

MINUTES OF SARA BOARD MEETING, Green Bank, WV, Monday, June 28, 2009

With President Tom Crowley presiding, the 2009 SARA Board meeting took place in the lecture room of the Janksky Lab at 7:00 PM.

Officers and Directors in attendance were: President Tom Crowley, Vice-President Dr. H. Paul Shuch, Treasurer Melinda Lord, Directors Dr. David Fields, Bruce Randall, Kerry Smith, Rob Davis, Senior Editor, John C. Mannone, and several members. Nominated Secretary Stephen Biggs offered to take minutes in the absence of Secretary Karen M. Mehlmauer.

Items covered included:

- A motion was, made seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the 2008 Board meeting as published on the website.
- The Treasurer, Melinda Lord, reported that as of June 23, 2009 we had approximately \$25,000 in the bank and after all Conference expenses, she projected SARA would have over \$20,000 in the bank. A complete Treasurer's Report will be compiled as soon as appropriate bank statements and all expenses for the conference have been received. She also reported SARA gained 108 new members since the 2008 Conference, many of them rejoining after being invited back by personal letter.
- Continuation of Student Grants, changes and details to be ironed out by the officers over the course of the coming year. President Tom Crowley and the Board approved \$3,000 for the student grants this year to include the following projects: Radio Jove, VLF[SID] and IBT. He directed the Student Grant committee, comprised of Kerry Smith, Jim Brown and Bill Lord, to order a three units of each, so they can be sent when a grant is approved since it can take 4 to 6 weeks for most kits to ship.
- Discussion of an apparent loophole in our SARA registration policy for attending the annual Conference at Green Bank, mainly regarding the definition of "Guest" was identified. A discussion took place where it was decided we needed to clarify the definition of "Guest" and that the attendance of these non-members be limited to family members. Exceptions to this new definition will be made on an individual basis. As an afternote, it was decided that our current definition in our bylaws was already in place to satisfy this requirement. This discussion was closed with the decision that no further changes were needed and that the Board will enforce the policy already stated in the bylaws.
- The decision was made (voted and passed) to develop a "SARA Policy & Operations Manual". This document would be separate from our bylaws and therefore allow alterations to our policies & operations in a more dynamic and timely manner. This manual would include descriptions of

the duties of all officers, board members, and committee members. A committee was appointed to produce this manual and includes: Tom Crowley (President), Stephen Biggs (Secretary), Charles Osborne (former President), and Bruce Randall (Board member). The main responsibility for producing the manual is assigned to the Secretary, with the aid and assistance expected from the other committee members.

- Our annual “SARA Proceedings” book is currently produced by the ARRL. It was felt by some that this book is SARA’s best advertising and that in addition to our “hard copy” (book) it would be advisable to also offer this in a “soft copy” (CD). Attendees of the annual Conference would be provided with one copy of EACH version (one book plus one CD), with additional copies of each available for sale. Furthermore, the sale price for the CD version would be set equal to that of the book. Additionally, it was pointed out that the soft version would be more cost effective, including its mailing cost. A short discussion took place regarding the arrangement and production of a soft version. No one was assigned to proceed with this task at this time and further discussions will take place during the upcoming year. A motion was made that “we will continue with the Proceedings as they are currently presently and will investigate creating a soft version on CD”. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Tom Crowley again thanked Dr. H Paul Shuch for his years of dedicated service as Webmaster for the SARA website. The Board then heard a report from the new Webmaster Ciprian “Chip” Sufitchi, N2YO, concerning the website and his suggestions he had for increasing traffic to the website. The website is now hosted with GoDaddy at a cost of under \$200 for three years. After a brief discussion, Tom Crowley tasked Chip Sufitchi, David Fields and Dave Thomas to form a committee and work on updates to the website.
- Regional Conferences were discussed, with Dr. David Fields proposed a Conference in November 2009 to take place at Roane State Community College near Knoxville, Tennessee. Tom Crowley offered to check with the University of Florida in Gainesville. David Westman and Bill Lord are going to speak to Stanford University about a possible Conference in February or March 2010.
- The Board approved a one-year honorary membership in SARA for the Conference Keynote speakers. A one year honorary SARA membership will be given to Jill Tarter the 2009 Keynote speaker
- The discussion of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on the SARA web site was discussed. The following forums will be pursued for the SARA web site:

- Beginners' page
 - Radio Jove
 - SID (Sudden Ionospheric Disturbances)
 - IBT (Itty Bitty Telescope)
 - UHF (408 MHz)
 - Continuum
 - Pulsars
 - Spectral (Hydrogen Line/Water Hole)
 - SDR (Software Defined Radio)
- SARA URL ownership was discussed. SARA has no permanent address. Further Board discussion will be required to determine a resolution.

With no further new business brought before the Board, the annual Board meeting was adjourned.

Stephen L. Biggs
SARA Secretary