

**PRINCE GEORGE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
PRINCE GEORGE CENTRE
7365 Tedford Road
Prince George, BC
V2N 6S2**

**PGC109 Business Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2011**

Date: February 9, 2011
Location: 490 Brunswick St.

Chairperson: Brian Battersby
Recording Secretary: Glen Harris
Executives Present: Brian, Blair, Doug, Jim Van Doren, Glen, Ken, Wayne
Members Present: Rod

Meeting Called to Order at 7:37 p.m.

**1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes of PGC108**

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of PGC108 (Jan. 12, 2011) as presented.
Moved: Ken Seconded: Blair Carried

3. Reports of Officers

a. President (Brian Battersby)

Welcome to the new Members. (all from NOVA)
Richard MacCallum, Rosemary O'Connor, Tanya Begin, Arlene Belsham, Jo-Anne Carter, Carey Gobbett, Thomas Bania, Shyla MacCallum, Don Olson

b. Vice-President (Blair Stunder)

An email reminder was sent to members whose memberships have expired.

c. Secretary/Recorder (Glen Harris)

- Canada Post mail was distributed as required.
- The \$500 TELUS donation associated with my volunteer hours should be received by the March business meeting. The Centre received a \$200 TELUS donation associated with a Steve Shannon's volunteer hours. I am in the process of tracking down Steve's address so I can send him a thank you note.
- All new members have been sent a welcoming letter outlining the Centre activities and contact information.
- Using information resident within the new RASC National spreadsheet format will allow the Prince George Centre to tailor programs and viewing sessions to better suit the Centre member's interests, in addition to making it easier to create distribution lists for electronic and standard mail delivery of the Centre's 'PeGASus' newsletter.
- The lunar marathons scheduled for Jan 14/15 were cancelled due to poor weather.

d. Treasurer (Ken Lovin)

Regular Account balance: \$7230.77

Gaming Account balance: \$40.67

A detailed financial statement is filed with these minutes.

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted.

Moved: Wayne Seconded: Blair Carried

4. Reports of Members-at-Large

Photography club talk – Wayne Sanders, Jan 26, 2011

My talk was received with a minimum of heckling. There were about 35 bodies present and lots of interest in astronomy photography. I thought that I had missed the mark as they appeared to want more pretty pictures than I had included in the presentation, but when they realized that we are using pictures and video to glean data for science and so on, they seemed to get into it and understand just what it was that Glen and I are doing. I gave the center a starring role by mentioning that it was the Centre's money that had been spent on the Tatla Lake and 108 Mile House cameras. I saw John Ascah and Bob Stevenson there as well as other non astronomy friends. I received a request from school teacher Diane Sullivan as to whether we, the "RASC PG Center", would be interested in presenting a display or hands on activity at this year's "Central Interior Science Exhibition" coming up soon. I am not sure just what she had in mind but do know that in past years they have had groups from organizations doing small demonstrations on catapults and solar energy amongst other things at the lead in to the Fair at UNBC. I believe the intent is to give the students ideas for next year's projects. I am composing a letter to her this day to get a better idea of just what she has in mind. To get access to the public and students from all the school districts in the north is something else "TOTAL OUTREACH". Believe they had ~1800 students and teachers go through the fair last year. Guess it would not hurt our Gaming Grant application. In summation, it was a great evening for me and others enjoyed by reason of the discussions that followed.

RASC PG Centre may participate in the Science Exhibition with help from Jim Van Doren, Rod, and Blair.

5. Reports of Committees, including any motions from the Committees

Observing & Small Scope Maintenance Report - Blair Stunder

- I collimated all the Centre Dobsonian telescopes last night. Sky/weather conditions didn't allow for checking the Red-Dots for proper alignment.

Website Report - Wayne Sanders

There is a problem with posting the January 2011 newsletter

Media Relations Report - Maurice Sluka

1. The NOVA poster blitz and Meisner interview appear to have been successful with about 10 students signing up for NOVA.
2. The Spring promotional poster has been completed and 5 have been placed. Is anyone interested in taking copies to other locations?
3. I will record a Public Service Announcement for CBC Daybreak for the spring season.
4. I now have a program to design future posters, and I am planning to make a new poster for April when Saturn will be in a good position for observing.
- 5 I am sending copies of the messages for events to the Prince George Naturalists club so their membership will be aware of the Centre's activities.

6. We need to decide if & when the Fort St. James Star Party/Outreach will happen, to coordinate the publicity.

7. The 'Our Night Sky' recordings for February have been written & recorded, but need to be edited. Writing the scripts takes about 4 to 5 hours per month. The recording is torturous, taking sometimes over an hour to get 4 - 90 seconds features suitable for airing. The editing program is not very easy to use (very odd format & user interface) and takes about 30 minutes per feature, or nearly 2 hours. This time is hard to fit in when I am busy and working 50+ hours per week. I would hand it over to someone, if they wanted it.

Building Maintenance Report

Jan 27, 2011 Glen cleared the parking lot of snow with his snow blower.

Jan 29, 2011 Doug cleared the observing area of snow, so all is set for observing tonight. I also swept out the classroom and hallway and washroom. The water system is 2/3 full still.

Feb 7, 2011 Glen removed snow from the observatory driveway, parking lots, and viewing deck.

Building Maintenance Report - Dome

By Glen Harris Feb 2, 2011

Dome rotation was tested when the temperature was ~ -5C. Although the dome moved easily through most of its rotation, a standard 10 amp fuse blew when the dome opening was in the northwest position, an area that has been an ongoing problem. Previous efforts to minimize the friction in that area have resulted in a large reduction of the problem. The fuse was replaced with a 10 amp slo-blo type, and even though the dome slowed down in the northwest area, it continued to move. With the dome slot positioned in various areas, multiple starts and stops in both directions were made, and the dome moved immediately with no indication of slippage with the recently installed and modified friction wheel. The dome has been restored to operation.

Tours & Public Outreach - Wayne Sanders

Tour booked for March 3, 2011 Group is the "Face book Friends" 15 people.

Tour booked for March 3, 2011 Group is the "2nd Kelly Rd. Guides" 22 people.

Tour Volunteers

Wayne, Blair: March 3

Wayne S: March 7, March 28, April 11, May 23

Blair S: March 28

Open House Volunteers

Doug: Feb 25, March 11

Newsletter - Gil Self

The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, February 18, 2011.

Computers and AV Equipment Maintenance Report - Glen Harris

A recent problem involving the use of the VCR and patch bay requirements prompted me to construct more coaxial patch cords, one of which was used for the VCR-Projector link. Blair donated a 2GHz computer to the Centre. RAM was increased from 512Mb to 1.5GB. This computer will replace the one I loaned the Centre for use with the weather cam once I get the sound problem resolved.

RASC National Representative Report

No report

Grants & Funding Committee Report

By Ken Lovin

To date there has not been a deposit of gaming funds into the Gaming account.

24" Telescope Maintenance Committee Report

By Glen Harris

Pending a suitable replacement, I replaced the seized knurled thumbscrew used to lock the 2" eyepieces in place with an 8-32 machine screw bent to a 45 degree angle.

7. Old Business

- Wayne Sanders withdrew a spending proposal for a new way to drive the dome.
- A proposal / motion with cost and schedule to re-coat the secondary mirror as discussed by the Telescope Committee at the PGC106 (Oct 6) meeting has not been brought forward yet.
- Bank signing authority transfer is complete
- Fort St. James Historic Site summer viewing session will be scheduled for Aug. 27.
- The cost estimate to expand the driveway entrance will be deferred until the ditch is relatively free of snow, at which time an accurate estimate of the amount of fill required and number of sandbags required as a retaining wall can be determined. I have obtained a blank permit application from the Highways Department. Doug may be able to source the culverts and collars.
- A case (24) of incandescent 60 watt light bulbs has been purchased. The wholesaler did not have, nor will it get in, a supply of red incandescent bulbs. A retail search for the bulbs will be undertaken. Red bulbs typically cost \$4 each.

8. New Business

- Mike M. has completed his Explore the Universe Certificate requirements.
Motion: That Mike Matwyuk be awarded the RASC Explore the Universe Certificate as he has met all the necessary requirements.
Moved: Blair Seconded: Glen Carried
- Motion: To approve and act on the spending proposal for Control Room Flat Screen LCD or LED monitor.
Moved: Glen Seconded: Blair Carried
- Motion: To approve and act on the spending proposal for Red Incandescent Light Bulbs
Moved: Glen Seconded: Wayne Carried
- Too Many Hats Trefoil Guild is coming to the Open House on Friday, Feb 18, 2011.

9. Date, Time, and Location of next Board of Directors Meeting

Motion: That the next Board of Directors meeting, PGC110, be held on March 9, 2011.
7:30 pm at SpeeDee Your Office Experts. Please submit all agenda items to Brian by Feb 2.
Moved: Blair Seconded: Wayne Carried

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm