

Light Pollution Abatement: Dan Taylor

Dan attended the annual meeting of the International Dark Sky Association in Megantic Quebec. The meeting included a visit to Mont Megantic where a 1.3 metre SC telescope resides inside a local Dark Sky Preserve. The local area is 85% dark via cooperation from local residents. FCO farm lights and the lack of local "glare bomb" lights have helped make the area very dark.

The year 2009 has been designated as an International Year for Astronomy. Light pollution control measures will be featured.

Locally there is both good and bad light pollution news:

1. Pelee Island has been targeted for "development". This will mean the end of quiet, peaceful and dark Pelee Island. One fourth will be covered by new homes.
2. LaSalle is expanding and needs LPA legislation.
3. Banwell Road in Windsor is being widened and will become the first street in Windsor to feature FCO street lighting.
4. Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu took part in the International Star Count in aid of monitoring light pollution.

Director of Observing this month: Dan Taylor

Dan reviewed the prime astronomical events of interest in the coming month. Comet C2007F1 LONEOS deserves some attention as it may become as bright as 3rd magnitude in the next six months. Dark "holes" on Mars have recently been discovered by space craft orbiting the planet. Our Moon will pass across the Pleiades and we should also enjoy a meteor shower from the area of Orion, (the Orionid meteor shower). Mercury will become visible in the morning sky. Dan suggested examining Messier object M15 in detail to try to see the first Globular Cluster found outside our own galaxy.

Short Talk: Dan Taylor

Dan concluded the evening by showing us photos of his 20 inch Dobsonian telescope and it's housing both blown over by a heavy rain and wind storm at his home in the county last Summer. The damage initially looked pretty horrible but the vital components were undamaged. Dan and his son built a more substantial housing and the telescope has been rebuilt.

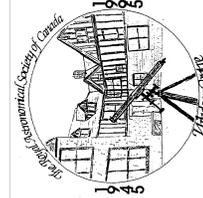
New Member

Pierre introduced new member Doug Robinson and concluded the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

David J. Panton
Recording Secretary



AURORA



Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 15th, 2008
7:30 p.m.

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

Speaker: T.B.A.

Topic: T.B.A.

NOTE THE NEW STARTING TIME.

Upcoming Events

Hallam Observatory Open House:

December 15	7 p.m.	Moon Age 6 days
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Celestial Events:

Dec 13/14	Geminid Meteor Shower
Dec 22nd	Winter Solstice
Jan 4th/08	Quadrantid Meteor Shower

Centre Events:

Dec 7th	Annual Christmas Social
Feb 2008	Council at Donna Ronconi's

Our new e-home:

<http://www.rascwindsor.com>

Chaired by Dr. Pierre Boulos

A welcome was issued to all. The minutes from the September meeting were read. A motion to accept them was made by Steve Pellarin, seconded by Ken Rounq and carried. Pierre reminded all to see Ken Garber to purchase 2008 Calendars at break.

Main Presentation:

The Farmers Almanac, Mayan Astronomy & His Best Astronomy Books by Mike Mastronardi

Mike explained the Farmers Almanac is printed by different companies in several versions, usually geographically specific. He has found the wide variety of astronomical tables are very useful to observers and are frequently easier to understand than our more technically oriented Observers Handbook. The Almanac is inexpensive and useful in many other ways and even includes a little Astrology for those so inclined.

The Farmers Almanac contains all manner of astronomical predictions. They are well understood today but in ancient times Mayan Astronomers were far ahead of their European counterparts in the fifteen hundreds. Mike read a chapter from the Dresden Codex revealing their amazing knowledge of mathematics and astronomy. In their civilization, Gods and numbers were inextricable.

A great reader, Mike has a large collection of astronomy books. He shot cover photos of his favourites and projected them he reviewed each book. They varied widely from books to help amateur astronomers find their way in the night sky to highly technical readings like Isaac Newton's Principia. The space age and a touch of cosmology were also included in a book by Stephen Hawking.

Concluding his wide ranging talk Mike offered a prized book to the person who had a birthday on the day and month closest to his own. It was won by Teresa.

Pierre thanked Mike for preparing such a comprehensive and interesting talk.

Coffee Break and 50/50 Draw

Coffee break was taken and the 50/50 draw followed. Pierre won and donated his winnings to the treasury.

Council Meeting:

Pierre briefly reviewed highlights from the October council meeting. They included news from Tecumseh where a park featuring an observatory has been proposed. Fund raising was an important topic as was a further Trillium Grant. The next council was also discussed and the need for people to assist an important requirement.

Nominations for Council:

As past president, Steve Mastellotto has the responsibility to approach possible candidates to fill positions on the next council. The list of willing people was included in this month's Aurora. Steve emphasized there are still openings. Some people are suffering burn out, others are near but willing to serve a further term. Elections are held in November.

Reports

Secretary: David Panton

A letter of appreciation was sent to Dr. Caron at the U of W. thanking him for donating portable "walkie talkies" for the observatory. The Council meeting minutes first draft is finished.

Treasurer: Ken Garber

The bank balance is \$3814.74 and we have 88 paid up members. The next big expense is annual property rent. Observatory key fees are due. Ken reminded all to renew their annual memberships by the end of October to receive the 2008 Observer's Handbook.

Aurora Editor: Ken Garber

Ken can take any font/size for the articles he constantly needs for the Aurora.

Director of Public Education: Randy Groundwater

Randy has a record 22 people in his Centre for Learning in Retirement astronomy class. He asked for help from persons willing to do talks to groups interested in astronomy. A Brownie group visit to Hallam was cancelled due to weather. Pierre added he may have a group of U of W students interested in visiting the observatory.

Director of Public Relations: Tina Chichkan

The last open house was a success. Ten visitors and five regulars attended.

Librarian: Rick Marian

Rick reported the books at the observatory have all been scanned.

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