



Minutes for Executive Meeting for 11 December 2015
Meeting Held at Saint Mary's Sobeys Building SB 159.

Present: Paul Gray, Jim Millar, Paul Heath, Ian Anderson, Sean Dzafovic, Paul Heath, Pat Kelly, Chris Young, Tony Schellinck

Guests: Dave Lane

1. Meeting ideas: - ongoing (carried over)

- a) Include discussions on observing programs – ETU & BLOG with the NOVA coming.
- b) Ask members what they have seen in the last month
- c) Regular “What’s up?”- in place now.
- d) Welcome New Members & guests at meeting - effort to spend a time identifying and welcoming new members and guests at meetings, as well as requesting their interests.

2. Up coming meeting dates and guest speakers 2015

December – 11th - AGM + Observers’ Handbook “Book Launch” - Dave Chapman

January or February – BGO & ARO Twitter access.

SMU Rooms Bookings for Winter 2016 (Rooms are open ahead of the meeting time):

Note: Exec Meeting is 6:30 to 7:30 PM, Main Meetings are 7:30 to usually 9:30 PM

December 11 – Exec Meeting at Sobeys SB159 at 6:30, Main Meeting at Sobeys SB 255 at 7:30 PM

1/15/16 Fri	6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Atrium AT306
1/15/16 Fri	7:00 PM 10:30 PM	Atrium AT101
2/19/16 Fri	6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Atrium AT306
2/19/16 Fri	7:00 PM 10:30 PM	Atrium AT101
3/18/16 Fri	6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Atrium AT306
3/18/16 Fri	7:00 PM 10:30 PM	Atrium AT101
4/15/16 Fri	6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Atrium AT306
4/15/16 Fri	7:00 PM 10:30 PM	Atrium AT101
5/13/16 Fri	6:30 PM 7:30 PM	TBA
5/13/16 Fri	7:00 PM 10:30 PM	TBA
6/17/16 Fri	6:30 PM 7:30 PM	TBA
6/17/16 Fri	7:00 PM 10:30 PM	TBA

Room bookings for May & June have to wait for the summer class schedule (i.e. request in April).

Ideas for future talks: (Suggested that all exec members should propose a topic)

- Photometry

- Spectroscopy
- Radio telescopes for amateurs
- BGO Twitter - Dave Lane
- Solar System moons& planets - recent discoveries and their interpretation.

3. Passwords for Main Meeting Rm computer - case sensitive: username: **RASC** password: **Royal2014**

4. Promote “New Observers’ Night” (carried over) to the membership putting out an invitation on the List to new members and make note of the observing/mentoring/learning opportunities on that particular night. This would require a little planning, volunteers and decent seeing. We have the location and equipment.

5. Recruitment of younger people to the Centre. (carried over)

- a) make announcements on the list prior to going to SCO, inviting new members.
- b) Facebook Page
- c) New committee formed to come up with suggestions
- d) Specifically welcome young members to meetings
- e) www.meetup.com/Halifax-Astronomy-Meet-Up-Group New announcement location

6. Observing Chair – need to define Members’ Night at SCO for the upcoming term. Tony McGrath has offered to serve as the SCO manager this year.

7. Hal-Con Panel – Paul G. is not sure if Halcon is a good fit for RASC. Paul H. felt it was a good weekend.

We have been invited to GeekQuinox April 23/24 2016 and offered a free table. A brochure, and contact information, will be provided to Paul G. for information and consideration.

8. A/V Equipment - Martin Hellmich has now set up a YouTube site for viewing of Meeting recordings and other Halifax RASC videos. Martin to provide options on sound equipment for the Centre.

9. RASC Halifax Website Update – National is producing a Website template for the Centres, Beta testing underway. Paul G. will be chair on the website committee with D. Lane, Jerry Black, Pat Kelly.

- a BETA test is underway with Regina Centre

10. Clear Sky Clock & International Dark Sky Association (IDA) donations – \$50 US paid to IDSA and \$50 to the Clear Sky Clock.

11. Richard Vanderburg’s equipment – Chris has sent a letter with the \$400 to Ian Vanderberg.

12. Loan of Centre Equipment - The Centre website PDF on loaning of Centre equipment is to be updated to state SCO equipment is not available for loan. The Centre website should note that Observing nights are for members and guests.

Pat Kelly is making revisions to the Centre website until the new website is operational, revisions underway.

13. SCO Equipment – (carried over) There was discussion on having all of the Centre’s eyepieces available at SCO. Currently the Vanderberg eyepieces are available while the others are brought to SCO on Member’s Night by the Observing Co-Chair. Jim requested an inventory of the SCO equipment (a list had been prepared previously). C

- Most current Equipment lists for SCO (2010) have been sent to Jim by Chris (Dec 4, 2015)

14. Nova East – a new Chair is needed. Chris has received info on NE Chair’s duties from Roy and Blair, for guidance for prospective volunteers. Other things to consider with NE are: laser pointer use, theme & speaker ideas as suggestions for the Chair (exoplanets, observing skills, radio telescopes...), 2017 NE may conflict with the eclipse. A late “no frills” NE at Smiley’s may not be possible due to early closure.
- Info on the NE Chair’s duties have been received

15. Request for outreach support in Chezzetcook - for a Beaver Group, Connie Carter a leader has made this request. [crocker2013@gmail.com]. Paul Heath will look after.

16. Meeting Rooms at SMU – the President’s Office has confirmed our sponsorship will continue at SMU. We need to draft a **thank you note** to the President. **Chris to draft**
- Paul suggested that the Sobey meeting rooms SB255 & SB159 be our preferred meeting rooms. It was noted this is farther from parking and a distance for the library cart.

17. Old Dobsonian: (Carried over) The Centre’s 17.5” Dob is to be auctioned off as it is difficult to store, had not been in use and the new 16” Go To was now well used. The auction is to be open to all Halifax Centre members, a reserve of \$1,000.00 is to be stated in the auction information. Jim Millar moved “*that the Centre auction off the 17.5” Dobsonian with a reserve bid of \$1,200.00.*” Paul Heath second and the motion was passed.
A request for an “**expression of interest**” is to be prepared describing the scope, condition, reserve bid etc which may simplify the bidding. **Chris to draft.**

18. Promoting Nova Notes (carried over) – **Chris proposes the following for discussion on** promoting Nova Notes:

1. I feel we should have a short “what’s up” on Nova Notes at the Centre meeting with each edition. There could be a quick flash (not long enough to skim!) of each page with a description of the content.
 2. I propose that we distribute NN as an attachment to each member to their personal email address. I propose that we ask the members at the next meeting whether this is acceptable (file size permitting), they could always opt out. I do not see NN as spam – although what we say in the “Subject” line of the email may be important not to get filtered out.
 3. Distribution by attachment could be noted in the renewal form at National, with an option to opt out.
 4. There are file size limitations in sending attachments and Microsoft does not get smaller when you PDF it. There are some work-a-rounds which I am looking into.
- NN is important for a bunch of reasons you all know and I believe more members would “open” the attachment if it arrived than if they have to hunt for it.
Dave L.

19. Satellite Centres – (carried over) There was continued discussion supporting the new interest in astronomy in the Yarmouth area, particularly Tim Doucette’s new observatory, as it appears to fit our mandate. Support could be provided in several ways:

- .1 Have Halifax Centre members visit, perhaps twice a year, to run seminars and provide outreach. Travel costs would be subsidized.
- .2 Use Skype to provide input, outreach.
- .3 Provide surplus library books to the area through our member in Quinan.
- .4 If Yarmouth works we could share resources with other regions.

20. Nominations for 2016 – are noted on the AGM Agenda.

21. National Nominations - Mary Lou suggested to the Exec that they nominate Martin for the Simon Newcomb for the Hubble Universe Video. Discussion on nominating Halley for the SN Award but Halley is not a RASC member.

Motion 1. Sean moved *“that Halley be made a member of the RASC with her approval”*. 2nd by Paul H., all ayes - Motion passed. Motion 2. Jim moved *“that Halifax Centre nominate Martin & Halley for the Simon Newcomb Award or Chilton Prize”* 2nd by Ian, all ayes, motion passed.

22. SCO responsibilities –Chris moved *“ Jamie Carmichael’s annual thank you gift certificate for \$100.00 will be purchased and delivered by Ian”* 2nd by Paul H. all ayes, motion passed.

23. Outreach Statistics – are collected by John Higgins and Quinn. All members are to report outreach activities on the email List with “Outreach” in the subject line, so they can be reported to National.

Jim moved adjournment, 2nd and passed.