

POLARIS



Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
London Centre Newsletter
January 2016



The RASC General Assembly and AstroCATS

May 19-23 2016

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

General Assembly

Speakers: Stan Metchev, Tina Pollman, Erika Rix, Robert Jedicke, David Levy

**Impact Earth Initiative and the Dresden Meteorite, Space Technology Display,
Sketching Workshop, Teaching Workshop**

Helen Hogg Memorial Lecture: Ann Hornschemeier, NASA

AstroCATS

May 19 to May 20:

Two-day astrophotography school featuring leading astrophotographers

May 21 to May 22

Astronomy tradeshow featuring 'big-name' manufacturers and more exhibitors

More door prizes and raffles (over \$23K) and Silent Auction for big ticket items

FANSHAWE COLLEGE, LONDON, ONTARIO

For more information, please contact:

rasc.ca/ga or astrocats.ca

Moon Phases



January 16 2016



January 24 2016



February 1 2016



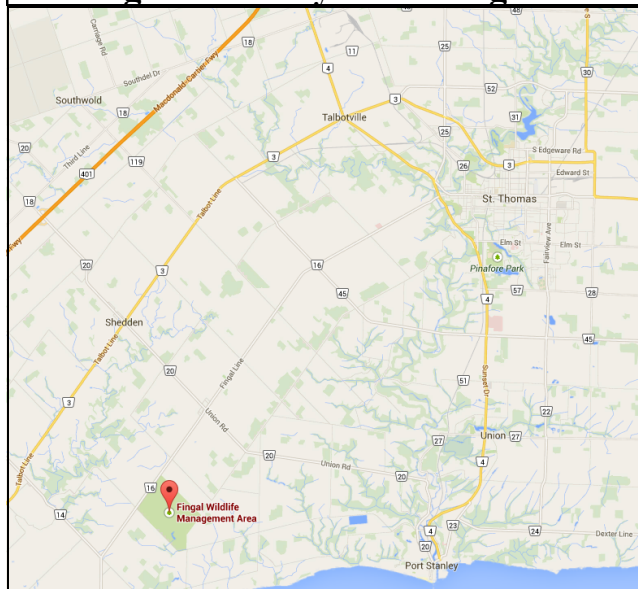
February 8 2016

January Meeting

Our scheduled speaker
for this month is Emerson Doyle.

Emerson's topic will be "Ptolemy's Theory and
Medieval Methods" of astronomy.

Fingal Dark Sky Observing Site



London Centre Executive

President

Rick Saunders
email: ozzzy (at) bell.net

Vice-President and Newsletter Editor

Patrick Whelan
email: ratman (at) rocketmail.com

Treasurer

Bill Gardner
email: gardner.w (at) rogers.com

Secretary

Everett Clark
email: Secretary (at) rasclondon.ca

National Representative

Peter Jedicke
email: PJedicke (at) fanshawec.ca

Observer's Chair

Dale Armstrong
email: observing (at) rasclondon.ca

Honorary President and once National President

Peter Jedicke
email: PJedicke (at) fanshawec.ca

Past President

Public Outreach Coordinator

Dave McCarter
email: dmccarter (at) sympatico.ca

Higher Education Liaison and Librarian

Robert Duff
email: rduff (at) sympatico.ca

ATM Chair

Mike Hanes
email: subareau (at) gmail.com

Observatory Committee Chair

Pete Raine
observatory@rasclondon.ca

Councilor at Large

John Rousom
councilor2@rasclondon.ca

System Administrator

Jeff Harrison
admin@rasclondon.ca

London RASC Website: <http://www.rasclondon.ca/>
London RASC Forums: <http://forums.rasclondon.ca/>

Sky Events for Late January and early February

Jan 20 Aldebaran 0.5 S of Moon
 Jan 28 Jupiter 1.4 N of Moon
 Feb 6 Venus 4 S of Moon
 Feb 6 Mercury 4 S of Moon
 Feb 7 Mercury greatest elongation West
 Feb 16 Aldebaran 0.3 S of Moon



Mercury in the morning sky
 Venus in the morning sky
 Mars rises in Virgo around 2:00am
 Jupiter rises in the east in late evening
 Saturn in the dawn sky
 Uranus in the western evening sky in Pisces
 Neptune low in the western early evening sky in Aquarius



R.A.S.C. London Centre Library Books of the Month January 2016 *By Robert Duff*

As always, these “Books of the Month” are available for loan to members, to be returned at the following monthly meeting. The books for January 2016 are as follows:

In Search of Time: Journeys Along a Curious Dimension, by Dan Falk. c2008.

The Science of Shakespeare: A New Look at the Playwright’s Universe, by Dan Falk. c2014

Uncovering the Secrets of the Red Planet: Mars, by Paul Raeburn. Foreword and Commentary by Matt Golombek. – Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, c1998. + 2 pairs 3-D glasses enclosed in back cover.

For a complete listing of our library collection please go to the Main Menu on the left side of the RASC London Centre Web site main page and click on Club Library: <http://www.rasclondon.ca/joomla34/library-and-rentals>
 If there is a particular book or video you wish to borrow, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (519) 439-7504 or by e-mail at rduff@sympatico.ca

Cronyn Observatory Public Night & Exploring the Stars Event, January 9th—11th, 2016

By Robert Duff

Cronyn Observatory Public Night, Saturday, January 9th, 2016

Cloudy skies and damp weather greeted 57 visitors to Western University’s Cronyn Observatory Public Night, Saturday, January 9th, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Graduate student Shannon Hicks presented her 45 minute digital slide presentation “Europa: The Next Frontier” before a standing-room only crowd and fielded questions. She made a shorter 20 minute version of her presentation again later in the evening on the laptop computer for a small late arriving group of visitors.

RASC London Centre members present included Mark Tovey, Tricia Colvin, Everett Clark, Paul Kerans, Peter Jedicke, Steve Gauthier and Bob Duff. London Centre member Richard Gibbens was also there and listened to the slide lecture. Peter Jedicke was accompanied by David Levy, who left earlier in the evening.

Graduate student Dilini Subasinghe was telescope operator with Everett and Steve taking over later in the evening. Since it was cloudy they showed visitors the lights on the communications tower in south London through the big 25.4cm refractor, using the 52mm Erfle (84X) eyepiece. On the roof patio outside the dome Steve and Everett also set up the London Centre’s 25.4cm Dobsonian (17mm Nagler eyepiece, 66X) to show visitors the wind turbine on the Engineering building.

January 2016

Paul set up his Celestron SkyMaster 15 X 70mm binoculars on his Orion Parallelogram Mount and tripod on the roof patio to show visitors views of the Western Sports and Recreation Centre. Paul distributed 6 "Getting Started in Astronomy" (RASC, SkyNews [2015]) pamphlets. Everett distributed one "Getting Started in Astronomy" pamphlet and one "Star Finder" planisphere. The visitors were gone by around 9:10 p.m. and the observatory was closed down after an enjoyable evening learning about astronomy, despite the cloudy, damp weather.

Exploring the Stars, UWO Scientific Research Society, January 11th, 2015

Cloudy skies, later becoming partly cloudy, greeted 25 visitors from the UWO Scientific Research Society for Exploring the Stars at Western University's Cronyn Observatory, Monday, January 11th, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Graduate student Kendra Kellogg presented the digital slide presentation "Extra Solar Planets" and fielded questions. Kendra followed this with the activity "Constellations," distributing 25 "Star Finder" planispheres and showing them how to assemble them with transparent adhesive tape. She then showed them the slide "Reading a Star Finder," followed by constellations slides from the planetarium software "Stellarium" to help them learn how to use the planispheres. RASC London Centre member Paul Kerans then made a presentation on meteorites, and circulated an iron / nickel and stony iron meteorite around the group for their inspection.

RASC London Centre was represented by Everett Clark, Paul Kerans and Bob Duff. When everybody arrived upstairs in the dome, Bob gave a talk on the history of the Cronyn Observatory

and technical aspects of big 25.4cm refractor and the attached Schmidt camera and Cassegrain reflector telescope. He explained the Standard and Sidereal Time clocks on the east wall. Bob also showed them the 25.4cm Dobsonian set up inside the dome and explained that it was a reflector telescope.

Paul then gave a talk on binocular astronomy. Paul had set up his Celestron SkyMaster 15 X 70mm binoculars on his Orion Parallelogram Mount and tripod inside the dome and invited a visitor to sit in a reclining folding chair to view overhead through the binoculars. Paul also showed them his Nikon 7 X 50mm and 10 X 50mm binoculars and explained that they could be handheld but that larger binoculars such as his 15 X 70mm were better off mounted with a bracket on a camera tripod.

Everett announced that the sky had partially cleared outside and, with the dome opened, directed the big 25.4cm refractor towards the southwest. Bob installed the 32mm Erfle eyepiece (137X) and centered the Orion Nebula (M42) in the field of view. Bob supervised as the visitors viewed through the big 25.4cm refractor and when clouds obscured M42, redirected the telescope towards the star Aldebaran.

On the roof patio outside the dome Paul set up his Celestron SkyMaster 15 X 70mm binoculars on his Orion Parallelogram Mount and tripod and showed visitors M42. He also showed them the Pleiades (M45) with the handheld 10 X 50mm Nikon binoculars. The visitors asked many questions and were gone by around 8:00 p.m. after expressing their thanks for a very enjoyable evening of astronomy.

London Centre Life Member wins two prizes at Stellafane:

Walter Campney of Woodstock entered his telescope in the Optical & Mechanical category and won two first prizes!
First Place Mechanical Design
First Place Craftsmanship

