

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

**PGC118 Business Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2012**

Date: February 8, 2012
Location: 3323 Hart Highway

Chairperson: Blair Stunder
Recording Secretary: Glen Harris
Executives Present: Glen, Gil, Blair, Wayne
Members Present: Brian D, Maurice

Meeting Called to Order at 7:35 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes of PGC117

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of PGC117 (Jan 11, 2012) as presented.
Moved: Wayne Seconded: Brian Carried

3. Reports of Officers

a. President (Blair Stunder)

- Fort St. James Star party to include solar viewing starting at 2 pm on Aug 18, 2012.
- There are 10 NOVA students.

b. Secretary/Recorder (Glen Harris)

- Canada Post mail was distributed as required.
- NOVA student info was processed.
- Donation receipts were issued.
- Annual Centre Information Update 2012 was faxed to RASC National.

c. Treasurer

- Regular Account balance: \$5048.62 Gaming Account balance: \$54.65
- Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report as corrected.
Moved: Gil Seconded: Blair Carried
- A detailed financial report is filed with these minutes.
- Telus, Fortis, BC Hydro accounts were prepaid from the gaming account.

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

Website Report - Wayne

- The web site is up to date.
- Wording regarding weather conditions affecting observatory functions to be changed on the website home page.

Tours & Public Outreach Report - Wayne

- Always looking for tour and open house hosts and assistants.
- A visit by 20-30 long distance learning students and instructors from School District 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin) is anticipated near the end of March.
- All tours booked to date have been well attended and paid for.
- The new tour fee schedule is now in force.

Newsletter - Gil

- Due to the chronic lack of articles, publication of the newsletter will be held until a sufficient number of articles make publication worthwhile.

Computers and AV Equipment Maintenance Report - Glen

- All computer software is up to date.

Observing and Small Telescopes Maintenance - Blair

- Collimation of the black 8" Celestron remains to be done.

Grants & Funding Committee Report - Gil

- The gaming grant status shows as 'Completed' on the government website.

24" Telescope Maintenance Committee Report - Glen

- A quick reference guide has been produced to help solve telescope problems encountered during operation.
- The 24" telescope cassegrain configuration was star collimated, finder scopes realigned, and Go-To operation confirmed.

Building Report - Glen

- Removed snow from the dome and roof.
- Sno-B-Gone has been doing a good job of clearing snow.

Media Relations Report - Maurice

- February 'Our Night Sky' features have been written, recorded & edited for broadcast.
- The 'Cosmos In the Classroom' CD ordered from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has been received, and backup copies made.
- The NOVA promotion is still running on the 'Pulse' website.

5. Old Business

- Approved spending proposals are on hold until sufficient funds appear in the gaming bank account.

6. New Business

- The Centre Treasurer's Annual 2011 Report has been submitted to RASC National.
- Motion: Any agenda items not submitted by the published due date will be discussed but automatically tabled to the next business meeting for action.

Moved: Blair Seconded: Gil Carried

- The visual quality of the 24" Cassegrain has been improved as much as it can be without spending more money to correct deficiencies in the mirrors themselves, and any further visual telescope funding other than that already approved should be diverted to constructing another viewing facility. A lengthy discussion focused on erecting a separate secure roll-off roof outbuilding housing a 14" – 16" or larger telescope more suited to visual observation. The 24" telescope would then be described as a research telescope and would not be the prime viewing tool. Members are invited to submit ideas to "Project co-ordinator" at selfpg@telus.net on what features the new structure should incorporate.
- Maurice will research the cost to replace the loose dome room tiles and stairwell surfaces with an industrial grade vinyl product.
- NOVA roster to be sent to all NOVA instructors.
- NOVA instructor's contact info to be posted on the website.
- Discussion on where to hold the Transit of Venus event and lecture by UNBC history professor Ted Binnema. Blair will take care of the details.

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

- The next Board of Directors meeting, PGC119, will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:30 pm at Arctic Manufacturing 3323 Hart Hwy. Please submit all agenda items to Blair no later than Saturday, March 10, 2012.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.