

GLAST SWG Telecon Minutes – June 24, 2004

Attended:

David Band
Guido Barbiellini
Ronaldo Bellazzini
Elliott Bloom
Lynn Cominsky
Neil Gehrels
Neil Johnson
Don Kniffen
Giselher Lichti
Chip Meegan
Peter Michelson
Jay Norris

Martin Pohl
Steve Ritz
Stephen Thorsett
Kathy Turner
Al Vernacchio

Guests:
Jack Leibee
Norman Rioux

Minutes recorded by Sandy Barnes. (Thanks, Sandy! – SR)

Steve welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda.

Announcements:

1. The Aldridge report has been released. See <http://www.moontomars.org/>.
2. Jonathan is retiring as of July 2, and his retirement party will be held on Wednesday, July 7. SWG members are welcome to attend or send email messages for the occasion.
3. Action item from last telecon: Special session for GLAST at the HEAD meeting has been arranged. It will be held on Thursday, September 9, from 4-6 pm. There will be four 30-minute talks: 1) mission overview – S. Ritz; 2) X-ray Astronomy and Connections to GLAST – Rich Mushotzky; 3) Infrared – Gamma-ray Connections and GLAST - Ann Wehle; and 4) Radio to Gamma-ray Observations with GLAST – Roger Romani.
4. Internal reorganization of the SSC:
 - a.) MOC interface and operations – Robin Corbet
 - b.) Community/User Support – David Band
 - c.) Data Distribution and Science Software Development – Dave DavisAll report to Jay.
5. User's Committee will be meeting August 9-10 at GSFC. Will report at the September meeting. Josh Grindlay has agreed to chair the committee.

Don Kniffen - NASA – HQ:

Don called in from the SPIE meeting in Glasgow.

- There is a reorganization going on at HQ. Sean O'Keefe is having an all-hands meeting this morning explaining the reorganization. This is in keeping with the President's

Vision for Space Exploration. Space and Earth Science will be combined and will be known as Science Mission Directorate. Changes will affect the structure down to the Division level. Don't think GLAST will be affected.

- User's Committee meeting is scheduled for August 9-10. Josh Grindlay has agreed to chair the committee. There are 2 new members: Wim Hermsen from SRON and Jim Buckley from Washington University, St. Louis.
- Status of the LOA's – a lot has happened, but nothing has been signed. Dan Blackwood has been working on this. ASI has been delayed, but now Dan is in constant contact with them and is making progress again.

Kathy Turner – D.O.E.:

Working with NASA HQ and watching the progress of the partners.
House Subcommittee report has endorsed participation in GLAST.

Peter Michelson – LAT:

- is at Pisa working with Ronaldo this week.
- Working on getting hardware delivered to SLAC this summer.
- Calorimeter should be on schedule.
- Persis Drell is a new Deputy Project Manager at SLAC, reporting to LAT Project Manager Lowell Klaisner. Main areas of concentration for Persis will be the Tracker, SAS, and ISOC.
- ISOC Manager, Robert Cameron at SLAC joins team on August 15.
- NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe and Ted Stevens, Senator from Alaska, visited SLAC, and GLAST was on his agenda. The clean room was one of his stops. Most interested in the Educational Outreach program for GLAST and will talk with Lynn.

Ronaldo added some additional information. Financially, he's working on having everything signed with ASI by September, but most likely will be by the end of October. INFN has provided additional backup funding to keep the activities functioning without delays thru the end of October.

- All silicon detector testing complete, which marks a major milestone for GLAST!

The tracker vibration test has been completed successfully today.

Chip Meegan and Giselher Lichti – GBM:

Chip has been focusing on the preparation for the systems CDR that will take place Monday and Tuesday next week.

- there has been testing on some of the flight Software (works for hours and then crashes) trying to locate and correct the problem.

Giselher has also been focusing on the systems CDR. He will join the review via video conferencing.

- have thermal model complete.

- computed flight hardware units.
- NaI crystals in production, delivery by the end of July.

Elliott asked Chip about the use of Van de Graaff (VDG) for calibration survey. Could be useful for higher energy calibration for GBM.

Discussion of VDG followed. Steve suggested that a separated phone call with LAT & GBM is needed. And he will talk with the Project people at GSFC.

Al Vernacchio, Norman Rioux and Jack Leabee – Mission Report:

Al:

- everything is going well, and closely watching the schedule.
- Spacecraft Peer review was held at Spectrum Astro. Well done and are in good shape.
- Spacecraft CDR coming up, will be reviewed by Code 300 review team among others.
- Preparing for Mission CDR, September 21-22.
- Ground system CDR will be in August.

Norman:

- Spacecraft CDR – burst alert end-to-end latency is at 9.3-12 sec; requirement is 9 sec. Best estimate right now is that we are not going to meet the requirement.
- Have been working on this issue by looking at data & working on various solutions; will report back to the SWG at the September meeting.

IDS Reports:

Martin Pohl:

- Looking at galactic center issue with EGRET.

Stephen Thorsett:

- Finishing up with the NuSTAR proposal.

Chuck Dermer:

- I have a paper on "Curvature Effects in Gamma Ray Bursts" and two papers (with Armen Atoyan) on interpretations of extended jet emissions observed with the Chandra X-ray Observatory now accepted for publication in The Astrophysical Journal. All three papers will be useful to interpret GLAST results.
- I was invited to give a theory jet talk in the VERITAS workshop at the HEAD meeting.
- The GLAST IDS grant will be supporting 50% of the costs of a post-doc, Dr. Trunog Le, to do research in GLAST physics, beginning this September.
- The GLAST IDS money supported an NRL visit by Dr. Govind Menon of Troy State University in Alabama, and will support a summer sabbatical by him in 2005 to NRL. Dr. Menon is an expert in general relativity. I am shifting my research focus to strong gravity and jet formation from black holes. Our first research project is to understand and critique the black-hole electrodynamics associated with the Blandford-Znajek effect.

Lynn Cominsky – E/PO:

- Education Ambassadors training will be held July 21-29 at Sonoma State. There are 10 GLAST Ambassadors.
- Telescope doing well.
- Brochure completed and is in the printing process at GSFC.
- Booth will be at the AAPT meeting this summer and at the HEAD meeting.
- The new GLAST EPO website is on line – comments encouraged by Lynn.
- snag with the NOVA presentation being worked.
- TOPS Module 2 has been completely revisited.
- HEAD meeting will have teachers workshop on Saturday headed by Jim Lochner.
- MSFC Workshop was supposed to be held this summer, but because of circumstances it's been put on hold. High-Energy Workshop next summer-2005-with AAVSO.
- GLAST stickers available and have been mailed to SWG members.

September Meeting:

(Steve)

Workshop:

The agenda for the Thursday Workshop was reviewed (sent by email to SWG). One topic for the Discussion portion of the meeting should be: talk on cross calibration issues.

Steve will ask Julie to start sending e-mails/call and invite the speakers.

SWG Face-to-face meeting agenda items will include:

1. Expanded reports
2. Discussion on handling of transient releases.
Action item: LAT to come with their proposal.
3. Data challenges – 2nd data challenge and overall plan.
4. User's Committee meeting report

Steve will start to build an agenda. 1st draft out the end of July.

ACTION Items:

1. LAT (Peter) – proposal on transients monitoring to be discussed at September meeting.
2. Steve – setup VDG issue phone call by end of July

Previous ACTION Items – now closed:

1. Stanford has updated their institution list on the website.
2. Steve sent LAT publication policy to the SWG.
3. HEAD meeting special session.

Meeting adjourned.