



CuSEDS General Meeting Minutes

September 26th, 2007

This is a summary of the first CuSEDS meeting of the 2007/2008 school year, and includes details from the topics presented for those who were unable to attend.

SEDS Intro (Stefan Madansingh, CuSEDS president)

CuSEDS is Carleton University's chapter of Students for the Exploration and Development of Space, an international organization that advocates space exploration. CuSEDS is a project based organization, which aims to engage its members in to challenging multidisciplinary projects and events, creating the opportunity to apply the skills they have learned in class and to network with the professional space community.

We would like to emphasize that CuSEDS is not exclusively an engineering club. In order to run effective projects, we require students from many areas of study, each of whom contributes their unique expertise.

Moonbuggy Introduction (Don McMillan, Moonbuggy project advisor)

The NASA Great Moonbuggy Race is an annual event held in Huntsville Alabama. Student teams design, build, and human powered rovers over simulated lunar terrain, while adhering to strict design requirements similar to the challenges faced by the Apollo lunar rover design team.

CuSEDS entered as the first Canadian team in the race last year with our MB-01 vehicle, which was constructed entirely by first and second-year students. The Moonbuggy project is an incredible opportunity for students to gain significant design and hands-on experience, which goes above and beyond what is normally possible in the engineering program.

This year's moonbuggy project is just beginning, and positions are available at all project levels, i.e. technical and administrative leaders, and team members.

CanSat Introduction (Stefan Madansingh)

The CanSat competition is a challenge to design, build, and launch a beer-can sized satellite on board a high-powered model rocket in Amarillo, Texas. The satellite must separate from the rocket at 760 m, transmit continuous telemetry, and execute an autonomous, controlled descent to an upright landing.

The competition is run in the same fashion as a professional engineering project, with reporting and documentation making up a large portion of the project. We require students from electrical, mechanical, aerospace, and communications engineering programs to create a successful satellite, as well as students to organize fund-raising and corporate sponsorships to acquire equipment at low cost.

Events Overview

CuSEDS participates in many different events throughout the year, to involve members in the space community at large:

-- X-Prize Cup (October 2007) - The X-Prize foundation hosts the world's largest space festival in Alamogordo, New Mexico, where rockets are launched every hour just for the hell of it. This year features the Northrop Grumman lunar lander challenge for versatile VTOL rocket powered vehicles, and the EZ-Rocket vehicles to be flown in the upcoming Rocket Racing League, a high speed arial version of NASCAR.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are interested in attending X-Prize Cup, email us at cuseds@gmail.com. There is a possibility of obtaining discounted airfare if sufficiently many make the trip.

-- DFL tour (Fall 2007) - CuSEDS will be running a tour of the David Florida Laboratory, the country's largest spacecraft integration and testing facility.

-- CSS (November 2007) - The Canadian Space Summit is Canada's only student conference dedicated to space exploration. In 2006 it was hosted by CuSEDS here at Carleton, and in 2007 it will take place at the University of Calgary.

-- CSSA (February 2008) - The Canadian Student Summit on Aerospace will be held this year at Carleton University.

-- Yuri's Night (April 2008) - The World Space Party occurs simultaneously across the planet, in celebration of the first human spaceflight.

Call for ideas:

Finally, if any members have ideas for projects or events they would like to initiate, please let us know. CuSEDS exists as a facilitator for its members ambitions. If there is something cool you want to do, we are here to help make it happen.

The meeting concluded with a visit to Mike's Place in the Unicentre, where many pints of beer were consumed, accompanied by lively discussion. Some would say that this is the most productive part of our meetings.

For more information on all of our projects and events, check out www.cuseds.engsoc.org

NOTE: If some people were not able to attend the meeting due to schedule conflicts, let us know, so that we may arrange meeting times that suit the largest number of members.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, October 3rd, 6:00 PM.

At this meeting, we intend to kick off this year's Moonbuggy project by signing up interested team members.