

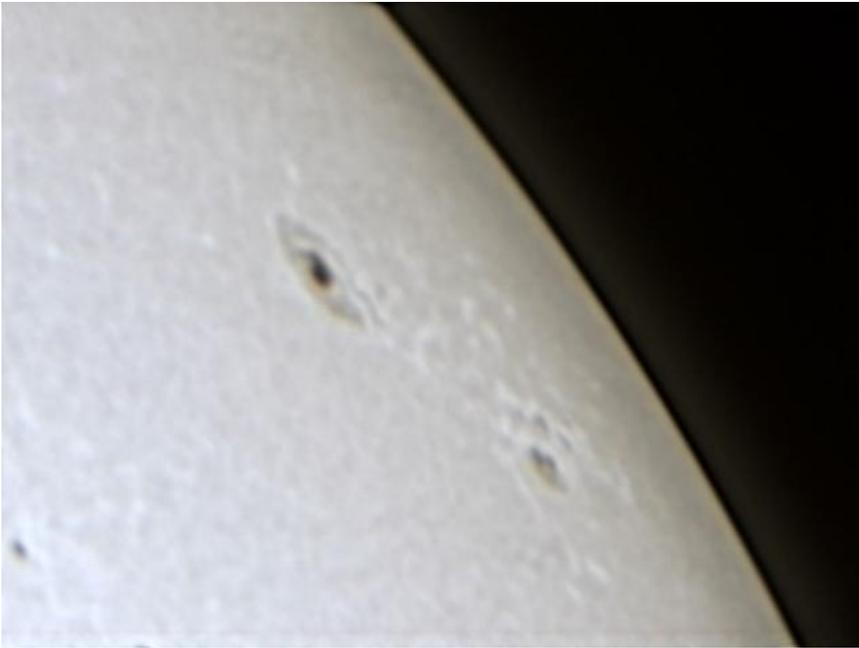
**Main presentation:** "Observing Mars" by Steve Mastellotto. Steve made an extensive and well prepared presentation on the features of Mars becoming visible this summer as Mars makes it's closest approach to earth in 60,000 thousand years.

He showed dynamic orbital path motion prepared from "Starry Night Pro". He also showed an excellent collection of Mars images displaying how features might look to an amateur with various filters on his/her telescope.

Then he showed detailed shots of many of the planet's major and minor features. It's two moons are small but might be seen by an amateur under ideal conditions.

Randy thanked Steve for his excellent and topical presentation.

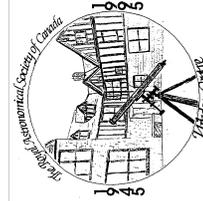
Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.



*This image of the Sun was captured on September 6, 2003 by Steve Mastellotto with a Philips ToUcam and his 10" Meade SCT. The final image is the result of processing 1,000 frames of video and picking the 250 best frames to be aligned, stacked and processed with Registax v1.1 software. Note that the sunspot is a very small spot on the limb of the Sun and the resulting resolution is quite remarkable.*



# AURORA



October 2003 The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 29, Number 2

## Flyer

### Next Meeting

Tuesday October 21, 2003

8:00 p.m.

at

St. Stephen's Church

Howard Road, 1.4 kms. South of  
Highway #3

Speaker: *Dr. David Toth*

Topic: *"Supernova Patrol"*

### Upcoming Events

**Astrofest Star Party:** September 18 - 20. This annual star party and merchandise festival is held at Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See near Kankakee, Illinois. For more information visit [www.chicagoastro.org/af/index.html](http://www.chicagoastro.org/af/index.html)

**Autumnal Equinox:** Autumn officially begins at 6:47 a.m. EDT on Tuesday September 23 for the Northern Hemisphere.

**Huronian Star Party:** September 24 - 28 at Camp Saulaine near Ivy, Ontario. Visit [www.cois.on.ca/~ssaa](http://www.cois.on.ca/~ssaa) for more info.

**Council Meeting:** The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday October 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Randy Groundwater's house.

## General Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2003

**President Randy Groundwater:** The May meeting minutes were read and a motion to accept them was made by Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu seconded by Harry Brydon and accepted with a correction. They were missing the treasurer's report. Randy noted it had been a positive report.

### Reports

**Correspondence Secretary, Joady Ulrich:** Joady was unable to attend.

**Treasurer, Ken Garber:** Ken reported there is approximately \$3,000 in our bank account. We have 117 paid up members. Ken has ordered 40 copies of the 2004 RASC observer's calendar. Ken also announced he had prizes in addition to the usual 50/50 prize this evening.

**Librarian, Tom Sharron:** Tom reported the library was open all summer. Just call him for the needed material. He also reported three telescopes were available for loan to members.

**National Council Representative, John Welsh:** John asked for member's proxies he will need while attending the Annual General Assembly in Vancouver later this month.

**Public Education, Randy Groundwater:** Randy has a presentation to the Essex County Field Naturalists on June 28th. There are other interested groups looking for Fall presentations.

**Newsletter Editor and Web Master, Steve Mastellotto:** Steve reminded everyone that all newsletters from the past year are accessible on our web site. The web site was created by Dave Marchand but since his passing, many of the hundreds of links have become obsolete. Steve has deleted all but the Clear Sky observing forecast link and is reworking the site.

**Observing reports:** Randy noted Mars is now 12" in diameter and details are beginning to appear in large telescopes. The best time to observe at this time is about 4:00 a.m.

Steve Mastellotto reported a major aurora had been predicted but was a fizzle via being spoiled by a periodic change in the direction of Earth's magnetic field. There is still a possibility for an auroral display in the next couple of weeks when sunspots again rotate into a favourable position.

**Observatory Committee, Randy Groundwater:** Randy reported that Peter Bondy has solicited and obtained a generous \$5,000 donation to build a 530 square foot deck adjoining the warm room and observatory.

Another important job to be done before the new telescope arrives in the Fall is to clean and paint the dome. Scaffolding will be needed to do the job safely.

### Business

**Meeting Location:** Steve Mastellotto told us the current meeting location has been used since 1992 but recently has become much more expensive. He and Susan are searching for another location and are looking for suggestions from members. Dr. Baylis suggested the new Science building under construction at the University of Windsor is on a bus line and may be a good meeting location.

The August 9th **Pelee Island Winery** "Wine and Stars" event is a big one for both the Winery and the RASC Windsor Centre. Bring telescopes and be prepared to taste wine and show the night sky to visitors. Information is available on the Winery web site.

**Short Presentations:** Randy Groundwater showed some slides of Summer constellations and showed us their various identifying features.

**Summer Star Parties** by Susan Sawyer Beaulieu: Susan listed 6 major star parties within driving distance.

These are annual events and all are worthwhile:

1. Gateway to the Universe at Powassan Ontario (North Bay)
2. Stellafane in Vermont
3. Starfest at Mount Forest Ontario (near Walkerton/Hanover)
4. Manitou Star Party on Manitoulin Island
5. Astrofest 2003 at Kankakee Illinois
6. Huronia Star Party at Schomberg Ont. (North of Alliston)

**New Members:** Randy welcomed new members Matt Knowlton and Tina Chichkan to Windsor Centre.

**50-50 Draw:** After the coffee break the 50-50 draw was won by John Welsh. Treasurer Ken Garber had additional prizes for six more lucky ticket holders. They were neat little key chain LEDs capable of emitting a surprisingly strong red light.

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