



Comet Hartley 2 can be seen in glorious detail in this image from NASA's EP-OXI mission. It was taken as the spacecraft flew by around 6:59 a.m. PDT (9:59 a.m. EDT), from a distance of about 700 kilometers (435 miles). The comet's nucleus, or main body, is approximately 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) long and .4 kilometers (.25 miles) at the "neck," or most narrow portion. Jets can be seen streaming out of the nucleus.

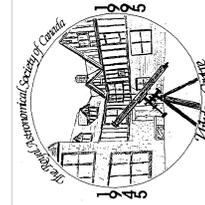
The mission's Medium-Resolution Instrument was used to capture this view.

The sun is to the right.

Image credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/UMD



# AURORA



November 2010 The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 36, No. 3

## Flyer

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

7:30 p.m.

at

Maidstone K of C Hall  
10720 County Road 34

Speaker: Any Member

Topic: "*Movie Night*"

### Upcoming Events

**Meteor Showers:** The **Leonids** peak on November 17 and the **Geminids** on December 13th.

**December Social:** Our annual December Social will be held on Friday December 3, 2010 at the Maidstone K of C Hall. The hall will be open at 6:00 p.m. with dinner served around 7:00. Dinner is "Pot Luck" style so please contact Pete Bondy ([pbondy@mnsi.net](mailto:pbondy@mnsi.net)) to coordinate what dish you plan on bringing. A reminder that alcohol is not permitted.

**Open House Night at Hallam:** The next open house night at Hallam is on Saturday December 11th at 7:00 p.m..

**Total Lunar Eclipse:** Will occur in the *morning* hours (2:40 - 3:53 a.m.) of December 21.

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2010

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre, Maidstone Recreation Centre.

**President Paul Pratt** chaired the meeting. Paul noted the main speaker for the evening was unavailable. Steve Pellarin volunteered as an alternate. Paul also asked if there were members who might be able to bring telescopes to the Ojibway Nature Centre on Thursday. The November meeting is our annual election night. It will feature Paul Grey from New Brunswick talking about his supernova search program. For those interested, RASC - Windsor has an old surplus telescope on an English mount sans a mirror. If no one wants it, the unit will be dismantled for useful materials and the balance recycled or sold for scrap.

### Main Presentation

**Steve Pellarin, "The Exoplanet Zoo":** Quoting from the excellent British magazine "Astronomy Now" Steve combined the contents of an article on exoplanets with a vast collection of illustrations harvested off the net. Many were artist's renderings of their imagined appearances both from space and from their surfaces. Steve delved into the science of how exoplanet information can be retrieved from images of stars taken with highly sophisticated telescopes and analyzed to "tease out" data that not many years back would have been totally inaccessible.

### Reports

**Minutes from the September Meeting,** Tina Chichkan made the motion to accept the minutes, Brian Thomas provided the second and the motion carried.

**2011 Proposed Nominations, Dr. Pierre Boulos:** As Past President Pierre has the task of preparing a list of nominees. He presented the list and modified it on the spot via input from members. He also emphasized the nomination list is only a proposed list. Any member in good standing can volunteer to run in the November election. His list also included names of those who have volunteered to hold appointed positions.

**Coffee and donuts** set up by John Marn provided refreshments and a few minutes to socialize during break before the 50/50 draw was held and the meeting resumed. Steve Mastellotto won the 50/50 draw and donated his winnings back to the club.

**Secretary, Dave Panton:** Nothing to report.

**Light Pollution Abatement, Dan Taylor:** Nothing to report.

**Newsletter Editor, Steve Mastellotto:** Steve can use more material for the newsletter, especially photographs which are in full colour when the newsletter is viewed on our web site.

**Hallam Observatory Director, Dave Panton:** The need for a 12 volt dc geared motor drive is still open at Hallam for a proposed dome rotation project.

**Treasurer, Greg Mockler:** Greg reported a bank balance of \$6,685 after our soon due annual \$500 land lease payment was set aside. Both the Aleksander Winery event and Al DesRosiers' garage sale were substantial help in boosting our bank balance. RASC calendars are now on hand.

**Membership, Tina Chichkan:** Nothing to report.

**Garage Sale, Al DesRosiers:** Al has run our garage sale for three consecutive years in aid of RASC - Windsor Centre finances with most material donated by members. Al reported this year would be the last for a period of time as the supply of salable items has diminished substantially. This year's sale was held on a near impossible day weather wise. Nevertheless, after paying a \$17 dumping fee his sale netted \$405. Al thanked all who donated items and helped during the sale.

Paul thanked Al not only for his garage sale efforts but additionally for his work keeping the grounds at Hallam looking nice and maintaining our observatory.

Paul also announced the next public **Hallam Observatory open house** date is November 13th.

### Short Presentation

**Hartmann and Bahtinov Focus Aid Masks, Dave Panton:** Dave showed a series of photographs in a PowerPoint presentation illustrating how the two hole Hartmann and slotted Bahtinov masks work as focus aids in astrophotography. Their conveniences and limitations were described. He concluded by showing a pair of Comet Hartley images shot at Hallam by taking a series of images. Both were stacked, first with the comet in motion and then with the comet fixed as stars flowed past in long dotted streaks.

**Director of Observing Report, Steve Pellarin:** Observer's sky maps for November along with maps of the paths of comet Encke and Hartley were distributed. Steve then reviewed the current astronomical sights of interest to casual observers and serious amateur astronomers. Our Sun is beginning to show early signs of spots after passing solar minimum period. Comet Hartley has been a disappointment, failing to grow to naked eye magnitude.

Paul thanked all for coming and **closed the meeting** at 10:12 pm.

David J. Panton, Recording Secretary