

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

**PGC113 Business Meeting Minutes  
Aug 17, 2011**

Date: Aug 17, 2011

Location: 490 Brunswick St.

Chairperson: Brian Battersby

Recording Secretary: Glen Harris

Executives Present: Brian, Gil, Glen, Rusty, Bob, Blair

Members Present:

Meeting Called to Order at 7:38 p.m.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Approval of Minutes of PGC112**

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of PGC112 (May 11, 2011) as presented.

Moved: Gil      Seconded: Blair      Carried

**3. Reports of Officers**

**a. President (Brian Battersby)**

A warm welcome to new youth member Radu Pasca and returning member Maria Weisgarber. Received a notice from HUB to review our insurance coverage as it is due for renewal on September 11, 2011.

Aug. 27 - 5:00pm - Fort St. James Star Party - All members invited. Last year's event was great, perfect inky black sky, warm temperatures, with a large number of local people having a great time. The Historic Site's staff made us very welcome also (switched off and covered lights etc). ~ Maurice Sluka

Sept 10 & 11. Active Living Market. Pine Centre mall. We will have a booth there. All members are welcome to help man the booth during regular mall hours.

**b. Vice-President (Blair Stunder)**

Customs brokers have been set up to handle cross border shipment of the telescope mirrors to and from the vendor. The mirrors were shipped on Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>.

**c. Secretary/Recorder (Glen Harris)**

- Canada Post mail was distributed as required.

- Le Cercle des Canadiens-Français de Prince George was invoiced for \$75 for a presentation made by Wayne and Rusty.

- One new youth member has been added to our membership.

- Thank you letter sent to Speedee's acknowledging their 50% cost sharing in the Epson projector purchase.
- Thank you letter sent to All Points Fire Protection Service acknowledging their free inspection of the observatory fire extinguishers.
- Thank you letter sent to Ray Normandeau at Canfor for the culvert and collar contribution.
- Participated in NASA's 'UpAllNight' video streaming event on August 12th, the night of the Perseids. The 'Sentinel' computer's AllSky camera feed was redirected to the LiveStream site for Friday evening and following morning.
- Sent a donation receipt and thank you letter to Rolling Mix for the load and delivery of gravel.
- Will send a donation receipt to the Multicultural Heritage Society for their donation of information booth space at the 'Celebrate Canada' Festival 2001 held on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**d. Treasurer**

Regular Account balance: \$3474.81 Gaming Account balance: \$10018.17

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

Moved: Blair Seconded: Rusty Carried

A financial report is filed with these minutes.

Motion: Reimburse Glen Harris, \$491.69, for expenses incurred as part of the 24" Telescope Upgrade Project as well as Pine Centre mall outreach booth fee. (itemized list available). Funds to be paid from the Gaming Account.

Moved: Blair Seconded: Gil Carried

Motion: Reimburse Brian Battersby, \$33.47, for expenses incurred as part of the 24" Telescope Upgrade Project (mirror shipping materials). Funds to be paid from the Gaming Account.

Moved: Bob Seconded: Glen Carried

Motion: Reimburse Wayne Sanders, \$32.98, for dry ice purchased as part of a comet demonstration made at a tour for the French immersion school. Funds to be paid from the Gaming Account.

Moved: Rusty Seconded: Bob Carried

Motion: For the club to purchase a license for Simply Accounting Pro in order to keep proper accounting records. Cost \$189.99 US

Moved: Gil Seconded: Blair Carried

**4. Reports of Members-at-Large**

No report

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

**Observing & Small Scope Maintenance Report - Blair Stunder**

The black 8" Celestron collimation issue will be addressed soon.

**Website Report - Wayne Sanders**

The web page is up to date.

**Media Relations Report**

No report

### **Building Maintenance Report - Glen**

- Screwed a piece of plywood onto the dome wall and mounted the dome and slot motor controller box to it
- Wired the telescope power bar and equipment bay 12 Volt power supply monitoring relay contacts in series into Zone 1 of the building alarm system.
- Greg wire brushed the peeling paint from the brick grouting and I painted it.

### **Tours & Public Outreach Report - Wayne**

- Northwood Wellness Day saw about 100 people showing an interest in our display. 5 members were in attendance - Wayne, Glen, Blair, Rusty, and Rod.
- Canada Day was a success. About 1200 people visited our booth at Fort George Park. Limited solar viewing occurred due to poor weather.
- Wayne and Rusty did an offsite presentation at Le Cercle des Canadiens-Français de Prince George School using dry ice to simulate a comet.
- Need volunteer schedule for tours and open houses to post on the website. There are currently ~ 400 planispheres on hand.
- Motion: Order 1000 more planispheres. Approximate cost delivered is \$500. Moved: Brian Seconded: Blair Carried
- The Perseid meteor shower was poorly attended (~20) by the public due to cloudy skies. 6 members showed up though.

### **Newsletter - Gil Self**

The deadline for the next PeGASus newsletter is Sept 16, 2011.

### **Computers and AV Equipment Maintenance Report - Glen Harris**

- Updated Servo Controller ROM
- Updated SiTech.exe Servo Controller and Ascom programs
- Installed TPoint mapping program on 'Meteor' computer
- Updated all observatory computers with latest updates
- Installed new Epson projector

### **RASC National Representative Report**

No report

### **Grants & Funding Committee Report - Gil Self**

I guess persistence pays off as gaming has reconsidered our application and granted us even more than last year. We now have \$10,000 in our gaming account, \$2,000 more than last year!

### **24" Telescope Maintenance Committee Report - Glen Harris, Bob Nelson**

More than 150 man hours was spent in June, July and August to achieve the following:

- Fabricated and installed the Declination gear enclosure
- Installed Newtonian Focuser and ST9 CCD camera
- Installed Newtonian focuser controller at dome monitor desk
- Increased length of hand controller cable
- Collimated Cassegrain and Newtonian mirrors
- Aligned all finder scopes
- Installed 6" refractor on top of mirror box

- Installed video camera on 6" refractor and tested
- Verified video camera image was visible on the small dome monitor and in the classroom
- Balanced the telescope in RA and Declination
- Verified SiTech program autoguiding feature (Virtual Handpad)
- Verified flip mirror operation
- Acquired and evaluated CCD9 camera images
- Confirmed focus with all usable eyepieces
- Mapped dome for telescope collision areas and applied reflective tape
- Installed and tested TPoint program in conjunction with TheSky 6
- Installed, calibrated, and tested RA and Declination limit switches
- Added and updated all associated documentation
- Shipped the primary and secondary mirror to Optical Mechanics, Inc. for refurbishing

## 6. Old Business

- As per Motion from PGC112 (2011/05/11) the 24" primary and 8" secondary scope mirrors have been shipped to James Mulherin of Optical Mechanics, Inc. for re-coating and inspection. Thanks to Canadian Freightways for excellent shipping rates. Thanks to Blair for making that happen.
- The insurance policy is due on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. Brian will contact the insurance agent and get confirmation on some of the wording and investigate removing the 'Miscellaneous Property Floater'

## 7. New Business

Kick Off the Fall Viewing Season – Meet & Greet. RSVP.

- Motion: Purchase a number of frozen pizzas and a few bottles of pop for Sept 10<sup>th</sup> (member's night) and Oct 15<sup>th</sup> (business meeting and AGM) Saturday evenings. Open to all members and their families. Budget: \$100.00

Moved: Blair Seconded: Gil Carried

A work-bee will be held on Sept 17, 2011 to install the culverts, place a couple of fencepost, and paint the observatory gable ends. All members welcome!

- As per numerous previous Executive discussions, see minute entries below, purchase an SBIG ST-10XME camera and CFW9 filter wheel as soon as funds are available.

Motion: Purchase an SBIG ST-10XME CCD camera and CFW9 filter wheel. Currently ~ \$1900 less at Optcorp (\$4490) than it is at SBIG (\$6390). Quoted cost of US\$4491.19 shipped. Duty, UPS fees, and HST (\$538.92) will be extra.

Moved: Gil Seconded: Glen Carried

- Link to camera and filter wheel write-up

[http://www.sbig.com/site/sbwhtmls/announce\\_st\\_specials\\_may2009.htm](http://www.sbig.com/site/sbwhtmls/announce_st_specials_may2009.htm)

- Preliminary discussion to allot \$3000 for an ST9 CCD camera. Firmer figures were required for discussion and a final decision at the AGM, but there is no mention of it in the AGM minutes.

<http://www.vts.bc.ca/pgrasc/members/minutes/Nov2006-Oct2007/20071010.htm>

- SBIG ST-10XME CCD camera, filter wheel and scientific filters to be included in the gaming application. This was not a motion.

<http://www.vts.bc.ca/pgrasc/members/minutes/Nov2007-Oct2008/20080910.htm>

- Proposal to set up a bank account for surplus funds for a CCD camera

[http://www.vts.bc.ca/pgrasc/members/minutes/Nov2009-Oct2010/RASC%20Prince%20George%20Center\\_Minutes\\_20100515.pdf](http://www.vts.bc.ca/pgrasc/members/minutes/Nov2009-Oct2010/RASC%20Prince%20George%20Center_Minutes_20100515.pdf)

- A mention of a CCD camera fund - money to be set aside.

<http://www.vts.bc.ca/pgrasc/members/minutes/Nov2009-Oct2010/September%208th%202010.xls>

- The Centre will not participate in the Volunteer Awards Program.

- Bob Nelson is eager to implement a Spectrograph project.

- The Fall open house and tour dates volunteer schedule has been established and sent to the webmaster for inclusion on the Centre website.

### **8. Date, Time, and Location of next Board of Directors Meeting**

Motion: That the next Board of Directors meeting, PGC114, be held on September 14, 2011.

7:30 pm at SpeeDee Your Office Experts. Please submit all agenda items to Brian by September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Moved: Glen Seconded: Blair Carried

### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm

