

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - HALIFAX CENTRE

October 18, 1996

Present: Ian Anderson, Roy Bishop, Larry Bogan, Dave Chapman, Murray Cunningham, Paul Gray, Tom Harp, Dave Lane, Shawn Mitchell, Clint Shannon, Dave Turner, Mary Lou Whitehorne

The meeting convened at 19h10 at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, Halifax.

1) Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

2) Approval of the Minutes of the September Meeting

The minutes for the September meeting were approved on a motion from DT/CS..... Motion Carried.

3) Business Arising from the Minutes of the September Meeting

Further to Item 4 g), no representative from the Centre will be attending the October meeting of the National Council.

4) Reports from Members of the Executive

a) President (DC)

No Report.

b) First Vice-President (BM) Absent

It was noted that the attendance at the sidewalk astronomy session held last month was not as well attended as the previous event during the summer.

c) Second Vice-President (SM)

The Nova Scotia Bookstore has lost our invoice for the 1996 Handbooks. A duplicate will be issued. The Centre has no BOGs, they will have to be ordered. It was noted that we should have a copy of the BOG for the Centre library.

Calendars will be for sale after the meeting. It was suggested that it is now time to get some calendars to Atlantic News.

d) Secretary (TH)

No report.

e) Treasurer (IA)

The Centre's cash balance is \$ 5,210.14. A preliminary financial report for 1996 indicates that \$ 5,806 have been donated to the Observatory Fund. Costs incurred to date for the observatory amount to \$ 9,628. These unrecoverable costs have been expensed.

There was a discussion regarding the lateness of the membership renewal notices from U of T Press. Several members of the Executive expressed their dissatisfaction with the situation.

f) NOVA NOTES Editor (DL)

The next issue of NN will be ready in about a week's time.

g) National Council Representative (PK) Absent

h) Observing Chairman (PG)

No Report other than Nova East, refer to Item 7.

5) Tonight's Meeting

- LB will be the meeting reporter
- Announcements (welcome, new member contact, brochures, Dan Falk G&M column, free BOG to new members)
- What's Up? Comet Tabur
- Nomination Committee: DL & MLW
- Observatory Progress: SM
- Speaker: Ivan Smith "Curiosities of the Calendar".
- Illustration and discussion of Sundogs by DT.
- Social Hour

6) Observatory Committee (SM)

A progress report will be presented during the general meeting.

7) Nova East (DL)

Nova East 1997 will be held over the Labor Day weekend. (New moon is 1 September.) It was confirmed that we will have to pay for the campsites in advance and collect the camping fees from the participants.

A tentative fee structure is as follows:

Advance Registration	\$ 10 Single	Registration	\$ 15 Single
	\$ 20 Family		\$ 25 Family
Advance Camping	\$ 7.50/night	Camping	\$ 10.00/night

Of the 24 sites in the area, it was proposed that 8 sites be designated for event volunteers. Additional details presented made it obvious that considerable thought has already gone into planning Nova East '97.

Motion: That PG be authorized to negotiate with Parks Canada in matters pertaining to Nova East along the lines noted above.

DL/MLW.....Motion Carried.

8) Science Fair

A motion to change our award status will be presented at the AGM in November. This motion will be published in Nova Notes prior to the meeting.

9) Nomination Committee

The report of the committee is as follows:

President	David Chapman
First Vice-President	Blair MacDonald
Second Vice-President	Clint Shannon
Secretary	Mary Lou Whitehorne
Treasurer	Ian Anderson
Observing Chairperson	Shawn Mitchell
Nova Notes Editor	David Lane
National Council Rep.	Pat Kelly
Librarian	Tony Jones(?)
Councillors	Paul Gray, Darren Talbot(?), Dave Turner

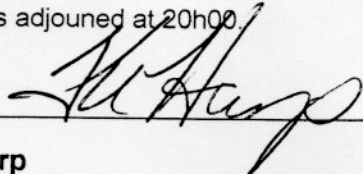
11) Other Business

None.

Upcoming Meetings and Events (DC)

November 15	Annual General Meeting, Member's Night (DT: Astronomy Jargon, PG & DC Nova East Slides, RB: Lunar Eclipse slides)
December 13	Beginner's Night (Buying a first telescope, Easy Messier objects, CS: Books for beginners, SM: Centre merchandise for beginners, DL: ECU, Astro cartoons)
Later	Speaker exchange with RASC (Doug George was suggested as a possible speaker.) Larry Mayer (UNB): Astronomy and Paleogeology

The meeting was adjourned at 20h00.



Thomas A. Harp
Secretary