

There is a forthcoming DRIC public input meeting on November 15th at the Cleary. Interested members can attend and comment on the proposed new bridge lighting, paint colors and so on.

The new Princess Auto store may have unacceptable lighting. Call 311 to report and have it changed to meet Windsor's recent bylaw for lighting on new buildings.

Yorktown Plaza in South Windsor is undergoing a major overhaul of its decrepit parking lot. New lighting is likely but will it be full cutoff? Call 311 to report if is not so equipped.

National Council Representative: Tim Bennett

Tim was unavailable so Scott Young did a brief presentation on National affairs. He asked for project ideas useful on a national scale.

Observatory Director: Peter Bondy

Peter was unavailable. Steve mentioned the next observatory open house will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday evening October 28th.

Membership Survey Results: Pierre Boulos

Some thirty members responded to the survey and all but one were generally positive in most aspects of the club's operation. More study is needed to define the areas where improvement would be beneficial.

Director of Observing: Steve Pellarin

Three comets will be visible in the next three weeks. Comet Swan will be nearly naked eye visible at magnitude 6. On the afternoon of November 8 Mercury will transit the face of Sun and the event observable locally. There will also be a passage of the Moon across the Pleiades.

Steve showed spectacular spacecraft shots taken from Saturn's dark side. More ring detail was visible along with the faint haze of a huge outer ring highlighted by sunlight.

NASA's lengthy "Sofia" project is nearing flight status. A Boeing 747 has been very extensively modified to become an air born 2.5 metre infra-red telescope platform. Aimed out a sliding door on the left side of the aircraft the telescope will observe from altitudes high enough to be above almost all the infra-red absorbing water moisture contained in Earth's atmosphere.

Canadian David Levy has visually discovered another comet bringing his total to twenty-two!

Thanks from Steve Mastellotto

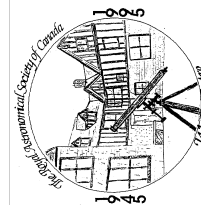
Steve thanked both Scott and Steve for their interesting presentations and adjourned the meeting at 10:19 p.m.

David J. Pantou

Recording Secretary



AURORA



Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2006
8:00 p.m.

Maidstone K of C Hall
10720 County Road 34
(Old Talbot Road)

Speaker: Paul Preney

Topic: Astronomy computer programs

Upcoming Events

Hallam Observatory Open House:

Nov 25th	7 p.m.
Dec 9th	7 p.m.

Annual Christmas Potluck:
Dec 1st 6 p.m.

Celestial Events:

Dec 13, 2006	Geminid meteors
Dec 21, 2006	Winter solstice 7:22 A.M.
Dec 27, 2006	Moon at perigee

2007

Jan 3, 2007	Earth at perihelion
Jan 3, 2007	Full Moon 8:57 A.M.
Jan 3, 2007	Quadrantid meteors

Monthly Meeting Minutes for Oct 17th 2006 compiled by Dave Panton

Chaired by President Steve Mastellotto

The minutes from the September meeting were read. A motion to accept them was made by Susan Sawyer Beaulieu, seconded by K.C. Masterson and accepted.

A box of books, declared surplus from the Essex library system were placed on the back table for the taking.

Main Presentation "Pluto versus the Ice Dwarves"

Steve introduced National president Scott Young from Winnipeg, currently visiting a series of Centres. Steve is a planetarium host and a keen amateur astronomy and had visited Windsor Centre several years ago in the company of last president Peter Jedicke.

Pluto, Steve explained was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh (also a visitor to Windsor Center) in 1930. It was the ninth planet but had an orbit much more elongated and tipped from the plane of our seven sister planets.

It is very far out from our Sun, very cold and so dark an observer would see our sun as an object similar to Jupiter's appearance to Earth bound observers. Peter enumerated its many advantages as a location for an extremely unlikely observatory.

The outer naked eye planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, were long known by the ancients. Uranus, Ceres, Pallas, Juno, Vesta and finally Neptune were all discovered by 1846.

Ever improving observing equipment has helped astronomers discover far more objects in our solar system than could have been imagined only a century ago. Many are tiny, barely observable under excellent conditions. Others rival the size of Pluto and have similarly tipped orbital planes.

This factor, among many others has made Pluto a sort of poor cousin planet with a whole host of recently found relatives. For this and a number of other reasons International Astronomical Union members voted to create a new category of planets to which Pluto would become the first. After a lot of debate and controversy the final vote took Pluto out of our standard nine planet list and placed it into a category called "Dwarf Planets".

Our solar system now contains a Sun, 8 planets, innumerable dwarf planets and huge numbers of asteroids in the Kuiper belt. Some have enough mass and thence gravity to pull their materials into spheres. Lower mass objects or objects with materials resistant to the forces of gravitational compression form into all manner of odd shapes.

There are also comets orbiting the sun in elliptical paths and the spherical Oort Cloud surrounding our system with a thin veil of fine particles far beyond Pluto's orbit.

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With good luck and good management following a ten year journey the New Horizons spacecraft will zip past Pluto in 2015. The photo opportunity window is only four hours long. With only the dimmest of views of Pluto (perhaps a couple of dozen pixels) available to date the mission should reveal a lot more about dwarf planet Pluto.

Scott received a well earned round of applause.

Coffee Break and 50/50 Draw: Tom Sobocan brought in an enjoyable collection of Tim Horton's goodies, tea, coffee, and hot chocolate for break period.

Business

Treasurer: Ken Garber

The bank balance is \$5222.43. There are currently 98 paid up members. Observer's 2007 calendars are available for \$12 each. Canadian Tire money is gratefully accepted and used for observatory odds and ends. Observatory key renewals at \$40 annually are due this month.

Ken also reminded members to send their Sky and Telescope subscription renewal forms and remittances to him. He authenticates membership and forwards them to S&T.

Librarian: Rick Marion

Rick asked members to return any equipment they may have on loan to help him compile an accurate inventory.

Newsletter Editor: Ken Garber

Ken needs members' articles for the next Aurora newsletter two months hence.

Director of Public Education: Randy Groundwater

Randy reminded members our November meeting is also the annual meeting. He needs information for his Public Education Report and asked members for information on any public education events they may be involved in this year.

Nominations for Annual Meeting: Randy Groundwater

Randy reviewed the list of proposed nominees that was printed at the meeting.

Light Pollution Abatement: Dan Taylor

Dan thanked those who attended the latest Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) public meeting to remind them of the many environmental advantages of full cut off (FCO) lighting.

A battle is forthcoming in the planning stages of the highway 3 expansion plan. The consulting engineers are expected to specify old concept light polluting fixtures.

The anti wind farm group in Kingsville used every imaginative idea they could think of as objections. Knowledge of their facts was notably lacking when they claimed bright white strobe lights would be annoying. Wind farms use far less intense red lighting.

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