

## **SETI PERMANENT STUDY GROUP (PSG)**

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, October, 17, 2005

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Fukuoka International Convention Center, Room SP1

56<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress

### **Present:**

Seth Shostak (Chair)

John Elliot

Doug Vakoch

Claudio Maccone (Co-Chair)

Carol Oliver

Lori Walton

Richard Clar

John Rummel (late)

Robert DeBiase

Paul Shuch

Pierre Molette (*Acta Astronautica* Editor for Special Issues) - guest

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In the absence of the secretary, Guillermo Lemarchand, Lori Walton was asked to take minutes of the meeting.

Agenda – the issue of publication of papers was moved to the second item on the agenda and Paul Shuch requested time for a group photo at the end of the meeting.

### **1. Review and approval of minutes from 2004 Vancouver meeting**

- Moved by D. Vakoch, seconded by C. Oliver, unanimously approved.

### **2. Publication of Papers from past IAC's.**

- Pierre Molette, the Editor of Special Issues for *Acta Astronautica*, informed the group about procedures for publication of SETI papers in a Special Issue.
- The last major publication of SETI papers was in 1999; there are papers to be published from the year 2000 to present.
- The instructions from *Acta Astronautica* for producing Special Issues were distributed. The SETI Group is to assign a Guest Editor. P. Molette will receive the papers from the Guest Editor, review them for quality and then forward them to Jean-Pierre Marec, the Editor-in Chief for *Acta Astronautica*.
- Each issue of *Acta Astronautica* is 60 pages, but Special Issues can be two or three times larger.
- P. Molette said the papers from the two different SETI sessions (technical and social), can be in one issue.
- There was a discussion on copyright and whether papers published on the internet could be considered preprints, or whether these were in conflict with the Elsevier copyright.
- P. Molette agreed to:
  - 1) find out whether the author of the paper retains copyright
  - 2) the copyright rules when papers are published on the PSG website – i.e. can these papers be considered preprints
  - 3) send author's instructions to the Chair
- To help determine which previous papers should be published the Rapporteur reports should be reviewed

**ACTION:** S. Shostak is to obtain previous years Rapporteur's Reports from Annie Moulin.

P. Molette left the meeting

- There was discussion over whether to start publishing with the 2000 papers and move forward or to start with 2005 papers and move backwards.
- It was noted that papers can be sorted by topic.

**DECISION:**

- 1) Claudio Maccone will be the first Editor for SETI I papers  
Seth Shostak will be the second Editor for SETI I papers
- 2) Carol Oliver will be the first Editor for SETI II papers  
John Elliot will be the second Editor for SETI II papers
- 3) The papers will be published starting from 2000. The Special Issue will consist of about 40 papers, covering from 2000 to 2003, depending on how many of the earlier papers are suitable for publication.

### **3. Review of the SETI sessions at Fukuoka and Reinstatement of Pesek Lecture.**

**DECISION:** P. Shuch will be Rapporteur for SETI I session at Fukuoka.  
J. Elliot will be Rapporteur for SETI II session at Fukuoka.  
P. Shuch will be Co-Chair for the SETI II session. Seth Shostak will be Co-Chair after D. Vakoch leaves the SETI II session.

- During discussion on the Pesek Lecture in Valencia for 2006, it was noted that the name of the lecturer should be established early and should be someone other than members of the SPG.
- P. Shuch offered to present a lecture if a lecturer could not be found.
- C. Maccone mentioned the name of a colleague in Spain who might be available and also noted that the Spanish telescope project his colleague is involved in is in need of funds for a targeted search.
- The PSG then discussed the possibility of a lecture for the SETI II session. S. Shostak informed the group that Allen Tough suggested a \$3,000 annual stipend be established for a John Billingham "Cutting Edge" Lecture for the start of the SETI II session. Allen Tough offered to contribute half of the cost (\$1,500) per year for five years if matching funds could be found. The lecturer is to present one cutting edge idea for SETI.
- S. Shostak noted there were difficulties with the SETI Institute potentially providing the matching funds, since John Billingham is on the Board.
- Overall, the PSG felt that certainly best efforts should be made to identify an appropriate lecturer and come up with matching funds, given Allen's generosity.

**MOTION:** S. Shostak put forward and J. Elliot seconded that S. Shostak will ask Allen Tough if he will still sponsor the Billingham lecture if no matching funds can be found. The PSG will try to interest a speaker to present a SETI II lecture at Valencia. Passed unanimously.

#### 4. PSG Website

- P. Shuch noted that there were three changes on the SETI PSG web site:
  - 1) A calculator for the San Marino Scale has been added
  - 2) IAA has changed domain names and logo. P. Shuch had to manually change the links in the website and the logo.
  - 3) Paul will need to pay \$110 US for the domain registration for the site for ten years.

**ACTION:** S. Shostak offered to see if the SETI Institute would pay for the domain name fee.

**MOTION:** D. Vakoch formally moved that P. Shuch continue to do the web site for another three years. R. DeBiase seconded. Passed unanimously.

- All in the PSG expressed their appreciation to P. Shuch for his outstanding job in updating the web site.

#### 5. Continuation of SETI activities within IAC

- All members expressed dismay about the very high registration fees, but there was general consensus to continue within the IAC

#### 6. Subcommittee Reports

##### a) Lunar Far-Side Subcommittee

- C. Maccone reported that the Cosmic Study to establish a Radio Telescope on the far side of the moon was published in *Acta Astronautica*. The Daedalus crater is the best location for the radio telescope. He also reviewed NASA discussions on establishing a space station at one of the L2 points and how this would endanger the farside radio telescope.
- C. Maccone then reported on the Toronto Lunar Conference and acknowledged Allen Tough's help in making it possible to attend the conference. There were 43 Chinese delegates in Toronto. Japan and India are both planning moon missions.
- There was then some discussion concerning the establishment of Protected Areas on the Moon. These would include the north and south poles, the farside radio telescope site and historical Apollo landing sites.
- The PSG discussed the possibility of SETI sessions at the COSPAR conference in Hawaii.

**ACTION:** C. Maccone will check with Elsevier about whether the farside paper can be posted on the PSG's website and will let P. Shuch know the result.

##### b) Post-Detection Subcommittee

- C. Oliver reported that this subcommittee will benefit from a science person and a communication person.
- Paul Davies in Australia has had some press on post-detection.
- C. Oliver reported that Jill Tarter has offered some live test material and offered to meet with the Post-Detection subcommittee in November when she will be in Australia.

- P. Shuch reminded the Subcommittee that space is available on the web site for their minutes of meetings and activity report.

**c) Transmissions from Earth Subcommittee**

- S. Shostak reported on the Straw Vote results.
- He also reported that several people commented they would support a separate Active SETI conference or session.
- D. Vakoch suggested and the rest of the PSG agreed that much time has been spent on this issue and although it was beneficial in having extensive open discussions it was time to move on.

**MOTION:** R. DeBiase moved and P. Shuch seconded that the committee would urge Michael Michaud to redraft the second protocols to make consistent with the earlier document, which specifies that no transmissions should be made in response to the detection of an extraterrestrial intelligence without international consultation. The motion was passed unanimously.

**ACTION:** S. Shostak is to inform M. Michaud about the vote and request the re-draft.

**7. New Members**

- S. Shostak offered to inquire about membership procedures.

**MOTION:** by D. Vakoch to accept Kathryn Denning as a member and seconded by P. Shuch. Passed unanimously.

**ACTION:** C. Oliver to ask Paul Davies about becoming a member of the group. He was a member previously, but has dropped off the membership list.

**ACTION:** C. Maccone is to remind Gregory Matloff to submit his CV to the Chair. It has to be submitted and reviewed before he can become a member.

**8. New Business**

- J. Elliott as well as Claudio Maccone and Richard Clar will go to the Paris meeting for setting the Agenda for the 2006 Valencia IAC.
- There was some discussion of SETI sessions at the COSPAR conference. J. Rummel suggested that SETI sessions at COSPAR would dilute the already small SETI participation at major conferences, and suggested that the IAC was a better venue for SETI.
- C. Maccone reported on SETI Italia's Stelio Montebugnoli.

**9. Adjournment** – the motion to adjourn was made by D. Vakoch and seconded by R. DeBiase.