

National Report by Steve Mastellotto: The matter of life memberships has been partly resolved by setting funding for them aside from regular memberships. The headquarters building in Toronto has been sold. The library (except the rare books) has been donated to the National Museum of Science.

Hallam Observatory Report by Dave Panton: Dave reported he and Al Des Rosiers visited the observatory this afternoon. All equipment was operable at the time. Paul Pratt had reported at -24C the telescope would not function properly. Heavy snowfall required hiking in from the road through deep snow.

Membership Director Paul Pratt confirmed the highly successful Point Pelee public observing session held last Summer could be repeated in 2009 with full cooperation from Park officials.

Observing Report by Steve Pellarin: Aurora were seen locally and may be seen again this month due to the Sun's coronal activity. Venus is now a bright object in the evening sky. Comet Lulin will soon be near naked eye visible. Steve showed astrophotos of the "Spirograph" Nebula in Lepus (the hare). He also featured a very red star HCG32 a variable with color in ideal conditions strongly resembling that of blood .

Hinting at a future presentation on his large telescope project, Steve showed some under construction photographs of his impressive 28 inch Dobsonian telescope.

Pierre thanked Steve and adjourned the meeting at 10:11 p.m.

David J. Panton
Recording Secretary

For Sale/Wanted

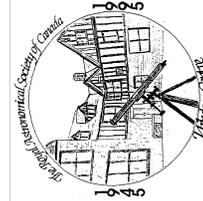
For Sale: 8" Meade LX10 Schmidt Cassegrain Telescope. This is a complete set-up that has been used only perhaps a half-dozen times and is in virtually as-new condition. Fork mounted, comes with dual-axis motors, hand controller, heavy-duty chrome-plated tripod, 8x50mm finder, 26mm Plossl eyepiece - all the standard accessories that came with it are mint condition. This is a beautiful telescope that will please its new owner. Asking \$1,200.00 for all. Call Satish Shonek at 519-253-7488 (home) or 519-816-7488 (cell).

Wanted: Need mounting rings for Meade 10x50mm finder scope. Inside diameter of rings at about 2 3/4 inches. C. Joady Ulrich—519-944-0723.

For Sale: Canon 40D body only with all of the original accessories, cables, software and packing materials. I will also include 2 batteries and a 4 Gig CF memory card. Camera is in excellent condition with 2,142 shutter actuations as of February 16, 2009. Will only accept \$700. Call Steve Mastellotto at 519-735-9046 if you are interested.



AURORA



February 2009 The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 34, No. 5

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

8:00 p.m.

at

Maidstone K of C Hall
10720 County Road 34

Speaker: Dr. Darren Stanley

Topic: "Quadrants"

Upcoming Events

Jupiter and Mars Conjunction: Tuesday February 17th Jupiter and Mars will be about 1/2 of a degree apart.

Lunar Conjunctions: Sunday February 22 Mercury is about 1 degree below the moon and on Monday February 23 Jupiter is just less than a degree below and Mars is 1.7 degrees below the moon.

Open House Nights: February 28, April 2, 3 and 4 at Hallam Observatory.

Daylight Savings Time: Begins on Sunday March 8.

Earth Day: Sunday April 26th from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. at MicMac Park.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2009

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Windsor Centre, K of C Hall in Maidstone

Chaired by Dr. Pierre Boulos

Pierre welcomed members and guests to our first meeting of 2009 and the International Year of Astronomy. He also confirmed the object seen from the parking lot just before the meeting was the International Space Station orbiting overhead.

Main Presentation:

The International Year of Astronomy by Mike Mastronardi. Pierre introduced Mike thanking him for coordinating Windsor Centre activities for the IYA. Mike showed an IYA film clip from National and described the many events proposed by the International Astronomical Union in Paris to make the year a great success. The prime objective is to bring astronomy to the public. In Canada RASC National has prepared an extensive list of projects and activities.

Mike reviewed the list, highlighting those that might be helpful to Windsor Centre. Simple planispheres and children's booklets along with more complex educational items like small telescopes made from kits were suggested. Light Pollution Abatement is an important part of IYA and there is a 30 page booklet available. A program named "100 Hours of Astronomy" sets targets for local centre achievements during IYA. Mike explained our normal activities can be counted as well as others we may pursue such as sidewalk astronomy sessions. Public nights at Hallam and events like the Pelee Island Winery affair all qualify. Suggested locations for displays include local festivals. The potential for events went far beyond the extent of these minutes. Mike asked members willing and able to assist with one or more events. Many volunteered. Pierre thanked Mike for his thorough presentation and for taking on this important task as well as representing Windsor Centre at National.

Coffee break and the 50/50 draw were held and the meeting resumed.

Minutes from the November meeting were read. A motion to accept them was made by Rod Clark, seconded by Tina Chichkan and carried.

Photos were taken by Tom Sobocan of a **service award presentation** to Steve Pellarin. Pierre asked past presidents to come forward for a photograph. Steve Mastellotto, Joady Ulrich, Randy Groundwater, Dan Taylor, Steve Pellarin and Tim Bennett have all served, often for several terms.

Reports

Pierre announced a young lady by the name of Phoenicia Boulos has been added to our membership list. She is an enthusiastic visitor to Hallam Observatory.

Treasurer Ken Garber reported the current bank balance is \$6,024.27. He has only three 2009 calendars left. Ken also mentioned National headquarters new online computer program has the capability to let members read and update their own account data including membership renewals.

Newsletter Editor Steve Mastellotto requested photos and articles be sent to him for inclusion in newsletters. He showed how great the newsletters look on our website with photos in full color.

Director of Public Education Randy Groundwater has several requests from groups wishing to visit our observatory. He suggests we host them from April onward in better weather and more promising sky conditions. Pierre mentioned that a number of astronomy related POD casts are available on the internet.

Public Relations Director Tina Chichkan reported the Christmas Social event was enjoyed by all. The December open house at Hallam was held as usual but clouded out.

Light Pollution Abatement Director Dan Taylor reported the Detroit River International Crossing plan was complete. It will include full cut-off lighting. Dan worked on this aspect as did Dave Panton and Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu. They attended many public information sessions and brought up the matter of FCO lighting at each. The next major light pollution concern is the shopping mall planned near the Ojibway Nature Centre.