**Minutes: 03/15/2011**

There were 7 IEEE members and 5 guests present

George Schott - RAS Chairman

Reijo Hiltunen - RAS Treasurer

David Figueroa - RAS

Roberto Guerra - Guest

Pat Bias - Guest Stephen Elting - Guest Sean Denny - RAS Secretary Ken Fiallos - RAS Vice Chairman Al Ekblad - RAS Mary Fiallos - GUEST Steve Nies - RAS Wayne Rasanen - Guest

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

Room: 210

Date: March 15, 2011

Time: 6:30pm to 8:00pm

The March 2011 Meeting of the RAS Society was called by Chairman George Schott. It was a discussion of Robotics between 6:30 pm and 8:00 pm. George reminded that our motto was LEARN, DO, and TEACH. The following are the main topics from that meeting.

* + First order of business was to approve the January 2011 Minutes. Ken Fiallos motioned to accept them as posted on the website, seconded by Reijo Hiltunen.
  + Treasurer Reijo Hiltunen said the current balance was $500.52. Sean Denny moved the Treasurer’s Report be received and moved to audit. Seconded by Roberto Guerra. The motion passed.
  + Secretary Sean Denny invited everyone to John Hopkins Middle School on March 24th to participate in a STEM Career Fair with an IEEE Booth. James Melton, Ken Fiallos, and George Schott will be answering questions for the interested youth between 6pm and 8pm.
  + The Annual Florida Engineering Education Conference will be held at UCF on April 29th. They are looking for Presenters or Workshop leaders using an Outer Space Theme this year. A former NASA Astronaut will be the principle speaker. Please register at http://partner.cecs.ucf.edu/FEE/.
  + Vice Chairman Ken Fiallos spoke on Phase II of the Electrathon Instrumentation and Telemetry Project to augment the student learning opportunities with the Electrathon Cars. Phase I involved using an onboard PLC to display AMPS, VOLTS, SPEED, and DISTANCE traveled and providing remote data acquisition using conventional Ethernet Wireless equipment to the PIT crew. For Phase II Ken demonstrated the hardware setup and software for automated data collection using the same PLC used in Phase I to record amps and volts. The demonstration involved constant current loading of a battery using an external power mosfet modulated by the PLC to maintain a constant current from the test battery. The data collected then can be used to model battery discharge curves on the onboard PLC to give the driver an estimate of battery life remaining versus race time remaining. Ken needs volunteers to draw up the designs, write up an Assembly manual and mentoring of the Electrathon teams on the software and hardware.
  + Lastly, Ken announced that ElectrathonOfTampaBay.ORG is negotiating with the FL State Fairgrounds in Tampa to hold an event on May 21st that will be called the Green STEM Electrathon Fair. They are looking for 20-30 Exhibitors like Solar Heating Companies and Car Dealerships.
  + Steve Nies is still developing the "Stair Climber Transport Robot" and is in charge of the RAS Collaborative Website. Construction has begun and he needs help with acquiring the machine made parts. Jim Melton will help with the machine shop.
  + George Schott invited volunteers and judges to Robofest on March 19th. See www.robotfest.org for location details. Contact Rose Mack at mackr@pcbs.org or Emma Alaba at simplepc4u@aol.com or call 727-643-5132. The event lasts from 8AM to 1:30pm.
    1. Hermann Amaya    RAS
    2. Kim Jacklin    IEEE
    3. Jim Anderson    Ras
    4. Jeff Kramer    IEEE
    5. Kathryn De Laurentis    Speaker
    6. Stan Kowski    Guest
    7. Sean Denny    IEEE
    8. Steve Nies    Guest
    9. Reggie Dunnick    Guest
    10. Tom Saliga    IEEE
    11. Robert Franklin    RAS
    12. George Schott    RAS
    13. Charlie Harrison    Guest
    14. Frank Belluccia    IEEE
    15. Debbie Harrison    Guest
    16. Sylvia Zell    Guest
    17. George Schott     RAS Chairman
    18. Jim Anderson     RAS
    19. Reijo Hiltunen     RAS Treasurer
    20. Sean Denny          RAS Secretary
    21. Robert Franklin   RAS Facilities Coordinator
    22. James Melton     RAS Publicity / Program Coordiantor
    23. Fred Sellers     Guest
    24. Terri Willingham     Guest
    25. David Figueroa     RAS
    26. Jason Olivero     Guest
    27. Mei Freeze     Guest
    28. Ben Rivero     Guest
    29. G Schott’s Granddaughter
    30. Ken Fiallos     RAS Vice Chairman
    31. Chris Willingham Guest
    32. Holly Morris     Guest
    33. Christine Danger     Guest
    34. Logan Freeze     Guest
    35. Damien Isom     Guest
    36. Vice Chairman Ken Fiallos is working on modifying and improving the Electrathon Cars.
    37. Steve Nies is still developing the "Transport Robot" and is in charge of the RAS Collaborative Website.
    38. Publicity/Programs Coordinator Jim Melton presented an overview of the history of LEGO Robotics since 1998. He displayed some of the old and new receptors. He had several examples of the old remote style robots to the new autonomous.
    39. 6:45 George Schott mentioned the July minutes were distributed on line and posted on the RAS WEB site and asked for any if there were any correction.� There were none. Sean move we accept the minutes as published, Jim Anderson seconded it.� The motion was passed unanimously.
    40. 6:46 Ken Fiallos gave an update on the Electrathon project he is involved in. He is looking for volunteers to help 6 middle schools that want to participate in the events. He is also looking for engineering talent to assist with the development of a data capture and telemetry system that can monitor the cars electrical resources, remotely. He referred everyone to the Electrathon's web site: <http://electrathonoftampabay.org/www/>
    41. 7:10 Dinner was served and consumed
    42. 7:35 Wayne Rasanen gave a description of the 10 key keyboard that he designed and patented, that can replace the conventional 101 keyboard used on PCs.
    43. 7:40 Sean Denny Filled us in on the Teacher In Service activities and awards process and progress. He mentioned the First Lego League kick off is on September 3 and the First Tech Challenge kick off is on September 11. The Great American Teach In will be held on November 18th this year.
    44. 7:47 David Figueroa announced that there is talk about some classes in Robotics are being developed and will be presented and McDill Air Force Base. He will keep us up to date with the developments.
    45. 7:50 The group discussed the table arrangement for future meetings.
    46. 7:52 George Schott asked that everyone return their name badges and tent card when leaving so we can save money by reusing them.
    47. 7:53 Steve Nies gave a report on his Transport Robot project and displayed the RobotPortal web site material that has been created. Discussions related Brush verses Brushless motors was discussed as well as the logistics of traversing stairways.
    48. 8:30 Ken Fiallos made a motion that the RobotPortal web site allow anyone to view the web site, but only registered members be able to make entries. It was seconded Sean Denny. There was extensive discussion after which the motion was passed.
    49. 8:33 George Schott gave a lead in presentation regarding Muscle Wire and how it can be applied to our robotic designs.
    50. There was no Old business discussed
    51. There was no new business brought to the table.
    52. 8: 50 Robert Franklin moved we adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Hermann Amaya.  The motion was passed unanimously.
    53. Meeting called to order 6:30 PM at Crabby Bill’s on the Courtney Campbell Causeway.
    54. George Schott mentioned the May minutes were distributed on line and a motion was made and passed to accept the May 2010 minutes
    55. Ken Fiallos’ gave a presentation explaining the electronic control systems used to manage the power used by electric cars in the electrathon racing.
    56. Dr. Kathryn De Laurentis gave a very comprehensive presentation covering the design and development of robotic arm, wrist and hand prosthesis.
    57. George Schott showed the content of some of the links accessible from our ras.robotportal.net web site.
    58. There was no Old business discussed
    59. There was no new business brought to the table.
    60. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Under Old Business, Ken Fiallos said he would assist the Chairman for drawing up the RAS Bylaws. Under New Business, We may want to work on getting distinguished speakers to talk at a meeting. We might have additional meetings outside of our regular monthly meetings to accommodate special events like distinguish speakers or presentations at a local high school. James Melton might have a NASA representative to have a special presentation outside of a normal meeting. Roberto Guerra might have a future presentation from the Tampa Bay Microcontroller Club. He is also looking for employment in embedded systems. Wayne Rasanen said there is an Inventors Meeting at the Star Tek Center in Largo. The meeting dispersed around 8:00pm with a motion to adjourn by David Figueroa. The next meeting is April 19, 2011 at 6:30pm Respectfully submitted by Sean Denny, Tampa Bay IEEE RAS Chapter Secretary [venner20@ieee.org](mailto:venner20@ieee.org)