



Remembering Ken ROUNG

Artist, sportsman, astronomer, husband, and father are just a few words that describe the late Windsor Centre member Ken ROUNG. Ken succumbed to complications from treatment of advanced cancer he had been battling since last fall.

My first recollection of Ken's participation in our centre was his talk on creating astronomy art. Most memorable was the means by which he created fine heavenly images employing an economy of paint strokes utilizing common house painting brushes.

It was a remarkable feat that as a youth, a piece of Ken's work found its way to Buckingham Palace through a competition, and was placed in the Queen's gallery.

The pursuit of amateur astronomy often resonates with our artistic sensibilities. In conversations with Ken it was easy to see this is what drew him to astronomy and accounts for the ideal by which he sought, and his passion for, perfection in visual observation.

In the early days of his centre membership, Ken would drop by occasionally to do some observing. He was eager to observe anything and everything in the celestial vault. This led him to regularly observe with Windsor Centre members, Mike Pataky, Larry Burgess, Peter Bondy and Harry Brydon.

In recent years, activities kept him away from regular centre participation. We kept in touch though, witnessing the occasion his marriage to Erma and 60th birthday party. Observing continued and periodically he would have me over to assist with telescope collimation.

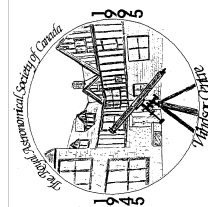
On my last visit just a few weeks before his passing, although clearly weakened from the course of his illness, Ken retained his characteristic nature, spoke of returning to observing and pursuing some nearby nettling light sources.

For those who new Ken, he will be missed. Although it is likely he will long be remembered as we all share his sense of awe for the art found in the night sky.

Dan Taylor

Astro Yard Sale

Saturday, June 26 from Noon till 4:00 p.m. at 48 Sudbury, Chatham, Ontario. Many items including scopes, mounts, oculars, many different accessories and over a hundred books. Please contact Brian Thomas for more info at brithomas@live.ca or 519-352-1569.



AURORA



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The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre

June 2010

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 21, 2010
7:30 p.m.

at

Maidstone K of C Hall
10720 County Road 34

Speaker: Pierre Boulos

Topic: "TBD"

Upcoming Events

Open House Night at Hallam: The following open house nights at Hallam Observatory will occur before our next meeting in September. Saturday June 19th - 9:30 p.m., July 17th - 9:30 p.m., August 7th - 9:00 p.m. and September 11th - 8:30 p.m.

General Assembly: Will be held July 1-4 in Fredericton, NB. See National website for details.

Venus, Saturn and Mars: Are within a 5 degree triangle on August 5 - 9.

Perseid Meteor Shower: Will peak on the night of August 12 with a crescent Moon setting early in the evening just below Venus, Saturn and Mars.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2010

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

The meeting was chaired by the President, Paul Pratt. Paul welcomed members and guests to the evening's meeting and quickly got down to business by asking for a motion to accept the April Minutes. Steve Mastellotto made the motion, Rick Marion second and it carried.

Paul then introduced our Honorary President Dr. William Baylis, main speaker for the evening.

“The life of William Herschel” by Dr. William Baylis

Dr. Baylis gave a detailed account of this incredible man and his many accomplishments in telescope construction, astronomical discoveries (among them the planet Uranus) and surprisingly, also music as an accomplished composer. He and his wife Margaret had two children who also became a large part of his life and successes. Daughter Caroline did astronomy and mathematical calculations. Son John helped make eye-pieces.

Beside his many interests in mathematics, chemistry and astronomy Herschel was also a telescope builder and manufacturer, building 400 telescopes in his time including a 40 foot focal length reflector with a 48 inch metal mirror cast and polished by his own hand. With it and smaller telescopes he was a keen observer and found objects never before seen by others.

These are all major accomplishments and would be so today. We must put them into his time period to genuinely appreciate this man and his family. Most of the above work was done in the late seventeen hundreds in England. Herschel survived to age 84 and died in 1822.

Paul thanked Dr. Baylis for preparing his well detailed presentation.

Coffee Break and 50/50 draw followed. Steve Mastellotto won the 50/50 draw and donated the proceeds back to the club.

Reports

Council Meeting: Will be held on June 8th at the home of Steve and Michelle Mastellotto. The meeting will begin at 7:25 p.m..

June Meeting Speaker: Dave McCarter from the London Centre will describe his trip and observing experiences at a new public observing facility set in the Atacama Desert in Chile. Dave will describe the facility and the incredibly dark and clear skies in that part of the world.

Secretary, Dave Panton: All is in order so there is nothing to report.

Treasurer, Greg Mockler: Greg reported all bills are paid and our bank balance is

currently \$5,140. Dave and Ryan have donated the DVD “Hubble the Ultimate Telescope” to our library.

Newsletter, Steve Mastellotto: More articles, observing reports and photographs are always welcome.

Public Education, Randy Groundwater: Science Rendezvous held at the University of Windsor was under a cloudy sky preventing solar observing. A surprise hit was a telescope setup by Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu focused on a photograph of M31, the great spiral nebula set some distance away. It gave visitors a hint of the view they might see via a telescope on a clear night.

Public Relations, Peter Bondy: Earth Day was probably the best attended of all events held to date. This was partly due to our booth location in the middle of the tent where as many as 2,000 visitors stopped. Our annual picnic will be held on Saturday, June 12th. Peter needs a BBQ or two. Al DesRosiers volunteered to use his trailer to pickup loaners.

Light Pollution Abatement, Dan Taylor: A current issue is the tall glaring lights installed along 401 at the unfinished Walker road overpass. Check the website report for details.

Observatory Director, Dave Panton: Dave suggested reading the “Hallam Happenings” article in the Aurora issue distributed at this meeting for full details.

Short Talk by Art Rae: Art produced photographs he took in 1963 clearly revealing the asteroid Vesta in Leo at the time. Now 47 years later Vesta is back in Leo. Art also showed some very nice shots of the space shuttle Atlantis on it's retirement flight.

Bird Shots by Paul Pratt: Paul showed some of his beautifully photographed recent bird shots.

Director of Observing, Juliana Grigorescu: Juliana distributed copies of The Evening Sky Map for May onto which she had added some additional sights to look for into June. This period has a lot of sights to look for in conjunctions (Moon and Antares for example). Winter constellations are departing into the low Western horizon and Summer constellations are beginning to rise nicely in the East. Saturn is still the premium sight of the night, huge Jupiter is rising in the early hours. Venus to the West will be high and bright. Mars is a poor target dim, to the South West. There are lots of interesting objects including easy to see globular clusters M3, M5 and open cluster M67. Galaxies M65, M66, M51 and NGC 3628. In Coma Berenices there is a nice edge on galaxy NGC 4565. The Virgo cluster of galaxies is still in good view with M87 the biggest galaxy of the 2000 or so known in this small area.

Comet McNaught (C/2009 R1) is in the early morning sky. Asteroids Pallas, Vesta (brightest) and Ceres (biggest) can all be seen in modest telescopes. Ceres can be seen naked eye in the right sky. Conjunctions are “where it is at” this month.

Paul thanked Juliana and adjourned the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

David J. Panton
Recording Secretary