

**PRINCE GEORGE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA  
PRINCE GEORGE CENTRE**

**7365 Tedford Road  
Prince George, BC  
V2N 6S2**

**Robotic Telescope Project (RTP) Minutes**

**November 5, 2021**

Meeting Number: RTP003  
Date: November 5, 2021  
Location: Zoom Meeting

Chairperson: Malhar Kendurkar  
Recording Secretary: Glen Harris  
Committee Members present: Gil, Bob

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 p.m.

**1. Approval of Minutes of RTP002**

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of RTP002 October 27, 2021.

Moved: Glen                      Seconded: Gil                      Carried

**2. Old Business**

Actionable items:

- Telus fiber should be available in early November. **Glen**
- Copy Glen in emails with Dave Lane                      **Malhar**
- Update Alcyone dome control update via Teamviewer – Establish time.  
    Dave Lane contact                      **Malhar**
- Mirror cover plans from Dave Lane                      **Malhar**
- Dome skirting repair work bee email to members. **Malhar**
- DSLR operation.                      **Bob, Malhar**
  - Spacer required.                      **Bob, Malhar**
  - DSLR focusing.                      **Bob, Malhar**
- Polar alignment.                      **Bob, Malhar**
- Accurate method of parking the telescope. **Bob, Malhar**
  - Sensors                      **Gil**
- Gaming fund request                      **Glen**
- Slot control drawings received from Dave Lane.

**3. New Business**

- Telus is processing the request for fiber service at the observatory and includes:

*Fiber 1gb*

*940/940mbps*

*\$90/month bundled price*

*3 year contract*

*Unlimited data*

*2 dynamic IPs*

*10 telus.net emails*

*Installation and modem is waived*

*5 Static IPs \$12*

No indication as to when the installation will be scheduled.

- Working on the gaming fund request. Enlisting Bob's assistance for the wording of the need for the robotic telescope.
- Created a password protected portal 'Telescope Control' on the club website. Temporary password is testpage. Added a weather application to the page.
- Taking images with the DSLR camera has been achieved. Controlling the 4shooter focuser remotely remains an issue.
- Discovered a problem reactivating the telescope servo controller remotely if the limit switches are activated. Two buttons on the controller handpad must be pressed simultaneously to reactivate the telescope. Nothing in the controller documentation points to a resolution. Contacted the Sidereal Technologies tech department for advice. Awaiting a reply.
- Roof and dome snow removal discussion tabled.
- User profile required on all computers.
- 'Homing sensors' available on Amazon. There appears to be enough room to mount the sensors.
- Lower shutter hydraulics discussed.
- AC-DC adapter available to replace DSLR battery. This may get around the problem of remote power control of the DSLR.
- Construct a prototype for the alternate wiring arrangement to the dome slot motor.
- More outreach detail required for the gaming grant.

#### **Actionable items**

Malhar:

- November 13 Work Bee email.
- Cc Glen on emails to Dave Lane.
- DSLR power supply link to committee.
- Lower shutter hydraulics details.
- Automatic shutter closure in bad weather.
- Prototype for dome slot motor wiring (work with Glen, Bob).

Glen:

- Complete Gaming request.
- Prototype for dome slot motor wiring (work with Malhar, Bob).

Gil:

- Homing sensors (work with Bob).

Bob:

- Gaming grant wording.
- Prototype for dome slot motor wiring (work with Malhar, Glen).
- Homing sensors (work with Gil).

#### **Outstanding items:**

- If shutter plans are provided, build it ourselves. **Who?** The owl said.
- DSLR image link to website. **Glen**
- All Sky weather camera link to website **Glen**
- Weather station link to website. **Glen**
- Infrared camera link to website. **Glen**
- Telescope use scheduling utility. **Others**
- Flip Mirror operation. **Bob**

#### **4. Date, Time, and Location of the next Robotic Telescope Project committee meeting**

- The next committee meeting (RTP004) will be held on Friday November 19, 2021 starting at 7:00 pm using Zoom.

**5. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.