

Business

Steve reported Martha Pinch died two days after our last meeting. Her illness, announced at that time was clearly extremely serious. Martha was our unofficial poet. Steve projected a copy of her poem "The Silent Sky" written to commemorate the skies devoid of aircraft on September 11, 2001. Condolences are offered to her family and friends.

Coffee break and 50/50 draw: Steve welcomed new members and guests. One had learned of our group at Pelee Wings. John Boland won the 50/50 draw.

Short Talk, Steve Mastellotto: "Summer Star Parties" Steve gave a brief description of what to expect at the star parties on the list he prepared. Some are primarily observing, others have swap meets and lectures. Amateur telescope making is important at others. Prizes are sometimes part of the affairs, awarded for telescope construction. Often there are children's programs to help make the parties into a shared family event. In all cases, Steve explained attending is well worth while.

Main Talk, Randy Groundwater: "Observing the Moon" Many observers ignore the Moon, treating it as a periodic and major source of light pollution. Randy explained how fascinating it can be first when examined closely naked eye from a dark site and then in more detail with a modest telescope.

He has hosted groups of city children at Camp Henry in Point Pelee for 26 years and described their amazed reactions on seeing a dark sky, stars and our Moon. Many had never seen fireflies or the scary sight of moonlight reflected off a pool of ground water as seen from a trail in the woods.

Randy then used matching photos and maps to show some of the Moon's many interesting geological features as they are highlighted by sunlight during its ever changing phases.

Even naked eye, we can see a great deal and members joined Randy to describe how they viewed "The man in the Moon" and even "The rabbit on the moon" as changing light angles highlight their outlines.

Then Randy produced some scientific figures involving our Moon's composition, density, mass, lack of water and atmosphere. He explained it's near white appearance would be much brighter if it reflected more than the mere 7 percent we see coming from it's generally grey surface. The earth reflects 21% of the light it receives.

David J. Panton, Recording Secretary



AURORA



Sept. 2005 The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 31, Number 2

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 2005
8:00 p.m.
Maidstone K of C Hall
10720 County Road 34
(Old Talbot Road)

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

Upcoming Events

Hallam Observatory Open House:

October 8, 2005	7:00 p.m.
November 5, 2005	7:00 p.m.

Celestial Events:

Oct. 8	Draconid Meteor Shower
Oct. 21	Orionid Meteor Shower
Oct. 22	Jupiter in conjunction with Sun
Oct 29-30	Mars close to Earth with size of 20.2 arc seconds

Other Events:

Oct. 11	Council meeting at Tim Bennett's (7:30 p.m.)
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A Site of note: stellarium.sourceforge.net

Stellarium is free software which renders realistic skies in real time. With Stellarium, you really see what you can see with your eyes, binoculars or a small telescope.

President, Steve Mastellotto: Steve asked members present to read the minutes from the May meeting. A motion to accept the minutes from the May meeting was made by Tim Bennett seconded by Harry Brydon and carried. Steve welcomed all to our "Summer Solstice" meeting, the last before summer break until meetings resume in September.

Reports

Correspondence Secretary, Joady Ulrich: Joady had nothing to report.

Treasurer, Ken Garber: Ken reported our treasury held \$7,431.68 and paid up members number 115. Membership cards are available at the desk.

Librarian, Milica Rakic: Milica was unable to attend the meeting.

Newsletter Editor, Ken Garber: Ken reminded members he can always use articles from people sharing their experiences and observations for publication in the Aurora.

Steve announced the "Web Discussion Group" started by a few members is up and running, open to all members and can be used for all manner of communications. To get started, go to the Yahoo! Groups, register to log in and then go to the "*rascwindsor*" group.

Steve will continue to send e-mail notifications of special events.

Director of Public Education, Randy Groundwater: Randy did a presentation to a grade 9 Essex high school class and also hosted a group of very sharp Girl Guides at the observatory. A group of grade six students from Dougall One school were given a presentation at Pelee.

Director of Public Relations, Peter Bondy: Peter was not available. Steve showed some photographs taken at the annual picnic at the observatory. The weather was nice for a picnic under a nice layer of shady clouds. They remained for the evening spoiling any chances to use the Henry Lee telescope.

Light Pollution Committee, Dan Taylor: Dan reported the City of Windsor has adopted lighting standards for all new developments in the city. Each and every one should be equipped with full cutoff lighting. If they are not, Dan asked either he or Susan be notified and they will deal with the city to have the situation rectified.

The Catholic School board made a "green building" commitment including environmentally friendly full cutoff lighting.

Harry Brydon suggested the RASC recognize the City of Windsor for adopting full cutoff lighting standards.

Dan noted Peter Goring of National is trying to get Parks Canada to adopt full cutoff lighting standards.

National Council Representative, Tim Bennett: Tim attended the annual General Assembly in Kelowna last month. Holding nearly 10% of the proxies Tim was able to vote on matters of greatest interest with considerable influence. The prime business topic was finance as the RASC must manage a fiscal crisis which could drain financial reserves in seven years.

A variety of options regarding revenue and cost savings were examined in great detail. The Journal has been put "on line" and could be marketed as a \$15 option with membership. The annual dues will be increased by \$5 to \$55 per year. Local Centres will retain control of the memberships revenue split ratio. All was not business. The 168 attendees enjoyed the annual Ruth Northcott Lecture given by Jamie Mathews on the MOS satellite. They toured a winery, and enjoyed the surrounding mountain scenery from the Annual Awards banquet on the shore of Okanagan Lake. Jack Newton spoke about the features of the latest Canon SLR digital camera.

The General Assembly will be held May 2006 in Ottawa.

Observatory Director, Peter Bondy: In Pete's absence Steve noted the next major improvement project is to work on ways and means to motorize the dome in both azimuth and altitude. On casual observation the task seems relatively simple but when the various details are examined it quickly becomes surprisingly complex (and accordingly expensive).

Director of Observing, Steve Pellarin: Two attempts by Steve Mastellotto and Dave Panton to record a star's occultation by an asteroid were frustrated by last moment weather changes. A third was partially successful recording there was no occultation thus confirming the asteroid's predicted shadow path missed the Hallam observatory.

Four observer's group observing sessions are planned at the observatory over the summer. Sign up for notification and enjoy each event. The dates are July 9th, July 30th, and two dates in August remain to be set.

Comet Tempel 1 will collide with the "Deep Impact Probe" planned to maneuver into its path for a July 4th impact. The comet may brighten a little as debris sprays off into space.

Steve suggested observers check into the 2005 Observer's Handbook to see the listing of sights for July. There are many and Steve presented the major ones from meteor showers, planetary positions, Jupiter's red spot and some of the interesting NGC and Messier objects in the summer Southern sky. A list and map for July was distributed to all for handy reference.