

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

**PGC114 Business Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2011**

Date: Sept 14, 2011

Location: 490 Brunswick St.

Chairperson: Brian Battersby

Recording Secretary: Glen Harris

Executives Present: Brian, Blair, Jim Van Doren, Glen, Gil

Members Present: Maurice, Rod

Meeting Called to Order at 7:45 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes of PGC113

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of PGC113 (Aug 17, 2011) as presented.

Moved: Blair Seconded: Jim Van Doren Carried

3. Reports of Officers

a. President (Brian Battersby)

A warm welcome is extended to youth member Ethan O'Hara.

b. Vice-President (Blair Stunder)

10 people attended the 'Meet and Greet' event on Sept. 10th.

c. Secretary/Recorder (Glen Harris)

- Canada Post mail was distributed as required.

- Sent a donation receipt to the Multicultural Heritage Society for their donation of information booth space at the 'Celebrate Canada' Festival 2011 held in Fort George Park on July 1.

- Received a \$75 cheque from Le Cercle des Canadiens-Français de Prince George for a tour conducted by Wayne and Rusty.

d. Treasurer

- Regular Account balance: \$3549.81 Gaming Account balance: \$4160.73

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

Moved: Glen Seconded: Blair Carried

A financial report is filed with these minutes.

- HUB insurance coverage at a cost of \$178 has been extended for a month to give us time to evaluate insurance coverage offered by RASC National. Gil is in discussions with HUB and RASC National.

- Gaming Account cheques were ordered and received from RBC.
- Sage Simply Accounting has been purchased and the receipt for \$212.79 submitted for reimbursement.

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 C8 telescope is still out of collimation.

Website Report - Wayne Sanders

- The web page is current including various operating procedure updates.
- Aging HTML code is causing errors. Brian will search for an outside source to update the code.

Media Relations Report

- Maurice sent a descriptive report on the Sept 9 Aurora display to CBC.
- The Fort St. James star party was a great success with fine weather and a clear, dark sky. Blair gave a talk on Latitude and Longitude, the use of stars for navigation, and the motion of the sky/stars, and seasons. Approximately 45 people were in attendance over the course of the evening and were treated to views of the ISS, an Iridium flare, several meteors, as well as the usual deep sky objects - galaxies, globular and open clusters. Viewing ended at 1:30 am Sunday morning. Thanks go out to Kevin, Phil, and Pat for all the help making the event such a success.
- Received a \$1530 cheque from CFIS radio for the 'Our Night Skies' feature done by Maurice.
- Ashley Macdonald from the Citizen interviewed several members during the September 9th open house. Her article appeared in the Citizen on Wednesday Sept 14th and featured an image of the Aurora.

Building Maintenance Report - Glen

- The classroom south gable end and fascia have been scraped and primed in preparation for the Sept 17 work bee.

Tours & Public Outreach Report - Wayne

- A request to hold a birthday party on an open house or member's night was denied. The party could be held on a currently vacant tour date posted on the web site.
- Tour booked for Sept 26, Wayne and Glen to host.
- Tour booked for Nov 26, Brian and Denise to host.

Newsletter - Gil Self

The deadline for the next PeGASus newsletter is 2011/09/16.

The deadline for the following PeGASus newsletter is 2011/10/21.

Computers and AV Equipment Maintenance Report - Glen Harris

- Installed a secondary monitor on the viewing deck desk.
- Installed a USB 2Tb hard drive on the 'Sentinel' computer. This device was provided by Sandia for the Sentinel AllSky camera system.

RASC National Representative Report

No report

Grounds Maintenance Report

- An excavator was hired on Sept 11th to re-profile the road ditches and relocate the drainage ditch in preparation for the driveway entrance expansion to occur during the Sept 17th work bee. Cost was \$100, paid from the general account. A receipt will be mailed to us.
- The 2' long west end culvert extension and collar has been replaced with a 10' extension and collar. Backfilling remains to be done. 1' of the east end culvert has been exposed and is ready for the collar and 10' culvert extension. Threaded rod and bolts will be purchased to replace the supplied bolts, as they are too short to clamp the new culvert collar.

Grants & Funding Committee Report - Gil Self

- The gaming funds have been deposited and partially spent.

24" Telescope Maintenance Committee Report

- Installed the SBIG ST-10XME CCD camera and CFW9 filter wheel (no filters).
 - The telescope mirrors have been recoated and are being tested and evaluated.
- Update: Sept 15th emails with the vendor disclosed that the mirrors won't be tested for another week or two due to a backlog of work at their lab and that the 24" mirror won't fit on the available test bed.

6. Old Business

- The SBIG ST-10XME CCD camera has been purchased and the receipt submitted for reimbursement.
- A work-bee will be held on Sept 17, 2011 to install the culverts, place a couple of fencepost and paint the fascia and observatory gable ends. All members welcome!
- Due to the current stock level, the purchase of more planispheres has been deferred.

7. New Business

- AGM October 15, 2011 - 6:30 pm at the observatory. Business meeting to begin at 5:30 pm.

- Motion: Authorize the cost of semiannual recurring AllSky camera maintenance trips. Cost is \$250/trip. The cost will be offset by the Telus donation in recognition of my (Glen) volunteer hours spent on observatory work. Moved: Blair Seconded: Gil Carried
- Motion: Authorize the purchase of a 5 speed drill press. Cost is \$78.39 including taxes. Moved: Blair Seconded: Gil Carried
Update: The drill press was purchased on Sept 15th.
- Motion: Authorize the purchase of scientific filters for the CFW9 filter wheel and SBIG ST-10XME CCD camera. Cost is ~\$690 - \$800 + shipping. **Priority 1** as funds become available. Moved: Glen Seconded: Blair Carried
- Motion: Authorize the cost to replace the dome computer. Cost is ~ \$900 + taxes. **Priority 2** as funds become available. Moved: Glen Seconded: Gil Carried
- Motion: Authorize the purchase of a MallinCam VSS Colour CCD camera. Cost is \$1200 +

shipping + taxes. **Priority 3** as funds become available. This purchase will allow telescope images to be sent to the classroom for viewing by people unable to access the dome area.

Moved: Glen Seconded: Blair Carried

- Motion: Authorize the purchase of a 12" Skywatcher Dobsonian Telescope for members and public use. Cost is \$1800 + shipping + taxes. **Priority 4** as funds become available.

Moved: Blair Seconded: Maurice Carried

- Motion: Authorize the basic setup cost associated with building a spectrograph. Initial cost is \$622 for development, \$2900 for the finished spectrograph, ? for spectrograph with a CCD Camera. Tabled.

- Lunar Marathons are scheduled for Nov 5, 2011, March 2, 3, 30, and 31, 2012

- The NOVA program will be offered again, with a start date in January 2012. Details will be forthcoming.

- Special viewing events in the near future:

Date	Moon	Time	% Illumination
September 24 th	Rise	3:19 am	
October 1 st	Set	11:00 pm	29%
October 22 nd	Rise	2:15am	1%
October 29 th	Set	7:45 pm	15%
November 19 th	Rise	00:17 am	32%
November 26 th	Rise	9:42 am	5%

Sinkut Mountain and Baldy Hughes on the earlier (possibly warmer dates) and attempt a couple of "Open Cluster – Binocular Only" sessions for the later dates.

- A 'First Light Ceremony' will be deferred until the mirrors are back in place and the telescope has been extensively tested.

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

Motion: That the next Board of Directors meeting, PGC115, be held on October 15, 2011.

5:30 pm at the observatory with the 2011 AGM to follow at 6:30 pm. Please submit all agenda items to Brian by October 12th.

Moved: Glen Seconded: Gil Carried

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm