



# AOC NEWS

Vol. 3 - Issue 6 / DECEMBER, 2001

## SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENTS / STAR AWARDS



Paul Johnson

Paul Johnson (photo to left), Station Manager at the Los Alamos VLBA Station, was recognized for his improvements to VLBA telescope pointing. Paul modified the absolute position encoder electronics and developed a procedure to use at other VLBA Antennas to correct a periodic tracking problem that has plagued the VLBA antennas since construction.

Greg Chavez, (photo to right) Electronic Technician was recognized on Nov. 29, 2001. He spear-headed the task of upgrading and recalibrating the complete inventory of 30 VLA 74 MHz receivers, resulting in improved performance and more uniform calibration parameters.



Greg Chavez

## WELCOME ABOARD

Basic Research: Kelsey Johnson, Ylva Pihlström, Travis Rector, Tomislav Markovic; Scientific Services: Lorant Sjouwerman; Electronics: Cody James; Electronics/EVLA Proj.: Jerry Langevin, Paul Lilie, Travis Newton, Fiscal: Brad Strong; Safety: James Sullivan; KP/VLBA Site Tech: Duane Clarke.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes for a bright future to Jim Ulvestad, as he takes up his newly appointed position as Assistant Director for NRAO / New Mexico Operations. Jim takes over his new position on December 15, 2001.

## FAREWELL

A big "Thank You" to Miller Goss, who for the last 14 years carried the torch as Assistant Director for NRAO / New Mexico Operations. Miller will remain on the NRAO Scientific Research Staff. A party is planned in Miller's honor on December 13, 2001. Stay tuned, details on the party will be distributed soon.

## CALL FOR HELP

Volunteers for Science Fair judges needed! With the beginning of the new year, we jump into Science Fair season. Sarracino Middle School needs judges for their fair on the morning of

Thursday, January 10. The more judges we can supply, the fewer projects each judge will have to view. You don't have to be a scientist, you just need to be interested in kids and science education. Even if you aren't available on the 10th, there will be more opportunities as the high school and Magdalena schools begin scheduling their fairs. More judges will be needed for the State Science Fair later in the spring. If you are interested, please contact Robyn at: [rharriso@nrao.edu](mailto:rharriso@nrao.edu) or call ext: 7243

Robyn Harrison

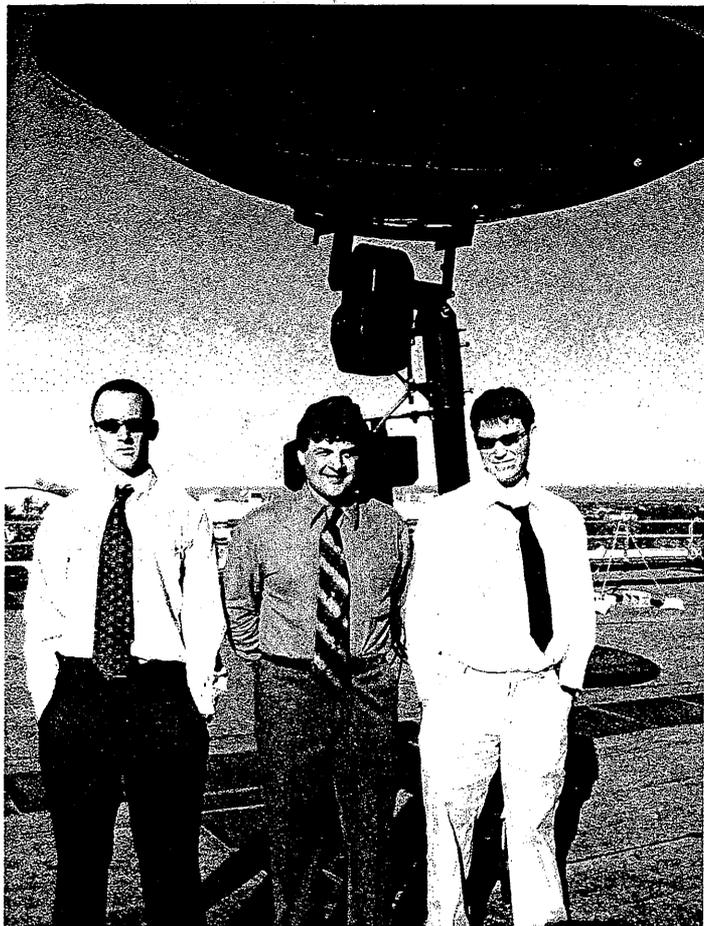
## VLA/VLBA OPERATIONS NEWS

Peggy Perley reports VLA Operations has a full contingent of seven operators. The current Operations staff include: Terry Bartelt - VLA Operation Supervisor, Jim Campbell - Lead VLA Operator, Mike Bradford, Sam Gilmore, Jon Jakischa, Sonja Mendoza, Jim Nieri and Greg Patterson. Additionally, Phillip Hicks, as the maintenance coordinator, splits his time between the VLA and the AOC.

At the AOC, Paul Dyer will be transferring from VLBA array operations to the Data Analysts group. Current AOC operations staff in VLBA Array Operations: David Medcalf - VLBA Operations Supervisor, Roy Heatwole - Lead VLBA Operator, Colleen Gino, Tony Perreault and Jim Ogle. In VLBA Correlator Operations: Tom Briscoe - Correlator Operations Supervisor, Charlie Barham, Alan Kerr, Betty Ragan, and Aaron Taylor. Data Analysts: Meri Stanley - Lead Analyst, Lisa Foley, Ken Hartley, Jason Wurnig and Juan Cordova - Tape Librarian.

## CO-OP STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

Three New Mexico Tech co-op students (see photo below) working at NRAO have mounted the SRT (Small Radio Telescope) on Workman Hall for tests. The SRT will be installed at the Visitors Center for use by the public.



Brian Rajala, Gerry Bivens & Sam Field

## HOW SICK AND FAMILY LEAVE WORK

On my pay stub, it appears that I get charged for both sick leave and family sick leave when I take family sick leave. What's up?

Eligible employees are granted sick leave to ensure continuous income during absences due to illness or injury. Eligible full-time employees accrue 10 hours of sick leave for each month of full-time employment. NRAO employees may use up to 40 hours of accrued sick leave per calendar year to care for seriously ill or injured family members, as listed in the employee handbook. Family sick leave is a type of sick leave benefit, specially developed for NRAO employees. When an employee uses family sick leave, two transactions are made on their pay stub. First, sick leave is recorded and a deduction is made to the employee's sick leave hours balance. So far this transaction is pretty straightforward. The next step is what usually confuses people. For NRAO to be able to calculate the amount of family sick time remaining, an additional transaction shows up on the pay stub denoting family sick time, "Ytd Sck Fam Tkn". **This transaction only affects the balance of family sick time, and has no effect on sick leave balance.**

If you compare your pay stubs, you'll see this is true. First, there is an increase in the accumulated family sick leave used. Second, there is a decrease, of the same amount, in your sick leave

balance. NRAO is required to track the amount of employee's accumulated sick family leave (ASFL) used. ASFL cannot exceed 40 hours per year for full time employees.

Sick family leave time is a unique benefit for NRAO. NRAO had to develop a special way to track ASFL in our payroll processing system, by substituting sick family leave hours for straight time hours worked. For hours worked, sick family leave time is equivalent to straight time hours worked. If someone takes 10 hours of sick family, their pay stub will in fact show 60 hours straight time, 10 hours sick family, and 10 hours sick leave. To calculate the actual number of hours you worked, sick family leave time needs to be added to 'regular' hours.

D Welty

## REMINDER: HOLIDAY PARTIES

Childrens party - Dec. 8 (2:00-4:00 p.m. / AOC Auditorium)  
NRAO Adult party - Dec. 15 (6:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.) To purchase tickets; see Mary Ellen at AOC, and Emma at the VLA site.

**C**ONGRATULATIONS newly elected and re-elected NMPRA Board members, Mary Ellen Chavez, Phillip Sanchez and Pat Van Buskirk. They join Tom Baldwin, Ken Lakies, Lia Romero, and Emma Rice. Leaving are Richard Murillo and Allen Lewis. Board members serve two year terms.

Thank you all for your effort and hard work on behalf of NRAO employees.

## REMEMBRANCE



K.R. Anantharamaiah 1952-2001

Our colleague Anantharamaiah (Anantha) died on October 29, 2001 in Bangalore, India. He had been diagnosed with lung cancer in mid-2001.

Anantha is survived by his wife, Dr. Jyotsna Anantharamaiah and his son, Avinash.

Anantha joined the Raman Research Institute (RRI) in Bangalore in 1974, after a B.Sc.

and M.Sc. in Physics from the University of Mysore. His Ph.D thesis from RRI and Bangalore University was obtained in 1985, based on Ooty Radio Telescope observations. In 2000, Anantha became the chair of the Astronomy and Astrophysics Division of RRI. He had become a professor at RRI in 1997.

Anantha was well known in Socorro, having spent 5 of the last 15 years at the VLA/VLBA. Anantha was a Jansky Fellow from 1986-1989, and a Visiting Scientist in 1997-1999, working on AIPS++ and VLA/VLBA projects.

M Goss, C Carilli & C Lang