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## Our Team

Here's a somewhat whimsical look at your hosts for this tremendous event. We look forward to having you all come to London for the GA2016 / AstroCATS.

David L. Clark (Co-chair)

is working on a Ph.D. in Planetary Science at Western University with Paul Wiegert as one of his supervisors. He studies solar system small body dynamics, and loves creating astronomical animations. Dave II, as he known on the all-important [list of Daves](#), is an accomplished software developer who spent 10 years working at Blackberry. From 2003 to 2005, Dave2 served as RASC national Treasurer. In the early 1980's David created Sopwith, one of the first multiplayer PC-based video games, a fact he continues to milk for all it's worth.

Peter Jedicke (Co-chair)

was RASC national President in 2004-2006 and teaches math and science at our host institution, Fanshawe College. Peter's primary interest in astronomy is globular clusters, and he would like more opportunities to observe them under warm, clear skies with his 40cm telescope, rebuilt from an original Meade Starfinder in 2008 by Mike Hanes.

Andy Blanchard (AstroCATS Chair)

served as RASC Hamilton Centre President, and is the founder of the AstroCATS event, which started in 2013. Andy works in the investment industry and has many cool hobbies. Besides having a remotely-operated telescope in the Atacama Desert for a few years, Andy and some friends are building an airplane from scratch in his workshop. Andy will receive the RASC Service Award during this year's AstroCATS / GA2016

Rick Saunders (London Centre President)

is retired from a career as a Research Communicator for the Canadian military and an Air Traffic Specialist for NavCanada. Applying his considerable skills in electronics and optics, he and a buddy run TOGA. That's "Two Old Guys Astrogear." He'll just be getting back from this year's Texas Star Party in time for AstroCATS / GA2016.

Patrick Whalen (London Centre Vice-President)

got his first telescope when he was 9 years old. It was a 40mm Tasco and he still has it. The passion for astronomy has been with him ever since, and he has served the last 9 years as vice-president of London Centre. With a degree in physics from the University of Waterloo, Patrick has worked in the computer field for much of his life. His other hobbies are photography, bicycling, motorcycling, kayaking and camping.

Everett Clark (London Centre Secretary)

has been interested in astronomy for as long as he can remember and has been an RASC member for 3 years. Before that, he helped out the club at events and meetings. Everett likes helping out with outreach, public events and social media. The rest of the time, Everett runs a lawn care service and his other hobbies are working on cars and photography.

Mike Costa

has been involved with computer networks since the mid-1970s, and started teaching students about network hardware at our host institution, Fanshawe College, in 1996. A few years ago, he went to Australia and earned a Master's degree in specialized computer security issues. His favourite telescope is a 25cm Dobsonian made by Mike Hanes.

Rebekah Klassen

is new to London Centre. She has loved astronomy all her life, and used to put constellations on the walls and the ceiling when she was a youngster. Rebekah says "Astronomy is the reason that I met and married the love of my life."

Tyrone Klassen

graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Degree in Philosophy and Economics so he could think deep thoughts about being unemployed, which served him very well for many years. After figuring out that the answer to life, the Universe and everything was already answered, he decided to go back to school and become a Web Developer. This further education allowed him to work on this web site so that you could come to the GA2016 / AstroCats. He has been a member of the RASC on and off for a number of years and has 3 telescopes that do not get used as often as he would like them to be. Tyrone spends his days making web sites using a real computer programming language, and spends his nights trying to start a family with his wife Rebekah, and learn more about the answer to life, the Universe and everything.

Norman McCall

graduated from Western University in 1981 with a degree in electrical engineering. He is currently the President of Microtronix, a small technology company in London. Engineering coursework at Western stimulated a life-long interest in cosmology and, more recently, astronomy. Norman is relatively new to London Centre, having joined in January, 2012. He purchased his first telescope in 2014 for visual observation, and

focusses on astrophotography of deep sky objects.

Mike Hanes

flew in the front seat of an airliner for Air Ontario and Air Canada for many years and recently retired to his workshop, where he has constructed about a dozen "Hanesian" telescopes. They're Newtonian optical systems on low-profile Dobson mounts. Mike likes his motorcycle and has a house near Tucson, AZ.

Angela M. Clark

is the spouse of Dave II. She figured if the meetings were going to be held at her house she needed to be officially involved so she could put her two cents worth in. Angela has enjoyed travelling to various parts of the country to enjoy the hospitality of the other centers which have hosted previous GA's.

Craig Levine (Board of Directors)

hails from Cape Breton and was President of Halifax Centre before coming to London in 2006 to continue his career in the computer services industry. He is currently a member of the Society's Board of Directors. Craig's blog about southwestern Ontario weather events is very popular on Facebook.

Steve Gauthier

did a diploma in Business Data Processing at Conestoga College, has lived in many Ontario locations such as Ottawa, Kitchener-Waterloo and North Bay, and worked in insurance, a school board, financial services and teaching. Recently, he spent over a year in the cab driving a long-haul truck. Steve's famous as a member of the Puckett supernova search team, and his telescopes include a 30cm zerodur reflector and a 14.5cm Ceravolo Maksutov/Newtonian amongst others.

Eric Clinton

retired just a few years ago from a long career as an IT guy, has a B.Sc. from Western U, and has been a member of London Centre since 1972. Eric is a life member of the Society, has earned his Messier Certificate, won the Service Award in 1993, was editor of the London Centre newsletter in the days of Gestetner machines, and also served as Secretary, Treasurer, and National Rep.

Chris Sandelli

hails from Port Colborne, Ontario, where his interest in astronomy first developed one Christmas when he was around 11 with the gift of a 7 cm reflector from his parents. He remembers spending a lot of cold nights trying to find stellar objects to view, including our Moon and the planets. The Gailean moons were barely visible in that telescope, as well as the rings of Saturn. Chris graduated with a BSc in '77 from St. Mary's University, came back to Ontario and worked at Hayes Dana, Stelco in Nanticoke, and then almost 30 years for GM in London Locomotive. This included materials management, engineering change control and finally the manufacturing engineering departments.

After retiring, he joined the RASC and is developing an interest in video astrophotography, so he's looking to buy the appropriate equipment, He also plans to pursue his Messier certificate.

#### Bob Duff

grew up in Vancouver, Bermuda, California and Brazil. After doing undergrad at UBC, and a degree in Library Science from Western University, Bob worked as a librarian in a public school in Strathroy and also for Canada's federal government Department of Agriculture. Since retiring, he has coordinated London Centre's outreach efforts with Western University. For his contributions, Bob won the RASC [Qilak Award](#) in 2013. He has a 25cm dobsonian telescope, hand-crafted by Dave5.

#### David McCarter (London Centre Past President)

is known as Dave5 on the all-important [list of Daves](#). He grew up in the Halifax area and went to Ryerson College to study photography. After a few decades working at Fanshawe College as a technologist and then faculty member in electronics, Dave5 is one of those persons who is even busier in retirement. He travels a lot, does outreach events like he's on a mission, builds telescopes from scratch and can find things in the sky quicker than your smartphone app can launch.

#### Pete Raine

hails from Halifax, NS, went to school in London, and has an Interprovincial Automotive Service Technician's licence. He runs an Automotive Maintenance and Repair business in the London area. After several years of buying *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope*, he received a decent pair of binoculars for his birthday in 2004, and joined London Centre in 2006. Pete has done an incredible job as Director of the Observatories at Fingal, and looks forward to welcoming everyone there for the Pig Out Under the Stars on Saturday evening during this year's GA2016 / AstroCATS.

#### Joe O'Neil

is a businessperson in London, a well-known local historian, media-savvy drone pilot, frequent traveler to Winter Star Party and photographer with a particular interest in antique cameras and techniques. He was London Centre's 29th president, serving from 1988 to 1990. Monday's tour is organized by Joe.

#### Bill Gardner (London Centre Treasurer)

worked at the Royal Ontario Museum after graduating from Western University. An accomplished astrophotographer, Bill has a [backyard observatory](#) in Ingersoll, Ontario. Any time he can get away, he and his family head up to their cottage in Killarney Provincial Park, where they spearheaded the installation of a small observatory for outreach.

#### Mike Flegel

graduated from UWO and is back in London after years in Chatham, Toronto and

Waterloo. Now he works as an IT security specialist for London Hydro. He's been a life member of the RASC since 1978, and attended many General Assemblies including the infamous "of the Body" party at Kingston in 1997. He is helping to organize the golf event on Thursday, and will greet many of you at the airport or train station when you arrive.