

Windsor Star column helps attract interest.

**Light Pollution Abatement** by Dan Taylor. Dan was unable to attend the meeting but you can catch his updates every month on the RASC Windsor Centre website at [www.rascwindsor.com](http://www.rascwindsor.com)

**Observatory Director Report** by Dave Panton. Al Des Rosiers and Dave managed to work their way through the "T-Point" telescope pointing error correction computer program and run a new model of altitude and azimuth points over the observatory. Setting the computer clock 51 seconds fast to correct a mysterious pointing error is no longer required. So far the telescope reliably points to all objects tested, placing them near the centre of the 40 mm eyepiece (approximately 30 arc minutes across).

**Membership Chairperson Report** by Paul Pratt. Paul had a nothing to report.

**Comet Lulin** by Walter Jin. Walter showed photographs of the Lulin Observatory in Taiwan where comet Lulin was discovered on July 11, 2007. While searching for near Earth asteroids a tiny patch of fuzzy light was identified as a comet and subsequently named for the observatory. It has recently been observed and photographed from our Hallam observatory at it's brightest magnitude. Barely visible to the most sensitive of night eyes it was an attractive target in the C14 telescope.

**RASC Event Photos** by Tom Sobocan. Tom showed a variety of photographs of members and guests at a variety of functions through the past year.

**Search for a new Treasurer** by Steve Mastellotto. As past president, one of Steve's functions is to prepare a list of nominees for coming elections. This is done in November. His early announcement was to bring to members attention Ken Garber (who has served as treasurer for several years) wishes to pass this on to another person at the end of his term. Steve requested members interested in this very important position to check with Ken to learn of the duties and responsibilities involved.

Pierre thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

David J. Panton  
Recording Secretary

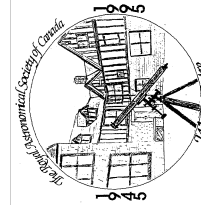
### *A Special Thank You Note...*

On January 30, 2009 during our monthly open house night Windsor Centre members arrived at Hallam Observatory to find the driveway, parking area and path leading up to the observatory had been plowed. After a number of phone calls, a council meeting and some sleuthing by Dave Panton we found that a mystery woman arranged to have the plowing done by a local contractor for \$100. We were concerned we would be stuck with this bill and told the contractor that in the future only certain people would be authorized to approve work to be done. We have further learned that the mystery woman called the contractor after the work was completed and arranged payment. Even with further sleuthing we have not been able to identify the mystery woman (she paid in cash and nobody saw her).

**Whoever you are the RASC Windsor Centre thanks you!**



# Aurora



April 2009 The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 34, No. 7

## Flyer

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

7:30 p.m.

at

Maidstone K of C Hall  
10720 County Road 34

Speaker: To Be Arranged

Topic: "TBD"

### Upcoming Events

**Open House Nights:** April 25 at 8:30 p.m. and May 30 at 9:30 p.m. at Hallam Observatory.

**Earth Day:** Sunday April 26th from 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. at MicMac Park. We will have a booth set up with information displays and telescopes for safe solar viewing (weather permitting).

**Titan's Shadow:** On Wednesday April 29th from 2:23—4:43 a.m. (when Saturn sets) watch Titan's shadow cross the disk of Saturn.

**Double Shadow Transit on Jupiter:** On Sunday May 17 from 3:55—5:34 a.m. watch the shadows of Callisto and Io cross the disk of Jupiter. Io's shadow is smaller and much sharper than Callisto's.

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2009

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Windsor Centre, K of C Hall in Maidstone.

The meeting was chaired by president Dr. Pierre Boulos. Pierre made reference to the significant date today in Irish history and mentioned several others such as “Pi” day, “cube” day and the Ides of March.

Minutes from the February meeting were read, a motion to accept them made by Steve Mastellotto, seconded by Ken Rount and carried.

Pierre thanked Steve for chairing the February meeting.

### Main Speaker

Pierre introduced Dr. Darren Stanley and his topic “Gunter's Quadrant”. Darren did his Masters Degree paper on the history and mathematics behind this ingenious device. His career now involves training teachers the best techniques for teaching mathematics to elementary grade children.

Gunter was a late 15 hundreds mathematician with interests in astronomy and surveying. He was also highly competent in the mathematics of spherical trigonometry and geometrical projections. Over a period of years he developed a device, seemingly simple but very complex in the mathematics of its design. Darren studied it extensively and developed a computer program to replicate the device and had one made by etching a square brass plate. His efforts were rewarded, earning his Master's on completing the project.

Held on edge with a small plumb bob attached at one corner, its string fitted with a sliding bead the amazing device was used for surveying, computing Sun rise and set times, season changes and local time to a fair degree of accuracy. We have to admire the many clever people in our past and the contributions they made to the knowledge we take for granted today. Darren's Gunter Quadrant replica is now fifteen years old and developing a nice patina of age. Boxed in a felt lined antique appearing wooden case its appearance is approaching that of an instrument one might find in a museum.

Pierre thanked Darren for his unusual and interesting presentation.

**Coffee Break and 50/50 draw** was held, extended a little to allow members and guests to step outside to witness a space station passage.

A special event was held at the observatory on Friday March 6th when about

40 members of the new **Windsor Photo Guild** met at Hallam Observatory for an introduction to astrophotography by Steve Mastellotto. In spite of scud running clouds allowing only Moon shots the group had a wonderful evening. Steve projected gorgeous astrophotos on a screen set on the deck. Photos of the group were shown and also shots of large “RASC” letters projected by green laser onto trees and Mo's machinery storage building. The enthusiasm was palpable and it is expected we may gain some new members.

### Reports

**International Year of Astronomy 2009** by Mike Mastronardi. Mike listed a series of local events all contributing to “IYA 2009”. For our contribution to “100 hours of astronomy” Hallam Observatory will be open to the public April 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Windsor Public Library will show our display through the whole month of April. Earth Day April 26th at Mic Mac Park will include our usual display with a public observing session following after dark. Three lectures will be given at public libraries. Point Pelee National Park will host RASC Windsor and the public one night each in August, September and October. Dr. Baylis will give two lectures at Science City. “Galileo moments” are a theme running all through these events.

**Saturn Photo** by Paul Pratt. Paul showed a remarkable detailed photograph of Saturn he shot from Hallam by running his camera on “movie mode”, filling its memory with 700 shots. Computer processing took detail from the best 80, combined them and Voila, Saturn with bands of color and a thin ring system.

**Correspondence Secretary** by Dave Panton. The annual RASC Windsor Centre activity report was completed and sent to National. A thank you letter was sent to Dana Willis for his astronomy books donation to Windsor Centre.

**Treasurer** by Ken Garber. Our current bank balance is \$4,926.28 and paid up members total 100. Ken reminded members RASC National is no longer on Dupont Street in Toronto. Check the web for their new address.

**Librarian** by Rick Marion. Rick had a nothing to report.

**Newsletter Editor** by Steve Mastellotto. Steve has placed the newsletter on line where it is in full colour. Photos are welcome as are articles. A new feature has been added “Hallam Happenings” by Dave Panton.

**Public Education** by Randy Groundwater. A lot is happening this year. Randy has already hosted a group of high school teachers and some of their students to a special night at the observatory. In April he has scheduled two presentations, one to a church group and another to a scout troupe on the 18th and 20th respectively. Mention of our website/observatory in his monthly