

MINUTES OF THE SARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING June 22, 2015

Revision 1 Compiled by Bruce Randall, Secretary

Officers, Directors, and Editors in Attendance

Present at Green Bank:

Officers: President Ken Redcap, Vice President Tom Hagen, Secretary Bruce Randall.

Directors: Chip Sufitchi, Carl Lyster, Steven Tzikas.

On Teleconference Connection:

Officers: Treasurer Melinda Lord, Past President Bill Lord.

Director: Jim Brown.

Directors-at-Large: Curt Kinghorn, Stan Nelson, Keith Payea.

Unavailable:

Directors-at-Large: David James.

Founding Director: Jeff Lichtman.

A quorum was present.

EMAIL ACTIVITY BY BOARD

Included for context of meeting.

1. March 19, 2015. Board approved donation of \$50 to the ARRL in memory of deceased member Rick Newman.
2. May 14, 2015. Board approved: "SARA will reimburse Chip for the Cerevo USA LiveShell PRO HD Wireless Video Streaming and accessories Up to \$900.00 if it works as well or better than what NRAO has offered in the past". Note that Chip will get equipment on a trial basis.
3. June 6, 2015. RASDR deposit money and SARA involvement with the production was discussed. After much discussion, the issue was delayed to the conference meeting.

AGENDA

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

President

1. Held a sixth Western Regional Conference at Sanford University on March 21 & 22. Many thanks to Dave Westman, the Rumleys and Keith Payea for coordinating this conference.
2. Next year's Western Regional Conference will be March 18, 2016 at Embry-Riddle University in Prescott, Az.
3. Two Radio Joves and 61 Super SIDs were sent to 18 countries at a cost of \$3800
4. Research Grants:
 - a. \$2500 for Radio Jove software update
 - b. \$500 for Yale student project.
5. Total of Grants is \$6800.
6. SARA had a presence at Orlando and Dayton hamfests.
7. SARA present for Astronomy at the Mall event. Thanks Ken Redcap and Steven Tzikas.
8. Held optical & radio astronomy event in Florida- Thanks, Tom Crowley.

Vice President

1. 2015 conference happened

2. 55 registrations

Treasurer

1. Report given by Gary Memory, incoming treasurer.
2. Thanks to Bill & Melinda Lord
3. Books are OK with about \$44,000 after conference expenses paid.
4. As of June 16 we have 456 members.
5. Of above 108 are new members. New members attributed to Hamfest presence, Web Page, Western Conference, Super SID, and Jon Wallace's articles.
6. We did lose 77 members last year.
7. We need more journal articles, both beginner and advanced.

Secretary

1. Last year's minutes were approved via email after last years meeting.
2. Brief comments on email activity of year.

OTHER REPORTS

Super SID Report by Keith Payea.

1. Melinda Lord passed on the Super SID notes to Keith.
2. Keith has shipped 33 units to both US and many countries.
3. A new batch of circuit boards will need to be ordered soon.
4. Many SIDs do not have data sent back to Stanford. This is due to many schools having tightly controlled internet access to the outside world. Also many countries have intermittent power.
5. SIDs without access to Stanford still serve as important educational tools for both solar physics and electronic technology.
6. About 1 of 6 SID units have problems, mostly due to local noise. Keith does tech support for setup problems.
7. From a marketing view, SIDs do help sell SARA.

Antenna Theory Video for SARA web site to be available. Thanks to Jon Wallace for creating this excellent educational video and support documents. Chip will install on SARA web site. No vote needed as Chip was given OK to handle this sort of thing on his judgment by board.

We have sad news of the passing of long time member Wolfgang Arnold. Ken Redcap to handle memorial, as Secretary Bruce Randall is not available for the next month.

RASDR Report by Bogdan Vacaliuc.

1. 2011 cost estimate of \$275.
2. System presented for reference.
3. 100 unit price is \$312 each for circuit boards and about \$412 each for complete packaged units, based on actual quotes.
4. SARA is not set up to handle production of units. Because of open source design, anyone could produce RASDR units.
5. Software development is ongoing.
6. 7 units are available for SARA loan program.

7. Cookbook setup for HI observation will be available soon.
8. HI test with “horn of plenty” antenna was successful.

RASDR Report by David Fields

1. Drivers signed for Win 7
2. Beta test had problems due to documentation. RASDR team learned from this.
3. No SARA financial support needed at this time. Need SARA backing.
4. Progress on case for unit.
5. Much testing with large antennas.
6. Need to address testing with small antenna, typical of SARA member.
7. Up converters for HF, VHF & UHF addressed.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS RASDR Support

1. Question by Curt: Is 100 units too high a number?
2. **Motion 1** by Tom Hagen: “SARA recognizes the work of the RASDR team and acknowledges the significant effort put forth to get to this point in the RASDR development.”
3. Second by Steve Tzikas.
4. Comment by Bruce Randall to keep all links to RASDR on SARA website.
5. **Modified motion 1:** “SARA recognizes the work of the RASDR team and acknowledges the significant effort put forth to get to this point in the RASDR development. Further that SARA continues website reference and support.”
6. Melinda requested tabling of motion until other related motions were discussed. Agreed
7. **Motion 2** by Tom Hagen: “SARA will refund all deposits made towards the purchase of RASDR units.”
8. Second by Melinda Lord. 3 of 11 deposits have requested refunds already.
9. **Motion 3** by Tom Hagen: “SARA will not financially support production of RASDR units.”
10. Second by Bill Lord.
11. Had discussion about a few individuals who do not want refund of deposit.
12. **All vote yes on motion 1.**
13. **All vote yes on motion 2.**
14. Discussion on Motion 3: SARA can still support R&D of RASDR. It only disconnects us from production. Recommend RASDR LLC for production.
15. Chip made a comment at vote time. SARA needs standard unit. Will help keep members.
16. **Vote Motion 3:** Chip No. Rest of board Yes. **Motion Passes.**
17. **New Motion:** by Curt, to form a committee to look at SDR for SARA future.
18. Paul Oxley points out that we have a SDR team in RASDR.
19. Melinda pointed out that the President appoints committees without board.
20. President & Curt to sort out SDR committee.
21. Jim Brown pointed out issues of parts becoming obsolete. RASDR team to sort out this risk.

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

Above compiled from notes from meeting and voice recording, BER