

SUG Minutes – 24 Oct 2017

In attendance

Jim B, Francisco, Larry, Tom, Dick, Jim Sky, Wes, Andy, Dave

Station Reports

Tom – Lots of Cas A scintillation steered to zenith, nothing too new.

Dick – Per Jim Sky, SDRPlay2 and FS-200 are taking and saving data. FS-200 is also serving. SDRPlay2 is not serving (port forwarding issues).

Jim B – Landscaping work continues; Jove and TFD array steered to Cas A; LWA steered for Jupiter.

Andy – Station down from 10/7 until present for travel. Will send archived data. Andy asked if the SDRPlay is good to use while waiting on the FSX to arrive; Dick responded that this is a good idea and that Dick will forward some note on SDRPlay settings to use. Andy now has two SDRPlay2 receivers.

Larry – nothing new.

Wes – SDRPlay2 is working reliably in switching mode. Laptop for the 20P RSP data is failing (bad HDD). Antennas currently steered for Jupiter.

Francisco – Some tree and bush removal done at RHO. Antenna erection awaits.

Dave – Steered to Jupiter transit elevation; nothing new.

Archiving News

Jim B has sent a HDD full of data to UCLA / PDS.

Jim S requested that everyone include their engineering log in the Docs folder on the HDD going to the PDS so that a researcher could use this as a fallback in case the observer forgot to update the RSP / RSS metadata when a new beam steering took place. Dave will send to Jim S the Excel file he uses to track which receiver is connected to which antenna with what beam steering.

Dick asked if we had a HPBW table for the various SUG antennas; Dave said he had one from the unfinished 2015 analysis and will send it around to the group.

Jim B suggested adding the last cal date somewhere; Dick concurred and felt this should go into the metadata.

Jim S asked everyone to double check their metadata in RSP and RSS to ensure that it reflects the current station configuration.

Acronyms and the RSS Server List

With the telecon reminder email, Dave sent around a document for review addressing some concerns over a) our terminology and b) the way our servers are listed in RSS.

All agreed to try to refer to the SDRPlay receivers “SDRPlay1” and “SDRPlay2.” The manufacturer, SDRPlay, calls them RSP1 and RSP2, where RSP stands for Radio Spectrum Processor. Using the manufacturer’s acronym would introduce no end of confusion within our group since “RSP” has for nearly two decades been used when referring to Radio-SkyPipe.

Much back and forth about how best to format the listing in the RSS server list; i.e., whether to let the RSS user free-form the entry, or whether to hard-code the format into RSS. The latter won the day – we think.

Jim S will make a change to RSS such that it will pull the observatory name, the antenna, the polarization, the receiver, and the location and format the “green box” listing entries uniformly.

This does not address the issue of formatting the server listing using older RSS software; however, even Dave (at one point the most-guilty of running older RSS software) said he would be willing to update to the latest and greatest provided it was stable. Tom (another, somewhat less-guilty party) agreed and said he would do the same. Wes, with wisdom born of much experience, kept quiet.

**Next SUG Telecon Tuesday, 07 Nov 2017 at 5:00 pm EST (2200 UTC)
(844) 467-6272, 352297#**