

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - HALIFAX CENTRE  
May 16, 1997.

Present: Shawn Mitchell, Dave Lane, Mary Lou Whitehorne, Clint Shannon, Pat Kelly, Ian Anderson, Robin Clayton, Greg Spearns, Murray Cunningham, Roy Bishop

Absent: Blair MacDonald, Dave Chapman, Paul Gray

The meeting was called to order at about 19h04m by Captain Clinton Shannon, 2nd V.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 April '97 meeting were approved. (moved by DL, seconded by SM)

**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. Still lots of mistakes and the effort continues ad nauseum.  
- CS is checking up in consignments of Observers Handbooks and BOGs around town.

**4. Reports from members of the Executive**

**4a** - President - no report

**4b** - 1st VP - no report

**4c** - 2nd VP - no report

**4d** - secretary - no report

**4e** - treasurer - 1996 financial report went off to auditor who has not yet had time to examine the report. Money market account is worth \$2167.19; bank balance is \$2471.19

**4f** - NN Editor - recent issue is out now; next issue due out in early June.

**4g** - Nat'l Rep - there are 3 going to the GA in Kingston this year: D. Lane, P. Kelly and R. Bishop. They will submit our centre entry on the St. Croix Observatory in the GA Display Competition. There is to be discussion at NC as to whether or not Sky News will continue to be bundled with membership in the future.

**4h&i** - Obs. Chair & Obs. C'ttee - there has been one incident of minor vandalism at the observatory site and the damage has been repaired and new measure are being implemented to improve the situation at the site.

**MOTION:** Shawn Mitchell moved that the Centre impose a key fee of \$5.00 (non-refundable) to be charged every time that the locks need to be changed. SM submitted a copy of the key requisition form to be attached to these minutes. Seconded by P. Kelly. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** D. Lane moved that further discussion on observatory key policy be tabled until the end of this meeting. Seconded by P. Kelly. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Be it resolved that an observatory key holder be required to a) be a member in good standing for one year, and be known to the observing chairman and/or vouched for by another key holder, b) be trained in the use of the facilities, or c) in certain special cases be given a key at the discretion of the observing chairman. Seconded by MLW. Motion carried.

**4i** - Nova East '97 - deferred in the absence of Paul Gray, event coordinator.

**4j** - librarian - D. Chapman donated a new book (on constellations & their lore?) to the Centre Library.

**5. Meeting Report Volunteer**

Larry Bogan caved in this time.

## 6. Burke-Gaffney Award

We are waiting for Dave Chapman's input before final decision is made.

## 7. Centre Pot Luck Picnic:-

June 21st, beginning at noon, 1:00 PM ribbon cutting to take place, eating continues throughout. Invites to go to Minas Basin Pulp & Power folks. P. Kelly will bring his canoe. The Potty issue remains unresolved at present.

## 8. Sidewalk Observing

This is coming together fairly well, Maritime Museum is doing some advertising for us and volunteers will be coerced at the regular June meeting.

## 9. Other Business

Clint will ask members that all telescopes out on loan be returned to the Observing Chair for inventory purposes. The real reason is to try and locate two of ours scopes that have gone missing. Murray's maksutov was located at the meeting but the whereabouts of the C-8 remains a mystery.

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

June 20: Leslie Sage (SMU guest speaker)

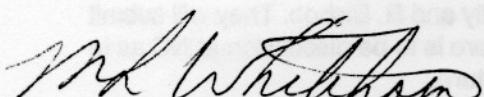
June 21: Star-B-Que (grand opening of the newly named St. Croix Observatory)

July long weekend - Kingston GA

July/August - sidewalk observing

September - Roy and Pat Cosmic Show

Meeting adjourned at 19h57 by Captain Shannon



Mary Lou Whitehorne, Secretary, Halifax Centre RASC



# St. Croix Observatory

## Key Requisition Form

Please Print

First Name  Last Name

Address   
  
  
 Postal Code

Home Telephone #

Work Telephone #

Date when you joined the Halifax Centre

Centre use only

Key #  Fee Paid  Date

Key Returned  Date Returned  Key Lost

### Conditions:

You may not make copies of the Observatory Keys. If copied keys are discovered all the locks will be changed.

A key holder must be present at all times when the observatory buildings are open.

A key holder accepts responsibility for the observatory buildings when opened by a key holder. This includes ensuring that all the buildings and equipment are put away and locked up before leaving, or making sure another key holder is present who will ensure the security of the Observatory.

Do you understand and agree to these conditions? Yes/No

Signature  Date

Observing Chairman  Date