

SUG Minutes – 19 Jul 2016

In attendance

Whit, Francisco, Nathan, Dick, Tom, Chuck, Wes, Jim S, Dave

Station Reports – New Info in RED

Tom – Running okay; unplugging often due to local lightning storms.

Dick – RFI down; getting some very nice solar.

Whit – Getting the stronger solar bursts. Loading up the radio cabinet and taking it to Coho. FSX-5 to be installed with an LWA antenna. Would like to have the switcher mod performed on the FSX-5.

Nathan – Good solar bursts observed.

Jim B –

Wes – Wes's cats ate his RSP installation and his dog ate his homework. Turns out that the latest update to AVG flagged RSP and UTC Clock as malware and deleted them from his system. Reinstallation goes apace with Win7 permission issues. AVG now manually disabled. Wes will use Windows Defender in lieu of AVG. Lots of daily afternoon lightning with attendant disconnection of the antennas. Also, Wes unearthed from his collection of components some old Mini-Circuits power combiners with 40 dB port isolation and 0.7 dB insertion loss (isolation and loss measured at 20 MHz). Wes is using these on his 20 MHz narrow band polarimeter array.

Chuck – Spectro running well. Students presently organizing data and will run Jim Sky's hard drive loader script program to transfer data to a PDS hard drive.

Francisco – Observing a very tiny amount of barely-visible RFI when the air conditioning system is in operation; will try some fixes from an article in QST that Dave sent around via email.

Dave – DPS now operating and taking data in server mode without flaw. However, after several days, clients can no longer connect to the RSS server.

Discussion – New Info in RED

JUNO

Still in orbit. ☺ Chuck has forwarded an observing schedule used by the Juno team, including the observing schedule for the large radio observatories, to the SUG group.

Archiving

Jim Sky has released a program that will automatically copy the user's RSS data directory to a PDS hard drive and format the directory structure on the PDS hard drive the way the PDS wants if formatted. Nobody has used it yet, but Chuck's students expected to do so soon. Some issues with Tom's data, as it is stored on a Mac, not a PC. Jim S working with Tom to find a work-around.

SDRPlay

Jim Sky is working on RSS to integrate Nathan's SDRPlay interface software directly in RSS in the upcoming release 2.8.18(?). Jim also working on several other bug fixes such as banner text and time axis labels. Whit asked if it would be possible to run two SDRPlay receivers together into RSS. Nathan offered that it may not be possible to run two SDRPlay receivers simultaneously on the same USB bus, or even on the same PC. Another issue is the combined data rate, even if both receivers can exist simultaneously.

HEC grant

Chuck has received the first year of grant funding at MTSU (this is for a 5-year grant program). The 1st year grant includes \$21k for hardware upgrades. Chuck is now in the process of writing a document that will help determine how to allocate the hardware funds. Any observers receiving HEC funds for hardware will likely enter into some form of contractual agreement with MTSU. Dave asked Chuck if there was anything the SUG could do to help Chuck move along this path. Chuck will cogitate and ruminate and let us know.

2017 Solar Eclipse

Chuck is writing a guide for participation in observing the 2017 eclipse with a Radio Jove receiver and one or two dipoles. There will be a Practice Session for this on July 29, 2016.

Meetings

Chuck (probably) and Jim Sky (possibly) will go to the AGU meeting in San Francisco on Dec 12-16, 2016.

No new news on the PRE8 meeting.

Tony Phillips

Chuck asked if we should do something in the way of thanking Tony Phillips for his support of the Radio Jove program; he has posted many of Tom's observations on the spaceweather.com web site. Dave said he would place a link to the spaceweather site on the SUG page and a deep link to the latest article about Tom's observation during Juno orbit insertion. Dave also suggested that sending an email to Tony from the Jove management team in the manner of "Thanks a bunch for your support" would also be a good idea.

**Next SUG Telecon Tues, 02 Aug 2016 at 5:00 pm EDT (2100 UTC)
(844) 467-6272, 352297#**