

Membership Chairperson: Pierre Boulos

Pierre had nothing of significance to report.

Nominations Chairperson: Randy Groundwater

Randy officiated and the following positions were filled via formal nomination procedures. There were no contested positions thus eliminating the need to do any voting.

[Please see the December Aurora for the Election Results]

Feature: Donna Ronconi

Donna hopes to make good use of her new telescope and described how she first became interested in Astronomy during the passage of comet Halley in 1985. She described her last science course, taken in Grade 9 as a taste of things to come and enjoys the science content in our meetings.

In 2000 she took a day long tour of the Kennedy Space Centre. The following year she observed the unforgettable Leonid meteor shower from Costa Rica.

Mini Feature: Randy Groundwater

Randy took a few moments to describe the telescopes he possessed since first becoming interested in astronomy while in high school. We all look forward to see his new 22 inch Dobsonian when it is finished.

Coffee Break and 50/50 Draw:

Tom Sobocan's collection of delicious delights from Tim Hortons, served with coffee, tea and hot chocolate were especially enjoyed by those who had ventured outside in the cold to see Donna's new telescope in its natural environment.

Director of Observing: Steve Pellarin

Our Winter constellations are coming nicely into view with Orion the main attraction rising in the South East. The Moon at this time interferes a bit but check out the Graben in Ariadus Rille.

Fading Comet Swan has been observed from Hallam observatory.

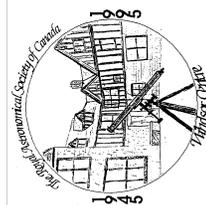
The annual Leonid meteors were hidden above a cloud layer but not to be deterred, Art Rae listened for their effects on VHF and UHF radio transmissions.

Steve also showed a video of a monstrous Hurricane at the South Pole of Saturn, observed by a space craft for the very first time. Saturn is currently rising in our late evening sky.

The Geminid meteor shower is another event we may be able to observe easily from any local dark site.

Meeting adjourned 10:25 p.m.

David J. Panton, Recording Secretary



AURORA



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Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 2007
8:00 p.m.

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

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

Upcoming Events

Hallam Observatory Open House:

		Moon Age
January 27	7:00 p.m.	9 days
February 24	7:00 p.m.	7 days
March 24	7:30 p.m.	6 days

Celestial Events:

Feb 02	Full Moon
Feb 10	Saturn at mag +0.2 *
Feb 17	New Moon
Feb 23	Moon close to Pleiades
Mar 03	Lunar Eclipse *
Mar 22	Pleiades Occultation *

April 21 International Astronomy Day

* See your Jan/Feb SkyNews for details

Monthly Meeting Minutes for Nov 21st 2006 compiled by Dave Panton

Chaired by President Steve Mastellotto

The minutes from the October meeting were read, Casey Masterson moved acceptance, Randy Groundwater seconded and the motion carried. Steve explained the November meeting is time for annual executive reports and the annual election. Pleasure before business, so the next item was the main presentation.

Assembling and Using a New Telescope

Donna Ronconi brought her brand new Celestron NexStar 80 GTL telescope to the meeting unopened in its original container. The objective was to open it, remove and explain the purpose of the various components, put them all together and observe outside at break time.

Aided by Randy and Steve an attractive "goto" APO telescope soon emerged from the chaos of packaging materials. With fresh batteries it came to life, answering the hand controllers directional commands. Would it be possible to observe with it at break time? Steve took us back to business.

Annual Reports

Correspondence Secretary: Joady Ulrich

Joady explained e-mail has helped reduce correspondence by mail to a very low level. He corresponds with Cyril Hallam's widow Dorothy, as she still has an interest in Windsor Centre.

Treasurer: Ken Garber

Ken distributed his annual statement breaking down income and its sources vs. various expenses. Current bank balance is \$5709.49. Revenue was down from last year primarily due to very poor observing weather and reduced group visits to Hallam. Assets remain at \$75,000.

Art Rae made the motion to accept the annual statement, Joady Ulrich seconded and it carried.

Librarian: Rick Marion

Rick reported he had managed to reduce the inventory of books and other materials to 6 boxes from 16. Four of the six club telescopes are in usable condition. The Ray Paterson telescope is a showpiece but not easily set up for observing.

Director of Public Education: Randy Groundwater

Randy reported it was a slow year partly due to poor weather forcing several cancellations. In cold weather the warm room is only large enough for very small groups. The observatory has become the focal point for Windsor Centre's activities.

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The Centre for Learning in Retirement course given by Randy was successful and will be continued. Steve Pellarin reported he made astronomy presentations at 2 schools and three libraries. Two cub scout events at Hallam are on next week's agenda.

Director of Public Relations: Peter Bondy

Steve Mastellotto reported in Peter's absence. This area was slow this year with no significant public observing sessions.

Light Pollution Abatement: Dan Taylor

The Detroit River International Crossing study people have been contacted on several occasions to ensure all of their proposals include full cutoff lighting.

The Ministry of Transport for Ontario people do not appear to have consistent lighting standards. Their attitude is often condescending. In spite of this they have accepted some of Dan's suggestions.

Leamington has FCO street lighting already but would like to adopt Windsor's city wide standards for new projects.

Dave Ainslie promotes FCO lighting among members of his local farm community.

In Windsor, the new Princess Auto store has partially met the new FCO lighting standards but badly fails in one area with glaring lights on one side of their building. This item is handled via 311 calls to the City.

Yorktown Square in Windsor has a rebuilt parking lot with new light standards and fixtures. They approach full cutoff lighting types.

National Council Representative: Tim Bennett

Tim was unable to attend.

Observatory Director: Peter Bondy

In Peter's absence Steve reported the new double head security light and motion sensor have been installed and are working as intended. The original assemble was mysteriously unreliable.

The new computer and LCD monitor have also been installed. It is now running "Sky 6" telescope control software under the Windows XP operating system.

Business: Steve Mastellotto

The December Social is set for December 1st. at 6:00 p.m. It is the usual pot luck format.

Our next public open house date at the observatory is December 9th at 7:00 p.m.

There is no regular meeting in December.

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