



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 31, 2022: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Via Zoom - Meeting ID 869 4162 0202

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents / Notes
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: Agenda: May 31, 2022 Minutes: May 3, 2022
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2022 Member's Meeting Date Confirmation and Format Confirm Member's Meeting agenda Zoom/SMU Bookings Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations 	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #1: 2022 Member Meeting Dates & Speakers Refer to Agenda Notes #2: Approved 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Dates
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	No NC report Next Meeting: June 12, 2022
	4. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Requests Outreach/Observing Chair 	Discussion Decision	Judy Black David Hoskin	n/a
	5. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Information	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #3: Website modifications
	6. Financial Update	Discussion Decision	Gregg Dill	n/a
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	7. SCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates Spring site cleanup (before June 10) Update: Approval of Minas Energy Appreciation 	Information Discussion Decision	John Liddard Mary Lou Whitehorne	Refer to Agenda Notes #4: SCO Clean-up – May 28 (May 29 rain date)
	8. 2022 Nova East (Aug 26-28)	Information Discussion	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #5: Nova East Planning Committee Report
	9. Update: Dark-Sky Weekend (Aug 19-21)	Discussion Decision	Peter Hurley Tony Schellinck	n/a
	10. SCO BBQs (June 10, Sept 24) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form an ad hoc task team 	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #6: SCO BBQ
GOVERNANCE				
	11. EPO & Observing Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Heath retirement EPO/Observing combined 	Discussion Approval	David Hoskin	Refer to Agenda Notes #7: EPO & Observing Chairs
NEW BUSINESS				
	12.			
9:00 PM	Adjournment (Next meeting: May 31, 2022)			

RASC, Halifax Centre – Member’s Meeting

Saturday, June 4, 2021 – 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Via Zoom – Meeting ID 851 3642 8497

Agenda Items		
Time*	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	Welcome & Introductions Photo Montage	Judy Black Paul Gray
1:15 PM	Presentations: <i>Peter Jedicke - Urania Has Led Us Here: a Personal History of the RASC</i> <i>Karim Jaffer -</i> <i>Chris Young – Sky Lore</i>	Peter Jedicke Karim Jaffer Chris Young
2:45 PM	Food for the Soul	Paul Heath
2:55 PM	What’s Up? (June)	David Hoskin
3:30 PM	News from the Board	Judy Black
4:00 PM	Adjournment	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<i>Astro-Chat</i>	

* Times are for Board of Director information only and for informing presenters of the length of their presentations; they will not be published on the Halifax Centre website. Times will be adjusted for each meeting.

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting May 31, 2022 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM held via Zoom Meeting ID 869 4162 0202

Present: Judy Black, Peter Hurley, Kathy Walker, David Hoskin, Lisa Ann Fanning, Matt Dyer, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Jaime Whynot, John Liddard (joined at 7:45pm)

Regrets: Tim Doucette, Pat Kelly, Gregg Dill

1. Welcome & Introductions

Judy called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and welcomed members. There was a brief discussion of the email spoofing that had occurred with the Executive email addresses. The VP and Secretary email addresses had been added to the Centre website since last meeting and they were consequently included in the spoofing.

The Meeting Agenda had been circulated by email by Peter on May 27, 2022. The agenda was reviewed. There were no changes or additions proposed.

220531MN-Mot01

It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Kathy Walker to approve the May 31, 2022, Board of Directors meeting agenda, as circulated.

CARRIED.

The minutes of the May 3, 2022, Board of Directors meeting had been circulated by email by Peter on May 27, 2022. Corrections had been email by Mary Lou and Pat.

220531MN-Mot02

It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Jaime Whynot to approve the May 3, 2022, Board of Directors meeting minutes, as amended.

CARRIED.

The Action Lists, which were attached to the minutes of the previous meeting circulated by email by Peter on May 27, 2022, were reviewed.

From November 2, 2021

Board of Directors Meeting: May 31, 2022

Action 1: Open.

From February 1, 2022

Action 2: Closed. No volunteer. Judy will finish this.

Action 4: Closed. In a conversation with Judy, Randy Atwood indicated there is no final date. Each Centre close to the eclipse path of totality will receive 2-5,000 pairs of viewers.

From March 1, 2022

Action 2: Closed.

From March 29, 2022

Action 6: Open.

Action 7: Closed. Judy has copies of both old and new versions and will ask Gregg what to do with the old copies.

Action 8: Closed.

From May 3, 2022

Action 1: Closed.

Action 2: Closed.

Action 3: Open. Concerns will be raised at National Council meeting on June 12.

Action 4: Closed. Due to the legislation that governs the Society, National cannot use proxy votes so not at the GA, but Centres are able to do so.

Action 5: Closed.

Action 6: Open.

Action 7: Closed.

Action 8: Closed. Needs to be re-posted.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

Upcoming meeting dates are summarized in Agenda Note #1. Judy reviewed speakers for the June Members meeting next weekend and the fall. She indicated we still needed a speaker for the December meeting/AGM, and suggestions have been Blake Nancarrow (RASC Observing Programs), Prof Phillip McCausland (Golden Meteorite), and a new Centre member Jeremy Kuzub who photographs Aurorae Borealis. Upcoming Board meeting dates are listed in Agenda Note #2. Mary Lou volunteered to host the November Members meeting. Judy indicated that we wouldn't be contacting SMU until August about meeting space in the fall and that she hoped the question about hybrid meetings would have been answered by the task team addressing it.

3. Report from National Council (NC) Representative

Judy indicated that there was no National Council report and that the next meeting was scheduled for June 12, 2022. She will email the report from that meeting to the Board, especially considering the AGM/GA concerns to be raised.

220531MN-Act01

Judy Black to email the report from the June 12, 2022 National Council meeting to Board members.

4. Education and Public Outreach

Judy proposed that the discussion of Agenda Item #11 be brought forward at this time and David agreed. Judy reminded us that David, in addition to taking on the position of Observing Chair, has now volunteered to take on the EPO chair after Paul Heath stepped down. There has been discussion of combining these positions into one; there was a time in the Centre's past when they had been one position.

There was discussion of the need for an EPO Committee to coordinate and develop Centre Outreach activities in a number of areas. It was pointed out that participation of youth members on a committee could also help with recruitment, and representation from members around the province could help with addressing questions and requests from outside HRM. There was discussion of how to populate the new Committee and how to solicit participation. This led to a discussion of the low level of volunteers the Centre is experiencing and the risk of "burning out" those that are active and the challenges of finding new recruits.

There was discussion of pursuing several avenues as we come out of the pandemic, including the BGO, Dalhousie Planetarium and Discovery Centre, and increasing the use of SCO and possibly resuming planned SCO observing nights. Judy also suggested that we might want to have a presentation from the National Inclusivity and Diversity Committee to help us with our recruitment plans. It was also suggested that a review of the membership list might help with this. It was agreed that we would add Recruitment as an ongoing agenda item. It was suggested to invite Tiffany Fields, who is replacing Dave Lane at SMU and BGO, to speak at the AGM to help with that discussion.

220531MN-Act02

Peter Hurley to add Recruitment as an ongoing item to the Board meeting agenda.

5. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube

Judy indicated that there had been some changes to the Website (see Agenda Note #3) but that it was taking longer than she had anticipated and that it was a work in progress. She and Jerry were working on it.

6. Financial Update

Gregg wasn't present; this item was deferred.

UPDATES/REPORTS

7. SCO

- **Updates**

John reported that the gate to SCO is still closed. He had a discussion with Harden Wile about the fire and provided us with additional details. There have been no requests to have the gate unlocked for observing sessions. He indicated that he had taken a shop vac out and vacuumed the warm room and caulked a lot of small holes in the ceiling to stop insects from entering. He also covered over a larger hole associated with the electrical panel. There was a question about how much longer the gate would remain locked and when there might be another solution. John indicated that he would bring it up with Harden and pursue what options might work best for our SCO users. John would make sure that the gate would be open for the June 5 clean-up and the June 10 BBQ.

- **Spring site clean-up (before June 10)**

There was discussion of the clean-up planned for June 5. Judy indicated that for personal reasons she wouldn't be available for the clean-up and John said he was uncertain if he could attend. Peter agreed to be the contact person. Judy asked that the supply room be checked. John mentioned that the indoor-outdoor carpet on the floor of the roll-off was coming up and made cleaning difficult and there was discussion of why and when it had been installed. It was concluded that while it needed to be removed and possibly replaced, the June 5 clean-up wasn't the time to do that.

John indicated that the storage room could use some painting and there was paint available but there was no intent to paint on the weekend. Judy pointed out that there were old cans of wood preservative in the storeroom and John suggested he would ask Harden if there was a way to dispose of it as a hazardous material through Minas Energy. Judy thanked John for all his work at maintaining the SCO site. It was agreed that we would use the Members meeting and the Centre discussion list and the website homepage to communicate details of the clean-up timing, etc. John reminded us to check the levels and the expiry dates of the BBQ propane tanks and to take a reading of the power meter.

- **Update: Approval of Minas Energy Appreciation**

There was discussion whether the Minas Energy Appreciation event was to occur on June 10 or September 24 and it was concluded that the appreciation event would occur on June 10 and they would be invited to an observing session in September. Judy will ask Roy Bishop who should be included in the invitation before she sends the invitations.

8. 2022 Nova East (Aug 26-28)

Judy pointed out that Agenda Note #5 provides an update on Nova East. She thanked Lisa Ann for designing the NE logo. Judy described the unisex t-shirt that had been chosen and the logo. She indicated that the NE registration would go live on the Centre website on Saturday and there were still details to be determined; in particular, there was no keynote speaker yet and it was agreed that TBD was sufficient. Only the cost of the solar filter from David was outstanding for the registration. Judy indicated that Walk the Solar System had been removed from the program at this point, and that telescope observing would not include the public, as COVID precautions. There will be sign-up sheets for the binocular table and the sky tour, that the Camp Host will manage.

9. Update: Dark-Sky Weekend (Aug 19-21)

Peter indicated that there no new details regarding DSW at this point. He and Tony would be visiting the Park next week for a pre-lighting audit meeting and to finalize program details. He asked that Judy make a call for volunteers at the Members meeting on Saturday. He indicated he would be discussing with David if he would be able to do Walk the Solar System for DSW because the Park had asked if it could be on the program.

10. SCO BBQs (June 10, Sept 24)

Judy reviewed plans for the BBQs. It was agreed that the start time for the June 10 BBQ would be 5:30pm. John reminded us about the presence of ticks on the site and recommended the use of tick repellent and other tick management measures, and that this be mentioned during the Members meeting and in emails regarding the BBQs and the clean-up work party. It was agreed that Roy Bishop should be asked to make an address at the June 10 BBQ given that it's the 25th anniversary celebration.

GOVERNANCE

11. EPO & Observing Chairs

This agenda item was discussed earlier under agenda item #4.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Judy adjourned the meeting. She reminded us that the next meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Hurley, Secretary

ACTION LIST (as of May 31, 2022):

From November 2, 2021		
211102MN-Act01	John Liddard , in consultation with Dave Lane and Gregg Dill, to establish the value of Halifax Centre capital equipment.	Open
From March 29, 2022		
220329MN-Act06	Judy Black to check into reimbursement or replacement of old copies of Explore the Universe and get back to Gregg Dill.	Open
From May 3, 2022		
220503MN-Act03	Judy Black to raise the concerns to the GA Working Group regarding the GA and AGM potentially being held separately and to determine if members have received any feedback from their members.	Open
220503MN-Act06	Peter Hurley and Tim Doucette to discuss light pollution abatement, where it best fits within the DSP Committee or as a separate entity, and report how best to go forward at the September Board meeting.	Open
From May 31, 2022		
220531MN-Act01	Judy Black to email the report from the June 12, 2022 National Council meeting to Board members.	Open
220531MN-Act02	Peter Hurley to add Recruitment as an ongoing item on the Board meeting agenda.	Open


MOTION LIST (May 31, 2022):

220531MN-Mot01	It was moved by David Hoskin and seconded by Kathy Walker to approve the May 31, 2022, Board of Directors meeting agenda, as circulated. CARRIED.
220531MN-Mot02	It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Jaime Whynot to approve the May 3, 2022, Board of Directors meeting minutes, as amended. CARRIED.

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
Agenda Note #1 re: 2022 Member Meeting Dates & Speakers	A) 2022 Approved Member Meeting Dates and Events Members' Meeting dates were approved at the November 30, 2021, Board of Directors meetings. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website. B) Confirmed Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• June 4, 2022: <i>Astronomy: from time immemorial to the future</i>

	<p>Peter Jedicke (London Ctr) – <i>Urania Has Lead Us Here: a Personal History of the RASC</i> Karim Jaffer + Students (Montreal Centre) (student research using robotic Telescopes) Chris Young (Sky Lore)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 10, 2022 (Labour Day = Sept 5) Dr. Donald Bedard & Jim Johnston Dave Chapman (What's in a Name? How celestial objects are named) • October 1, 2022 (Thanksgiving = Oct 10) Marcin Sawicki, SMU (NIRISS – Near InfraRed Imager & Slitless Spectrograph) Chris Young (Sky Lore) • November 5, 2022 Randy Attwood (2024 Total Eclipse) Dave Chapman (What's in a Name? How celestial objects are named) • December 3, 2022 (+ AGM) <p>C) Suggested Speakers Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Leslie Rogers & Sara Seager ○ Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster) ○ https://rasc.ca/find-speaker ○ Dr. Samantha Lawler: New to the U of R and very busy rebuilding the astronomy program. She also has her core research and took on a leadership role in the StarLink issues and lobbying the federal government about it. ○ SCANS Gary Welch – Life in Space ○ For the AGM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair, Observing Committee (Blake Nancarrow): “Observing. Looking up.... now and in the future” RASC programs now and in the future. ○ (from Dave Chapman/Peter Jedicke) Prof. Philip McCausland (also a Handbook contributor) on the topic of the Golden Meteorite. He runs the Canadian Fireball Reporting Centre. email: pmccausl@uwo.ca
<p>Agenda Note #2 re: Approval of 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Dates</p>	<p>Approved Board Meeting Dates, 2022 Member Meeting dates for 2022 were approved by the Board. However, Board meeting dates need to be reaffirmed by the newly elected Board. The following dates are all on Tuesday evenings unless otherwise noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 31 • Sept 6 (Labour Day = Sept 5) • Sept 27 • Nov 1 • Nov 29
<p>Agenda Notes #3: Website Modifications</p>	<p>A. Modifications to halifax.rasc.ca (Reminder: hovering over the menu item does provide the listing of items)</p> <p>1. Home Page: Column: Upcoming RASC Events - Members' meeting details replaced with a link to the details and pre-registration info. - Link to Nova East added Column: News - Proposed change: “New on our Halifax RASC YouTube Channel” will include the video from the previous/most current members' meeting video posting. If we have an EPO, DSP or other video for which we want to draw members attention, it will also be included under this subheading. Column: Quick Info - The astroimaging contest info was moved under the SkyNews what's up.</p> <p>2. Activities: Column: RASC Events - Details of members' meeting with pre-registration info included - <i>Heads Up! Mark Your calendars!</i> includes dates of all activities, not just member meeting dates. Column: Nova East Star Party - Explanation of Nova East with a direct link to the site.</p> <p>3. Imaging Column: Astrophotography Contest - Removed from the Nova East site and put into this part of the website. Jerry added the contest information and re-organized the information regarding sketching and external photo galleries. Note: Info not updated to 2022 contest info</p>

	<p>B. Modifications to novaeast.rasc.ca Updated to reflect current Nova East information. We do not have all information needed to post the 2022 schedule, registration, and t-shirt pages. Otherwise, have a look.</p>
<p>Agenda Notes #4: SCO Clean-up</p>	<p>An email was sent to the Board on May 26 suggesting alternate dates for the BBQ given the rain forecast. The RASC Discussion list suggestion was to possibly go out despite the forecast. Date and time TBD.</p>
<p>Agenda Notes #5: Nova East Planning Committee (NEPC) Report</p> <p>(from Judy Black, Chair)</p>  <p>Nova East 2022</p>	<p>Nova East 2022 – Together Again Under the Stars</p> <p>NEPC Members: Judy Black (Chair), Gregg Dill (Treasurer), Lisa Ann Fanning, Paul Gray, Melody Hamilton, Pat Kelly, Tony McGrath, Jaime Whynot, Chris Young.</p> <p>The NEPC's third meeting was held May 9, 2022. News from the meeting regarding the Friday and Saturday schedule of events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday and Saturday evening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sky Tour:</i> Considering Paul Heath's resignation, Chris Young has volunteered to conduct the Sky Tour both evenings. • Saturday: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Keynote Speaker:</i> Members still searching for a keynote speaker. For now, it is cited on the draft schedule as TBA ○ <i>Walk the Solar System:</i> Considering Paul Heath's resignation, a presenter is being sought. If one not found, it will be removed from the agenda. Paul was recorded while doing a Walk in 2020; this can be used as a template for anyone considering taking this on. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jz9RkQs_KZk <p>Other Decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Logo designed by Lisa Ann Fanning approved for use on all NE correspondence. b. Logo to be used on a black t-shirt. c. Extra night, August 28: For those wishing to stay one additional night, Nova East has access to the field that night. d. No public viewing of the telescopes due to challenges of crowd control in the dark. e. Schedule for promotion of Nova East developed. f. Repayment method should NE be cancelled: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Because we cannot e-transfer out of our account, Gregg will e-transfer repayments from his personal account then request reimbursement from the Centre. ii. Melody will hold all cheques and money orders received by mail until Nova East then contact the registrant to discuss repayment method. g. Drop-dead date for cancellation: August 22, 2022 h. A link to the NE website will be placed in the first column on the home page of the Centre with messaging of "Under construction until June 4" followed by "Live as of June 4". If necessary, notification of cancellation will also be made here. <p>Next NEPC Meeting: Decisions left to make can be done via email. Wrap-up meeting September/October 2022.</p> <p>Respectfully Submitted, Judy Black, Chair Nova East Planning Committee</p>
<p>Agenda Notes #6: SCO BBQ</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Russell has volunteered to be one of the BBQ chefs with the proviso that his wife not become a "BBQ widow". Others will need to step up to rotate through this role. 2. Chris Young has agreed (with my assistance to develop the food list) to make the Costco run for food for the BBQ. <p>What needs to be done ASAP is for the invitation to go out to members with an RSVP attached so that we can better plan for food.</p>
<p>Agenda Notes #7: EPO & Observing Chair</p>	<p>For Discussion & Approval</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- <u>Retirement of Paul Heath</u> On May 12, 2022, Paul Heath resigned from the Board and as Chair of EPO. To discuss is how do we recognize Paul for all his years with the Centre on the Board and in the Outreach/EPO position. Also, thanks to David Hoskin for agreeing to temporarily fill the role until a replacement can be found. 2- <u>Combining EPO and Observing Chair</u>

	<p>After David stepped into the dual role, he suggested combining the EPO and Observing positions into one. I think it was a single position in the past; the SCO Manager was also the person who managed SCO and determined the "observing nights" for the Centre. At some point, the manager and observing roles were split to what we know today. Later this year, an EPO Committee could be struck to include other members of the Centre across the province to respond to EPO requests and to be proactive with other activities when possible (for example, InOMN, Astronomy Day, etc.).</p>
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Approved September 6, 2022