

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

"Halifax Centre"

AGENDA FOR EXECUTIVE MEETING

Meeting #8 for 1989 Nov 17th, 1989

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA		
2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING	Oct 14 th , 1989	
3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES		
4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES		
5 ANNOUNCEMENTS:		
✓ 5.1 Antigonish Meeting Nov 27 th	MLW	
✓ 5.2 1990 Handbooks (Status?)	JAY	
6 DISCUSSION:		
✓ 6.1 Halifax Const. Amendments Defered	JAY	
✓ 6.2 Grant Application Procedures (Draft)	RB	
✓ 6.3 Next Observer's Group Meeting	JAY	
✓ 6.4 New Meeting Times	JAY	
6.5 Truro Satelite Centre	DP	
6.6 ASP Purchases	JAY	
.1 Bumper Stickers (2 Doz)		
.2 Posters (2 Sets ie. 10 or 12)		
6.7 Centre Telescope Upgrade:	DL	
.1 Additional Accessories		
.2 Optional Accessories		
6.8 Consumer Education Project:	RB	
Report Evaluating some Commercial Telescopes for Sale in Canada.		
6.9 Oct 14 th Resolution concerning Sales Displays at RASC Meetings	JAY	
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October 14 th Resolution:		
Whereas the N.S. museum guidelines of 14 Sept 1989 for activities of societies meeting on their premises, only permits sales and fund raising activities by the society itself, The Centre Executive hereby directs that no commercial displays may be made at meetings of the Centre held in the N.S. museum.		
7 OTHER BUSINESS?		

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9
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Cont'd

8 FUTURE MEETINGS

	7:00 (Early Entertainment)	8:00 (Main Meeting)
November	?	Auroras on Venus? - Dr. Harry Tailor
December	?	Stellaphane: A 1st Time Experience - D. Lane / N. Cohen,
January	?	A View of the DAO - Dan Falk & Other Snippets...
February	?	? >>> Comets - Dave Turner?
March	?	The World of Amateur Radio Astronomy - Fr. Lono
April	?	?
May	Annual Banquet	?
June	?	Members Night & Trivia Contest
FUTURE:		Practical Uses for Astronomy - Nat Cohen
FUTURE:		Charge Coupled Devices (CCD's) - Dave Lane
FUTURE:		Possible Oceans on Venus - Pat Kelly
FUTURE:		Geomagnetic Effects on Power Systems - Joe Yurchesyn
FUTURE:		Var. Stars: Types & Observ'g Techn's - Joe Yurchesyn
FUTURE		CCD Research at St. Mary's U. - Garry Welch
FUTURE		Solar Observations - Dan MacLellan
FUTURE		Cosmology - Someone at Dal?

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA(S):

Centre Observatory Site	Status on Questar 3"	Talk Astrology vs Astronomy - ?
News Release Forms	N/N Book Reviews	Talk Ten Most Asked Questions: - ?
Life Member Certificates	Lottery or Contest (?)	Talk Ask an Astronomer - ?
Observing for Armchair Astronomers	Small Scope User's Challenge	Talk Fun with Astrolabs - ?
Len Larkin: TV Interview(s)	Purchase Collimating Eyepieces	Talk Things that go Wrong in the Dark - ?
Lost Member Survey		Talk Planetary View to
B & L Shakedown - Member's Night (Nat)		Plate Techtnics - P. Reynolds ?
Pamphlet How to Select a Telescope-Xmas		

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
HALIFAX CENTRE

c/o 1747 Summer Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3A6

The Executive of the Halifax Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada met on Friday November 17, 1989 at the Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The meeting began at 7:25 p.m. with the President, Joe Yurchesyn presiding.

Councilors Present:

Joe Yurchesyn, President; Paul Smith, 1st Vice-President; Mary Lou Whitehorse, 2nd Vice-President; David Lane, Secretary; Nat Cohen, Treasurer; Randall Brooks, National Representative; Douglas Pitcairn, Observing Chairman; Jim MacGuigan, Councillor; Jason Adams, Councillor.

Observers Present:

The membership at large (open executive meeting).

Notice of Regret for Non-Attendance:

Pat Kelly, Nova Notes Editor

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted by Paul Smith and seconded by Dave Lane.

2. Minutes of the Executive Meeting of October 14, 1989

The reading of the minutes of October 14, 1989 was deferred to the next meeting, as moved by Joe Yurchesyn and seconded by Dave Lane.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of October 14, 1989

The approval or dis-approval of the minutes of October 14, 1989 was deferred (see above).

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

The business arising from the minutes of October 14, 1989 was deferred (see above).

5. Announcements

5.1 Antigonish Meeting November 29, 1989

Mary Lou Whitehorne informed the executive of an invitation for members to attend a meeting of the Antigonish Astronomy Club on November 29, 1989. David Turner of SMU will speak on comets. The festivities are to begin at 7:00pm at St. F.X.

5.2 1990 Handbooks (Status?)

The 1990 Handbooks have arrived. The selling price this year is to be \$10.95 over the counter, \$11.95 by Canadian mail, or \$12 US to the United States.

? .1 Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next Executive meeting is to be on Friday December 8, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. at the residence of Randall Brooks, 71 Woodlawn Road, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

6. Discussion

6.1 Halifax Constitution Amendments Deferred

As Joe Yurchesyn was un-successful at getting an advanced copy of the new Hamilton Centre constitution, it was decided to delay action on this item until their proposed constitution is processed by the National Constitution Committee.

6.2 Grant Application Procedures (draft)

Randall Brooks distributed copies of his proposed "RASC SPECIAL GRANT Applications" procedure (attached) which he intends to present to the National Council at a future meeting. Discussion on this item was deferred to a future meeting.

6.3 Next Observers Group Meeting

The next observers group meeting will be held at the residence of Doug Pitcairn on January 12, 1990 at 7:30 p.m. The topic is to be "Telescopes and Preferences". The following observer's group meeting will be held at the residence of Jason Adams on February 9, 1990 at 7:30 p.m. The topic is to be "Astrophotography".

6.4 New Meeting Times

The new general meeting times were finalized as follows. The regular speaker is to begin at 8 p.m. A short executive meeting is to take place from 7:15 to 7:45 p.m. Announcements are to start at 7:45 pm.

6.5 Truro Satellite Centre

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

6.6 ASP Purchases

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

6.7 Centre Telescope Upgrade

Dave Lane presented a suggested list of accessories to be purchased for the Centre C8 telescope (attached).

It was moved by Randall Brooks and seconded by Mary Lou Whitehorne that Dave Lane acquire all of the accessories mentioned up to a maximum of \$500.00. The motion was passed unanimously.

6.8 Consumer Education Project: Report Evaluating some Commercial Telescopes for Sale in Canada

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

6.9 October 14, 1989 Resolution concerning Sales Displays at RASC Meetings

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

7. Other Business

Nothing to report.

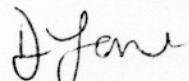
8. Future Meetings

Nothing to report.

? .2 Adjournment

It was moved by Randall Brooks and seconded by Dave Lane that the meeting adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



David Lane
(Secretary)



from the desk of Douglas Pitcairn, Observing Chairman
Halifax Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
13 Ferguson Road, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 4J8

Re: Truro Proposal

Nov 1989

Fellow RASC members,

As you may or may not have been aware, Over the last three years I have run several Continuing Education courses in astronomy in and around the Truro area. I have accumulated a base of about three dozen interested persons in this area who took my course, responded favorably, and even in some cases expressed a desire to start an astronomy interest group in the Truro area, (See attached "A"). Six of these people have since joined the RASC, Halifax Centre. In addition, I know of at least two other astronomy enthusiasts in this area who independently give talks and observing sessions to public groups.

With this in mind, I have a proposal which includes the Halifax Centre. I would like to send out a letter to these people making them a proposal, (see attached "B").

If it fails, all we are out is the postage. ($\approx \$15.00$) If such a group succeeds and stabilizes, we may find ourselves with a successful satellite centre.

I thought the commitment of four talks might serve as a booster to their efforts, as in the words of Len Larkin of the Saint John Astronomical Society; "...speakers are surely the most important and the most difficult aspect of a beginning astronomy club".

I would like the members approval for such a mailout, and would ask personal members if they would consider what they could give a talk about.

Things for discussion.

- 1) When should we attempt to start.
- 2) How much do we leave up to the Truro people. (ie. How hard do we push?)
- 3) What can we offer in the way of discounts, Handbooks?, Nova Notes? memberships?
- 4) Is a satellite centre worth the effort anyway?
- 5) Could they be connected with the Antigonish Group?
- 6) Are there any lessons to be passed on from the Bridgewater experience?

I thank you for your time and consideration,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Pitcairn".

Douglas Pitcairn, BSc
(902) 463 7196 after 6PM

Dear Astronomy Enthusiast!

As you know, I have given a course in astronomy in the Truro area three times in the last two years. As a result of this, I now have this delightful list of people in the Truro area who are interested in astronomy, and who might like to participate in an astronomy club of some sort. This is the purpose of this letter.

I am inviting you folks to get together, and start an astronomy club. You decide when, where, what you would like to call it. Let us know, and the RASC Halifax will provide you with your first four speakers. In addition, there is a possibility of a discount on The Observer's Handbook and/or membership in the RASC.

There is certainly enough interest for a small, informal club to operate successfully in the Truro area. If some of you have the desire and ambition to get involved actively in the group, I am quite certain that a sucessful club will result. Of the one hundred and sixty or so members in thje Halifax Centre, about two dozen do all the work. This is a typical ratio for a group of this type.

How would you benefit from such a group?

You would meet people who share your interest in astronomy.

You will be able to keep in touch more closely with current events on the ground and in the sky.

As a group, you could consider purchasing a large instrument and sharing observing activites.

With an organized group, you will be available to local media for the odd interview when they pick up on something happening in the sky. Although not that common, this is a nice experience, and a chance to share your enthusiasm directly with the public.

Also, we are far more likely to persuade people from the RASC and Saint Mary's Astronomy Dept. to travel to Truro for a talk if there is an organized group guaranteeing an interested audience.

There was a sub-group operating out of Bridgewater in this manner. It ran into difficulty when its most active members reached University age and left the area. You people seem to be on average past that turbulent stage in life, so that problem at least would not arise.

Would a Truro Astronomical Society (or whatever) be a worthwhile effort. I think it could be a lot of fun. It may last forever, it may fizzle out after the first four meetings. It largely depends on yourselves and how many of you want to put an effort into it. There is not that much involved. One person "bums" a meeting place (church hall, library, CEC room....?). One person provides coffee, someone else supplies a slide projector if the speaker needs one, and so on. If someone has a gift for speaking, perhaps he/she could be put to work in some way. It will at least give you a chance to ask others questions.

I have included a printout of the people whom this letter is being sent out to. If you know someone else on this list, it is a good place to start. Someone should start contacting others and decide if there is enough interest. If you need any assistance, please contact me anytime. We will await your results, and if & when you decide on a date for the first meeting, call and let me know when and where as soon as possible, and we will arrange for a slide talk. The ball is your hands folks.

Doug Pitcairn