

Art Rae later showed shots taken past a FCO fixture in LaSalle. The Moon, Antares and portions of Scorpius were quite clear.

**National Council Representative:** Tim Bennett

Tim attended the Annual General Assembly May 18-22 in Ottawa. The items on our proxies were all passed. Very professional speakers made the affair highly interesting. Tim told members of a big Canadian project to build four 1.8 metre telescopes, fit them with very high resolution CCD cameras, data acquisition and reduction equipment to scan nearly 90 percent of the sky for about 20,000 near Earth orbiting objects down to 100 meters diameter.

Next year the GA will be 5 days long, and held in Calgary. It will be combined with two other groups, the AAVSO and ALPO.

**Director of Observing:** Steve Pellarin

Steve proposed two member observing sessions at the Hallam observatory site this summer. Members interested can sign up with Steve. The dates are Saturday July 22nd and August 19th.

Starfest at Mt. Forest on the weekend after August 19th and the Gordon's Park observing session on Manitoulin Island July 27, 28 and 29th are worthy events.

On the screen, a repeating video of the Moon with a tiny flash showed where a small meteor hit the surface. It was estimated to be only 10 inches across, but moving at 48 km/sec!

Steve's usual sky map and astronomical events list were distributed. He then described the most interesting objects and events to observe over the Summer.

Meeting adjourned 10:27 p.m.

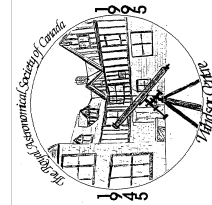
David J. Panton  
Recording Secretary

**They've arrived!!!**

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next month)**



# AURORA



Sept 2006 The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 32, Number 2

## Flyer

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 17, 2006

8:00 p.m.

Maidstone K of C Hall

10720 County Road 34

(Old Talbot Road)

**Speaker:** National President Scott Young

**Topic:** Pluto versus the Ice Dwarves:  
Conflict at the Ragged Edge of the Solar System

### Upcoming Events

#### *Hallam Observatory Open House:*

September 30th 8:00 p.m.

October 28th 7:00 p.m.

November 25th 7:00 p.m.

December 9th 7:00 p.m.

#### *Celestial Events:*

September 23rd Autumnal Equinox

October 8th Draconid meteor shower

October 21st Orionid meteor shower

October 23rd Mars-Sun conjunction

October 27th Venus conjunction

October 29th "Fall Back"

#### *E-News from the RASC:*

<http://www.rasc.ca/rascnews/>

## Monthly Meeting Minutes for June 20th 2006 compiled by Dave Panton

### Chaired by President Steve Mastellotto

The minutes from the may meeting were read and accepted via a motion from Tim Bennett, seconded by Randy Groundwater and carried with one change. The Essex light pollution problem is at their new water treatment plant.

The annual picnic at the Hallam observatory on June 17th was held in perfect weather and all had a good time. It ended at 11:00 p.m. after the international space station passed overhead.

Steve announced the meeting format was being changed this evening following suggestions at the June Council meeting.

### Main Presentation

Member Pierre Boulos was introduced along with fellow staffer Randy Fortier from the University of Windsor Computer Sciences Department. Their topic: "The Arabic Sky:

They combined Pierre's interest in the history of astronomy with the "Celestia" night sky computer program. This allowed members to see both the familiar stars on the screen and to learn the origins of their many unusual names.

During the dark ages in Europe, Arabians named the major stars. Most names relate to the constellation prime figure. Orion The Hunter thus has shoulders, a belt, sword and so on. These received Arabic names. The pronunciations of the names eventually resulted in the English adaptations. Two examples: in Pisces (the fish) the star Formalhaut is the mouth of a fish and in Pegasus (the horse) we have Algeneb, the side of a horse.

Randy and Pierre showed how the Celestia program, written in the popular and versatile "LUA" language can be manipulated with relative ease by those so inclined.

### Business

**Correspondence Secretary:** Joady Ulrich  
None to report.

continued....

### Treasurer: Ken Garber

Bank balance \$5184.81, paid up members 100. 50/50 draw reminder and the need for Canadian Tire Money for observatory incidentals. Membership renewals available from Ken or on line.

### Newsletter Editor: Ken Garber

Articles from members are needed for the Aurora.

### Librarian: Rick Marion

Surplus books are available to take home. Some items are missing, others found stored by members. Loaned telescopes must be returned. Rental for same now \$10 per month.

### Director of Public Education: Randy Groundwater

No events planned over the summer.

### Director of Public Relations: Peter Bondy

Peter was absent. Steve reminded all of the two observatory open house dates this Summer: July 1st and August 26th.

Steve Pellarin reported two recent successful events. At Heritage Village 300 to 400 Cub Scouts on a Jamboree with 40 or 50 adults looked through telescopes brought to the event by members Tina Chichkan, Tom Sobocan, Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu, and Dave Panton.

At Riverside Public Library Steve hosted 15 to 20 people in a session to observe the Moon.

### Coffee Break and 50/50 Draw:

Members enjoyed the usual Tim Horton's goodies with coffee, tea or hot chocolate.

### Light Pollution Abatement: Dan Taylor

This important matter is moving forward with Dan and his committee pushing hard. The City of Windsor has long last adopted FCO lighting standards in its new environmental master plan.

Now the legislation is on the books he suggested members act on their own to monitor new projects. Call 311 and report if they do not have FCO light fixtures installed. Everyone can help!

The Ontario Department of Highways people are confusing. Their standards vary depending upon staff and projects. There are FCO light fixtures in some areas mixed with wasteful glaring lights. Dan produced an excellent diagram showing best lighting practices vs. poor obtained from the website [www.dmdeng.com](http://www.dmdeng.com).

The Point Pelee Light Pollution Abatement award was a success. Randy Groundwater recently visited the park and found the last of the FCO fixtures have been installed.

Continued.....