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 19, 2021

Meeting Number: RTP004
Date: November 19, 2021
Location: Zoom Meeting

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

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

1. Approval of Minutes of RTP003
Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of RTP003 November 5, 2021.
Moved: Malhar   Seconded: Glen   Carried

2. Old Business
- Gaming grant request was submitted.
- Dome skirting was repaired.
- The DSLR camera is working.

Actionable items:
- AC-DC adapter available to replace DSLR battery.
- DSLR power supply link to committee.   **Malhar**
- 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**
Automatic shutter closure in bad weather.   **Malhar**
- Polar alignment.   **Bob, Malhar**
- Accurate method of parking the telescope.   **Bob, Malhar**
     - Sensors   **Gil**
- 'Homing sensors' available on Amazon. There appears to be enough room to mount the sensors.

3. New Business
- Telus fiber installation deferred to December 1.
- 1.5" x 10' thin wall conduit purchased at Home Depot.
- Maurice will have his dad bend the dome slot wiring conduit in the next couple of weeks.
- Estimate drawn up for lower dome slot electric actuators. This cost was not factored into the gaming fund request. Based on my calculations we require:
2 - PA17 Heavy Duty Actuators @ $429CAD ea. = $858CAD
The Actuators come with adjustable limit switches.
4 – BRK-17 Heavy Duty Mounting Brackets @ $30CAD ea. = $120 CAD
1 – (120VAC to 24VDC 30A) RA39 Controller @ $152USD = $192CAD
Total = ~$1200CAD.

- 12" step ladder purchased through Home Hardware. Delivery in two weeks.
- Dan Gray of Sidereal Technologies provided a solution for restarting a stalled telescope remotely. All you have to do is click on the bottom button in the SiTech virtual hand pad window.
- Homing sensors purchased through Amazon. 4-6 weeks delivery.
- Sensor ring fabricated and test mounted on RA axis.

Actionable items
Malhar:
- Resolve FTP issue.
- Send questions and set up time for meeting with Dave Lane.
- Contact Ajai regarding posting infrared and AllSky camera images to website.
- Polar alignment with Bob.

Glen:
- Telus fiber installation.
- Telescope user profile on Alcyone.
- Telescope use scheduling utility.

Gil:
- Homing sensors (work with Bob).

Bob:
- Homing sensors (work with Gil).
- Continue fabricating sensor mounting hardware and cowlings.
- Preliminary work on flip mirror automation.
- Polar alignment with Malhar.

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.   **Glen**
- Flip Mirror operation.   **Bob**

4. Date, Time, and Location of the next Robotic Telescope Project committee meeting
- The next committee meeting (RTP005) will be held on Thursday December 2, 2021 starting at 7:00 pm using Zoom.

5. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.