

MINUTES OF THE
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - HALIFAX CENTRE

December 16th, 1994

Present: Ian Anderson, Roy Bishop, Larry Bogan, Paul Gray, Patrick Kelly, Dave Lane, Blair MacDonald, Shawn Mitchell, Clint Shannon, David Turner, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Joe Yurchesyn

The meeting convened at 19h09 in the board room at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.

1) **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was amended as follows:

Item 2) Change "November Meeting" to "October and November Meetings".

Approval of the agenda as amended was moved by JY/DT.....Motion carried.

2) **Approval of the Minutes of the October and November Meeting**

For the October minutes, it was noted that under item 4b "another copy" should read "~~2~~ 24 more copies".

Approval of the October minutes as amended was moved by SM/JY.....Motion carried.

For the November minutes, DL noted that under item 8 that he had not completed the poster. David Chapman had produced a draft copy of the poster which Dave had been planning to complete.

Approval of the November minutes as amended was moved by DT/IA.Motion carried.

3) **Business Arising from the Minutes**

MLW had been successful in getting the science fair material together in sufficient time for it to be included with the promotional material for the science fair.

4) **Reports from Members of the Executive**

a) President (DL)

John Reppa's Messier Certificate has been sent to him.

The Halifax Centre brochure and the Getting Started in Amateur Astronomy brochure have both been updated and 500 copies of each have been made.

b) First Vice-President (PK)

The Bedford school board has ordered 25 handbooks, after not having ordered any last year.

An ad for all three society publications (handbook, BOG and calendar) has been placed on the Internet newsgroup "ns.forsale". There has not been enough time yet to get any responses.

After having determined that the second box of BOG had contained 24 copies, thus making putting our inventory and sales in agreement, another box with 17 copies was found in the environment lab at TUNS.

c) Second Vice-President (MLW)

DL thanked MLW for the excellent job that she had done both for her work with the science fair and for the publicity for tonight's meeting.

MLW reported that due to delays, those members who had not yet received their August publications from the U of T Press, would not do so until January at the earliest as they had to reprint both the BULLETIN and Journal.

We have received the current newsletter from the IDA.

Executive members should note that Shawn has a new address.

800 brochures announcing planetarium shows were available for members to take and place in libraries, etc.

d) Secretary (PK)

The new RASC manual was received, but it was unsure whether it was the centre secretary's copy or the BULLETIN editor's copy. It was determined that DL already had the centre's copy. It was also mentioned that there were some errors in the manual.

e) Treasurer (IA)

The centre's receivables currently stand at about \$1,400, mostly due to the Nova Scotia Museum, who is late in processing their payments.

f) NOVA NOTES Editor (DL)

The current issue is ready and will be passed out at the meeting tonight. Those not picked up will be mailed out to members with the next batch of handbooks. The next issue will be out in January.

g) National Council Representative (JY) **No report.**

h) Librarian (SM) **No report.**

i) Observing Chairman (PG)

We had a good observing session for the Geminids.

We are hoping to arrange a joint observing session, probably at the St. Croix site, between the centre and the Minas Astronomy Group.

5) **Tonight's Agenda (DL)**

DL noted that we had only two "qualified" people present to do the meeting report. DT volunteered to do this meeting. It was also pointed out that we should try and keep the meeting short to allow for more social time afterwards.

6) **Upcoming Meetings (DL)**

7) **Observatory Land Search Committee Report**

It was hoped that a meeting would have been held in early December, but due to time constraints it was not possible. A date has been set for Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00 PM at the Saint Mary's astronomy department.

8) **Plan to Encourage Youth Membership (DL)**

DL reported that an E-mail version of the science fair information had been sent to all of the science teachers who are on SchoolNet. He also felt that while it was important that we encourage youth members, the centres and other astronomy groups that have had success in this area have had one or more people who do nothing other than coordinate youth activities. These tend to be heavily weighted towards observing and activities and are completely separate from the regular meetings. At present, those involved with the centre are working at capacity and we do not have the manpower to carry out such a program. One possibility would be for the centre to subsidize the cost of youth memberships, but charging only the national office portion of the fees. BM said that he would think about the issue.

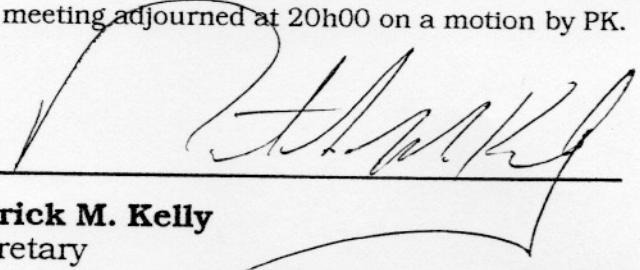
9) **Meeting Format (DL/DT)**

In light of the length of some meetings, it was felt that we should try to keep the meetings shorter. It was thought that a short membership survey, done through NOVA NOTES, should be done in order to see how the members feel about this.

10) **Other Business**

Moved by MLW/BM that the centre recognize Heather Cameron's achievements by giving her a complimentary 1995 membership. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 20h00 on a motion by PK.



Patrick M. Kelly
Secretary