

SNS HFIR User Group (SHUG) Executive Committee Minutes
Archived at <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/users/shug>

Teleconference held February 7, 2012, 1:00pm EST.

Attendees

- Executive Committee: Greg Beaucage (chair), Antonella Longo, Hanno zur Loye, Tyrel McQueen, Dave Belanger, Malcolm Guthrie, Fred Heberle, and Cora Lind
- Guests: Robert McGreevy, Thomas Proffen, Laura Edwards, Al Ekkebus

Minutes submitted for review February 8, 2012 by F.A. Heberle.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Email election for chair-elect (Greg).
- Draft a webpage for proposed SHUG blog, see item 7 below (Malcolm).

WEBSITES of interest from the teleconference:

- National School on Neutron and X-ray Scattering, see item 6 below:
<http://neutrons.ornl.gov/conf/nxs2012/index.shtml>
- Neutron Scattering Society of America membership (free), see item 3 below:
<http://neutronscattering.org/membership/online-application/>

1. Status updates (Robert McGreevy)

HFIR entered an unexpected shutdown after a cooling malfunction, resulting in the loss of one cycle. The culprit was faulty wiring, and repairs are underway, with an expected March 26th restart date. Adjustments will be made in the 2012B cycle to accommodate those users who lost time. As it turns out, budget constraints would have forced the loss of one cycle regardless, and given current budget projections, HFIR will be running only 6 cycles (rather than 7) during this year and the next. SNS will experience a 10% reduction in hours (4500 instead of the planned 5000 hours).

During the shutdown, the planned upgrade of the Bio-SANS detector is proceeding. Bio-SANS will now have the same detector as GP-SANS, with improved electronics (Greg noted that the GP detector had linearity issues). Installation of the front-end optics on IMAGINE is also underway.

SNS will be back in operation next week. Instrument work during the shutdown included refurbishment of the TOPAZ detector, continued MaNDi/SNAP detector work, and the installation of guides on the CORELLI and TOF-USANS instruments.

2. User Office updates (Laura Edwards)

The current call for proposals for the 2012B cycle ends February 22. Laura will be contacting SRC members, to confirm attendance at the April 16-17th meetings and participation in the review process.

3. Neutron Scattering Society of America announcements (AI)

NSSA has announced new fellows, including Greg Smith here at ORNL. Four major prizes were also announced: for details see the NSSA homepage (<http://neutronsattering.org>). Sign up for free NSSA membership at: <http://neutronsattering.org/membership/online-application/>.

4. SHUG website (AI)

The website has been updated with photos and addresses of new members, and Greg is currently drafting a letter for the “Chairman’s Message” page.

5. National User Facility Organization meeting (AI)

Washington, D.C. meeting will be held in March. The House and Senate have asked NUFO to exhibit in their buildings on the 28-29th. SHUG members may be asked to staff one of the posters. More information will be provided as it comes.

6. National School on Neutron and X-ray Scattering (AI)

The joint summer school (ORNL and Argonne) will be held August 15-25th. Registration is open: visit <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/conf/nxs2012/index.shtml> for details. Last year there were over 240 applicants for 60 slots, with primarily 3rd and 4th year grad students accepted. A large number of applicants are expected again this year.

7. SHUG blog (Malcolm)

Malcolm has suggested a blog to improve communication between the SHUG committee and user community. The major advantage of the blog format is the ability to quickly post comments and information. In addition to user comments, suggested content includes brief summaries of meetings, and relevant links. After a brief discussion of options for regulating the blog (moderation of comments, controlling who can post), there is general agreement that the blog will (ideally) be independent and unfiltered by ORNL. Malcolm will construct a draft page before the next meeting, modeled on the existing SHUG front page, for testing by the committee.

8. Topics for the next meeting

- Trial version of SHUG blog
- Mike Simonson will discuss industry outreach activities

- Email election for chair-elect (Greg)

Next telecon date: Tuesday March 6, 2012, at 1:00pm EST