

MINUTES OF THE  
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - HALIFAX CENTRE  
February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1995

Present: Ian Anderson, Nat Cohen, Paul Gray, Tom Harp, Dave Lane, Blair MacDonald, Shawn Mitchell, Clint Shannon, Mary Lou Whitehorse, Joe Yurchesyn

The meeting convened at 19h11 at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, Halifax.

1) Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the agenda was moved by TH/IA. .... Motion carried.

2) Approval of the Minutes of the December Meeting

Minutes to be amended, in item (8) "Midas" to read "Minas".

Approval of the December minutes was moved by IA/SM. .... Motion carried.

3) Business Arising from the Minutes of the December Meeting

None.

4) Reports from Members of the Executive

- a) President (DL) No report.
- b) First Vice-President (BM) No report.
- c) Second Vice-President (SM)

The merchandise items have been turned over. Pat Kelly will maintain the database on these items.

- d) Secretary (TH) No report.
- e) Treasurer (IA)

Ian reported that there has been little recent activity. There are still 16 to 17 unrenewed members from last year. The Centre has a membership of approximately 110.

The Centre's cash balance is \$ 6,170.26.

- f) NOVA NOTES Editor (DL)

Dave reported that the February edition of Nova Notes was not yet complete. It should be complete the week of February 20th.

- g) National Council Representative (PK) No Report.

- h) Librarian (CS)

A printed index of the books and other items in the Centre's library will be forthcoming.

- i) Observing Chairman (PG) No report.

5) Tonight's Agenda (DL)

With no "qualified" reporter present, Nat Cohen volunteered to be the reporter for tonight's meeting.

6) Upcoming meetings (DL)

February: David Guenther (SMU) - Solar Seismology

March: Chris Corbally (Vatican Observatory) - History of the VO (or our choice)

April: Doug Hube - The location for this meeting is yet to be determined since it will be held on 25 April.

May: Annual Banquet - Michael West (SMU)

June: TBA

7) (a) Halifax Amateur Radio Club "Field Day" (JY)

Joe reported that the local Amateur Radio club had expressed an interest in having the Centre run an observing session in conjunction with the Canadian Radio Relay League Field Day contest in June. There is usually press coverage of Field Day. The Centre would also benefit from this exposure. Interest in conducting the observing session was expressed by BM, DL and TH.

(b) Parks are for People

The setting of dates for public observing sessions at Dollar Lake Park was deferred. A decision on the dates is to be made by PG and BM. MLW passed on the appropriate forms to BM for action. The forms must be submitted by 28 February.

8) Proposed Date Change for Nova East '95 (DL/PG/CS)

Nova East is usually held in late August. It was noted that this date brings it into conflict with Starfest in Mount Forest. In order to allow Centre members to attend both events, a date change for Nova East to late July is being considered. DL reported that Doug Pitcairn is opposed to a date change for Nova East.

Motion: That the date for Nova East in 1995 be changed to the July 29th weekend.  
Moved by DL/BM..... Motion Carried.

9) Observatory Land Search Committee Report

The preparation of a budget for 1995 has been started. Two possible short term developments of the new site are being considered. The first would be to construct a driveway to the site and pour a concrete pad. This would cost about \$2,000. A second possibility in addition would be a slab on grade and a heated room. This would involve the expenditure of an additional \$ 3,000. Work could commence in the April/May time frame.

IA stated that for cash flow considerations, no expenditures in excess of \$ 1,000 made until 1 June/95.

Moved by IA/PG..... Motion Carried.

IA requested authority to purchase a GIC in the amount of \$ 5,000.

Moved by IA/MLW..... Motion Carried.

Two copies of the lease for the new observing site have been received from Annapolis Group Inc. (Minas Basin Pulp and Paper). A brief discussion of the terms of the lease followed and they appear favourable.

JY was authorised to seek legal advise regarding the terms of the lease for a reasonable fee.

Moved by BM/SM..... Motion Carried.

10) Burke-Gaffney Award Judging Results (MLW/JY)

There are two winners this year. The first is Larry Bogen for his article on orbits. The second is Blair MacDonald for his article on light correction.

Motion made by MLW/BM..... Motion Carried.

11) School-based Astronomy Program (BM)

A draft copy of a letter which Blair proposes to send to the schools was presented for discussion. It was noted that books have in the past been loaned only to RASC members. This policy will be changed to allow teachers to borrow from the library.

BM was authorised to distribute the letter after suitable amendments had been made.

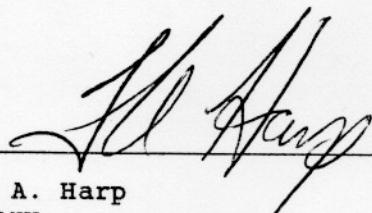
Motion by MLW/IA..... Motion Carried.

12) Annual Banquet (NC)

Nat Cohen has booked the Legion Hall in Waverley for this year's Annual Banquet. The banquet will be held on Friday May 19/95. The meal will be turkey with an alternative available on advance notification (for those who cannot eat turkey).

The cost of the lounge rental will be \$ 107. The cost of the meal will be \$ 8 per person. The price which the club will charge will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 20h05 on a motion by SM.



Thomas A. Harp  
Secretary