

SARA Board of Director Meeting, July 25, 2021

Rev 2 July 29, 2021 Bruce Randall, SARA Secretary

Officers, Directors, and Others in Attendance on Zoom Teleconference Connection:

Officers:	President	Denis Farr
	Vice President	Richard Russel
	Treasurer	Brian O'Rourke
	Secretary	Bruce Randall
Directors:	Steve Tzikas	
	Jon Wallace	
	Wolfgang Herrmann	
	David Westman	
	Ed Harfmann	
	Charles Osborne	

Guest (Future Director) Tom Jacobs

Unavailable:

Directors:	Wayne McCain
	Keith Payea
Founding Director:	Jeff Lichtman

A quorum was present (10 of 13) Meeting started about 14:00 EDT

1) Presidents Report

Dennis Farr

- a. Pleased with SARA progress
- b. Has used 20 meter Green Bank remote control dish. Verified it works.
- c. Scope in a Box is going well.. RTLSDR will be used in other projects. Dennis is keeping contact with RTLSDR people
- d. Drake Lounge has worked well. Often a mini conference. Much better than list serve.
- e. Pleased with SuperSID.
- f. State of SARA is good and growing with connections with European Groups.

2) VP Report

Richard Russel

- a. Scope in a Box is going well thanks to Lester's Help
- b. Brian and Lester are supporting SARA on-line store. Problems are fixed fast.
- c. Journal has had a lot of good articles.
- d. Annual Conference has 17 presenters and a very good keynote speaker. A lot going on so we must stay on schedule
- e. Hope to go live with Spring Conference and Annual Green Bank for 2022. Will include Zoom as well. Possible virtual tour for Zoom attendees.
- f. David did a good job with 2021 Spring Conference. (No longer "Western")
- g. David working on VLA for Spring 2022 conference. No response from VLA at this point. Big question is : What does Covid do?? Nothing is certain at this point.

3) Treasurer's Report

Brian O'Rourke

1. We currently have 109 non-renewed members. I plan on sending emails to that list on a periodic basis to solicit renewals. We have 345 members; 304 annual members, 22 lifetime members (an increase of one), 19 honorary members.
2. SARA assets on books are \$73,623.57.
3. Started an annual renewal of Amazon Prime, which is the method we use to purchase items.
4. I've reduced monthly price of Mailchimp by obtaining the non-profit price.
5. I plan on exploring the use of WordPress in the coming year.
 - a. Member interactions via SARA web site would have improved privacy over Google List Serve.
 - b. Need to work with Chip on web site.
6. Purchased 4000 minutes telescope time on 20 meter Green Bank scope. More can be added if needed.
7. Presently 62 people signed up for conference.
8. Brian is going through learning curve on Quick Books

4) Secretary's Report Bruce Randall

- a. Had a Power Point of Minutes for 2020 through July 1, 2021.
- b. Approved by vote by all.

5) Store Manager's Report Lester Veenstra

- a. Lester was not available for a report.
- b. 28 "Scope" in a Box sold
- c. 3 SuperSID sold
- d. Lester handles Scope in a Box sales.
- e. Shirts needed for store. Limited sizes available.
- f. Question of keeping USB stick available for purchased archives vs Dropbox files. Some have poor internet connection. \$2 to mail USB stick in US. Overseas much higher.

6) Education Report Jon Wallace

- a. **See Appendix A**
- b. Denis working with Alberto Sagüés for tutorial on making observation with Scope in a Box. Will coordinate with Jon.
- c. Need to add Tom Crowley IBT manual to education material.

7) SARA Sections Steve Tzikas

Steve Tzikas will update us at the conference.

8) 20 Meter Green Bank Telescope Steve Tzikas

- a. We have 13 SARA members using this.
 - b. Update at conference as needed
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- a) SARA 2020-2021 Accomplishments – Russel
 - a. Under president's report and VP Report
 - b) SARA Eastern Conference and Journal Status – Russel
 - a. We are ready to go.
 - c) Telescope Offering Status: 1) Scope in a Box, IBT, SuperSID, and Radio Jove
 - a. Under president and VP reports
 - d) List Serve Status
 - a. Not reported. No problems.
 - e) Grant Status - Tom Crowley
 - a. Tom was not available for meeting.
 - b. (From emails) Tom wants SARA to have a scholarship for STEM students. There are legal issues related to the selection process. This needs further review.
 - c. Legal Advice may be needed. Take expense from \$6000 Grant fund or Board may need to vote extra money for legal expenses.

NEW BUSINESS

Dennis Farr made a motion to drop RASDR from SARA web site as a separate heading. Motion was 2nd by Wolfgang Herrmann. Wolfgang pointed out that the Lime SDR is quite powerful with much more bandwidth than RTLSDR. He uses Lime SDR with other software. RASDR software was not easy to use and seemed to have problems. Lower cost SDR's have taken over for amateur radio astronomy. RASDR material will be moved under the "Electronics and Instrumentation Section" with other RASDR material. Change voted for by all.

Dennis to give Sue Ann Heatherly an honorary membership.

Charles made motion, Bruce 2nd to give Keynote speaker, Dr. Sander Weinreb an honorary membership. Voted OK by all.

SARA gives 1 year free membership for any student presenters. Dennis to present these at conference.

Election Call for votes will be at start of conference. Votes must be emailed to brandall@comporium.net by July 31 at 6 PM EDT. The email link is in the May/June 2021 Journal ballot

Motion to adjourn at 3:40 PM EDT by Bruce Randall. 2nd by Ed Harfmann. Voted and passed

Appendix A

SARA Education Coordinator Report – 2021

This year I was able to do the following:

1. Answered many questions about radio astronomy projects – I don't know if it is a Co-Vid 19 response but I had well over 50 requests for help. I tried to encourage people to take some time to look over the beginner resources so they could decide what they wanted to pursue. I also wanted to thank and commend people on the list-serve who helped many of the people I sent there for help. We have a great resource there and the people really make it worthwhile – thank you all!!
2. I gave my presentation virtually to about a dozen groups from Virginia to California to NYC via Zoom
3. I have shared the presentations I have stored on Google Drive with several people/groups looking for radio astronomy presentations. I also wanted to thank Ed Harfmann for his presentation, which I added to the Google Drive I have for these presentations.

Next year I would like to try:

1. To compile a list of amateur radio telescope projects and/or articles on specific topics people ask about on the listserv. Wolfgang is already writing up one on VSLR. Many are looking for projects and help with specific parts of the project. Since few people seem willing to read to further their knowledge, these need to be fairly short and concise. I'd like to see the link(s) on the SARA home-page where everyone can see it.
2. I'm hoping to do a short 'check-list' style write-up for #1 – so 'beginners' can have a checklist of things they need as well as software, etc. Hopefully this will help with the huge amount of repeat questions.
3. I would like to continue to try to 'clean-up' the Education site and make it a bit clearer where to go for help.

So, just a 'heads-up' – I will be asking for input in the next month or two, so if you see something you think might be a good choice, please send it my way. I've already gotten some ideas from Charles and Wolfgang.

Thanks again for all your support!

Jon Wallace