
Message from the President

Hello All. This coming year will be a very exciting time for the Hamilton Centre. The Centre has ordered the new Telescope (an Optical Guidance Systems 16" Ritchey-Chretien on a Software Bisque Paramount ME), and it should arrive and be installed in late summer. There is much work to do in preparation of the new scope's arrival both in terms of preparation of its new home and also in terms of setting policy for its use. We will dedicate part of the May meeting to discuss some of these issues so please mark that on your calendar and help shape the future of the Hamilton Centre.

The Centre now has a new digital projector (come out to the next meeting to see it). The annual Banquet will be held on Saturday May 8th at the Holiday Inn Express in Oakville and Ivan Semeniuk will be the guest speaker. Also we will have a special show set to music, featuring Hamilton Centre member's astro photos. I would like to put out a call to all members to submit their best astro photos to be used in the show. I am looking for all types of astro photos (conjunctions, lunar, planets, eclipses, aurora, as well as piggyback shots, and deep sky shots). Please supply them in digital format if possible at 1024x768 resolutions if possible. If you have photos but not in digital format please contact me and I could arrange to scan images if necessary. I know there are many members who have taken great shots so please look through your images and get them to me by the April meeting please.

I was just at the Winter Star Party in the Florida Keys with fellow Hamilton Centre members Rob Bodner, Kevin Hobbs and Gordon Bulger. We will show pictures from our trip at the March meeting so come on out and see what its like to observe from the clear dark and steady skies of the Florida Keys. I hope to see you out at club events or at the observatory in this exciting coming year.

Steve Barnes

Alan Whitman Guest Speaker for March General Meeting

Our Special Guest Speaker will be Alan Whitman. His topic will be hunting the clusters and nebulae within M33, M101, and the LMC

In eight hours over three nights with his 16-inch Newtonian, Alan Whitman learned that 29 emission nebulae and stellar associations could be seen and identified within the Triangulum Galaxy, plus one of M33's globular clusters. That is most of what he saw in 12 hours over three nights in October 2002 with Chaco Observatory's 25-inch Obsession in the New Mexico

high desert when he was the observatory director there - the 25-inch added only three more emission nebulae that he couldn't get with the 16-inch at home. Four hours on M101 with his 8-inch revealed more than first meets the eye.

His talk will conclude with eyepiece descriptions of emission nebulae, open clusters, and globular clusters within the Large Magellanic Cloud as observed with large Dobsonians. Sub-themes include the help that Australian amateurs will give to visiting northern hemisphere observers nowadays, the South Pacific Star Party, and the glory of the southern Milky Way and the Magellanic Clouds with the unaided eye at superb Australian dark sites.

RASC Spring Banquet with Ivan Semeniuk

When: Saturday May 8, 2004
Where: Holiday Inn Select Oakville
How Much: \$47.50 per person

Time: 6:00 pm: Happy Hour and members slide show
7:00 pm: Meal
8:00 pm: Ivan Semeniuk – Astronomy Columnist
9:30 pm: Door prizes

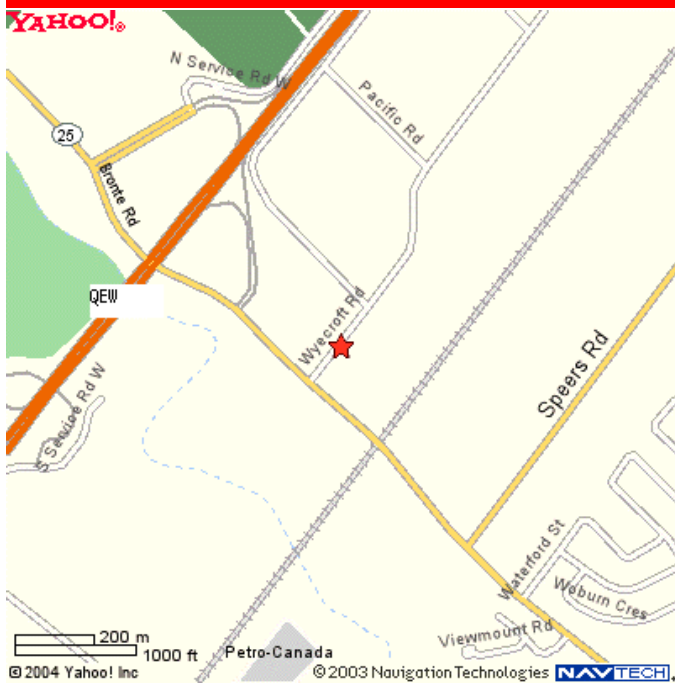
Ivan Semeniuk is the host of Discovery Connection, and "Skylights", the weekly astronomy column on @discovery.ca

Ivan has been a columnist on the show since its inception, and began working as a full time producer in the fall of 1999. Before becoming a science journalist Ivan spent 13 years developing science exhibits, programs and planetarium shows at the world-renowned Ontario Science Centre in Toronto.

During his career chasing the stars and telling people about the night sky, Ivan has been on hand for two Mars landings, witnessed three total eclipses of the sun and transported one moon rock across an international border.

Ivan is a contributing editor to Sky New magazine and his articles have appeared in Astronomy, Mercury, and New Scientist among other publications.

Ivan completed his undergraduate studies in physics and astronomy at the University of Toronto "back when MIR was shiny and new." He has since earned a Master's degree in Science Journalism from Boston University.



Gary Colwel's very first attempt at deep sky astrophotography!!! M42, 40 images stacked. Gary used his TV102 with 35 mm panoptic using his Nikon Coolpix

Astronomy Day

Astronomy Day 2004 is set for Saturday April 24, 2004. The Hamilton Centre will be planning events for that Day.

If you would like to get involved with planning organizing and participating please contact Grant Maguire or Ken Lemke (see list below)

Members Gallery



Gary Colwell took this Picture of Saturn on Feb 27, 10:30 pm, using a TV 102 with Toucam Pro web cam and TV 4X Powermate barlow...200 images were stacked in Registax..



Roger Hill took these two images on February 26th. Jupiter plainly shows the shadow of Europa, and the

light spot to the left of the shadow is Europa itself. Both images were taken with a Toucam Pro II and Roger's C8 telescope. Captured using K3CCDTools, and the processing was done using both K3CCDTools and Registax. These may be Rogers final two images taken with his C8 as he traveled to Ottawa and picked his Meade 12" LX200GPS. Good viewing with your new equipment Roger.



Our President Steve Barnes took these two pictures of Venus and Jupiter from the warm climate of southern Florida at the Winter Star Party.

Messier Marathon and Party

The Hamilton Centre is organizing a Messier Marathon.

Where: The Leslie V. Powis Observatory

When: Saturday March 20, 2004

How much: \$5.00 nominal fee

Time: 5:00 pm Pot Luck Supper

6:30 pm Observing begins

We will be providing printed lists of the Messiers and the order that they should be hunted down.

This event will take place whether it is clear or not. We are planning a video if the weather does not cooperate. It should be a great social time.

If you are interested please contact Ken Lemke or Grant Maguire (see list at the end)

Beginners Observing Group

If you are interest in the Beginners Observing Group contact Ken Lemke by e-mail at cfs@worldchat.com (day time) or klemke@worldchat.com (night time or week-ends). His phone number is 905-634-5168 (day time) or 905-639-5127 (night time and week-ends) or Gary Colwell at gcolwell@rogers.com

Hamilton Centre Logo Clothing

Ken Lemke has generously offered to coordinate the sale of various clothing items with a very distinct Hamilton Centre Logo on them. The logo is shown as the header on page one of Orbit. Here is a list of the clothing items. If you are interested in ordering items please contact Ken Lemke by e-mail at cfs@worldchat.com (day time) or klemke@worldchat.com (night time or week-ends). His phone number is 905-634-5168 (day time) or 905-639-5127 (night time and week-ends). To make the ordering process as easy as possible we are requesting that you pay for your garments upon ordering with a cheque payable to "RASC Hamilton Centre"

Item	Style No.	Price
Ladies North End Fleece Vest	ASH70086	\$40.00
Denim Shirt Long Sleeve	WD7120	\$37.00
Sweat Top "Heavy Cotton"	WD18430-D	\$31.00
Men's Micro Plus Lined Wind shirt	ASH88001	\$54.00
High Point Golf Shirt	WD5600-01	\$35.00
Men's Extreme Cotton Long Sleeve Pique Golf Shirt	ASH85017	\$34.00
Ladies Extreme Fashion Cut Pique Golf Shirt	ASH75008	\$28.00
Men's North End Fleece Vest	ASH88005	\$50.00
Elements Polyester Fleece Headband	ASH441007	\$17.00
Gildan Long Sleeve T-Shirt	WD2400	\$24.00

Support your Club

Please remember that you can support the Hamilton Centre financially by making a tax deductible contribution to the club. Please contact our treasurer John Williamson if you are interested in supporting the club in this manner.

Observatory Use

This past month has seen substantial use of the Leslie V. Powis Observatory. Les Nagy and his helpers (Gary Colwell, Ken Lemke, Shelly Watson, and Kevin Hobbs) have done 3 very successful outreach programs to local Cub and Scout groups. We owe a thank you to Les for his dedication to the educational program and to his helpers for volunteering time to this very important aspect of our club.

The last week of February saw clear skies appear in the Hamilton area, luring out RASC members to the observatory. Some of the objects observed were:

Saturn Beautiful views of my favourite planet. Easily separating the Cassini division, seeing a little detail of the planet itself, and spotting four of its satellites.

Jupiter Saturn is wonderful but I never get tired of looking at Jupiter. The position of the four satellites and seeing the giant red spot was very cool. (a first for me)

Moon The always forgotten moon. Even the smallest of telescopes can magnify a lot of detail of our moon. Even when the sky turned a little hazy, it was just enough to act as a natural filter. In your excitement of hunting down deep sky objects don't forget to look at the moon, you won't be disappointed.

M42 (Orion Nebulae) Our winter constellation Orion presents one of the most beautiful nebulae M42. A low power eyepiece shows the entire nebula with the large cloud of nebulosity. Remember don't be jumping for high power eyepieces, many deep sky objects are presented much nicer with a low power eyepiece.

Other objects observed were M44 the beehive star cluster, M36, M37, M38, M45 the Pleiades Star cluster, Venus, and Mars

I can't wait for more clear skies.

Web Cam Seminar

Back by popular demand, Roger Hill will again be presenting his "Web Cam Use" seminar. Roger is an active astro-photographer in the Hamilton Centre who is well respected for his photography using a low priced web cam. Roger will be describing, equipment, software and technique.

Where: Leslie V. Powis Observatory

When: Tuesday March 23

For Sale:

Late '70's C8 by Celestron-Pacific.

This orange-tubed beauty has been everywhere, and done it all. It has been to Starfest a dozen times, it has spent 7 minutes in totality in Mexico, and 5 minutes of annularity south of Hamilton. It has had school groups and scout troupes peer through it at Halley's comet, and tracked many other comets across the sky. It has seen lunar eclipses and occultations. It has taken one half of a stereo pair of Copernicus. The photons left over from supernovae have been patiently collected by its optics and presented to me. It has witnessed Ring plane crossings and Galilean moon shufflings. It has watched, patiently, teasing pleasing detail from Mars. It has stood, proudly, as it provided hundreds of people with their first glimpse of Saturn or Jupiter, delighting in the gasps of awe and wonder. It has shown me tiny Mercury, in a clear deep blue sky one afternoon, providing the impetus to a small group of amateurs to observe all 9 planets in less than 24 hours. Galaxies and star clusters, clouds of gas and dust, jewel like double stars, even gaggles of geese crossing the face of the Moon on their way to warmer climes have all been presented to the admiring eye of its owner. Dozens of images it took, some award-winning, but all bearing testimony to its optics, can be found on its owners website at <http://j.roger.hill.tripod.com/>.

But now it is time for us to part. There's a new kid in the house, now. It is bigger, brawnier and blue, not orange.

Orange, though, still longs to collect photons for someone else. It knows there are still many nights ahead of it out in fields, evoking more gasps, or quiet pleasure. Dark sky sites and its orange drive corrector plugged in to a car battery, mean fruitful nights far from 110 volts beckon. With its full aperture 1000 Oaks Type II glass solar filter, there is a transit of Venus coming that it longs to bear witness to. The sturdy tripod, strong but lightweight, with the wedge, is ready to

hold Orange just so, delivering photons exquisitely to retina, chip or film. The counterbalance system included on Orange will help when cameras or other, smaller scopes hitch a ride on his back, attached to the piggyback mount. His two-inch adapter and diagonal stand ready for more eyes and equipment, the electric focuser helping to present those images sharply. The case, the only home it has ever known, except for the observatory built for it, has seen better days, but has protected Orange faithfully since the day they left California together. A little tiny orange 6x30 finder scope is included, too. With its no-tool knobs, trying to find a fallen Allen key is not a problem, although the original bolts are still available.

\$800 is all that is needed for Orange to scan the skies again, just for you.

If you can give it a new home, contact Roger Hill by:

Phone: (905)878-5185


















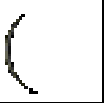



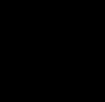
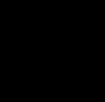
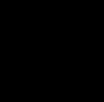
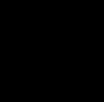
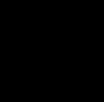
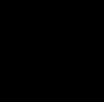
Email: roger.hill@sympatico.ca

Board of Directors

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Les Nagy	Public Ed		lnagy@thelightages.com

Steve Barnes	President		sbarnes@worldchat.com
Gary Colwell	Observing Director		gcolwell@rogers.com
Mark Kaye	Past President		mark.kaye@sympatico.ca
Roger Hill	Recorder		roger.hill@sympatico.ca
Ken Lemke	Membership		cfs@worldchat.com klemke@worldchat.com
John Williamson	Treasurer		john.williamson@sympatico.ca

March 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 61  Set: 2:46 AM Rise: 12:32 PM	2 61  Set: 3:36 AM Rise: 1:28 PM	3 62  Set: 4:22 AM Rise: 2:28 PM	4 63  Set: 5:02 AM Rise: 3:31 PM	5 64  Set: 5:38 AM Rise: 4:35 PM	6 66  Set: 6:10 AM Rise: 5:39 PM
7 67  Set: 6:40 AM Rise: 6:43 PM	8 67  Set: 7:10 AM Rise: 7:48 PM	9 68  Set: 7:40 AM Rise: 8:54 PM	10 69  Set: 8:12 AM Rise: 10:03 PM	11 70  Set: 8:49 AM Rise: 11:13 PM	12 71  Set: 9:31 AM	13 73  Rise: 12:24 AM Set: 10:20 AM
14 74  Rise: 1:32 AM Set: 11:18 AM	15 74  Rise: 2:33 AM Set: 12:23 PM	16 75  Rise: 3:27 AM Set: 1:31 PM	17 76  Rise: 4:11 AM Set: 2:39 PM	18 77  Rise: 4:49 AM Set: 3:45 PM	19 78  Rise: 5:22 AM Set: 4:49 PM	20 80  Rise: 5:51 AM Set: 5:51 PM
21 81  Rise: 1:32 AM Set: 11:18 AM	22 81  Rise: 6:46 AM Set: 6:46 AM	23 82  Rise: 7:13 AM Set: 7:13 AM	24 83  Rise: 7:42 AM Set: 7:42 AM	25 84  Rise: 8:15 AM Set: 8:15 AM	26 85  Rise: 8:52 AM Set: 8:52 AM	27 86  Rise: 9:34 AM

