



RASC Halifax Centre Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 29, 2022: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Via Zoom - Meeting ID 870 5943 3326

Agenda Items				
Time	Item	Purpose	Responsibility	Support Documents / Notes
7:00 PM	1. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Agenda Review Action List Approval of Previous Minutes of Meeting 	Information Approval	Judy Black	Pre-circulated: Agenda: March 29, 2022 Minutes: March 1, 2022
ONGOING ITEMS				
	2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2022 Member's Meeting Date Confirmation and Format Confirm Member's Meeting agenda Zoom/SMU Bookings Guest Speakers & Ideas for Future Presentations 	Ongoing Discussion Approval	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #1: 2022 Member Meeting Dates & Speakers Refer to Agenda Notes #2: Approval of 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Dates
	3. Report from National Council Representative	Information Discussion	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #3: NC Report
	4. Education & Public Outreach (EPO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach Requests Approval of Liability Clarification Statement 	Discussion Decision	Paul Heath Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #4: Halifax Centre Liability Statement Also read the RASC FAQs cited at the end of the page
	5. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	n/a
	6. Financial Update	Discussion Decision	Gregg Dill	n/a
UPDATES / REPORTS				
	7. SCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates Approval of Minas Energy Appreciation 	Information Discussion Decision	John Liddard Mary Lou Whitehorne	Refer to Agenda Notes #5: Minas Energy Appreciation
	8. 2022 Nova East (Aug 26-28)	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #6: Nova East Planning Committee Report
	9. Dark-Sky Weekend (Aug 19-21)	Discussion Decision	Peter Hurley Tony Schellinck	n/a
	10. SCO BBQs (June 10, Sept 24) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad hoc Committee 	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	n/a
GOVERNANCE				
	11. SCO COVID Policy	Discussion Approval	Kathy Walker David Hoskin	<i>Revisions to be discussed</i>
	12. Nominating Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forming the Committee Strategy for finding new President 	Discussion	Judy Black Peter Hurley	n/a
NEW BUSINESS				
	13. Astroimaging Contest	Discussion Decision	Judy Black	Refer to Agenda Notes #7: Photo Contest
9:00 PM	Adjournment (Next meeting: May 3, 2022)			

RASC, Halifax Centre – Member’s Meeting

Saturday, April 2, 2021 – 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Via Zoom – Meeting ID 829 0885 5256

Agenda Items		
Time*	Item	Responsibility
1:00 PM	Welcome & Introductions Photo Montage	Judy Black Paul Gray
1:15 PM	Presentations: <i>David Shuman – Part 2: The New Space Race: A Look at the Current Launch Vehicles and Human Spaceflight</i> <i>Chris Young – Sky Lore</i>	David Shuman Chris Young
2:45 PM	Food for the Soul	Paul Heath
2:55 PM	What’s Up? (April)	David Hoskin
3:30 PM	News from the Board	Judy Black
4:00 PM	Adjournment	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<i>Astro-Chat</i>	

* Times are for Board of Director information only and for informing presenters of the length of their presentations; they will not be published on the Halifax Centre website. Times will be adjusted for each meeting.

Halifax Centre Board of Directors - Minutes of Meeting

March 29, 2022 - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

held via Zoom Meeting ID 870 5943 3326

Present: Judy Black, Peter Hurley, Mary Lou Whitehorne, John Liddard, Matt Dyer, Kathy Walker, Pat Kelly, Dave Lane, Gregg Dill, Jaime Whynot, Lisa Ann Fanning

Regrets: Paul Heath, Tim Doucette, David Hoskin

1. Welcome & Introductions

Judy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed members, in particular Dave Lane who is here to discuss with us how to present hybrid meetings.

The Meeting Agenda had been circulated by email by Peter on March 22, 2022. The agenda was reviewed. Peter asked that discussion of the membership grace period be added to the agenda under item 14. Judy indicated that discussion of Mary Lou’s work on the recognition of Minas Energy would be discussed under item 10 SCO BBQs and Nova Notes expenditures will be discussed under item 6 Financial Update.

220329MN-Mot01

It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the March 29, 2022, Board of Directors meeting agenda, as amended.
CARRIED.

The Action Lists, which were attached to the minutes of the previous meeting circulated by email by Peter on March 20, 2022, were reviewed.

From June 1, 2021

Action 2: Closed. Dave indicated that the forum should be removed.

220329MN-Act01

Pat Kelly to send a message to the Centre Announce list that the Halifax Centre Forum on the new Driven! system is going to be deleted.

220329MN-Act02

Judy Black to ask Phil Groff to delete the Halifax Centre discussion list Forum on the new Driven! system as well as the Halifax Centre Executive Forum.

From November 2, 2021

Action 1: Open.

From February 1, 2022

Action 1: Closed. Costs to be reviewed under item #6.

Action 2: Open.

Action 4: Open.

Action 5: Closed. To be reviewed under item #4.

Action 7,9: Closed.

From March 1, 2022

Action 1: Closed.

Action 2: Open.

Action 3: Closed.

Action 4: Closed. To be reviewed under item #11.

Action 5-6: Closed.

Action 7,8: Closed. To be reviewed under item # 7.

Action 9-11: Closed.

The minutes of the March 1, 2022, Board of Directors meeting had been circulated by email by Peter on March 20, 2022. Gregg had emailed corrections.

220329MN-Mot02

It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the March 1, 2022, Board of Directors meeting minutes, as amended.

CARRIED.

ONGOING ITEMS

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates & Guest Speakers

Judy reminded us that upcoming meeting dates are summarized in Agenda Note #1. She had been in contact with SMU and they are willing to invite us back to use their facilities for meetings and would like to know the dates. Judy reminded us that we had formed a Task Team of Dave Lane and Bob Russell (co-chairs), Blair MacDonald, and Jerry Black to explore options for conducting hybrid meetings. Dave provided an update of what they had discussed at this point. This was followed by considerable discussion of what might be possible, what might be practical, why we were attempting to arrange hybrid meetings that would include recording for post-meeting viewing. Dave cautioned against making it all too complicated and asked for feedback from the Board regarding what might be wanted with respect to how much production effort was wanted. Dave suggested that it would be difficult to hold an in-person meeting with remote participation where everyone would have equal access to the content and speaker; and that pre-recorded presentations of speakers might be an option.

It was concluded that we do not commit to anything now, the Task Team should meet and work out further details and possibly set up a test session, either for a subsequent Board meeting or for a small group in AT101 at SMU. There was a question about the ventilation in AT101 and whether it has been upgraded, specifically whether it would be functioning during an evening or weekend meeting. Judy thanked Dave for his work and the update.

220329MN-Act02

Judy Black to check with SMU to determine if there have been improvements to the ventilation in AT101.

Judy indicated that we were good for speakers for April, May and June, although Keegan Oickle was still uncertain if he could present in June. We also have speakers for September and October but need speakers for November and December. There was a suggestion from Dave Chapman of Dr. Philip MacAusland to speak on the Golden Meteorite. Peter suggested that Dr Gary Welch, emeritus of SMU Astronomy Department who has been speaking on "Life in Space" to the SCANS group, might be a candidate.

220329MN-Act03

Mary Lou Whitehorne to contact Dr. Gary Welch to ask if he would consider being a guest speaker.

3. Report from National Council (NC) Representative

Judy indicated that her report of the March 6, 2022 National Council meeting was included as Agenda Note #3. She pointed out that the NC had decided that the GA and AGM in 2022 could be separate events. Concerns were

expressed about separating the two events. Judy explained that it had been agreed that the AGM could be a hybrid meeting in the future, that more members had participated in the AGM last year that was held using Zoom than had every participated in the past. Concerns expressed regarding the importance of face-to-face interaction at an AGM. There was a question whether proxy votes would still be allowed. Judy explained that the decision was that the two events could be separated not that they would. There was considerable discussion. Judy agreed to pass on the comments that had been made to the NC.

4. Education and Public Outreach

- **Outreach Requests**

Paul wasn't present and we didn't know if he had received any new outreach requests.

- **Insurance Clarification**

Judy indicated that Pat had commented on the document she had drafted, which she had then forwarded to Phil Groff. Phil provided comments and the resulting document is included as Agenda Note #4 for discussion and possible approval. Judy pointed out the link at the end of the document to an extensive list of FAQs on the subject that provide much more detail. There were no questions.

220329MN-Mot03

It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by Jaime Whynot to approve the document "Clarification of the RASC Liability Insurance", as circulated.
CARRIED.

It was agreed that the document should be posted on the Centre website together with Policies, as a statement not as a policy.

220329MN-Act04

Judy Black to post the document "Clarification of the RASC Liability Insurance" on the Centre website together with our Policies.

5. RASC Halifax Centre Website & YouTube

Judy indicated that the usual updates of meeting dates and times had been made but there were no other changes of consequence. She indicated that she found the Home page of the Centre Website to be too busy and it was agreed that it was very dense and needed to be reorganized. It was suggested that additional links would help make information easier to find. Judy proposed that she and Jerry would work to re-work the Home page over the next few months to simplify it and provide a draft at a future date.

220329MN-Act05

Judy Black and Jerry Black to develop a new home page for the RASC Halifax Centre by November 30, 2022

6. Financial Update

Gregg reported that we have \$5300 in the bank. He also reported that he continues to have issues communicating with National office. An email he sent to National office on March 17, 2022 detailing amounts owed to the Centre had not been acknowledged or responded to. There have been several other emails he had sent previously that had not been responded to. There is also the issue of the \$5 increase in the Centre membership fee requested last June that hasn't been sent to him or the funds to reimburse for copies of the *Explore the Universe* that we had purchased that are now out-of-date. He asked whether Judy should bring this problem up with the RASC President Robyn Foret. It was agreed that Judy would re-read the March 17 email and then she and Greg would discuss steps forward.

220329MN-Act06

Judy Black to email Phil Groff to inquire about the \$5 increase in the Centre membership fee that was requested last June.

220329MN-Act07

Judy Black to check into reimbursement or replacement of old copies of *Explore the Universe* and get back to Gregg Dill.

Judy indicated that she also wanted us to discuss the cost of printing *Nova Notes*. In trying to print the copies of *Nova Notes* that were owed to paid subscribers back to last year, it became apparent that we were not charging enough to cover our costs. She shared her screen to show us the cost to print and mail the editions that we owed to subscribers, using her home printer and the cost to print *Nova Notes* at Staples going forward. Her estimate was that one year of *Nova Notes* printed at Staples and mailed by Canada Post would cost approximately \$60 and we are presently only charging \$20 per subscription. It was agreed that this was not sustainable. It was also agreed that printing *Nova Notes* on a volunteer's home printer wasn't an acceptable solution moving forward. And it was pointed out that even printing *Nova Notes* at Staples requires someone's time and travel. There was also a question of whether printing and mailing *Nova Notes* was a "green practice". There was considerable discussion and a number of options were explored. It was agreed that individuals wishing a paper copy could print it themselves from the

electronic copy that is circulated. We would supply the present 10 subscribers with a printed copy until their subscriptions expired and would then stop providing printed and mailed copies.

220329MN-Act08

Judy Black to announce at the April 2, 2022 Centre Member's meeting that printed copies of *Nova Notes* will no longer be available once current subscriptions expire.

220329MN-Act09

Judy Black to notify RASC National office to remove the *Nova Notes* subscription from the membership renewal page.

UPDATES/REPORTS

7. SCO

• **Approval of Minas Energy Appreciation**

Mary Lou had circulated a revised proposal on March 23, 2022 by email and then circulated a mock-up this afternoon of what is being proposed. She had discussed the idea of something to indicate our appreciation to Minas Energy with Roy Bishop and he had some very helpful suggestions. She indicated that it should cost less than \$400, not including the cost of the photo of SCO from Blair MacDonald. The proposed framer is *Perfect Corner* in Hubbards. The 16"x18" frame would have a single mat with two cutouts, one for the photo and one for the inscription and conservation glass.

220329MN-Mot04

It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by Gregg Dill to proceed as proposed with the framed print of SCO taken by Blair MacDonald to present to Minas Energy to show our appreciation of everything they have done for us to make SCO what it is.

CARRIED.

• **Upgrade Status**

John provided an update on the presence of the locked gate on the road to SCO. There had been a fire at the house that Jamie Carmichael used to live in down by the dam and Minas Energy had started to close the gate during the day and lock the gate at night, as a result. It was agreed that, in the short term, members wishing to use SCO should contact John by email in advance and he would contact Harden Wyle to have the gate left unlocked on that evening.

220329MN-Act10

Judy Black to announce at the April 2, 2022 Centre Member's meeting that those wishing to use SCO notify John Liddard in advance of their intent so that he can arrange to have the gate unlocked on that evening.

John indicated that he had modified the handout that is given to new keyholders to reflect the shut-down procedures associated with the upgraded electrical system and that he would pass that along to Kathy who is going to modify the document describing the shut-down of SCO.

GOVERNANCE

11. SCO COVID Policy

Judy indicated that Kathy was going to revise the original pre-covid Use of SCO Guidelines documents, now that restrictions have been lifted, but the original document has been lost. She asked if everyone could look to see if they had a copy of the old document.

12. Policy G12

Judy indicated that the Governance Committee would be meeting next week to draft Policy G12 that related to member expulsion.

Given the time and members having to leave the meeting, Judy pointed out that the Nova East Planning Committee Report was presented as Agenda Note #6. She asked that members read it and provide her with any questions or feedback.

220329MN-Act11

Members to read the Nova East Planning Committee report and to provide questions and/or feedback to Judy Black.

13. Adjournment

Because we had not finished the agenda, Judy asked for a motion for adjournment. She reminded us that the next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2022.

220301MN-Mot05

It was moved by Gregg Dill to adjourn the meeting at 9:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Hurley, Secretary

ACTION LIST (as of March 29, 2022):

From November 2, 2021		
211102MN-Act01	John Liddard , in consultation with Dave Lane and Gregg Dill, to establish the value of Halifax Centre capital equipment.	Open
From February 1, 2022		
220201MN-Act02	Board members to suggest a volunteer to assume the responsibility of printing and posting copies of Nova Notes subscribers.	Open
220201MN-Act04	Paul Gray to ask the 2024 Solar Eclipse task team what the final date is for ordering additional eclipse-viewing glasses from the National office.	Open
From March 1, 2022		
220301MN-Act02	Paul Heath to contact Nathan Coleman of the Weather Network about producing astronomy spots that would be created at SCO.	Open
From March 29, 2022		
220329MN-Act01	Pat Kelly to send a message to the Centre Announce list that the Halifax Centre Forum on the new Driven! system is going to be deleted.	Open
220329MN-Act02	Judy Black to ask Phil Groff to delete the Halifax Centre discussion list Forum on the new Driven! system as well as the Halifax Centre Executive Forum.	Open
220329MN-Act03	Mary Lou Whitehorne to contact Dr. Gary Welch to ask if he would consider being a guest speaker.	Open
220329MN-Act04	Judy Black to post the document "Clarification of the RASC Liability Insurance" on the Centre website together with our Policies.	Open
220329MN-Act05	Judy Black to email Phil Groff to enquire about the \$5 increase in the Centre membership fee that was requested last June.	Open
220329MN-Act06	Judy Black and Jerry Black to develop a new home page for the RASC Halifax Centre by November 30, 2022.	
220329MN-Act07	Judy Black to check into reimbursement or replacement of old copies of Explore the Universe and get back to Gregg Dill.	Open
220329MN-Act08	Judy Black to announce at the April 2, 2022 Centre Member's meeting that printed copies of Nova Notes will no longer be available once current subscriptions expire.	Open
220329MN-Act09	Judy Black to notify RASC National office to remove the Nova Notes subscription from the membership renewal page.	Open
220329MN-Act10	Judy Black to announce at the April 2, 2022 Centre Member's meeting that those wishing to use SCO notify John Liddard in advance of their intent so that he can arrange to have the gate unlocked on that evening.	Open
220329MN-Act11	Members to read the Nova East Planning Committee report and to provide questions and/or feedback to Judy Black.	

MOTION LIST (March 29, 2022):

220329MN-Mot01	It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the March 029, 2022, Board of Directors meeting agenda, as amended. CARRIED.
220329MN-Mot02	It was moved by Kathy Walker and seconded by Matt Dyer to approve the March 1, 2022, Board of Directors meeting minutes, as amended. CARRIED.
220329MN-Mot03	It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by Jaime Whynot to approve the document "Clarification of the RASC Liability Insurance", as circulated. CARRIED.
220329MN-Mot04	It was moved by Pat Kelly and seconded by Gregg Dill to proceed as proposed with the framed print of SCO taken by Blair MacDonald to present to Minas Energy to show our appreciation of everything they have done for us to make SCO what it is. CARRIED.
220329MN-Mot05	It was moved by Gregg Dill to adjourn the meeting at 9:09pm.

AGENDA NOTES

Agenda Item, Proposed By, & Date Proposed	Description Received (& Proposed Motion, if Applicable)
Agenda Note #1 re: 2022 Member Meeting Dates & Speakers	<p>A) 2022 Approved Member Meeting Dates and Events Members' Meeting dates were approved at the November 30, 2021, Board of Directors meetings. They have been posted on the RASC(HC) website.</p> <p>B) Confirmed Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2, 2022 David Shuman (Part 2: The New Space Race: A Look at the Current Launch Vehicles and Human Spaceflight) Chris Young (Sky Lore) • May 7, 2022: Randy Attwood (2024 Total Eclipse) Dave Chapman (What's in a Name? How celestial objects are named) • June 4, 2022: <i>Astronomy: from time immemorial to the future</i> Karim Jaffer + Students (Montreal Centre) (student research using robotic Telescopes) ?? Keegan Oickle Peter Jedicke – History of the RASC Chris Young (Sky Lore) • September 10, 2022 (Labour Day = Sept 5) Dr. Donald Bedard & Jim Johnston (Chris Young) Dave Chapman (What's in a Name? How celestial objects are named) • October 1, 2022 (Thanksgiving = Oct 10) Marcin Sawicki, SMU (NIRISS – Near InfraRed Imager & Slitless Spectograph) Chris Young (Sky Lore) • November 5, 2022 • December 3, 2022 (+ AGM) <p>C) Suggested Speakers Special Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Leslie Rogers & Sara Seager ○ (from Dave Chapman/Peter Jedicke) Prof. Philip McCausland (also a Handbook contributor) on the topic of the Golden Meteorite. He runs the Canadian Fireball Reporting Centre. ○ Kaja Rotermund (formation of a high-redshift galaxy cluster) ○ https://rasc.ca/find-speaker ○ Dr. Samantha Lawler: New to the U of R and very busy rebuilding the astronomy program. She also has her core research and took on a leadership role in the StarLink issues and lobbying the federal government about it.

<p>Agenda Note #2 re: Approval of 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Dates</p>	<p>o SCANS Gary Welch – Life in Space</p> <p>Approval of Board Meeting Dates, 2022 Member Meeting dates for 2022 were approved by the Board. However, Board meeting dates need to be reaffirmed by the newly elected Board. The following dates are all on Tuesday evenings unless otherwise noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 3 • May 31 • Sept 6 (Labour Day = Sept 5) • Sept 27 • Nov 1 • Nov 29
<p>Agenda Notes #3: National Council Report</p>	<p>NC Meeting (March 6, 2022)</p> <p>Challenges presented in Centre reports were addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a- Obtaining diversity in the Centre and on the Board is a challenge. Charles Ennis stated the I&D Committee could help. b- Centre activity and financial reports for the Annual report are due the end of March. <p>The EPO best practices statement is before the board for approval. Volunteer best practices documents were drafted by Paul Sadler: one for inclusion in the Centre Manual, and the other for handouts to EPO volunteers. These are also waiting for Board approval.</p> <p>The GA Working Group met February 13 (and March 20). The main goal is to make GAs more attractive for Centres to host. The group has identified types of activities and the level of requirement for each – required, recommended, optional. A GA Task Chart was developed by Judy based on our Nova East version. Members agreed as to the Purpose and objectives of General Assemblies:</p> <p>PURPOSE: (Lauri Roche)</p> <p>1. Annual Meeting Commitments: Provides a venue for meeting of the Board, National Council and the AGM. It is good to have people from the many Centres there so that there can be two-way communication between the Board /National Office and the Centres particularly when looking at budgets and finances. We are so widespread there has to be connection for it to work.</p> <p>2. The Social Aspects: So many good things come out of seeing people in person and putting faces to names. Networking, sharing stories, ideas, chilling out with friends you rarely see. All good. At the local centers you get to talk to the other people that are leaders in their own communities doing terrific science outreach.</p> <p>3. The Local Connections: I like having presenters from the local universities and colleges with local expertise and in their own environments. Yes, we obviously can do presentations online as we have done for the last couple of years but it is not the same. The local centers are proud of who their experts and mentors are. I also have so enjoyed being able to go to different cities across Canada that I don't usually get to visit. Going on the excursions outside of Halifax or Calgary or visiting observatories in Edmonton and London were particular treats.</p> <p>4. Education / Shared Learning One of the key reasons for the GA is to promote science to members and non-members alike. Workshops and training also bring together diverse participants (professionals, amateurs, youth).</p> <p>The GA also gives RASC members a chance to talk about success and challenges their Centre may be having. They can be alerted to these commonalities or challenges from lectures, papers, social interactions, etc. This helps build bridges across the country.</p> <p>5. Public Outreach There should be invitations to the public/non-RASC in virtual and in-person sessions. The only component of the weekend they could not attend would be the RASC meetings of the Board and NC and the AGM.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES (J. Black)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a venue for a two-way communication between RASC staff and members.

	<p>2. Provide a venue for informal and formal meetings and gatherings for the purpose of sharing stories, ideas, science, and outreach, and for visiting RASC friends.</p> <p>3. Provide access to local universities and colleges with astronomy expertise and to local speakers in their own environments.</p> <p>Common RASC website hosting for smaller Centres: support for the supporting structure. Content would be responsibility of the Centre</p> <p>A Green Laser Pointer (GLP) training will be offered to NC members by Dennis Lyons for input before rolling it out to the Centres for their use.</p> <p>It was noted that SkyNews is a Canadian magazine written by Canadians. It was suggested to include the writer's Centre affiliation with the list of articles and their photo.</p> <p>Best practices for hybrid meeting hosting are being addressed. One session was held; Judy attended. Another is planned for April 4; Judy will attend and has asked 4 other members to also attend, if possible.</p>
<p>Agenda Notes #4: RASC Liability Statements</p> <p><i>(This is the document to be approved)</i></p>	<p>Clarification of the RASC Liability Insurance</p> <p>If you are planning a public outreach or other Centre activity at a public facility that requires Public Liability Insurance, please review this information carefully. The Nova Scotia Volunteer Protection Act (Bill No. 98) defines the term "volunteer". Provided they are acting within the scope of the volunteer's responsibilities, no volunteer of a non-profit organization is liable for damage caused by an act or omission of the volunteer on behalf of the organization where due diligence is shown. The act also stipulates under what conditions they are not covered.</p> <p>1. What is a "Centre event"?</p> <p>A Centre event, such as an observing session or star party, is advertised to the membership and/or public, such as on our website, or from an email address associated with the Centre. The Centre logo may, or may not, appear. In other words, the Centre needs to be seen as the host (or co-host) of the event.</p> <p>If an event is to be considered a Centre event it should, at a minimum, be vetted by the Executive of the Centre Board of Directors. The organizers need to justify that the Centre organized the event.</p> <p>An education or public outreach activity by a Centre member that does not involve the Centre in some way, or an impromptu neighbourhood observing session would not be covered. If Centre members are invited by an external group to participate in their event, it is not a Centre event unless invited to co-host. Ultimately, the organizers need to be able to answer the insurance adjuster's questions after any reportable incident.</p> <p>2. What does the liability insurance cover?</p> <p>The RASC General Liability insurance covers events described as "normal RASC activities." This insurance does not cover <i>individuals</i>; it covers the organizing body (the Society or the Centre). It is not property or accident insurance. Due diligence by all individuals involved, whether Centre members or not, should be shown.</p> <p>3. Who should apply for the coverage?</p> <p>If Centre participation is requested by an external host group, e.g., shopping centre, public park, school, youth groups, etc., a Certificate of Insurance Request should be made. If the external group provides the Centre member with a specific list of insurance requirements, these should be attached to the insurance request. Note that the Nova East Star Party has traditionally applied for the RASC Liability Insurance.</p> <p>4. What happens once the insurance request is sent?</p> <p>Once the request is received, the Broker or the Insurance Company may contact the person requesting the insurance for the event to clarify any questions or details. Once approved, the Broker will send a copy of the certificate issued to the Centre. Allow at least 72 hours (3 days) lead time to acquire the certificate. The certificate should be available or on display at the event to which it applies.</p> <p>A detailed insurance FAQ can be found on the national RASC site: https://docs.google.com/document/d/13sxHo3c8mRCowOU1JCxoeSvS5G8QIHlvvDJ_heQIxa4/e/dit</p>

<p>Agenda Notes #5: Minas Energy Appreciation</p> <p>(from Mary Lou Whitehorne)</p>	<p>Requesting approval of expenditures for Minas Energy appreciation presentation at upcoming SCO BBQ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24" X 16" gallery canvas print is listed as \$149.99 + tax = \$172.49 (Atlantic Photo Supply) • accompanying plaque is being prepared by Twin Cities Engravers. It should come in at under \$100 <p><u>Note 1:</u> Along with our B/W logo, the wording on the plaque reads: "presented to Minas Energy / by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Halifax Centre / in appreciation of substantial long term support / of the St. Croix Observatory / 2022"</p> <p><u>Note 2:</u> Jerry Black and Blair MacDonald went to SCO to photograph the site at night earlier on March to capture Orion high in the sky. An ad hoc review committee (Mary Lou, Dave Hoskin and Paul Gray) decided in favour of Blair's photo for the presentation.</p>																
<p>Agenda Notes #6: Nova East Planning Committee (NEPC) Report</p> <p>(from Judy Black, Chair)</p>	<p>NEPC Members: Judy Black (Chair), Gregg Dill (Treasurer), Lisa Ann Fanning, Paul Gray, Melody Hamilton, Pat Kelly, Tony McGrath, Jaime Whynot, Chris Young.</p> <p>Theme: <i>Together Again Under the Stars</i>. Lisa Ann Fanning has volunteered to develop the logo for t-shirts and publicity purposes.</p> <p>A tentative slate of activities for 2022 Nova East was determined at the NEPC's first meeting of March 21, 2022. COVID considerations were top of mind when discussing all proposed activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speakers will be arranged for Friday and Saturday evenings, with the keynote being scheduled for Saturday. • Two workshops in lieu of a slate of speakers is being proposed for Saturday. Dave Chapman has volunteered to conduct an optical cleaning workshop and a speaker will be sought to address solar observing how-to. • Discussing two Sunday activities: Bird Walk (with Lisa Ann & Rob & guests) and a SCO Tour for members • Astronomer's Breakfast being discussed; there are no hot food items to be offered. • Astronomer's Lounge being discussed. Pre-packaged foods and beverages are being considered. • Discussing possibility of BBQ, Sky Tour, Binocular Table, Walk the Solar System, flea market <p>The budget is being determined and the first draft will be available at the May 3, 2022 Board meeting. Next NEPC Meeting: Monday, April 11, 2022</p>																
<p>Agenda Notes #7: Photo Contest</p>	<p>The Contest had historically been held as part of Nova East but in the past few years was adopted as a contest of the Centre with the winners being announced at Nova East.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- The 2022 NEPC has requested that for this year (as has been the case during COVID and to keep things simpler in 2022 NE planning and logistics) that the contest be organized by the Centre and that the winners be announced at one of the Fall Member's Meeting. 2- The Board is requested to consider the dates of announcing the Contest and date it will be announced. Over the past two years it was announced in the fall. The 2021 website reflects a December AGM announcement date, but winners were announced in October. <table border="1" data-bbox="451 1470 1334 1642"> <thead> <tr> <th>Contest Announcement & Website</th> <th>Submission Closing Date</th> <th>Adjudication</th> <th>Announcing Winners @ Member Mtg</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>May 7 or June 4</td> <td>Sept 10</td> <td>Sept 11-21</td> <td>October 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 7 or June 4</td> <td>Oct 15</td> <td>Oct 16-26</td> <td>November 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 7 or June 4</td> <td>Nov 12</td> <td>Nov 13-23</td> <td>Dec 3 (AGM)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Board members are asked to review of the Contest policy; Blair MacDonald will also be requested to do so. (http://halifax.rasc.ca/images/documents/G8_Astroimaging.pdf). Jerry Black has agreed to be the recipient of all entries and to update the website.</p>	Contest Announcement & Website	Submission Closing Date	Adjudication	Announcing Winners @ Member Mtg	May 7 or June 4	Sept 10	Sept 11-21	October 1	May 7 or June 4	Oct 15	Oct 16-26	November 5	May 7 or June 4	Nov 12	Nov 13-23	Dec 3 (AGM)
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