



# ANNUAL MEETING 2020

*Date | time* January 11, 2020 | Noon  
Prepared by Doug Paradis, DPRG Secretary

## Agenda

- Ray Casler, the 2019 president, summed up the club's 2019 activities and discussed the state of the club.
- The candidates for 2020 officer positions were introduced.
- The 2020 election was closed after all attendees have had a chance to vote.
- Ron Grant, the election overseer, combined the votes received prior to the meeting by email and the votes made at the meeting, and announced the election results.
- The new president took office.
- The new president presided over the 2020 annual planning meeting.
- The club's 2020 annual planning meeting agenda:
  - Carl Ott, the 2020 president, discussed his vision of the club direction for upcoming year.
  - Community events that the club will participate in for the upcoming year were set.
  - The Roborama committee was formed.
  - The date of Roborama was selected.
  - Presentation topics for the monthly meeting were discussed and a call for volunteers made.
  - Suggestions and ideas on how to make the club better were made by attending members.
  - The Standing Rules were reviewed, and changes were made as required.
  - A tee-shirt proposal was made for current members who joined in 2018 or 2019.
- A member show and tell of projects was conducted.

## Outgoing President Summary of 2019

Ray Casler summarized the club activities of 2019:

- Club's 2019 goals:
  - Learn more about AI and Vision Systems:
    - Three members participated in building Donkey Car robots and using the Donkey Car AI platform.
    - Several members incorporated vision systems into their robots pursuing solution of the Challenge Line Following course.
  - Gain more new members:
    - 15.6% increase in membership
- Presentations:
  - Useful OpenCV for Hobby Roboticians by Ray Casler (Feb)
  - Using Android Phones to Control Robots by Iron Reign Robot Team (Mar)
  - Line Following Kinematics by Will Kuhnle (Apr)
  - Line Following Course Simulation by Ron Grant (Apr)

- Untangling the Mesh: Bluetooth, BLE, Zigbee, Wi-Fi, and Lora by Brent Grimm (Jun)
- Autonomous Rover Robot with RTK and Novel Control System by Ross Melbourne (Aug)
- Intro to ESP8266 by Steve Edwards (Sep)
- Practical LiDAR for Hobby Roboticians by Scott Gibson (Oct)
- Animatronic Spider by John Gauthier (Dec)
- DPRG participated in several community activities:
  - Fort Worth Museum of Science – iMake and Science on Tap Events (Apr 6<sup>th</sup>)
  - Frontiers of Flight Museum’s Moon Day Event (Jul 20<sup>th</sup>)
- DPRG held 2 competitions:
  - Roborama in May with contests for students (STEM) and adults (May)
  - Fall Competition in November– Donkey Car, Line following (all levels), 6 Can, Quick Trip, Sample Retrieval (was not run do to lack of competitors) (Nov)
- Other DPRG Activities
  - Club Annual Meeting and Elections (Jan)
  - Club Picnic – held at the Edwards residence (Jul)
  - DPRG actively used the Meetup social media service to promote club meetings in parallel to the club’s website during 2019.

## Officer Candidates for 2020

The candidates for club officers were introduced:

**President:** Carl Ott

**Vice-President:** Clay Timmons

**Treasurer:** Steve Edwards

**Secretary:** Doug Paradis

**Librarian:** John Kuhlenschmidt

## Election of Officers for 2020

Ron Grant, the election overseer, combined the votes received prior to the meeting by email, written proxies, and the votes made by members at the meeting. He announced that the proposed slate of officers was elected with 19 of the 37 members voting (51.4% of members) voting for everyone on the slate with no objections.

A quorum of members (13/37 or 35%) attended the meeting.

## New President

Carl Ott, the new president, addressed the club and asked attending members to state their personal membership goals for 2020. The desired goal is to structure club activities around the personal goals of the members.

- Ron Grant plans to construct an animatronic “cheering” section based on existing toys.
- Scott Gibson plans to build a Donkey Car robot using a Jetson Nano.
- Clay Timmons plans to continue to refine his Challenge Line Follower robot.

- Doug Paradis has three goals:
  - Have his rover score 9 points in a RoboColumbus.
  - Make his main indoor robot competitive in Can-Can Soccer competition.
  - Work on increasing project/tutorial content on DPRG website.
- Doug Emes goals are:
  - Plan to use off the shelf robot planforms to compete in competitions this year.
  - Start an AI project to learn how to put an object back in its correct location.
  - Help DPRG develop training modules.
- Carl Ott plans:
  - Develop a Mecanum wheel robot.
  - Create generalized platform checkout plans for various competitions.
  - Build a PID tuning test stand.
  - Refactor and publish 2016 club robot code.
  - Possibly build outdoor rover.
  - Conquer the Challenge Line Following course.
  - Improve his Python and JavaScript knowledge.
  - Work with optical flow sensors.

Carl also presented this set of additional club goals:

- Increase Publicity
  - Look at SEO of our Meetup, website, and YouTube.
  - Publish some DPRG projects on hackster.io with backlinks to DPRG (positively impacts SEO).
  - Look for other sites to gain publicity, like the Best Things to Do in Dallas list.
  - Coordinate better with DMS (John K. brought up participation in DMS's show and tell).
  - Pursue previous suggestion idea of additional website project/tutorial content.
- Alter Monthly Meeting Format
  - Split into 2 parts – formal presentation, and either a show/tell or a single casual competition.
  - Provide presenters with some guidelines on length and content (Scott Gibson).
- Conduct robot build training series as outreach and recruitment
- Robust RoboRama
  - Pull date into April to better fit with the schedule of students.
  - Promote to High School students.
- Increase outdoor competition participation

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## Community Events for 2020

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The following community events were decided on for 2020:

### Scheduled

- “Build More Robots – 2” tutorial series (Apr)
- Roborama (May 11<sup>th</sup>)
- Frontiers of Flight Museum Moon Day (Jul)
- November Competition (Nov)

The following volunteered to be part of the Roborama committee:

- Mary Mathias
- Doug Paradis
- Richard Neveau

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## Discussions

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The following topics were discussed by the attending members:

- Conducting an open training session similar to the “Build More Robots Series”

The results of the discussion was that a 2<sup>nd</sup> training series would be held using a different class format beginning in the April Monthly meeting time slot.

**Note:** Due to the change in the Roborama date, the course date may be moved into the end of March.

- Moving the Roborama date up from the traditional 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May date.

The conclusion was to move the date to April 25<sup>th</sup>.

- It was proposed and passed by member vote that the club provide to new members who joined the club in 2018 or 2019, and are a current member, a free club tee shirt. Also, a free tee shirt is to be given to Mary Mathias, who was accidentally overlooked when tee shirts were given out in 2017. Shirts are to be taken from existing club stock where possible.

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## Standing Rules Changes

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Changes to the Standing Rules were discussed and voted on by attending members. The results modified the Standing Rules as listed below.

- The sections titled Equipment Loans and Use of Tools at Makerspace were eliminated as being obsolete.
- The section titled Roborama was amended to drop the required entry fee for non-members. However, the board can set an entry fee in the future without a member vote.
- The section titled Spending Limit was modified to allow the board to spend up to \$300 from \$200 before requiring a member vote to approve the expenditure.

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## Presentation Schedule

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The tentative schedule of presentations is:

- Feb, Robot Update – Iron Reign
- Mar, SpheroRVR – Doug Emes

- Apr, "Build More Robots 2" – Doug Paradis
- Apr 25th, Roborama
- May, Robot Lawn Mower -Ray Casler
- Jun, open
- Jul, Club Picnic with RoboColumbus (at the Edwards')
- Aug, open
- Sep, open
- Oct, open
- Nov, Fall Competition
- Dec, open

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## Show and Tell

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Ron Grant showed a disassembled Chewy Bamba toy that he plans to reconfigure into an animatronic robot.

Carl Ott showed the results of his search for Mecanum wheel robot platforms.