

MINUTES OF THE SARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JULY 15, 2013

Compiled by Tom Hagen

Officers, Directors, and Editors in Attendance

At Green Bank: President Bill Lord; Vice President Tom Crowley; Treasurer Melinda Lord; Secretary Tom Hagen; Director Charles Osborne; Director Jim Brown.

On Teleconference Connection: Director-at Large and Contributing Editor Whitham Reeve, from Alaska; Director Jon Wallace, from Connecticut; Director Dave Typinski, from Florida.

Excused: Director Chuck Forster

Absent: Director Kerry Smith, Director-at-Large Dick Flagg

A quorum was present.

AGENDA

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

President

1. Held a fourth Western Regional Conference at Very Large Array in Socorro, NM in March- Thanks Whit Reeve and Dave Westman; 20 attended
2. Conference planned next year at Owens Valley Radio Observatory and CARMA in Bishop, CA March 22-23, 2014; Thanks to Dave Westman
3. Encourage members to get involved and hold additional regional meetings
4. Held optical & radio astronomy event in Florida- Thanks, Tom C.
5. Washington, IA- Melinda & I
6. Two Ham events by Robert Tucker
7. Many other events by various members
8. Collaboration with:
 - Stanford 108 units distributed since last conference
 - SARA will continue SuperSID program
 - Berkley- ICON
 - Hofstra University- Astronomy on the Mall (National Mall, Washington, DC)

9. Radio Jove
 - SARA gave 7 RJ kits/calibrators for grants
 - Shared booth at Dayton Hamvention and Orlando Hamcation (Orlando, FL Hamfest)
10. Hamcation
11. Collaboration with:
 - ARRL- education and radio scouts
 - Boy Scouts (Jamboree)
 - Inspire
 - SkyScan of Canada (Dave Cleary)
 - Space Exploratorium (Ray Fobes)
 - Night Sky Network- we are now a member
 - NASA Space Place
 - SpaceWeather.com
12. Dayton Hamvention
 - 23 new members
 - Brochures/flyers handed out
 - 3 SuperSID sold
 - Made personal contact with thousands of visitors from all over
13. Membership up 7% from last year
14. Treasury up 9% from last year
15. Grant Program
 - 7 Radio Jove kits/calibrators
 - 3 to India
 - 2 to Brazil
 - 1 to Uruguay
 - 1 to Tunisia
 - 3 IBT's
 - 2 to Hofstra University
 - 1 to student/school in VA
 - 2 Inspire Kits
 - 1 to USA
 - 1 to India
 - 59 SuperSID; 17 countries and the USA

Vice President

1. 588 members are registered on the SARA list on Google Groups, moderation policy discussed.
2. Working on next year's conference keynote speaker.
3. Reported on talks given to other astronomy clubs.

Treasurer

1. We have 374 members; 84 from 24 countries outside US
 - 12-Australia
 - 6-Germany
 - 2-New Zealand
 - 1-Belgium
 - 1-Guatemala
 - 2-Nigeria
 - 1-Brazil
 - 1-Guyana
 - 2-Norway
 - 21-Canada
 - 1- Italy
 - 2-S Africa
 - 1-Chile
 - 2-Japan
 - 1- Scotland
 - 1-China
 - 1-Luxembourg
 - 1-Spain
 - 1-Croatia
 - 1-Mexico
 - 1-Switzerland
 - 3-France
 - 3-Netherlands
 - 18-United Kingdom
2. Good News: Recruited 85 members as of 7/4/13; How?
 - SuperSID
 - Hamvention & Hamcation
 - Western Conference
 - Web Page
 - Articles by Jon Wallace, et al.
 - Annual Conference
 - SuperSID Program
3. Good News: We have an estimated \$40,000 in the bank after conference expenses
 - SuperSID Sales were \$2781
 - SuperSID Expenses were \$1488
 - Net profit (reserved) for parts purchases \$1293
 - Grant expense \$3273 of \$6000 allocated
 - 4 Radio Jove Kits and 4 RJ Calibrators on hand

4. Bad News: We lost 59 members last year
 - Lost fewer members than the past 2 years
5. Retain and Recruit Members
 - Regional Conferences
 - Hamventions
 - Outreach with Astronomy clubs
 - Beginner articles in every SARA Journal
 - Advanced articles in every SARA Journal to challenge “old-timers”
 - Keep web page “fresh”
 - Keep writing for other magazines
 - Personal contact
6. Retain and Recruit Members: Develop Speakers Bureau
7. Collaborate with groups of similar interests
 - ARRL- education and radio scouts
 - Radio Jove
 - Stanford
 - Berkley
 - Inspire
 - SkyScan of Canada
 - Space Exploratorium
 - Night Sky Network- SARA is now a member

Secretary

1. No report

OTHER REPORTS

Navigator Program

1. Tom Crowley reported on status of this program and associated IBT's. Charles Osborne commented that the program started as an NRAO idea/grant request that we supported/funded even after it was not funded by NSF.

RASDR

1. Dave Fields thanked the Board for support for this project.
2. Pricing on units was estimated by Dr. Fields to be around \$400 for a production run in the hundreds of units as a request from Charles Osborne. Pricing for lower quantities is unknown at this time. A survey of interested SARA members should be pursued.
3. Bill Lord commented that RASDR should be released as soon as possible and that RASDR doesn't need to be perfect before release.

Mentoring Program

1. Jon Wallace reported that the mentoring program has not had many requests for help; program will be changing to an e-list.

IBT

1. Jon Wallace commented that IBT does not presently have an oscillator output and that all we have now is a visual meter indication and sound output from the satellite finder. VP Tom Crowley indicated to Jon Wallace that the new sat finder has an audible oscillator output.

SARA Journal

1. Melinda Lord reported.
2. Possibility of re-using popular old *Journal* articles was proposed for benefit of new members.
3. There has been a NASA request to provide articles for the *Journal*. This is a compliment to the professionalism of the Journal.

Twitter Account

1. Melinda Lord reported that Twitter account is established.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Beginner Radio Astronomy Course on web/CD: Whit Reeve and Tom Hagen have started on a course; Jon Wallace may be able to help depending on his schedule to be determined later this year.
2. ARRL affiliation: Tom Crowley will contact ARRL about SARA participating in their 100th anniversary conference. Direct affiliation with ARRL will not be pursued.
3. NRAO Bicycles: Motion made by Whit Reeve to donate \$600 to NRAO for bicycles, 3 bikes to be purchased. Seconded by Tom Crowley, motion passed by voice vote of the Board.
4. Technical Staff: Director participation was discussed, requirements intended to increase Director participation in SARA. Possible requirement would be to require at least 1 Journal article per year from each Director.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bruce Randall suggested setting up a central location on the SARA website as a software repository. Various projects by members use software as a component of the project. Board concurs that this is a good idea and Chip Sufitchi will be tasked with setting this up.
2. Discussion started by Curt Kinghorn about possibility of SARA members accepting membership dues on the spot from people wishing to join SARA. Board determined that SARA members can accept checks or cash. SARA members will forward funds, new member's email address, home address, and ham call sign if available to the Treasurer.
3. 2014 Conference Dates Established:
 - a. Green Bank: June 29-July 2, 2014
 - b. SARA West Conference: April 22-April 23, 2014; Owens Valley, California

Motion made by Melinda Lord to adjourn meeting, seconded by Tom Crowley, motion passed by voice vote of the Board.