

Mississauga Centre RASC
134th Meeting
Members' Night

Day: Friday September 25, 2009

Chair: Bob Anderson

Speakers: James Crombie
Peter Milligan
Mark Taylor
Peter Lewis
Randy Attwood
Roy Swanson

Astronomy in the News

James Crombie discussed the latest astronomy news online such as the Hubble image of the centre of Omega Centauri, the Saturn equinox by the Cassini probe, another 62 new meteor showers, sunspots, the shuttle landing video, ISS science pallet movement and the Andromeda galaxy in uv.

Observing from Mount Wilson

Peter Milligan had an opportunity to observe from Mt. Wilson observatory just outside Los Angeles last June. In the history of Mt. Wilson and Yerkes, Hale played a major role. He is credited with inventing modern astrophysics, i.e. what stars are made of. The 60" telescope at Mount Wilson opened in 1908.

To look through the telescope, one books at \$900 for half a night. Peter and his son looked at 25 objects. Globular clusters were especially impressive.

IYA Coin

Mark Taylor displayed a \$30 coin that the Royal Canadian Mint has put out on the occasion of the International year of Astronomy.

Light pollution Abatement

Peter Lewis discussed light pollution abatement in Sweden such as shutting off neon lights. That country is looking at decreasing light pollution as part of its energy conservation policy.

Hubble Space Telescope Repair Mission

Randy Attwood showed a movie for IMAX of the HST repair mission.

The Sky next Month

Roy Swanson described the sky for now and October. The autumn equinox happens on Sept. 22. The first full Moon of autumn is known as the harvest Moon. Coming up is the Orionid meteor shower and the Draconids near Polaris. In the morning at dawn there is a close gathering of Saturn, Venus and Mercury in Leo.

Chris Malicki, Secretary