

General Meeting Minutes (continued)

Another matter to be considered is who and how will members have access to the various facilities and equipment. It was thought not all will wish to use the complete facility.

Observer's Handbook Quiz: Steve Pellarin prepared a quiz similar to those done by recently deceased member John McDermott on an annual basis. The objective was to illustrate the handbook's value and train members to use it effectively. He prompted us all on the first few questions and left the rest as a homework assignment due next meeting.

Director of Observing Robin Smallwood: Robin's laptop computer suffered battery depletion just when he needed it most to feed illustrations to the screen projector. No problem, his presentation included good descriptions of the following:

- A new comet in each of Cetus and Pegasus with advice to try "www.heavensabove.com" for the latest data on each.
- A Super Nova in M74 which may turn out to be a rarer object. A Hyper Nova was suggested by Dan Taylor via information off the internet. Dan had already seen it.
- Jupiter's cloud formations have recently changed observably near the great red spot.
- A spectacular "blowout" has been seen on the Sun, fortunately not pointing directly at Earth. A large new sunspot marks the site

Robin also reminded us the date March 15/16 is a night to see nearly all the Messier objects in one session. It is a night only for those able start early and stay out all night. The Comber location is suitable for such an effort, known widely as a "Messier Marathon".

Meeting Adjourned.

UNIVERSAL SCIENCE

Windsor's Astronomy And More Store

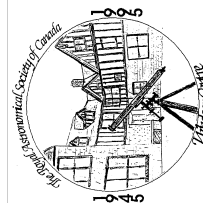
*We are operating on a pick-up and delivery system
Competitive pricing on MEADE, CELESTRON and SKY-
WATCHER scopes and accessories*

Skywatcher 8" Dob with metal tube, 8x50 finder, 2" focuser, 25mm and 10mm Plossl eyepieces, new improved balance system. All this for an incredibly low price of **\$525 + tax**. Please allow 1-2 weeks for delivery.

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
Email: unisci@sympatico.ca



AURORA



Volume 27, Number 8
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre
April 2002

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday April 16, 2002

8:00 p.m.

at

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

Speaker: Paul Preney

Topic: "TBD"

Upcoming Events

Spring Equinox: On Wednesday March 20 at 2:16 p.m. Spring officially begins in the northern hemisphere.

Lunar Occultation: On Thursday March 21 at Midnight watch the Moon slide past the open cluster M35.

Earth Day: Sunday April 21 at Ojibway Park.

Council Meeting: Tuesday June 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Randy Groundwater's house.

Windsor Center Picnic: Mark your calendars for Saturday June 15. Details will follow in the coming months.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2002

President: Randy Groundwater opened the meeting and requested and received a motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting. Moved by Walter North and seconded by John Beaudoin the motion was carried.

Reports

Correspondence Secretary, Joady Ulrich: Joady was unable to attend the meeting.

Treasurer, Frank Shepley and Assistant, Ken Garber: Frank was unable to attend and Ken Garber had no report.

National Council Representative, Tim Bennett: Tim reported on attending the January National meeting at which the dues decoupling proposal was passed. New annual membership dues will be determined in two sections. National will build an annual budget and finance it by membership dues. Local Centres will do the same for their own dues. In all cases membership in a Local Centre will require National membership.

Tim also outlined the cost, travel and accommodation options available for those who wish to attend the annual National Council Meeting in Montreal over the May long weekend.

Librarian, Tom Sharron: Tom has extra material not needed for the Centre Library. Duplicate copies and surplus items will be set out at the next meeting and sold to the highest bidders by "Silent Auction".

Newsletter Editor, Steve Mastellotto: Steve thanked members for submitting articles so essential to a successful newsletter. He reminded us he always has need for local content. He also reminded phone committee members to make their calls. Most members are now advised of meetings via the notices he sends to them at their e-mail addresses.

Public Relations Director, Robin Smallwood: The next planned activity is Windsor Centre's participation in the annual "Earth Day" event held at Ojibway Park on April 21st. He called for volunteers to set up displays and telescopes with sun light filters to view sunspots.

Public Education Director, Randy Groundwater: Randy's next event is a presentation to a group of 30 to 35 Girl Guides in Riverside on March 22nd.

Business

Comber Observatory project status: Randy projected three color slides taken under moonlight in a clear sky with Orion as a background. The dome and building were a very impressive sight, as was the layer of water on the nearby field via a recent heavy rain.

Tim and Randy gave a joint update starting by pointing out that water is not a problem at the observing area nor will it be in accessing the dome. Ten additional loads of topsoil are to be added and covered with a gravel top layer. Power is now on in the warmup building and all the drywall work completed via the available electric heat. Randy asked for volunteers to prime and paint the interiors of the dome and warmup building.

This weekend the exterior steel siding should be installed on the warmup building. In warmer weather the dome's damaged sidewall corrugated sheeting metal is to be stripped and replaced. The dome is in perfect condition.

Randy emphasized the project has gone along much faster than anyone could have dreamt when it was initiated. The reason is simple. No one imagined the wide variety of skills, talents and willingness among members to help in every way.

Randy explained the objective in fund raising was to provide funds enough firstly to finish construction. Then the idea is to raise enough money to be invested and support annual operating costs. Peter will coordinate the fund raising effort and asked all involved to go through him to avoid duplication. He emphasized it is important to contact people only once and to contact the people who are most likely to help. He suggested contacting people with whom you have done business as a customer is very effective. Also he reminded us all that donations are 100% tax deductible.

Fund Raising Brochure: Randy passed around a sample of the fund raising brochure. It is very nearly complete after careful preparation by Peter Bondy and helpers.

A wide variety of points were covered by Harry and Randy with input from meeting participants. They ranged from considering the Trillium foundation as a source of funds for a first class 14 to 16 inch telescope to the important matter of a portable sanitary facility on site. Other items such as a bit of shrubbery/landscaping and a deck on the East side. It is needed to provide wheel chair access to the building and the dome (which is to have an appropriate sized door installed. Currently the warmup room's door is the only access.

(Continued on page 4)