

Introduction

At the 2 January meeting of the Board of Directors, we discussed the coals and objectives for RASC Halifax for 2024. We subsequently conducted a survey of the membership, and at our 27 January meeting we reviewed the results of that survey, and based on that information, we believe our Goals and Objectives are reasonable.

Goals and Objectives

No.	Goal	Status	Comments
1	Develop a solid understanding of the wants and needs of the Halifax RASC Membership	Complete	
3	Promote Observing & RASC Observing programs	Started	Monthly SCO members night reinstated
4	New member initiative	Not Started	
5	Create and Implement SCO Maintenance & Development Plan	Started	In process Tony M and John L
6	Promote and Develop volunteering with RASC Halifax	Not Started	

Goal	Strategy	Status	Results
<p>1. Develop a solid understanding of the wants and needs of Halifax RASC membership</p>	<p>Survey Membership - completed in Jan 2024</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Priorities for joining;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learn about astronomy 2. Meet like minded people 3. Learn about telescopes & visual observing 4. Learn about astro imaging <p>Prioritized Areas of Interest;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visual Observing 2. Astro Imaging 3. Science & History of Astronomy <p>Prioritized Expectations;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opportunities to Observe 2. Social & Networking Events 3. Workshops & Lectures <p>Monthly Members Meeting Comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide more time for membership to meet & socialize. 2. Provide more opportunities for members to present . 3. Provide, from time to time, workshops in lieu of presentations. <p>Opportunities for Improvement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcoming & mentoring new members 2. Workshops

Goal	Strategy	Status	Plan of Action
2. Promote Observing & RASC Observing Programs	1. Implement Monthly SCO Observing Night	Started	1. Develop a SOP for Observing Night which outlines all the steps necessary and indicates responsibility for each step. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How to organize and run members night 2) Standardize announcements 3) Who makes the go/ no go cal 4) Notify Minas Energy that SCO will be in use 5) Messages to the email list 6) Form a volunteer group to serve as docents
	2. Support/ Mentoring for RASC Observing Programs??	Not Started	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore the Universe 2. Explore the Moon 3. Messier Catalogue 4. Finest NGC Objects 5. IW Lunar Obs Program 6. Deep Sky Gems 7. Deep Sky Challenge 8. Double Stars
	3. Ad hoc Observing Nights	Not Started	Create additional opportunities to observe beyond members night...perhaps some lunar and planetary observing from urban locations. Potential locations; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cole Harbour Park - Bissett Rd Cole Hr. 2. York Redoubt - Halifax 3. Harry Dewolfe Park - Bedford 4. Dartmouth Commons? 5. Halifax & Dartmouth Waterfront

Goal	Strategy	Plan of Action	Status
3. New Member Initiative	1. Recognize new members within RASC Halifax membership and develop initiatives which address their needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process to regularly check for new members • Distribute New Member welcome package to all RASC Halifax members of less than 3 years • Consider implementing a new member mentoring program. • Consider developing a workshop for new members to acquaint them with astronomy, RASC Halifax and SCO. 	<p>Not Started</p> <p>Started</p> <p>Not Started</p> <p>Not Started</p>
	2. Implement an awareness campaign to promote RASC Halifax Centre, with a particular emphasis on high schools, colleges and universities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a public awareness campaign to stimulate interest in RASC Halifax, with a particular focus on attracting young members. Include Public Libraries as sites for increasing public awareness of RASC and its activities. 	Not Started

Goal	Strategy	Plan of Action	Status
5. Promote & Develop Volunteering with RASC Halifax	Make it easy to be a volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard operating procedures • Detail out volunteer requirements • Define duties of a volunteer for any particular requirement which would allow individuals to determine the level of commitment for the volunteer task. 	Not Started
	Volunteer Requirements		Status
	Dark Sky Preserve Committee	The DSP Committee mandate is to collaborate with Dark Sky Preserve Managers (e.g. Parks Canada) staff to assist in organizing special events such as the annual Dark-Sky Weekends (DSW) and to provide input into requirements for Dark Sky Preserves in Nova Scotia in order to obtain, maintain and retain their status as dark-sky preserves.	Not Started
	Library	Check with Jerry	Not Started
	Nova Notes	Spoke with Lisa - it would be beneficial if there was someone monitoring the list server for items that might be brought to Lisa attention for inclusion in Nova Notes.	Not Started

	Education & Public Outreach	Outreach is an enjoyable and rewarding volunteer activity for RASC Halifax Centre members. Seeing the joy and wonder on a person's face the first time they see craters on the Moon or the rings of Saturn is a priceless experience. Target audiences include people of all ages attending an astronomy-themed day at the Discovery Centre or a sidewalk astronomy event, primary and secondary school classes, and youth groups such as the Young Naturalists Club. Although most outreach opportunities involve using binoculars or a telescope, there can also be requests for an astronomy-related slide presentation at a local library or via Zoom. Outreach is usually conducted in the Halifax area but may involve travel to a location within a couple hours drive from Halifax. There is no need to be concerned if you are new to outreach since an experienced Halifax Centre member will also be there for support.	Not Started
	Nova East Planning Committee	The Nova East Star Party mission is to celebrate and share common interests in astronomy and nature with observing opportunities, educational talks, seminars, social and outreach activities for RASC members, their families, guests, and visitors of all ages during a camping weekend. The Nova East Planning Committee mandate is to ensure the planning and implementation of the Nova East Star Party are conducted in accordance with the Centre's Bylaw, and to consider other matters related to the planning and implementation p	Not Started
	Observing Chair	No committee exists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCO Members Night • RASC Observing Programs • Ad Hoc Observing Nights 	Not Started
	SCO	No committee exists - working with the SCO Manager implement the maintenance and development plan for SCO	Not Started
	Communications	Website, Social Media and Communications (Check with Jerry)	Not Started

Estimate of Volunteer Requirements

Activity	Concept	Details	Number of People
Observing	Working with the Observing Chair - A group of volunteers who would agree to participate in observing sessions where they would help anyone looking for assistance	SCO Members Nights Ad Hoc Urban Observing Lunar Observing	
Members Meeting	A group of volunteers who would look after the social side of the members meetings		
Workshops	Should there be some established workshops that are run periodically?		
Educational Sessions	Should there be some established educational sessions that are run periodically?		
New Member Mentoring	A group of volunteers who would make themselves available to answer new members questions and point them towards resources to help.		
New Member Recruitment	A group of volunteers who would promote RASC Halifax to schools, colleges, universities and the general public.		
St. Croix Observatory Maintenance	Working with the SCO Manager - a group of volunteers who would agree to participate in SCO maintenance activities.		
Library	Volunteer Librarian		
Nova Notes	One volunteer to keep an eye on the Halifax Discussion List looking for interesting items that might be worth including in Nova Notes		
Dark Sky Preserve Committee			

Education & Public Outreach	Working with EPO Chair - a group of volunteers who would participate in EPO activities		
Nova East Planning	Working with NE Chair - a group of volunteers who would plan Nova East		
Website	Volunteer Webmaster		
Social Media	Volunteer SM Coordinator		
Nominating Committee			