

Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 7 - Science Rendezvous event, held at University of Windsor, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 14 - Hallam Observatory Open House, beginning at 9:15 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17 - RASC Monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Ojibway Nature Centre

Thursday, May 19 – Monday, May 23, This year the **RASC General Assembly** is being hosted by the RASC London Centre, and the event is also being paired with **AstroCATS**; an increasingly popular astronomy trade show, which is now in its fourth year. More information, including an 11-minute-long promotional video about the events, can be found at <http://events.rasc.ca/>

Saturday, May 21 - Pt. Pelee Dark Sky Night. Park is open until Midnight
This is not a RASC hosted night. Note that there is a full moon, so viewing will be limited to mainly it and planets, along with a few brighter stars and double stars. The Park is hosting a “Woodcock Walk”, about the American Woodcock this evening. Location is the Visitor Centre parking lot.

Saturday, May 28 - RASC Windsor Centre hosted astronomy evening at Colchester Ridge Estate Winery (CREW). For the second consecutive year, we will have an evening of wine tasting and stargazing at CREW located at 108 County Road 50 E.

Saturday, June 11 - RASC Windsor Centre Annual Picnic and Hallam Observatory Open House. A double event. Following set up, the pot luck dinner is served around 6:30 p.m. Note that the Monthly Open House is also this night and begins at 9:45 p.m.

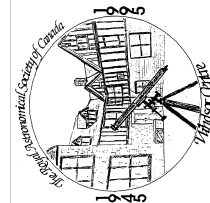
Tuesday, June 14 - RASC Windsor Centre Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. location TBD

Saturday, June 18 - Pt. Pelee Dark Sky Night. Park is open until Midnight
This is a RASC Windsor Centre hosted night and though the moon is nearly full (20th), we will be highlighting the planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn for evening observation. We will be locating ourselves at the Marsh Boardwalk for sky viewing in conjunction with another activity that evening, as staff from Pelee Wings will be leading a moonlight paddle through the marsh from there and Interpretive staff and Resource Conversation staff will also be on hand to lead a Marsh Monitoring program around the Boardwalk for those who don't want to paddle.

Tuesday, June 21 - RASC Monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Ojibway Nature Centre

Saturday, July 9 - Hallam Observatory Open House, beginning at 9:45 p.m.

Saturday, July 16 - Pt. Pelee Dark Sky Night. Park is open until 2:00 a.m.
This is not a RASC hosted night; however, Peter McMahon from *SkyNews* magazine plays host for “Parks Day Astronomy Weekend”. Solar Observing in the daytime along with a show in the portable planetarium, with stargazing lasting until 2:00 a.m. Note that the moon will be a waxing gibbous, 12 days old on the Saturday evening.



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The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre

April 2016

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2016
7:30 p.m.

at

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

Speaker: Sergey Postnikov

Topic: “*New Profound Ways of Observing the Universe*”

Upcoming Events

Open House Night at Hallam: The next open house night at Hallam is on **Saturday May 14th at 9:15 p.m.**. Come out and see the Moon and Jupiter and if you stay late Mars and Saturn.

Mercury: Was at greatest elongation yesterday and will be visible in the evening sky for the next week.

On the morning of April 25th **Mars, Saturn**, the gibbous **Moon** and **Antares** make nice photographic grouping.

Science Rendezvous: On Saturday **May 7** from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. we will be participating in the annual **Science Rendezvous** activities by hosting a table at the University of Windsor CAW Student Centre in the Ambassador Auditorium. Weather permitting there will also be telescopes set up outside for safe Solar observing.

Monthly Meeting Minutes March 15, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre was held at the Ojibway Park Nature Centre.

Windsor Centre **President Randy Groundwater** chaired the meeting. Randy called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and welcomed members and guests to the Ojibway Nature Centre.

Motion to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting was made by Dr. Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu, seconded by Brian Simpson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Main Presentation

Randy Groundwater gave a brief overview of the night's agenda and welcomed **Elizabeth Ismail** to the floor to discuss her presentation entitled "*The Death of the Universe*". Elizabeth started off with a short video with the same title. Following the video Juliana Grigorescu discussed a possible second theory to the "heat death", called "big rip", where-as the universe will keep expanding, and eventually expanding faster than the matter can expand. A quick recap of the Einstein's theories predicted this, some factors that must be taken into consideration are the Universe's shape and its components, along with **Matter, Dark Mater** and **Dark Energy**. Dark energy makes up more than 68% of all matter in the universe. It has some unique qualities, as the volume of space increases, Dark Energy increases to maintain a constant energy density. It is also accelerating the expansion of our universe and tearing it apart.

Following Elizabeth's talk Randy showed a brief 11 minute video produced by the RASC - London Centre which covered the **RASC General Assembly** and **AstroCATS** trade forum for 2016 which will be taking place in London, Ontario.

Tom Sobocan was welcomed to the floor to present a retrospective slideshow of Centre events over the past year.

Break and 50/50 draw. \$8.00 went to **John Marn** who donated the money back to the Centre.

Dr. Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu gave a briefing on the Starry Night Wine Tasting Event at Colchester Ridge Estate Winery (CREW) being held on May 28th. Some activities that are being discussed include: solar observing, telescope fundamentals, a series of short talks and a main presentation along with a Sky Tour after dark. This year we will be hosting a Telescope Fundamentals clinic. See Susan for any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

Director of Observing Report

Randy welcomed **Steve Mastellotto** to the floor, to present the D of O Report. Steve started off with a general questions to the group on their observing activities within the last month. Steve specifically asked about:

1. The 5 Planets in the morning sky
2. Solar activity including the total solar eclipse and aurora
3. Jupiter double shadow transit

Steve showed some photos from group members, including Dan Taylor's photo morning planet line-up taken from his back yard.

Upcoming events to take into consideration include:

- Spring Equinox on Sunday March 20th at 12:30 a.m.
- Jupiter observing season
- Moon occults Aldebaran on Sunday April 10th from 6:35-7:45 p.m.
- Open house at Hallam on Saturday April 16 at 8:30 p.m.
- Mars and Saturn are in Ophiuchus and rise around 1:00 a.m.
- Mercury will be in the evening sky just after the Sunset in mid-April

Towards the end of March you can still see some of the winter constellations. The spring constellations are all rising with Jupiter being a bright point near Leo. This is Jupiter observing season, most common things to look for when visually observing, are the north and south equatorial belts, and if lucky on a clear night, the Great Red Spot will be visible. Steve also discussed some of the more difficult features to observe like white spots or ovals, festoons and barges in the belts. On March 22, look for both Europa and Io casting their shadows on Jupiter's disk at the time.

Focusing on the constellation of Cancer, some naked eye, binocular and telescopic deep sky targets include M44 the Beehive Cluster, M67 Open Cluster, and NGC 2903 Galaxy.

Randy thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and reminded everyone that the **next regular membership meeting** would take place **Tuesday, April 19th, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.**

Randy **adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.**

Recorded by Dan Perissinotti, RASC Windsor Centre Secretary.