

Jupiter is developing a new "Red Spot" as the old one slowly fades. Transit times to aid finding it are on the Sky and Telescope website.

Early in May we can look forward to the Eta Aquarid meteor shower.

To see a nice big variable carbon star look in Canes Venatici for Gamma Cvn. Try to make a magnitude estimate. It varies from 5.5 to 7.7. It has cooled so much it is expelling clouds of carbon soot detectable in it's light.

Steve also listed some interesting Messier objects and flagged a special event on May 11th when the Moon occults the star Spica.

#### <Coffee Break>

#### Main Presentation

#### Eclipse of the Sun March 29 2006 by Dr. William Baylis.

Steve Mastellotto introduced Dr. Baylis, our Honorary President from the Physics Department at the University of Windsor.

Three Windsor couples including Dr. Baylis and his wife along with our Bert Huneault and his wife journeyed by Air to Genoa and boarded a Mediterranean cruise ship (MSC Sinfonia). The ship visited many ports around the Mediterranean sea for sight seeing. The prime reason for the trip was to observe the eclipse from a dry, clear sky in the Libyan Desert.

Dr. Baylis started by showing why we have eclipses of the Sun by the Moon and why only a few are "total". Witnessing a total eclipse is one of nature's most rare and exciting events.

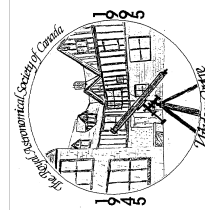
As a bonus he showed us dozens of well composed photographs he shot while visiting ruins at each of seven ports of call. Those taken at the Pyramids showed their enormous scale very well.

At Tobruk they disembarked, boarded buses along with 1500 shipmates and rode out onto gravelly sands in the Libyan desert. The bright sunny sky was perfect for an eclipse.

His photographs, supplemented by others of the event showed an excellent eclipse with gasses flaring from the Sun in enormous streams into space. During totality Venus and Mercury were visible to those who knew exactly where find them. It ended with a perfect "diamond ring". Mere words fail to describe the event.

Steve thanked Dr. Baylis and adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

**David J. Panton**  
Recording Secretary



# AURORA



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## Flyer

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 20, 2006  
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:*

June 3 9:45 p.m.

#### *Celestial Events:*

June 7 Comet 73P/Schwassmann-Wachmann 3 closest to Sun

June 21 Summer Solstice

#### *Next Council Meeting:*

Tuesday June 13, 2006 at 7:30pm at  
Randy Groundwater's house.

#### *Annual Windsor Centre Picnic*

Our annual picnic for all members and their families will be on Saturday June 17, 2006 at the Hallam Observatory. We will be gathering around 6:00 p.m. with a BBQ dinner at 7:00 p.m. and observing (weather permitting). The Windsor Centre will provide the meat for the BBQ and you should bring a side dish, your favourite beverage (no alcohol is allowed at the observatory) and some lawn chairs.

## Monthly Meeting Minutes for April 18th 2006 compiled by Dave Panton

### **Chaired by President Steve Mastellotto**

The minutes from the March meeting were read and adopted following a motion by Tina Chichkan seconded by Bert Huneault. Steve gave his usual warm welcome new members and guests. Then he described typical meeting procedures, coffee break, 50-50 draw and programs.

### **Correspondence Secretary: Joady Ulrich**

Joady had a nil report.

### **Treasurer: Ken Garber**

Ken reported our bank account balance is currently \$6264.38. There are 104 paid up members, including 4 life members. He had renewed membership cards and Journal subscription forms. Canadian Tire money donations are welcome and used to buy odds and ends such as wasp spray for the observatory.

### **Librarian: Rick Marion**

Rick was absent. Steve noted the latest astronomy magazines are available for loan at Ken's desk.

### **Newsletter Editor: Ken Garber**

Ken is in need of member's articles for the next Aurora.

### **Director of Public Education: Randy Groundwater**

Randy has a group of 7 year old Wheatley children visiting our observatory on April 29th. He also has a May 29th date for a presentation to a group of 6 year olds at Camp Henry. Unable to do it himself he asked for a volunteer to take his place.

### **Director of Public Relations: Peter Bondy**

Earth Day on April 23rd at Ojibway Park will include our usual booth display. Peter urged members to drop by and visit, help a bit or just join the crowd of 4 to 5 thousand people and enjoy the day.

### **Light Pollution Abatement Committee: Dan Taylor**

Point Pelee National Park is to become a "Dark Sky Site" on May 12 and will also be the recipient of our first Light Pollution Abatement Award.

The City of Windsor's new Environmental Master Plan group have a strong advocate of LPA in Mr. John Ward supported by his wife. Dan has been attending their planning meetings.

Dan displayed a nice FCO light fixture complete with daylight and motion sensors marketed by Home Depot. It even had an IDA (International Dark Sky Association) approval sticker. Dan felt it was a good buy.

Bad news comes from the rural scene as incandescent 100 Watt barnyard lights are

being replaced by high efficiency low power bulbs producing the light of a 250 Watt incandescent bulb!

Steve told us the town of Tecumseh is replacing old cobra head street lighting fixtures with FCO types.

Randy's work takes him to dozens of small Ontario towns where he is beginning to notice new FCO fixtures being installed for street lighting.

### **National Council Representative: Tim Bennett**

Tim could not make the meeting. Steve explained Tim will participate in the Annual General Assembly May 18-22 in Ottawa. Steve also mentioned a proxy by Dave Lane proposes to boost annual dues by \$4.00, all of which will be kept by National. Sales of their publications have been falling. Members were encouraged to attend the affair if only to meet other amateur astronomers from across Canada.

### **Observatory Director: Peter Bondy**

All is well at the observatory and the new shutter motorization system is working fine. More observers should be using the facility! The next open house date is May 12th. at 9:30 p.m.

### **Miscellaneous by Steve Mastellotto**

National is accepting photographic submissions for the 2007 observer's calendar until May 1st. They may include foregrounds of earthly features.

Contact Steve regarding a couple in Amherstburg's offer for sale of a 6 inch Dobsonian telescope complete with eyepieces.

There is an Earth Day dinner, tickets available for \$30. Information flyers are available on Ken Garber's table.

### **Director of Observing: Steve Pellarin**

Steve distributed Evening Sky Maps for April and summarized the various standard objects of interest. Then he presented the newest objects and events worthy special attention.

Unfortunate weather cost us the sight of the Moon slowly crossing the Pleiades, as it blocked light from the brighter stars one by one with it's darkened limb.

Venus and Mercury (very low) will be visible in the morning sky.

A Lyrid meteor shower (already started) should peak this weekend. It is from the remnants of 1861 comet Thatcher.

A new comet (Schwassmann-Wachmann) SW3 should be naked eye visible in May, assuming its current breakup into many pieces leaves one large enough to see. The broken areas are out-gassing more than older surfaces. They were easily visible in Steve's images off the net.