



Minutes of the 8/21/2012 IEEE Tampa Bay RAS Meeting

(prepared by Sean Denny, Recording Secretary)

Location: DeVry University at 5540 W. Executive Drive, Tampa, FL 33609
Room: 210

Date: August 21, 2012
Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Introductions and Announcements:

The August 2012 Meeting of the RAS Society was called by Acting Chairman Ken Fiallos at DeVry. There were a total of 13 people made of 7 IEEE members, 1 Student, and 5 guests present. We welcomed RAS Officer Jim Melton who had been in Canada on a project and new RAS member *Drew Davis*. Emma Alaba mentioned the 2013 Robofest is scheduled for March 16th, 2013 at Nielsen in Oldsmar.

The Tampa Bay RAS Chapter received an IEEE RAS Chapter Development Grant over the summer. Special thanks to IEEE FWCS Treasurer, *Dr. Paul Schnitzler* who helped secure the funds.

The following Agenda Topics were discussed:

1. During the Introductions, Ken explained that this Meeting was for the most part a planning meeting in preparation for the new direction for the Chapter. The new focus for Tampa Bay RAS, in keeping with its Mission Statement of "*Learn, Do Teach*", is becoming a Community STEM Resource as outlined in the just awarded RAS Chapter Development Grant. The Grant Goals are to build and strengthen partnerships with IEEE@USF, HCC Engineering Society, SPCC and local School Districts, increase membership from the Educational Community and to generate revenue through community workshop activities around the Arduino. And lastly, most importantly, developing a mentoring pipeline for the Community.
2. RAS, in partnership with the IEEE @ USF Student Chapter and HCC and SPCC Students, is arranging for our second Arduino Microcontroller Workshop. The Work Shop is set for October 6th. *David Touvell* motioned that based on IEEE@USF's Arduino Workshop Experience; the participant configuration

should be two students per kit and that we should reserve (10) of the addition seats for (5) STEM Teachers from Pinellas and (5) STEM Teachers from Hillsborough. David's motion effectively doubled the number of workshop seats to (40) and was seconded by *Sean Denny*. Ten Workshop Mentors from RAS, IEEE@USF, HCC and SPCC are needed for to facilitate the event. The Event will be held at the Phyllis Marshall Student Center on the USF Campus. We need to solicit a caterer to help with lunch. *Mary Davis and Ken* will pursue food solicitations. *Sean Denny* will videotape the event and provide post-event photos and an article.

3. The Grant will buy 20 Workshop kits including Canakits, Multimeters, and fishing-tackle boxes with carrier. RAS must maintain inventory spreadsheet. Craig Ross suggested we purchase safety glasses with the kits. *Dan Rahencamp* of Burnett Middle and *Bill Waggoner* graciously donated \$200 each and will also receive a Kit. Workshop Kit Costs are projected to be \$100 per Kit. Bill also discussed some economical Kit components that are available for future reference.
4. Ken discussed the new online needs for the Chapter in keeping with the Grant. Essentially Ken identified (3) components both for the Grant and for future Chapter operational needs:
 - a. *Social Media Presence*: Publicize the Chapter and its activities. Both Facebook and Word Press were discussed.
 - b. *Content Delivery*: (part of the Grant requirements) a pre-workshop online presence is needed (2) weeks in advance of the workshop. As contained in grant, *ElectrathonOfTampaBay.Org* has made in kind donation for Moodle hosting. However due to the configuration and course development requirements using Moodle, it has been determined that Moodle is not suitable for this component. Ken suggested FB or Word Press as possibilities for simpler content delivery.
 - c. *Project Management Software*: Because our chapter now will be working on DIY Arduino Microcontroller Projects with Teachers, a management platform for managing projects is essential to move forward in this sphere.

Update: After post meeting discussions with MOSI and a Microcontroller Org, it has been determined that the open source project management package called DotProject is the overall best fit for needs for RAS. Besides being free and being web based, it compares very favorably with MS Project in ease of use, functionality and comprehensiveness. For the 10/6/12 Workshop, the Board of Electrathon Of Tampa Bay has agreed to host it for us.

Jim Melton agreed to look at item a. above and report back in September.

5. BEST Robotics Mission Initiative: Ken started out by pointing out that his research had determined that less than 1% of the high school students in the (8) proximate counties (TBART plus Polk) have access to Robotics Education. In conversations with Educators and Administrators from Hillsborough, Pinellas and Brevard, the single biggest barrier was identified as cost. Working with Hillsborough County School Administrators, it was determined that the innovative no cost (No entry fees or Kit Costs) BEST Robotics (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) appeared to be good possibility to get around the financial constraints of expanding Robotics Education.

New Member *Drew Davis* (representing SPCC), who was in attendance at our July Meeting when BEST came to our meeting, pointed out some of the differences between BEST and FIRST. RAS Members *Bill Waggoner* and *Craig Ross* also contributed to this lively discussion.

Ken explained that IEEE Tampa Bay RAS is essentially a midwife in nurturing and creating an independent 501(3)C entity for the BEST Mission initiative. Ken expects to have a draft Business Plan ready for the new entity by the next meeting for review. It will cost \$30,000 for initial kits and an annual \$15,000 for recurring costs.

We are invited to attend *an Emerald Coast BEST Robotics Competition at the University of West Florida in Pensacola on October 20, 2012*. There will be *BEST Hub Training at Auburn University, Birmingham, AL on November 30 to December 2nd, 2012*.

And lastly *Hillsborough County Public Schools* has committed to hosting a BEST competition next year during a Brain Bowl scheduled for October 13, 2013. HCSB will also be helping some Teachers attend these events.

6. The Acting Chair presented the 2012-2013 Slate of Officer Nominees:

Chair: Ken Fiallos

Vice Chair: Sean Denny

Treasurer: Jim Melton

Secretary: Sean Denny (Interim)

Web Person: Jim Melton (Interim)

Videographer/Photographer: Sean Denny

Jim Melton volunteered to help with the Social Media component as interim Social Media Developer., *Sean Denny* volunteered for the Videographer/Photographer. He will film the big community events and the RAS

meetings upon request of the RAS Chair. Sean needs someone to step forward to be Secretary to allow for complete focus on his new role of Vice Chair.

Jim Melton made a motion to accept the slate of officers for the year pending that a volunteer succeed Sean as Recording Secretary and him as Interim Webmaster; Seconded by *Bill Waggener*. Motion Passed Unanimously.

7. New Meeting Venue at MOSI.

Ken Fiallos negotiated the use Tampa's Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) the Idea Zone Maker Space for all future meetings in keeping with or Learn, Do, Teach Mission Statement. It was suggested to keep DeVry University as a venue for Speaker Presentations and MOSI as a workshop.

8. The Motion to approve the Minutes as published was made by *Bill Waggener*; Seconded by *Craig Ross*. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjourned at 8:30 pm by Ken Fiallos; Seconded by Sean Denny.

Respectfully submitted by
Sean Denny,
Tampa Bay IEEE RAS Chapter Secretary
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