



**RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Tuesday, February 2, 2021: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
 Via Zoom - Meeting ID 936 7669 0446

<b>Agenda Items</b>				
<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Support Documents</b>
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of Agenda</li> <li>• Review Action List</li> <li>• Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting</li> </ul>	Information Approval	Judy Black	Pre-circulated: Minutes: January 7, 2021 Agenda: February 2, 2021
	2. Kejimikujik Lighting Audit	Information Discussion	Guests: Dave Chapman Tony Schellinck	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #1</b>
<b>ONGOING ITEMS</b>				
	3. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 2021 Meeting date confirmation &amp; approval</li> <li>b. Zoom/SMU Bookings</li> <li>c. Guest Speakers &amp; Ideas for Future Presentations</li> </ul>	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #2</b>
	4. Report from National Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	5. Outreach / Inreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach Requests (if applicable)</li> <li>• Outreach Report Addendum</li> <li>• Inreach Session Offers</li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	Paul Heath Peter Hurley	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #3</b>
	6. RASC Halifax Centre Website	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
	7. Financial Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update: Auditor Report</li> <li>• Update re: SCO Donations &amp; Photo Reprints, RASC Calendar Sales</li> <li>• Thank you letters</li> </ul>	Discussion Decision	Gregg Dill Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
<b>BYLAW &amp; POLICY ITEMS</b>				
	8. Governance Review Committee Members	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
<b>UPDATES / REPORTS</b>				
	9. Development of Halifax Centre Financial Strategy	Discussion	Judy Black Gregg Dill (? Ian A.)	<i>n/a</i>
	10. Nova East – Where from here?	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	<b>Refer to Agenda Note #4</b>
	11. Update: SCO Upgrade Status	Discussion Decision	John Liddard	<i>n/a</i>
	12. Update: Binocular Flyer	Discussion Decision	Pat Kelly	<i>n/a</i>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>				
	13. RASC Annual Reports	Information Discussion	Judy Black	<i>n/a</i>
9:00 PM	Adjournment			

**RASC, Halifax Centre – Members' Meeting**  
 Saturday, January 9, 2021: 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Agenda Items		
Time	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo Montage</li> <li>• 2021 Calendars &amp; ETU Guides for sale</li> </ul>	Judy Black Paul Gray
	2. <b>Presentation:</b> <i>Glenn Roberts - How I Fell into a Black Hole - my journey to becoming an astronomy columnist</i>	Glenn Roberts
	3. Outreach / Inreach Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests Received</li> <li>• Food for the Soul</li> </ul>	Paul Heath
	4. Fireside Chat with Uncle Wayne – Book: <i>Alien Oceans</i>	Wayne Harasimovitch
	5. What's Up? (January)	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  
February 2, 2021 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
held via Zoom Meeting ID 936 7669 0446**

**Present:** Judy Black, Peter Hurley, Kathy Walker, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Paul Heath, Dave Chapman, Pat Kelly, John Liddard, Gregg Dill, Matt Dyer, Lisa Ann Fanning, David Hoskin. Wayne Harasimovitch joined at 7:05.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Judy Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed members.

The meeting agenda was reviewed, and no additional items or changes were proposed.

**210202MN-Mot01**

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Kathy Walker to approve the February 2, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as presented.

CARRIED.

The Action Lists were reviewed.

From January 2020

**Action 5:** Open.

From September 10, 2020 (Special Meeting)

**Action 5:** Open. To be discussed during agenda item 11 SCO Upgrade.

From November 26, 2020

**Action 6:** Open.

From January 7, 2021

**Actions 1-5:** Closed.

**Actions 6,7:** Open. Don't need to submit to NS RJSC until April.

**Action 8,9:** Closed.

At that point, Judy returned to the Agenda and asked if the Members' Meeting Agenda on page 2 was complete. It was agreed that the Youth Activity would be removed from the agenda for this month. Glenn Roberts has confirmed he is able to present. Wayne Harasimovitch will confirm Friday morning if he is able to present. The Astro Chat is scheduled at the end of the meeting.

The minutes of the January 7, 2021 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Comments were received from Pat Kelly by email on January 27, 2021. There were no further changes proposed.

**210202MN-Mot02**

It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve the January 7, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as amended.  
CARRIED.

**2. Kejimkujik Lighting Audit**

Judy referred the Board to Agenda Note #1, an email report from Dave Chapman on the topic. Dave Chapman reported on a review of the lighting of the newly renovated washrooms at Kejimkujik National Park, requested by the Park following a post on Facebook. Tony Schellinck, co-chair of the Dark-Sky Preserve Committee, had participated in the meeting with Park staff but had been unable to be present for the evening examination of the washrooms. Dave pointed out that it was an informal visit, not an audit.

Since then, he has obtained a light meter from SMU and has loaned it to Park staff Colleen Anderson, with an instructional video he prepared, so they could measure the light intensity of the outdoor lights. He showed a photo of the old campground washrooms taken during the lighting audit conducted in 2018 and a photo of the lighting of the new washrooms. Dave indicated that a lot of improvements have been made with the new construction; the glare is considerably reduced and there is no up-light from the fixtures, but his gut feeling is that those fixtures may still be too bright. This is the reason for providing them with the light meter so that they can measure the light intensity directly. Dave was told that the light fixtures that have been installed were designed to have an intensity control but there is uncertainty whether the control has been installed in the fixtures.

Park Superintendent Johnathon Shepard had indicated to Dave that he is very interested to have these washrooms declared to be dark-sky compliant according to RASC Canadian Guidelines for Outdoor Lighting. Dave indicated to the Board that he was uncomfortable to be put in that position and that he would be more comfortable in helping the Park with a self-assessment so that they can make that statement themselves. RASC has no process or mechanism for dealing with this situation. His role over the past 10 years has been more advisory and he was looking for feedback from the Board.

There was considerable discussion of the situation. Dave pointed out that the examination had only been of the newly renovated washrooms, that there had not been power at other locations, in particular the beach facilities, and these had not been examined. An audit would happen in the spring. Dave indicated that he preferred a more transactional approach to implementing the guidelines. He also pointed out that there is a lot more detail in the present Guidelines than those used 10 years ago. It was agreed that the present guidelines are what need to be used in the audit. It was agreed that our role was only to assist the Park in implementing the guidelines. Board members indicated their support of Dave with the approach as presented and discussed. Dave thanked the Board for their discussion and support. And signed out of the Zoom call at 7:40.

**ONGOING ITEMS**

**3. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers**

*a) 2021 Meeting date confirmation and approval*

Judy pointed out that corrected dates for 2021 Board meetings are listed in Agenda Note #2, as well as dates for Members' meetings.

*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 informed the Board that Paul Gray had arranged for Leslie Sage, astronomy editor of *Nature* magazine, as guest speaker for our June meeting. The only month we don't yet have a keynote speaker is May. Other suggested speakers are listed in Agenda Note #2C. In addition, Tim Doucet might be able to arrange something with Sara Seager. Judy will contact Chris Gainor to inquire if he could present on amateur use of the Hubble Space Telescope. David Hoskin agreed to make a presentation on Comet NEOWISE, on short notice whenever needed. Judy will also contact Phil Groff to present on RASC items in May or the fall.

**210202MN-Act01**

Judy Black to contact Chris Gainor about presenting at a Halifax Centre Members' meeting about amateur use of HST.

**210202MN-Act02**

Judy Black to contact Phil Groff regarding presenting at a Halifax Centre Members' meeting with an update from RASC National.

For shorter General Interest sessions, it was agreed that Judy will ask Dave Chapman and Melody Hamilton to present on the new RASC Double Star Observing Program for April, Mike Gatto on Mars sketching in March, and Tony Schellinck on lunar sketching in May. There were no other suggestions for speakers.

**210202MN-Act03**

Judy Black to ask Dave Chapman and Melody Hamilton to make a presentation to a Halifax Centre Members' meeting about the new RASC Double Star Observing Program

**210202MN-Act04**

Judy Black to ask Michael Gatto to make a presentation to a Halifax Centre Members' meeting about sketching Mars

**210202MN-Act05**

Judy Black to ask Tony Schellinck to make a presentation to a Halifax Centre Members' meeting about sketching the Moon.

**4. Report from National Council Representative**

Judy reported that the next National Council meeting is not scheduled until March 7. She had read in the minutes from the last meeting that the GA would be virtual again this year. There was clarification that the Green Laser Pointer training course to obtain a permit is for members only. There are training opportunities with respect to the new database. There have been two Townhalls that have dealt with membership retention and recruitment.

Matt Dyer indicated that he knew someone who wished to access the Centre email List so they could access astroimages posted there, without becoming a member because of the cost. Judy pointed out that there is an opportunity for members to receive special consideration of membership fees in situations where there is financial need, and anyone interested in exploring that should contact Phill Groff. It was agreed that we didn't want to open the Centre email List to non-members. Judy also reported that the Inclusivity and Diversity Committee had released a video "The Stars Belong to Everyone: Gender and Sexual Diversity in Astronomy" and indicated she would share the link to Board members.

**210202MN-Act06**

Judy Black to send a link to I&D Committee video on Gender and Sexual Diversity in Astronomy to Board members.

Judy also indicated that the I&D committee had created a "List of Indigenous Land Acknowledgements" and asked if Board members felt that we should include such an Acknowledgement at the beginning of our Members' meetings. This was discussed and it was concluded that she should consider preparing something for the next meeting.

**210202MN-Act07**

Judy Black to prepare an Indigenous Acknowledgement statement for presentation at the next Members' meeting.

Judy also indicated that the new National Database will not be ready for the end of January as planned but it is hoped it will be ready by the end of February.

### **5. Outreach / Inreach**

Paul Heath indicated that he had only received one request in the last month, from a school outside of Pictou. Details hadn't been clear, but he thought that it might be a private school because he didn't recognize the school name, and that he hadn't got back to them for further details because we don't have a member in the area. Paul indicated that his astronomy class in Preston was cancelled again because of COVID.

Judy mentioned the Outreach/Inreach report circulated as Agenda Item #3. Paul explained that when he had prepared the report for the AGM, he hadn't included all of the Centre's online activities and when these were included, they showed that we had been quite active in the past year despite the pandemic and resulting restrictions. There was discussion of whether it was possible to measure the number of people that viewed online sessions rather than the number of viewings.

Judy asked about progress on Inreach sessions, but Paul and Peter haven't had an opportunity to discuss this.

It was agreed that Lisa Ann Fanning and John McPhee should include the Outreach/Inreach Report in the next issue of Nova Notes.

### **6. RASC Halifax Centre Website**

Judy Black indicated there had been no updates to the Halifax Centre website other than the amount raised toward the SCO upgrade. The total is presently \$8,310.

### **7. Financial Update**

Judy Black reported that thank you letters had been sent yesterday to 31 people who had contributed to the SCO Upgrade Fund.

Gregg Dill reported that we had received a thank you letter ourselves from the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) for our \$50USD contribution. He read their letter to the Board. It was suggested that it should be included in *Nova Notes* so that members know of our contribution to IDA.

#### **210202MN-Act08**

Gregg Dill to scan and send letter from IDA to Nova Notes editors John McPhee and Lisa Ann Fanning.

Gregg reported that Ian Anderson will re-audit 2018 and 2019 and include 2020, recognizing that the earlier years hadn't been presented in *Nova Notes*, and the report will be included in the next edition.

Gregg reported that donations to the SCO Upgrade Fund total \$8310, including \$390 from photos less costs. He reported that 26 of 40 RASC calendars remain unsold.

There was a question from Wayne Harasimovitch if he could donate \$110 of outstanding receipts to the SCO Upgrade fund; Gregg indicated that he would check with the auditor and get back to Wayne.

#### **210202MN-Act09**

Gregg Dill to advise Wayne Harasimovitch how to submit receipts as a donation.

There was a question from John Liddard of how long one was able to submit receipts for reimbursement because he had two from 2019 that he hadn't submitted, and Gregg indicated that he should send receipts from last year to him.

Paul Heath indicated that he had just received boxes of copies of *SkyNews* and had boxes from previous months also but there had been no outreach events at which to distribute these. Judy suggested that Paul contact Tony Schellinck who might need some for his SCANS classes. Pat Kelly indicated that he could use some for an outreach activity and that he would contact Paul.

## **BYLAW & POLICY ITEMS**

### **8. Governance Review Committee Members**

Judy Black reported that Pat Kelly had agreed to join her and Gregg Dill on the Governance Committee.

Two policies will be reviewed; G6 requires clarification regarding the nominations process. Following up on requests from National office, a new policy G11 needs to be developed to deal with situations where members don't follow policy and to describe a process for conflict resolution. For the benefit of new Board members, Judy described the differences between Bylaws and Policies.

#### **210202MN-Act10**

Judy Black to draft changes to policy G6 and draft a new policy G11 to deal with conflict resolution.

## **UPDATES / REPORTS**

### **9. Development of Halifax Centre Financial Strategy**

Gregg has notes that budgets for the last several years have had deficits, which is not sustainable is not sustainable. He suggested that as a first step, we need to recognize our present situation, before going to step 2 and developing a long-term strategy as discussed last meeting. From talking with members with a longer history, there have been activities in the past that have generated revenue and perhaps those could be revisited. Gregg doesn't feel he has the expertise to develop those types of activities. Judy pointed out that this couldn't be covered during a regular Board meeting and would require a separate focused meeting such as the Special Meeting on Requisition. We need to determine our annual requirements so that we don't continue to use the investments that we have there as a backup. The role of Nova East in generating revenue in recent years and the impact of COVID last year and likely again this year was discussed. Gregg asked if we wanted to put up a Committee to focus on the issue and bring in members with longer history such as Ian Anderson, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Dave Lane and Pat Kelly. Pat Kelly suggested that the annual financial reports would be a useful tool for reviewing the past. It was suggested that developing a budget and developing a long-term financial strategy were separate steps. It was agreed that we did need a separate meeting of the Board to discuss this and that we need to do it soon. It was agreed that we would start with a special meeting on February 16 to review the budget, as a first step. And then decide if we need an additional meeting to discuss developing a financial strategy.

#### **210202MN-Act11**

Judy Black to set up a 2-hour meeting to review the budget 7pm February 16, 2020.

#### **210202MN-Act12**

Gregg Dill to re-send the budget. Comments to be sent by February 13, 2020.

### **10. Nova East – Where from here?**

Judy Black referred members to Agenda Note #4 which summarizes the discussion from the AstroChat after the last Members' meeting. If Provincial Parks allows us into the park this year, Nova East will be more like the earlier Camping and Observing Weekend (COW) format events, i.e., informal with no special scheduling. We will wait until April to see if Provincial Parks will let us use the park and to what degree. Guidelines will be developed when we know the situation better. The Astroimaging contest will proceed, since it isn't a Nova East event.

#### **210202MN-Act13**

Peter Hurley to put Nova East discussion on the April 6 Board meeting agenda.

### 11. Update: SCO Upgrade Status

John Liddard provided an update to the Board on the status of the SCO upgrade. The service mast has been installed by DMac and has been inspected by NS Power so KLine can now connect power to the box. The power meter is being sent to KLine and they will install it when it arrives and connect the power to the box. Changes to the wiring will follow. The 12-volt DC system is still functional. John is putting together a detailed updated list of requirements since it is now possible that the existing conduits might be used to route power to the observatory and to the storage building/toilet. The good news is that if the existing conduits can be used to feed a new special cable to the observatory and the storage room/toilet, then a jackhammer won't be required to create a new trench to the observatory and AC power can also be extended to the storage room/toilet. Expansion joints will still be required to meet code. John reviewed that list and there was discussion of many of the details. Wayne Harasimovitch indicated that he has been working on a plan to use UHF radio to feed data from a powered weather station located at SCO to the internet and asked John about space in a nearby Minas Energy building where the equipment could be situated. He thought that he could secure all the required equipment to do this, except for the weather station itself. They agreed to discuss this further. When asked if we were on budget, John indicated that he hadn't given the new detailed list to DMac yet but he thought that what we had been discussed might still all fit into the available \$15K budget. Once power is connected to the box, John indicated that it would only require 1-2 days for DMac to finish. There was consensus that there should be two lights in each building, white and red, both on dimmer switches. Overall, all members were very pleased/ecstatic with this update.

### 12. Update: Binocular Flyer

Deferred to next month.

Pat Kelly indicated he had made the updates requested, that it was essentially done. Judy thanked Pat for all the work he had done on it. She asked about the links Dave Chapman had suggested; Pat indicated that they weren't suited to the flyer.

#### 210202MN-Act14

Pat Kelly to circulate a third draft of the binocular flyer.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 13. RASC Annual Reports

Deferred to next month.

Judy and Gregg will discuss, as the reports have to be submitted to National by February 15.

## Adjournment

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

Adjournment at 9:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter Hurley, Secretary

## **ACTION LIST (as of February 2, 2021):**

<b>From January 2020</b>		
200111MN-Act05	<b>Gregg Dill and John Liddard</b> will establish the value of capital equipment when the inventory is complete.	Open

<b>From September 10, 2020</b>		
200910MN-Act05	<b>John Liddard</b> and <b>Paul Gray</b> will test whether a small jack hammer can handle digging a trench to the required 14 inches depth.	Open
<b>From November 26, 2020</b>		
201126MN-Act06	<b>Gregg Dill</b> to contact Superior Propane to determine the conditions to cancelling the arrangements and having the propane removed.	Open
<b>From January 7, 2021</b>		
210107MN-Act06	<b>Judy Black</b> to send list of Board members to Gregg Dill.	Open
210107MN-Act07	<b>Gregg Dill</b> to submit annual requirements to NS RJSC.	Open
<b>From February 2, 2021</b>		
210202MN-Act01	Judy Black to contact Chris Gainor about presenting at a Halifax Centre Members' meeting about amateur use of HST.	Open
210202MN-Act02	Judy Black to contact Phil Groff regarding presenting at a Halifax Centre Members' meeting with an update from RASC National.	Open
210202MN-Act03	Judy Black to ask Dave Chapman and Melody Hamilton to make a presentation to a Halifax Centre Members' meeting about the new RASC Double Star Observing Program.	Open
210202MN-Act04	Judy Black to ask Michael Gatto to make a presentation to a Halifax Centre Members' meeting about sketching Mars.	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-Act06	Judy Black to send a link to I&D Committee video on Gender and Sexual Diversity in Astronomy to Board members.	Open
210202MN-Act07	Judy Black to prepare an Indigenous Acknowledgement statement for presentation at the next Members' meeting.	Open
210202MN-Act08	Gregg Dill to scan and send letter from IDA to Nova Notes editors John McPhee and Lisa Ann Fanning.	Open
210202MN-Act09	Gregg Dill to advice Wayne Harasimovitch how to submit receipts as a donation.	Open
210202MN-Act10	Judy Black to draft changes to policy G6 and draft a new policy G11 to deal with conflict resolution.	Open
210202MN-Act11	Judy Black to set up a 2-hour meeting to review the budget 7pm February 16, 2020.	Open
210202MN-Act12	Gregg Dill to re-send the budget. Comments to be sent by February 13, 2020.	Open
210202MN-Act13	Peter Hurley to put Nova East discussion on the April 6 Board meeting agenda.	Open
210202MN-Act14	Pat Kelly to circulate a third draft of the Binocular flyer.	Open

### **MOTION LIST (February 2, 2021):**

210202MN-Mot01	It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Kathy Walker to approve the February 2, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as presented.
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	CARRIED.
210202MN-Mot02	It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by Gregg Dill to approve the January 7, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting minutes, as amended. CARRIED.

## AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)																		
<b>Agenda Note #1 re: Kejimkujik Lighting Audit</b>	<p><b>Email received from D. Chapman, Jan 25/21:</b> This is an informal report, as a full assessment has not been made. Also, Tony went with me but could not remain for the nighttime portion.</p> <p>The washrooms are a significant upgrade from before. Regarding lighting, all interior and exterior lights are in flush-mounted fixtures, so they are cut off and no bare bulbs can be seen. One sees illuminated panels though, when you are close by. They say that they've used 3500K sources, which are not amber, but not brilliant white either. I believe that's allowed.</p> <p>Gone are the big honking glaring spotlights, gone are the brilliant halogen lamps over the wash stations. The outdoor lights are under overhangs and there is no up light only down and to the side. Naturally, the "throw" of the lights is fairly controlled, and whatever glare remains is much less along the roadway than underneath the overhang. The indoor lights are on 30-minute proximity switches. My wife thought the Windows might be filtered. The outdoor lights are on dawn to dusk.</p> <p>The remaining issue is the brightness. My gut tells me they are too bright, but we need to measure it somehow. I'm borrowing a pro light meter from SMU to help. This will take a few weeks. I'm also going to consult Rob Dick. The good news is that the data sheet on the outdoor lights indicates that they are dimmable as an option, but it's not clear if they were installed that way, or if the designer even considered brightness as a factor.</p> <p>Kejimkujik has committed to making the buildings DSP compliant, and to also address other outstanding lighting issues. I trust them and I feel we can work with them collaboratively.</p>																		
<b>Agenda Note #2 re: 2021 Meeting Dates</b>	<p><b>A) 2020 Approved Members Meeting Dates and Events</b> Board Meeting dates were approved at the January 7, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>February 2</td> <td>June 1</td> </tr> <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></td> <td>November 30</td> </tr> </table> <p>Members' Meeting dates were approved at the October 28, 2020 Board of Directors meetings. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>February 6</td> <td>June 5</td> </tr> <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> </table> <p>AGM: December 4</p> <p><b>B) Confirmed Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 6: Glenn Roberts (astronomy from youth to becoming syndicated journalist)</li> <li>• March 6: Luigi Gallo (topic TBD)</li> <li>• April 10: Adam Gonzalez (topic TBD)</li> <li>• June 5: Leslie Sage (Astronomy editor, <i>Nature</i> magazine)</li> </ul> <p><b>C) Suggested Speakers</b> Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (Spring/Fall) Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster)</li> <li>○ (Spring 2021) Phil Groff (RASC Update)</li> <li>○ Nicole Mortillaro</li> <li>○ David Hoskin (Comet NEOWISE)</li> <li>○ ??? Someone to address Perseverance, Gateway and Artemis</li> <li>○ Chris Gainor, Victoria Centre (NASA topic)</li> </ul>	February 2	June 1	March 2	September 7	April 6	September 28	April 27	November 2		November 30	February 6	June 5	March 6	September 11	April 10	October 2	May 1	November 6
February 2	June 1																		
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	<p>Information/General Interest Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Dave Chapman &amp; Melody Hamilton (15 to 20 minutes <i>RASC Double Stars Observing Program</i>)</li> <li>o Michael Gatto (15 to 20-minutes re sketching Mars)</li> <li>o Tony Schellinck (15 to 20-minutes re lunar sketching)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda Note #3 re: Addendum to 2020 Inreach / Outreach Report</b></p>	<p>In December 2020, I gave my outreach report as part of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Since then, statistics have been gathered, especially about our virtual sessions, that I think members might find interesting.</p> <p>Despite the pandemic, Halifax Centre held 34 face-to-face events over the year, reaching 2,689 members of the public. Interesting to note is 2,358 of them can be directly attributed to Tony Schellinck.</p> <p>The statistics for the six image processing sessions hosted by Blair MacDonald and Jeff Donaldson are very interesting. An average of 33 members attended each session, but the average views/hits on our YouTube channel was 215 for each session! During the 3 virtual observing sessions, there were 328 who viewed it online. An average of 33 attended each of the six sessions for the Nova East Speaker Session with an average of 89 viewing each session later online.</p> <p>As I stated in my report, there were many virtual sessions held because of the provincial restrictions relating to COVID-19. All meetings and special presentations were recorded and posted to the RASC Halifax YouTube channel. There are a couple of considerations when looking at the numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The number of views it indicates for each video may be unique emails or it may include every time it is viewed even if viewed more than once by the same person.</li> <li>b) RASC members from across Canada also attended our sessions (about 1-5 per session).</li> </ul> <p>The first three Member's meetings in 2020 were held at SMU, averaging 41 at each meeting. The remaining seven Member's meetings were held using Zoom; although an average of 44 members attended each session, the average views/hits for each session on our YouTube channel was 58. This might indicate that we are reaching more members using Zoom and posting the recording of each session.</p> <p>In the past year, RASC funding meant 10 video segments from the 2015 RASC General Assembly (GA) were added to our YouTube channel with an average of 182 hits per video. Roy Bishop's talk about the Ocean Tides topped the list at 444 views! Tony Schellinck created videos now posted on our site: four videos about how to buy a telescope (302 views), a video on how to use binoculars, a special video for InOMN (129 views) and one for viewing the November skies (86 views).</p> <p>Conducting our business, outreach and member education sessions using Zoom and other media has also shown to be beneficial to all members. They are better informed and can attend live meetings and special sessions, or they can view them afterwards at their leisure. I thank all those who participated in formal and the undocumented informal sessions during the pandemic. A special thank you to Tony Schellinck for his incredible contributions in 2020 to keeping us and our public engaged and excited about the night skies. I'm sure that in 2021 our Centre will continue with some face-to-face outreach events and that the virtual world be important in helping us reach our objectives.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Paul Heath, Outreach Chair</p>
<p><b>Agenda Note #4 re: 2021 Nova East – Where from Here?</b></p>	<p><i>(from Judy Black)</i></p> <p>Since November 2020, there has been a search for someone to Chair the Nova East Planning Committee (NEPC). Complications to the decision-making process include not knowing how COVID-19 and its variants may affect Nova East six months from now and not knowing if Smiley's Provincial Park would be open for camping and for hosting our event in any form.</p> <p>Given the amount of planning that goes into the event, there were discussions held online, at Board meetings and, more recently, during the Astro Chat portion of the January 9, 2021 Member's meeting to determine the "where from here."</p> <p>Because of all the uncertainties, and not wanting to plan for speakers we may later have to cancel, the following considerations for the Nova East Star Party are presented to the Board for discussion and consideration for going forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- The former detailed planning contained in the NEPC Task Chart will not be followed.</li> <li>2- We will wait until April 2021 for the provincial parks to determine whether or not they will be opening for the summer and to what degree. Paul Gray remains the contact with the Park.</li> <li>3- IF the Parks are open, there may be an informal gathering the weekend of what would have been Nova East (August 6-8, 2021). Pandemic safety guidelines will be established by the Park and by the RASC Halifax Centre.</li> <li>4- The event would be greatly scaled down to a Camping and Observing Weekend (COW) as had been the case in years past: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. no organized speakers</li> <li>b. no sky tours</li> <li>c. no binocular table</li> <li>d. no organized group meals such as the astro-breakfasts and the BBQ.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5- Those in attendance will be required to provide their own meals throughout the weekend. Some members may choose to get together for meals and meal planning.</li><li>6- When we get closer to the date, we may determine we want a speaker or two; this can be arranged utilizing local talent/experts versus going further afield. Otherwise, exchange of information would be accomplished informally at the Park through times spent socializing and/or observing.</li><li>7- Because the RASC Halifax Centre Astro-Imaging Contest is a contest of the Centre and not of Nova East (other than announcing winners), the contest will go forward, regardless of the status of Nova East.</li></ul>
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Approved March 2, 2021