

The *next Council meeting* will be held on February 8, 2005 – 7:30 p.m. at Steve Mastellotto's house.

Telescope auction, Steve Mastellotto described the 8 inch Celestron Nexstar computer controlled telescope on display. Purchased new by Henry Lee and rarely used, it was donated to Windsor Centre by Henry's widow on his passing. It is on auction to members by sealed bid (minimum \$1,000) which must be received by 12:01 a.m. on November 1, 2004. Dave Panton owns an identical model and can be consulted for particulars.

National President, Peter Jedicke: Peter gave a brief overview of some of the many issues and happenings on the national level. It is supported by the roots of its organization across Canada in 27 Centres. Its publications and mailings go to members and others world wide.

The higher annual membership fee was supported by most members responding to the recent membership survey. Most recognize fees are the main source of revenue and all activity ultimately depends on the revenue primarily generated from membership fees. Membership is now over 5,000 and at a record high.

Peter answered some questions from the floor and thanked all for their interest.

Coffee Break and 50/50 Draw: Bert Huneault won the draw and turned the prize back to the club.

Main Presentation, David Gregory: David has become a very keen and accomplished meteorite collector since first becoming interested only 8 years ago. He explained how meteors shower the Earth but only a few survive to land on the surface of the earth, becoming meteorites. Few last long on Earth as their makeup consists of materials easily destroyed by the effects of weathering. Geological events such as flooding and erosion often bury them and they are lost forever.

Earth has two major areas where they survive tens of thousands of years and can be found on the surface by keen eyed collectors. The Sahara Desert has become a major source of reasonably priced meteorites collected by locals who earn a small living collecting. The other major find area is Antarctica.

Meteorites come in an astounding number of types and classifications which David showed in a large collection of excellent color slides. Many were sliced and polished to show their widely varying compositions which also reveal their origins. Some are agglomerations of small bits and pieces, and others are pieces smashed off larger objects.

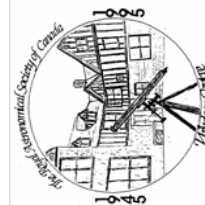
They are identifiable to sources by their unique chemical composition. David concluded by spreading out more samples on a large table and showed us pieces from Mars, Earth's Moon and the asteroid Vesta. He generously allowed us to handle them all! His presentation was truly "out of this world".

After the pleasures of traveling around the world and bargaining with dealers and other collectors David has the additional enjoyment of donating significant meteorites to the Royal Ontario Museum.

Steve thanked David for coming and giving us his unique presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

David J. Panton
Recording Secretary



AURORA



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November 2004
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 18, 2005

8:00 p.m.

at

Maidstone K of C Hall

10720 County Road 34 (Old Talbot Road)

Speaker: TBA

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Upcoming Events

Leonid Meteor Shower: The Leonids peak on the morning of Wednesday November 17 (overnight November 16th).

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

December Social: Friday December 3rd is the date for the Windsor Centre's annual "pot-luck" holiday dinner. It will be held at our meeting location at the K of C Hall in Maidstone and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.. Setup will begin at 6:30 p.m..

Moon Occults Jupiter: On Tuesday December 7 the Moon will pass over the planet Jupiter. Jupiter disappears behind the bright limb of the Moon at 3:52 a.m. and reappears from behind the dark limb at 4:59 a.m..

Geminid Meteor Shower: The Geminids peak on the morning of Tuesday December 14 (overnight December 13th).

General Meeting Minutes October 19, 2004

President, Steve Mastellotto: Steve asked members present to read the minutes from the last meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting was made by Joe Cambala, seconded by Randy Groundwater and carried.

Steve welcomed visitors and new members. Then he briefed them on the usual routine in meetings, business, coffee break, 50/50 draw, and regular presentations such as the director of observing report as well as special presentations unique to each meeting. The Holiday Social in December and Annual Picnic in June are annual casual events.

Visitors Peter Jedicke, National President from Toronto and David Gregory from St. Thomas, featured speakers for the evening were welcomed to the Windsor Centre.

Reports

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

Treasurer, Ken Garber: Ken gave a brief report and noted \$200 USF and \$500 CF is to be used to purchase two eyepieces for the observatory, closing out the Trillium Fund account. The USF account at the bank will closed. Windsor Centre members now number 129. 2005 RASC observer's calendars are still available from Ken at \$12 each.

Librarian, Milica Rakic: Milica will soon have more magazine titles available and also more newsletters on file. Books will be placed in the observatory. At the moment four loaner telescopes are available to members. Only a small security deposit is required.

Newsletter Editor, (Open Position): Steve Mastellotto is producing the Aurora "Flyer" on a temporary basis. The newsletter editor position is still open. Steve has the programming and can coach a volunteer to produce a very presentable newsletter.

Public Education, Randy Groundwater: Several local newspapers and newsletters were brought in by Randy. Their reporters wrote a wide variety of positive articles after visiting Dave Ainslie's organic farm and our observatory on site during the annual farm hiker tour.

Public Relations, Robin Smallwood: Steve Pellarin filled in for Robin; the lunar eclipse on the evening of October 27th is perfect for a public observing event. Steve asked for volunteers to come to three sites to host visitors. Telescopes are helpful but not necessary. Media publicity will be sent out a few days ahead of the event. Three sites were chosen, Hallam Observatory in Comber, Forest Glade Community Centre and Malden Park in Windsor.

Light Pollution Committee, Dan Taylor: Dan and Susan will be at this evening's meeting a little later because they are attending a light pollution reduction committee meeting at Windsor City Hall. Correction to September minutes received by e-mail: Dan Taylor managed to beat the 6:00 p.m. City Hall door locking deadline and attended the September meeting. Susan was locked out. (arrangements have since been made to avoid this problem).

National Council Representative, (Open Position): In addition alternate representative Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu has been forced to step down to handle the load she is carrying

in her studies towards earning a PhD. at the University of Windsor.

Observatory Report, Peter Bondy: Steve showed photos of the completed and installed oak cabinets, custom built by Rick Smolen's father Steve Smolen, sanded and urethane finished by Dave Panton and Randy Groundwater. Peter Bondy, Al DesRosiers and Steve Mastellotto did the move to the observatory in Steve's truck. All work was done on a voluntary basis.

Peter asked for ideas of all kinds to improve the observatory, add equipment or take on even larger projects. The Trillium people are impressed with our project to date and might look favourably on further ways to make it even better. Reminder, the annual observatory fee is due on October 1st. Keys will be collected from those who don't wish to renew. More dirt fill has been delivered and leveled along the North side of the driveway. Dave Ainslie very kindly ran his soybean planter over the bare dirt, planting soybeans to help stabilize the soil.

Director of Observing, Steve Pellarin: Steve narrated a "PowerPoint" presentation of the coming Winter constellations and noted observable planets and even the asteroid Vesta over the next month. The planets Venus and Jupiter will rise in early morning and briefly appear to be quite close to one another on November 5.

The October 27th eclipse of the moon is the big event we can all easily observe. The Taurid and Geminid meteor showers will be visible as well as a number of Messier objects and also some galaxies.

Steve showed more shots from the Mars Rovers and photos from the Cassini spacecraft orbiting Saturn and its moons.

Business

Call for elections. Past president, Randy Groundwater prepared a proposed list of nominees for election at the November meeting. He emphasized positions are open for further nominations from the floor in November. Help is always needed and always welcome.

Honorary President	Dr. William Baylis
President	Steve Mastellotto (2nd term)
First Vice President	Steve Pellarin
Second Vice President	Peter Bondy
Secretary	Joady Ulrich
Treasurer	Ken Garber
National Council Rep.	Tim Bennett
Librarian	Milica Rakic
Director of Observing	Steve Pellarin
Director of Public Education	Randy Groundwater
Recording Secretary	Dave Panton
Councilors:	Rev. Harry Brydon Ken Rount Ellen Ryall Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu

Randy again emphasized every organization always needs "new blood", new ideas and new persons to take part in its activities.