

DECEMBER 1998 MINUTES

December 5th Meeting Highlights

16 members, 2 guests, 3.4 robots, 1 arm

Firefighting contest - There is an annual Robot Firefighting contest in Hartford CT. Last year there was a local (semi-final?) round of this contest held in Fort Worth. Ed Koeffman entered a robot last year and plans to compete again this year. He suggested that DPRG host a similar contest. This would boost interest and give DPRG members an extra chance to prepare for the FT Worth contest.

This sounds great however there are several issues. Are there enough DPRG members wanting to build firefighting robots next year? When should a DPRG firefighting contest be held? Ed proposed holding before the FT Worth contest however this conflicts with the regular DPRG contest in March. The best solution may be to have a Firefighting "development session" rather than a contest.

Expect more discussion of this and other DPRG events at the Jan meeting. A 1999 calendar will be ready then and we can make adjustments from there.

RBNO CNC-group - Several members are interested in building CNC machines. They have found plans to build one out of plexiglass and may have someone who has access to a CNC machine to cut out the pieces. The plan is to build one machine then duplicate it for each person who is interested.

Officer Elections - Since there was only 1 nomination per office there was no reason to vote. 1999 officers are ...

President Clay Timmons

Vice Pres Eric Yundt

Secretary Robert Jordan

Treasurer Barry Jordan

1999 Interest Survey - Clay Timmons had a quick survey for members to rate interest in what the club should do in 1999. 16 forms were filled out. I will tabulate and post results. Similar survey will be sent to mailing list to determine interests of non-local members.

Eagle Demo - Eagle demo was postponed since meeting ran long and video projector was not available.

Show and Tell

James Vroman had a new Parallax GrowBot. He also had his JAVA robot and the every popular line follower.

Robert Jordan had a robot in progress and several interesting gadgets from WIRZ electronics. He also had a Knight Rider KITT flashing light.

David ??? had a android man made from electronic parts.

Ed Koeffman's son had a robotic arm that got big laughs when he clamped it on his nose and started twisting.

Clay Timmons had a 3-D glitter globe of flashing LEDs.

Clay Timmons

NOVEMBER 1998 MINUTES

At the meeting we had 30 people, 2 robots, 4 guests.

James Vroman had a great little line follower that would follow a black line drawn on a whiteboard. Everyone had fun testing it with crazy lines. Blaine Lee had his robot and a Hitachi SH2 development kit.

Officer nominations - No one nominated anyone :(Luckily Jim Brown had already made these absentee nominations

President Clay Timmons

Vice Pres Eric Yundt

Secretary Robert Jordan

Treasurer Barry Jordan

Anyone else who would like to make an absentee nomination has until Nov 30th to do so. Elections will be at the next meeting (if needed).

Future Contest Details were presented by Clay Timmons. (See separate message for details)

Free catalogs from Tech Tools and Parallax were available thanks to James Vroman.

Bye bye to Infomart...

They were charging \$3 admission to the vendor area.

Clay Timmons

OCTOBER 1998 MINUTES

October 17th, 1998

News - Rondure is going out of business. If you've never been there, Rondure is a little know electronics store downtown. Clay Timmons will try and set up a deal for DPRG members to shop there before he closes.

Meeting Place - Barry Jordan detailed the Bill Priest Institute as an alternative meeting place for DPRG. After some discussion David Anderson made a motion that we move there. We voted and the motion passed. Plans are to have two meetings in November. November 7th (First Saturday) at BPI will be an informal meeting to check the new place out. November 14th will be our regular meeting at Infomart. If all goes well all future meetings from December on will be at BPI on the First Saturday from 12-2pm.

Show and Tell

Brad Garton had two motors mail ordered from Surplus Center. One nice 12v motor 57RPM at 12v, metal housing \$19 Second motor was from toy car \$6, powerful but noisy.

Ed Koeffman's son had a neat robotic arm that was built from a kit. It had several axes and worked well. It was on sale at Fry's for \$50.

John Drummond, a new member, had a mostly completed robot he hopes to run in the next contest. He used large modified servos to drive inflatable aircraft wheels, multi direction IR transmitters, and IR and sonar detectors to be mounted on servos.

David and Jonathan Anderson demonstrated robo-chicken. Using dead reconing two robots were set about 8 feet apart and programmed to go 8 feet forward then return to start. SR04 and Lego-Bot headed straight for each other. Several pauses and collisions later they made thier way past each other. They repeated this demo a few times an even did it with an extra obstacle added.

David Martineau demoed a robot named Susan Calvin (hint Asimov) made from lego parts. He used a standard lego controller and drove the bot forward grabbed a can and drove back with it. He wants to add the Lego Mindstorms controller.

Hitachi MCU - Ray Cassler, an application engineer from Hitachi, gave a presentation on Hitachi's line of microcontrollers. There are several H8 (CISC type) on up to the high end SH (RISC type). He had a laptop with projector and demonstrated several features of the HighView IDE. For only \$99 you can buy a development kit including the hardware, IDE, and C-compiler!

Clay Timmons

SEPTEMBER 1998 MINUTES

MARCH 1998 MINUTES

DPRG Contest Held in place of regular meeting. The following report on the contest was provided by Jim Brown:

Well, I feel sorry for anyone who couldn't make the last DPRG meeting. It was probably the best meeting we've ever had! There was about 120 in attendance, and there were about 17 robots that competed, and a few more that

made an appearance, and there were several who told me that they tried to get their robot going, but just ran out of time. (Imagine how many if everyone got them going!).

The audience was great. They cheered everytime a robot completed or did some _neat_thing_. And I think the way the course was setup, that everyone had a good view. I liked having the 3 judges - that made it much more fair than just one judging. As far as I could tell, this contest went much smoother and with not a hitch. It seems that the contest was quite satisfactory to everyone.

After the contest, I spent time with my dad until about 10 or 11pm talking about the contest and watching and copying video from the contest. I'm sure the contest must have really gotten a lot of people excited about making a robot for the next contest like it did my dad and me. I've heard from a lot of builders that said they were gonna get a robot in the next contest. I can't imagine the next contest being any bigger than this one, but I guess it could happen!

Jim Brown

JANUARY 1998 MINUTES

If you missed the last DPRG meeting here's how the elections went:

President	Jim Brown
Vice President	Clay Timmons
Secretary/Treasurer	Larry Kerns
Librarian	Eric Yundt
Software/Hardware Librarian	Kevin Carter
Parts Librarian	Roger Arrick
Contest Committee	Jim Brown (Chairman), Eric Yundt, Clay Timmons

I would like to say thanks to everyone for electing me again to President for 1998!

If you missed the last DPRG meeting, you missed a good one!!!

Jim Brown