

**RASC Victoria Centre Council Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, January 3, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.  
Fourth Floor Lounge, Elliott Building, University of Victoria

**Present:** Chris Purse (chair), Reg Dunkley, Deb Crawford, Bruce Lane, Jim Hesser, Sid Sidhu, Joe Carr, Matt Watson, Dan Posey, Jim Nemec, John McDonald, David Lee, Chris Gainor, Karun Thanjavur

The meeting was recorded in the absence of a secretary.

Call to order 7:30 p.m.

1. Agenda approved one change in order and two additions.  
Agenda item 4a will be discussed first so that Karun Thanjavur does not need to stay for the whole meeting.  
The additions are:
  - a. Date and location of 2018 AGM
  - b. Thank you card from Glenlyon Norkfolk School for participating in STEM conference.
2. Approval of November 1, 2017 minutes. *Moved Matt, Seconded Sid, Carried.*
- 4a. RASC 150 Inaugural Event *National Star Party* on Saturday, January 27, 2018
  - Information from Paul Delaney circulated (attached).
  - Chris approached Karun Thanjavur about having the event at Bob Wright Centre. In the event of clear skies, the roof would be needed for solar viewing.
  - Deb suggested that it be like Astronomy Day.
  - Chris mentioned that he cannot be at the event until after 3 p.m. so would someone from Council coordinate the event. We need to decide what we will do for our event.
  - Matt will be leading getting us online from the Bob Wright Centre using Google Hangout. The event will be online across the country with both video and audio from each site. Matt mentioned that the event would be similar to our broadcast of our monthly meetings. Linkage will end at 8 p.m. EST which is 5 p.m. here. There is some uncertainty about what will actually happen.
  - Some discussion about trying to link the VCO that night. The MICs are Joe and Diane. We could do a linkage there if possible. If it is not clear, it would be very difficult to do anything useful from the VCO site due to the small size.
  - John asked if we could do multiple sites such as Camosun, UVic, and the VCO. That might prove technically challenging. Jim N would prefer to come to UVic rather than trying to host there as well.
  - Reg pointed out the number of centres joining with 3 p.m. PST.
  - Bruce volunteered to be the coordinator. We would ask members to arrive at 2 p.m. to get set up.
  - Should we offer the students food afterward?
  - **Action items:**
    - **Chris to contact Ken to arrange for members to bring telescope.**
    - **Chris to contact Clayton and Jon at Vic High to see if they want to publicize their new course.**
    - **Karun to notify UVic about the building use, see if some of the UVic students would give short talks (10 minutes) or put up displays if they have any already prepared, and organize an open house at the observatory.**
    - **Jim to bring Camosun equipment and perhaps see if some students will help out.**
    - **Chris to ask Paul Delaney to add Bruce to Paul email list.**
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - a. Vacant Secretary Position  
Discussion ensued about trying to find a member to take on this role. Perhaps this would be a way to get a newer member more involved in the Centre. The job is not as onerous as it had been as the monthly meetings are not minuted. The other items are up to date.  
**Action item: Council members to consider who could be approached to be secretary.**
  - b. Science Literacy Week (from April 5, 2017 minutes)  
One of the items missed from past minutes was Science Literacy Week which is held each year in September. The minutes had indicated that we would discuss at the September meeting that did not happen. Information about this was circulated. Council decided to try to have a summer star party listed but not do a special event.  
**Action item: Chris will discuss having a star party during Science Literacy Week with Ben Dorman of the FDAO.**
  - c. Plaskett Telescope Evenings  
Michel has circulated the upcoming dates on the active observers list.

- d. 2018 Calendar Orders  
Bruce has a few calendars left. He will bring them to Astro Café and the monthly meeting. Joe ordered some additional centre calendars and has one available at \$12.
- e. UVic Telescope Evenings  
Chris reported there has been one successful evening in October. The November evening was looking good but cloud formed just before the meeting time. The next evening is January 12. Chris confirmed that these evenings are for members only.
- f. CASCA 2018 Conference  
Chris reported that Scott Mair has replaced Les on the committees. Jim H reported that the current effort is on getting the website active, fundraising, etc. A question was asked about events for RASC members. There will be a public lecture by Bob McDonald. A major challenge is setting up a 4 day conference with the costs associated with the venue. At this point, the committee is having some issues covering costs so that is impacting who can be included in the conference.
- g. Victoria Day Parade 2018  
Nothing new since the committee met before Christmas.
- h. By-Laws Committee  
We have reviewed the Vancouver Centre by-laws which look like they could be adapted for our use. They would have to be presented at the AGM or at a special meeting. That would be our deadline as they are due by November. Bruce has also proposed changing our year end which needs to be considered as part of this process.  
**Action item: Committee to begin working on the revised by-laws.**
- i. Sale of *A Photographic Atlas of Selected Regions of the Milky Way*  
No update.
- j. VCO Telescope Replacement Project  
We have ordered a couple of items that have not been received. We have an order for a holographic lens to be used for collimation and the upgraded focuser. We have not been able to get the new camera to talk to the computer as yet. Work is being done to get the driver installed.
- k. RASC 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018 *Inviting Canadians to Explore their Skies*  
The website is up [imaginingtheskies.ca](http://imaginingtheskies.ca) is up but not publicized as yet. Confusion with *Skynews* magazine imaging contests is being resolved by Garry Seronik and Randy Attwood. Jim H clarified that submissions have to be approved by Jim or Lauri before they appear to control what can be seen. Jim would like to have some additional support from centre members.  
**Action item: Jim to ask for volunteers at the January monthly meeting.**
- l. Process for sale of surplus equipment from VCO  
There are the surplus items: TeleVue telescope, TeleVue accessories, Meade 14" telescope, Meade cradle, HyperStar for the Meade, 20" mirror. The TeleVue has some issues so the centre could repair it but there is a liability in doing that so it may be prudent to sell it as is with a full disclosure about its condition. The issues are the need for collimation to improve the field to the edge and a new focuser. Reg had discussed the fix with TeleVue and has details if the purchaser wanted to know more. We have almost every available accessory for TeleVue. Suggestion that sale could be by closed bid with a minimum reserved price. We think the sale should be open for a month.  
**Action item: The tech committee will offer these items for sale with reserve prices determined and deadline to receive bids established. Council members will help publicize these items, i.e., via RASC president's list.**
- m. RASCals Star Party 2018 venue
- Metchosin is not being considered this year as the wind conditions have been unacceptable in past years.
  - Bruce recommends that we look at September 7 to 9 to avoid conflicting with the Island Star Party.
  - Bruce is waiting to hear from the Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association.
  - Deb has contact School District #62 but they would not allow having camping on their property.
  - Deb contacted Fort Rodd Hill and they are very interested in having us there again this year. There was some concern about light levels and wind at that site. Reg did clarify that Fort Rodd Hill is much less windy than Metchosin. This would be a public event and there is interest in have a private Star Party for members.
  - There had been a suggestion of using a provincial park but booking would be an issue.
  - Deb suggested looking for a private property that could accommodate us.
  - What about the Saanich Fair Grounds? Site rental could be costly. What about light conditions? We have not updated the survey since 2010 and updated lighting may be an issue.
  - There are polo grounds in Central Saanich near Stelly's Secondary School. We could investigate that.
- Action item: Deb and Bruce to continue to investigate sites.**
- n. DAO Summer Star Parties 2018  
There is nothing to report as the meeting with FDAO has not happened yet.  
**Action item: Chris to connect with Ben to get the planning meeting scheduled.**

#### 4. New Business

- a. RASC 150 Inaugural Event on Saturday, January 27, 2018  
This item was covered earlier in the meeting.
- b. RASC Centre Manual  
Chris G stated that the manual is intended to help centres operate more effectively. What do we plan to do with it? Do we want to make it a template for a Victoria Centre Manual or have it as is and updated by the National Office? Council members to review it and use what they can.
- c. RASC Strategic Planning & Fundraising  
Strategic plan is being implemented and the financial health of the society is being addressed. Fees will have to be increased to catch up from the time when they were frozen. There has also been a fundraising campaign started. Letters and emails have been sent out. The National Council is working on implementing the strategic plan rather than just filing it. A major event this year is the sesquicentennial.
- d. 2018 AGM date and venue  
The 2017 AGM was at the Cedar Hill Golf Course. Do we want to book Saturday, November 17, 2018 for the next AGM. That is a week before the Grey Cup and a full moon weekend.  
**Action item: Chris to contact Cedar Hill Golf Course to book that day for our AGM.**
- e. Thank you card from Glenlyon Norkfolk School for participating in STEM conference  
Thanks to Sid, Lauri, and others for attending. Plan is to attend in future years.

#### 5. Reports (as required)

- a. President & Membership – Chris  
Membership is currently 259.
- b. Vice President, SkyNews Editor, Astro Café – Reg  
Nothing to report.
- c. Second Vice President – Deb  
Nothing to report. Has been answering emails about joining the society.
- d. Treasurer – Bruce  
Member's account has \$8,313 with some cheques to clear and gaming account \$20. Bruce is starting to work on the year-end report for National.
- e. Secretary – VACANT  
No report.
- f. National Representative – Nelson  
Absent
- g. Tech Committee – Matt  
Nothing to report
- h. Website – Joe  
Nothing to report
- i. Library – Michel  
Absent
- j. Schools Program – Sid  
There are quite a few bookings in January. There were 21 presentations done in 2 months prior to the break.
- k. Public Outreach – Ken  
Absent
- l. Observing Chairs – Jim S & Michel  
Absent
- m. Lighting Committee – Dave  
Absent. Dave had sent around the notice about the show on Knowledge Network tonight.
- n. FDAO Liaison – Lauri  
Absent
- o. DAO Liaison – James  
Absent
- p. UVic Liaison – Alex  
Absent
- q. Camosun Liaison – Jim N  
Jim will advertise the January 27 event and see if there are some students willing to help out.
- r. Past President – Sherry  
Absent

*Moved* by Sid that the meeting adjourn at 9:05 p.m.