

# AURORA



Volume 31, Number 11

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre

June 2006

## Point Pelee Presentation Ceremony by Dan Taylor

This brief note is to pass along a hearty thank you to all who had a hand in making the award presentation ceremony a resounding success!

**To** RASC National president **Peter Jedicke** and RASC National LPA chair, **Robert Dick**, for the task of providing the exquisite national award, and for Robert's extensive visible efforts and otherwise,

**To Peter Bondy** for managing our LP display at the dinner,

**To** the presenters, Windsor Centre president **Steve Mastellotto** and **Peter Goering**, the DSP Originator,

**To Paul Preney** for his design of the Windsor Centre award,

**To Monique Oltrop** of PP for the help in coordinating our event and coping with all those email questions,

**To** the Staff at Point Pelee for their truly admirable concern for the environment they are entrusted with, especially the individuals I had the pleasure of working with, **Mark Major**, **Jim Goundry**, and **Erika Taves**,

**To Dr. David Welch** for his keen awareness of the full impact of LP and expressing it so well at the ceremony,

**To** (again), Windsor Centre president **Steve Mastellotto**, for providing his superb image of the North American nebula that formed the background on the Point Pelee Dark Sky Preserve certificate.

Lastly, and especially **to** Point Pelee Warden **Dan Reive** and Superintendent **Marian Stranak** for their open-mindedness and genuine concern for the nocturnal environment without which this monumental event would not have been possible.

It should be noted that we all partook in a true pioneering endeavor and take pride in the knowledge that this will no doubt inspire future DSP developments.

The festival of birds fundraiser diner was a wonderful venue. It was most interesting to see so much in common with a group of traveled people disciplined in birding!

Dan Taylor, Windsor Centre Light Pollution Committee

### *In This Issue*

Point Pelee Presentation	Cover
Map; Coming Events	Page 2
Minutes of the May 16th Meeting	Page 3
GA Summary	Page 4
Picnic Pictures	Page 5
Items for Sale	Page 6

## Calendar of Events

### *Our next meeting...*

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2006 8:00 p.m.

at

K of C Maidstone Recreation Centre  
10720 County Road 34 (Old Hiway 3)

### *Main Speaker...*

TBA

### *Topic...*

TBA

### *Coming Events*

#### *Astronomical Events:*

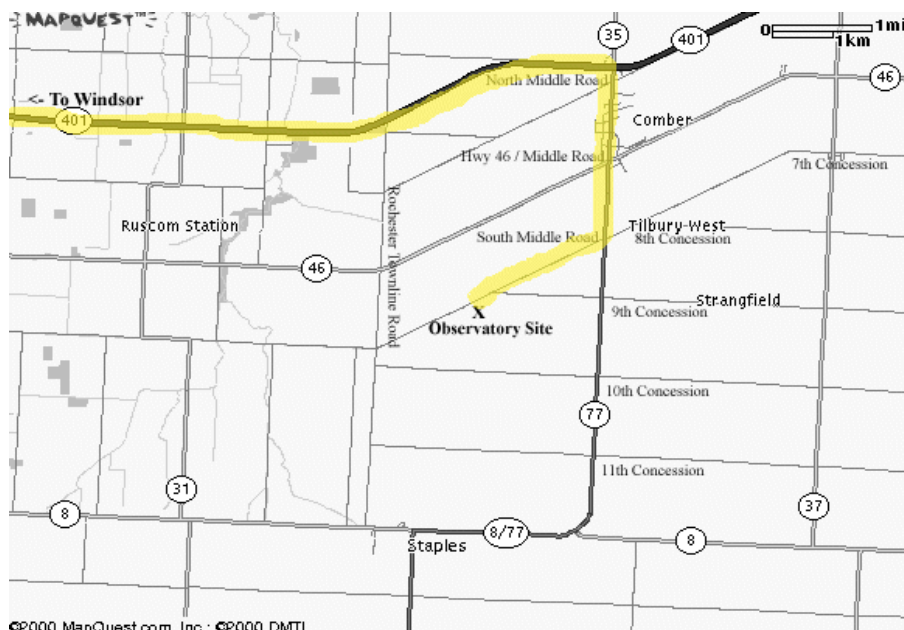
June 21 Summer solstice  
July 20 Moon/Pleiades Occultation  
July 27 southern Delta Aquarid shower  
Aug. 05 northern Delta Aquarid shower  
Aug. 11 Perseid meteor shower  
Sept 22 New Moon, annular eclipse  
Sept 23 Autumnal equinox

#### *Observatory Open House:*

July 1st 9:45 p.m.  
Aug 26th 8:30 p.m.  
Sept 30th 8:00 p.m.

Manitoulin Star Party June 29-July 3  
Stellafane July 28-29

2007 General Assembly Calgary AB



### Hallam Observatory Site

**Directions:** The map above shows the Comber area and it includes the major highways (401, 77, 8 and 46) that are in the area of the observatory.

The most direct route from Windsor is "highlighted" on the map which is to take 401 East to Highway 77 South to South Middle Road. While on South Middle Road you go about 1 kilometer and just after the barely discernable point where Concession 9 joins it you will find the observatory site on the South side of the road.

If you hit the Rochester Townline Road (i.e. you come to a stop sign and have to turn left or right) you have gone too far.

## Submissions

Aurora is published monthly except for August. The October, December, February, April and June issues are full newsletters (usually 6 pages) with a number of member submitted articles. The November, January, March, May and July issues are short flyers (2 pages) with one short article. September is a dual issue with the full 6 page newsletter mailed just **before** the meeting and a flyer available **at** the meeting. Submitted articles can be of any length from a paragraph to multiple pages. I can scan pictures and/or diagrams (both prints and film) to support your article and the originals will be returned to you. Submission deadline is the 1st of the month.

Editor: Ken Garber  
Ass't: Dan Anzovino

Email: kgarber@cogeco.ca  
Email: danzovino@sympatico.ca

## Membership

The Windsor Centre of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month (except July and August) at the K of C Maidstone Recreation Centre. In addition to regular meetings the centre hosts a number of observing nights, a picnic and a December social. Members receive a copy of the Observer's Handbook, the RASC Journal, a subscription to SkyNews magazine and access to the Centre's library and telescopes.

Annual Membership Fees are Regular - \$55.00, Youth - \$34.25 and Life - \$1100.00. **\*\* NOTE New Rates \*\***

Contact Ken Garber at (519) 966-3478 or visit our website at: <http://www.mnsi.net/~rasc> for more information.

## General Meeting minutes of May 16, 2006 as recorded by Dave panton

### **Chaired by President Steve Mastellotto**

The minutes from the April meeting were read and accepted following a motion by Tina Chichkan seconded by Al Des Rosiers. Steve welcomed new members and guests.

### **Correspondence Secretary: Joady Ulrich**

Joady brought a copy of the agenda for the Annual General Assembly in Ottawa in June.

### **Treasurer: Ken Garber**

Ken reported our bank account balance is currently \$6443.32. There are 105 paid up members. Ken announced there would be additional prizes in the 50-50 draw at coffee break.

### **Librarian: Rick Marion**

On the desk this evening are two boxes of astronomy books, free for the taking. They had been declared surplus from the Windsor/Essex Library system.

Rick has cataloged about 50% of the books at the observatory. The finished catalog will be placed on the web for members to peruse and borrow books.

### **Newsletter Editor: Ken Garber**

For the Aurora, Ken would like articles from members. Other Centres' newsletters are on the desk for the taking. Steve mentioned the Amherstburg telescope listed in the last newsletter has been sold.

### **Director of Public Education: Randy Groundwater**

On Astronomy Day about 25 persons came to the observatory for the evening. Coincidentally it was also our Open House Night.

Pierre Boulos is planning to take a group of Physics students from the University of Windsor to the observatory this month.

### **Director of Public Relations: Peter Bondy**

Earth Day on April 23rd at Ojibway Park was a success with about 2000 people attending. Our booth featured both Astronomy and Light Pollution Reduction displays.

### **Light Pollution Abatement: Dan Taylor**

Point Pelee National Park officially became a "Dark Sky Site" on May 12th. At the Festival of Birds annual fund raising dinner the first RASC Light Pollution Abatement award was presented to park officials by Steve Mastellotto. This event is highly significant and is hoped to lead to further dark sky sites. It is a wonderful example of progress to return the stars to our night skies.

Our LPA display was also set up at the event and ably manned by Peter Bondy.

Dan displayed a very well made FCO barnyard light fixture not yet available in Canada for lack of bilingual labeling. Contact Northern Marketing for further information.

He reminded members to call 311 in Windsor to report violations of the new LPA measures. In Windsor the new water pollution plant STILL has the wrong lighting fixtures. The Earth Tech people doing the upgrade plans for highway 3 have given only poor responses to suggestions for FCO fixture inclusions in their design work.

Tim Bennett told us the new truck stop on highway 3 produces far too much light pollution. In a word, their lighting is "horrible".

### **National Council Representative: Tim Bennett**

Tim will represent us in the Annual General Assembly May 18-22 in Ottawa.

The key items on the agenda follow:

- Centres with 200 or greater members during the year would have two representatives.
- A life membership fee increase of \$1000 to \$2100 total.
- A general membership fee increase of \$4 annually without the usual share sent to local Centres.

### **Observatory Director: Peter Bondy**

For the moment the telescope at observatory is not functional via some sort of software glitch. Steve and Randy Groundwater will investigate.

The next open house date is Saturday June 3 at 9:45 p.m.

A date will be set for a general cleanup. In the meantime, Hornet control will be started early.

Peter needs more input regarding ideas and equipment to be included in the next Trillium Grant application. It must be submitted prior to July 1st. Contact Peter for more information.

### **Membership Chair Person: Pierre Boulos**

Pierre reported the Yahoo Website is working as planned. Access can be obtained on approval from either Pierre or Steve.

### **Annual Picnic by Steve Mastellotto**

Saturday, June 17th, rain or shine is the date. Windsor Centre will provide meat for the barbecue. Members are asked to bring side dishes to fill out the picnic table.

### **Director of Observing: Steve Pellarin**

Evening Sky Maps for May were distributed. Steve then showed excellent shots of comet Schwassmann-Wachmann, breaking into numerous components, spread out by virtue of the jet action from dust and gasses blowing off the fractured surfaces. They trail across 6 degrees of sky.

More shots of the newly discovered and growing red spot on Jupiter make it an interesting target from our observatory.

**Continued. .**

## Meeting Minutes (continued)

Mars, Saturn and the Beehive nebula will all be very close on our picnic night.

Steve highlighted some Messier objects of interest in May and also did a review of the constellations most visible at this time.

More Kuiper belt objects are being found. Steve showed shots of one, larger than Pluto and sporting two moons. It is 2003EL61. It is theorized to have an icy surface.

### Coffee Break and 50/50 Draw:

Ken Garber presented three additional prizes, Key ring red LED lights. The lucky winners were Jim Parent, Pierre Boulos and Randy Groundwater.

Steve Pellarin asked for assistance from members with telescopes able help to with group of about 125 Boy Scouts at Heritage Village on Friday May 19th. Randy had organized the event but was unable to handle it due to his work schedule.

### Main Presentation

#### A Pilgrimage To The Modern Sky Temples of the American Southwest

Steve Pellarin recently journeyed to see some of the many observatories in this area. His original career interest was to become an Astronomer. Practical considerations led Steve to retain this interest as a keen amateur astronomer.

His trip started with some variations such as a visit to a de-commissioned Russian submarine and a nuclear missile site.

Mount Palomar's 200 inch telescope saw Steve wandering in awe inside the dome admiring the huge equipment needed to point and track this enormous old telescope. A wide variety of telescopes of all sizes and types attracted Steve's attention at a number of mountain top observatories.

Steve was often able to gain admission otherwise restricted to employees and researches at some facilities. He was well received at all and at one, invited to spend a night in the control area watching observers monitoring computer screens as they gathered astronomical data for future reduction.

By happy coincidence he met Wayne Barkhouse a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto and now an important name in American Astronomy.

Photographs of all facilities were displayed by Steve along with very impressive examples astronomical photographs shot from many observatories.

Members showed their appreciation for Steve's enthusiastic presentation and the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

David J. Panton

Recording Secretary

## GA Summary by Tim Bennett

### At the 2006 GA, the following motions of note were made:

#### MOTION AM0604

It was moved by Scott Young, and seconded by Patrice Scattolin, that the **life** membership fee of the Society be increased from \$1100 to \$2100 effective immediately and that this amount be interpreted as Canadian dollars for members with addresses in Canada or as US dollars for members with addresses outside of Canada.

MOTION AM0604 was CARRIED

#### MOTION AM0605

It was moved by Gary Boyle, and seconded by Ted Bronson, that the annual membership fees of the Society be changed as follows:

##### **Ordinary members**

Increased from \$55 to \$59 with the Society portion equal to \$37 and the Centre portion equal to \$22;

##### **Youth members**

Increased from \$34.25 to \$36.75 with the Society portion equal to \$23.05 and the Centre portion equal to \$13.70.

The new fees shall become effective at a date determined by the Council, except no earlier than January 1, 2007. These fees are to be interpreted as Canadian dollars for members with addresses in Canada or as US dollars for members with addresses outside of Canada.

MOTION AM0605 was CARRIED

#### MOTION AM0606

It was moved by Denis Grey, and seconded by Joe Otonicar, that Bylaw 4.08(1) be amended to the following:

Every Centre is entitled to be represented on the National Council by one member of the Centre for each two hundred voting members of the Centre or portion thereof, which representatives are known as "National Council Representatives."

The number of National Council Representatives to which a Centre is entitled during a year shall be determined from the highest number of members of the Centre as of the end of any calendar month during the previous year, according to the membership records of the Society. A new Centre shall be entitled to one National Council Representative for the year in which it becomes a Centre.

MOTION AM0606 was CARRIED by special resolution

## On the Web...

### Google Astronomy:

Earth.Google.Com  
Moon.Google.Com  
Mars.Google.Com

### Earthgazing:

Worldwind.arc.nasa.gov

### Earth At Night:

[www-static.cc.gatech.edu/~pesti/night](http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/~pesti/night)

### Microsoft Live Local:

[local.live.com/default.aspx?s\\_cid=msc000003](http://local.live.com/default.aspx?s_cid=msc000003)

## NEW RASC Centre

A new Centre has been added to the RASC fold.

We welcome Mississauga Ontario as the latest to become part of the family.

## 2006-2007 National Executive

**President:** Scott Young  
**1st VP:** Dave Lane  
**2nd VP:** Mary Lou Whitehorne  
**Secretary:** Stan Runge  
**Treasurer:** Dave Clark

## 2006 Windsor Centre Annual Picnic - top photo - K. Garber ; bottom photo - S. Mastellotto





## Centre Internet Communications

A Newsgroup/discussion board has been set up for Centre members on Yahoogroups. Created by Pierre Boulos, the list is called **RASCWINDSOR**.

To find out more about the *rascwindsor* group and to subscribe, please visit  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rascwindsor>

## A Little Fund Raising

Got any Canadian Tire money lying around that you'd like to get rid of?



Why not donate them to the Centre?

To date we've collected almost \$40. Some of this will go towards preparing the site against wasps and other creepies. We're always buying bits and pieces - be it hardware or a can of bug spray.

Bring them along to any meeting and throw them into the box on the treasurer's table, and they will be made to good use.

## Time to Renew??

Don't forget that you can renew your membership at the treasurer's desk, by snailmail to the National, or online at the RASC 'store' at

<http://www.store.rasc.ca/>

And don't forget that the printed Journal is now optional extra. Look for the option on your form.

## For Sale

### FOR SALE

MEADE Model 2080: 8 INCH Schmidt-Cassegrain TELESCOPE complete with all accessories.

Includes foam-lined carrying case. 9 X 60 polar viewfinder with lighted reticle. Diagonal Prism(1 1A). Fork mount with quartz motor drive wedge. Heavy duty field tripod mount. 2 meade 11A eyepieces - 9mm & 25mm. Originally purchased 1990 for \$2500.00 CDN.

Additional accessories purchased include:

Lenses: Televue 7mmNagler (11/4)  
Televue 12mmNagler (VA) Type 2  
Televue 17mmPlossl (r/4)  
Televue 40mmPlossl (1%)  
Televue 2. 5x Barlow (1%)

Filters: SCV 8inch Solar Filter to view the sun.  
Meade #911 nebula filter.  
Celestron EP Filter set of 6 (1%)

Meade #106C Off-Axis assembly

Meade # 671 Wide Field System

Canon T-mount (for Canon AE-1 camera)

SCV Motofocus push-on motor

SCV Motodec Push-on motor

(Cost of additional accessories was \$ 1495.00 in U.S. funds)  
(all receipts included)

Can be viewed at 51 Poplar Drive, McGregor, ON. (Lucier Estates)

MAKE AN OFFER on complete package or individual accessories. No reasonable offer refused.

Contact:

Ron Gardner. Phone: 519-726-6220 Cell: 519-796-3838

### FOR SALE

Celestron G-9.25 optical tube assembly. This is a Schmidt Cassegrain system with a 2 inch upgraded star diagonal. The finder scope is a Celestron 9x50mm on a quick release mount; a 26mm plossl ocular is included.

Included free with this telescope is an older German equatorial mount. This mount needs some repair, however it is sturdy and can carry this scope. \$ 1000.00 .

Contact Alan DesRosiers 735-9550  
or [alanclaire@hotmail.com](mailto:alanclaire@hotmail.com)

### FOR SALE

31 mm Nagler \$700  
17 mm Nagler type 4 \$400

Both in excellent condition and rarely used.

Contact Dan Taylor at [dtaylor@wincom.net](mailto:dtaylor@wincom.net)