



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting
 Tuesday, March 2, 2021: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
 Via Zoom - Meeting ID 997 2323 2920

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Agenda • Review Action List • Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting 	Information Approval	Judy Black	Pre-circulated: Minutes: February 2, 2021 Agenda: March 2, 2021
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2021 Meeting date confirmation & approval b. Zoom/SMU Bookings c. Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations 	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Note #1
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	4. Outreach / Inreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach Requests (if applicable) • Inreach/Education Sessions 	Discussion Decision	Paul Heath Peter Hurley	<i>n/a</i>
	5. RASC Halifax Centre Website	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	6. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update: Auditor Report • Update re: SCO Donations & Photo Reprints, RASC Calendar Sales • Financial Strategy Meeting 	Discussion Decision	Gregg Dill Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	7. SCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade Status • SCO Land Lease • Keyholders list 	Discussion Decision	John Liddard Gregg Dill	Refer to Agenda Note #2 re keyholders
	8. Update: Binocular Flyer	Discussion Decision	Pat Kelly	<i>n/a</i>
BYLAW & POLICY ITEMS				
	9. Governance Review Committee	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
NEW BUSINESS				
	10. Nova East	Discussion Decision	Jud Black	<i>n/a</i>
	11. Letter to SMU	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	12. RASC National Request	Information Decision	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	13. Unistellar Messier Marathon	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
9:00 PM	Adjournment			

RASC, Halifax Centre – Members’ Meeting

Saturday, March 6, 2021: 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Via Zoom - Meeting ID 947 6236 8383

Agenda Items		
Time	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	Welcome & Introductions - Photo Montage - 2021 Calendars & ETU Guides for sale SPECIAL Presentation (Board members: keep this a secret until Mar 6) - Service Award: Blair MacDonald SPECIAL Announcement (Board members: keep this a secret until Mar 6) - FRASC: James Edgar (Associate Member)	Judy Black Paul Gray
	1. Presentation: <i>Dr. Luigi Gallo – Black Holes: The Loud, the Quiet, the Silent</i>	Dr. Gallo
	2. Presentation <i>Michael Gatto – Sketching & Digitizing Mars</i>	Michael Gatto
	3. Outreach / Inreach Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests Received • Food for the Soul 	Paul Heath
	4. Fireside Chat with Uncle Wayne – Book: <i>Alien Oceans</i>	Wayne Harasimovitch
	5. What's Up? (March)	Dave Chapman
	6. News from the Board	Judy Black
	7. Adjournment	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<i>Astro-Chat</i>	

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

March 2, 2021 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

held via Zoom Meeting ID 997 2323 2920

Present: Judy Black, Peter Hurley, Tim Doucet, Paul Heath, Gregg Dill, Matt Dyer, Mary Lou Whitehorne, David Hoskin, Kathy Walker, Lisa Ann Fanning, Pat Kelly.

Regrets: Wayne Harasimovitch, John Liddard.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Judy Black called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and welcomed members.

The meeting agenda was reviewed, and Judy proposed the agenda be amended to include Nova East as item 10, Letter to SMU as item 11, RASC National request as item 12, and an email she had received from Unistellar Optics as item 13.

210302MN-Mot01

It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the March 2, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as amended.

CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

From January 2020

Action 5: Open.

From September 10, 2020

Action 5: Open.

From November 26, 2020

Action 6: Closed.

From January 7, 2021

Actions 6: Closed.

Action 7: Open. Not due until April 30.

From February 2, 2021

Action 1: Closed. Chris Gainor will present at May 1 meeting about amateur use of the HST.

Action 2: Open. Judy sent an invitation today to Phil Groff to present at AGM about changes to RASC in 2020/21.

Action 3: Closed. Melody will be unable to participate in the presentation, but Dave Chapman has agreed to present on the RASC Double Star Observing Program at the April 10 Members' meeting.

Action 4: Closed. Michael Gatto will present at the Members' meeting this month on sketching Mars.

Action 5: Open.

Action 6-8: Closed.

Action 9: Open.

Action 10: Closed. See agenda item 9 discussion.

Action 11-12: Closed.

Action 13: Open.

Action 14: Closed. See agenda item 8 discussion.

The minutes of the February 2, 2021 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Comments were received from Pat Kelly by email on March 1, 2021. There were no further changes proposed.

210302MN-Mot02

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Pat Kelly to approve the February 2, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as amended.

CARRIED.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

a) 2021 Meeting date confirmation and approval

Judy pointed out that dates for 2021 Board meetings are listed in Agenda Note #1, as well as dates for the Members' meetings. Judy asked that the Board review the March 6, 2021 Members' meeting agenda. Judy pointed out that the Halifax Centre registered members was now 185. It was pointed out that James Edgar had registered as a Halifax Centre member thanks to an invitation from Mary Lou and the number of RASC Fellows in Halifax Centre already. James' Fellowship of the RASC award will be announced at our Members' meeting this month, as will Blair's Service Award. Judy reminded Board members not to share news of Blair's Service Award before the meeting so it will be a surprise.

b) Zoom/SMU Bookings

We will continue to use Zoom for Board and for Members' meetings into the foreseeable future.

c) Guest Speakers and Ideas for Future Presentations

Judy pointed out to the Board that the list of confirmed speakers is presented in Agenda Note #1B. We are only missing presenters for the October and November meetings. Tim Doucet has been speaking with Leslie Rogers at MIT about arranging presentations on exoplanets by Sara Seager or herself or both, for October or November or any time in 2022.

210302MN-Act01

Judy Black to contact Adam Gonzalez to get a topic for his April 10 Members' meeting

presentation.

210302MN-Act02

Judy Black to send meeting dates to Tim Doucet to help him arrange presentations by Sara Seager and her associate Leslie Roger.

3. Report from National Council Representative

Judy indicated that there was nothing to report as the next National Council meeting is not scheduled until March 7, 2021.

4. Outreach / Inreach

Paul Heath indicated that he hadn't received any new Outreach requests. He had received confirmation that another group was looking for him to resume his astronomy classes in April. He indicated that he agreed with the email comments from Dave Chapman regarding the school request received via Jenna Hines at National that their request was beyond the present means of the Centre, particularly given the COVID-19 situation. He suggested that there was potential to set something up once the pandemic was resolved.

Paul indicated that he and Peter Hurley had had a preliminary discussion of possible outreach and inreach activities and had several candidates. Other participants with technical skills will need to be enlisted and space to prepare the activities will need to be addressed. Paul is hoping that March break may provide an opportunity to make some progress. There was discussion about the target audience, adult vs youth.

5. RASC Halifax Centre Website

Judy Black indicated there had been no updates to the Halifax Centre website other than making meeting dates current.

6. Financial Update

Judy Black indicated that the auditor's report by Ian Anderson for the last 3 years had been completed and will be published in *Nova Notes*. There is presently an issue with file size on the website and *Nova Notes* will be posted as soon as this can be resolved. *Nova Notes* will be mailed to those that pay for paper copies. Paul Heath indicated that he hadn't received the last 4 issues.

210302MN-Act03

Judy Black to ensure back issues of *Nova Notes* are mailed to Paul Heath.

Judy and Lisa Ann Fanning reported that *Nova Notes* has a new format with 3 segments: Centre information, members universe, and minutes and financials. This issue is 28 pages. Judy complimented Lisa and John McPhee for the new look and content.

Gregg Dill reported that SCO donations at \$8,610 are unchanged from last month, revenue from SCO photos are \$480, and revenue from RASC Calendars is \$650 without accounting for costs. Judy stated the astrophoto profit cited on the website was calculated from the income minus the costs of envelopes from Uline (\$122.48). Blair MacDonald had assumed the costs of printing. It was also noted that Ivan's photo in Moncton would be making a \$500 donation once our Centre was able to conduct an observing session with them.

Wayne Harasimovitch asked last month how he could donate his expenses to the SCO fund. Gregg indicated that it would be best to track the funds and that he would issue a cheque to Wayne for his expenses and Wayne could then donate the amount back to the fund through Gregg as Treasurer. The same would apply for Blair MacDonald.

A time of 7pm on March 23, 2021 was agreed for the Financial Strategy meeting. We will need to review where we are, where we want to go, and what are we missing. It was agreed that our timeframe for discussion should be the next 3 years. Gregg will provide an updated budget to the Board again.

210302MN-Act04

Gregg Dill to send an updated budget to Board members.

210302MN-Act05

Gregg Dill to confirm with Ian Anderson that he is able to attend a Financial Planning meeting on March 23, 2021.

Discussion included whether we might want to do further editing of video material and whether we should consider offering an honorarium to speakers.

210302MN-Act06

Judy Black to ask Dave Chapman to check on availability of Haley Davies to do further video editing and what her rate would be.

Judy asked Board members to consider what are we doing now that we don't need to be doing, what are we doing now that we need to continue doing, are what aren't we doing now that we should start.

Mary Lou Whitehorne asked about the outcome of the members' survey we had worked on last year, and Judy indicated that we hadn't sent it out because COVID-19 happened and so much had changed.

210302MN-Act07

Judy Black and Mary Lou Whitehorne to review and revise draft Members' survey and circulate to Board members for comment prior to sending out using Survey Monkey.

UPDATES/REPORTS

7. SCO

Judy Black provided an update on the SCO upgrade. John Liddard had reported that power has been connected and that the electrician will be out next weekend to continue with the inside work. Judy indicated that we would need to include SCO energy costs in our financial planning. She asked Board members to send a list of any other items regarding SCO that needed to be included in the Financial Planning meeting.

Gregg indicated that the current 10-year land lease for SCO with Timberland Holdings expires on May 31, 2021. The new lease from Timberland Holdings is for 5 years and they want confirmation of \$1M of liability insurance, which we have. It was agreed that Gregg would check with Timberland Holdings whether we could pay the \$1/year fee in one payment of \$5 and we would have a motion next Board meeting to proceed.

210302MN-Act08

Gregg Dill will check with Timberland Holdings whether we could pay the \$1/year fee in one payment of \$5.

It was agreed that discussion of the SCO keyholder list would be deferred until next meeting when John Liddard would be available.

8. Update: Binocular Flyer

Judy Black complimented Pat Kelly for his excellent work on the flyer. There was a discussion of how the left margin appears in printers. There were no further comments or suggestions regarding the content. There was discussion of how the flyer could be distributed more widely by posting it on the website in a different non-brochure format. Judy requested that Pat add the RASC Halifax Centre logo to the brochure.

210302MN-Act09

Pat Kelly to investigate left margin of the binocular flyer brochure format.

210302MN-Act10

Pat Kelly to investigate including the RASC Halifax Centre logo in the binocular flyer brochure format.

210302MN-Act11

Pat Kelly to change the binocular flyer into a format for the RASC Halifax Centre website.

BYLAW & POLICY ITEMS

9. Governance Review Committee

Judy Black explained that RASC National has requested that all Centres develop a policy to deal with membership and conflict resolution at the Centre level. She has been preparing a draft policy to deal with this. Ultimately it will be sent to National for a legal review by Mike Watson. Gregg and Pat will review the draft and respond to Judy with any suggested changes by March 12, 2021.

210302MN-Act12

Gregg Dill and Pat Kelly to respond to Judy Black with comments on the draft of Policy G11 by March 12, 2021.

Judy explained that it became apparent during the Centre elections process this year that the approval process for appointed positions is not clearly defined in Policy G6 and needs to be revised. She has not had time to address this.

210302MN-Act13

Judy Black to draft changes to policy G6 to clarify the approval process for appointed positions.

NEW BUSINESS

10. Nova East

Judy Black explained that the tentative date for Nova East in 2021 is the first weekend in August; our next Board meeting is scheduled for April 6, the Provincial Park online registration portal opens on April 8, and our next Members' meeting is scheduled for April 10. It was pointed out that their website indicated that the "field" is a group campsite and group campsites can only be booked by email. There was considerable discussion and it was concluded that we should wait until the April 6 Board meeting for further developments before making any decisions.

11. Letter to SMU

Judy Black explained that in the past a letter has been sent each year to the President at SMU thanking them for allowing us to use space at SMU for meetings. As a result of COVID-19, we were only able to hold Board and Members' meeting at SMU January – March. It was agreed that we should send a letter again this year and Judy offered to draft and send that letter.

210302MN-Act14

Judy Black to send a letter to the President at SMU thanking them for our continued use of meeting space there.

12. RASC National Request

Judy Black explained that RASC National President Robyn Foret had called Judy to ask if RASC Halifax could provide a Centre member to sit as a Director on the National Board of Directors so that they will have 'coast-to-coast' representation on the National Board. Pat Kelly had indicated to Judy that he was too busy to volunteer for this, and Chris Young had responded similarly. Tony Schellinck was suggested, and Judy will approach him, although he is already on several RASC National Committees. Judy asked Board members to suggest other members.

210302MN-Act15

Judy Black to ask Tony Schellinck if he would accept a nomination to serve as a Director on the RASC National Board of Directors.

13. Unistellar Messier Marathon email

Judy Black explained that she had received an email information package from the telescope manufacturer Unistellar Optics about a Messier Marathon they were organizing. Judy had forwarded their email to Board members on March 2, 2021. The event and the invitation to participate was discussed and it was agreed that Judy should forward the email to members for information, with an indication that there was no endorsement of Unistellar Optics or their Marathon, in case members might be interested in participating on an individual basis. She would mention the event at the Members' meeting on March 6, 2021.

210302MN-Act16

Judy Black to forward the email from Unistellar Optics about their Messier Marathon to members and mention it at the Members' meeting on March 6, 2021.

Tim Doucette explained how he uses his 3-D printed eyepiece sleeves and provided a private website for the board to preview. He also noted he had an upcoming meeting with NS Power regarding improvement of light abatement strategies in his district.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Judy Black adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment at 8:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Hurley, Secretary

ACTION LIST (as of March 2, 2021):

From January 2020		
200111MN-Act05	Gregg Dill and John Liddard will establish the value of capital equipment when the inventory is complete.	Open
From September 10, 2020		
200910MN-Act05	John Liddard and Paul Gray will test whether a small jack hammer can handle digging a trench to the required 14 inches depth.	Open
From January 7, 2021		
210107MN-Act07	Gregg Dill to submit annual requirements to NS RJSC.	Open
From February 2, 2021		
210202MN-Act02	Judy Black to contact Phil Groff regarding presenting at a Halifax Centre Members' meeting with an update from RASC National.	Open
210202MN-Act05	Judy Black to ask Tony Schellinck to make a presentation to a Halifax Centre Members' meeting about sketching the Moon.	Open
210202MN-Act09	Gregg Dill to advice Wayne Harasimovitch how to submit receipts as a donation.	Open
210202MN-Act13	Peter Hurley to put Nova East discussion on the April 6 Board meeting agenda.	Open
From March 2, 2021		
210302MN-Act01	Judy Black to contact Adam Gonzalez to get a topic for his April 10 Members'	Open

	meeting presentation.	
210302MN-Act02	Judy Black to send meeting dates to Tim Doucet to help him arrange presentations by Sara Seager and her associate Leslie Roger.	Open
210302MN-Act03	Judy Black to ensure back issues of Nova Notes are mailed to Paul Heath.	Open
210302MN-Act04	Gregg Dill to send an updated budget to Board members.	Open
210302MN-Act05	Gregg Dill to confirm with Ian Anderson that he is able to attend a Financial Planning meeting on March 23, 2021.	Open
210302MN-Act06	Judy Black to ask Dave Chapman to check on availability of Haley Davies to do further video editing and what her rate would be.	Open
210302MN-Act07	Judy Black and Mary Lou Whitehorne to review and revise draft Members' survey and circulate to Board members for comment and send out using Survey Monkey.	Open
210302MN-Act08	Gregg Dill will check with Timberland Holdings whether we could pay the \$1/year fee in one payment of \$5	Open
210302MN-Act09	Pat Kelly to investigate left margin of the binocular flyer brochure format.	Open
210302MN-Act10	Pat Kelly to investigate including the RASC Halifax Centre logo in the binocular flyer brochure format.	Open
210302MN-Act11	Pat Kelly to change the binocular flyer into a format for the RASC Halifax Centre website.	Open
210302MN-Act12	Gregg Dill and Pat Kelly to respond to Judy Black with comments on the draft of Policy G11 by March 12, 2021.	Open
210302MN-Act13	Judy Black to draft changes to policy G6 to clarify the approval process for appointed positions.	Open
210302MN-Act14	Judy Black to send a letter to the President at SMU thanking them for our continued use of meeting space there.	Open
210302MN-Act15	Judy Black to ask Tony Schellinck if he would accept a nomination to serve as a Director on the RASC National Board of Directors.	Open
210302MN-Act16	Judy Black to forward the email from Unistellar about their Messier Marathon to members and mention it at the Members' meeting on March 6, 2021.	Open

MOTION LIST (March 2, 2021):

210302MN-Mot01	It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by David Hoskin to approve the March 2, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as amended. CARRIED.
210302MN-Mot02	It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Pat Kelly to approve the February 2, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as amended. CARRIED.

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)																
<p>Agenda Note #1 re: 2021 Meeting Dates</p>	<p>A) 2020 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events <u>Board Meeting</u> dates were approved at the January 7, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td>March 2</td><td>September 7</td></tr> <tr><td>April 6</td><td>September 28</td></tr> <tr><td>April 27</td><td>November 2</td></tr> <tr><td>June 1</td><td>November 30</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Members' Meeting</u> dates were approved at the October 28, 2020 Board of Directors meetings. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td>March 6</td><td>September 11</td></tr> <tr><td>April 10</td><td>October 2</td></tr> <tr><td>May 1</td><td>November 6</td></tr> <tr><td>June 5</td><td>December 4 (AGM)</td></tr> </table> <p>B) Confirmed Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 6: Luigi Gallo (Black Holes) + Mike Gatto (Sketching & Digitizing Mars) • April 10: Adam Gonzalez (topic TBD) + Dave Chapman (RASC Double Star Program) • May 1: Chris Gainor (Amateur Use of the HST) • June 5: Leslie Sage (Astronomy editor, <i>Nature</i> magazine) • Sept 11: David Hoskin (Comet NEOWISE) <p>C) Suggested Speakers</p> <p>Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (Fall or 2022) Sara Seager ○ (Fall) Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster) ○ (Fall 2021) Phil Groff (RASC Update) ○ Nicole Mortillaro ○ ??? Someone to address Perseverance, Gateway and Artemis <p>Information/General Interest Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tony Schellinck (15 to 20-minutes re lunar sketching) 	March 2	September 7	April 6	September 28	April 27	November 2	June 1	November 30	March 6	September 11	April 10	October 2	May 1	November 6	June 5	December 4 (AGM)
March 2	September 7																
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<p>Agenda Note #2 re: SCO Keyholders</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2021 SCO Keyholders (as emailed to Alex LeCreux from Ian Anderson, January 2014; Revised Feb 2021)</p> <p>List removed for privacy reasons.</p>																