

included John Wiebe and Ava and Mike Pense.

Annual Picnic: Steve showed some photos taken at the Annual Picnic which took place on the preceding Saturday.

North East Astronomy Forum, New York: Mike Pataky attended the two day event and showed photos of many telescopes on display.

Main Presentation by Rev. Harry Brydon: Harry asked "What if life was found elsewhere in the Universe?" Then he went into the details of what is necessary for life as we find it on Earth. Power in the form such as heat or light is needed, water is basic as are chemicals capable of forming organic molecules. Oxygen is also a key but not absolutely necessary. When all are together life is possible. Harry further told us "Wherever life is possible it always exists".

The ancient Burgess shales in B.C. have fossils of all manner of strange small life forms from very early times of life on Earth. Mars may have had conditions capable of forming life in the past and if found, Harry expected it would be small, like bacteria.

If life is found beyond Earth, Harry asked what it might mean to mankind. Many Christians would be terrified for their faith. The past has lots of evidence of their fear of truth.

How would we come to grips with the discovery of life elsewhere? How would we react if intelligent or super intelligent life was found? Mankind's history is filled with evil treatment of people with new ideas and discoveries. If we assume superior beings are more kindly than ourselves they might be less formidable.

We are in an age of enormous discovery with increasing capacity to understand them. The Hubble telescope's recent long exposure photos taken of an "empty area of sky" discovered thousands of unexpected galaxies.

As amateur astronomers we have some comprehension of the scale the Universe. We also understand that conditions for life are likely to occur elsewhere. The words above: "Wherever life is possible, life exists", may have highly significant meaning!

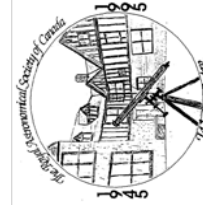
A lively question and answer period followed and Harry concluded with a question; "Was there a mind behind creation of the Universe and if so why would that mind place only ourselves in it?"

Steve thanked Harry for his thoughtful presentation and adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

David J. Panton
Recording Secretary



AURORA



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Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 19, 2004
8:00 p.m.

at

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

Speaker: TBD

Topics: TBD

Upcoming Events

September Equinox: Fall official begins for the northern hemisphere at 12:30 p.m. EDT on Wednesday September 22, 2004.

Council Meeting: Our next council meeting will take place on Tuesday October 12, 2004 at Steve Pellarin's house. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m..

Hallam Observatory Open House: Saturday October 16, 2004 beginning at 7:00 p.m..

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 have a club or public observing event for this eclipse. More details will be available next month.

General Meeting Minutes

June 15, 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 May meeting was made by Harry Brydon, seconded by Vern Richards and carried.

Reports

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

Treasurer, Ken Garber: Ken reported that our paid up membership was 120 and our bank account stands at \$8,082.

Librarian, Milica Rakic: Milica was unable to attend the meeting.

Newsletter Editor (position still open): No report. Steve told us all e-mail lists and our website are up to date.

Public Education, Randy Groundwater: Randy has had two groups of grade six students to Point Pelee for an introduction to the night sky. He also spoke at a Tilbury Rotary Club luncheon and told guests about the Windsor Centre and our various activities.

Public Relations, Robin Smallwood: No report.

Light Pollution, Dan Taylor: Dan spoke briefly on forthcoming lighting fixture by-laws and the possibility of enacting them in the town of Lakeshore.

National Council Representative, Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu: Susan had no report on Council business. Proxies and member survey forms were collected for a bulk mailing to National.

Observatory Report, Steve Mastellotto: The wheel chair accessible porta-john is now on site. It is green with white trim, matching Dave Ainslie's machinery storage building where it is located for pump out truck access.

Earth moving is the next project. It is intended to move existing dirt piles, grading them to raise the ground to the same level on both sides of the driveway to the width of the deck. Observing pads of crushed stone could be located along the driveway.

In three training session exercises, 20 persons are now paid up key holders and checked out to operate the observatory. The next session will take place on June 26th. Training sessions are held monthly on open house Saturday nights which are posted on our Website. Come early for training and let Randy know

you plan on coming and make your first entry in the observatory log book.

Director of Observing, Robin Smallwood: The transit of Venus was witnessed by members at the Hallam Observatory and Sandpoint Beach. Conditions were perfect at sunrise; no clouds in a hazy sky made Venus an easy naked eye black disk on the face of the Sun. Steve also showed pictures of the activities at Hallam Observatory later in the meeting.

The Cassini spacecraft has just orbited past Saturn's moon Phoebe and returned photos of its very battered surface.

Mars lander "Opportunity" sent photos of "blueberries", known on Earth to be hematite pebbles formed in sedimentary rocks. Layers of rock resembling sedimentary deposits are visible inside the up-turned rim of a meteor crater.

Hard to see at dusk in the West/Southwest, comet Linear is still barely visible.

Uranus and Neptune are visible in early morning. For additional information and useful monthly sky maps, Robin suggested trying the site www.skymaps.com.

Business

Wednesday nights in July will feature four *Pasta dinners* at the Riverside Sportsmen's Club. Part of the proceeds will be turned over to the RASC – Windsor Centre. Members are urged to bring friends and enjoy the affair while helping club finances.

Star parties within driving distance are listed on the front page of the July Flyer. They are fun, educational and are a good place to see lots of telescopes and swap or buy equipment.

Short Talk by Bert Huneault: "The Firefly Planisphere" - Bert introduced us to this German made unit and its many well thought out features. It is economical at only \$26 and provides a wealth of astronomical information. Call Bert for ordering information.

Short Talk by Cliff Campeau: "The Venus Transit" - Cliff had just returned from a brief trip to three European countries. He gave a humorous commentary as he described his travels, staying with his European children and efforts to see the transit of Venus from a 1,300 metre elevation location in Switzerland.

Coffee Break: 50-50 draw was completed.

Guests and New Members: Steve welcomed new members and guests who