

Cowichan Valley

# StarFinders

Astronomy Society



Venus & Moon April 19/07; Nikon D50

## May 2007

web [starfinders.ca](http://starfinders.ca)  
President [president@starfinders.ca](mailto:president@starfinders.ca)  
Editor [newsletter@starfinders.ca](mailto:newsletter@starfinders.ca)

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# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 1, 2007

As a registered Society, we must hold one meeting a year that is considered an Annual General Meeting (AGM). There are two parts of such a meeting, the Report of the Directors, and the Financial Statement. At an AGM we can also vote on “Special Resolutions” and ordinary resolutions. Special Resolutions would be considered to change the name of the organization, or its objectives or intents.

As a reminder, our constitution of June 2003 states as follows:

1. The name of the Society is Cowichan Valley StarFinders Astronomy Club.
2. The purposes of the Society are (a) to promote amateur astronomy, and (b) encourage astronomy education through Club activities.
3. The operations of the Society are to be carried out in the Province of British Columbia, but principally on Vancouver Island.

One Special Resolution that we could consider is to modify our name from “Club” to “Society”, so the official name would be “Cowichan Valley StarFinders Astronomy Society”. This change will cost us about \$100. It makes no difference to who we are or what our purpose is, it just formally includes the word “Society” into our name. In any agreements we enter into (eg. Island Star Party), we identify ourselves as the CVSF Society, rather than the CVSF Club. The identity as a society actually gives us a different relationship with official organizations, such as the Victoria Fish & Game. Changing the word “Club” to “Society” simply acknowledges the society aspect within the name.

One of two resolutions I will be proposing is as follows:

- 1) Proposed that the Annual General Meeting be set for the meeting date in May, and the Island Star Party organizational meeting be held at the June meeting.
- 2) The second ordinary resolution that I am going to propose, is to change how we collect fees, and who constitutes a member of the CVSF. The proposal is as follows:
  - i) Any person registering for the Island Star Party (ISP) will become a CVSF member for the following year.
  - ii) Registration fees will cover the costs of participation in the ISP, and membership in the CVSF. Registration fees will be set at the June ISP organizational meeting.
  - iii) Contact information for members will be gathered at the time of registration for the ISP, including a phone number and an email address.
  - iv) The newsletter will be created and posted on our web site on a regular. Members will be contacted by email when a newsletter has been uploaded. Many of these members will not be attending the monthly CVSF meeting, due to distance, so the intention is tie all members together with the newsletter.

## Election of Society Directors

As a Society we are required to have a minimum of 3 directors. The current positions for Directors are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Web Master. Previously we acknowledged the positions of Secretary, but this is not a position that has any function, considering the size of the CVSF. The Society Act does not specify any actual names for the Director positions; these position names are for our own organizational use. However, the CVSF over its two decades of existence has always recognized a President as the leader of the organization. The position has also required that the president do the majority of the planning for monthly meetings, including its content, as well as the general direction of the CVSF. This role is strictly traditional, and is not reflected in the Society Act. For the long term health and survivability of the CVSF, I would like to see this position become one where the president is responsible for organization and co-ordination. I would prefer to see the members become involved in monthly meetings, sharing the load of determining the content. Relying on one person to come up with 10 months worth of diverse and appealing meeting content is a sure way to burn that person out!

At this coming AGM, the position of president is open to any member who is interested; the people in the other positions can declare their intentions at the meeting. I have held this position for two years; the previous president (Frank Ogonoski) presided for seventeen years. The Society Act does not stipulate the length of time a director can or must hold office. Neither does it stipulate that a director must be elected.

*“The members of a society may, in accordance with the bylaws, nominate, elect or appoint directors.”*

Clearly, if another member wishes to take on a position such as the presidency, the member only needs to declare that desire, and the membership can simply appoint that person. The problem is not *how* to put the person into the position, the problem is *who* is willing to undertake the position. At the moment, no one has stepped forward to indicate any interest, and as long as the position remains one of overwhelming responsibility, people will avoid it. From my perspective we need to define how our organization operates, and seek ways to eliminate the loading of the majority of responsibility onto one person. So come out to the AGM on May 1 and participate in your organization. Even a small contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Norm Willey

President, ISP chair person, newsletter editor, person with way too many jobs!

## News from the Web

There is a HUGE number of web sites that are dedicated to astronomy news; these are but a small sampling

### Astrophotography with a Dob

This article does a thorough coverage of using a newtonian telescope on a dobson mount for taking astrophotos. Nice layout and clear diagrams help to introduce this subject. <http://www.iceinspace.com.au/> Go to Projects & Articles and check out Mike Salway's article. Many other articles on astrophotography, beginner's guide, equipment, etc.

### Canadian Astronomy News

This website pulls together a number of articles about Canadian Astronomy, including one on Jack Newton's Osoyoos B&B.

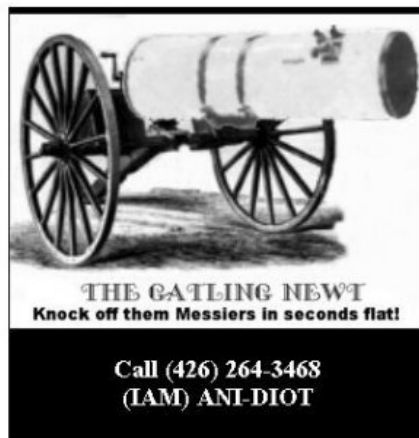
<http://astrocanada.blogspot.com/>

### Astronomy Now Online

A UK site that gives general astronomy news, mostly emphasizing space news, rather than amateur observing. Some of the current articles:

**Report reveals likely causes of Mars spacecraft loss.**  
**Are there purple palm trees on alien worlds?**  
**Planets found thriving around stellar twins.**

<http://www.astronomynow.com/>



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