

MINUTES OF THE SARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JUNE 25, 2012

Compiled by Bill Seymour

Officers, Directors, and Editors in Attendance

At Green Bank: President Bill Lord; Vice-President Paul Oxley; Past-President Tom Crowley; Secretary and *Radio Astronomy* Co-Editor Bill Seymour; Treasurer Melinda Lord; Director Jim Brown; Director Scott Lansdale; Director Bruce Randall; Director Kerry Smith; Director Jon Wallace.

On Teleconference Phone Connection: Director-at-Large and *Radio Astronomy* Contributing Editor Whitham Reeve, from Alaska; Director-at-Large Richard Flagg, from Hawaii; *Radio Astronomy* Co-Editor Dave Typinski, from Florida.

A quorum was present.

AGENDA

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Past-President

-Several weeks ago, Sue Ann Heatherly (of NRAO staff) requested some IBT kits for StarQuest. Tom put together 10 units with six used dishes. The price was \$25 for the kit (base, meter and cable) without the dish. It was set up to work with SkyPipe. The class of filled up and there six additional folks who asked to be added if anyone canceled. The folks at StarQuest were absolutely delighted and now StarQuest has asked SARA to have twenty kits for next year.

President

-Reported we had good attendance at both the Southeastern Conference hosted by David Fields and the Western Conference organized by Whit Reeve. Whit is making plans for a Western Conference in the spring of 2013.

-Reported on outreach activities of Tom Crowley, Kerry Smith and others. SARA is continuing collaboration with Radio Jove team, Sky Scan, Inspire, Night Sky Network, Space Exploratorium and ARRL.

-Reported 100 SuperSID units have been delivered this past year and two Radio Jove units were sent as grants.

Vice-President

-No Report

Secretary

-Reported he has performed the full-time duties of SARA Secretary as directed by the President, participated in on-line discussions of the officers, and recorded, tabulated and reported the on-line voting for such issues as RASDR funding and the SOP Manual.

Treasurer

Good News

- We have 348 members, 70 from countries outside the U.S.
- Recruited 104 members as of 6/11/12.
- After the conference numbers are tallied, we should have an estimated \$43,000 in the bank after conference expenses. A final report will be available by mid-July.
- SuperSID sales were \$2,478. SuperSID expenses were \$357. Net profit (reserved) for parts purchases: \$2,120. Profits were high this year because most of the SuperSID expenses were paid from funds we received last year from Stanford. There is about \$3800 left in that fund for the SuperSID project.
- There was a discussion about SARA having a booth at the National Science Teacher Convention. Jim Brown suggested we talk to Jim Thieman (Radio Jove team) to see if they would want to share a booth. Jim Brown also suggested we could apply for a grant from the Space Consortium.
- Grant expenses were \$946 of \$6,000 allocated which includes three Radio Jove on hand.
- Continuing eBay sales of CD's, Proceedings, and excess equipment; SARA brochure sent with all orders.

Bad News

- We lost 74 members last year. Forty seven were one-year members.
- Discussed ways to retain and recruit members

OTHER REPORTS

The SARA Journal

Dave Typinski reported everything is working well with the staff. They are always looking for articles. Bill Lord suggested officers and directors need to submit an article to the Journal and/or solicit articles. Several mentioned how impressed they are with the quality of the Journal and expressed appreciation for the editors' efforts.

Grant Committee- No report

Education Outreach- No report

Mentor Program-

Bill Lord reported Jim Brown has resigned and he is looking for someone to fill this position.

Twitter Account-

Mark Gibson has volunteered to start an account for SARA. Any ideas that members can come up with to help him will be greatly appreciated

OLD BUSINESS

1. Progress on a SARA Policy and Operations Document

Bill Lord reports much of the document has been written and after sending to the board last year a few updates need to be made. It will be sent out again and after approval of the board it will be posted to the web.

2. Beginner Course on web/CD- No report

3. ARRL Affiliation

Tom Crowley reported it requires 52 % of us (as an affiliating organization) to be ARRL members. There would be some benefits for our members. He will look into it further.

4. RASDR Update

Paul Oxley reports production will probably begin in 1-2 years, an alpha or beta version. Windows and Linux will be the first version to be released with Mac version to follow when we get someone to help with MAC programming. .

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Meeting Location and Time

Tom and Bill announced the dates for next year's conference will be July 14 to 17, 2013. The SARA Conference will be Sun. through Wed. July 14-17, following StarQuest and will not conflict with field day. Tom is already working on speakers.

2. Discussed changing the director and officer attendance to at least one in person and one by Skype/teleconference.

3. Discussed how to increase participation requirements of directors.

4. Green Bank Wellness Center

Tom Crowley said Sue Ann Heatherly (of the NRAO staff) is trying to raise some money for a senior's project here in Green Bank. It would be nice if we could raise \$100.

MOTION: The motion from Bill Lord is that SARA will give \$400 to Sue Ann's project. Members can also contribute. Seconded by Tom Crowley. Passed by voice vote of the Board.

5. NRAO Bicycles

Bill Lord brought up the issue of helping NRAO purchase new bikes since Sue Ann has a storage building for them now. Last year the Board actually voted to give \$600 to purchase new bikes. Sue Ann refused it last year because she did not have a place to store them under lock and key.

MOTION: The motion by Kerry Smith is to give \$600 to NRAO for bicycles. Seconded by Jon Wallace. Passed by voice vote of the Board.

6. Add Calibrator for Radio Jove Kits to be sent out on grants

Dick Flagg had sent an e-mail prior to the conference requesting Radio Jove calibrators be sent with Radio Jove grant kits. Dick Flagg and Wes Greenman are kind enough to mentor the Radio Jove recipients. So, they feel like they could help folks get into more science. It would have a temperature signature and not just a hash number on the scale.

MOTION: The motion restated and clarified by Melinda Lord is that the Grant Committee includes the calibrator at the current price (\$110) for Radio Jove Kits. Seconded by Bruce Randall. Passed by voice vote of the Board, with one abstaining vote of Dick Flagg.

7. Compensation of SARA members who help at Hamcation and Hamvention SARA Booths.

There was discussion about an incentive for SARA members to work at least 4 hours at the Dayton Hamvention, and then we will pay their entrance ticket. If they would spend at least 8 hours or more, we could buy them a parking pass. That will put some fresh faces in the SARA booth to greet people.

MOTION: The motion from Melinda Lord is that when we have an outreach event such as the Dayton Hamcation or the Orlando Hamvention, as an incentive to get members to come and assist at the SARA booth that we offer to pay toward their parking and/or admission, depending on the amount of volunteer time. Seconded by Dick Flagg. Passed by voice vote of the Board.

8. Putting More Prominent Directions on the Web Site for Prospective Members

Tom Crowley stated several persons told him they were confused while trying to use the web site to join SARA. It was decided we will put another "pop" button there.

9. Change By-Laws to Allow for More Directors-At Large

There was discussion this would free more Directors from having to attend all conferences if their personal circumstances prevent it. Being on-line and/or using SKYPE to be a presence at conferences allows us to have a quorum to conduct business.

MOTION: The motion restated and clarified by Melinda Lord is to replace two directors with directors-at-large. The number of total directors remains the same with four directors and four directors-at-large. Seconded by Bill Lord. This will require a By-Laws change and must be put to a vote of membership. Passed by voice vote of the Board. (Note- this motion was passed by majority vote of the general membership in attendance at the meeting Tuesday morning. The By-laws will be amended to show this change.)

10. Creation of a Formal Technical Staff within SARA

Paul Oxley suggested we need to recognize the technical contributions of SARA members on projects (such as RASDR and IBT). After a short discussion Bill Lord stated this could be done under the President's authority and does not require a motion or vote.

MOTION: The motion from Melinda Lord is to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting. Seconded by Tom Crowley. Passed by voice vote of the Board.