

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - HALIFAX CENTRE
April 23, 1997.

Present: Dave Chapman, Shawn Mitchell, Dave Lane, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Dave Turner, Sue Murchison
Paul Gray, Clint Shannon, Large Bowl of Popcorn

Absent: Blair MacDonald, Pat Kelly, Ian Anderson, Robin Clayton, Greg Spearns

The meeting was called to order at 19h34 by Dave Chapman, President

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

The minutes for the March '97 meeting were approved. (moved by SM, seconded by CS)

3. Business arising from the minutes

- DL is following up on UTP items of business re: errors in membership list but communications with UTP are difficult at best.

4. Reports from members of the Executive

4a - President - DC reports that Doug George enjoyed his visit to the centre

4b - 1st VP - no report

4c - 2nd VP - Clint reports some inventory out on consignment; still waiting for an invoice from NO; will sell stuff at next meeting and at NE'97, Calendars will be removed from retailers.

4d - secretary - no report

4e - treasurer - no report

- NN Editor - working on next issue with much mumbling and grumbling; DL reiterated that he will not be editing NN in 1998.

4g- Nat'l Rep - PK will act as Nat'l Rep at the Kingston GA this year.

4h&i - Obs. Chair & Obs. C'ttee - summer work parties are set to begin in May, SM outlined plans for this year's work to be carried out: carpet for the roll-off, painting & wood preservative, cleaning up the site, gravel, other finishing work.

SM also to draft a "key policy" for the observatory. DL discussed money and future plans for the site: we have the cash to complete a large scope; RLB will test Paul's 17.5" mirror around which the scope will probably be built.

4j - librarian - no report

5. Burke-Gaffney Award

DL has short list of potential winners; DC and SM will decide on the winner for the May meeting. Award to be presented in June.

6. Centre Pot Luck Picnic:-

June 21st, summer solstice, early afternoon event, official opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony of some kind - Centre to spring for certain requisite picnic items; SM will contrive a jury-rig table or two, the event will be a BYOC (bring your own chair), DC will invite certain interested outside parties to event, it will be necessary for someone to ensure that Murray Cunningham gets driven there and back home.

7. Sidewalk Observing

Tentative dates are July 8, 9, 10 and August 5, 6, 7; depending on when Buskerfest is to be held. NSMNH to be notified so that the event can be published in their newsletter. Dollar Lake Parks are for People program has been cancelled for this year and the foreseeable future in favour of the sidewalk astronomy events.

8. Nova East '97

A thorough critique of Paul's NE'97 brochure occurred. Speakers for public talks are not yet confirmed. Paul is on top of the situation. We may show the comet video, we may ask RLB to talk on tides. Paul proposed a \$100 honorarium to entice Damien Lemay to attend and give a talk - no decision was reached on this issue.

9. Other Business

DL asked DC to ask Dale Ellis if Dale has Murray's Maksutov scope.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

May 16: Comet Odyssey video & comet night & observatory name debate

June 20: Roy and Pat Cosmic Show? or Leslie Sage (SMU guest speaker)

July long weekend - Kingston GA

July/August - sidewalk astronomy

September - maybe Pat & Roy if they get bumped in June

Oct. and on - TBD

Meeting adjourned at 21h30 by Dave Chapman

Mary Lou Whitehorne, Secretary, Halifax Centre RASC