

MINUTES OF THE SARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JUNE 30, 2014

Compiled by Tom Hagen, Secretary

Officers, Directors, and Editors in Attendance

Present at Green Bank:

Officers; President Bill Lord, Vice President Tom Crowley, Treasurer Melinda Lord,
Secretary Tom Hagen

Directors; Charles Osborne, Ken Redcap, Chip Sufitchi, Dave Typinski

On Teleconference Connection: Not available

Unavailable:

Director: Chuck Forster

Directors-at-Large: Curt Kinghorn, Stan Nelson, Whitham Reeve

Founding Director: Jeff Lichtman

A quorum was present.

AGENDA

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

President

1. Held a fifth Western Regional Conference at Owens Valley Radio Observatory in Bishop, CA in March- Thanks Whit Reeve and Dave Westman; 32 attended- 5 new members
2. Conference planned next year at Stanford University, CA; March 21-22, 2015
 - o Dave Westman & Keith Payea will coordinate
 - o Encourage members to get involved and hold additional regional meetings
3. Held optical & radio astronomy event in Florida- Thanks, Tom
4. Washington, IA- Melinda & me
5. Two Ham events by Robert Tucker
6. Chip Sufitchi- NOVAC
7. Many other events by various members
8. Collaboration with Stanford; 99 Super SID units distributed since last conference
9. Hofstra University- Astronomy on the Mall; Thanks Kerry Smith & Stephen Tzikas
10. Radio Jove; SARA gave 6 RJ kits/calibrators for grants; shared booth at Dayton Hamvention and Orlando HamCation

11. Collaboration with ARRL; education and radio scouts
12. Inspire
13. SkyScan of Canada (Dave Cleary)
14. Space Exploratorium (Ray Fobes)
15. Night Sky Network- we are now a member
16. NASA Space Place
17. SpaceWeather.com
18. Dayton Hamvention
 - Thanks Tom Hagen, Ken Redcap, Bill Dean, Jim Sky and Jim Theiman;
 - 12 new members
 - Brochures/flyers handed out
 - 4 SuperSID sold
 - Made personal contact with thousands of visitors from all over
19. Booth at US Science Festival in Washington, DC; Thanks- Ken Redcap, Chip Sufitchi, Lee Alvis, Jim Theiman and Stephen Tzikas
 - Made contact with students and teachers
20. Grant Program; \$5100 spent on grants
21. 6 Radio Jove kits/calibrators
22. 1 to Canada
23. 1 to Brazil
24. 1 to Bangladesh
25. 3 to USA
26. 4 IBT- USA
27. Grant Program; 64 SuperSID, 19 countries including USA
 - Bangladesh
 - India
 - Romania
 - Bhutan
 - Kenya
 - Russia
 - Brazil
 - Malaysia
 - Slovak Republic
 - Canada
 - Nigeria
 - Uganda
 - Columbia
 - Philippines
 - United Kingdom
 - Croatia
 - Poland
 - USA
 - Rep. of Congo

Vice President

1. 668 members are registered on the SARA list on Google Groups, moderation policy discussed.
2. HamCation (Orlando, FL) hamfest was supported again this year

Treasurer

1. Good News; we have 421 members; 96 from 24 countries outside US
 - o 11 Australia
 - o 2 India
 - o 2 Norway
 - o 1 Belgium
 - o 2 Italy
 - o 1 Panama
 - o 2 Brazil
 - o 3 Japan
 - o 2 S Africa
 - o 22 Canada
 - o 1 Lithuania
 - o 1 Scotland
 - o 1 China
 - o 1 Mexico
 - o 3 Spain
 - o 1 Croatia
 - o 3 Netherlands
 - o 1 Taiwan
 - o 4 France
 - o 3 New Zealand
 - o 1 Switzerland
 - o 6 Germany
 - o 2 Nigeria
 - o 19 United Kingdom
2. Recruited 111 members as of 06/23/2014
 - o Hamvention & Hamcation
 - o Western Conference
 - o Articles by Jon Wallace, et al.
 - o Annual Conference- Two Nobel Laureates
 - o SuperSID Program
 - o USA Science Festival
3. We will have an estimated \$39,000 in the bank after conference expenses
4. SuperSID Sales were \$2,250
5. SuperSID Expenses were \$3,083
 - o Net loss for parts purchases \$833
 - o Loss due to beta boards for new design
6. Grant expense \$5,100 of \$6,000 allocated

7. 1 Radio Jove Kits and 1 RJ Calibrators on hand
8. Bad News; we lost 63 members last year
9. Retain and Recruit Members
 - Regional Conferences
 - Outreach with Astronomy clubs
 - Beginner articles in every SARA Journal
 - Advanced articles in every SARA Journal to challenge
 - Keep web page “fresh”
 - Keep writing for other magazines
 - Personal contact- Invite others to join
 - Develop Speakers Bureau
 - Collaborate with groups of similar interests
 - ARRL- education and radio scouts
 - SkyScan of Canada
 - Space Exploratorium
 - Night Sky Network- SARA is now a member

Secretary

1. No report

OTHER REPORTS

Webmaster Report

1. Chip Sufitchi reported that we have changed servers and are now on our own dedicated server. This will allow us to serve multiple websites from both SARA and other organizations. Shopping carts are supported as are sub-websites.
2. Board has determined that Chip will have the authority to set up the SARA site and add other organizations’ websites without Board approval.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bogdan Vacaliuc led discussion of marketing strategies for the RASDR (Radio Astronomy Software Defined Receiver).
 - Melinda Lord offered comments on a non-refundable deposit for those interested in purchasing the RASDR.
 - Tom Crowley proposed that the Board schedule documentation and marketing planning.
 - Motion made by Tom Crowley: SARA will cover the cost of 4 RASDR development kits to be lent to members who will assist in development of documentation. Up to \$1600 will be allocated to this task. Charles Osborne seconded.
 - Motion passed by Board vote.

- Melinda Lord suggested RASDR publicity possibilities in form of blogs, Facebook, SARA website.
- Discussion of initial production run of RASDR's to be 100 units, Charles Osborne questioned this number, was answered that a significant price break occurs at this number.
- Chip Sufitchi recommended that the RASDR be advertised on the SARA website.
- Bogdan Vacaliuc reported that he has reserved RASDR.com and RASDR.org domain names.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion on whether to make the *SARA Journal* freely available to the public took place.
 - Bill Lord gave a presentation against making the *Journal* free to the public.
 - Discussion followed presentation.
 - Motion made by Tom Crowley: SARA will continue providing the *Journal* only to paid SARA members. SARA may annually release individual issue(s) of the *Journal* as enticement for new members. Seconded by Dave Typinski.
 - Chip Sufitchi commented favorably on making the *Journal* freely available.
 - Motion passed by 7 to 1 Board vote.
2. Bill Lord moved to purchase new Quick Books software for the Treasurer. Cost is estimated at \$250.
 - Tom Hagen seconded motion.
 - Motion passed by Board vote.
3. 2015 Conference Dates Established:
 - Green Bank: June 20, 2015 (tentative)
 - SARA West Conference: March 21-22, 2015; Stanford University, Stanford CA

Motion made by Tom Hagen to adjourn meeting, seconded by Charles Osborne, motion passed by voice vote of the Board.