

ORBIT

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RASC Hamilton Centre

October/November 2004

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Message from the President

Here I sit, in the position that was held many years ago by one particular person I admired greatly. His name was Ken Chilton and his name graces one of our observatory's buildings. Ken was very instrumental in getting our observatory project under way back in the 70's. He also ran a local cable TV show for astronomy. His outlook on much of our hobby was that it should be accessible to everyone, and that we should spread the wealth of knowledge with everyone, but especially the young.

I am honored to be on the board, and to be President for the Hamilton Centre. I hold many of the same views on our club as Ken Chilton did, perhaps because he was my mentor. So I am going to do what Ken tried to do, that is I will do my best to make our club accessible to everyone and work to make it interesting and involving.

This year will prove to be interesting for many reasons. Firstly, we are very shortly going to

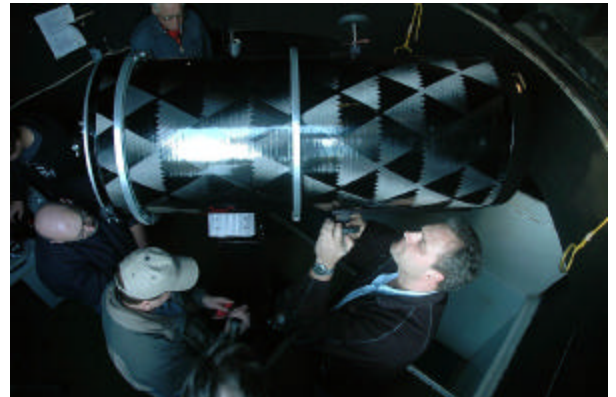
have an extremely high quality telescope that will be usable for some breathtaking views of the skies, provide a very stable platform and high quality optics for photography, but will also be useful as a real scientific research tool. Secondly, our observatory facilities have been continually improved to the point where they are a great place to get together, and more often I hope. The hope is not without reason as plans for more activities for members are in the works. We also now have a new domain name for our centre's web page:

<http://www.hamiltonrasc.ca>

I am always accessible to all members, anytime. Please feel free to call me or email me at president (at) hamiltonrasc (dot) ca. Les Nagy, President

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Trillium Telescope has arrived! —Photo: Bob Botts
Join us for First Light Nov 19th at 8pm

Up and About—Observing Workshops

Welcome to the new year. Many of you already know me and the success I had with this job in prior years. For those of you who don't know me, as your new Observing Director, it is my goal to help new members in particular to learn how to make the most of observing by showing them many different facets of astronomy that they may become involved in. I hope to provide monthly workshops, run by members with experience who are willing to share their knowledge. Many new members also

have the ability to share their expertise, so don't be shy. If anyone would like to give a workshop, please don't hesitate to call/email me.

A new winter is just around the corner. Dark skies and long and cold nights. No bugs. Get out the winter clothes.

Mercury & Venus – are both very difficult to observe this month for northern observers. They are visible in the early twilight for only a short time and Venus is only visible in the last half of the month.

Mars – moves from Virgo to Libra in the second half of the month. It's visibility improves over the month and it is low in the ESE morning twilight.

Summer Picnic Success (continued)

Jupiter – is in Virgo. Also low in the predawn sky and also improving throughout the month.

Saturn – is in Gemini. Stationary on Nov 8, it begins retrograde motion westward. Rising by 9.00 pm in the E NE it will be 60° high in the S SW by morning twilight.

*** (Planetary information comes from the "Observer's Handbook") ***

November & December Workshops

NOV - To welcome new members and help them feel at ease with the hobby an evening of "**Constellation & Object Finding**" is on the agenda. Gary Colewell will be your host for the evening showing you how to begin finding your way around the sky and locating objects within them. You'll find it isn't as difficult as you may think. It's no different than getting around the city. The workshop will be held at the **observatory on Nov 20 @ 8:00 pm, rain or shine**. Come all.

Board Shorts—September— Meeting of the 2003 Board

September 2004

Thursday, September 23 rd, 2004 at the L. V. Powis Observatory, Flamborough, Ontario. The meeting was called to order at 8:09 pm

Board Members present were Steve Barnes, Les Nagy, Scott Barrie, Roger Hill, John Williamson, Mark Kaye, Colin Haig, Rob Bodner, Grant Maguire. Absent (with apologies) was Observing Director Gary Colwell. Guests were Mike Spicer and Sandy Smith.

Motion 2004-09-23-A

That the minutes for the July 15th, 2004 Board meeting be accepted. Moved by Mark Kaye, and seconded by Les Nagy. The motion was carried.

Motion 2004-09-23-B

That the minutes for the August 12th, 2004 Board meeting be accepted with the following amendment "That "Steve Barnes abstained" be omitted from New Business Item b. Moved by Grant Maguire, and seconded by John Williamson. The motion was carried.

Reports of Officers

Recorder Roger Hill, Maintenance Director Rob Bodner, Webmaster Scott Barrie, and Past President Mark Kaye had nothing to report.

DEC - Continuing with the welcome new members theme, this month will be a workshop on "**Astronomy Observing Techniques**" Ken Lemke will be the host for the evening. Ken will show you how easy it can be to observe from dressing up to keeping records and using simple tools. It will be held at the **observatory on Dec 18 @ 8:00 pm, rain or shine**. Bring binoculars and scopes if you have them. See you there.

Ev Rilett,
Observing Director
Erilett(at)cogeco(dot)ca
905-319-8864

Silica Gel

Ken Lemke has generously offered to source the magical drying agent to keep moisture out of your equipment. Contact him for very reasonable pricing.

Treasurer John Williamson brought a Motion 2004-09-23-C to accept a new Youth Member, and was seconded by Les Nagy. The motion was carried

Secretary Grant Maguire (acting) Answered a number of phone calls One from a lady calling from 1st Carlyle guides, which was passed on to Les. Another was from a fellow called asking about visiting the Observatory with his son, and was told about Sidewalk Astronomy in Burlington, which was easier for them to get to. The eyepiece from Meade has still not arrived. Grant, on his own initiative has contacted Celestron, too.

First Vice President Les Nagy

Reported that he will need some help getting the security computers networked and set up better.

Steve Barnes led us to a discussion of Old Business.

Observatory—Nothing has been done as far as the roof is concerned. Mark has some extra membrane that might be sufficient. Les Nagy estimated that the cost of motorizing the upper shutter to be \$300. A work party to install the dome shutter opener will be held the weekend after thanksgiving.

Trillium Foundation Procurement—The mount has arrived at OGS from Software Bisque, so it should be shipped within the next couple of weeks.

Telescope Use Committee— The next meeting will be October

(Continued on page 3)

Board Shorts (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

21st at the observatory.

Piers—Some discussion took place about the steel tubes. Sandy Smith offered to provide electrical wire. Scott will call Mr. Post Hole.

Trees—Les will look into getting the 7 near the building cut down, with proper permission.

Lunar eclipse night - October 27, 2004 at the Observatory or Bayfront Park in Hamilton.

Movie night

A “Movie Night” has been scheduled for the night after the lunar eclipse.

Awards

The Fautley Award for 2004 is to be awarded to Glenn Kukkola. Discussion occurred around methods of ensuring he comes out for the Annual meeting in October.

Public Nights

Are still the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

New Business

The Sony Projector—Motion 2004-09-23-D

That a new green cathode ray tube for the Sony projector be purchased. Moved by Les Nagy, and seconded by Roger Hill. The motion was carried

Board Shorts—October— Meetings of the New Board

Formation of the New Board of Directors

The first board meeting of the new executive followed the annual meeting held at the Steam Museum on October 7th. The agenda consisted of the formation of the new board, and the setting of the date of the next board meeting. The new board is composed of some familiar faces and some new ones. The new executive team that was acclaimed included Les Nagy, Roger Hill, John Williamson, Mark Kaye, Colin Haig, and Mike Spicer. Subsequently, the new board introduced themselves to the general membership. Gary Colwell, Victor Grimble, and Ev Rilett said they would be willing to help, and the board resolved to appoint them.

October 20th Board Meeting

The second board meeting of the month was held on Wednesday, October 20th, 2004 at the L. V. Powis Observatory, Flamborough, Ontario. Board Members present Les Nagy, Colin Haig, Roger Hill, John Williamson, Mark Kaye, Mike Spicer, Ev Rilett, Victor Grimble. Regrets from Gary Colwell. Guests included Ken Lemke and Darrell Maude.

Motion 2004-10-20-A

Bylaw Committee Motion 2004-09-23-E

That the report of the Bylaw Committee be accepted.

Moved by Les Nagy, and seconded by Roger Hill. The motion was carried

Motion 2004-09-23-F

That the changes to the Bylaws in the Report of the Bylaw committee be presented for adoption by the membership at the next annual general meeting. Moved by Roger Hill and seconded by Mark Kaye. The motion was carried. A vote of thanks to the bylaw committee was offered.

Adjournment

Motion 2004-09-23-G

That the Meeting be adjourned. Moved by Mark Kaye and seconded by Les Nagy. The motion was carried.

Movies & Meteors

You’ve heard of Dinner and a Movie, Movie and a Makeover, well now its time for Movies and Meteors! The annual Leonid Meteor shower is predicted to peak late Tuesday, November 16th / early Wednesday..Considering how much fun the last Movie Night was, we’re gonna do it again! So, please bring “pot luck snacks” for the movie which will start at 8pm (and be appropriately themed), and then bring the warm clothes, lounge chairs, and prepare to stay up really late (or very early!) for the Leonid Meteor shower. There is no charge for this event, but you can make a snack for sharing, or make a donation if you wish.

That the minutes for the September 23rd, 2004 Board meeting be accepted, with the following amendment Rob Bodnar should be Rob Bodner. Moved by Mark Kaye, and seconded by Victor Grimble. The motion was carried.

Motion 2004-10-20-B

That the minutes for the October 7th, 2004 Board meeting be accepted, with the following amendment First Vice President should be Vice President. Moved by Colin Haig, and seconded by Mark Kaye. The motion was carried. Agenda Items Review of roles and responsibilities.

The currently existing guidelines, included as an addendum in the By-Laws, will be sent out via email for discussion. A lockbox key for the Centres mailbox in Waterdown was given to Mike Spicer.

Mike Spicer and Grant Maguire will arrange to meet so that secretary’s files are transferred.

Roger Hill to forward a copy of all minutes from the previous year to Colin Haig for inclusion in the Minutes book. All Board members to forward full legal name, address, and phone number to Colin Haig for update with Ontario law.

Board Shorts (continued)

Formation and renewal of committees
·Telescope Use Committee consisted of Colin Haig, Steve Barnes, Bert Rhebergen, Betsy Rennie, and Peter Fedirko. Mark Kaye will send out a broadcast as to the date of the next meeting, once it has been decided. By-Law committee Our amended By-laws may need to be forwarded to Revenue Canada, as we are a registered charity. John Williamson will check. The amended By-laws will be sent to the webmaster by Colin Haig. It was also noted that members at the General meeting raised a need for changes to the Bylaws. The Bylaw committee should be re-formed in the New Year for this purpose. Finance Committee consists of the Treasurer, who normally chairs it, and two other ordinary members. Victor Grimb le and Colin Haig will get in touch regarding Public Ed. Mike Spicer will forward the relevant parts of the Trillium application to Victor Grimb le for guidance.

Treasurer's Report

A vote of thanks was given to John Williamson for his work as Treasurer. He presented an Income Statement for inclusion in Orbit, as per the requirements of the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Banking arrangements

Les Nagy and Mike Spicer will meet at the Bank in Burlington to sign any and all necessary paperwork.

New members

Motion 2004-10-20-C

That a new member be accepted as an Ordinary member. Moved by Roger Hill, and seconded by Ev Rilett. The motion was carried

Old business

Sony Projector repair

A green cathode ray tube tube has been found yet. Les Nagy is looking for one.

Post holes

Les Nagy will contact Scott Barrie about Mr. Post-Hole, and Sandy Smith

regarding electrical cable.

Tree trimming

Les Nagy will contact the Arborist for the City of Hamilton.

Maintenance

Rob Bodner will be contacted. Mark Kaye brought some roof membrane to the site last weekend for the scheduled work party. Nothing was done to the roof due to the inclement weather. Les Nagy will talk to Gary Colwell and see how he would like to proceed. It was agreed that Rob Bodner should first send Gary Colwell the list of items that need to be done. An "Operations Manual" should be created.

School Board contact

The Hamilton Catholic School Board has expressed some interest in what we can offer. ·Victor Grimb le and Colin Haig will get in touch regarding Public Ed. Mike Spicer will forward the relevant parts of the Trillium application to Victor Grimb le for guidance.

Trillium Grant equipment purchase

Les Nagy noted that OGS will deliver the telescope for free because of the delay. It will likely be available for delivery in the next ten days.

Motion 2004-10-20-D

That the Board should rescind the contract for the telescope and the mount and ask for a refund of the down-payments that were made because the telescope we ordered is not available and the telescope is past delivery date and use that money to buy the Celestron 20" astrograph which costs less money, is mated to its mount and is more modern. Moved by Mike Spicer, and seconded by Victor Grimb le. The motion was defeated.

Motion 2004-10-20-E

That the Board direct a letter to Perceptor for a firm delivery date of the CCD camera, and to Sky Optics, the dealer who is handling the telescope and mount, that they provide something in writing to us that the telescope will be available for shipping by October 27th.

Moved by Mike Spicer and seconded by Colin Haig. Carried.

New Business

Advancing Astronomy and generating enthusiasm

Motion 2004-10-20-F

That Colin Haig chair a committee to advance astronomy and promote membership involvement. Moved by Mike Spicer and seconded by Mark Kaye. Carried. Victor volunteered to sit on the committee.

Fund raising

Colin Haig suggested that we do more of this with RASC promotional items. Ken Lemke noted that when items are donated, then a simple Thank You, either through email, or a telephone call would be advisable. This was not done with one company that donated a rather substantial item for the raffle at the summer Barbecue. Going forward, when anyone receives a donation (non-cash) for the Centre, then the Secretary should be informed and a note of thanks can be sent.

Site security

The web-cams are up and running. The insurance has to be adjusted to match the new equipment coming in.

Motion 2004-10-20-G

That an Alarm Force monitoring system be installed. Moved by Colin Haig and seconded by John Williamson. Carried. Colin will investigate acquiring a fireproof box for valuable paperwork, software disks, and other items.

Board contact

A link will be put on the website so that the Board can be contacted by email

Next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on Thursday, November 11th, 2004 at the L. V. Powis Observatory.

Motion 2004-10-20-G

That the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

Hamilton Centre in the News

There has been a lot of public activity underway, at the Observatory, and around the City of Hamilton.

Hamilton Centre on the Radio

President Les was on CHML 900 hometown radio for a short interview relating to the lunar eclipse and our club. The interview took place Oct 26, 2004, at about 3:50pm. Les explained the eclipse and our planned event at Bayfront Park.

Lunar Eclipse Observing Success

The October 28th eclipse was described as “a breezy, hazy, freezy” event, at Hamilton’s Bayfront Park. Victor Grimbale, Ken Lemke and President Les shared the event with the public (about a dozen people). Visitors were presented with star charts and information cards. Due to the partial overcast, viewing was not optimal until the last part of the event. In anticipation, a computer simulation of the eclipse was shown while peaking through the clouds. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this a success !



A rare halo known as a “glory” scene from an airplane—Photo: Colin Haig



After the regular meeting, many members visited Kelsey's on Highway 20 near Barton street, to talk observing, and share their success with the recent projects and the eclipse.—Photo: Colin Haig

Loaner Equipment

Thinking of buying your first telescope but wondering what kind to get? Try a beginner's night at the observatory, or ask Mike Spicer about his "loaner" 5 inch telescope, which is easy to set up and very easy to use. Mike is offering newer members of our club one of these telescopes to try out for a month or so.

Mike also has an Electornic Eyepiece for video astronomy.

Contact him at:

Mike Spicer, Phone: (905) 388-0602

DeBeneEsse2001 (at) AOL (dot) com

RASC Wear

Jealous of the snazzy looking Hamilton Centre shirts you've seen on some members ? If so, ask Ken Lemke about them. Great deals to be had if we get enough interest in ordering them.

Thanks—I'm out of Orbit

Thanks to all of you who helped me put things into Orbit. Its been fun. Best wishes,
Colin

P.S. Lend your support to the incoming editor!

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Hamilton Centre 1968

Treasurer's Report 2003-2004

The 2003-2004 financial year was another successful year for the Hamilton Centre. The highlight of it had to be our receiving a Trillium Grant for the sum of \$75,000. With this money we were able to purchase a new 16" Ritchey-Chretien telescope, Software Bisque Paramount, CCD camera, and digital projector for use at our monthly meetings.

The following table summarizes our revenue and expenditures for the year. As much of the money we spent was in US dollars, and as we continue to hold a US dollar account, a conversion rate of 1.3047 to 1 was used to simplify our expenditures and holdings.

John Williamson,
Treasurer

Fiscal Year End Date: September 30, 2004

REVENUE

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Membership | |
| Fees (Regular) | \$1417.20 |
| Fees (Youth) | \$22.00 |
| Fees (surcharge) | \$1027.00 |
| Fees (Associates) | \$120.00 |
| Fees (Life Grants) | \$35.20 |
| Donations / Fundraising | |
| Donations | \$224.71 |
| Fundraising / Grants | \$75779.50 |
| Educational Activities | \$200.00 |
| Interest | \$32.09 |
| Publication Sales | |
| Observer's Calendars | \$179.00 |
| Beginner's Guides | \$80.00 |
| Other | \$20.00 |
| Product Sales | |
| RASC promo items | \$121.50 |
| Other | \$246.00 |
| Events | |
| Annual Dinner | \$1953.00 |
| Observatory site | \$319.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$260.94 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$82037.14 |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Publications | |
| Newsletter | \$103.12 |
| Events | |
| Meetings | \$160.00 |
| Annual Dinner | \$2087.22 |
| Product Expenses | |
| Other | \$220.80 |
| Travel | |
| Speaker Travel | \$90.29 |
| Equipment and Supplies | \$59187.76 |
| Office Administration | \$129.99 |
| Insurance | \$1080.00 |
| Observatory | \$2075.62 |
| Miscellaneous | \$114.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$65248.80 |

SURPLUS ON OPERATIONS \$16788.34

ASSETS

Liquid Assets \$19919.41

LIABILITIES

CCD camera \$13,112.30
2005 calendars \$170.13

Raffle Success

We raised \$67 at our most recent meeting. Many thanks to Ken Lemke who provided excellent tickets to centre-ice seats at Copps Coliseum for Hockey—the only Hockey you could see this year! Congratulations to the winner (S. Barnes)! Thanks to all who supported the club! Just another great reason to come out to next month's meeting—who knows what will be raffled off! Rumour has it there is an observing accessory.

Tax Receipts

Did you know that you can make a charitable donation to the centre, in cash or in kind? Ask our Treasurer John, because we can provide a tax receipt for your donation. Why give it all to the tax man? Support your centre! If you have donated to repairs, postage, printing, equipment, or any out-of-pocket expense, it may be eligible!

PARTY!!! for First Light !

Please join us at 8pm on Friday, November 19th at the Observatory for the ceremonial First Light. This is when we will have the first look through the new scope. The rain date is Nov 20th, and alternate Nov 27th. This will be a great party with all kinds of goodies and your chance to check out the new scope for public ed and outreach!

Keeping in Touch—Your New Board for 2004-2005

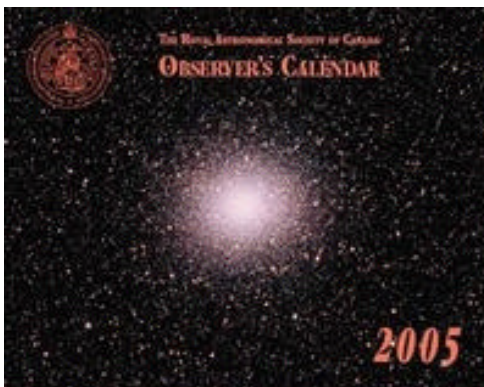
| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| President | Les Nagy | 905 388 1011 | president(at)hamiltonrasc.ca |
| Vice President | Colin Haig | 416 729 7073 | astronomer(at)cogeco.ca |
| Public Education | Victor Grimble | | |
| Treasurer | John Williamson | 905 691 6042 | John.williamson (at) sympatico.ca |
| Recorder | Roger Hill | 905 878 5185 | Roger.hill(at)sympatico.ca |
| Secretary / Orbit | Grant Maguire | 905 639 8926 | Maguires(at)lara.on.ca |
| Orbit Editor / Secretary | Mike Spicer | 905 388 0602 | DeBeneEsse2001 (at) AOL (dot) com |
| Maintenance Director | Gary Colwell | 905 277 4297 | Gicolwell(at)rogers.com |
| Observing Director | Ev Rilett | 905 319 8864 | Erilett(at)cogeco(dot)ca |
| Curator | Mark Kaye | 416 885 6134 | Mark.kaye(at)sympatico.ca |



The New Board: Colin, Les, Mike, Ev, Mark, John, Victor, Roger
Not really what you would describe as a lot of Heavenly Bodies!



Faultley Award winner Glenn Kukkola receiving from outgoing President Steve Barnes at the Annual General Meeting.



AVAILABLE NOW !

Observer's Calendar 2005

Only \$15 no tax from your club. You **save \$4.49 !**

The regular store price is \$16.95+tax. See John W or Colin H

Spectacular Colour wall calendar, opens to 20½ x 121.2½
Includes historical anniversaries, birth dates, and literary quotations of astronomical relevance; Planetary conjunctions, eclipses, meteor showers, Sun rise/set times, and daily Moon phases and rise/set times.



RASC Hamilton Centre

P.O. Box 1223
Waterdown, ON L0R 2H0
Phone: 905-689-0266
Email: rasc@cogeco.ca

We're on the Web!
www.rasc.ca/hamilton

● For the Advancement of
Astronomy and Allied Sciences

November 2004

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|---------------------------|-----|--------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Meeting | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Board | 12 Observing | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 Movies & Meteors | 17 | 18 | 19 First Light | 20 Workshop |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Observing | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | 2 Jedicke | | |

Schedule of Events

Hamilton Steam Museum hosts our regular meeting 1st Thursday each month.

November

4—General Meeting—Les Nagy on Free Astro Software

11—Board Meeting scheduled for 8pm at the Observatory

16—Movies and Meteors Night— Catch a movie inside and watch Leonids meteors outside at Observatory 8pm.

19—First Light Ceremony for new scope at Observatory 8pm. Rain date Nov20.

20 —Constellation Finding Workshop 8pm, Observatory, rain or shine!

December 2—General Meeting—Peter Jedicke on Meteors

Observing Nights
The 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at the Observatory !