 **Minutes of the 04/16/2013 IEEE Tampa Bay RAS Meeting**

 (Prepared by Sean Denny, Recording Secretary)

Location: MOSI at 4801 E Fowler Avenue, Tampa, FL, 33617

Room: Idea Zone Maker Space

Date: April 16, 2013

Time: 6:20pm to 8:30pm

The Tampa Bay Chapter of IEEE’s Robotics and Automation Society held the April 2013 meeting at its new home, The Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa. The IEEE RAS Chapter plans to execute on the Vision of the Chapter’s Founder, George Schott to “Learn, Do, Teach”.

There were a total of 14 people made of 7 IEEE members, 2 Students, and 5 guests present.

OFFICER ROLL CALL:

o Chairman – Ken Fiallos

o Vice-Chairman/Secretary – Sean Denny

o Treasurer – Tom Hayden

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

 Emma Alaba announced there will be an Autonomous Robot Thanksgiving Parade at Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle School in St. Petersburg coming in November 2013.

CHAPTER PROGRESSION:

1. BEST Leadership and Event Planning:

 Nineteen people were voted on to the FL Robotics Alliance Board by FRA Executive Board. The IEEE FWCS RAS Officers are currently the managing committee for this Corporation. A funding and sponsorship committee needs to be organized because the supplies need to be purchased by July 2013. Tom Hayden and Ken Fiallos are going to Mobile, AL for a Financial Orientation on funding for BEST.

1. BEST Robotics Workshops:

BEST Workshops will be held August through September leading up to the first FWC BEST@ HCC competition in October 2013. The participants will use a laser cutter from MOSI to build robotic arms to practice during the workshops. We have access to a robotic arm at HCC. Jim Kendall asked if that could be put on loan for schools to demonstrate. The workshops will also have Jim Kendall teach Easy C. He proposed the dates of 8/10, 8/24, or the first three weeks of September.

1. DOT PROJECT TICKETING SYSTEM:

The Dot Project Ticketing System manages and organizes tasks for the future projects. We access it via on the website: floridaroboticsalliance.org/Projects. The following tasks need completion soon:

1. Hunt for Breadboard components
2. Assemble kits with Bill of Material List
3. Build the Project Syllabus for contents and schematics.
4. Programming is the other aspect of this project

Bill Waggener volunteered to research the prices into the purchasing materials for an Arduino Motor Controller kit has trying to keep the price below $50. We ask volunteers to step forward to undertake the unassigned tasks.

1. ARDUINO MICROCONTROLLERS:

We are trying to introduce an Arduino Microcontroller Lesson

Plan into the Teacher In-Service Program. We acquired a grant to buy kits less than $50.00. Two were sold at the recent Arduino Workshop on April 13, 2013. We might lend these kits in the future. (See Sean Denny’s Presentation below.)

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Fifth Robofest Qualifying Competitions & Logistics-March 16, 2013

 Our Guest Speaker, Emma Alaba, gave an overview of the Fifth Robofest Qualifying Competitions and Logistics. On March 16th, Robofest was held at Nielsen Corporation in Oldsmar, FL. They brought in 300 people in the large Cafeteria. There were 32 teams with 127 students. Exhibits were quite large and displayed around the perimeter. RAS Chairman Ken Fiallos was chief game judge.

The Game Theme was “Search, Rescue, Cleanup, and Collect data.” Round 1 Game competition: Unknown problem is unveiled. Teams have 30 min to solve the problem. Autonomous robots should be constructed and programmed by students. The Robot needs to figure out where it is. The Learning Objectives are: Motion, Navigation, Manipulation, and Measuring.

The results were Gibbs High at first place for Senior Division;

Vibots was first place for Junior Division.

IEEE Member Drew Davis won first place for Senior Exhibition.

The Regional Championship including video April 18th (Outside of MI) RC. The World Championship is May 19th.

1. “Learning Your ABCs: Arduino Microcontrollers Workshop:

 Sean Denny gave a review of the workshop:

 On April 13th, 2013, I drove to Hillsborough Community College Brandon Campus for the third IEEE RAS Arduino Workshop. I met Chairman Ken Fiallos the moment I arrived at 8AM. His Sister-in Law Pat Bias arrived and helped us transport the kits to Room 201. Dr. Alessandro Anzalone let us into the classroom and assisted with the setup. Ken was introduced to a new video projector so that the example motor and the potentiometer could be projected on the big screen. IEEE member and RAS Officer Tom Hayden also arrived and prepared to coach throughout the morning. I got prepared to film the workshop. By 9am, we had one student and six Hillsborough County Schools Teachers to participate. Ken started the Introductions and talked about the goals of the Robotics Chapter for 2013. For the next hour, Ken gave a lesson on Arduino Microcontrollers aided by a YouTube video and posed challenging questions. Ken reviewed the C code to generate the values from motors ! to a computer via the Arduino. Everyone built simple motors from the kits. Tom, Ken, and I were on hand to verify the correct assembly and un-assembly of the motors. After the workshop, Dr. Anzalone gave a tour of the FLATE Engineering Technology Work Lab. The STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) laboratory was equipped with a 3-D Laser Printer, Programmable Controller System, Metrology, Robot Arm, and an Electrathon Racer Car.

Sean showed excerpts from the DVD of the Arduino workshop.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

It was suggested to switch nights for RAS Meeting but that was generally rejected. We plan to do a “Do” session with building something for the RAS Meeting in May.

Craig Ross made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Tom Hayden. We Adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Sean Denny,

Tampa Bay IEEE RAS Chapter Secretary

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