

Light Pollution Report, Dan Taylor: Dan reported on several favourable developments in Windsor and Essex County light pollution regulation. Pressed by the provincial government new legislation is being tabled for "Site Planning and Light Pollution" bylaws. Light pollution, particularly light trespass is becoming a political issue hence there may at last be some action towards reducing same.

The City of Windsor will review draft legislation to be tabled at Council on December 8th. We can make a presentation of five minutes and should do so in support. Our light pollution committee headed by Susan has promoted light pollution control to both the city and county. Results are beginning to appear thanks to their efforts.

Ken Roung gave a perfect example of poor lighting. In Harrow a car lot, lit by glaring lights was suffering frequent thefts. The lights were shut off. Soon thieves were caught when neighbours, no longer blinded by the lights noticed flashlights.

New Business

Grab Box, Randy pointed to a box of odds and sods of surplus optical bits pieces and strange partial assemblies. They were salvaged by Professor Jerry Bolger from a scrap bin at the University of Windsor and forwarded to the club via Randy. Members were given the opportunity take whatever they might use at break.

Unusual telescope, Donna Ronconi described a very keen amateur telescope maker's project in British Columbia. The gentleman has invested about \$1,000,000 building a large rotating liquid Mercury mirror telescope.

50-50 Draw, The Draw was won by Dirk Smit. Dirk donated his prize to the club.

Observing Report, Steve Pellarin: Steve showed a nice set of CCD images of Mars prepared by taking multiple images, computer stacking and processing them to make single images. He showed the Martian ice cap we have been watching shrink to near invisibility is still easy to see as it growing larger.

This time of year is good for those trying to see Zodiactal light in the early dawn. Steve encouraged us to use both the Observer's Handbook and Calendar as they flag coming astronomical events.

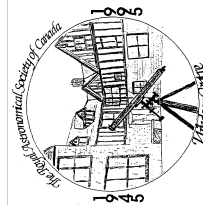
Main Talk, the Sobocan brothers. David is an accomplished photographer and revealed some of his techniques in taking composite and time exposure night sky photographs using a 35mm film single lens reflex camera on a tripod or sometimes a barn door tracker. His examples were an inspiration.

Tom had prepared an extensive illustrated presentation on the phases of the Moon, why they occur and what we can look for the moon cruises around our planet Earth. The clock was ticking to closing time at Ojibway and Tom rushed through a lot of material particularly useful to casual observers. His brother David had noticed on a visit to Australia that the moon looked "backwards". Maps produced on Starry Night Pro proved his observation correct. Tom commented deep sky observers needing the blackest of nights often become "Moon Haters". There are some in RASC Windsor.

Meeting adjourned by Randy Groundwater at 10:20 p.m.



Aurora



December 2003 The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 29, Number 4

Flyer

Next Meeting

December Social

Friday December 5, 2003

Dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Setup at 7:00 p.m.

at

Ojibway Park Nature Centre
5200 Matchette Road



Upcoming Events

Mercury: Mercury will be visible in the evening sky for the first half of December but it never really gets very far from the Sun during this apparition. Greatest Elongation is on December 9.

Geminid Meteors: The Geminids peak on the night of Saturday December 13 at 11:00 p.m. EST. Since the Moon will be just past full it will interfere most of the night.

Jupiter's Moons: The Moons of Jupiter are once again favourably placed for double transits of Jupiter's disk. On Friday morning (overnight Thursday) December 19th at 12:29 a.m. EST look for the Moons Ganymede and Callisto to cross Jupiter's disk. Note this is not a shadow transit.

General Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2003

President, Randy Groundwater: Randy welcomed members and guests to our new venue (on a trial basis) at the Ojibway Park Nature Centre. The September meeting minutes were read and a motion to accept them was made by Dave Panton, seconded by Joe Cambala and carried.

Reports

Correspondence Secretary, Joady Ulrich: Joady was unable to attend.

Treasurer, Ken Garber: Ken reported there is approximately \$2,400 in our general bank account and funds are set aside to make the final payment on the new telescope. Ken has only 4 copies of the 2004 RASC observer's calendar left for sale.

Librarian, Tom Sharron: Tom's work schedule has changed making him unavailable for the duties he has performed for many years. Milica Rakic has taken the position on an interim basis.

Newsletter Editor and Web Master, Steve Mastellotto: Steve is looking for articles from members relating how they first came to be interested in astronomy.

Director of Public Relations, Robin Smallwood: Robin reported at the moment there was little happening. Other than Mars there are no easily visible evening planets to see in current skies.

Nominations Committee, Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu: Susan presented a list of nominees for the November election as follows:

President	Steve Mastellotto
1st Vice President	_____open_____
2nd Vice President	Robin Smallwood
Treasurer	Ken Garber
Secretary	Joady Ulrich
National Council Rep	Tim Bennett

Councillors

Paul Preney	Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu	Henry Lee
Steve Pellarin	Peter Bondy	Rev. Harry Brydon
Ken Rounge		

Appointed Officers

Honorary President	Dr. William Baylis
Past President	Randy Groundwater
Librarian	Milica Rakic

Recording Secretary	Dave Panton
Public Education Director	Randy Groundwater
Public Relations Director	(2nd. Vice President)
Newsletter Editor	_____open_____
Assistant Newsletter Editor	_____open_____
Director of Observing	Steve Pellarin
Assistant Dir. of Observing	Robin Smallwood
Alt. National Council Rep.	Susan Sawyer-Beaulieu
Webmaster	Steve Mastellotto

Susan asked for suggestions as to who might be a candidate for the key position of Newsletter Editor.

She also described typical business covered at council meetings. They are held only three times per year on the second Tuesday in February, June and October. All are open to members as guests. Randy added the club can always use new people on council.

Public Education, Randy Groundwater: No report this month.

Observatory Committee, Peter Bondy: Pete reported how the break in and vandalism at the observatory was a "lucky wake up call for us". While the damage was significant (and done to obsolete equipment) it could have been far worse. Other than the destroyed steel door little building damage was done. The perpetrators are believed to have been mobile vandals riding ATV's.

A heavier steel door has been installed and the coded lock changed to a key type. Grilled steel bars will be installed on the two small high up West windows. Also a first line of defence locked steel grill gate will be installed outside the steel door.

Unfortunately the time and effort dealing with the vandalism incident delayed work on improvements planned to make additional driveways and add concrete observing pads.

Peter asked if any member had a line on obtaining a tall steel pole on which to mount a sensor type security light (with a full cutoff light fixture). It will be powered day and night but can be killed as needed via a hidden outside switch accessible to observers.

The new telescope is on schedule and the integrated Celestron Optical Tube Assembly (OTA) and Software Bisque computerized mount should be delivered in about two weeks. For the time being it will be controlled by a computer on loan from a member.

Among other things a club computer for the telescope is on the list of observatory needs to be included on the next Trillium Fund application.

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