

**James Meredith:** For 48 years membership in Windsor Centre most of them as a Council member often presenting his own unique views.

**Vern Richards:** A member for 40 years, Vern served on Council and in many other capacities.

**Frank Shepley:** Frank, a member for 13 years served as Treasurer for many of them and organized the effort to bring the General Assembly to Windsor in 1995 on the 50th anniversary of the Windsor Centre.

**Randy Groundwater:** Served as President for 10 of his 26 year membership. His public education work and 11 years as author of a monthly astronomy article in the Windsor Star has brought many new members.

**Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu:** Susan received an observer's award for completing a list of 110 NGC objects. Kim Hay, National Secretary also sent a letter of congratulation. Her next target "complete the deep sky challenge list in the Observer's Handbook".

**Coffee Break/Announcements:** Randy reported that Harry Brydon is feeling much better and has been released from hospital. Robin invited all to come to the December Social/Pot Luck at the Ojibway Nature Centre on December 5th.

The **50/50 draw** was won by John Krevac.

**Main Speaker, Dr. Pierre Boulos:** Randy introduced Pierre from the University of Windsor Faculty of Science's school of computer science.

Pierre chose Edmund Halley as his topic and very quickly went into the details of his fascinating life. "His Comet" is mainly how he is remembered in history. Given all his astronomical interests and accomplishments he was a much greater man than most know today.

Born of a wealthy father in 1736 by age 17 he had a good collection of astronomical instruments and an excellent knowledge of the sky. He had the best education his father could buy. During his lifetime he worked with John Flamsteed and associated with Sir Isaac Newton. Halley's wealth financed Newton to publish his extensive "Principia Mathematica", a year and a half long project.

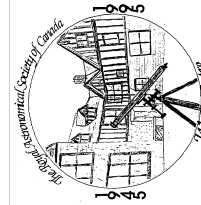
His interests included predicting tides, postulating ways to measure the size of the solar system and the motion of pendulums. He is most known for working on comet orbits and assisted by Newton, found a way to predict some of their paths.

Comet Halley returned after 86 years passage only 30 days from of his prediction. Halley died 15 years before and missed the great event.

The Comet Halley we saw in 1986 was easily visible naked eye. It was not the sensation seen in earlier passages. Members with Starry Night Pro can run a replay of the 837 A.D. passage.

Randy thanked Pierre for his excellent presentation.

Meeting adjourned by Randy Groundwater.



# AURORA



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 29, Numbers February 2004

## Flyer

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2004  
8:00 p.m.  
at  
Ojibway Park Nature Centre  
5200 Matchette Road

Speaker: *TBD*

Topic: *"TBA"*

### Upcoming Events

**Saturn:** Now that Saturn has passed opposition (December 31) it is very well placed for observing in the early evening. This year's apparition puts Saturn at nearly the highest altitude Saturn can attain and the rings are tilted close their maximum.

**The Moon:** Naked eye viewers and those looking for scenic pictures will get some good views as the Moon passes close to Venus on January 23rd, Mars on January 27th and Jupiter on February 7th. This routine repeats on February 23rd and February 25th.

**Council Meeting:** Our next council meeting will be held on Tuesday February 10, 2004 at Steve Mastelotto's house. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

## General Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2003

**President, Randy Groundwater:** Randy welcomed members and guests, thanking them for attending on such a dark, rainy (and election) night. The October meeting minutes were read and a motion to accept them was made by Steve Mastellotto, seconded by Pierre Boulos and carried.

### Reports

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

**Treasurer, Ken Garber:** Report published in the last issue of Aurora

**Interim Librarian, Milica Rakic:** Milica had a nothing to report.

**Newsletter Editor and Web Master, Steve Mastellotto:** Steve asked members to be certain their e-mail addresses are on the club mailing list. Our Aurora newsletter can be viewed online at our web site. This is the end of Steve's term as Newsletter Editor.

**Public Education, Randy Groundwater:** Randy gave his report on making 8 public presentations during the past year. In addition he taught an adult education course of 8 weeks duration at the University of Windsor. More presentations have been booked for the new year.

Tom Sobocan has given high school presentations and has found students frequently have very little knowledge of the night skies.

Steve Pellarin led two astronomy night events at Point Pelee National Park as well as one Astronomy night at Brennan High School.

Milica Rakic pointed out that many members passed on their astronomy interests to neighbours attending home star parties as Mars passed close to Earth.

**Observatory Committee, Peter Bondy:** Peter was delighted to report our long awaited new telescope and mount has been delivered and will be installed this Sunday. Members are invited out to take a look at the unit and admire it's large size and impressive appearance. Due to the rise in the value of the Canadian dollar there is about \$2,000 available to purchase accessories for the telescope before the end of the year. Suggestions for same are requested.

Peter marveled at the incredible progress the Windsor Centre has made on the observatory project. Very soon observations can begin with the new telescope. He asked observatory visitors to leave written comments as a permanent record of their impressions.

Peter suggested a booking system of some kind will be needed to share use of the new telescope. Additionally users will be given a mini course in it's operation and requested to sign a user's agreement.

**Director of Observing, Steve Pellarin:** The past month brought us a nice eclipse of the Moon and the largest sunspots in the Sun's 11 year cycle. In turn they generated a good display of Aurora Borealis. Steve showed nice time exposure shots taken from Belle River with a camera set on the roof of his van. He also showed a great shot by someone

lucky enough to catch the Space Station crossing the Moon during the eclipse. A variety of neat things to hunt for in the coming Winter months include Saturn nearing opposition, the Moon and Venus side by side on Christmas Day and comet Encke. Comet Linear 2002 will pass by M33 on December 21st. Cetus, Steve suggested will be easily visible on Winter evenings and has a variety of "goodies" for observers. NGC 246 is a good target easily visible in 6 inch telescopes.

### Business

**Nomination Chair, Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu:** Susan presented the list of nominees for elections and asked for candidates to fill the two open positions of Newsletter Editor and assistant Newsletter Editor.

**President:** Steve Mastellotto

**Treasurer:** Ken Garber

**Secretary:** Joady Ulrich

**1st Vice President:** Dr. Pierre Boulos

**2nd Vice President:** Robin Smallwood

### Councilors

Paul Preney

Henry Lee

Mike Mastronardi

Ken Rounge

Rev. Harry Brydon

Steve Pellarin

Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu

Peter Bondy

### Appointed Officers

Honorary President

Past President

Librarian

Recording Secretary

Public Education Director

Public Education Director

Newsletter Editor

Assistant Newsletter Ed.

Director of Observing

Assistant Dir. Observing

Webmaster

National Representative

Alternate National Rep.

Dr. William Baylis

Randy Groundwater

Milica Rakic

Dave Panton

Randy Groundwater

Robin Smallwood

open

Tom Sobocan

Steve Pellarin

Robin Smallwood

Steve Mastellotto

open

Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu

No further candidates were nominated or came forward so Randy declared nominations closed, candidates won by acclamation and elections closed.

**RASC Windsor Centre Member Awards:** Awards were presented to the following members (some were not able to attend):

**Tim Bennett:** For his many services to the Centre over the past 13 years including serving as President, National Council Representative and managing construction of the observatory.

**Felice DesMarais:** For her 27 years of membership in the Centre, many of them served on Council.

**Lorison Durocher:** For 37 years as a member, and service as President, Secretary and Council member.