

- **Jupiter near Moon** again – Feb. 18.
- Deep Sky Objects visible: **NGC 1535** (Cleopatra’s Eye), bright as mag. 9.6., west of Orion, **NGC 1662** open cluster around arm of Orion and **NGC 1407** – massive elliptical galaxy

Rick thanked the members for attending and **adjourned the meeting at 9:49 p.m.**

Next meeting will be on February 19, 2013 at the Ojibway Park Nature Centre.

Reported by Matt McCall, RASC Windsor Centre Secretary.

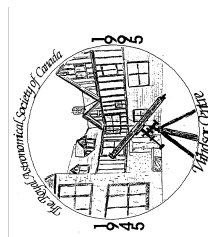
The Windsor Star

Some of you might be aware of a monthly astronomy article I’ve authored in our local newspaper, *The Windsor Star*. In its twenty-first year and with a total of some 170,000 words written in 242 articles, I was advised in late January that the column would be discontinued after the February instalment. They thanked me for my contributions over the years, but, really, the pleasure has been all mine.

When it began in December of 1992, initially alongside a second astronomy article penned by another Windsor Centre member, the late Bert Huneault, I thought that at best it might last for a few months or a year at most. Never could I have imagined that it would be in print for anywhere near the length of time that it was. It’s been wonderful writing these little columns and supplying the hand-made drawings each month for the paper’s illustrator to interpret; not to mention fielding what surely must have been many hundreds of phone inquiries, emails and other contacts they’ve spawned. If I can take any small credit for the article’s longevity, perhaps it’s that I have always remembered who I was writing it for.

When I first became interested in astronomy in the late 1960s, I used to clip and save sky maps the paper would occasionally reprint from the National Research Council. They were a help and inspiration to me as I explored the sky using a small refractor my parents had given me. Little did I know that one day I’d get the chance to write my own column each month within the pages of the very same publication and for such a very long time indeed. I’m indebted to those at *The Windsor Star* I’ve liaised with who have so enthusiastically supported the article through the years. It was fun.

Randy Groundwater



AURORA



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The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre

February 2013

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2013
7:30 p.m.

at
[Ojibway Park Nature Centre](#)
5200 Matchette Road

Speaker: Juliana Grigorescu

Topic: “*Keeping Up With The Universe*”

Upcoming Events

Point Pelee Dark Sky Nights: The next Pelee dark sky night will be held on Saturday March 9. We will be meeting on the West Beach and observing Comet PANSTARRS at sunset and at around 2:30 a.m. we will attempt to observe Omega Centauri.

Daylight Savings Time: Begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday March 10.

Open House Night at Hallam: The next open house night at Hallam is on Saturday March 16 at 8:00 p.m. and we will get a chance to observe Comet PANSTARRS.

Spring Equinox: Spring begins in the Northern Hemisphere on March 20 at 7:02 a.m. EDT.

Monthly Meeting Minutes January 15, 2013

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre, Ojibway Park Nature Centre.

Newly elected Windsor Centre **President Rick Marion** chaired the Meeting. Rick called the Meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. and welcomed members and guests to the Ojibway Nature Centre.

Motion to accept the Minutes of the November 20, 2012 Meeting moved by Art Rae, seconded by Steve Mastellotto. MOTION CARRIED.

Rick had the following **announcements**:

- The next **Council Meeting** will be held on February 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Dr. Pierre Boulos' house.
- The RASC Windsor Centre Yahoo Group has been shut down due to a lack of activity in favour of the Facebook page.
- A **Point Pelee Dark Sky Night** was held on January 12. Greg Mockler mentioned there were clear skies while at the park, but after a while he left due to the approaching noise of coyotes from the woods.

While waiting for the main presentation to be set up, Rick asked if anyone had anything to report on regarding astronomy or any observing they may have done recently.

Steve Pellarin spoke briefly of his 28-inch reflector telescope *Leviathan*, regarding damage sustained to a mirror. Planning on having everything taken care of by a shop in Florida, he was told the machine they use on mirror surfaces broke down, so he'd be without the scope for a while.

Paul Pratt informed the audience he had received twelve copies each of the RASC **Journal** and a special publication - **Environmental Impact of Light Pollution and its Abatement** from National Centre, free to take home for those interested.

Juliana Grigorescu mentioned she had been shopping in the evening around the holidays and thought she could see red light all throughout the sky from the mall parking lot, leading her to believe it was likely a display of Aurora Borealis. Also visually observed Jupiter and Sirius very clearly, remarking on what a great picture it would have made with a wide angle lens.

Main Presentation: Rick informed the audience that like prior years the January meeting was a "movie night" and the evening's feature was an episode of the television series *The Nature of Things*. Popcorn was being made ready for everyone at the back of the room.

Visitors and members were also informed to watch the video for clips featuring locations shot in the Windsor area.

Lights Out – TV Program on effects of artificial light on humans

The show described how various types of light we use in the evening before we sleep can be unhealthy, as well as explaining the Pineal gland's release of melatonin as we are drifting off to sleep. Light from the Sun and darkness at night helps maintain the body's natural Circadian rhythm that can be offset and thrown out of sync from too much light, particularly the blue light from monitors/screens since it resembles a bright morning sky. Red light can be used in the home instead to reduce the impact that lighter colours of the spectrum can have on a person if they wake in the middle of the overnight hours. New forms of lighting that can be dimmed were explored, but present Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) light bulbs were briefly described as having poisonous mercury leaking out when cracked or broken.

Break and 50-50 Draw: Winner was Tom Bondy.

Director of Observing Report, Steve Pellarin: **Jupiter** is presently mag. – 2.6., at highest point in sky by 9 p.m.. Leo is already rising at night, and the Big Dipper is turning on its handle, indicating spring is on its way. Steve showed a short video from a fish-eye lens mounted atop an observatory dome in Michigan of a time-lapse during the **Quadrantid** meteor shower peak. Comet **C/2012 K5 LINEAR** is still one of the only comets visible; having developed a 3-4 arcmin. coma around its nucleus with a fairly long tail after it had made closest approach.

Steve displayed a 3D schematic of the Solar System. **Venus** is descending in the morning sky quickly, with **Mercury** passing by quickly to reach superior conjunction. **Mars** is still visible low on the horizon after sunset, disappearing in the Sun's glare by mid-February.

- Coming events include **Saturn** rising earlier than 1:30 a.m. as the month rolls on.
- **Moon** has passed δ Capricorni and will be in very close conjunction with Jupiter on Jan. 21.
- Steve showed an image of **Jupiter** taken by an amateur astronomer in Pennsylvania within the last week, explained lots of detail can be seen on the cloud belts when air currents are steady.
- The **Galilean moons** are giving interesting multiple shadow transits due to angle of Jupiter, Earth, and Sun.
- Dwarf-planet **Ceres** and asteroid **Vesta** both passing fairly close by Taurus.
- **Zodiacal Light** visible in dark skies by start of February for couple of weeks, particularly in an area like Point Pelee.
- **Saturn with crescent Moon** in predawn hours – Feb. 3.