

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
"Halifax Centre"

AGENDA FOR EXECUTIVE MEETING

February 17, 1989

Meeting #2 for 1989

ITEMS	ORIGINATOR	NOTES
1 Approval of Agenda		
2 Minutes of last meeting:	January 20, 1989	
3 Approval of minutes		
4 Business arising from minutes		
5 Subsidy for Antigonish Group	RB / JY	
6 National Council Meeting Report	DT	
7 Report from Planetarium Committee	RB / DP	
8 APICS Review/Reply to Tentative Schedule	JY	
9 Re-instate 2nd Monthly Meeting	JY	
10 Invoicing of Delinquent Members	JY	
11 Hebron student visit	DP	
12 NASA scientist talk March 6 (Yarmouth)	DP	
13 Astronomical Society of the Pacific Purchase of slides and other items.	JY	
14 Future Meetings:		
	7:00	8:00
February: Open Executive Meeting	Wilf & his Planetarium	- Wilf Morley
March: ?	Globular Clusters	- Cameron Reed
April: ?	Telescope Mirror Making	- Peter Edwards
May: Annual Banquet	SN 1987A: Two Years Later	- Walter Zukauskas
June: ?	Member's Night / Trivia Contest	
July/August: <---- NO MEETINGS ---->		
September: ?	GA Report(s) / Nova East Report	
FALL:	Practical Uses for Astronomy - Nat Cohen	
15 Other Business ?		

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA(S):

Log Book for Motions/Resolutions	Lost Member Survey	Talk - Ask an Astronomer - ?
Establish CCL File	Status on Questar 3"	Talk - Radio Astronomy - Fr. Long (?)
GA in CB	N/N Book Reviews	Talk - By NASA Scientist - Harry Taylor (?)
APICS (Final Schedule)	1989 Library Purchases	Talk - ?
NOVA EAST 89 (Final Schedule)	Small Scope User's Challenge	
Hebron Student's Visit	Len Larkin TV Interviews	
Organize 2nd Monthly Meeting	Armchair Observer's Observing Session	
Mailing Nova Notes 2nd Class	Lottery or Contest (?)	

MINUTES OF HALIFAX CENTRE RASC. EXECUTIVE MEETING

February 17, 1989

Executive Present: Dave Lane
Doug Pitcairn
Paul Smith
Mary Lou Whitehorne
Pat Kelly
Hugh Thompson

Councilors Present: Jim MacGuigan

Others Present: general membership
(open executive meeting)

- the meeting called to order at about 7:15pm. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the meeting of January 20 were read, and approved by Hugh Thompson, seconded by Dave Lane.

- there was no business arising from the minutes.

- the astronomy group from Antigonish who have joined the RASC through the Halifax Centre requested a subsidy from their dues to assist them in their operations. A motion was made by Paul Smith (seconded by Doug Pitcairn) to return \$7.50 to them, leaving \$2.50 for us to cover our mailing costs for Nova Notes, etc. The motion was passed. Currently 11 members have joined from this group.

- the planetarium committee has met. The following points were conveyed:

- there is keen support from the board of the Discovery Centre for a planetarium although not 100%
- space is a problem, only 3000-4000 square ft space would be available
- consequently, if we want to go with the Discovery Centre, we will have to aim lower than we would like.
- consensus was to still go with the Discovery Centre
- a complete report to the board is to be prepared before their next board meeting in the first week of March
- consequently, another planetarium committee meeting is to take place in the next couple of weeks

- a tentative schedule was received for the APICS conference this summer at Mount Saint Vincent University. There was a discrepancy about our involvement. We planned for 2 nights of simultaneous planetarium show and observing session, with a Saint Mary's observatory tour if the weather is bad, replacing the observing session. Joe Yurchesyn to call and straighten out discrepancy, or make adjustments as necessary.

- David Chapman gave his views about the proposed re-instatement

of the 2nd monthly meeting from his experiences while he was away. They are as follows:

- the Ottawa centre has a lot of members and access to high power speakers, being close to professionals from universities and NRC, etc. This results in the main meeting of the month often very technical, and not often containing down to Earth amateur topics.
 - their second meeting each month is their observers group meeting for keeners. It has lots of momentum and is considered by many of those who attend to be the main meeting. We will call this Option B. Some members don't even attend the main meeting.
 - in Southampton, England, their membership is smaller than ours with their main meetings averaging about 25 attendees. Their second meeting is hosted by members at their houses with a different member hosting each month. This worked fine for the small group of active observers that they have. This approach means that not one person is responsible for keeping the meetings going, thus ensuring its survival.
 - our centre also has a small, but active observers group and he thinks this approach may work for us as well. We will call this approach Option A.
- a non-binding vote from the gallery about whether their preference was Option A or B returned 16 votes for A and 5 votes for B. Further discussion on this was deferred to the next executive meeting.
- Dave Tindall reported some highlights from the January national council meeting. The following points, among others were conveyed:
- the constitution is almost complete, with only ratification at the GA left, to make it official
 - there are many changes including raising the Youth membership to under 21 instead of under 18 and adding a seniors membership at the same rate as the Youth membership. The travel policy was also changed to now include 50% of the accommodation costs.
 - also, the Observers Handbook will go up in price to \$10.95 for next year.
- as was decided in the January executive meeting, we will invoice members from last year who have not renewed to jog the memories of those who may have forgotten. We now have 156 paid up members for 89, up about 10 from last years total already.
- the Hebron astronomy club would like to come up again from Yarmouth Co. this year. Darrin Parker was not present with details, but it was indicated that an April/May time slot would be fine. Details to be worked out at next meeting.

- a former NASA planetary scientist, Harry Taylor, now retired and living in Yarmouth Co. is presenting a talk on Planetary Atmospheres on March 6 in Hebron. A few executive members are planning to attend. They are to see if he would be interested in providing a talk for us sometime in the future.

- it was decided to order more bumper stickers from the ASP for sale at meetings to raise money. These were popular items last year.

- next months 7pm slot is to be a Nova program on Turbulence.

- a member of the general membership indicated it would be nice for the society to have a certificate of membership suitable for wall framing similar to that which is given by the National Geographic Society. Another point brought up was ~~to~~ to give something more significant to life members for their commitment to the society (possibly a plaque). This item will be discussed further in the next executive meeting.

- another member indicated that the RASC is difficult to locate since we're not in the phone book, etc. People usually tend to find us by word of mouth. Doug Pitcairn suggested that it may be possible to add a phone number to the end of his column in the chronicle.

- meeting adjourned

Secretary,

David Lane
David Lane