

AOC NEWS

Vol. 1 - Issue 1 / October 1999

WELCOME ABOARD

Joining Scientific Services are: Steve Myers, who came from the Univ. of Pennsylvania, Debra Shepherd from Caltech and Aaron Cohen a student at MIT, working with Rick Perley, until March 2000. Judi Berrong, a student at New Mexico Tech joined the Fiscal group, Gareth Harris, the ALMA computing group and New Mexico Tech Co-op student, Jolene Mares the Electronics group.

Arriving in October are Jansky Postdocs, Tracy Clarke from the Univ. of Toronto, David Thilker from New Mexico State and in the Electronics division Steven Durand and Raul Armendariz.

Visitors: Robert Karban, ESO, with ALMA project, 6 September to November 1999; Avinash Deshpande, RRI-India, working with Tim Hankins, 15 September -15 January 2000.

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES

Congratulations **Dr. Alison Peck** - her thesis defense was on 15 September, she did great! Alison is joining the MPIfR in Bonn; What a great way to say good-bye...Jim Herrnstein's work on NGC 4258, is featured on the front page of the *Albuquerque Journal*, September 27, with an accompanying photo, no less. Jim will be leaving astronomy, joining the world of finance; Leise van Zee is joining the Dominion Astrophysical Obs.; Pete Ulbricht is moving across campus to IRIS; Visiting scientists, Anantha and Pat Palmer return to their home institutions.

Farewell summer students. This year's astronomy research summer students were the first to occupy the renovated computer area. At summer's end, students presented talks on their projects.

Name	Institute	Advisor
Crystal Brogan	U Kentucky	D. Frail.
Teddy Cheung	Brandeis U	J.Ulvestad
Bryan Jones	U Arizona	R. Perley
Makenzie Lystrup	Portland St.U.	C. Walker

Elizabeth McGrath	Vassar College	M. Goss
Niruj Mohan	RRI, India	Anantha
Darrell Osgood	N. M. Tech	F. Owen
Andreea Petric	N. M. Tech	M. Rupen
Hanna Smith	Smith College	G. Taylor
Chad Young	Mississippi St.	D. Frail
Colleen Schwartz	Colby College	J. Wrobel
Alison Coil	UC Berkeley	M. Goss
Kristy Dyer	N Carolina St.	M. Goss

Farewell and thanks to SYEP High school students, Zoe Cornwell, Dmitriy Kogan and Tiffany Todano, who helped out with inventory and PC support to the direction of Marie Glendenning, and Brent Avery and to NM Tech co-op student, Kerry Shores who worked with Dan Mertely from January through the summer.

RECENT EVENTS:

Mission of the day "Have Fun." A perfect day for golf; The annual NRAO Golf Tournament was held at the NM Tech golf course, 25 Sept., with 36 entries providing nine teams. Alas, the winning team was non-NRAO; however, second, third and fourth place honors belong to NRAO. A respectable score of 70 went to the second place team Jim Oty, Don Welty and guests, Florence Foster & Gary Guillen. Ramon Molinas' sons, Ramon Jr. & Antonio, Skip Lagoyda and Jon Spargo rounded out the NRAO winning circle.

Mission accomplished; Everyone HAD FUN! Thanks to the organizers Skip Lagoyda, Paul Rhodes, Jim Oty and all participants. For the full story, check out the next issue of *Point Source*.

S. Lagoyda

Local runners make tracks: Ralph Marson Amy Mioduszewski and Cornelia Lang joined over 3000 participants in the annual Suncare Duke City Marathon, Sept. 26. Ralph finished his first full marathon (26.2 miles) in 4 hrs. 30 min., Amy ran the 5K (3.1 mile) race in 34 min. and Cornelia ran the half marathon (13.1 miles) in 1 hr. 53 min.

C. Lang

CHANGES

Not missing, just relocated! The snack machine sits inside the common area of the 3rd floor in the AOC. However, if your choice is a soft drink, be prepared to brave the weather as the soda machine sits outside, in the patio area.

S. Lagoyda

Slide cabinets and files were moved from AOC Library to Room 280, Measuring Engine Rm., in the West Wing. Material for sign-out of slides is located on top of cabinets. If you need an NRAO slide for long term use, contact Pat Smiley, in Charlottesville.

K. Lefebvre

WHAT'S UP WITH:

Administrative Services: To Your Health; information on flu shots coming soon.

Array & Correlator Operations: Congratulations Peggy Perley, Dave Medcalf and Steve Thompson; best wishes as you take up new positions on 1 November.

Computer: What is *helpdesk*? The Systems Support group of the Computer Division introduced "helpdesk," to resolve and track submissions of computer related problems.

This is accessible by dropping by room 267, voice-7213 or Email <helpdesk@nrao.edu>

Requests are entered in a database and status can be checked on the Web. We are happy to answer any questions and welcome your comments and feedback.

G. van Moorsel

Electronics: Change of Division! Clint Janes takes over as Head of Electronics on 1 November. We wish you the best.

Best wishes to Larry Beno for a happy and rewarding retirement. Larry will be missed.

Fiscal: (frequently asked question)

Q: "Every time I use family sick leave, why are hours deducted from my individual sick leave?"

A: Family Sick Leave is a form of Sick Leave. The NRAO Handbook states the following about Sick leave to Care for Family Members: "You may use up to five days of your accrued sick leave per calendar year to care for seriously ill or injured family members. This benefit may be used to care for your spouse, child or parent. You may also use this benefit to care for your stepchild or grandchild if the child resides in your home and is your eligible dependent." Eligible part-time staff will have the hours pro-rated accordingly.

D. Welty

Safety Issues: Boyd Waters, with the Computer division has agreed to be the the Workstation Ergonomics Consultant, at the AOC. His experiences in this area are a great resource. Problems related to vision, posture and carpal tunnel syndrome should be directed to him. Based on accepted workstation ergonomic standards, Boyd will analyze and make recommendations to correct problems. Thanks Boyd, for your interest and willingness to help in this area.

Annual AOC Fire Drill declared a success; the Socorro Fire Department was impressed with the speed of evacuation from the AOC, they gave us a big thumbs up! A couple of useful critiques for the future: a) Remember, close office doors all the way and, b) Do NOT use parking lot as walkway to assembly point - Macey Center. In case of a fire, ambulance and police vehicles would use parking lot to access the AOC.

Safety Committee meetings are open and held every 2nd Thurs. of the month in the AOC lower level conference room. Safety related questions may be addressed to any member of the Safety Committee. AOC based members are: Leon Abeyta, Bob McGoldrick (Chairman), Boyd Waters, Terry Lopez and Leonia Kogan

J. Spargo

Outreach-Public Education: Following a custom of several years, NRAO once again joined the National Solar Observatory at

Sacramento Peak and the Apache Point Observatory in providing an informational booth at the 1999 New Mexico State Fair. This year's booth was entitled "Astronomy in New Mexico." This booth is a way of reaching the hundreds of thousands of fairgoers with our message that astronomy is an important activity for New Mexico. The booth and brochures passed out at the fair attract visitors for all three observatories. NRAO volunteers staffed the booth on weekends and answered questions from curious fairgoers. Thanks to volunteers Bill Brundage, Bryan Butler, Mark Claussen, Ketan Desai, Dave Finley, Lisa Foley, Robyn Harrison, Alison Peck, Jim Ulvestad and Jason Wurnig. The State Fair offers us a chance to reach people who otherwise might have little exposure to astronomy.

D. Finley

Jon Spargo recently received an appointment as an Adjunct Research Scientist at NM Tech in recognition of his contributions to the NM Tech Etscorn Observatory. Etscorn is named after the Tech professor who developed the nicotine patch and used some earnings from the discovery to procure the Tech optical telescope. The Etscorn telescope has a 14" reflecting primary and Cassegrain focus, specifically a Celestron C14. It has been outfitted with a CCD camera for recording images and is operated by the NM Tech Astronomy Club. An important mission of the Etscorn Observatory is to provide an astronomical experience for schools via the Internet. Jon, Dan Edmans, Jim Jackson, and Mike Revnell have been helping with the technical details of remote control and retired NRAO retiree Cam Wade, helped with pointing equations.

C. Janes

Adjunct status with NM Tech Physics dept. in 1999-2000: Miller Goss, Michael Rupen, and Greg Taylor.

NM Tech physics faculty, Jean Eilek, Tim Hankins, Jim Weatherall and Dave Westpfahl are adjuncts at NM/NRAO.

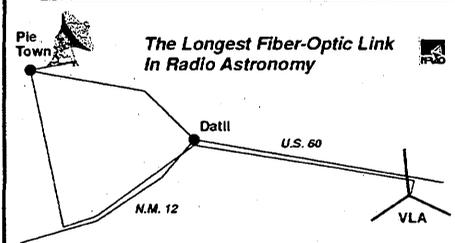
VLA Site: Promotions! Congratulations - Lew Sema, to Division Head and Jon Thunborg, Deputy Division Head, of Engineering Services, beginning 1 November.

Weekend and off-hours are favorite times for bringing guests/family for a visit or tour of the VLA site. Planning ahead will insure a

smooth and successful visit. Prior to your visit, please notify Alison Patrick at ext. 7418 or via email. If unavailable contact either Patty Lindsey or Jo He Cason. Once details are known, arrangements are made so your tour/visit can go beyond the Visitor Walking Trail; i.e., entry to the Control Building and Antenna Barn. Current procedures and guidelines regarding lock-out/tag-out and use of hard hats will be passed on to you. For everyone's safety, please adhere to published NRAO safety guidelines.

A. Patrick

VLA to Pie Town Via Fiber-Optic Cable



History & Progress / New Science

December 1998 First successful observations made with four VLA antennas and Pie Town VLBA antenna. August 1999 Pie Town was successfully combined with the entire VLA, using two of the four VLA frequency channels. First image of an astronomical source made using the real-time link.

Thanks to Ron Beresford, Nelson Atencio, Chuck Broadwell, Eric Carlowe, Barry Clark, Ray Ferraro, Kelly Gatlin, Wayne Koski, Rob Long, Mike Revnell, Bill Sahr, Ken Sowinski, Mario Torres, Rob Treacy, and all VLA and VLBA Operators. Your contributions made this a reality!

Jim Ulvestad & Mark Claussen

More detail on this topic in the next *Point Source*, stay tuned!