

March Meeting Minutes (continued)

dust rings. **Mercury** exhibits a disk of dust.

- **March 21st to April 5th** look for the Zodiacal light in the evening sky
- **March 25th** there is a double shadow transit on **Jupiter, Europa and Ganymede** shadows Jupiter
- **March 27th** in the predawn sky – **Jupiter and the moon**—sometimes seen during the day
- **March 30th** look for **Mars** joining the Seven Sisters
- **April 17th** predawn sky - **Mercury and Venus** appulse

Astronomy News

1. A group of scientists from India discovered a **super cluster** of 300,000 galaxies
2. Europe – discovered **200,000 galaxies** using radio telescopes. Detected radio emissions.
3. International team astronomers North America and South America discovered that there are more galaxies in a cluster. Using software they measure the motion of the galaxies.

Space News

1. **Spirit and Opportunity**, two Mars rovers are official dead. A wind on Mars cleaned the panels.
2. **SpaceX Falcon9** rocket officially launched on February 21st. It will take 7 weeks to reach its destination.

Reminders: Astro Luncheon at **Skippy's Restaurant** every second Wednesday of the month, at noon Located at 954 University Ave West, Windsor.

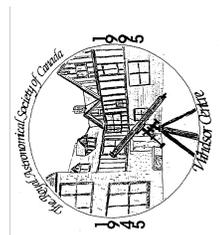
Mike thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and reminded everyone that the **next regular membership meeting** would take place on **April 16th 2019**.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m. March 19, 2019.

Recorded by Sandy van Gaalen, RASC Windsor Centre



AURORA



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The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre

April 2019

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 2019
7:30 p.m.

at
[Ojibway Park Nature Centre](#)
5200 Matchette Road

Speaker: Steve Pellarin

Topic: *Revolutionary Discoveries
of Early 20th Century Astronomers*

Upcoming Events

Mercury and Venus: Are 4 degrees apart in the morning sky of **April 16/17**.

Lyrid Meteor Shower: Peaks on **Monday April 22nd** but the just past full moon will interfere.

Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower: Peak on **Monday May 6** and the nearly new moon will not interfere. The best time to look will be before dawn on Monday May 6th.

Science Rendezvous: On Saturday **May 11th** from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. we will be participating in the annual **Science Rendezvous**. The event will be in the Education Gym and CAW Centre at the University of Windsor. Weather permitting there will also be telescopes set up outside for safe Solar observing.

Mars: Will be passing just **18 arc minutes** from the **open cluster M35** in Gemini on **Sunday May 19th**. The view is almost as good the night before when they will be **19 arc minutes** apart.

Monthly Meeting Minutes March 19, 2019

The monthly meeting of the **Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre** was held at the Ojibway Park Nature Centre.

Windsor Centre **President, Mike Mastronardi** chaired the meeting. Mike called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. and welcomed members and guests to the Ojibway Park Nature Centre.

Mike invited members to review the **minutes of the February 19, 2019** meeting which were printed in the Aurora Flyer. A **motion to accept the minutes** of the February 19, 2019 meeting was made by Steve Mastellotto and seconded by Mahayarralh-Starr Livingstone. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mike provided an overview of the meeting and introduced the main speaker for the evening.

Main Presentation

Mike welcomed **Gary Ross** to the floor for his talk – *“The Rehabilitation of Percival Lowell”*. Percival Lowell was a man of much knowledge, wealth and imagination. A biography written by his brother **Adam Lowell** indicates how much of Percival Lowell’s life was influence by many great people, quotes and findings of the time.

Patterson states it is a mistake to think everything has been discovered. Quotes that God buries their workers but not their work. Also influenced by Tesla (1901) and Marconi (1921). In 1922 – 1924 the U.S. Government in search of extra-terrestrial intelligence asked for radio silence over the Pacific, all night for three nights straight to receive **transmission of any sort from Mars.**

Many more Scientist / Astronomers of the time were mentioned along with their contribution of knowledge and/or philosophy to science including:

- Tesla 1856-1943,
- Slipher 1875-1969
- Jackson & Moore 1965
- Nicolas of Cusa 1401-1464

Although Percival Lowell had many quests, his **contributions to astronomy** were numerous. He made contributions to equipment, methods and awareness. Percival Lowell also wrote many books such as **Mars As The Abode of Life, Mars And Its Canals, Soul Of The Far East**, etc. He founded the **Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff Arizona** and was best know for his speculations that there was **life on Mars.**

Mike thanked Gary Ross for his presentation.

Mike mentioned the **2019 Hallam/Point Peele Events List** and volunteers are needed for the group bookings at Hallam.

Tom Sobocan mentioned that members are welcomed to bring in any memorabilia for the May meeting on **“Apollo 11 the first moon landing”** to share.

We have use of the **Art Gallery** at the end of November and need to take advantage of this to make awareness. Could use **art work, pictures, poetry** or anything relating to Astronomy.

We ask that consideration be given in fund raising/marketing to set up a booth at the **Comber Fair**. They have 10,000 people from throughout Essex and Kent county pass through their gates in 3 days. Most people in Comber are not aware of the Observatory. Also consider the **Harrow Fair**.

Green Lasers available for **\$5** see Starr to order.

After the **coffee break**, a **50/50** draw was held, **Sandra van Gaalen** was the winner and donated back to the club.

Director of Observing Report

Juliana Grigorescu was welcomed to the floor and opened the **Director of Observing Report** with the sky in March.

Looking South you can see the **winter constellations** advancing to the western sky. We are starting to lose the beautiful winter constellations. Observing slides shown of Sirius, the brightest star and other constellations advancing when pictures taken 5 minutes later. We are now starting to see **Spring constellations, Leo/Virgo.**

Arcturus is not a circumpolar star, **you can’t see it all the time.** To determine if a **star is circumpolar** — 90 (degrees) minus our latitude of 42 (degrees) therefore if the declination is **greater than 48 degrees** it never sets. Arcturus’ declination is 19 degrees.

Uranus and Mars are observed in the evening sky. **Jupiter, Saturn and Mercury** are observed in the morning sky. Mercury is seen moving from the western to eastern sky and **Venus is predawn.**

The **ecliptic is a line the planets follow.** If low in the morning it should be a little higher in the night sky. The Sun follows the ecliptic in the day time. The **celestial equator** runs east to west and is fixed in the night sky.

The **Vernal Equinox** occurs on **March 20th at 5:58 p.m.** where the number of daylight hours equals the number of night time hours.

The **Sun** has been rather **inactive** with one small sun spot. It is in its’ low cycle (minimum activity). The Sun follows an 11 year cycle.

The **moon** is in conjunction with **Saturn and Venus.** The **New Moon** is March 6th and **Full Moon** on March 21st.

Recent Discovery by NASA—Earth and Venus have collected co-orbiting