

DPRG Board Meeting 13 Oct 2025

Present: Paul Bouchier, Mark Reynolds, Steve Edwards

Agenda:

Paul OOO time. Implications for January members meeting
Monthly plan for remainder of the year
University engagement - Report on discussion, what each party wants
Maybe re-think proposed build-more-robots course

Note: Bylaws state that three board members are required to be present for a quorum

Minutes

- Paul informed the board that he will be traveling all of November and half of December, and also from mid-January through the end of March. This means he will not be present for the annual members meeting in January. He expects to deliver the outgoing president's address in some manner, possibly as a video. Paul's presence at RBNV's is likely to be small in the next 5 months owing to his travel.
- Mark has agreed to run for president, and Paul for Vice-president, and we think the other board members are willing to stand again, so we think we have a full slate of officer candidates for the January election. Paul anticipates that the annual election will be handled in the usual manner, with (hopefully) Ron Grant acting as elections officer.
- Paul stated that he does not intend to try to be a "shadow president" - he will work to support the directions that Mark leads and the board agrees to, and continue to do the kind of support activities he does currently, as needed and requested by the president.
- Paul presented the plan for club monthly meetings through March, shown below:

October 25	Paul: git & github - part 2. plus Thomas Messerschmidt Bing AI off the rails
November 22	RoboColumbus
December 27	Power lunch replaces meeting
January 24	Annual member's meeting, officer elections, show'n'tell
February 28	Makers Pet preso
March 28	OPEN

- Paul reported on the engagement with UTD Robotics Club. He stated that he has been asked to do a ROS presentation, and has engaged with some of their members on topics like ROS training and technical guidance.
- Paul reviewed the slide of student Wants and DPRG wants that came out of the September brainstorming led by Dave Dubay and involving DPRG, UT Dallas Robotics

club, and UT Arlington robotics club. The slide is here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19qhvVCTyoH1hogQy0mavYjehXJbRGBkvKFCpDqt9K38/edit?usp=sharing>

- The board discussed the bullet points on the slide about DPRG/student collaboration and several ideas emerged:
 - The university clubs could use sponsorship. Materials must be provided by students. Steve: DPRG-members may be employed at companies willing to sponsor college robotics clubs. Steve is willing to reach out to his employer in Q1. We should leverage our membership for UT robotics club sponsorship.
 - **AR Paul:** Ask UTD for a list of sponsor levels. What would they need? What would they use \$1k, \$10k, \$50k for? (Maybe a bronze/silver/gold sponsor hierarchy)
 - **AR Paul:** Poll membership for sponsorship
 - Idea: Maybe create a DPRG ROS certification exam, that could be nation-wide
 - UT Arlington robotics club has not responded to two attempts to engage with DPRG. The board suggested making UTA club leadership aware of our engagement with UTD, as perhaps a carrot for them to engage.
 - Steve commented that university robotics club members are much closer to DPRG members in age, technical sophistication, and ability to engage as peers - much more so than high-school students. They are potentially DPRG community members, whereas high-schoolers aren't. They represent a richer source of opportunity for the club's outreach.
 - Idea: Maybe DPRG could sponsor a capstone project (if it was low/no cost).
- The board discussed the "build more robots course" that was discussed last meeting. Paul lamented that it didn't include any ROS capability, and that there's opportunity for two levels of course: 1/ basic robotics (PWM, PID, motion control, encoders, electronics, mechanics), and 2/ More heavy SW, specifically ROS - how to use. Steve suggested that the club could sponsor a competition to be done in a simulator using ROS, and that the club could offer ROS robots (e.g. Makers Pets) as prizes for the winners. This would be fiscally responsible, and also would further the club through engagement.
- The board discussed the lack of progress in bringing our IT services under some kind of overall administrative/password management. Paul, Mark and Steve all use and like Bitwarden, and think it's appropriate for DPRG. Paul & Mark have recommended it to Eric. **AR Mark:** follow up with Eric and see if we can get something going.
- The board agreed that the Bitwarden family plan (\$40/year) is appropriate for the club's needs and financial position, and would enable compartmentalization of administrative rights.
- Steve suggested that the IT Officer should maintain a RACI chart for responsibilities for administering the various club IT services