

EPO*: NRAO's Community Connection

*Education and Public Outreach

October 2004

VLA Public Tours: Another Success!

Pre-doc Edward Boyce had his first taste of giving tours at the VLA when he led 50 guests (including 20 young Boy Scouts) around the site on Public Tour Day, October 2. Jim Ulvestad, Barry Clark, Lisa Foley and Robyn Harrison also took their turns hosting nearly 300 visitors.

Our public tours are one of our most useful outreach tools, and scheduling them on the same day as the opening of Trinity Site has made the VLA accessible to more than 3700 people since the program was begun in January of 2002. Your next opportunity to help with public tours will be April 2, 2005.



Lisa Foley addresses her tour group.

So, what ever happened to NRAO's Spanish Translation project?

So glad you asked! Funded by a STScI IDEAS grant, *Un Puente A Los Cielos* employed six bilingual Socorro High School students during the summer of 2001 to translate NRAO's public web pages into Spanish. They visited observatories in New Mexico, created resumes, explored career options and talked with the admissions director at NMT about applying to college.

Some of those students are college bound, while some are completing high school. Joel Gonzalez and Daniel Acosta will represent NRAO and *Un Puente* at the national meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) in Austin, Texas, in October.

The pages translated (and sometimes written) by the students are still online, linked from their English versions and listed at <http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/epo/puente/>.

Now NRAO's Spanish pages have found a permanent home (with Spanish and computer support) as part of the ALMA outreach effort in Chile. Over the next few months the links to the Spanish pages will be changed to point to <http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/epo/puente/> (the ALMA server). We are deeply grateful to Eduardo Hardy and Hernan Pulgar in Chile for offering to host the pages. Mail to puente@nrao.edu will be forwarded to Hernan Pulgar, who will keep the links working and make minor updates.

An unexpected outcome of the project is a large online English-Spanish dictionary for astronomical terms. Starting with a short IAU list, supplemented by an astronomer in Guanajuato, it has grown to a full dictionary. We are in the process of reformatting it and adding the necessary diacritical marks.

As with all healthy web pages, we expect NRAO's Spanish web pages to change (adding a Chilean accent to our current mix of Spanish from Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Mexico) and grow (with the growth of ALMA). And we look forward to hearing from our *Un Puente* alumni and the general public.

-- Kristy Dyer

NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Fellow

Science Fair Judges Needed

Socorro Middle School and High School science fairs will be held concurrently on Thursday morning, October 28, at Sarracino Middle School. If you are interested in helping out, even if you have never judged a science fair before, contact Robyn at x7243 or rharriso@nrao.edu to sign up.

New Exhibits at Visitor Center

In an attempt to give our visitors an inside look at employees and their work at the VLA,



Garry Morris machines a part.

a new exhibit called "What Goes on in the Machine Shop?" was installed in August. This display takes visitors inside the shop with photos and narration explaining a few of the items the machinists

produce and the steps involved in the process. This is the second in this exhibit series:

The new art gallery features photographs by Pie Town Antenna Technician Kelly Gatlin and visitors Eric Grayson and David Gilder. Eric used an infrared camera to photograph the antennas, resulting in some interesting images. (<http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/~rharriso/>) If you would like to contribute a photograph, drawing, or other VLA-related image, please send it electronically or otherwise to Robyn rharriso@nrao.edu.

New Gift Shop Items

I need my space is the new logo now

available on red or jade t-shirts for toddlers and lemon or violet v-neck tees for women. We also have navy visors with a 3-antenna logo. All can be viewed at <http://www.vla.nrao.edu/genpub/shop/> See Tami Hale at the AOC or call Prescilla at x7410 to purchase these or other items.

Teachers Participate in Radio Astronomy Class

Ten teachers took part in the first Radio Astronomy for Teachers class offered through the Master of Science Teaching program at New Mexico Tech. Instructors Lisa Young and Mark Claussen put together a series of lectures, hands-on activities, and research experiences to introduce the teachers to the concepts of radio astronomy research. Miller Goss, Bryan Butler, Debra Shepherd and Jim Ulvestad gave guest lectures. Barry Clark guided the teachers on an inside tour of the VLA. As final projects the teachers were required to use either the Small Radio Telescope at the visitor center (operated remotely from the AOC) or the N² Instructional Interferometer at the Etscorn Campus

Observatory for a research project. They also designed lessons for their classrooms using the skills and information gained from the class.



Dana Dawson built an Itty Bitty Radio Telescope!

The class will be offered again in the summer of 2006, alternating with the optical astronomy class to be held next summer.

"The mission of the NRAO is to design, build, and operate large radio telescope facilities for use by the scientific community; to develop the electronics, software, and other technology systems that enable new astronomical science; to support the reduction, analysis, and dissemination of the results of observations made by the telescope users; to support the development of a society that is both scientifically and technically literate through educational programs and public outreach; and to support a program of staff scientific research that enables leadership and quality in all these areas."