

The newly completed telescope featured a very light but stiff base built by laminating 1 inch pink builder's styrofoam with 1/8 inch hardboard. A light aluminum felt lined declination cradle with latches allowed tube rotation for viewing convenience as well as fore and aft balance travel as needed. The cradle was also fitted with a carrying handle and rests.

The tube was made from a ten inch "Sonotube", it's inner surface sawdust coated and painted flat black. The outer surface was spiral wrapped with layers of 3 mil thick black marble vinyl film. The technique developed to apply the film bubble and wrinkle free was revealed. Then the telescope was officially presented.

Members filed outside with the telescope as the eclipse began and took turns viewing in the clear cold air and quickly returned for breaktime hot drinks and donuts. Thanks to Randy's planning the event was very special.

**Main Speaker:** Randy introduced Dr. William Baylis from the physics department at the University of Windsor. His topic was "Galileo and the Starry Messenger".

Dr. Bayliss gave a very interesting account on the accomplishments of Galileo and his contemporaries. He illustrated Galileo's genius and ability to use the limited mathematics and tools of his time to obtain insights into all manner of physical and astronomical phenomena. He further showed some of the difficulties (being burned at the stake for example) early scientist faced when their findings differed from Church teachings.

He was thanked by Steve Mastellotto for his well prepared and interesting presentation.

**50/50 draw:** The draw was won by Tony Spagnuolo.,

Meeting adjourned 10:15 p.m.

David J. Panton

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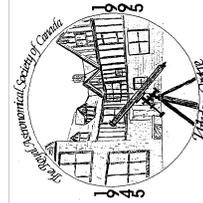
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# AURORA



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 28, Number 6 February 2003

## Flyer

### Next Meeting

**\* Tuesday February 25, 2003 \***

8:00 p.m.

at

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

Speaker: Rajiv Gupta

Topic: "TBD"

### Upcoming Events

**Jupiter's Moons:** As indicated last month we are in a period of mutual events with Jupiter's satellites. At 11:19 p.m. on Friday January 31 look for a double shadow transit. If that is not interesting enough on February 10 Europa will pass in front of Ganymede from 9:28 p.m. to 9:40 p.m. and then from 10:16 p.m. to 10:25 p.m. Europa's shadow will cross Ganymede.

Jupiter also reaches opposition on February 2 which means it appears opposite the Sun in the sky and will be visible all night.

**Council Meeting:** Our next council meeting will be held on Tuesday February 11th at 7:30 p.m. at Steve Mastellotto's house.

## General Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2002

**President Randy Groundwater:** Randy opened the meeting and requested and received a motion from Tony Spagnuolo to accept the minutes from the October meeting. A correction for an error of omission, the 50/50 draw was won by John Welsh and Stephen LeBoeuf. Harry Brydon seconded the corrected minutes and it was carried.

### Reports

**Correspondence Secretary, Joady Ulrich:** Joady had no correspondence to report.

**Treasurer, Ken Garber:** Ken reported there is approximately \$4,500 in the bank account in addition to the Trillium Fund grant.

**Librarian, Tom Sharron:** Tom reported two loaner telescopes are out and there are two persons on the waiting list.

**Newsletter Editor, Steve Mastellotto:** Steve told members the December newsletter will include a membership list with addresses. It will be mailed. Notifications of meetings are now only emailed. New members are called for the first couple of months. Emails for significant astronomical events are also sent.

**Director of Observing, Steve Pellarin:** Steve first showed a 1998 photograph of a fireball passing through Orion. Then he reported on the Leonid meteor showers of last night and early this morning. Locally 5 members went to Comber but were disappointed by increasingly heavy cloud cover. Members Mike Pataky and Larry Burgess drove past Chicago beyond the cloud layer but reportedly did not see a great display.

Steve then showed how we might see the edge of Mare Orientale when the moon's libration brings a little of it into view at the end of December. He listed several objects currently of interest from NGC7662 (the blue snowball) down through Saturn, some asteroids and comet Brewington.

### Business

**Observatory:** Dave Ainsley has requested both farm gates at the observatory be fully opened and hooked upon entry and closed on departure. This procedure will reduce the risk of gate or vehicle damage.

Steve Mastellotto confirmed the Trillium Fund cheque is in the bank. Deposits for the telescope and mount will be sent shortly to Software Bisque. The mount is on a 6 month delivery.

The observatory committee will still meet at Randy's house on November 23 at 1:00 p.m..

On November 10th a training session was held at the observatory for facility users. It will be repeated in March.

**December Social:** Randy confirmed the Christmas pot luck supper will be held on Friday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m.. For the evenings activities members are asked to bring amateur astrophotographs for a display by Robin. Joady Ulrich and Paul Preney will present the awards for the year 2002.

Randy asked council members to drop the November 26 meeting date.

The regular February member's meeting will be delayed 1 week to the fourth Tuesday February 25th, 2003. RASC President Rajiv Gupta will speak at the meeting.

### Elections

Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu as past president read the list of nominees for elected officers, short of a National Representative. John Welsh volunteered for the position recently vacated by Tim Bennett. There were no further nominees so she made a motion they be accepted. Tony Spagnuolo seconded and it was carried.

Susan presented a further list of nominees for council positions. She explained the function of council and asked for further nominations. None came and Frank Shepley made a motion to close nominations. Joady Ulrich seconded and the motion was carried.

Susan completed the election procedure by listing appointed officers for the coming year. She mentioned some of these positions can be quite time consuming.

**New club telescope presentation:** Randy set the scene for the next event of the evening. The writer was to present a new 8 inch portable Dobsonian telescope he built for the Centre. Immediately following it was to be taken outside to see it's "official first light" as a penumbral eclipse of the moon was becoming visible.

It's optics have some history. The main mirror and diagonal were from the Centre's old "English Yoke Mount Telescope". A well built heavy all metal unit best suited for a permanent mount. It was built locally by Windsor Centre member Gus Nyberg in the 1950's.

(Continued on page 4)