**Minutes: 04/19/2011**

There were 7 IEEE members and 7 guests present

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| George Schott | RAS Chairman | Sean Denny | RAS Secretary |
| Jim Melton | RAS | Ken Fiallos | RAS Vice Chairman |
| David Figueroa | RAS | Rose Mack | Speaker |
| Emma Alaba | Guest | Juanita Andrews | Guest |
| Ryan DeJesus | Guest | Ralph Painter | IEEE |
| Craig Ross | Guest | Suzanne Ross | Guest |
| Claude Pitts | IEEE | Jerome Waechter | Guest |

Location: DeVry University at 5540 W. Executive Drive, Tampa, FL 33609
Room: 210
Date: April 19, 2011
Time: 6:30pm to 9:00pm

The April 2011 Meeting of the RAS Society was called by Chairman George Schott.  It was a discussion of Robotics between 6:30 pm and 9:00 pm.  George reminded that our motto was LEARN, DO, and TEACH and that our mission is to be a focal point for Robotics.The following are the main topics from that meeting.

First order of business was to invite our distinguished guest, Rose Mack, Pinellas Secondary Science & Math Supervisor to talk about her history with Pinellas County Schools, Youth Engineering Society, First Robotics, and Robofest.Teachers are empowered to become mentors for these students.She urged that “mentors must have a passion to inspire students to program, build, and compete.”

George Schott asked to approve the March 2011 Minutes.  Jim Melton motioned to accept them as posted on the website, seconded by Ken Fiallos.  Treasurer Reijo Hiltunen was not present therefore no report this month.

The Annual Florida Engineering Education Conference <http://partner.cecs.ucf.edu/FEE/>will be held at UCF on April 29th.Secretary Sean Denny will be attending as a panelist speaker.He gave his proposed presentation on IEEE’s Teacher in Service Program, Space Science and Robotics in the Classroom.Juanita Andrews offered a suggestion for Steve Nies’ Stair-climber robot that a third wheel in the center might help.George Schott also mentioned he will attend the conference.

Sean Denny, Ken Fiallos, and Jim Melton lead a discussion on their involvement at the first STEM Career Fair at John Hopkins Middle School in St. Petersburg.Jim Melton suggested we also attend PTA meetings to help “get our foot in the door.”You need $300 to buy a Mindstorm Lego Kit and get a Robotics Club or Class started.

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.He plans to sell kits to the schools at cost.Ken reminded everyone of ElectrathonOfTampaBay.ORG’s upcoming event at the FL State Fairgrounds in Tampa the Green STEM Electrathon Festival event on May 21st.He expects 17 Electrathons and 10 Junior Sprint Cars.Everyone is welcome to attend.

Steve Nies was not present; therefore no report.

Under Old Business, George Schott discussed the RAS grant of $2,000 but the deadline of April 29th is fast approaching.It was suggested we could draw up a proposal to create a STEM Robotics club and pitch it to the School Boards.

Under New Business, Rose Mack mentioned the next Pinellas Professional Study Day will be August 16, 2011 at Seminole High School.Jim Melton offered to bring in his Autonomous Flying Machine at the May RAS Meeting.

The meeting dispersed around 8:53pm with a motion to adjourn by Jim Melton and Seconded by George Schott.  The next meeting is May 17, 2011 at 6:00pm

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