

**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**

**August 16, 2022**

Meeting Number: RTP022

Date: August 16, 2022

Location: Zoom Meeting

Chairperson: Malhar Kendurkar

Recording Secretary: Glen Harris

Committee Members present: Glen, Malhar, Gil, Rob

Meeting Called to Order at 7:02pm.

**1. Approval of Minutes of RTP021**

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of RTP021 August 02, 2022

Moved: Glen                      Seconded: Gil                      Carried

**2. Old Business**

- Resolve the lower shutter closure problem.
- Replace the hand crank pulley with a larger diameter pulley.
- Prioritize completion of the mirror cover.
- Install the f/2 Celestron and camera on the top of the 0.6m telescope enclosure and rebalance the telescope.
- Configure the f/2 telescope for remote operation.

**Malhar's report**

- Obtained the SkyX from Bob. Waiting for invoice to reimburse him.
- Waiting for Bob to provide MaximDL licensing info.
- Check for f/2 Celestron RASA telescope mounting bracket and ZWO 1071 camera.

**Glen's report**

- Replaced the 2" lower shutter crank pulley with a 3" pulley and re-tensioned the v belt.
- Replaced the lower shutter pre-loading strut with the spare.
- Tested extensively, no slippage.
- Cable spooling issue remains to be resolved.

**Rob's Report**

- Researching shutter control circuitry.
- \*@pgrasc.org emails set up for RTP committee and executive members.

## **Gil's Report**

- Will look into mirror cover mechanism material options at hobby stores when in Vancouver in September.
- Donated a Velleman P8055 USB interface board.

## **3. New Business**

- Purchase a Canon CCD CLS filter to reduce light pollution and improve nebulosity and capture of infra-red light. (Purchased approved at PGC210 meeting)

## **4. Current actionable items**

Malhar:

- Work with Rob on ST9 and ST10 drivers on a Win10 machine.

Rob:

- Work with Malhar on ST9 and ST10 drivers on a Win10 machine.
- Collaborate with Glen re lower shutter control interface.
- Upgrade Maia and possibly Alcyone to Windows 10.

Glen:

- Resolve the lower shutter cable spooling problem.
- Collaborate with Rob re lower shutter control interface.

Gil;

- Investigate hardware for operation of the mirror cover.

## **5. Outstanding tasks and priority**

- Mirror cover mechanism
- Polar alignment
- Flip mirror automation
- 4Shooter automation
- Suitable remote focuser for Canon DSLR camera.

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

- The next committee meeting (RTP023) will be held on Tuesday August 30, 2022 starting at 7:00 pm using Zoom.

## **7. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.