

## SARA Board of Directors Meeting

June 26, 2011

Officers & Directors in attendance: Bill Lord, President; Paul Oxley, Vice-President; Melinda Lord, Treasurer; Dave Benham, Interim Secretary; David Fields, Director; Scott Lansdale, Director; Jim Moravec, Director; Bruce Randall, Director; Tom Crowley, Ex-Presidential Board Advisor. A quorum was present.

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### Reports from Officers

- President Bill Lord
  - Second Western Regional Conference held in Prescott, AZ. 20 attendees, 6 new members.
  - 2012 tentative plans for Socorro, New Mexico in the spring; encourage members to get involved; boosts membership; Judy Stanley, Educational Outreach, says may get us into scientist's housing; MTSU, Chuck Higgins, winter conference 2012
  - RA event held in Chiefland, October 2010– thanks, Tom Crowley! This was a RA training event held at the Chiefland Star Party Group field (Tom's and neighbor's property in Chiefland, FL) ~35 attendees at Orlando Hamcation event Tom Crowley and Paul Oxley manned the booth.
  - Orlando Hamfest created much interest.
  - Dayton Hamvention gained 10 new members, some of whom are attending the conference now.
  - 486 people are currently on the SARA e-list.
  - Stanford Collaboration
    - 150 units distributed, up 53% since last conference.
    - Spending \$3.75/board to populate & solder.
    - \$15,000 received from Stanford for SuperSID expenses to fund 200 SuperSID grants
    - SARA will continue SuperSID
  - Radio Jove interest also very high.
- Vice-President
  - nothing to report
- Treasurer
  - 330 members, 59 from 22 countries; recruited 116 as of June 9, 2011 – SuperSID, Hamvention, etc.
  - Estimate \$38,000 in bank after conference expenses
  - SuperSID sales = \$4520
  - SuperSID expenses = \$3720
  - Grant expense = \$2450 of \$6000, includes 4 Radio Jove on hand
  - Article being written on SuperSID by Dan Stillman at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies to provide an education article to the NASA website.
  - SuperSID was the first program NASA approved on the first submission.
  - Deb Scherrer of Stanford looking for additional money for SuperSID.

- eBay sales from Proceedings and Stanford parts hand-offs not used on the SuperSID.
- Will need to file form 990EZ tax form this year. Average income over \$25K for 3 yrs requires this submission. SARA average is now \$27,000. Will have a CPA review at no charge to SARA.
- Lost 73 members; 27 were one-year members. Historically, some always eventually rejoin.

#### Retain and Recruit Members

- Regional Conferences
- Hamventions/Swaps
- Astronomy club outreach
- Beginner articles in every SARA journal
- Advanced articles in every SARA journal to challenge advanced members
- Keep Web page fresh
- Keep writing for other magazines
- Personal contact
- Mentor program
- Speaker bureau
- Collaborate with other groups
  - ARRL, Radio Jove, Stanford, Inspire, Sky Scan

- Secretary – no report; discussed adding purchase of bikes for NRAO to new business

#### Other Reports

- Grant Committee: Kerry Smith
  - Numbers are said to differ slightly from Melinda's
  - 9 Radio Joves last year -- 1 to USA, remainder to Africa, etc.
  - 95 SuperSID's went worldwide this year; 276 SuperSID's are out total
  - IBT redesign; circuit board hangup, fell through cracks for 2011 Conference; will go to Burns Industries in New Hampshire; battery power inverter eliminated; chopper design, onto soundcard; tripod vs. lazy susan – neat \$130 tripod but conversion to dob mount with \$25 digital inclinometer may be better; total cost, ~ \$120.
- Education Outreach: David Fields – has replied to inquires on the website forums
- Mentor Program: Jim Brown (not in attendance). Tom Crowley spoke; mentor assigned-by-state approach is not important. Jim Brown doing a good job recruiting mentors and providing a resource disk.

#### Old Business

- 1) Report on Affiliations:

- British Astronomical Society (BAS), the radio astronomy section: Rob Davis. The radio astronomy group of BAA is small but wants to share articles with SARA and vice versa.
  - Assess if American Radio Relay League (ARRL) would be a beneficial affiliation for SARA. Tom Crowley reported we need 50% to be affiliated. Treasurer will look and see if we have the numbers and report back to the board and want to pursue this.
  - Night Sky Network: Bill Lord reported NSN is more for optical astronomy clubs that meet monthly but suggested we could offer radio astronomy ideas for the kits they send to their clubs
- 2) Work on a SARA policy and Operations Document- continuing
  - 3) Beginner course on Web: Whit Reeve, Jon Wallace
    - May need more server space, added cost. Will have more to report as they make progress.

#### New Business

- 1) Annual Conference
 

Length of conference – add a day? Would not be mandatory; would be informal, perhaps workshops (e.g., calibration workshop). Wait for conference survey results.

Proceedings- Paul Oxley reported on his previous e-mail to the board relative to a proposed change to the existing Web guidelines for the submission of proceedings articles with the following highlights. His e-mail proposed:

  - 30 days prior to the meeting that the final copy is ready to print,
  - 60 days prior to the meeting that a draft copy is due.
  - 90 days prior to the meeting that an abstract is due 90 days prior to the meeting.
  - That the Color vs. B&W issue needs to be resolved. Considering the cost of the publication of the Proceedings it should be B&W.
  - That the Microsoft Word format is preferred.

That the length of the submission be 10 pages or less unless approved by the V.P.  
*Motion by Tom Crowley – VP to write up proposal to the BOD and present in a future meeting; Bill Lord second; unanimous approval.*

Length of presentation

  - See above
  - Varied
  - Target of 30 minutes, speaker will negotiate with the VP if more or less is needed.
  - Advise VP to resolve unusual demands/needs.
- 2) BOD meeting during the year
  - Telecom meeting using Radio Jove toll-free number: OK'd by Jim Thieman; can use his number but need to provide dates. Tom – email works too (one way in some cases).
- 3) Directors

Bill Lord suggested that any Director should be a Member at least one year prior to being submitted as a Director. Need statement (not in bylaws) – add recommendation.

- Not necessarily a scientist/RA, but an administrator
- Member who just joined, does not know about us, may not renew (ex: Rich Nagel)

A discussion ensued relative to the requirement for a member to become a Director or officer.

In addition, a discussion about the possibility that an existing Director or Officer does not renew their membership.

*Motion by Paul Oxley– re officer/director membership lapse -- If an officer or director has not renewed their membership they will be terminated from office 30 days after receipt of membership lapse notice with no renewal activity by said person. Dave Benham second; unanimous approval.*

There was a discussion of the initial requirements for a member to be submitted as a candidate for a Director or Officer position.

*Motion by Scott Lansdale– if membership is less than one year, must be nominated for office by an officer or director and seconded by an officer or director. Melinda Lord second; unanimous approval.*

Participation – if vote called, must vote at least 50% of time. NOT DISCUSSED.

Possible gift of bikes for NRAO. Number mentioned was 6. To discuss with Sue Ann first. (Later Sue Ann said she wants to get a locked shed first to prevent theft).

SDR optimized for radio astronomy – David Fields

Discussion:

- Open source or not?
- Europe rights?
- Does SARA own the development?
- David Fields – compare SDR to IBT
- David Fields – TEAM approach needed for SDR
- Jim – QRP club examples; Norcal 40; CQC; Softrock
- Bogdan – complicated project; if SARA is driver – Focus, Benefit.
- Paul – No money needed now for this project; nothing to buy yet.
- Melinda – Team to write up for the Journal.

*Motion by David Fields – BOD votes to encourage development of a software defined radio (SDR) optimized for radio astronomy through the efforts of a development team with the intention that SARA members will ultimately benefit by buying our SDR (RASDR) at cost. Tom Crowley seconded; all approved but*

*Bruce who abstained because he would like to see better definition of the project before approval.*

*Motion by Tom Crowley– to close meeting; Bruce Randall second; unanimously approved. Meeting closed at 8:51PM EDT.*