

Meeting Minutes



Meeting: Members and Prospective Members Event
Date: July 21, 2009
Location: Northrop Grumman Laser Systems, Apopka, FL
Attendees: 28 FPC members; 2 prospective members

Minutes

1. FPC President Alex Fong opened the meeting at 4:00pm with a welcome to all attendees, a special welcome to 8 new members since May 2008, and a brief presentation on the goals of the FPC and the benefits of membership. FPC membership applications, and FPC brochures were provided for those interested.
2. Dennis Pape gave the Treasurer's Report. The income for 2009 is down some from the Board-approved budget in December 2008, but expenses have also been reduced. Year-end projection is for a cash balance of \$11,533, \$2,723 from the approved budget. The primary reason for the lower balance is lower dues income projections. The Treasurer's report and the President's presentation are on the FPC website via links from the "July 21, 2009" item in the "[Events](#)" list.
3. Ron Clayton, Marketing Manager at Northrop Grumman Laser Systems gave an overview of the wide range of laser-based products that the company designs and manufactures for a variety of military applications. Ron also outlined how the military uses these products and the positive impact they have on the capabilities of the US armed forces. The range of products includes the following:
 - Rangefinders
 - Target Locators
 - Target Designators
 - IR Countermeasures
 - Laser-Assisted Imaging
 - Surveillance & Targeting
 - Non-lethal personnel detection/intercept
4. Jim Pearson outlined two photonics technician programs that are about to get underway:
 - Photonics Technician Training: a program funded by Workforce Central Florida with federal stimulus funds that is designed to bring displaced/unemployed workers back into the workforce. The training will be delivered primarily via web-based instruction with sufficient hands-on lab instruction to assure the trainees meet the requirements for employment by photonics companies. The program is led by UCF's Continuing Education department, with support from the FPC, SPIE, and several companies including Northrop Grumman.

The FPC is a 501c(6) nonprofit corporation whose mission is to support the growth and profitability of the Florida photonics industry through the strength of a unified voice, and to make Florida the place to go for photonics solutions.

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- **Photonics Technician Certification:** a program funded by Workforce Florida to develop a certification process for photonics technicians. There are no photonics certification programs in the US, so this program will be breaking new ground for the field. The program is being led by the FPC, with funding and contract administration flowing through CREOL, and with support from OP-TEC, SPIE, and several companies including Northrop Grumman.

More information on these programs will be provided on the FPC website in the near future.

5. Jim Lipscomb, Manager at Northrop Grumman Laser Systems, summarized new program, which will also be the first of its kind in Florida and the Southeast US region: the Photonics Academy. The Photonics Academy is a dual-degree program that will enroll students at Wekiva High School into the AS program offered by Valencia Community College. Through this dual-enrollment, a student will be able to complete most and possibly all of the requirements for an ASEE/Photonics degree from Valencia at the same time they complete their high school degree. Orange County Public Schools is providing substantial financial support, and the instructional laboratory will also be utilized for hands-on training for technicians enrolled in the Certificate program outlined above by Jim Pearson. Lipscomb's presentation can be seen on the FPC website via links from the "July 21, 2009" item in the "[Events](#)" list.

Northrop Grumman is providing substantial support for the program, including much of the equipment for the instructional laboratory. Jim Lipscomb outlined the remaining need to complete this lab, which is ~\$83,000 of funds and/or equipment donations. More information on how to contribute to this exciting and much-needed program is available on the FPC website, and also by contacting Jim directly at (321)354-3572, james.lipscomb@ngc.com.

6. After discussion on the above programs, the attendees divided into two groups for a tour of the NGC/LS facilities.
7. The meeting concluded with a reception and networking hour, hosted by Northrop Grumman Laser Systems. Following the reception, at 7:00pm a no-host dinner was held at Sam Snead's, attended by about 11 of the meeting attendees, where some great food and further networking were enjoyed.

Minutes by Jim Pearson

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