

**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

October 25, 2022

Meeting Number: RTP026

Date: October 25, 2022

Location: Zoom Meeting

Chairperson: Rob Woods

Recording Secretary: Glen Harris

Committee Members present: Glen, Malhar, Gil, Rob

Meeting Called to Order at 7:38pm.

1. Approval of Minutes of RTP025

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes of RTP025 October 4, 2022

Moved: Glen Seconded: Gil Carried

2. Old Business

- Discussion on remote flip mirror automation.
- Discussion on 4Shooter automation.
- Discussion on ST9, ST10 auto focusers.
- ACP Pinpoint software purchased.

Malhar's Report

- Purchased wrong Canon filter.
- No issues with main telescope except TPoint and polar alignment.

Glen's report

- Lower shutter cable spooling problem resolved.
- Emulated the Arduino control of the upper shutter. In the process, several wires became disconnected from the poorly constructed printed circuit board. All but CCW rotation of the dome were re-established before I ran out of time. Will continue on before the open house event.

Rob's Report

- Shutter control interface software in beta testing phase.
- Wi-Fi insecurities to be dealt with.

Gil's Report

- Sourced a servo that should work for both the telescope covers and the flip mirror.

3. New Business

- Begin formulating a list of needs for the gaming grant request.
 - a. Public Outreach Program:
Emphasis on Educational Outreach including STEM curriculum in schools, First Nation interaction, Handouts, Open House children's craft supplies.
 - b. Maintenance:
Colour Laser Printer, Network storage, Alcyone computer replacement, Public Access Wireless Access Point, Wi-Fi Security.
 - c. Robotic Telescope Project Program:
Remote access focusers for the ST10 CCD and Canon DSLR cameras.

4. Current actionable items

Rob:

- Finalize upper shutter software implementation for remote operation.

Glen:

- Re-establish CCW dome rotation.
- Connect upper shutter wiring to Arduino circuitry and test.

5. Outstanding tasks and priority

- Upper shutter remote operation.
- Mirror cover mechanism.
- Homing coordinates following full sky mapping.
- 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 (RTP027) will be held on Tuesday November 8, 2022 starting at 7:30 pm using Zoom.

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