

SARA Board Meeting Tax Year 2025

27 July 2025

MINUTES OF THE SARA BOARD OF BOARD DIRECTORS MEETING

July 27, 2025

Compiled by Bruce Randall, Ex Secretary completed by Brian O'Rourke

Officers, Board Directors, and Editors in Attendance

Present on Zoom

Officers: President Rich Russel,

Treasurer Tom Jacobs,

Secretary Brian O'Rourke (Arrived Late)

Board Directors: Jay Wilson, Steve Tzikas, Ed Harfmann, Ted Cline

Dennis Farr, Bruce Randall, Wolfgang Hermann, Don Latham

Supporting Committee Members:

Tom Crowley grants

Charles Osborne Past BOD, SARA Historian.

Ciprian Sufitchi Web Master

Lester Veenstra Store Manager

Ken Redcap Western Conference (On Phone Call part time)

Unavailable:

Officers: Vice President: Marcus Fisher

Founding Board Director: Jeff Lichtman

A quorum was present.

EMAIL ACTIVITY BY BOARD None to report

AGENDA

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Treasurer Tom Jacobs

1. Gross Revenue = \$48,058 Expenses = 43,476 Net gain = \$4582
2. Western Conference 2024 looked good financially because of grants from the University of Texas. 2025 Western Conference lost about \$1500.
3. Fiscal year Ending June 30, 2025 had 3 conferences due to timing of conferences. 2024 Eastern after June 30 and 2025 eastern conference before June 30.
4. Conference net for 3 conferences was \$3800
5. Dues brought in \$11,500
 - a. 60 "members" are m\not paying dues
 - b. Some are life members
 - c. Some are honorary members
 - d. Some need to be removed from rolls
6. Dues from life members is kept in reserve, as Life includes many years.
7. Gift shop brought in \$1100.
8. Grants only spent 50% of allocated money.
9. 82% of our assets are used on proper 501c3 charity. This is a very good rating.
10. Proposed budget is \$39170 for year. 38,000 estimated income for deficit of \$1170.
11. Tom discussed need for liability insurance for SARA. \$1000 in budget
- 12. Green Bank Future?**
 - a. \$17250 to upgrade 40 ft to fully modern instrument.

- b. \$1500 to restore Little Big Horn. This is probably not realistic.
13. **The job of treasurer is too big a job for one person.**
 14. **Appendix E has more details of treasurer report**
 15. **Someone needs to handle liability insurance.**
 16. **Tom has briefly looked at SARA "Standard Operating Procedure"**
 17. **Jay Wilson had some thoughts on 40 Ft GBO. New management is open to modernization Associated universities has a lot of funding for GBO. Other funding may prevent the closing.**
 18. ***** Rich Russel made motion top approve the 2025 budget. 2nd by Tom Crowley. Unanimous Vote to OK Budget. GBO issues will be approved by Grant Committee.**
 19. **SARA Bills are all paid up**

Secretary Brian O'Rourke not available. Bruce Randall filled in.

July 2025 Elections

Elections were completed with the following results for 2025-20267

Secretary : Brian O'Rourke

Board: Ted Cline

Board: Ed Harfmann

Board: Wolfgang Herrmann

Board: Bruce Randall

Full report on officers in Appendix B

Minutes of 2024 BOD Meeting (Highlights Only) Full Minutes in Appendix A

Meeting was July 28, 2024

Treasurer reported assets as of July 26, 2024 of \$108,382.

Some concern expressed about income becoming exceeding \$50,000 and changing tax reporting

New Business: (2024)

SARA has excess assets problem with 501c3

Bob Stricklin brought up possibility of SARA support for GB 40 ft telescope upgrades.

Rich Russel made a motion:

Provide \$10,000 for Green Bank Education and 40 ft telescope

2nd by Bob Stricklin

Approved by BOD Vote

Bob and Rich to coordinate with Green Bank

Check was written for Green Bank. Check cleared bank on October 4, 2024

Ken Redcap joined in on phone. Western Conference for 2026 needs location defined

- **Owens Valley**
- **Stanford**

***** Rich called a vote on location. All approved Owens Valley**

To fly in go to Bishop, Ca. Very few flights.

Tom Crowley on Grants:

1293 members on list serve.

Many crazy grant requests.

Radio Jove and Super SID for school in India. Grant included tariffs for entering India.

STEM school in Georgia got several grants.

University of Pennsylvania accounting had trouble accepting gift of Grant. Tom ok now.

We often spend only half of grant allocation.

Rich for Jonathan Pettingale on Super SID. Sanford has upgraded internet connectivity of data. This is a separate report from minutes. Appendix D has the report on receiver production.

SOP. Rich needs everyone to review SOP to verify that it reflects what you do.

Wolfgang on Affiliate Organization.

Rich Russel made Motion to Allow Wolfgang to put SARA Journal on Astropielier Members Only web site. Board to allow Rich and Wolfgang to work out details.

Motion 2nd by Brian. Vote All OK. Add Brian to watch this.

Marcus Fisher has added a new section to Journal called "The Byte" for radio astronomy software.

Motion made by Rich Russel to adjourn meeting, seconded by ###, motion passed by voice vote of the Board.

Meeting Adjourned at 16:09 EDT

Appendix A Minutes of July 28, 2024 BOD Meeting

MINUTES OF THE SARA BOARD OF BOARD DIRECTORS MEETING July 28, 2024

And activity at Green Bank August 4 to 6, 2024

Compiled by Bruce Randall, Secretary

Officers, Board Directors, and Editors in Attendance at Zoom meeting

On Zoom Teleconference Connection:

Officers: President Rich Russel
 Vice President Jay Wilson
 Secretary Bruce Randall
 Treasurer Tom Jacobs

Board Directors: Ed Harfmann
 Stephen Tzikas
 Charles Osborne
 Ted Cline

Dir at Large: David Westman
 Bob Stricklin
 Wolfgang Herrmann

Unavailable:

Board Directors at Large: Paul Butler

Founding Board Director: Jeff Lichtman

A quorum was present.

Also in Attendance:

Tom Crowley Grants
Ciprian Sufitchi Web Master

EMAIL ACTIVITY BY BOARD

Activities of last year Included for context of meeting.

1. November 2023: We had several email exchanges to assure SARAs tax status and Alabama registration is in order. All is OK.
2. November 2023: We had email discussions of possible bylaws changes. This was tabled because changing bylaws affects Alabama registration. Changes discussed:
 - a. Eliminate Board Director at Large. Make all Board Directors the same.
 - b. Make teleconference meeting attendance equal to being there in person.
 - c. Formalize an Assistant to Treasurer. This would eliminate questions about putting an assistant on bank account access.
 - d. Define a budget process.
 - e. Clarify some wording in bylaws.
3. November 2023: Problems for the treasurer caused by Wells Fargo bank were resolved.

AGENDA

Called to order 14:00 EDT

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

President

1. List Serve has 1200+ members. It is very active with many good discussions.
2. We have 3 Zoom meetings per month, Drakes Lounge, RTOP, and Drakes Lounge Australia.
3. We held a Western Regional Conference at UT Dallas in line with April 8 eclipse. Thanks to David Westman and Bob Stricklin for coordination and planning.

4. We are now using Shipify in SARA Store for make to order shirts, Etc. We had sales of \$2270 at a cost of \$1962 giving a profit of \$310. Seems much better than SARA trying to stock these items.
5. Journals have been over 100 pages.
6. We now have an index system to find things in past Journals.
7. Super SID cost to make has risen. It is still acceptable.

Vice President

1. At this time, conference registration is at 47 in person, 5 guests, and 33 on-line participants.
2. Receipts are about \$12,500, and present expenses look like about \$7,500.
3. We are working on solving some problems for Zoom link to Green Bank Auditorium. We are working with their IT to solve problems.

Grants: Tom Crowley

We had 18 grants last year. More are available. We do not get many serious applications.

Secretary

Bruce Randall gave a short power point recap of the last meeting.

Treasurer

Tom Jacobs gave a PowerPoint presentation on our financial status.

Total assets as of 06/30/23 were \$108,382.20.

Total assets as of 07/26/24 were \$106,292.49.

A budget for the coming year was produced.

NEW BUSINESS

1. SARA proposed a grant to Green Bank to Support 40 ft. telescope maintenance, improvements and other education outreach.
 - SARA has large assets for a 501c3
 - Bob Stricklin brought up possibility of supporting Green Bank education programs and the 40 ft. telescope
 - Motion by Rich Russel to donate \$10,000 to Green Bank
 - 2nd by Bob Stricklin
 - PASSED by Vote
 - Bob and Rich to coordinate with Green Bank
2. Motion by Rich Russel to pay travel expenses for Conference Chairman. Bob Stricklin noted we need some limits and controls on this. (No 1st class air travel! Etc.)

Ed Harfmann 2nd the motion. It was passed by a board vote.

THIS NEEDS TO BE REVIEWED by the board before the next conference.

3. Election
 - a. We need a candidate for Vice President.
 - b. 1 more candidate is needed for Board Director.
 - c. 1 more candidate is needed to Board Director at Large.
4. Web Site: Ciprian Sufitchi (Chip)
 - a. Chip is to supply secretary with passwords for website to have some redundancy.
 - b. Chip is working with our keynote speaker **Dr. Jay Lockman** to get SARA member access to his on line course material at a discount for SARA members.

Motion made by Rich Russel to adjourn meeting, seconded by Bruce Randall, motion passed by the Board.

Adjourn 15:57 EDT

Green Bank Conference Activity August 4 and 5, 2024

Election:

22 email ballots and 22 paper ballots at the conference were received.

At the conference:

Marcus Fisher said he would accept VP position.

Don Latham said he would accept a Board Director at large position.

Total Votes * **marks elected individuals**

President:	* Rich Russel	43 votes
Vice President:	* Marcus Fisher	24 write-in votes.
	Charles Osborne	1 write-in vote and declined position.
Board Director: (2)	* Steve Tzikas	41 vote
	* Jay Wilson	18 votes
	Ken Redcap	1 write-in vote.
Dir at Large (2)	* Dennis Farr	42 votes
	* Don Latham	22 write-in votes
Ellie White		1 write-in vote

Appendix B List All Officers after 2025 SARA Election

Position	Term	Name
Founder	Life	Jeff Lichtman
President	2024_2026	Richard Russel
Vice-President	2024_2026	Marcus Fisher
Secretary	2025_2027	Brian O'Rourke
Treasurer	2023_2026	Tom Jacobs
Treasurer Assistant	2025_2027	(Position Open)

Assigned Positions

Web Master	Open	Ciprian Sufitchi
Journal Editor	Open	Richard Russel
Journal Editor	Open	(Position Open)
Journal Contributing Editor	Open	Whitham Reeve
Journal Contributing Editor	Open	(Position Open)
Store Manager	Open	Lester Veenstra
Librarian	Open	(Position Open)
Awards Chairman	Open	Jeff Lichtman
Technical Queries	Open	David Westman
Educational Outreach	Open	(Position Open)
Membership Chairman	Open	(Position Open)
SARA History	Open	Charles Osborne
Grants	Open	Tom Crowley

Board of Board Directors	Term	Name
Board Director	2024_2026	Jay Wilson
Board Director	2024_2026	Stephen Tzikas
Board Director	2025_2027	Ed Harfmann
Board Director	2025_2027	Ted Cline
Board Director	2024_2026	Dennis Farr
Board Director	2024_2026	Don Latham
Board Director	2025_2027	Bruce Randall
		Wolfgang
Board Director	2025_2027	Herrmann
Board Director Emeritus	Life	Jeff Lichtman

Appendix C

Appendix D Super SID Report Jonathan Pettingale

- Sales of SuperSIDs continue to be strong – 38 full or partial sets were made in the last year. Some of these were gifted. The number is lower than last year (60) due to a personal circumstance affecting my ability to build them. This is now resolved, and the shop may be reactivated. There are 25 outstanding inquiries, some of which have already been transformed into orders.
- The cost of materials continues to increase, and the effects of tariffs have not been fully felt.
- A new pricing structure is proposed to reflect the cost of individual items better.
 - SuperSid Receiver \$35 (down from \$48)
 - Soundcard \$40 (unchanged)
 - Coaxial cable \$20 (up from \$14)
 - Antenna Wire \$30 (up from \$23)
- There is a new initiative from an NPO that is providing upgraded servers to hold the Stamford data. They aim to revitalize and upgrade the SuperSID project, expanding it to more schools and citizen scientists.

**Appendix E Treasurer's Report, Reformatted from PDF of Presentation
TDJ. 250727**

**Income Statement for the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers For fiscal year 2024 ending June
30, 2025 Confidential Unaudited**

• Gross Revenue	\$48,058.41
• Expenses	\$43,478.03
• Net Income	\$4,580.30

• Gross Revenue	\$48,058.41
• Conference Registrations Fees	
• 2025 Western Conference	\$1,055.00
• 2025 Eastern Conference	\$9,675.00
• 2024 Eastern Conference	\$11,566.00

• Conference Registrations.	Fees	Expenses
• 2025 Western Conference	\$1,055.00	\$2,541.87
• 2025 Eastern Conference	\$9,675.00	\$7,770.74
• 2024 Eastern Conference	\$11,566.00	\$8,184.23
•	\$22,296.00	\$18,496.84
• Net Income Conference	\$3,799.16	

• Gross Revenue	\$48,058.41
• Dues.	\$11,549.00
• 5 Students Members	
• 7 Life Members	
• 1 Honorary Members	
• 407 Regular Members	
• There are now 60 members not paying dues	

• Gross Revenue	\$48,058.41
• Journal & Proceedings Sales (Dropbox)	\$780.00

• Gross Revenue	\$48,058.41
• Donations	\$125.00

• Gross Revenue	\$48,058.41
• Donations	\$125.00
• Interest	\$7.68

• Gross Revenue	\$48,058.41
• Gift Shop Sales	\$3,867.73
• Gift Shop Expenses	\$2,766.42

• Net Income Gift Shop Sales \$1,101.31

• Gross Revenue	\$48,058.41	
• Equipment	Sales	Expenses
• Radio Jove		\$401.00
• IBT	\$890.00.	\$916.70
• Scope in a Box	\$5,600.00	\$4,016.51
• SuperSID	\$2,943.00	\$1,701.23
• Postage & Shipping		\$1,129.29

• Expenses	\$43,478.03	
• Donations		\$10,000.00
• Banking & Processing Fees		\$1,118.80
• Quickbooks		\$1,069.20
• Domain Hosting & Registrations		\$630.78
• Mailchimp		\$473.04
• Refunds		\$290.00
• Zoom Account		\$159.95
• Dropbox		\$128.27
• Skynet Account		\$180.00

• Expenses	\$43,478.03	
• Banking & Processing Fees		\$1,118.80
• Quickbooks		\$1,069.20
• Domain Hosting & Registrations		\$630.78
• Mailchimp		\$473.04
• Dropbox		\$128.27
• Zoom Account		\$159.95

- SARA's Funding needs to "unlock the doors" \$3750
- Or 190 Regular Memberships
- 82% of SARA's spending is supporting the charitable purpose

FY2025 Proposed Budget			
Dropbox		\$160	
Web Hosting	\$600		
Domain Registration	\$75		
Mailchimp		\$650	
Quickbooks		\$1250	
Liability Insurance		\$1000	Estimate
Zoom		\$2175	
Shopify	\$750	\$4660	
SARA Grants	\$6000		
Associated Universities (20 M Skynet)	\$650		

Conference Expenses	\$8000
GBO 40 Foot Telescope Upgrades	\$17250 Proposed
GBO Little Big Horn Restoration	\$1500 Proposed

PayPal Fees	\$950
Printify	\$160

Estimated Expenses	\$39170
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Estimated FY2025 Sales	\$38000
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FY2025 Budget Deficit	(\$1170)
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- I need ... Help This is too much for one person