**Minutes: 07/19/11**

There were 9 IEEE members, 9 Students, and 14 guests present

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| George Schott | RAS Chairman | Sean Denny | RAS Secretary |
| Jim Melton | RAS | Ken Fiallos | RAS Vice Chairman |
| Shelley Kappeler | Guest Speaker | Cole Schnitzer | Guest Speaker |
| Jon Adair | Guest | Rob Cannon | Guest |
| Jim Anderson | IEEE | Ralph Painter | IEEE |
| Tony Cappadoro | Guest | Magdalena Krstanoski | Guest |
| William Pence | Guest | Mustafa Mashali | Guest |
| Scott Mead | IEEE | Andrea Piacitelli | Guest |
| Gibeon Bradbury | IEEE | Karen Khokar | IEEE |
| David Reese | Guest | Eric Schnitzer | Guest |
| Aurea Rodriguez | Guest | Geri Schnitzer | Guest |
| Murray Skeete | Guest | Damon Piacitelli | Student |
| Emil Burkley | Student | John Lacy | Student |
| Gabrielle Madden | Student | Elizabeth Adair | Student |
| Aaron Cappadoro | Student | JD Kappeler | Student |
| Giovanni Rodriguez | Student | Alex Pillai | Student |

Location: DeVry University at 5540 W. Executive Drive, Tampa, FL 33609
Room: 210
Date: July 19, 2011
Time: 6:30pm to 8:50pm

The July 2011 Meeting of the RAS Society was called by Chairman George Schott.  It was a discussion of Robotics between 6:30 pm and 8:50 pm.  There was a record attendance of 32 participants: 9 IEEE members, 9 Students, and 14 guests present.

* Jim Anderson spoke about the benefits of becoming an IEEE member.
* George Schott mentioned the June Minutes have been posted on the web.  Jim Anderson motioned to accept the minutes with the correction, seconded by Jim Melton.
* Treasurer Reijo Hiltunen was not present therefore no report this month.  George Schott mentioned how much we collected at the June Meeting.  Jim Anderson proposed that be submitted for audit; Seconded by Jim Melton

The following are the main topics from that meeting:

* First order of business was to invite Cole Schnitzer to give a presentation on the History of FIRST Robotics.  FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology) was formed in 1992 when Dean Kamen met Woodie Flowers.  Before that, Dean Kamen developed Wheelchair extensions and eventually led to inventing the Segway.  Woodie Flowers was running Robot Competitions.  Today FIRST has several challenges and competitions for elementary and high school students to build robots and participate.  The divisions are: Junior Lego League (ages 6-9), FIRST Lego League (FLL) (ages 9-14), FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) (ages 14-18), and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) a more accessible and affordable robotics kit aimed at the older beginning Robotics Students.  Cole stated for FRC, kickoff is in the month of January, the participants buy everything with a $3,500 budget and assemble robots with no manuals.  Cole continued that the effort with this program, changed him from an introverted student into a team leader.  He brought in the large robot that his team at Jesuit High School built.
* The second speaker, Shelley Kappeler, FIRST LEGO LEAGUE Coach of Brick Buddies brought their FLL competition board and team to demonstrate their efforts for last year’s competition.  She said their kickoff is in September and lasts for 6 months.  They are a Community STEM program and a 501c3 Organization, not a school based program.  They average about six members and participate in a multitude of Robotics Competitions including Robofest.  The team is graduating to FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) this year.  They know this year will bring a Food Factor Challenge within 2.5 minutes.  They are looking for mentors and can be reached by [www.brickbuddies.org](http://www.brickbuddies.org/) or 813-362-18
* The meeting dispersed around 8:50pm with no motion to adjourn because everyone was interested in the demonstrations and networking following the two speakers.  The next meeting is August 16, 2011 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by
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