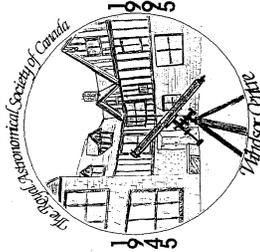




AURORA



April 2007

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre

Volume 32, Number 9

The RASC wants your pictures

Dear Member,

Astronomical images of all types are invited to be considered for publication in the 2008 Observer's Calendar, including deep sky, solar system, and dramatic astronomically-themed landscapes. Images could be prime focus, piggyback, eyepiece projection, fixed tripod; and recorded with film or a digital/CCD camera.

Please remember that images submitted have to be of sufficient quality and resolution to reproduce well at a size of about 10"x13" and have to be compatible with the "landscape" orientation of the calendar images. This generally will mean a resolution of at least 1500x1200 pixels.

If you already have a gallery of images on your website, send me the link, but please also direct me to your favourites. As you may be aware a variety of different types of objects are published in the calendar, including both well-known and obscure objects too. I will also be looking at which objects have appeared in recent years to avoid the same objects being used too often.

You can email submissions directly to me. I have a bottomless email box, however it's probably best to send me jpegs first, then if your image is selected, I will likely request the full resolution tiff version. The deadline for submissions is May 6.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Clear skies,

Dave Lane, RASC Observer's Calendar Editor, dlane@ap.stmarys.ca

The Moon On the Internet

If you're interested in discussions about the moon, you may want to check out the following sites. There are even free downloadable newsletters and software packages.

<http://digilander.libero.it/qlrgroup/journal.htm>

<http://www.qlrgroup.org/home.htm>

http://www.astrosurf.com/avl/UK_index.html [Virtual Moon Atlas]

In This Issue

The RASC want your pictures; Moon on the Internet	Cover
Calendar of Events	Page 2
Minutes from last month's meeting	Page 3
Randy talks Telescopes	Page 4
Light Pollution Pictures; Items For Sale	Page 5
This and That (astronomically speaking)	Page 6

Calendar of Events

Our next meeting...

Tuesday, May 15, 2007 8:00 p.m.
at

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

Main Speaker...

Paul Pratt **POSTPONED to**
the JUNE meeting

Topic...

The remarkable night vision of Owls
and bird migration navigation by reference to stars.

Coming Events

Astronomical Events:

April 17, 2007 New Moon 7:36 A.M.

April 21, 2007 Lyrid meteors

May 2, 2007 Full Moon 6:09 A.M.

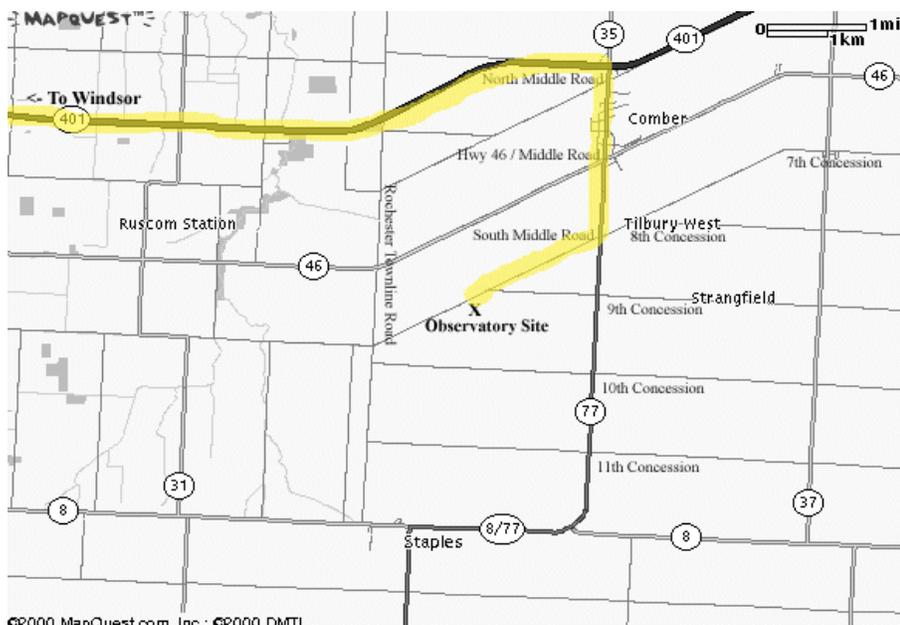
May 4, 2007 Eta Aquarid meteors

Observatory Open Houses:

See the last page for the current list.

June 12th Council Meeting at Harry Brydon's

June 28—July 1 GA in Calgary



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 (optional at extra cost), 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 - \$2100.00. **** NOTE New Rates ****

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

Meeting Minutes for March 20th as recorded by Dave panton

Chaired by Dr. Pierre Boulos

Pierre welcomed all and choreographed a jump through the equinox to Spring.

Minutes from the February meeting were read. Harry Brydon made the motion for acceptance, Steve Mastellotto seconded and it was carried after Dan Taylor demoted the super nova to a nova.

Dan Howard was welcomed as a new member.

Main Presentation:

Planetary Geology

Pierre introduced Dr. Denis Tetreault, a paleontologist from the University of Windsor with a keen interest and knowledge of the Geology of Earth and it's many solar system companions.

Denis began with a briefing on the differences between gaseous and solid planets. The latter display evidence of their past in surface craters and geologic activity. The square/cube law gives the diameter and volume relationship and in turn it helps explain why large bodies cool far more slowly than small.

Cooler objects have less volcanic activity leaving their surfaces little changed, recording long records of impact cratering. Tiny, battered Mercury is a good example. Our Moon is similar but being heated by gravitational flexing in its orbit old volcanic activity buried some craters.

Venus, shrouded in a dense atmosphere of CO₂ has craters and also volcanism, covering some craters in volcanic lava.

Mars, displays all sorts of geologic features caused by activity similar to our own. Evidence of chemical reactions only possible in water has been found and evidence suggestive of recent water flow also spotted.

Jupiter's moons and moons of further distant planets are where really bizarre geologic happenings are going on today. Volcanoes erupt streams of sulfur, others on colder moons spew streams of liquid nitrogen. Methane lakes and rain are another curiosity.

Lots of neat photographs and animations made all this interesting and understandable. Pierre thanked Denis for his presentation.

Coffee Break and 50/50 Draw

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and Tim Horton's donuts via Tom Sobocan's efforts gave members a brief period to socialize before the 50/50 draw.

Monthly Hallam Observatory Open House:

Pierre reminded members to come and bring friends and relatives to the March 24th open house starting at 7:30 p.m.

Council Meeting:

Pierre mentioned a move to establish an Astrophotography group within RASC Windsor Centre had been carried at the council meeting of March 6th. Steve Mastellotto, leader of the group spoke briefly indicating photo sessions will be held at the observatory, starting after the regular April 17th meeting. Steve has extensive accessories for his Canon DSLR camera. Group members with similar cameras can use them at these sessions.

Treasurer: Ken Garber

The bank balance is \$3360, all bills currently paid. There are currently 89 paid up members. A few 2007 calendars are available at \$10 each.

Newsletter Editor: Ken Garber

Advertisements are welcome, as are articles by members.

Director of Public Education: Randy Groundwater

Randy hosted a large group of Brownies, their guides and parents at Hallam on March 15th. A similar group from Belle River will come to the observatory on March 27th. In April two student groups, one from E.J. LaJeunesse and another from Prince Edward School will visit. On June 20th students from Dougal School go to Point Pelee for nature visit including a night observing session.

Director of Public Relations: Tina Chichkan

Earth Day Sunday April 22nd will be a bit different this year. Our RASC display will be at Mic Mac Park, new home base for both the "vendor" area and buses to Ojibway. On May 12th the Annual "Festival of Birds" event at Point Pelee will include observing the night sky. RASC Windsor Centre website and events are now broadcast on Cogeco Cable 11.

National Council: Tim Bennett

Tim was absent

Observatory Director: Peter Bondy

Peter was absent.

Membership Director: Paul Pratt

Paul was absent.

Light Pollution Abatement: Dan Taylor

Dan reminded members to call Windsor's 311 line to report violations of new lighting standards. He will make a case for light pollution reduction at next Windsor Essex County School Board meeting March 27th. On the same night Lakeshore Town Council will consider new planning standards to include LPR. If adopted, a public review period will follow before standards are implemented.

Meeting Minutes for March 20th continued

The new Catholic High School in Harrow has ideal lighting per Harry Brydon. Ken Rount and Dan Taylor encouraged this prior to construction.

Short Presentation by Dan Taylor

The Influence of Atmosphere on Astronomical Observing Conditions

Dan explained the meaning of some of the terms involved in seeing conditions. Transparency is affected by aerosols such as dust, and other pollutants including water vapor and thin cloud layers. Other effects like jet streams, distance above the horizon and even tube currents within telescopes all have effects. For practical purposes use the Sky Clock as a quick reference and then observe objects in the night sky for clarity, lack of scintillation and rate seeing conditions on a scale of 1-5. Five is the best.

Director of observing this month: Dan Taylor

Dan queried members for observing reports asking, "What did you observe in the past month". Answers covered an amazing variety of observations and objects.

The Messier Marathon on March 17/18 at Hallam with the Henry Lee telescope was favored by good seeing conditions. The first shift Saturday night caught the first 65 and the second shift saw all but the final three, invisible in the Sunday morning Dawn. On Sunday evening two members also observed all but one of the first 65 objects.

Steve Mastellotto suggested the last three could only be observed from a shorter dawn location further South.

Dan reviewed the many interesting night sky sights observable in April. A new Nova, Cyg 2007 is a special feature as is the chance of seeing a new comet. A variable star "R Leonis" deserves attention. Dan provided a locator chart. Member's interests in variables was piqued on seeing a two-year animation of small plot of stars. Most remained the same; the balance changed magnitudes and some also varied in colors.

Pierre thanked Dan for his three presentations.

"A Brief History of Life on Earth" will be next month's main presentation, given by our Honorary President Dr. William Bayliss

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

David J. Panton

Recording Secretary

Randy talks Telescopes

At the February meeting, Randy Groundwater discusses the various types of telescopes. See the Aurora Flyer for text from Randy's talk. Photos courtesy Tom Sobocan

Photo 1: Refractors

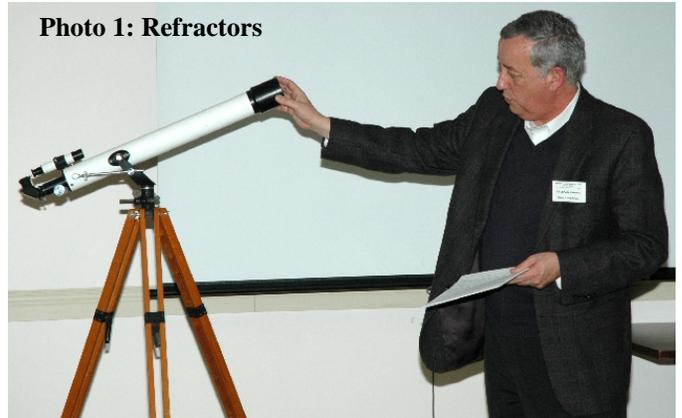


Photo 2: Reflectors



Photo 3: Schmidt-Cassegrain



Light Pollution Examples from Dan Taylor

This is the AFTER of Princess Auto at Lauzon Parkway and Forest Glade. In the future, if everyone can remember to, please get a couple of BEFORE shots so Dan can show before and after shots. B/A evening pictures would help too, but may be harder to grab.

This is a BEFORE shot of a recently built warehouse in the Twin Oaks Industrial Park. This building does not appear to be occupied yet and can be found in the southeast corner of the Lauzon Parkway and Twin Oaks intersection. This photo is of the southeast corner of the structure.



For Sale

FOR SALE

6 inch Meade Starfinder

Reflecting Telescope with Equatorial Mount. Package includes:

- 1 - Meade Multicoated 9mm eyepiece
- 1 - " " 12mm "
- 1 - " " 15mm Super Plossl eyepiece
- 1 - " " 25mm eyepiece
- 1 - 2x Telenegative Amplifier (Barlow)
- 1 - Red flashlight
- 1 - Instruction Manual

Price \$550.00 (new price)

If you are interested contact John Murray directly at 519-944-7052
or via email at jmurray100@cogeco.ca

FOR SALE

Celestron Nexstar 114.

It is 2 years old and only used once. Note this is a Goto computerized telescope and he is including a 25mm eyepiece.

Alan King can be reached at 519-326-1361 or at jackall2@cogeco.ca

FOR SALE

Identiview 3 inch solar filter by J.M.B. Industries. \$150.00

Contact Ken Rong at 519-738-3479

Centre Internet Communications

Have the internet? Check out the newsgroup/discussion board for Centre members on Yahoogroups 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 more than \$70. 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 give them to the treasurer's table, and they will be put 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.

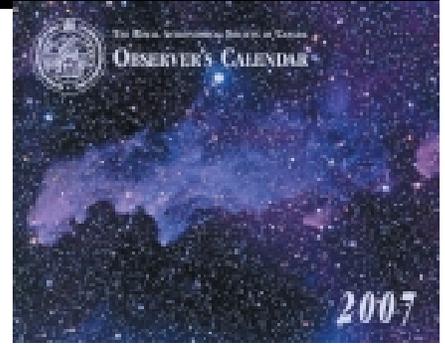
Got Yours yet ??

Still available...

**The 2007 RASC
Calendar . . .
Only \$10.00!!!**

Already have one?

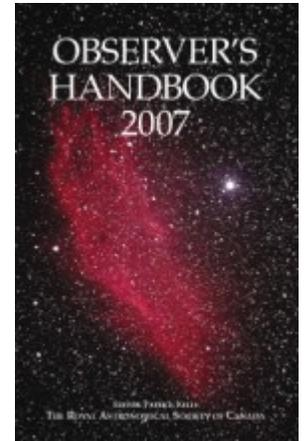
**Then how about a
gift for someone?**



AND also available
(in very limited quantities)...

**The 2007 Observers'
Handbook**

**and the 2006 Observers'
Handbook**



2007 Observatory Open Houses

As compiled by Randy Groundwater

Here is the schedule for the coming year.

All are Saturday evenings.

Note that the August Open House will not interfere with Starfest / Stellafane, as both are being held the weekend before.

The October Open House is scheduled one week earlier than optimum, in case we're all at Pt. Pelee the following weekend helping out with their planned nature night walk.

Here we go:

SATURDAY	Start	Moon age
April 21	8:30 p.m.	4 days
May 19	9:30 p.m.	3 days
June 23	9:45 p.m.	9 days
July 21	9:30 p.m.	7 days
August 18	8:30 p.m.	6 days
September 15	8:00 p.m.	4 days
October 13	7:00 p.m.	2 days
November 17	7:00 p.m.	8 days
December 15	7:00 p.m.	6 days