

Call for elections: November is election month. Randy Groundwater will be looking for anyone serving on council at the October meeting. Contact him if you are interested in helping out in any capacity.

The *next Council meeting* will be held on October 12 at Steve Pellarin's home.

Coffee Break and 50/50 Draw: The 50/50 draw was won by Mary Anne Franks. She used her winnings to purchase a calendar.

Tom Sobocan asked for copies of *Sun articles from National Geographic magazine* for use at his school.

Guests and New Members: Steve introduced new people and welcomed them to the group. The Farm Tour and CBC radio program were how some had come to know there was an astronomy club in the area.

Short Talk, Steve Mastellotto: Astrophotography with digital camera equipment is one of Steve's many interests. He displayed a new digital single lens reflex camera and showed photographs taken through the 14 inch Celestron telescope at our observatory. Shots of the Double Cluster, Veil and Dumbbell nebulas were stunning.

The "shadow" of little 76 km. asteroid Palisana was expected to cross the observatory and be easily observable as it occulted and dimmed light from a distant star. The event was recorded on his video camera, using a lowlight CCD video camera in the club telescope. Both were easily visible on video screen as one passed by rather than occulting the other. It was later learned the path prediction was not perfect and we were a bit North of the actual path.

Main Presentation, Peter Bondy: Peter brought in a small case, slightly larger than a standard briefcase. Like a magician he pulled out all it's contents and quickly assembled a complete F5 6 inch Newtonian telescope!

Peter, trained as a mould maker and now handling sales for Advantage Engineering travels a lot in his work. A travel telescope was a clear need but it had to be built by himself. He spent some 200 hours in concept and CAD work preparing detailed drawings and a further 300 hours making and fitting all the components. The result would make anyone proud. Peter takes it on trips, assembles and sets it up on site using about 6 lbs. of any handy rocks for counter weights and observes both the night sky and his other passion, birds.

After commenting on his never ending ideas for further features he said "what would you do next?". He suggested it might be made a bit lighter and perhaps a bit stiffer. Congratulations to Peter for such and ingenious and ambitious design.

Peter invited all to look at the night sky with his new telescope after the meeting.

Next Meeting: The October meeting will feature a visit from National President Peter Jedicke. Also, we will have a talk by David Gregory on meteorite collecting and will include a display of some of his collection.

Meeting Adjourned 10:05 p.m.

David J. Panton,
Recording Secretary



Aurora



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Flyer

Next Meeting (Annual Meeting)

Tuesday, November 16, 2004
8:00 p.m.

at

Maidstone K of C Hall
10720 County Road 34 (Old Talbot
Road)

Speaker: Steve Pellarin - "Starfest"

Speaker: Dave Panton - "Foucault
Pendulum"

Upcoming Events

Lunar Eclipse: Wednesday October 27, 2004. Partial phase begins at 9:14 p.m. EDT with totality beginning at 10:23 p.m.. Totality ends at 11:45 p.m.. We plan to begin observing at 9:30 p.m. from Malden Road park, outside the Forest Glade Community Centre and at Hallam Observatory.

Venus and Jupiter: On the morning of November 5 look for Venus and Jupiter only 2/3 of a degree apart about 45 minutes before sunrise.

Hallam Observatory Open House: Saturday November 20, 2004 beginning at 7:00 p.m. weather permitting.

December Social: Mark your calendar for Friday December 3rd for the Windsor Centre's annual "pot-luck" dinner. It will be held at our meeting location at the K of C Hall in Maidstone and will begin around 6:30 p.m.

General Meeting Minutes September 20, 2004

President, Steve Mastellotto: Steve asked the members present to read the minutes from the last meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the June meeting was made by Peter Bondy, seconded by Joady Ulrich and carried.

Steve welcomed the large turnout to our new season and the first meeting held at this nice new location. He thanked Steve Pellarin and Pierre Bolous for their successful venue search.

Reports

Correspondence Secretary, Joady Ulrich: Joady had nothing to report.

Treasurer, Ken Garber: Ken produced a detailed report and summarized it noting there was \$6218 in the bank and there are 122 paid up members. Ken had a stock of 2005 RASC calendars on hand and for sale at \$12 each.

Librarian, Milica Rakic: Milica has the latest S&T magazine on hand and newsletters from other centres. Steve brought a sample copy of the latest edition of the Beginner's Observing Guide for the library from National office.

Newsletter Editor (position still open): Steve Mastellotto is filling in by publishing the Aurora "Flyer" containing monthly meeting minutes and upcoming events. He has the phone list up to date and the Website is also current. A new phone call list has been provided to phone committee members.

Public Education, Randy Groundwater: Randy was not available but Steve was able to provide current information. Today he had made presentations to four grade six classes. Steve Pellarin did presentations at Camp Henry this summer to a set of children and also a Church group. A local Hawk Watch group was given a presentation at Holiday Beach by the representative of Celestron.

Public Relations, Robin Smallwood: Steve explained Robin will not be available for about one year while he takes an advanced paramedic course in Toronto. He noted the Lunar Eclipse on the evening of October 27th would be a good time to do public observation events.

Light Pollution Committee, Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu and Dan Taylor: Susan reported their last meeting at Windsor City Hall had been foiled when they found City Hall had been locked early at 6:00 p.m. The City of Windsor is very aware of light pollution issues and there is hope in October or November City Council will support and accept the first phase report and legislation proposed by their working group. Light trespass legislation for private developments is already in place.

Full cutoff light fixtures for new commercial and sub-division developments are part of the report as are lighting intensity level standards. New gas stations are prime examples of horrible lighting standards.

National Representative (position still open): Alternate Representative, Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu said the membership survey has been completed and the results are available online. She also has a hard copy which she will bring to the October meeting. The

2005 Observer's Handbook has been printed and will be mailed to members in October.

Observatory Report, Peter Bondy: More dirt fill has been dumped at the observatory and Peter called for help to spread it by anyone with a bulldozer or Bobcat.

The Trillium Foundation people are pleased with our project. Another application would be favourably considered and more ideas for are needed. Some Trillium people will attend our next member's observatory open house and training night on October 16th. Further such nights are planned for November 20th and December 18th.

Member Rick Smolen and his father Steve are building a combined oak cabinet and bookshelf 8 feet long almost ceiling high. It will be installed on the East wall of the observatory.

Peter reminded those with observatory key access, it expires on October 1st and must be renewed annually.

Director of Observing, Steve Pellarin: Steve did a 5 minute astronomy interview with CBC radio's Paul Vasey. They are interested in doing a regular program.

The Persied meteor shower was observed at the Hallam observatory. One member and her family observed 98. Harry Brydon reported he saw numerous meteors in the shower as he observed from his home in Colchester. Peter Bondy, on a recent bird watching vacation in Arizona saw many night sky sights not visible to those of us so much further North. A fireball believed to have been a Russian booster rocket was seen from the Hallam observatory in June. It broke into several pieces and resembled a Roman candle.

Steve provided September sky maps and presented a large variety of interesting astronomical sights visible over the coming month. They ranged from Mercury in the morning to the galaxy NGC 891 in Pegasus, believed to be similar to our home galaxy. The Blue Snowball (NGC 7662) planetary nebula is easily seen in a small telescope at this time of year. Even an asteroid (Toutatis) is passing "near" Earth on September 29th which will be visible.

Science suffered a loss when spacecraft Genesis crashed onto the ground instead of being snagged hanging from its parachute. Particles ejected from the Sun were contained in its collectors.

Business

Steve reported the Riverside Sportsmen's Club "*All you can eat Pasta Dinners*" on Wednesday nights in July raised \$1210! Peter Bondy will ask we be placed on the list again for a future event.

The **Farm Hiker Tour** of eight farms brought hundreds of people to Dave Ainslie's organic farm. In turn, almost all visited our observatory in a continuous stream lasting 8 hours. We received lots of very positive publicity in local news media.

The **Pelee Island Winery** event was not held this year but a special event is planned for 2005. The idea is to have visitors out to the Hallam Observatory for a Spring Winery tour.