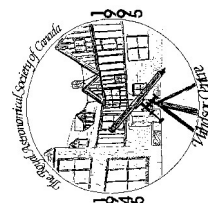


## Rick Marion



It is with great sadness that I share the news of the passing of RASC - Windsor Centre member Rick Marion on Tuesday February 9, 2021. He was 45 years old. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Amy and his boys Eric (13) and Adam (9). Rick joined our club in 2005 and quickly got involved with the group as Librarian from 2006 - 2012, then held the position of President for 2013 and 2014, 2nd-Vice President from 2015 - 2017 and 1st-Vice President from 2018 - 2021. Rick was always willing to help out with club activities and was active in the astrophotography group. His photo of the Eastern portion of the Veil Nebula (below) was taken from Hallam Observatory on Sunday September 9, 2012 using the AT111, Rick's astro-modified Canon 40D, ISO 800 and is a stack of 26 x 5 minute subframes processed using ImagesPlus and Lightroom. Rick also had a passion for photography in general, computers, 3-D printing, RC Racing and drones which he also shared with a number of members.



# AURORA



Volume 46, No. 4

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre

February 2021

## Flyer

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2021  
via  
Online Zoom Meeting  
begins at 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBD

### Upcoming Events

**Zodiacal Light:** The first two weeks of March mark a prime time to search for the elusive Zodiacal light in the West following sunset. With the Full Moon in late February look for the dusty conical glow that follows the ecliptic as the sky darkens.

**Mercury and Jupiter:** On the morning of Friday March 5th Mercury and Jupiter will be 0.3 degrees (20 arcminutes) apart. They are close to the Sun and best views will come shortly after sunrise through a telescope with medium power.

**Daylight Savings Time:** Returns on Sunday March 14th at 2:00 a.m..

**Mars and Moon:** Mars spends the first three weeks of March passing between the Hyades and Pleiades on Thursday and Friday March 18th and 19th the Moon will join the show making a nice photo opportunity.

**Spring Equinox:** Spring officially arrives for the Northern hemisphere at 5:37 a.m. EDT on Saturday March 20th.

## Monthly Meeting Minutes January 19, 2021

The monthly meeting of the **Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre** was held via Zoom Online Meeting.

Windsor Centre **President, Mahayarrahh-Starr Livingstone** chaired the meeting. Starr called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and welcomed the over two dozen members and 1 guests to the online meeting.

Starr invited members to review the **minutes of the November 17, 2020 annual general meeting** which were printed in the Aurora newsletter. A **motion to accept the minutes** of the November 17, 2020 meeting was made by Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu and seconded by Greg Mockler. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Starr provided an overview of the upcoming meeting and then began by discussing the **RASC National webinars** which are available at their website <https://www.rasc.ca/>. He mentioned the variety of interesting videos and articles which can be found at this site. Starr suggested that we at RASC - Windsor Centre could possibly begin to create our own webinars on the <http://www.rascwindsor.com> as a service to our group now that we do not have meetings in person at Ojibway Nature Centre.

Starr noted that we now have **20 Key Holders for Hallam Observatory** and the most recent new key holder is also our new **Hallam Observatory Director, Randy Drumm**, filling the long standing position held by John Marn. Randy mentioned that he has recently made a few visits to the observatory and has plans to **update some software, collimated the C14 telescope** and some general organizing.

**National Council Representative, Tom Sobocan** - Tom mentioned the Alternative National Council Representative position is still open and the responsibilities for this exciting opportunity were listed. He stated that RASC National is updating their website, sending the **RASC Weekly newsletter** to member's inboxes and **digital subscriptions to SkyNews** were available.

**Historian, Randy Groundwater** - Randy mentioned that he had recently collected **6 or 7 boxes** from Rick Marion which held years of **RASC - Windsor Centre memorabilia**. In future meetings after he has had time to look through the material he will let us know what he finds. Randy also shared a photograph from the late '70s or early '80s which depicted **Cyril Hallam at St. Clair College**. Cyril Hallam (1906-1988) was the main founder of the RASC - Windsor Centre and its first Treasurer.

**Light Pollution Abatement Director, Mahayarrahh-Starr Livingstone** - Starr informed the members of his recent attendance at **Council Meetings of the Municipalities of Leamington and Kingsville**. He noted that the cities of Tecumseh, Lakeshore and Essex, in Essex County are presently pursuing light abatement policies of their own. On our website Starr has provided an informative update on **2020 activities report** related to the invasive light pollution which challenges all those who attempt to observe the dark sky from any-

where in the surrounding area.

**Aurora Editor/Web Master, Steve Mastellotto** - Steve listed information which is provided on the **RASC - Windsor Centre website**. The membership and council lists have been updated and he noted that the Holiday Fundraiser is still active from this site through January 31, 2021. This website also offers a wonderful **archive of our previous Aurora Newsletters**. Steve has been working with Jack Zhu, also a Web Master, and they have performed maintenance and updates to the software hosting our internet site. We are reminded to **send Steve written articles, photographs or deep sky images** regarding our astronomical pursuits by the first of each month at: [steve.mastellotto@gmail.com](mailto:steve.mastellotto@gmail.com).

**Director of Observing Report, Nancy Ng** - Nancy discussed the upcoming events in the night sky for the **period January 19th - February 16th**. **Mercury and Mars** are the only two naked eye planets visible in February. **Mars** is already over 60 degrees high by sunset and visible all night long. **Mercury** is a little more difficult to view as it follows behind the sun so close at sunset and there is a short window to view the small planet which is also physically closest to the Sun. **Mercury is at greatest elongation** east on January 23rd and quickly transitions to inferior conjunction on February 8th. On January 25th **Mercury reaches it's highest altitude** at sunset at 15 degrees.

**Jupiter and Saturn** sit below the horizon waiting for us to discover them in the morning spring sky.

**Uranus** is a difficult object to find amongst the stars in the night sky but on January 20th we are aided by the planet Mars. The small blue planet may be found **between Mars and the first quarter moon** all night long. The waxing gibbous moon then sails through the constellation Taurus and below the Pleiades through the nights of January 22, 23 & 24.

The **winter constellations** are in their full glory again. Auriga, Orion, Gemini, Taurus and Canis Major shine in the night sky with plenty of first magnitude stars. Almost directly above you may find **Cassiopeia, Andromeda, Cepheus and Perseus**.

Various members **shared their astronomical adventures and images** with group.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.** while a few members continued with discussions.

Our next Zoom Online Meeting will be held on **Tuesday February 16th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. EST.**

Recorded by Nancy Ng, RASC Windsor Centre