

For Sale

PCMCIA Fax/Modem Card for Laptop, 33.6 SK, GVC T2 Series FM-336P, complete with installation software (with Windows 95 drivers), cable, and users guide. Asking \$30.00; Contact Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu at 972-5516 (after 5:00 PM).

Complete Darkroom, Omega C760XL Dichroic (Colour) Enlarger and base, 50mm f/2.8 El-Nikkor lens for 35mm negatives, 90mm f/4 Rodenstock lens for medium format. Negative carriers, double blade easel, electronic timer, grain focuser, trays, tongs, graduates, developing tanks, thermometer, changing bag, everything you need to set up your own darkroom. Asking \$1,000.00; Contact Steve Mastellotto at 735-9046.

Telescope Parts and Mirror, 10" f/6 mirror and mirror cell, 1 1/4" secondary mirror and focuser. Asking \$650.00; Contact Satish Shonek at 736-0753.

Slide Trays, I have a number of Kodak Carousel slide trays for sale. \$5.00 each; Contact Randy Groundwater at 969-8552.

UNIVERSAL SCIENCE

Windsor's Astronomy And More Store

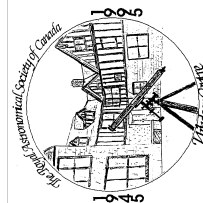
10% off on all in-stock telescope accessories and binoculars

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Contact Robin Smallwood
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. - Noon, Closed Sunday
Telephone: (519) 967-1655 Fax: (519) 967-1657
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Aurora



Volume 26, Number 8
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre
April 2001

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday April 17, 2001
8:00 p.m.

at

St. Stephen's Church
Howard Road, 1.4 kms. South of
Highway #3

Speaker: Peter Jedicke

Topic: "Globular Clusters"

Upcoming Events

Messier Marathon: Saturday March 24th
from dusk to dawn at Dan Taylor's house.

Jupiter's Moons: On Tuesday March 27th
look for both Europa and Ganymede's shadows on Jupiter's disk from 5:48 p.m. - 7:27 p.m.

Earth Day: Sunday April 22nd at Ojibway Park. Noon - 4:00 p.m. setup at 10:00 a.m.

Council Meeting: Tuesday June 12th at Randy Groundwater's house. Meeting begins at 7:29 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2001

President - Randy Groundwater called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

President asked the membership to review the minutes from the January 16th 2001 general meeting.

Motion #1, 01-16-2001. Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu put forth a motion to accept the minutes of January 16th, 2001 general meeting as printed in the newsletter. Ken Rount seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Opening Comments - As long as the sky is still clear there will be an observing session out back following the meeting this evening.

Reports

Secretary - Joady Ulrich

Nothing to report at this time

Librarian - Tom Sharron

Received some library stickers from Wally Bennen.

Director of Education - Randy Groundwater

Luncheon presentation at University for the Centre for Learning & Retirement and The Kiwanis Club at Roseland March 14th. Randy asked if anybody has been doing any presentations; Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu spent a Sunday afternoon instructing a couple new to Astronomy on using their scope and structure of the night sky. A group will be meeting in LaSalle's Brunett Park with Susan. Susan also invited anyone who may be free to attend. Cliff Campeau has invited Ken Rount to Cedarwin Camp Grounds to hold Observing sessions every Saturday evening in the Months of April, May, June, & July for Sparks & Brownies etc.. Ken invited any member who may be free to help; bring there equipment out.

Editor - Steve Mastellotto

List of member's name's & E-mail located at the table please stop by to update and/or correct any errors. Newsletters from other centres are available at the table. Would like articles for newsletter.

Phone Committee - Steve Mastellotto

Phone committee was active this month. If you weren't called see Steve. Steve also has a new updated list for the phone committee members, see Steve for your copy.

National Council Rep. & Treasurer - Frank Shepley

Frank was not able to attend this evening. Tim Bennett reported that he has information from National on a upcoming Solar Eclipse and 12 day Safari/Tour. See Tim for details. Tim reminded everyone of the approaching G.A. in London.

Director of Observing - Robin Smallwood

Robin passed out a handout on Canis Major (Big Dog), and explained prime viewing times & object locations from map on the overhead. Members commented on viewing sessions & upcoming events. Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu had a good opportunity recently from her observatory to see Jupiter & Saturn and its fine detail. Leonid Meteors will be in the sky for the months of September to November. Steve Mastellotto reported on naked eye observing of the Space Station, magnitude of -1, fairly easy to see and has alerted several by e-mail. Charts are available at the table for the next 3 nights, showing a sky map and when it rises and sets. Julianna Grigoreau reported Monday night she viewed M41.

Business

A date for the next Council Meeting is being tentatively set for June 12th at 7:30 pm at the home of Randy Groundwater.

As mentioned earlier an observing session is to be held this evening after the meeting.

A letter was received from the church (dated Feb. 1st, 2001) with a couple of concerns on it. #1 was with the clean up after the meeting. Randy asked for a couple of volunteers (different for each meeting) to clean up after the meeting. Dave & Tom have volunteered for this evening. Tim Bennett will also be on hand as he has the key to lock up. Thanks to Tim also for his cleanup in the past. #2 is that the washrooms in the annex are primarily for the handicap. The church has asked that we continue to use the existing washrooms at the rear of the church to the right at the top of the stairs. Also the church has asked that we not adjust the thermostat.

Steve Pellerin brought in a display of some high school student work for our viewing. Steve took a few moments to explain some of there work.

At the last Council meeting an Observatory Committee was struck. This committee is charged with the responsibility to bring to fruition a sight for the St. Clair College Observatory and hardware to go with it. Peter Bondy was introduced as Chairman and gave a general overview of were we are to date and what may be ahead in the future.

Short Talk - Dave Marchand

Dave presented a video of a recent space shuttle launch he was at and a visit to the Kennedy Space Centre on a recent trip to Florida. Dave explained the Kennedy Space Centre exhibits and displays and also explained different aspects of the launch of the Space Shuttle.

Two guests were introduced: Jim & Pam Bondy. We hope you enjoy tonight's meeting and that you come again.

50/50 draw was won by Ken Garber; \$14.50

Thanks to Tom Sharron for preparing the Coffee & Hot Chocolate for break time.

The Guest Speaker - Steve Mastellotto on Messier Marathons

Steve handed out a Messier list with data in search sequence. What's a Messier Marathon? It is trying to view all the 110 Messier objects in a single night. A brief history on Charles Messier was given noting that he was a French astronomer living in the late 18th and early 19th century. He was essentially a comet hunter and during his life time he mainly used 2 telescopes; 1) a 7 1/2" reflector and 2) a 3 1/2" refractor. His original list was created in three installments, his first list consisted of 40 objects. The first concept of a marathon was developed in Spain in the late 1960's but they had poor results only being able to observe some 40 or so objects. In the mid 70's, Tom Reiland and Tom Hoffelder came up with the idea to observe all the Messier objects in a single night. The first person to observe all 110 Messier objects in one night was Gerry Rattley on the night of March 23-24, 1985, from Dugas Arizona.

It was suggested (looking around for Robin) that a mini marathon session could be organized for October because our sky's are generally clear. Steve explained how to plan for an all night viewing session. Optimum conditions consist of finding a good dark sky sight, no obstructions to the East & West, little or no light pollution to the South. Spend some time star hopping prior to the marathon, especially the following 5 critical objects; M74, M77, M33, M76, M30.

The night of Saturday March 24th 2001, is tentatively scheduled for a Messier Marathon. Location to be announced. The book, "The Year Round Messier Marathon - Field Guide" was used as a reference for Steve's talk and is an excellent guide for finding the Messier objects at any time of year.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.