

**Newsletter Editor, Steve Mastellotto:** Steve reported the next full issue will be published in January 2010. He has received a few poems from members so if you would like to have your poetry included to please pass it along to Steve by early January. He also suggested members check out our website to view that Aurora Newsletter in much better detail with colour images.

**Public Education, Randy Groundwater:** Randy was unavailable. Pierre reported he will be bringing some people to Hallam for the Friday open house at Hallam. A second (regular) open house will be held on Saturday.

**Public Relations, Tina Chichkan:** Tina was unable to attend the meeting. Pierre reminded all of our annual December Social to be held on Dec. 4th.

**National Council Representative and IYA 2009 Coordinator, Mike Mastronardi:** The annual General Assembly 2009 was held in Saskatchewan. Mike was unable to attend this year. He encouraged all to attend at least one in a lifetime to enjoy the keen enthusiasm of fellow amateur astronomers. Business concluded was the abolition of life memberships and resolving the financial issues involved. For Canada, the IYA "Galileo Moments" count has exceeded 900,000. He requested some assistance for his presentation at Budimir Library later this month.

**Membership Director, Paul Pratt:** Paul welcomed new members.

**Observatory Director, Dave Panton:** Dave reported the observatory warm room inventory is complete and useless items disposed. The new cabinets and reorganization make the premises much more presentable. He encouraged visits to Hallam to see how nice it looks inside.

**Astrophotography, Steve Mastellotto:** Astrophotos are being taken at Hallam by enthusiasts both from the observatory and the grounds. He suggested Spring for a first formal meeting of interested astrophotographers.

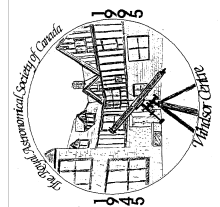
**Past President, Steve Mastellotto:** Steve reviewed the list of nominees (published in the October newsletter) for the November election. He thanked Ken Garber for serving in the important position of Treasurer for the past eight years. Two candidates (Barry Martin and Greg Mockler) have offered to run in the election for Treasurer. All positions are still open for qualified candidates. Steve welcomed former member Peter Bondy, able, keen and returning to Windsor Centre. His past energies and capabilities were key to the success of building Hallam Observatory.

Pierre wound up the meeting by announcing coming events for November through January, the Galileo play, December Social and January movie night.

Meeting adjourned 10:00 p.m.  
Recording Secretary, David J. Panton



# Aurora



November 2009 The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 35, No. 3

## Flyer

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2010  
7:30 p.m.

at  
Maidstone K of C Hall  
10720 County Road 34

Speaker: N/A

Topic: "Movie Night"

### Upcoming Events

**Leonid Meteor Shower:** Peaks on the morning of Tuesday November 17. Potential surges of activity may occur at 2:26 a.m. and 4 a.m. EST.

**Open House Nights at Hallam:** The next open house nights at Hallam are on Saturday November 21st at 7:00 p.m. and December 19th at 7:00 p.m..

**December Social:** Our annual December Social will be held on Friday December 4, 2009 at the Maidstone K of C Hall. The hall will be open at 6:00 p.m. with dinner served around 7:00. Dinner is "Pot Luck" style so please contact Tina Chichkan ([missmustard63@hotmail.com](mailto:missmustard63@hotmail.com)) to co-ordinate what dish you plan on bringing. A reminder that alcohol is not permitted.

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2009

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Windsor Centre, Maidstone Recreation Centre.

The meeting was chaired by president Dr. Pierre Boulos.

Minutes from the September meeting were read. Art Rae made the motion to accept them, Greg Mockler seconded and the motion carried. Pierre explained the November meeting is also annual election night. The program will be the Galileo play presented by four of our own.

### Main Speaker

Pierre introduced Dr. Robert Weir from the University of Windsor and his presentation of "Astronomy in Antiquity".

Dr. Weir explained he has a long interest in astronomy and some connections with RASC in the past. His field is ancient history in Eastern empires with all their wars, intrigues among leaders and ever changing borders. For those interested in astronomy he showed all manner of images of silver coins with faces of leaders (in profile) struck in some cases well before the birth of Christ.

Many also depict images of stars, most often a dot with little surrounding spike to represent twinkling. Some were in forms we can recognize today in the Pleiades or Castor and Pollux. One represented the moon and seven surrounding stars. Astronomical events like an eclipse or occultation may also have been recorded on coins.

Historical events like wars won by heroic leaders were often recorded in symbolic form on coins. Comets too were included as were planetary alignments as related to astrology. Events in the night sky could be bad omens, others good according to beliefs of the time.

Pierre thanked Dr. Weir for his knowledgeable presentation and announced at coffee break some of his coins from those ancient days could be seen and handled by members and guests.

**Coffee Break** gave all a chance to socialize and enjoy some of Tom Sobocan's hot drinks and sweet goodies.

The **50/50 draw** was won by Dr. Baylis who generously donated his prize to the Windsor Centre.

**Director of Observing, Dr. Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu:** Susan passed out maps of the sky and reviewed planetary sightings to be seen in the month ahead. She

suggested taking a look at our Observer's Handbook to learn about the motion of Jupiter's moons and then observe them first hand. The Sun remains unexpectedly blank, surprising observers expecting a new 11 year cycle of Sunspots to start on schedule.

Susan explained the "LCROSS" lunar impact of October 9th did not reveal any debris plume to Earthbound observers. The maps of the Moon's craters in the area she displayed showed the area to be rugged and barely in view from Earth on the Southern edge of the visible rim.

For interesting sights Susan selected the constellation Delphinus and pointed out the objects of interest. The "Toadstool" asterism was among them. Leaving Delphinus, she showed another in Ursa Major, the "mini coat hanger".

Pierre thanked Susan for preparing the observer's report and went on to make some announcements.

**Keys to Hallam Observatory:** There are many keys out among those who are no longer members or who have not renewed payment for observatory access. The locks on the observatory are to be changed and new keys distributed to those who qualify.

**Telescope donation to Canada South Science Centre:** Windsor Centre's four inch "square tube telescope" is easy to use, stable and well suited for their use. Some minor improvements are being made, a plaque attached and presentation to be made later this month.

Al DesRosier's **Yard Sale:** Thanks to many donors and helpers Donna Ronconi, her husband Gerrard, Steve Mastellotto, Dave Panton and Barry Martin. Al's sale brought in an amazing total of \$901.50. Al requested members, their family and friends to start saving items for another sale in the Fall of 2010. Pierre thanked Al for this major effort and emphasized how important the additional funds are to Windsor Centre.

### Reports

**Secretary, Dave Panton:** Dave reported there are no outstanding items.

**Treasurer, Ken Garber:** Ken reported our current bank balance is \$4,493.35 excluding Al's garage sale funds. About \$250 is expected from the Pelee Island Winery event. There are currently 101 paid up members. All 2010 calendars are sold. Ken will order more if he receives requests for ten more. Send Ken an e-mail at kgarber@cogeco.ca.

**Librarian, Rick Marion:** Rick reported one telescope was sold at Al's garage sale.