



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

### **Minutes of the 04/15/2014 IEEE Tampa Bay RAS Meeting**

(Prepared by Sean Denny, Chairman and Recording Secretary)

Location: Osceola High School  
9751 98<sup>th</sup> Street, Seminole, FL, 33777  
Date: April 15, 2014  
Time: 6:30pm to 8pm

The Tampa Bay Chapter of IEEE's Robotics and Automation Society held the April meeting at Osceola High School. 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 12 people made of 8 IEEE members, 0 Students, and 4 guests present.

#### OFFICER ROLL CALL:

- o Chairman - Sean Denny
- o Treasurer - Jim Cavanaugh

#### PRESENTATIONS:

- A) Gary Sheppard, OHS Teacher

IEEE Consultants Network Chair Hermann Amaya recently introduced us to Gary Sheppard, Osceola High School Teacher who sponsors a FIRST Robotics Team.

We made arrangements to have a joint *IEEE RAS-Consultants April Meeting* on April 15<sup>th</sup> at Osceola High School. It was located on the northwest corner of Seminole Lake in Pinellas County. The Assistant Principal Christina Oulett greeted me at the entrance of the school and led me to an impressive workshop-lab. Other IEEE members arrived like Hermann Amaya, Ken Fiallos, Jim Cavanaugh, Winston Gayler, Jim Kendall, Bill Collins, and Craig Ross. Pinellas County Teachers Emma Alaba and Roxanne Reznor joined us.

Gary Sheppard arrived and we began the meeting after 6:30pm. He serves as a Director for the Pre-Engineering Academy and teaches the students Robotic Techniques, Programmable Logic Circuits, CNC Machines, and how to use a 3-D Printer. They have run the Academy for Seven years. After school, he leads a FIRST Robotics team and they have annual competitions onsite. Gary Sheppard stated he "runs the program like a job where the students are challenged to think outside the box." They test robots through stability and traction.

They currently have classes of 10% female to 90% male. They are trying to increase the ratio of girls who prove to be more analytical. Students are also building a quadcopter. The challenge for them is programming the motherboard. We concluded with a Question & Answer session and discussed how the IEEE can help provide mentors to the students.

NEW BUSINESS: None

A) RAS CHAPTER CALENDAR

The Chapter Meeting dates for the remainder of 2014 are:

May 21: Raspberry PI 6pm with WIE and SP Comm

June 17: Robofest Review

July 15

August 19

September 16

October 21

November 18

December 16

***Note: Announcements in the IEEE Signal Newsletter are due two months before the event.***

OLD BUSINESS: None

Adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Sean Denny,

Tampa Bay IEEE RAS Chapter Chair

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