

General Meeting Minutes (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

Beginner's Observing Certificate: Susan brought copies of the new RASC beginner's "Explore the Universe Certificate" forms and lists of target objects to the meeting for pickup at break time.

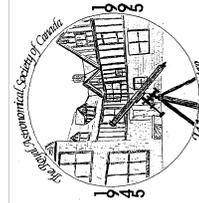
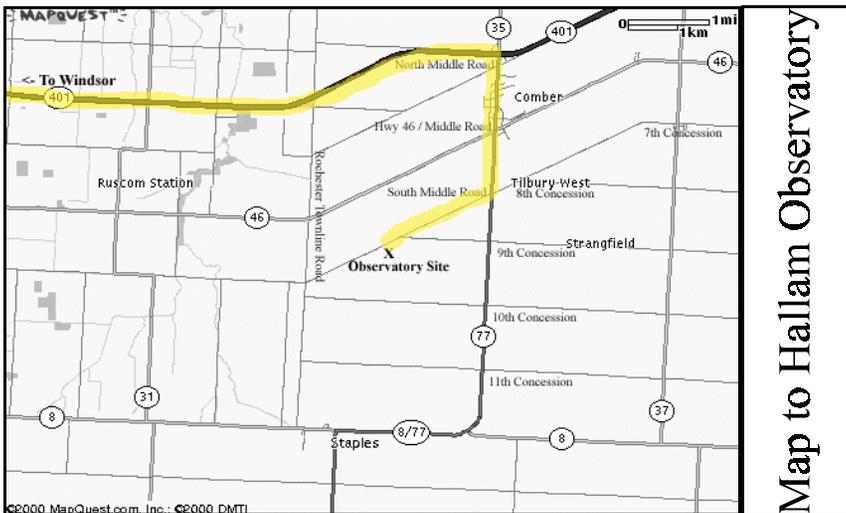
Observatory Name: The chosen "Hallam Observatory" name was suggested by Rob Hastings-Trew. Rob also prepared an attractive logo. The name honours Cyril Hallam the founder of Windsor Centre in 1944. Cyril passed on many years ago. Mrs. Hallam attended the opening ceremony on Sunday and also made a generous donation.

Randy asked for suggestions to name the observatory site in the Fall. Later, suggestions for a large new telescope name will also be needed if we are fortunate enough to acquire such and instrument.

50/50 Draw: Frank Shepley announced that the winner was John Murray. John donated his winnings back to the club.

Presentation on Star Magnitudes: Frank Shepley gave a short presentation on the various aspects of star magnitudes. Observation of magnitudes, Frank explained can be done very accurately by the human eye. Comparisons with stars in the same field of view can be done by most of us with surprising good results.

Meeting adjourned.



AURORA



Volume 28, Number 2
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre
October 2002

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday October 15, 2002

8:00 p.m.

at

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

Speaker: TBD

Topic: "TBD"

Upcoming Events

Autumnal Equinox: Fall officially begins on September 23 at 12:55 a.m. E.D.T.

Council Meeting: Tuesday October 8th at Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu's house. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. sharp.

Jupiter's Moons: On October 17th Jupiter's Moon Europa will partially occult Io from 5:38 - 5:42 a.m. EDT

Orionid Meteor Shower: Look for the Orionids to peak in the predawn hours of October 21st. The full Moon interferes with these fast meteors this year so begin your watch earlier in the month.

General Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2002

President, Randy Groundwater: Randy opened the meeting and requested and received a motion to accept the minutes from the May meeting. A correction noted by Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu as follows: the Essex County Planning people are working on lighting policies rather than legislation as reported. Moved by Stephen Le Boeuf, seconded by John Murray the motion carried.

Reports

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

Treasurer, Frank Shepley and Assistant, Ken Garber: Frank reported cash is needed! Significant donations have helped but there are still outstanding expenses to be met in the short term. The St. Stephen's Church basement hall meeting room rent at \$500 per year is coming due and the near \$700 bill for the observatory insurance is expected shortly.

Librarian, Tom Sharron: Tom reported the library is open all summer at his home. A phone call will open the doors.

Newsletter Editor, Steve Mastellotto: Steve asked for short articles from member's summer observing experiences. They are needed for the September/October issues.

Public Relations, Robin Smallwood: Robin reminded us of the August 10th Pelee Island Winery Observing event at their Kingsville Winery. Volunteers with telescopes are needed to help paying guests see as much as possible of the night sky after wine tasting, goodies and an initial indoor introduction to astronomy.

The event was held last year and proved the most successful they ever held. For the club there is a chance to earn some cash and introduce more people to astronomy. Last year's event brought us \$400. Tickets are \$35 per person. Robin asked members to invite friends to attend.

National Council Representative, Tim Bennett: Tim gave an extensive report about the Annual General Assembly he and Susan attended in Montreal. It included group photographs and a description of the Montreal Centre's facilities and their history going back to WW2. Susan gave a well appreciated presentation on designs for back yard observatories. Other events among many included the Helen Sawyer Hogg lecture on Barnard's Galaxy, presentation of

the Chant Medal and Simon Newcomb awards.

Director of Observing, Robin Smallwood: Robin told members of the SOHO observing site on the Web and about the spectacular images of the Sun available to all with only a few clicks of a mouse. Then he asked for recent observing reports.

New Member Tom Sobocan, assisted by Dave Panton hauled his new 6 inch Dob up Malden Hill in an attempt to see the partial solar eclipse of June 10th. Sky conditions were abominable but incredibly the sun was briefly visible through the thick haze and cloud gaps at eclipse time. Robin spoke about the importance of making such attempts. Sometimes observers are rewarded in spite of adverse conditions.

Susan told how she had used the club ten inch "Bawtenheimer" Newtonian telescope at the site to find some of the last few NGC objects needed to complete her NGC Certificate.

Business

Fund Raising, Peter Bondy: Peter reported the extensive application for a Trillium Fund grant to acquire a remotely controlled telescope and controls for the dome has been completed. The Trillium Fund administrators may call our local references as part of their normal procedures.

Observatory Access, Randy Groundwater: Use of the site and observatory facilities costs have been worked out and are as follows:

1. Use of the site for observing is via a volunteer annual fee of \$10. It is not a requirement merely a request with the understanding that land lease and insurance costs must be paid.
2. Access to the warm room and use of equipment and telescope will be via a \$40 annual fee effective October 1 2002.

Additional Project Work: Volunteers were asked for help with the following items.

1. Modify and install the donated storm door
2. Donate and install eaves troughs and downspouts
3. Treat and paint the galvanized steel door.
4. Assist installing the existing Celestron 8 inch telescope for immediate use. Tim Bennett is coordinating this task.

(Continued on page 4)