

Donna Ronconi has discovered it is possible for out-of-city residents to call Windsor's 311 hot line by first dialing 255-CITY and then 311.

Bright sky glow caused by some green houses in the Kingsville/Leamington area, Tom Sobocan reported, is only noticed during the short Easter flower growing season.

National Council Report: Position open

Steve Mastellotto has been following the business affairs of National and reported we should not expect any boost in the \$22 membership fee rebated to local centres.

Observatory Report: Peter Bondy

Peter was absent. Steve Mastellotto reported the 111 mm F7 APO refracting telescope he recently purchased has been mounted on the C14 at the observatory and is available for observers to compare views between it and the club 355mm F11 reflecting telescope.

Membership Director: Paul Pratt

Paul had a nil report.

Director of Observing for March: Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu

Susan first asked for reports from lunar eclipse observers. There were several from various aspects of the event. Harry Brydon reported he noticed the high contrast at the edge of the Earth's shadow. Art Rae noticed stars began to appear at maximum coverage. Dave Panton noticed it became very dark on the ground at the observatory. Steve Pellarin was sure he could see a hint of galaxies. Peter Bondy, in the City downtown area at the time could see constellations. Tom Sobocan took a variety of exposures and plans to combine them. Some photos by Art Rae were shown to members.

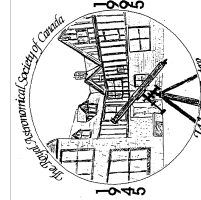
Susan distributed observer's maps of the sky for the coming month and noted some additional information. The Sun, she explained was at its minimum solar cycle and displays only a hint of a single sun spot. Mars and M35 are near one another and both are binocular visible. Saturn's rings are approaching their near edge on phase as viewed from Earth. One interesting event easily viewed naked eye over a period of about an hour is the Moon passing across the Pleiades star cluster.

Pierre thanked Susan for her report and announced the feature event at the April meeting would be Walter Jin, speaking on amateur astronomy in China.

Next meeting April 15th.



AURORA



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Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 20th, 2008
7:30 p.m.

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

Speaker: T. B. A.

Topic: T. B. A.
NOTE THE NEW STARTING TIME.

Upcoming Events

Hallam Observatory Open House:

June 7, 2008	9:30 p.m.
July 12, 2008	9:30 p.m.
August 23, 2008	8:30 p.m.

Celestial Events:

April 22	Lyrid shower
May 4	Eta Aquarid shower

Centre Events:

April 27th	Earth Day at Mic-Mac
June 14th	Centre Picnic

Other Events:

May 10th	Astronomy Day
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Chaired by Dr. Pierre Boulos

Members and visitors were welcomed and minutes from the February meeting read. Dan Taylor made the motion to accept them, Harry Brydon seconded and the motion carried.

Main Presentation:

Understanding the Weirdness of Quantum Theory

By Dr. William Baylis

Pierre introduced Dr. William Baylis from the University of Windsor Physics Department and honorary president of RASC Windsor Centre. Dr. Baylis traditionally gives members of Windsor Centre an annual talk. This year his topic was in the esoteric area of quantum theory. He first gave a summary of the topics many members have read about in astronomy and scientific publications. Time dilation, paradoxes in time and clock de-synchronization, space, gravity and space time were among those mentioned. Then he entered an area being studied by people at his department. Primarily they are interested in a new way toward understanding the theory of quantum gravity.

This is far more esoteric and involves quantum theory and the behavior of matter, energy and gravity in their smallest states of existence. Here, the theory became involved in ways more complex than your recording secretary could follow well enough to provide a summary worthy of Dr. Baylis presentation. Members enjoyed viewing an area of physics/astronomy unfamiliar to most. Pierre thanked Dr. Baylis for his well illustrated presentation.

Dr. Baylis announced Science City was sponsoring an Earth Day fund raising presentation on "Sense and Nonsense" by Joe Schwartz. April 23 is the date and the cost is \$35.

Coffee Break and 50/50 Draw

Members enjoyed socializing and refreshments during coffee break. The 50/50 draw was held and the meeting resumed.

Pierre welcomed new members and guests to Windsor Centre. He also announced there are three people taking turns doing the Director of Observing presentation at each meeting. They are Steve Pellarin, Susan Sawyer Beaulieu and Juliana Grigorescu.

Reports

Secretary: Dave Panton

All is in order

Treasurer: Ken Garber

Ken reported our current bank balance is \$3642.99. There are 97 paid up members including two youth members and four life members. Renewed membership cards are at his desk for pickup.

Newsletter Editor: Ken Garber

Ken needs articles for his next Aurora. If none are submitted he will produce only the Flyer containing the minutes of the prior meeting.

Public Education: Position open

Several reports were heard. Tom Sobocan encouraged staff and students at L'Essor Ecole Secondaire where he teaches science to observe the recent lunar eclipse. Pierre was interviewed by CBC regarding the same event. Radio CKLW called and interviewed Steve Pellarin. Steve has two pending events involving Boy Scout observing sessions and asked for assistance from those with telescopes. Alan King brought a box of surplus books from the Essex County library system for members to peruse and salvage interesting volumes. The balance will be discarded.

Public Relations: Tina Chichkan

Tina was not in attendance.

Earth Day:

Paul Pratt announced the event would be held at Mic Mac Park on Sunday April 27th 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Windsor Centre will set up and staff an astronomy display.

Astronomy Day:

May 10th is the date. Steve Pellarin proposed that we hold a public observing session at Assumption Park on the river front. He also may have a scout group visit the observatory for the event.

Windsor Centre Picnic

Pierre announced the annual picnic will be held at the observatory on June 14th.

Light Pollution Reduction: Dan Taylor

Dan showed a photograph of a small shopping centre built in B.C. using the principles of light pollution abatement. It was very attractively lit without any evidence of glaring lights so prevalent in too many such developments.

Dan reported on progress in Toronto where he is helping formulate lighting standards with the aim of reducing light pollutions. Locally he is preparing for a presentation at Point Pelee on May 16th. Earth Hour, a new idea to promote energy use awareness will be held on March 29th. The objective is to turn off all non essential lights in the hour between 8 and 9 p.m.

A photo of the outrageous night lighting on the Big 3 used car lot shot at night by Randy Groundwater was shown to illustrate a project started by making a 311 call to the city. The results, reported by Dave Panton have been more of an illustration of the impotency of building standards and bylaws than of common sense. Further follow-up is planned.

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