

# Stratford Astronomy Group (SAG)

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## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, April 7, 2026

**Presiding:** Patrick Hayes

**Number of Attendees:** 22

**Recorded by:** [Name]

## Presentations

### Dr. Michael Burns — Artemis II & Early Universe Stars

Dr. Michael Burns opened the meeting with a brief talk on the Artemis II moon mission. He then turned his attention to Population III stars — the first stars to form in the early universe, composed entirely of hydrogen and helium. He displayed an image showing a series of red dots and presented two competing theories about what these objects might be:

**First theory — Quasi Stars:** These objects may be powered by black holes at their cores, making them extraordinarily luminous early-universe objects.

**Second theory — Dark Stars:** An alternative view proposes that these stars are powered by dark matter annihilation rather than conventional nuclear fusion.

Dr. Burns will distribute a PDF that includes links to scientific papers covering both theories.

### Dr. Michael Burns — Event Horizon Telescope (EHT), Part 2

Dr. Burns then discussed his involvement in Part 2 of the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) project. The EHT is an international collaboration that created a virtual Earth-sized telescope to capture the first-ever image of a black hole. On April 10, 2019, the project attracted worldwide attention when it released the historic first image of the supermassive black hole at the heart of Messier 87 (M87).

Dr. Burns is affiliated with the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics (PI), based in Waterloo, Canada — one of the 13 core stakeholder institutes in this global consortium. The Perimeter Institute serves as a major hub for the project's theoretical modelling and data analysis.

In its next phase, the EHT collaboration is moving beyond static images toward what researchers are calling 'black hole cinema.' The project is adding more telescopes to its array to increase resolution, with the long-term goal of producing real-time movies of black hole activity.

## Club Business

**Welcome — New Attendees**

Following Dr. Burns' presentation, Patrick Hayes asked whether there were any new members in attendance. Two people introduced themselves, noting they had come out of interest after reading the group's advertisement in the local Stratford paper. They were warmly welcomed.

### **Finances & Equipment**

Tim Pauli provided an update on the group's finances and the current status of club equipment.

### **Star Viewing Party — Update**

Patrick Hayes reported that the March 26 Star Party at the Stratford Museum had been cancelled due to insufficient pre-ticket sales and stormy weather forecast for that date.

Following discussion with the membership, Patrick plans to contact the Museum's events coordinator to arrange a Star Viewing Party for either Friday, May 29 or Saturday, May 30.

### **Hubble Trouble — Continued (Bruce Simpson)**

Bruce Simpson took the floor to continue his 'Hubble Trouble' presentation, which he began at the February 2026 meeting. [Summary of topics covered in this session to be added by the recorder.]

The February 2026 presentation slides are available on the SAG website: [Hubble Trouble — February 2026 \(PDF\)](#)