

**Minutes of the USNC-URSI Commission F Business Meeting**  
**2009 National Radio Science Meeting**  
**Boulder, Colorado**  
**6 January 2009**

1. Meeting called to order at 17:05 MST by Al Gasiewski, Chair
2. Reviewed and approved Meeting Agenda (M: R. Stone, S: S. Reising)
3. Jan 2008 Commission F meeting minutes approved (M: R. Stone, S: S. Reising)
4. Reviewed several announcements:
  - a. The officers 2009-2011 Triennium:  
Al Gasiewski – Chair, USNC URSI Commission F  
V. Chandra Chandrasekhar – Vice Chair, USNC URSI Commission F  
Mike Newkirk – Secretary, Webmaster, USNC URSI Commission F  
  
George Uslenghi – Past Chair, USNC URSI  
Yahya Rahmat-Samii – Chair, USNC URSI  
Steve Reising – Secretary, USNC URSI  
Umran Inan – Vice President, International URSI  
Roger Lang – Vice Chair, International URSI Commission F (Roger was thanked for his service)  
Bill Davis – Vice Chair, International URSI Commission A  
John Matthews – Vice Chair, International URSI Commission G  
Don Backer – Vice Chair, International URSI Commission J  
Chalmers Butler – Elected to honorary member of USNC URSI (previously USNC URSI Chair, followed by 6 yrs. as Vice President, International URSI)
  - b. Name of Commission E changed to “Electromagnetic Environment and Interference” at 29th URSI GA (changed from “EM Noise and Interference”).
  - c. USNC finances: Expected to be ~\$100K positive after 2009 NRSM. NSF grant to be submitted for renewal in June 2010.
  - d. NAS Report on “A Survey of Scientific Uses of the Radio Spectrum” due for release in late January 2009. For details see:  
[http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bpa/spectrum\\_study\\_home.html](http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bpa/spectrum_study_home.html)
5. New Members for USNC-URSI Commission F presented by Mike Newkirk.  
Unanimously approved (M: R. Stone, S: E. Westwater):
  - a. Guifu Zhang, University of Oklahoma
  - b. Phillip Chilson, University of Oklahoma
  - c. Raymond Wasky, JHU/APL
  - d. Dean Smith, University of Colorado
6. Nominations for new Membership Chair:
  - a. Saba Mudaliar (M: Newkirk, S: R. Stone)
  - b. Unanimously approved
  - c. Mike Newkirk was thanked for his service
7. Volunteer for Commission F Website Administrator
  - a. Ray Wasky, JHU/APL, volunteered
  - b. Question about posting names/affiliation/emails on Comm F website. Motion by R. Stone (S: E. Westwater) to have all members listed (with email addresses listed only as opt-in) in non-machine readable format. Passed unanimously.
8. USNC-URSI Member-At-Large nominees from Commission F:
  - a. Janet Stapleton

- b. Mike Newkirk
- c. Dan Dockery
- d. Alexander Voronovich
- e. Above list will be submitted to USNC for election (M: A. Gasiewski, S: R. Stone). Unanimously approved.

9. Past Meetings

- a. 29<sup>th</sup> Triennial URSI General Assembly, Aug 7-16, 2008, Chicago, IL
  - i. Chair: George Uslenghi
  - ii. Abstracts: 1456 (~1/2 posters)
  - iii. Attendance: 1201 (262/80 students/US, 125/25 young scientists/US)
  - iv. Commission F Sessions: 9 (regular), 2 (joint), and 1 (tutorial)
  - v. 1st International Student Paper Competition (80 entries). Chaired by Steve Reising (Steve was congratulated). To be proposed again by USNC in 2011, \$5k contribution.
    - 1. Q: How does Commission F feel about multiple co-authors on student prize paper entries?
    - 2. Discussion: no significant concerns noted, so long as letters from coauthors are still obtained that state limited contributions.
  - vi. \$14.8K surplus, but high subsidized expense (~\$250K) from USNC
- b. 2008 APS/URSI Meeting San Diego, CA, July 5-11, 2008
  - i. Attendance: 1638 (337 URSI papers)
  - ii. Informational USNC Commission F business meeting only.
  - iii. \$27.5K URSI surplus
- c. IGARSS 2008, Boston MA, July 6-11, 2008.
  - i. Attendance: 1721.
  - ii. Informational USNC Commission F business meeting only.
- d. USNC/URSI January 3-6, 2008
  - i. Abstracts: 318, Attendance: 249 (regular 148, students/retirees 101)
  - ii. Commission F: 5 organized special sessions (one joint with B), 37 papers
  - iii. Student travel fellowship grant (\$600 for 1<sup>st</sup> author students from US universities) 73 Students supported (Steve Reising).
  - iv. Student Paper Contest: 8 Papers submitted (Awards \$1000, \$750, and \$500 + Travel expenses) No Commission F papers among finalists
    - 1. Contest organized by Steve Reising.
  - v. Question: Should USNC/URSI limit students to two travel grant awards?
    - 1. Discussion: generally sense was that there should not be hard limits, but should prioritize. This will take time to socialize and is important to communicate up front in Call for Papers and on web site.
- e. IGARSS July 23-27, 2007, Barcelona, Spain
  - i. Joint USNC Commission F Business meeting with URSI meeting in Ottawa, Canada (by teleconference)
- f. USNC/URSI January 2007 - No meeting. (Annual USNC/URSI meeting occurred at North American Radio Science Meeting in Ottawa, July 22-26, 2007, with telecon to IGARSS in Barcelona).

10. Present Meeting (USNC/URSI Jan 5-7, 2009, Boulder CO)

- a. Abstracts: 294
- b. Attendance: 257, regular 139, students/retirees 118 (preliminary – Y. Rahmat-Samii reported that the final number will be above 300)
- c. Student travel fellowship grants

- i. \$600 for 1<sup>st</sup> author students from US universities
- ii. 91 Students supported
- d. Student Paper Contest:
  - i. 14 Papers submitted (Awards \$1000, \$750, and \$500 + Travel expenses)
  - ii. No Commission F papers submitted (second straight year)
  - iii. Contest organized by Danilo Erricolo.
- e. Commission F:
  - i. 3 organized Special Sessions - 31 papers
    - 1. FS1 – Waves in Random and Complex Media with Applications in Remote Sensing  
Organizers and Co-Chairs: Akira Ishimaru, Saba Mudaliar (11 papers)
    - 2. FS2 – Propagation Modeling and Measurements  
Organizers and Co-Chairs: D. Dockery, M. Newkirk (10 papers)
    - 3. FS3 – Passive Remote Sensing of the Earth’s Environment  
Organizers and Co-Chairs: Ed R. Westwater, Steven C. Reising (10 papers)
  - ii. No papers outside of Special Sessions.

## 11. Future Meetings

2010 USNC URSI Radio Science Meeting, Boulder, CO, January 6-9/10, 2010

Q: Do we want a 3- or 4-day meeting in 2010?

Discussion: let the number of papers drive the number of days.

2011 USNC URSI Radio Science Meeting, Boulder, CO, January, 2011

2011 30th Triennial URSI General Assembly and Scientific Symposium (GASS),  
Istanbul, Turkey, August 13-20, 2011

IEEE AP-S International Symposium & USNC/URSI National Radio Science Meetings:

- APS/URSI 2009 - Charleston, SC, USA, May 31-June 6, 2009. USNC Commission F will participate. Abstracts due 16 January 2009
- APS/URSI 2010 - Toronto, Ontario, Canada, July 10-17, 2010. USNC Commission F will participate. Not a NARSM due to <5 years since 2007.
- APS/URSI 2011 - Spokane, WA, USA, July 3-9, 2011
- APS/URSI 2012 - Chicago, IL, USA, July 8-13, 2012
- APS/URSI 2013 - Orlando
- APS/URSI 2014 – Memphis (likely)
- APS/URSI 2015 – North American Radio Science Meeting possible

IEEE International Geoscience & Remote Sensing Symposia:

- IGARSS 2009 - Cape Town, S. Africa, July 13-17, 2009
- IGARSS 2010 - Honolulu, Hawaii, July 26-30, 2010
- IGARSS 2011 - Sendai, Japan, August 1-5, 2011
- IGARSS 2012 - Munich, Germany, July 22-27, 2012
- IGARSS 2013 - Melbourne, Australia, 2013 (July or August)

American Geophysical Union (AGU) meetings:

- 2009 Joint Assembly - 24–27 May 2009, Toronto, Canada
- 2009 Fall Meeting - 14–18 December 2009, San Francisco, California, USA
- 2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting - 22–26 February 2010, Portland, Oregon, USA
- 2010 Western Pacific Geophysics Meeting - June 2010, Taipei, Taiwan

- 2010 Joint Assembly - 08–13 August 2010, Iguassu Falls, Brazil

Roger Lang will check to see if there are any International Commission F meetings coming up.

MicroRad meeting in February-March 2010 in Washington, DC (hotel and dates still TBD). Roger Lang is chair of that meeting

## 12. Issues for Discussion

- Do we have suggestions for government representatives to USNC (non-NSF)?
  - Al asked for suggestions to be sent to him and Mike by email by tomorrow evening in order to be proposed at Thursday AM Executive Committee Meeting
- Session titles and organizers for 2010 USNC/URSI Radio Science Meeting
  - Radar Remote Sensing of Precipitation – V. Chandrasekar and G. Zhang (Zhang TBD)
  - Waves in Random and Complex Media with Applications in Remote Sensing, organized by Saba Mudaliar and Akira Ishimaru (Ishimaru TBD) Perhaps joint w/ Commission B?
  - Roger Lang thinks we might be able to have a communications session joint w/ Commission C. Al to contact Dev Palmer
  - Passive Remote Sensing of the Earth's Environment: Al/Steve
  - Propagation Modeling and Measurements: Dan Dockery and Mike Newkirk
  - Dan Dockery suggests a session for mesoscale weather modelers, propagation modelers, remote sensing researchers, to discuss requirements, etc. Rob Marshall will lead.
  - Earthquake lights phenomenon: Stick Ware to investigate
- Remote Sensing Education & Radio Science Funding (per 2008 business meeting)
  - What preparation are we providing for people in Radio Science?
  - Does Radio Science education get sufficient funding?
  - Can URSI argue the value of this type of education to NASA and related federal agencies? How should URSI present its case to the new administration/congress? Can URSI suggest some research priorities to the funding agencies?
  - Discussion: NCAR has a program. Perhaps 10 institutions have programs. Let one of the officers know if there is interest in leading an initiative with the new administration.

## 13. New Business (Boulder 2009):

- Earthquake in Sezchuan: YouTube video observation of “earthquake lights” – is there any understanding of this? What EM phenomenon is this? A possible special session (see above)? Hartman and Stick Ware may organize

14. Adjourned at 18:23 MST by Al Gasiewski

## Attendance List

### Commission F Members

V. Chandrasekar  
Dan Dockery  
Al Gasiewski  
Jonathan Gehman  
Tracy Haack  
David Hill  
Vladimir Irisov  
Marian Klein  
Roger Lang  
Robert Marshall  
Mike Newkirk  
Steve Reising  
Ross Rottier  
Fred Solheim  
Janet Stapleton  
Ross Stone  
J. Vivekanandan  
Alexander Voronovich  
Ed Westwater  
Valery Zavorotny  
Dusan Zrnic

### Guests

Thomas Hanley  
Katherine Horgan  
Eric McIntyre  
Yayha Rahmat-Samii  
Swaroop Sahoo  
Dean Smith\*  
Randolph (“Stick”) Ware  
Raymond Wasky\*  
Guifu Zhang\*

\* denotes newly elected Member