



NORTH AMERICAN ARC
ALMA Regional Center

North American
ALMA Science
Center



Title

NAASC Memo #107

Carol Lonsdale and Kartik Sheth

Date: June 7, 2011

ABSTRACT

Report on 23 ALMA Early Science/Community Training Events, offered in North America between Jan 18-June 3, 2011, leading up to the ALMA proposal deadline. The report summarizes key results, community served, workshop attendee counts, feedback, comments, typical agenda, acknowledgements, materials developed, and future plans.



National Radio Astronomy Observatory

520 Edgemont Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903 USA
434.296.0211 | Fax 434.296.0278
www.nrao.edu

NAASC MEMORANDUM

To: K. Y. Lo, T. Bastian, P. Jewell, C. Carilli
From: C. Lonsdale & K. Sheth
CC: M. McKinnon, J. Hibbard, A. Bolatto
Subject: NAASC Community Day Events Report
Date: June 6, 2011

When the NAASC first planned to offer community outreach events to the scientific community, we anticipated offering an event each month leading up to the ALMA proposal deadline. Responding to enthusiastic requests from the community, the NAASC presented 23 ALMA Early Science/Community Events in locations spanning North America. The response from the community, in terms of both enrollment and evaluation, has been overwhelmingly positive.

Key Results:

- 23 ALMA Early Science/Community Training Events in 4.5 months (Jan 18-June 3, 2011)
- About 900 astronomers reached (~1/4 of the US community)
- Highly successful visibility for NRAO staff and facilities and for HIA/NRC
- Highly positive feedback contributing to NRAO's & HIA/NRC missions
- Establishment of new nuclei ALMA/radio communities in different locations which are germinating ideas and new proposals which would otherwise not have happened

NA ALMA Training Days



<http://science.nrao.edu/alma/community>

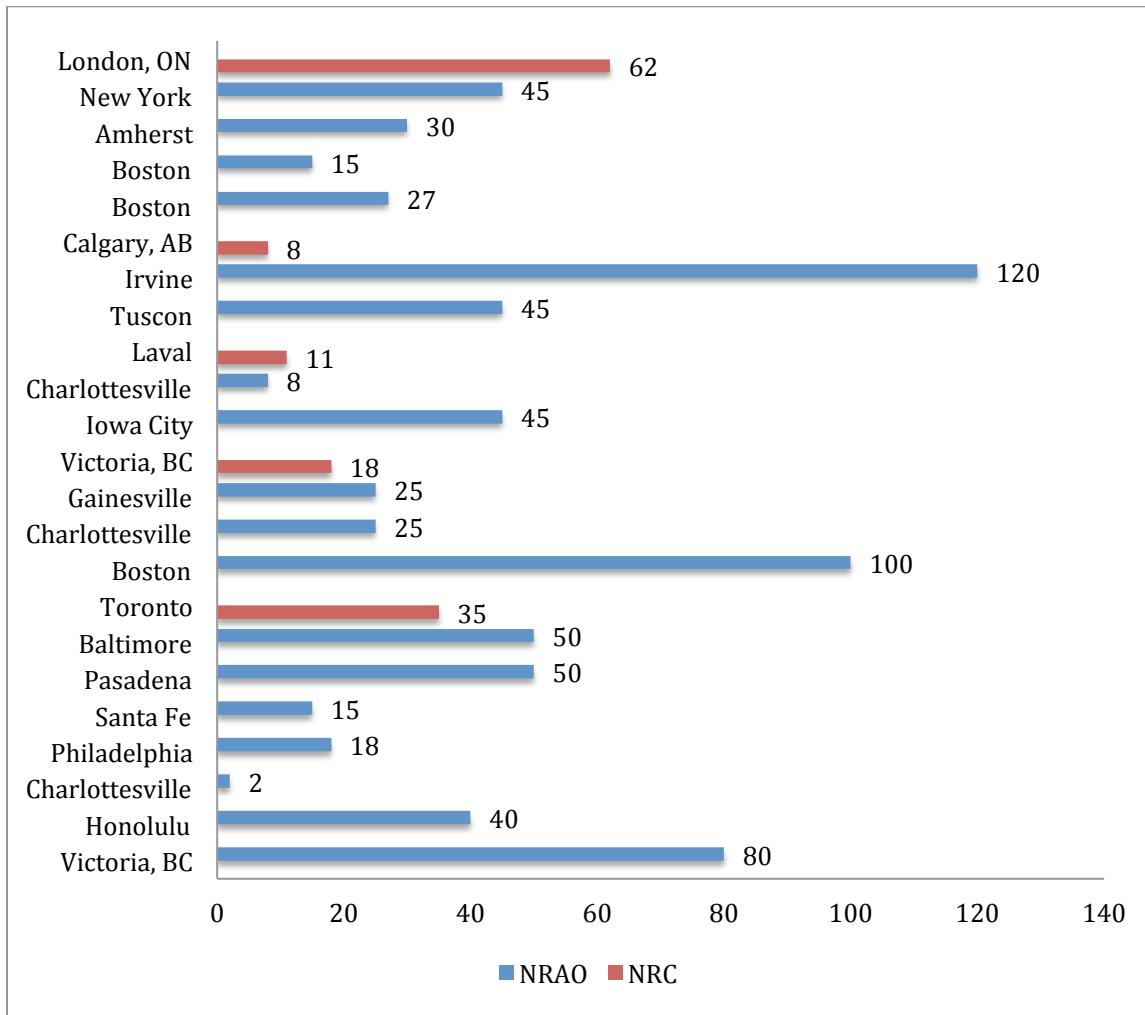


Community Served:

At the completion of this cycle of ALMA Early Science/Community Training Events, we have:

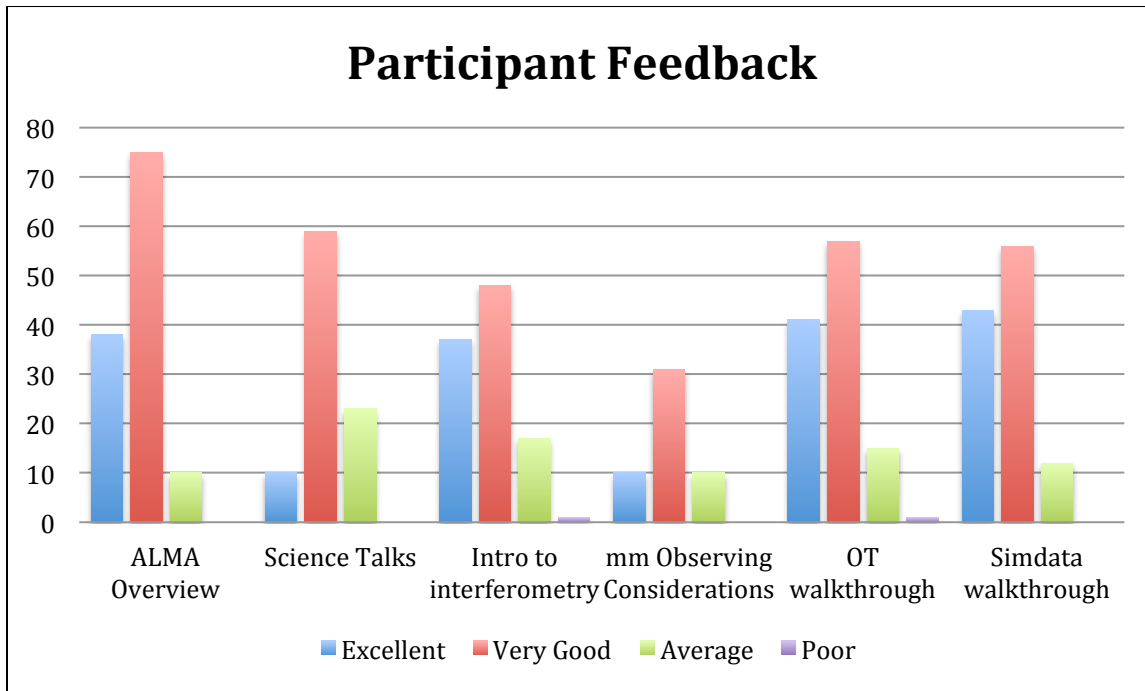
- Offered training in all regions of North America, including both Canadian coasts and Calgary
- Reached ~900 astronomers – about 1/4 of the US community
- Visited 18 universities and research institutions
- Been a presence at 5 major science community gatherings: AAS (Seattle); AAS (Boston); New Worlds, New Horizons (Santa Fe); Unveiling the Far-IR and Sub-mm Extragalactic Universe: Herschel, ALMA, CCAT, SPICA, and Beyond (Irvine); CASCA 2011 (Ontario)

Workshop Attendee Counts



Feedback

Approximately 25% of the participants have provided feedback in the form of rating on a scale of excellent-poor and/or provided comments in response to the training. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with 85% of the participants rating the programs “Excellent” or “Very Good”, and the remaining 15% rating the programs as “Average.”



Comments

The feedback form offered the participants an opportunity to comment on the event’s overall impact; responses were positive regarding the quality of the NRAO staffs’ presentations and the importance of the training to proposal preparation. Some examples:

I was very impressed by the quality of the presentations and the attentiveness and expertise of all of the staff and postdocs involved in the tutorial. I found it extremely valuable and am glad I attended.

An overall very interesting day, which inspired me, and motivated me to write a proposal... so I guess your main goal is reached! :-)

I think it is great that you guys are reaching out to the community. And it was reassuring to hear that you will eventually attempt to have 'everyone' use the instrument. I have got a bit rusty on reducing VLA data.

John and Kartik did an excellent job representing ALMA, and Rachel's efforts in organizing the conference are very much appreciated. There should have been more attendees!

I was extremely impressed by the NAASC presentations. The speakers were well prepared, willing to answer all questions, and eager to help out during the hands-on sessions. I have been involved in many such sessions for Spitzer, and I have attended a number of the Herschel data workshops, and I would rank this week's ALMA workshop among the best that I have seen.... I was truly impressed by the work that Aaron, Scott and Nuria did this week at Caltech, and I believe this is a large step in the right direction.

Overall I thought the community day was very successful. I was happy with the large turnout, and the audience was very much engaged in the presentations and hands-on tutorials. I would like to thank Nuria, Scott, and Aaron for their efforts in making this a success. Nuria and Scott in particular did a good job in the one-on-one interactions during the hands-on tutorial.

Fabulous, really! Nice work both on CfA & NRAO scientists' part—very, very useful.

Overall a worthwhile event—and one that depended on enthusiasm by the organizers and the energy of the NRAO road show folks. Keep it up as time and resources permit.

Typical Agenda:

Every attempt is made to customize the format and material to the needs and expectations of the audience. The local organizers have generally given the science talks, and sometimes a local expert has been able to give one of the training presentations. In general the following topics are covered in each tutorial:

- ALMA Overview
- GBT, EVLA and VLBA overview
- Science Opportunities
- Interferometry Basics and/or Millimeter Observations Considerations
- Observing Tool walkthrough and hands-on
- SimData demo and hands-on
- Individual assistance

Acknowledgements:

The NAASC's User Support Group formed a Tutorial Team for the purpose of developing, scheduling and handling these events. The team is led by Kartik Sheth and also includes Scott Schnee, Aaron Evans, Adam Leroy and Rachel Friesen.

Trainers:

Most of the NAASC staff contributed to the design and development of the ALMA Early Science/Community Day training events in one way or another and the following staff served as organizers and presenters:

Jim Braatz	Adam Leroy	<u>HIA/NRC</u>
Crystal Brogan	Harvey Liszt	James DiFrancesco
Stuartt Corder	Nuria Marcelino	Doug Johnstone
Aaron Evans	Robin Pulliam	Brenda Matthews
Rachel Friesen	Tony Remijan	Gerald Schieven
John Hibbard	Scott Schnee	
Todd Hunter	Kartik Sheth	
Amy Kimball	Al Wootten	

Local Organizers:

The ALMA Early Science Community Day events would not have been possible without the support of the local scientific community. The following community members took the lead in proposing for and developing the program and logistics for their regional community day:

IfA-Hawaii (Feb 10-11): Jonathan Williams
Philadelphia (Mar 7): Kimberly Scott, Tony Mroczkowski
Pasadena (Mar 15-16): Eric Murphy, Carrie Bridge, John Carpenter
Baltimore (Apr 18): Rachel Osten, Alberto Bolatto
UToronto/Dunlap Inst. (Apr 18-19): Mike Reid
Boston/CfA (Apr 20): Sean Andrews, Dave Wilner
Florida (May 2-3): Jonathan Tan
Iowa/Midwest (May 8-10): Daryl Haggard, Cornelia Lang, Tony Wong
ULaval-Quebec City (May 10): Serge Pineault
Arizona (May 12-13): Joan Najita, Xiaohui Fan, Desika Narayanan, Ran Wang
UCalgary (May 12-13): Erik Rosolowsky & Rene Plume
Irvine (May 12-14): Asantha Cooray
Massachusetts (May 25): Alexandra Pope
NYC/Tri-State (May 27): Jacqueline van Gorkom, Mary Putman, Andrew Baker, Jin Koda, Hector Arce, Gill Knapp
CASCA/UWO-London, Ontario (June 3): Martin Houde, Christine Wilson

Web Pages
Schedule of events with links to local community-maintained websites; workshop agendas and downloadable presentations
Pre-Workshop downloads and exercises
Evaluation/Feedback form

ALMA Project-Wide Web Depository of Outreach Materials

For the convenience of the entire ALMA project NAASC has made the following materials available:

- Web-based depository for shared presentations, agendas and related materials in support of Early Science/Community Training Events.
- ALMA Training and ALMA Science Meeting calendars
- Schedule of events with links to local community-maintained websites; workshop agendas

Future Plans/Under Development

- Data analysis tutorials for successful Cycle 0 proposers (and any other interested parties including EVLA)
- CDE schedule in support of ALMA Cycle I
- Development of online mm course and summer school materials
- Development of basic mm/submm astrophysics instruction materials