



**Robotics & Automation Society**  
**Tampa Bay Chapter**  
*"Learn, Do, Teach"*

**Minutes of the 9/18/2012 IEEE Tampa Bay RAS Meeting**  
(prepared by Sean Denny, Recording Secretary)

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

Room: I-Lab Educational Center

Date: September 18, 2012

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

The Tampa Bay Chapter of IEEE's Robotics and Automation Society held its first meeting at its new home, The Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa. The move to MOSI's just renovated MakerSpace called the "Idea Zone" was made to better position the Chapter to execute on the Vision of the Chapter's Founder, George Schott to "Learn, Do, Teach".

There were a total of 24 people made of 10 IEEE members, 4 Students, and 10 guests present.

OFFICER ROLL CALL:

- o Chairman - Ken Fiallos
- o Vice-Chairman/Secretary - Sean Denny
- o Treasurer - Jim Melton
- o WEB Master - Victor Basantes
- o Membership coordinator -Jim Anderson-Excused
- o Chapter Photographer/Videographer- Sean Denny

RAS Members, Jim Melton and Sean Denny explained to the attendees consisting of Teachers from Hillsborough and Pinellas County Public Schools, MOSI and Industry that RAS was partnering with students from the IEEE@USF, HCC Engineering Society and St Pete College to develop a mentoring pipeline of engineering students to help meet the needs of the K12 STEM Community.

RAS Chair, Ken Fiallos gave an update on the Chapter's two main Mission Initiatives:

- *Improving Access to Robotics Education* by establishing an independent 501(3)c Entity to develop autonomous BEST Robotics Hubs in IEEE FWCS's territory.

Ken gave a quick overview of the discussions being held with HCC to headquarter the new organization and with HCPS to establish the first template Hub to be called the North-South Hub (HCPS schools north and south of the I4 corridor). Ken also solicited for volunteers to attend the upcoming Emerald Coast BEST Hub Competition at UWF in Pensacola on 10/20/12 and the BEST Hub Training to be held on 11/30, 12/1, 12/1/12 at Auburn University

- *Developing TISP STEM lesson plans around the Arduino Microcontroller.*  
Ken described two of the lesson plans; the Kinematics Tube and the Instrumentation of Electrathon Racers for Volts and Amps and Speed. RAS held a workshop on 8/15/12 to field test the Kinematics TISP plan and is another planned workshop on 10/6/12 to field test the TISP Instrumentation plan at USF with its mentoring partners.

The "Learning Your ABCs" Workshop is in the final stages of preparation for October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. We have arranged it to begin at 9am at the Phyllis Marshall Center at USF. It will last till 4pm intended for local students and teachers to learn how to develop a Telemetry Project, Build a Kinematics Tube, and understand speed controllers with Optical Feedback. We have purchased 25 kits. Ken requests an 8am arrival for the RAS members to come help setup. The expected ratio is One Mentor to Four Students and one Kit per two Students.

Mentors are needed for coaching and are invited for a "Train the Trainer" Session on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Location will be at the Sam Horton Instruction Services Center 2920 North 40th Street, Tampa, 33605, beginning at Noon. Participants will learn "How to use a Multimeter", Build a "Vari-Speed Motor Controller," and develop instrumentation programs for the Electrathon car.

Lastly an overview of the RAS's new Project Management Software package, DotProject was previewed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Motion to approve the August Minutes as published was made by Jim Melton; Seconded by Ken Fiallos. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Emma Alaba announced 2013 Robofest will be March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Wayne Rasanen of Tampa Bay Inventors demonstrated a new micro-keyboard which uses a USB Protocol across all known OS Platforms. A colleague of his can type 22-30 WPM on the device. He suggested go to [www.DesignNews.com](http://www.DesignNews.com) for more information. The upcoming Bar Camp Code Camp will be held on 10/13 at the USF College of Business.

Adjourned at 8:30pm by Jim Melton; Seconded by Ayaz Hemani.

Respectfully submitted by

Sean Denny,

Tampa Bay IEEE RAS Chapter Secretary

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