

fixtures changed to comply with the Town of Lakeshore's full cutoff lighting requirements. Juliana Grigorescu noted there was a lot of interest in our FCO lighting display on Earth Day.

National Council Representative by Mike Mastronardi. Mike will not be able to attend the 2009 General Assembly in Saskatchewan this Summer.

International Year of Astronomy 2009 coordinator by Mike Mastronardi. Mike gave astronomy presentations at Windsor Public Library and Riverside Public Library to a total of 28 people. Coming events such as the two Point Pelee public observing sessions and the Pelee Island Winery event all count toward our IYA 2009 event total.

Director of Observing by Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu. Lots of astronomical sights await June observers. Susan listed some of many including Titan's shadow on the face of Saturn, it's rings near edge on at this time and the only planet in evening. Sunspots are returning, starting a new 11 year cycle. Lots of galaxies and globular clusters are coming into view. Markarian's chain of galaxies is a rewarding sight as is Messier object M3, a nice tight little globular cluster. Susan also showed a short video clip of space shuttle "Atlantis" being launched on it's way to service the Hubble space telescope.

Pierre thanked Susan for her presentation and adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m..

David J. Panton
Recording Secretary

1969 Was a Very Good Year - personal memories by Rod Clark

Our family had made plans to tour the American west while our children were still young enough to tolerate their parents for the three weeks of togetherness, in the close quarters of our Chevrolet sedan.

We delayed our departure until July 21. This was the day after Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin had made those glorious first steps onto the surface of the Moon. We did not want to be on the road, at risk of missing this one-time historical and televised event.

We took the old and famous Route 66 that winds its way across the continent with a different history story to mark every exit. We experienced the famous Gateway Arch of St. Louis, Matt Dillon's Dodge City, the Painted Desert, the Petrified Forest, the Barringer Crater, Grand Canyon and of course, Disneyland, a must-see in those days before the Florida theme parks.

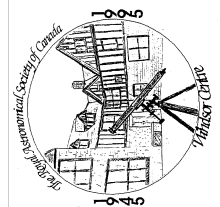
We began to push our faithful Chevy a little harder because we had to be in Chicago by August 11th. The Apollo 11 crew of Grissom, Armstrong and Aldrin, had started their adventure when we had started ours. Twenty-one days later, they had completed their Moon explorations, made a safe return to Earth, endured their quarantine and were now making a well-deserved triumphal tour. On this day, their route crossed ours and we were thrilled by the coincidence of our travels.

Chicago was bustling but we found a good spot on the parade route near the waterfront. As the cavalcade passed, we were surprised that the astronauts were men of quite small stature, chosen, we supposed, for the cramped quarters of their space vehicle. They seemed somewhat uneasy with the enthusiasm of the Chicago crowds but accepted their discomfort with obvious good-will and dignity. It was exciting to realize that these were the same men whom we had watched, just a short time ago, as they made their low gravity, leaping strides across the surface of the Moon.

The caption from the record of our trip reads: "Apollo 11 will be the most memorable experience of our lifetime. It is the greatest of all human achievements."



AURORA



June 2009

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre

Volume 34, No. 9

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2009
7:30 p.m.

at

Maidstone K of C Hall
10720 County Road 34

Speaker: Juliana Grigorescu

Topic: "TBD"

Upcoming Events

Open House Nights: June 27 at 9:30 p.m., July 25 at 9:30 p.m. and August 22 at 9:00 p.m. at Hallam Observatory.

Parks Day: The Windsor Centre along with the staff at Point Pelee National park will be holding a joint celebration of National Parks day on Saturday July 18. Check the website for details including another observing session in the Fall.

Starfest 2009: Will be held from August 20—23 at the River Place Campground in Mount Forrest, Ontario.

Pelee Island Winery: The Windsor Centre will once again be providing an astronomy night at the Pelee Island Winery on Saturday August 29. Check the website for details.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2009

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Windsor Centre, Maidstone Recreation Centre.

The meeting was chaired by president Dr. Pierre Boulos.

The April meeting minutes were read. Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu made the motion to accept them, Paul Pratt seconded and the motion carried.

Main Speaker

Pierre introduced our Honourary President Dr. William Baylis from the Physics department of the University of Windsor noting the tradition of his annual presentation to Windsor Centre.

“From Dust” by Dr. William Baylis. Dust, Dr. Baylis explained has a major role in stellar evolution and in life on Earth. Defined as particles less than ½ mm across, in space it obstructs visible light and can otherwise be detected by it's emission of infra-red light.

From Earth we can observe it in examples such as the Sombrero Galaxy, The Eagle Nebula and the Horse head Nebula in Orion. It hides the view of our own galaxy's core. It's role in the origin of the universe began after it's formation as objects collided creating smaller and smaller particles down to dust.

In space, it's presence provides surfaces on which radiation in it's various forms can “push” the tiny particles assisting the process of star formation. On Earth dust has many familiar sources from volcanoes to tiny spores floating in our atmosphere. From Earth some is seen in sunsets and of special interest to astronomers, “Zodiacal Light”. This phenomenon is evidence of dust in our Solar System.

Dr. Baylis went into far more detail than can be reported in a modest report. Dust may be mundane on Earth but in space it has enormous importance in stellar evolution. With a variety of often exotic observation equipment it provides many clues to our understanding of the universe.

Members appreciated his talk and learned far more than one might expect in a presentation about mere dust.

Pierre thanked Dr. Baylis and announced he will also be speaking at Canada South Science Centre on June 2. His topic is the science behind Dan Brown's film “Angels and Demons”.

Coffee Break and 50/50 draw. The draw featured an additional prize, an IYA 2009 stamp poster. Rod Clark won the poster, Rick Marion won the draw and donated it back to the Windsor Centre.

Council Meeting: Pierre announced the June council meeting will be held on Tuesday June 9th at Randy Groundwater's house.

Reports

Secretary by Dave Panton. Dave reported there were no open items.

Hallam Observatory by Dave Panton. Dave called on Al DesRosiers who reported he had completed Spring maintenance, removing a bird nest inside the dome above the shutter opening drive. He also checked the drive, topped up it's battery acid and lubricated the shutter tracks. Everything is working as it should. The telescope is still accurately finding targets. Al has already mowed the observatory grass three times this year.

Treasurer by Ken Garber. Ken reported our bank balance is \$5,625 and paid up membership is currently 100 including two in the U.S.. Six memberships have expired since last report.

Librarian by Rick Marion. Rick had nothing to report.

Newsletter Editor by Steve Mastellotto. Articles and photos are always welcome for the Aurora. Astrophotos taken at Hallam, piggy backed on the AT111 or the C14 with autoguiding are becoming the norm for our group.

Public Education by Randy Groundwater. Lots of people have recently visited Hallam on open house nights and specially arranged visits for groups such as 30 members of the Windsor Tai Chi club hosted by Al DesRosiers. Earth day at Mic Mac Park was a success with special thanks to Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu and Ken Rong for bringing telescopes fitted with solar filters for viewing the Sun.

Public Relations by Tina Chichkan. Earth Day saw perhaps as many as 1,000 people checking out our booth. Our annual Picnic will be held at Hallam observatory on Saturday June 13th starting at 6:00 p.m., BBQ (meat supplied by Windsor Centre) and pot luck goodies served at 7:00 p.m.. Tina requested attendees to help her planning by letting her know what type of food they plan to bring. Al will bring a BBQ.

Light Pollution Abatement by Dan Taylor. Dan reminded all to check our website for his monthly LPA report. He also thanked Dave for his efforts to have the new Hwy 401 and 77 truck stop's Esso refueling yard's light polluting