsor Star since 1992.

Steve Pellarin, Pierre Boulos, Steve Mastellotto, Dan Taylor and Ken Rounge have all hosted young people's groups from Scouts to Brownies and Montessori school students.

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

Steve Mastellotto reported in Peter's absence. The November 5th Mars close approach was wiped out by weather. Earth Day was a disaster with very poor attendance due to cold weather and heavy snowfall!

Light Pollution Committee: Dan Taylor

Dan first reported on the second Mars Night Party held at his home in November. Even on a this windy night his 20 inch Dobsonian provided excellent views of Mars.

The "311" phone number in Windsor has proven very useful in dealing with light pollution matters.

The big news is Point Pelee National Park is to be designated a "dark sky preserve". An official ceremony is to be held in the Spring.

A presentation to the Windsor Essex County Environmental Committee was a success. Alan Halberstadt and Mario Sonego were sympathetic but claimed the city cannot afford the cost of changing to full cutoff street lighting.

A City Engineer, Tiffany Pocock has proven adversarial when improved street lighting is proposed. She has stated there is no advantage of any kind to the City in changing to full cutoff lighting. Thus Windsor is a continuing disaster in grossly wasteful polluting lighting.

The new 7 km CP VACIS rail corridor in the City has been fully equipped with FCO lighting, proving its advantages.

Steve thanked Dan for his exemplary efforts to start the light pollution reduction ball rolling in this area. The job is daunting but Dan has made a lot of progress.

National Council Representative: Tim Bennett

Tim was unable to attend the meeting.

Observatory: Peter Bondy

Steve filled in for Peter and noted the next open house will be held on December 10th. He also reminded key holders renewals can be handled by Ken Garber.

Membership Chairman: Pierre Boulos

Pierre summarized memberships since 1995 and from available figures found 227 names appeared and 133 were no longer listed. Current membership includes only one youth. The Yahoo group now has 60 members.

Business:

Steve reminded members of the Terry Dickenson presentation planned in London on the US Thanks Giving date. Both The Sky and Journal publications from RASC will be late this month. Subscribers can opt out of the hard copy Journal and access it on line. The December Social will be held at the K of C Hall on December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. with dinner ready at 7:00.

Nominations Chairperson: Randy Groundwater

Randy presented a list of nominees for the coming year

Executive:

President	Steve Mastellotto
1st. Vice President	Dr. Pierre Boulous
2nd. Vice President	Peter Bondy