



RASC, Halifax Centre Annual General Meeting – December 7, 2018

AGENDA

Welcome & Opening Remarks

- 1- Approval of 2018 Agenda
- 2- Approval of Minutes of December 8, 2017 AGM
- 3- Appointment of Auditor for 2018-2019 Audit

Reports

- 4- President Report – Paul Gray
- 5- VP Report – Melody Hamilton
- 6- Secretary Report– Judy Black
- 7- Auditor Report – Dave Lane
- 8- Treasurer Report – Jim Millar (on behalf of Gregg Dill)
- 9- National Council Representative Report – Pat Kelly

Committee Reports

- 10- Observing Chair Report– Sean Dzafovic
- 11- St. Croix Observatory (SCO) Report – Paul Gray
- 12- Nova Notes – Charles White
- 13- Nova East Report – Judy Black
- 14- Librarian Report – John Read
- 15- Outreach Chair Report – Paul Heath

Matters to Be Determined by Special Resolution

- 16- Amendment to Bylaw #1: Proposed addition to Section 6 regarding the Board conducting business via electronic media – Judy Black, Paul Gray

Call for Nominations and Election of 2018 Council

- 17- Nominating Committee Report - Paul Gray
 - a- Nominations for positions
 - b- Elections for positions

RASC, Halifax Centre Members' Meeting – December 7, 2018

1. What's Up? – Sean Dzafovic
2. Presentation: Paul Gray - "Roar of the Dragon"
3. Video: Jerry Black (*San Pedro de Atacama at Night 4K HDR*)
4. Date of next Members' Meeting – January 5, 2019 in Room AT101
5. Adjournment

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Halifax Centre
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Friday, December 7, 2018

Welcome and Opening Remarks

President Paul Grey welcomed the 29 members and 6 guests to the meeting and thanked them for coming out despite the storm. He then provided opening remarks.

1. Approval of 2018 Agenda

071218AGM-Mot01:

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by May Lou Whitehorne to approve the 2018 AGM agenda as circulated.

CARRIED.

2. Approval of 2018 AGM Minutes

The minutes of the 2017 AGM had been pre-circulated to members.

071218AGM-Mot02:

It was moved by Patrick Kelly and seconded by David Lane to approve the minutes of the 2017 AGM as circulated.

CARRIED.

3. Appointment of a New Auditor

Paul Gray stated that Jim Millar had agreed to stand as auditor for 2018-2019.

071218AGM-Mot03:

It was moved by David Chapman and seconded by Judy Black to appoint Jim Millar as Auditor for 2018- 2019.

CARRIED unanimously.

Board Executive & Financial Reports

(Note: All reports in their entirety will be in the Jan/Feb edition of Nova Notes)

4. **President's Report** – Paul Gray noted the past year was very busy and successful. Nova East was again successful. The Members' meeting had good speakers, and there was lots of outreach in large part due to the efforts of Paul Heath and Tony Schellinck. He congratulated Charles on a job well done as new editor. There is movement at SCO regarding upgrades; John McPhee is obtaining pricing for a new propane tank and heater. A major change will be moving the meeting time to Saturday afternoon from Friday night, starting in January 2019
5. **Vice-President's Report** – Judy Black presented the report on behalf of Melody Hamilton. Thanks to collaborative work with Judy Black and Dave Chapman, Melody developed a communications strategy for the Centre that involved identifying the social media used, for whom it was intended and who within the Centre was acting as the administrator. A form was also developed that facilitated the organization of the information required and sending it out electronically to the social media administrators. It was noted that Melody was not re-offering to be on the Board due to travel time and distance.
6. **Secretary's Report** – Judy Black stated there were 10 Board of Directors meetings and 9 Members' meetings in 2017-2018, including the informal members' BBQ at SCO. Members were notified at least twice about each of the meetings. There were numerous motions made by Council such as funds required for additional funds for Nova East, purchase of banners for displays, appointment of Gregg Dill as Treasurer and of Dave Lane as Auditor for 2017-2018, and

approval of several policies, position descriptions and terms of reference. She thanked the Centre's and fellow Board members for the support she continued to receive in the past year.

7. **Auditor's Report** – Dave Lane read his Auditor's letter as Gregg Dill could not attend the meeting. Dave noted that despite the learning curve during Gregg's first year as Treasurer, the Centre had been served well in the past year. He thanked Jim Millar for continuing his role as Treasurer until March 2018, and for his continued assistance. There were two recommendations:
 - a) Before the books are put to rest, printouts of all the revenue, expense, and balance sheet transactions should be included in the records binder.
 - b) Cheques for expenses should not be released until receipts (or photos/scans of them) are received by the Treasurer.

071218AGM-Mot04:

It was moved by Paul Heath and seconded by Patrick Kelly to approve the Auditors Report. CARRIED.

8. **Treasurer's Report** - Jim Millar provided highlights of the Treasurer's report in the absence of Gregg Dill. Revenue was \$5,792.41 with expenses at \$6,676.12. This meant a deficit of \$883.71 for the year, but the Centre continues to be successful and solvent. He explained the increased income was due to the Public Speaker Program (PSP) that reimbursed the Centre for most of the guest speaker expenses, and for the monies obtained for licensing of the usage of the Halifax Centre-produced video regarding use of a star finder. He then explained the assets of \$32,725.95, the liabilities of \$1,240.42., and a slight increase in capital. Nova East netted a profit of \$1,279.29 due to reimbursement through the RASC Public Speaker Program. Jim also notified the membership he is stepping down from the treasurer's role.

071218AGM-Mot05:

It was moved by Jim Millar and seconded by Chris Young to approve the Financial Report. CARRIED.

Appointed Position & Committee Reports

(Note: These reports in their entirety will be in the Jan/Feb edition of Nova Notes.)

Members agreed to approve all reports at the end of the reports in lieu of approving each individually. Time was allotted after each report for questions and clarifications.

9. **National Council Representative Report** – Pat Kelly reported the National Council determined a new structure to make meetings more efficient. A more consistent reporting schedule for committees also allows for questions to be raised from committee reports, and plans being made by the Board to devolve the responsibility for some committees to the National Council. In October, the Board decide to replace two existing committees (Education and Public Outreach, and Membership and Development) with four new ones: Education, K-12, Marketing and Public Relations, and Communications. Terms of Reference are being drafted and members sought for the committees. He encouraged everyone to log into the members' section of the Society website and look at the reports of the various committees.
10. **Observing Chair Report** – In the absence of Sean Dzafovic, Judy Black presented highlights from Sean's report. Four members received RASC certificates in the past year for Explore the Universe – Judy Black, Ronnie Reid, Heidi Verheul and Charles White. It was also noted that three members received recognition in SkyNews for Photo of the Week – Barry Burgess, Jerry Black and Dave Chapman. Barry Burgess also won first place in the annual round-up in the Tripod Mounted or Sky Tracker category.
11. **St. Croix Observatory (SCO) Report** – Judy Black presented highlights from a compiled report. The annual SCO BBQ was another success this past year with new and returning members in attendance. Thanks to Chris Yong, Sean Dzafovic, Pat Kelly and Paul Grey for organizing the

BBQ. We had the highest number in attendance for the BBQ this year. She also encouraged members that even if they are alone at SCO, they should make an entry into the log book on the table; this would provide a better understanding as to the frequency of use of the observatory. SCO continues to fulfill a worthwhile function for the Centre membership and thanked everyone who contributed to SCO operations.

12. **Nova Notes Report** – Judy Black reported on behalf of Charles White. Five editions of Nova Notes were published, starting with his inaugural 2017 AGM reports. Thanks to Paul Heath (*Food for the Soul*) and Dave Chapman (*Lunatic Ramblings*) for their recurring articles. Thanks also to Blair MacDonald, Melody Hamilton, Chris Young, Judy Black, Michael Boschat, Michael Gatto and John McPhee for their contributions throughout the year. Thank you as well for contributors to the cover photos – Dr. Roy Bishop, Dave Chapman, Dave Hoskin and Michael Boschat. An average of 12 copies per issue were mailed. Slight changes have been made to the format and there is a new section dedicated to observing, sketching and astrophotography. Charles also has a “From the Editor” section where he shares his views. Thank you, Charles, for a job well done.
13. **Nova East Report** – Judy Black, as Chair of the 32nd Nova East, reported another successful event thanks to the work of her team members – Dr. Roy Bishop (consultant), Melody Hamilton, Chris Young, Paul Gray, Gregg Dill, Dave Chapman, John Read, Liz Greenough and Pat Kelly. There were four new items added to the Nova East agenda: the much-enjoyed Astronomers’ Lounge and the Astrophotography People’s Choice Award as suggested by Melody Hamilton, Telescope Medics as recommended from 2017 Nova East attendees, and a first aid station suggested by Judy Black. She noted that Kathy Walker had won both the Astrophotography contest and the People’s Choice Award for her M13 photo. New to pass on to the planning committee for Nova East 2019:
 - a. Outcome of the review of the astrophotography contest rules and judging criteria;
 - b. Summary of recommendations regarding recurring events, health and safety, inventory lists and an action list; and
 - c. A revised Nova East Task Chart with revised tasks and timelines required for planning Nova East.
14. **Librarian Report** – Judy Black reported on behalf of John Read who had been newly appointed as Librarian. She noted that although the library cart had not been rolled out in the past year, John was planning how to revitalize usage of the Halifax Centre library, including discussions of book recommendations at each Members’ meeting.
15. **Outreach Report** – Paul Heath provided an overview of his report. He thanked everyone who helped throughout the year. He various events such as HalCon that provide visibility for RASC and Halifax Centre.

He thanked:

- a. Tony Schellinck for his phenomenal work in outreach using binoculars, through community-based presentations and through SCANS;
- b. Melody for her work in the Digby-Valley area; and
- c. Dave Chapman for his work with Kejimikujik Dark-Sky Weekend.

Dave Chapman asked whether or not someone was recording outreach reports with RASC. Judy Black reported that a concerted effort by the Board had not been made and that it basically was up to each member to report their activities with RASC. Paul Heath and Judy Black stated they included numbers in their respective biannual and annual reports. Paul Gray suggested a question for National Council might be to determine how many Centres report outreach events, and to determine relevance to RASC for determining dissemination of educational and promotional materials to the Centres.

Dave Lane asked if our outreach efforts meant to increase our exposure, particularly at exhibitions and conventions, result in increased membership. The answer could not be ascertained but it was generally thought that our efforts helped maintain the membership we have. The Board of Directors should investigate further.

It was moved by Chris Young and seconded by Mary Lou Whitehorne to accept the Reports as presented.
CARRIED.

Matters to be Determined by Special Resolution

16. **Bylaw #1 Amendment** – Judy Black and Paul Gray presented the amendment proposed for members consideration. It was explained that from time to time business arose between regularly scheduled meetings of the Board that required Board approval, such as decisions impacting fiscal responsibilities. The need is there for a member-approved mechanism whereby the Board could choose to conduct business via electronic media. The addition of the following statement to Section 6.5 Voting at Board of Directors meetings was proposed:

6.5.3 From time to time, the Board of Directors may choose to conduct business via electronic media according to procedure determined by the Board. Such procedure shall set out rules for making, seconding, discussing, and voting on motions. The Secretary shall record successful motions made in this manner, and the results shall be read into the minutes of the next following Board of Directors meeting.

Members were then presented with the following Special Resolution:

Whereas, it is recognized that from time to time urgent business arises that requires Board of Director approval between meetings and that a mechanism to do so is required,

Be it resolved as a **Special Resolution of Members** that:

- RASC Halifax Centre Bylaw # 1 addition of 6.5.3 to 6.5 Voting at Board of Director Meetings as presented be approved;
- RASC Halifax Centre Bylaw #1 with the aforesaid amendment be forwarded to the Registry of Joint Stock Companies for approval prior to enactment.

071218AGM-Mot07:

It was moved by Jim Millar and seconded by Patrick Kelly to adopt the Special Resolution related to adoption of the modified RASC Halifax Centre voting at Board of Directors meetings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Two amendments to the addition were suggested:

- a) There was a redundancy in using the phrase “next following.” It was suggested that “following” be deleted.
- b) A more definitive method of reporting the outcome of the vote should be provided, such as replacing “read onto the minutes” with “reported at”; in this way, the vote would be noted in the minutes of meeting accordingly.

Both Jim Millar and Patrick Kelly agreed to the amendments. The addition being forwarded to the Registry of Joint Stock Companies (RJSC) will read as follows:

6.5.3 From time to time, the Board of Directors may choose to conduct business via electronic media according to procedure determined by the Board. Such procedure shall set out rules for making, seconding, discussing, and voting on motions. The Secretary shall record successful motions made in this manner, and the results shall be reported at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Call for Nominations and Election of 2019 Board of Directors

17. Paul Gray explained that according to Bylaw #1 (2017) now enacted, there could be no less than five and no more than 10 on the Board. He noted that Sean Dzafovic, Andrew Frank and Melody Hamilton are stepping down from the Board. However, Sean Dzafovic agreed to be re-appointed

as Observing Chair and Melody agreed to serve as Nova East Registrar. Paul was stepping down as President after 4 years in that capacity but he was agreeable to be elected as a Director.

There was a call for nominations from the floor for the 2019 Board of Directors. The slate of nominees for the 2019 Board of Directors was presented as follows and included one new member:

Executive Committee

President – vacant

Vice-President – Charles White

Recording Secretary – Judy Black agreed to re-offer as Recording Secretary

Treasurer – Gregg Dill agreed to re-offer as Treasurer

Directors

Pat Kelly – also agreed to be re-appointed as the National Representative

John Read – also agreed to be appointed Librarian

Paul Heath – also agreed to be re-appointed as Outreach Chair

Charles White – also agreed to be re-appointed as Editor, Nova Notes

Paul Gray – agreed to be appointed as Meeting Coordinator

Tom Crosman

071218AGM-Mot08:

It was moved by Jim Millar and seconded by Dave Lane to close nominations.
CARRIED.

There being no further nominations, the 2019 Board of Directors positions were approved by acclamation. A President will be actively sought.

Paul Gray stated that Dr. Roy Bishop was resigning his position as Honorary President as of December 31, 2018. Paul pointed out Roy's observation that all previous Honorary Presidents had died while in the role, and he preferred to leave while still alive. To that end, the Board sought a replacement and had subsequently appointed Mary Lou Whitehorne as the Honorary President commencing January 1, 2019. Members applauded the appointment.

071218AGM-Mot09

It was moved by Pat Kelly to adjourn the AGM.

Regular Members' Meeting

18. **What's Up?** – Paul Gray provided the *What's up?* in Sean's absence.

19. **Presentations:**

a) ***San Pedro de Atacama 4K HDR (Video)*** – Jerry Black explained this was a repeat viewing of the video but that it was now viewable in 4K format and that the music had been changed, thanks to the approval of pianist composer Rachel Lafond. Members applauded the video at its conclusion.

b) ***Roar of the Dragon!*** – Paul Gray presented his observations of the Draconid Meteor shower. He explained that each year, Earth encounters a stream of meteoroids left behind by comet 21P/Giacobini-Zinner. On several occasions in the last century, there have been outburst with ZHR's in the 100s to 1000s of meteors seen visually. Visual and radio observations were explained.

20. **Refreshments:** Members were invited to socialize and enjoy the Christmas treats provided.

21. **Date of Next Members' Meeting:** January 5, 2019: 1:00 – 4: 30 PM in AT101

22. Adjournment at 10:30 PM.

2018 Annual Report: President

Well, 2018 is soon going to be history and with it my term as President will come to an end. After serving as President for 3 of the past 4 years, with the other year as Vice-President but filling the President role, it is time for me to step aside and take a break. It will not be a complete vacuum as I step out, however, as our Board of Directors is a very strong team who carried us through the many changes in the past year. Many thanks to all of them for all their efforts!

Nova East was a huge success once again and even had some clear skies this year. We must thank Judy Black for stepping up to Chair this event and to see its success! Observing was done and enjoyed by many. Great talks by the speakers with observing being the theme, surrounded good food and company throughout the weekend. Our guest speakers from away were a joy to have with us for the weekend and both enjoyed our event greatly.

Nova Notes once again is one of the best Centre newsletters in the RASC. With our new editor, Charles White, it is well taken care of and is always full of material well worth reading. Many thanks to both Charles and to all those who submitted material.

Outreach events at the Halifax Centre again was vast. A quick look at Paul Heath's report and you can see just how much he and others do within Nova Scotia for astronomy outreach. Great job again Paul and all others who stepped up at events.

One item we have had much chatter about in the past couple years has been upgrades to the St. Croix Observatory. Well, we are moving forward with first upgrading the heating system. The plan is to have a large propane tank installed and serviced so that we can run the pilot light on the furnace all winter. This will mean a quick, easy turn on of the heat for all who use SCO.

The last major item this year is our plan to change meeting date and time starting in January. Yes, beginning in January we will be meeting on the 1st Saturday afternoon of each month except July and August. Meetings will begin at 1 pm in our usual room and run till 4:30. I will continue to help out with meetings for the first part of the new year to see the format gets a good start. Hopefully some of the advantages to this change will mean more attendance and reach. We plan to start going out to a meal after the meeting, something that was done years ago and is done in many other centres. Social time is good for the club. As well, there will be a bit longer of a social break within the meeting to get the chance to talk to members. A chance to hopefully get some youth out and involve them in the meeting will be another advantage. Hope to see many of you at the new date and time.

Thank you all for coming out and I look forward to joining you next year.

Clear skies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Gray, President
RASC, Halifax Centre

2018 Annual Report: Vice-President

As Vice-President, I stood in for President Paul Gray on two occasions. Coming into this position without any previous experience, I want to thank this wonderful team of people for their patience and support as I navigated these new procedures.

My primary effort, as Vice-President, was continuing with the communications plan that was initiated by Dave Chapman (then Vice-President) and Judy Black (Secretary) some three years ago. With very few adjustments the RASC, Halifax Centre-Board Communication Responsibilities document was prepared and submitted to the Board of Directors in November 2018. Much of the communication in this document is accomplished by our Secretary, Judy Black. Thank you, Judy, for the tremendous effort you put forth to keep us all informed of Centre activities.

A second communication document was developed this year that focused on social media, and who has access to post information on the various sites and lists. My sincere thanks to Dave Chapman and Judy Black for their major contributions to this list. This document was also submitted to the Board of Directors for their review in November 2018. Continuing with the social media communication, it was important to ensure that the same accurate information reach those who post on the sites. A form was developed that contained such information as: outreach events, SCO member night, monthly meeting topics, speakers and speaker information, and Blair MacDonald's astrophotography talks. This information would be gathered at the Board of Directors meeting, then afterwards sent out to the members who will, in turn, post to social media. A "fillable" form was created by John Read. This facilitated the organization of information and sending it via the internet. Thank you very much, John.

Due to the travel time and distance, I will not be re-offering to serve on the Board of Directors in the new year. However, I will continue to support RASC, Halifax Centre but limited to that which can be accomplished mainly from home.

My heartfelt thanks to those who serve and continue to serve on this Board of Directors. Not enough praise can be offered for this great team that guides our Centre!

See you under the stars....

Melody Hamilton, Vice-President
RASC, Halifax Centre

2018 Annual Report: Secretary

The principal duty of the secretary is to provide minutes, agendas, and meeting announcements to the Board of Directors and members of the Centre. An additional duty is to book meeting rooms through SMU for meetings. We were welcomed back for another year and are grateful to Saint Mary's University for their very significant support related to meetings and special speaker events held at their institution.

There were 10 Board of Directors Meetings in 2018-2019 which usually occurred during the hour before the Centre Meeting. Members are welcome to attend Board of Directors meetings if they wish. There were no Board of Directors meetings held in July and August. There were minimally 3 reminders of meeting for every Board of Directors and Members' Meeting held.

There were 9 regular Members' Meetings along with the informal gathering at the Annual BBQ held in June 2018. All Members' Meetings had a guest speaker. Some of the highlights included presentations by: Halley Davies and Dave Chapman (video, *The Magnificent Sky: A Weekend in the Keji Dark-Sky Preserve*); Blair MacDonald (*Astrophotographer's Skies, Summertime Imaging and Hunt for Sirius B*); acknowledgment of Dr. Rob Thacker's receiving the 2018 CASCA Qilak Award and his presentation about his community outreach and why it is important for us to talk about science; Melody Hamilton, Dave Chapman and Judy & Jerry Black (*The Atacama Desert, Our Southern Skies Experience*); Jerry Black (*Summer of Time-Lapse*); Dave Lane (*Recent Science Projects at ARO*); and Laura McLarnon (*Deep Sea Hydrothermal Vents and the Origin of Life*). There was even a March movie night where *The Starwalker* was enjoyed by all – complete with popcorn!

Motions were made with a quorum of the Board of Directors to provide direction on policy, activities, support of the observatory at St. Croix, our budget, and definition of any spending not covered in the budget. Motions made this past year included:

- Budget adjustments: \$1000.00 additional funding would be provided to the Nova East budget;
- \$350.00 approved for purchase of two upright RASC banners and one table front banner;
- Gregg Dill appointed as a Director of the Halifax Centre Board and then appointed as Treasurer;
- Appointment of Dave Lane as the 2017-2018 Auditor;
- Specifying number of signatures for cheques based on the value of the expenditure;
- Approval of the following Halifax Centre policies and recommendations:
 - Position descriptions for Honorary President and Outreach Chair
 - Policies and Recommendations Regarding Speaker Reimbursement of Halifax Centre Events
 - Halifax Centre Privacy Policy
 - Procedures Regarding Nominations, Elections and Appointments
 - Terms of Reference: Board of Directors
 - Terms of Reference: Ordinary Committees
- Approval of two Board of Directors manuals – *RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Reference Manual* and the *RASC Halifax Centre Policy Manual*

The policies will be posted on the Centre's website and are included in the RASC Halifax Centre's Board of Directors Reference Manual.

RASC Halifax Centre Bylaw #1 (2017) requires that members are advised of the make-up of the membership of the Centre which as of the September 30 totaled 168 members (down from 172 last year):

- 17 Family Regular
- 8 Family Youth
- 21 Life
- 118 Regular
- 1 Regular USA
- 3 Youth

The RASC, Halifax Centre Bylaw #1 (2017) had been approved at the 2016 AGM. An adjustment regarding electronic voting between regularly scheduled Board meetings was approved by the Board for presentation as a Special Resolution at this Annual General Meeting.

This was my third year serving as RASC Halifax Centre Secretary, and first year under Bylaw #1 (2017). I would like to thank Halifax Centre members and the Board of Directors for their invaluable support over the past year. It has been an honour working on your behalf.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Black, Secretary
RASC, Halifax Centre

2018 Annual Report: Observing Chair

Congratulations to the Halifax Centre members who completed RASC Observing Certificates this year:

- Judy Black – Explore the Universe
- Ronnie Reid – Explore the Universe
- Heidi Verheul – Explore the Universe
- Charles White – Explore the Universe

No members were recording having completed any of the other RASC Observing Certificates this year (Explore the Moon, Messier Catalog, Finest NGC, Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing, Deep Sky Challenge Objects, Deep Sky Gems).

Respectfully Submitted,

Sean Dzafovic, Observing Chair
RASC, Halifax Centre

2018 Annual Report: St. Croix Observatory

SCO continued as a centerpiece of observing activity for the Centre. There were 13 log entries in the past year with a total of 79 observers at SCO, including a small group that gathered to watch the peak of the Geminid showers in mid-December 2017. Members are encouraged to enter their visits in the SCO Logbook.

A BBQ was held at SCO on June 15 to encourage use of the facility and give new members and guests an opportunity to meet and talk and learn more about the facility, its resources and how to access it. A very diverse group of at least 35 members, spouses and children of all ages, genders and observing skills attended. Thank you to Chris Young, Sean Dzafovic, Pat Kelly, and Paul Gray for organizing the BBQ.

Current Initiatives

1. **Upgrade of Warm Room:** John McPhee is investigating the costs of installation and rental of a propane heating system for the warm building. Members should be able to enjoy this early in 2019. The system of red lights inside the warming room will also be improved.
2. **Electrical Upgrade:** Currently there are challenges with voltage drops at the outlets in the roll-off due to the type of wiring used in the system. As well, there is no 120 V power source in the roll-off. There will be a detailed design and budget preparation in 2019.
3. **Steel Telescope Peer:** The intent for this installation outside the observatory adjacent to the telescope pads will allow a number of common telescope mounts such that it could be used with the Thurlow binoculars as well as owner-supplied mounts.

SCO continues to fulfill a very worthwhile function for the Centre membership. It remains this way because of the efforts of a number of dedicated people who graciously volunteer their time and talent. The Centre would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those contributed to SCO operations and activities throughout the year and look forward to their continued support in maintaining this most valuable asset.

Report compiled by:
Judy Black, Secretary
RASC, Halifax Centre

2018 Annual Report: Nova Notes

Five editions of Nova Notes have been published for this calendar year, starting with my inaugural publishing of 2017 AGM reports.

As the year progressed, the topics and contributors become more diverse, with the only recurring articles being Lunatic Ramblings done by Dave Chapman (which has now concluded) and Food for the Soul by Paul Heath. I would like to express my thanks for the work Dave has put in, during and before my time as editor of Nova Notes. If there is anyone who may be interested in doing a series of articles on a subject, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

I would also like to thank Blair MacDonald, Judy Black, Melody Hamilton, Chris Young, Michael Boschat, Michael Gatto, and John McPhee for their contributions throughout the year to Nova Notes.

Each edition was printed and shipped out, the only issue without distribution this year was due to the Canada Post labour dispute. Now that mail is moving again due to the back to work legislation, the last edition for this year should be in hard-copy subscribers' mailboxes soon.

Hard-copy membership has been down from last year from around 15 copies per issue to an average of 12 copies per issue.

Slight changes that I have made to Nova Notes and its formatting for now, are the addition of a section dedicated to the observing, sketching and astrophotography that members of our Centre have done over the months between issues. As well as a "From the Editor" column in which I share some thoughts I have had on astronomy, outreach, the Centre or anything else that is relevant.

Thank you to all those who have submitted for the Centre showcase, as well as those who have provided photos for the cover art to Nova Notes (Dr. Roy Bishop, Dave Chapman, David Hoskin and Michael Boschat). We do a lot of excellent work here at the Centre and we should be proud of what we do.

I would like to close by thanking those who have taken the time to step in and proofread my work before final publication.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles White
Nova Notes Editor
RASC, Halifax Centre

2018 Annual Report: Nova East Star Party

This year the 32nd Nova East was held on the weekend of August 10 - 13 at Smileys Provincial Park. Many thanks to those who participated and helped organize this event. There were 40 camp sites reserved (up from 35 last year), 65 registrants (up from 49 last year) and a total of 74 in attendance.

I would first like to mention and thank the organizing committee: Dr. Roy Bishop (consultant), Melody Hamilton, Chris Young, Paul Gray, Gregg Dill, Dave Chapman, John Read, Liz Greenough and Pat Kelly.

I would like to offer special thanks to the presenters: Doug and Paula Cunningham (Bruce Peninsula), Kathy Walker, Dave Chapman, Melody Hamilton, Tony Schellinck, Dr. Roy Bishop and Paul Gray. Field presenters were Paul Heath (Sky Tour) and Tony Schellinck (AAA program).

The weather cooperated as well as we had hoped, with clouds only on Saturday evening. Despite this, we think everyone had a good time reconnecting with friends and sharing the views of the skies. Paul took us on a sky tour and then Tony pointed out specific objects to view with binoculars using their modified Maglites. Sunday night proved a perfect night for observing the Perseid shower.

Thanks to Chris Young and Paul Gray for preparing the astronomer's breakfast of pancakes and sausages. The BBQ was also a great and delicious success! Thanks to Paul Gray for organizing the potluck and barbecuing the pork loin, and to everyone who brought their own contributions to the potluck.

I would like to thank the participants of the Nova East Astro-photo contest (6 submissions this year!) and to thank Allen Sutherland of Atlantic Photo Supply for donating the prize of a framed photo of the winning entry. Thank you to our esteemed adjudicators: Mary Lou Whitehorne, Blair MacDonald, and Allen Sutherland. Congratulations to Kathy Walker for her submission of M13 – winner of both the contest and the People's Choice Award.

There were numerous door prizes this year acquired by Chris Young. The main prize, a 6" Dobsonian Telescope, was donated by Atlantic Photo Supply and won by Garth Arsenault (PEI).

There were 4 items added to the Nova East agenda that will be continued in 2019:

- 1) *Astronomers' Lounge*: This was a successful late-night gathering place in the Events Building on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights from 10 PM – 2 AM. Red lights provided ambiance to the Lounge where snacks and beverages were provided to Nova East participants. Leftover desserts from the BBQ supplemented the offerings. Thanks to Paul Gray and Melody Hamilton for setting it up, to Tony Schellinck for staying late enough for take-down (and a cribbage match), and to the numerous members who provided desserts.
- 2) *Astrophotography People's Choice Award*: Thank you to Melody Hamilton for suggesting, planning and implementing the award process. All photos submitted to the astrophotography contest were viewed at various times throughout Friday night and Saturday before voting by Nova East registrants. The winner was announced Saturday evening.
- 3) *Telescope Medics*: Members volunteered to provide one-on-one sessions with those who required assistance with their telescopes. Many thanks to Jerry Black, Dave Chapman, Quinn Smith and Roy Bishop.
- 4) *First Aid Station*: Based on minor incidences in the past few years, a first aid kit was located in the Events Building. Thank you to the volunteer first aiders. An emergency response sheet for Smileys Provincial Park was posted adjacent to the kit and included the civic address, who to contact on-site if an emergency arises, and the Park's instructions should an evacuation be required.

New this year to pass on to the Organizing Committee for Nova East 2019:

- 1) The outcome of a review of the astrophoto contest rules and judging criteria (to be presented to the Board for approval in January/February 2019).
- 2) A summary of recommendations regarding new and recurring events, health and safety, an inventory of utensils, a food inventory list and an action list.
- 3) A Nova East Task Chart with revised tasks and timelines required for the planning of a Nova East Star Party.

Nova East 2018 was a fun weekend and I hope that many of you will be able to attend the 33rd Nova East that will be held next year on the weekend of August 30 to September 2, 2019.

Nova East Income/Expenses Statement (2018)

INCOME

Income: Nova East Income: PSP payment	1,154.11
Income: Nova East Income: Auction	727.00

Income: Nova East Income: Camping	980.00
Income: Nova East Income: Registration	1,978.11
Income: Nova East Income: T-Shirts	940.00
	5,779.22

EXPENSES

Expenses: Nova East (Guest speakers, A/V, brochures+)	\$1,835.08
Expenses: Nova East: BBQ	\$43.06
Expenses: Nova East: Miscellaneous	410.14
Expenses: Nova East: Nova East Prizes	931.60
Expenses: Nova East: T-Shirts	720.49
Expenses: Nova East: Camping	359.75
Expenses: Nova East: Miscellaneous (Judy)	199.67
	\$4,499.79
Profit/Loss	\$1,279.43

Clear Skies,

Judy Black
 Chair, Nova East Planning Committee 2018
 RASC, Halifax Centre

2018 Annual Report: Library

In November 2018, I accepted the role of librarian for the RASC Halifax Centre. The official key was received on November 26th and the book cart will begin rolling out during the January 2019 members meeting.

In 2019, I recommend that two minutes be added to the member's meeting agenda to discuss book recommendations. Having read countless stargazing and space books and having published seven astronomy related books himself (with several more on the way in 2019), I am uniquely positioned to fulfil this role for the upcoming calendar year and beyond.

Respectively submitted,

John Read, Centre Librarian
 RASC, Halifax Centre

2018 Annual Report: Outreach

Once again, we have had a busy year at outreach events. It is very rewarding to see outreach continue to spread throughout Nova Scotia. Many of our events this year were repeats of past events, our success stories.

The Halifax Centre can be proud of its outreach again this year. We participated in the following: school presentations, park presentations, Youth group talks, outreach events (Keji Dark Sky events, Nova East, National Star Party, HalCON, APS sidewalk), Introductory Astronomy classes both classical (SCANS) and student (THRIVE), and supported local astronomy venues with BGO and Planetarium talks. Members also did astronomy presentations in support of other groups events.

A number of our volunteers have continued into new outreach events connecting to the communities they are in. Jeff Donaldson led community observing sessions. Wayne Mansfield also helped with events at the Liverpool waterfront and Keji dark sky. Dave Chapman with Cathy LeBlanc reprised their Mi'kmaq Moons talk for the Nature Nova Scotia event. Pat Kelly and Larry Bogart supported the event with telescopes.

Tony Schellinck's continued his DSO with binoculars, the indoor theatre program he has been doing at the Astor Theatre in Liverpool along with his bino table at major outreach events. Tony continued his intro astronomy class for SCANS, Keji Dark Sky, White Point Lodge, Osprey Arts Centre, and helped with THRIVE presentations, Nova East and, along with other members, presented at the Halifax Planetarium. Another busy year for Tony. Despite his busy schedule, Tony created over **1,300** Galileo moments. Fantastic job! Well done, Tony!! Also, to Tony's credit is an article in JRASC '*Outreach Endless Opportunities for Creative Engagement with Novice Observers*'.

HalCon went well again with over 220 visits to our booth.

Nova East went well although we had a major Solar System event. PLUTO MET ITS DEMISE, SWALLOWED WHOLE by a young girl who also took a couple of bites to Earth. Still not sure if we should inform the IAU. I was able to rebuild a complete new Solar System for Keji.

Dave Chapman again organized the Keji Dark Sky weekend in collaboration with Kejimkujik National Park staff. Thank you to the volunteers who camped over the week-end and supported events.

The APS sidewalk event was also very successful again this year thanks to the participation of numerous members providing their telescopes and binoculars on site.

The Main Event this year was the National Star Party. Observations at Bishops Landing were a great success in part due to a cruise ship and members of the international canoe/kayak competitions attending. Over 200 participated in views of Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Mars and the Moon. Melody and Bruce Hamilton led an event at Fort Anne where a small group came for the short, clouded out event.

I am again the RASC board member for YNC and organized a talk (9 youth) and observing session (35 youth and parents) for them. I also did two talks for students at Brookside Elementary (52 students), Youth groups, Beavers/Cubs (93), Brownies/Sparks (42), and MSVU summer camp (72), a talk for the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park(16) and two talks at Sugar moon farms (30 from 4-H / 60 family groups), helped with Nova East, Keji Dark Sky weekend. InOMN at Bishops Landing was rained out this year.

Overall, between October 2017 and November 2018, the Halifax Centre created over 4,640 Galileo moments. A tremendous effort from all the Outreach Volunteers! My sincerest thanks to all the Halifax Centre members that helped with these outreach events. This of course does not include all the times we set up our telescopes to show neighbors, friends and family the night sky because that, too, is Outreach.

Again, many thanks to all who helped support our outreach events over the past year. Let us continue to show the night sky to any and all who 'look up and wonder'.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Heath

Amendment to Bylaw #1

With regards to 9.1.2, there is an amendment being forwarded for consideration. Subsection 6.5 - Voting at Board of Directors Meetings in Bylaw #1 currently reads:

6.5 Voting at Board of Director Meetings

6.5.1 Every meeting of the Board shall be presided over by the President, in his or her absence by the Vice- President, and in the absence of both of them by another member of the Board elected at the meeting.

6.5.2 Voting at a meeting of the Board shall proceed as follows:

6.5.2.1 The presiding director may vote at a Board meeting only to cast a deciding vote in the event of a tied vote.

6.5.2.2 All other elected or appointed directors shall have one vote.

The Board of Directors recognized that from time to time urgent business arises that requires Board approval between meetings and that a mechanism to do so is required. Consequently, an addition to 6.5 was approved by the Board for members' consideration and approval at this AGM is being sought. The addition will read as follows:

6.5.3 From time to time, the Board of Directors may choose to conduct business via electronic media according to procedure determined by the Board. Such procedure shall set out rules for making, seconding, discussing, and voting on motions. The Secretary shall record successful motions made in this manner, and the results shall be read into the minutes of the next following Board of Directors meeting.

All amendments to our Bylaw #1 must be approved by Members' through passing of a Special Resolution. Please consider the following Special Resolution that is being presented to Halifax Centre Members at the AGM today (December 7, 2018).

Bylaw #1 - Special Resolution

Whereas it is recognized that from time to time urgent business arises that requires Board of Director approval between meetings and that a mechanism to do so is required,

Be it resolved that:

1. RASC Halifax Centre Bylaw # 1 addition of 6.5.3 to 6.5 Voting at Board of Director Meetings as presented be approved;
2. RASC Halifax Centre Bylaw #1 with the aforesaid amendment be forwarded to the Registry of Joint Stock Companies for approval prior to enactment.