

Stratford Astronomy Group (SAG)

December 2, 2025
Meeting Minutes



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- ▶ Tuesday September 16, 2025
- ▶ Tuesday October 7, 2025
- ▶ Tuesday November 4, 2025
- ▶ Tuesday December 2, 2025
- ▶ Tuesday January 6, 2026 – Patrick needs to send out reminder e-mail
- ▶ Tuesday February 3, 2026
- ▶ Tuesday March 3, 2026
- ▶ Tuesday April 7, 2026
- ▶ Tuesday May 5, 2026
- ▶ Tuesday June 2, 2026

Welcome New Members

- ▶ New members (Minnie and Jim Koteles)
- ▶ Please sign in (please print) before each meeting
- ▶ Freewill cash contribution
- ▶ Normally we ask that new members introduce themselves but later in the evening, all members introduced themselves

SAG Website

- ▶ Just a reminder that the group has a website with lots of interesting links, presentations and general information. Check it out!!!
- ▶ Address is stratfordastronomy.com
- ▶ Tim Pauli - Owner/Administrator
- ▶ Ken Roberts - technical contact
- ▶ Tom Kimber - Administrator/Editor
- ▶ Doug Fyfe - Administrator
- ▶ Michael Burns- Administrator
- ▶ Tom will build it on WordPress

SAG Finances - Tim

- ▶ Fee for use of our school meeting room has gone from about \$25 per year to \$248.88 (\$108.88 for room insurance and \$140.00 for room rental). The new fees have already been paid until Sept 1, 2026.
- ▶ Including cash collected at December 2 meeting (\$53.25), we currently have a bank balance of \$1,088.81. At next meeting we should discuss any suggestions for spending some of this money.
- ▶ If you want to contribute, e-transfer Tim at:
- ▶ TimAnneMariePauli@gmail.com
- ▶ Or by cheque to: [Tim Pauli, 96 Front St., Stratford, ON, N5A 4H2](#)

SAG Restaurant Gathering - Tim

- ▶ Each January we have a get together at a Stratford restaurant. We do this after Christmas to avoid scheduling issues
- ▶ Some concern that at last year's meeting some of our conversations were being drowned out by other patrons at a nearby table. It would be preferable to have a private room this time
- ▶ Patrick suggested the Parlour restaurant as it can facilitate a private room and is one of the few sites that can accommodate his severe food allergy
- ▶ Tim to investigate options and communicate to members

Stratford Observation Group (SOG)

- ▶ SOG is a subset of the SAG. It consists of members that are interested in participating in telescope observation sessions. Patrick and Ken are leading this effort.
- ▶ Held an observation session in parking lot of Stratford Perth museum at 7:30 PM on Sunday Nov 22nd. Including Ken and I, there were 9 members in attendance. Clarity of skies was unpredictable so understandably, a couple of out of town members did not attend
- ▶ At 6:30 almost total clouds but by 8:30 skies cleared. Viewed several deep sky objects and possibly a comet. Wrapped it up about 9:45.
- ▶ I will keep an eye on weather forecasts to see if we can get in one more session before year's end
- ▶ A couple of members asked that their names be added to the SOG

Orion Constellation Presentation

- ▶ Patrick presented a PowerPoint presentation on this constellation. See separate pdf file for a copy of the presentation (it will also be posted on the SAG website)

Best Astronomy Websites – from our members

- ▶ www.timeanddate.com/sun/canada/stratford

This site gives info on sunset times, moon phases, best planet viewing, general astronomy.

- ▶ www.theweathernetwork.com/en/city/ca/ontario/stratford/current

Gives extended weather forecast (up to 14 days)

- ▶ www.astronomy.com

Astronomy magazine – various topics

- ▶ science.nasa.gov/mission/hubble/multimedia/hubble-images/

Latest Hubble telescope images

- ▶ www.imo.net

Meteor monitoring

Best Astronomy Websites – cont'd

- ▶ www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/

Canada Space Agency news/projects

- ▶ www.heavens-above.com

Comprehensive astronomy

- ▶ www.jpl.nasa.gov

Jet Propulsion Lab (a research group supporting NASA)

- ▶ skyandtelescope.org

Sky and telescope magazine

- ▶ eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse.html

Nasa eclipse tracking site

- ▶ spaceweather.com

Info on sun-earth interactions

- ▶ apod.nasa.gov/apod/archivepix.html

Astronomy picture of the day

- ▶ www.cleardarksky.com/csk/

Website which gives cloud forecast

Best Astronomy Websites – cont'd

- ▶ Stellarium.com

This is a free and safe download. Patrick demonstrated how this software shows all aspects of the current night sky

- ▶ astrobackyard.com

General website on amateur sky watching

- ▶ Astrobiscuit.com

Good website on how to set up and customize scopes

- ▶ www.nasa.gov

Nasa website

- ▶ Space.com

General astronomy site from Nasa

- ▶ [CNN Wonder Theory](#)

You can find this via CNN website. It is a weekly recap of science news which you can subscribe to for free. Always a good section on space/astronomy

Best Astronomy Websites – cont'd

AND FINALLY, HERE ARE A COUPLE OF SITES FROM MICHAEL BURNS RE ASTRONOMY JOURNALS

- ▶ iopscience.iop.org/journal/0004-637X
- ▶ arxiv.org/list/astro-ph/new

Ken's Comet Presentation

- ▶ Ken presented a pdf presentation on this constellation. See separate pdf file for a copy of the presentation (it will also be posted on the SAB website)

Any new Business

- ▶ Tim Pauli mentioned that the Stratford Times newspaper had a section for any upcoming events. It was suggested that we use this opportunity to publicize our club's activities and invite all to our January 6 meeting.
- ▶ Tim has taken this on as an action and will be sending the Times a submission on the SAG's behalf

All Member Reintroductions

- ▶ Each member had a couple of minutes to introduce themselves, discuss their astronomy interests, level of expertise and why they were motivated to attend. Lots of positive comments after the meeting as many club members thought the exercise made attendees feel more like a team, as they got to know each other.
- ▶ Diverse educational backgrounds: environmental science, chemistry, mathematics, computing, physics, astrophysics (member of Royal astronomical society)
- ▶ Some members have scopes they would like help with, others wanted to learn how to use the Seestar S50 (Patrick said he would hold training sessions for 2 - 3 people at a time, upon request)
- ▶ Some members hoped that attending the meeting would reinvigorate their interest in astronomy. Positive comments about the technical presentations at our meetings.
- ▶ Minnie and Jim Koteles offered their farm (situated close to Wildwood conservation area) as a possible observation site for members. Very dark sky. 15 minute drive from Stratford.

How Can we make meetings Better

- ▶ Ideas/Topics/Types of Presentations?
- ▶ Who would be willing to do a brief presentation at a meeting (e.g. interesting photo and it's background info, an interesting article you read, etc..
- ▶ Doug has provided Patrick with a list of astronomy presentations he has given in the past, that he would be willing to present again.

Next Meeting

- ▶ Scheduled for Tuesday Jan 6 at 7:30 PM
- ▶ Patrick forgot to send out a reminder e-mail to all members a few days before the December meeting but he will do so for our January meeting.

Questions

- ▶ After the meeting adjourned, a brief discussion was held re the storage of the SAG's astronomy equipment. The Seestar S50, the Celestron CPC 800 and the Dopsonion scope have been used recently but the remainder of the equipment has not been used for a long time. Storage of the equipment has become an issue.
- ▶ Let's have a discussion about this at the next meeting.