

Coffee break and 50/50 draw: Allan King won the 50/50 draw for \$15.00 (thanks to the previous month's donation).

Main Talk, Steve Mastellotto: Digital Astrophotography. Steve gave an excellent talk on the Art and Science of Digital astrophotography, with everything from a point and shoot cameras to webcams connected to telescope eyepieces to Digital SLR Photography. He had examples of all the different equipment and gave an excellent power point computer slide show, showing examples of his excellent digital astrophotography and those of other amateur astronomer-digital astrophotographers from around the world.

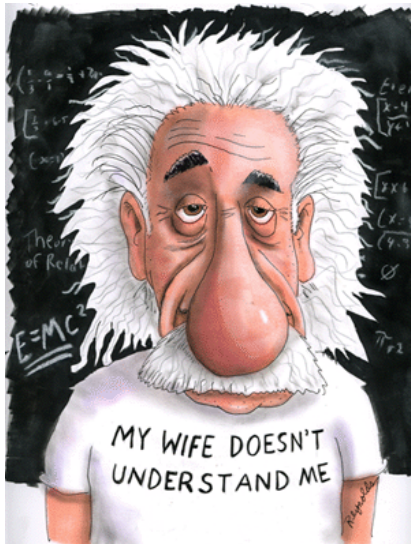
Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.
Acting Recording Secretary

Michael Mastronardi

Going to the General Assembly in Ottawa this Victoria Day long weekend, May 18th-22nd ?

GA registration is now live Here is the link:

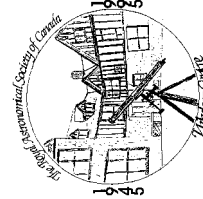
<http://www.rasc.ca:8080/rasc/index.jsp>



Got any Canadian Tire money lying around that you'd like to get rid of?



AURORA



Mar. 2006 The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 31, Number 8

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, Apr 18, 2006
8:00 p.m.
Maidstone K of C Hall
10720 County Road 34
(Old Talbot Road)

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

Upcoming Events

Hallam Observatory Open House:

April 1st 8:30 p.m.
May 6th 9:30 p.m.

Celestial Events:

Mar 29 Total Solar Eclipse
April 22 Lyrid meteor shower
May 4 Eta Aquarid meteor shower

A note from the RASC national office:

If you have completed the web form <http://www.rasc.ca/journal/optout.html> as requested a few weeks ago, there is no need to do so again as it just creates more work for our office staff.

Monthly Meeting Minutes for February 21st, 2006

President, Steve Mastellotto: Steve asked members present to read the minutes from the January meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting was made by Kevin Masterson seconded by John Murray and carried. Steve welcomed all to the meeting. He asked for any new member or visitors to introduce themselves and he explained how the meetings proceed. Eleanor and her daughter were there, as she was doing a science fair project on the topic of the quality of homemade versus store bought telescopes and they had been in touch with member Susan Sawyer Beaulieu.

Steve mentioned about the 50/50 draw tickets at the back of the room and about the request for donations of Canadian Tire money to help out with purchase things for the Observatory.

Steve also mentioned about the availability of several other Centre's newsletters that are at the back table for anyone who wants one.

Reports

Correspondence Secretary, Joady Ulrich: Joady mentioned that Ian Tate, who was a long time member of the Windsor Centre and a founding member of the NOVA Astronomy Club, had just recently passed away.

Treasurer, Ken Garber: Ken reported our treasury held \$6,412.

Librarian, Rick Marion: Rick mentioned that Allan King had donated a box of used astronomy books at the back for anyone who wants to take one. The remainder will go to our library. Rick said he will be posting pictures of our centre's loaner telescopes on our website.

Newsletter Editor, Ken Garber: Ken reminded members he can always use articles from people sharing their experiences and observations for publication in the Aurora.

Director of Public Education, Randy Groundwater: Randy will be doing a presentation for the Belle River Guides on Mar. 7th; Scouts from Windsor on Mar. 20th, Grade 6 from Concord School on May 29th and on June 6th, Grade 6 from Dougall Public School.

Director of Public Relations, Peter Bondy: Peter was not available.
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Light Pollution Committee, Dan Taylor: Dan reported on a previous article in Sky and Telescope Magazine about a store in Oklahoma that sells "light pollution free" home lighting products.

National Council Representative, Tim Bennett: Tim was absent, but Steve mentioned showed a presentation with the highlights of the Special RASC National Council Meeting in Mississauga on Feb. 11th.

One issue was about the options for receiving the Journal – either by regular mail for an additional fee or by email.

Another issue was a discussion about amending the Society's Fee Distribution for the Centres and a new membership system.

The society has to try and find away to save money. Last year/this year the national deficit was \$35,000, and it is projected to still be \$20,000 in 2007.

Observatory Director, Peter Bondy: Peter was absent, but Steve mentioned about the new motorized shutter system at the observatory that Dave Panton designed and built and that he and Al DesRosiers installed and works great.

Director of Observing, Steve Pellarin: Steve discussed 1744-06 RS Oph (RS Ophiuchi) a recurrent Novae star that ranges in Magnitude between 4.3 to 12.5 with an irregular period.

Steve discussed the new supernova discovered in galaxy M100. He mentioned about asteroid Ceres being close to earth and visible in binoculars and an upcoming occultation of Ceres by the moon. Steve mentioned about Saturn being visible all night and Mercury being visible in early evening in the west. He mentioned about brilliant Venus being visible in early dawn in the east along with Jupiter in the west.

He mentioned about Mars being near the Pleiades next month.

On February 27th the moon will be at its closest to earth all year.

The centre is planning a Messier Marathon for March 25th at the Observatory. He handed out a tip sheet.

There will be a Centre Open House at the Observatory on March 4th.

We are planning to have a Public Observing night on April 8th at two locations in the City.

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