

really remarkable and brought raves of praise and disbelief from members.

The telescope images were excellent proof of CCD imaging and its capability. I for one was even more impressed when all the room lights were shut off leaving the room lit only by light reflected from the projector screen. Steve scanned the room and projected the image onto the screen. Members in the dark looked like they were sitting in a well lit room!

Steve told us the cost was within reach of most serious amateurs. Images can be viewed on a small TV set or recorded on a VCR or computer disk. These units are a break through in amateur astronomy. The equipment we use today will soon change dramatically.

Director of Observing Report, Steve Pellarin: Steve asked for volunteers to bring telescopes to Brennan high school for an astronomy night on May 1st. He estimated there could be 20 to 200 people on hand, some from other high schools.

He outlined a number of interesting events emphasizing the Lunar eclipse on the evening of May 15th. From the club observatory it should be a spectacular affair. Others coming are a close approach to Mars, a transit of Mercury across the face of the Sun and the Eta Aquarid meteor shower. Asteroid Vesta is naked eye visible in Virgo's Bow. Steve updated the Jupiter moon count, now a total of sixty.

Harry Brydon: Harry gave us a bit of biblical/astronomical history by explaining the logic of Easter Sunday's date. It is the first Sunday after the first full moon following Spring equinox.

Randy thanked the speakers and the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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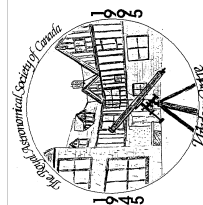
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**Contact Robin Smallwood
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Aurora



The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Windsor Centre Volume 28, Number 10
June 2003

Flyer

Next Meeting

Tuesday June 17, 2003

8:00 p.m.

at

St. Stephen's Church
Howard Road, 1.4 kms. South
of Highway #3

Speaker: *Steve Mastellotto*

Topic: *"Observing Mars 2003"*

Upcoming Events

Council Meeting: The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday June 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Randy Groundwater's house.

Annual Picnic: We will once again be holding our Centre's annual picnic at the Hallam Observatory site on Saturday June 7.

Mars: Mars' angular size on June 1 is 12.5 arc seconds and by the end of the month it will be 16.6 arc seconds. Now is the time to begin observing Mars so that your eye is trained in observing the fleeting detail that will be visible later this Summer.

General Assembly: The RASC GA will be held in Vancouver, BC from June 27 - 29.

General Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2003

President Randy Groundwater: The March minutes were read and a motion to accept them was made by Susan Sawyer Beaulieu and seconded by Harry Brydon. The motion was accepted.

Reports

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

Treasurer, Ken Garber: Ken reported the finances were in good order and there are currently 117 paid up members. He reminded members they can receive a 15% discount from Sky Publishing on annual Sky and Telescope subscriptions. Discounts are also available on their many products.

Librarian, Tom Sharron: Tom was unable to attend the meeting.

Newsletter Editor, Steve Mastellotto: Steve is always looking for articles from members and used the article in the May "Aurora" written by Bert Huneault as a good example of an excellent submission.

Public Relations, Robin Smallwood: Robin explained Earth Day on April 27th is one of our major annual events. Mike Pataky rebuilt the displays and did a commendable job making them more attractive. Some volunteers will be needed for setup in the morning and others needed through the day to man the display. Others with telescopes fitted with Sun filters can help visitors view the Sun safely. Members amateur photographs will help round out the display.

Observatory Committee, Peter Bondy: Peter reminded members the Highway 77 route to the observatory is to be rebuilt this summer. Destruction and reconstruction will start this month. Peter reminded observatory committee members to attend the meeting Wednesday next week.

Light Pollution Committee, Dan Taylor: Dan has contacted the MTO and was assured that all lighting on Highway 401 is the full cutoff type and only installed at exit ramps.

Township light pollution regulation is marginal at best. In Lakeshore and Essex only commercial lighting must be the full cutoff type. The Comber Racetrack project's lighting will be a municipal issue. To date we have not had contact with the promoters. Farm yard lights are another light pollution matter. Ontario Hydro provides them free and the issue of light pollution becomes one between neighbours.

Business

Randy mentioned the May issue of Sky and Telescope has an article describing the "Paramount" model telescope mount by Software Bisque as a "class piece of equipment". It is identical to the unit we expect to receive in September.

Ken Rount has acquired a 200 foot roll of reflective tape and offered it for Dave Ainsley's gates to the observatory. Dave will be contacted to see if he feels it would be an improvement.

David Williamson reminded members about the valuable internet "Sky Clock" observing condition forecasts. They are a Canadian creation by Attila Danko an amateur astronomer and collaborator Alan Ryall of the Canadian Meteorological Services. A well written article about the Web Site and its creators appeared in the latest issue of Sky and Telescope.

Randy reminded members the church parking lot has been greatly enlarged with a paved addition built behind the home at the North side of the church. There is no need to compromise fire safety by parking in the church driveway.

50-50 Draw Winner: After the break the 50-50 draw was won by John Pohland.

Featured speaker for the evening, Dan Taylor: Dan along with Dana Willis teamed up and drove to the Okie-Tex week long star party held last September near Kenton (pop.28) Oklahoma. Dan showed us shots along the way varying from a 900 foot radius rotating irrigation spray boom to a field of 128 wind turbines capable of providing electrical power to a town of 37,000.

At the star party they found excellent viewing conditions in the rather desolate but scenic area. Dan found the dimmest star he has ever observed at a magnitude of only 17.8. Dana hunted for and found 75 Herschel objects. Dan showed us photographs of the night sky studded with such a vast field of stars finding even the most prominent constellations proved difficult.

He noticed there were very few SCT telescopes on site. During daytime telescope were bagged in tight to keep out dust and sand, a constant companion in dry and windy terrain. One Paramount, identical to the unit on order for our observatory was on site and functioning very well.

New video imaging camera, Steve Mastellotto: Steve recently acquired an Astrovid Stellacam EX CCD imaging "camera" and displayed it with a variety of stunning shots taken through his 10 inch SCT at prime focus. The images were all taken from his front yard in a highly light polluted area. The images were

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