



NRAO NM NEWS

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NOTES FROM THE AD

In two days in early August, the Proposal Selection Committee met and allocated nearly 4000 hours of observing time for the last trimester of 2004. It's quite a responsibility and effort; we use about 50 referees from the external scientific community to read and evaluate between 200 and 250 proposals at each proposal deadline. At this particular deadline, we scheduled the new High Sensitivity Array for VLBI, including large telescopes such as the GBT and Arecibo along with the VLBA, as well as allocating several hundred hours of observing using the fiber-optic link between the VLA and Pie Town. This will be the first winter of VLA observing when we combine the A configuration and Pie Town link with the newly completed low-noise 22 and 43 GHz receiving systems, as well as the excellent winter weather. We expect a number of important scientific results using all these capabilities together, particularly in the field of star formation inside and outside the Milky Way Galaxy.

In July 2004, NRAO Management in Charlottesville instituted a new management executive committee video conference twice per month, as well as an NRAO-wide division heads conference once per month. As part of this effort to improve communications, several of us submit written progress reports in advance of the meetings, which is a good way for the relevant managers to keep abreast of occurrences in other parts of NRAO. The VLA/VLBA report will be archived on the AD web page, and can be accessed on the web at:

<http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/epo/ad/sigevents.html>. I hope we are able to keep this web page up to date, and all VLA/VLBA employees are welcome to take a look at this web site to see a summary of a few of our important accomplishments, as well as some upcoming milestones for VLA/VLBA Operations.

Jim Ulvestad

WELCOME

Eric Duvall, Andrew Hale, ALMA; Tiffany Borders, Array & Correlator Operations.

JANSKY FELLOWS

NRAO is pleased to welcome three new Jansky fellows to Socorro, New Mexico. Vincent Fish will be arriving in September, after graduating from Harvard University. His thesis adviser was Mark Reid, and his thesis topic involved VLBA observations of Galactic OH masers. Nissim Kanekar arrives in November from the Kapteyn Institute in Groningen (Netherlands), where he was a postdoctoral fellow. Nissim has broad experience in Galactic and Extragalactic radio astronomy, having received his PhD in Pune, India, working at the GMRT (Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope). Nissim is an expert in the study of extragalactic radio absorption lines, as well as in theoretical studies of cosmic structure formation. Jean-Pierre Macquart arrives in October, also from the Kapteyn Institute (Netherlands), where he was a postdoctoral fellow. Jean-Pierre received his PhD from Sydney University (Australia) and he is one of the world experts on intra-day variability of cosmic radio sources and interstellar scintillation. We look forward to having three excellent young astrophysicists at NRAO, Socorro.

NRAO-Socorro would also like to say farewell to: Shami Chatterjee, who is moving to the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics as a traveling Jansky fellow, Fabian Walter and Eva Schinnerer, who have taken up tenure-track positions at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Heidelberg (Germany) and Ylva Pihlstrom, who is moving to Caltech as a postdoc. Success to all!"

Chns Canli

2004 SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM

The 2004 REU program has been an exhilarating 11 weeks. This summer, the AOC hosted 11 students (eight REU and three graduate students) from locations as varied as New York to India. The group has toured five observatories including the VLA, VLBA Pie Town station, Apache



2004 Socorro REU Students: Left to Right (back) Ben Zeiger, (middle) Brian Cameron, Christine Simpson, Anand Shetiya, Kelley Hess, Adrienne Stimp, (front) Kirstin Schillemat, Nicole Gugliucci, Chun Ly and Jana Grcevich. Not pictured (Urvashi Rao Venkata)

Point, Lowell, and NPOI (Navy Prototype Optical Interferometer); observed four student projects with the VLA and VLBA; and visited a few



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of New Mexico's and Arizona's most scenic locations: The Guadalupe Mountains, Carlsbad Caverns, North Baldy, Three Rivers Petroglyphs, The Grand Canyon, and White Sands. Check out the following!

<http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/~yshirley/Summer04/WhiteSands/Groupjump.AVI>

This week the students will present their summer research results with 10 minute presentations in the AOC auditorium at noon on Tuesday (Aug. 10), Wednesday (Aug. 11), and Thursday (Aug. 12).

Yancy Shirley

WHERE'S THE NRAO BUSINESS OFFICE?

We hear that there are employees loitering in room 221 looking for the HR, Purchasing, & Fiscal staff. WE MOVED! On June 3, the trucks showed up at the AOC and the whole lot of us (16 employees) relocated to the newly constructed Research Office Building across from EMRTC & IRIS-PASCAL in Tech's Research Park. Affectionately called "AOC West," we have moved out to make room in the AOC for staff associated with the ALMA Project. So now, the AOC is less "sardine-like" (that was the idea, anyway), but most of the business folks must now travel down the hill to pay you a visit (and vice-versa). Though we may still be reached by phone, email, or interoffice mail, we welcome visitors from the AOC!

Skip Lagoyda

MEMBERSHIP SLOTS AVAILABLE IN THE INVESTMENT CLUB

Join the local stock investment club here in Socorro. The Small Potatoes Investment Club (SPUDS) is a group of current, former, or spouses of employees that meet monthly to dalley in the stock market. It is an official club that invests \$20/month from each member. Learn about the stock market with the rest of us. The Club meets on the fourth Monday of the month at noon. Contact any of the current officers for membership details: Skip Lagoyda, Peggy Perley, Gustaaf van Moorsel, or Christine Wingenter.

Skip Lagoyda

WHAT'S UP AT THE VLA

The Carpentry Group is busy doing the forming and concrete work for the new EVLA storage building. In addition, the group is working on the remodeling of the old SLOB storage area into a Fiber Optic lab and the usual repair and remodeling that goes on at the Site and AOC.

The Track Crew is working on the east arm and will soon begin the construction of the concrete intersection timbers. Some of this crew also helped with the preliminary excavation for the new building.

The Grounds Crew has been trying to keep up with weed spraying, the road maintenance and the wave guide anode protection beds. They have also helped from time to time on the new building. They hauled about 500 yards of crusher fines and base course to the site for road and grounds maintenance.

As usual, the Auto Shop is trying to keep up with repairs and modifications. The people in this shop have had to work extra hours in order to keep up. Jimmy Rexrode has retired and Lefty Gonzales is moving to Oregon. Only the position vacated by Jimmy will be filled. Richard Murillo is now the lead man in the Auto Shop.

Pat Lewis

SAFETY CORNER

"Making Our Work Areas Safer - Supervisors, Managers and Employees, an Accident Prevention Team"

With low staffing levels, maintenance problems and pressure to reduce costs, busy managers, supervisors and employees can't easily take on another job. They may feel that they just don't have the time to devote to accident prevention.

What is important for this team to know is that accident prevention is not a separate job. Instead, accident prevention requires a constant awareness of potential problems and a willingness to take immediate

action at different times throughout the day when action is needed.

Without hesitation, at these special times, accident prevention must become a top priority for this team. At such times, if accident prevention isn't given top priority over other matters, then it might as well be given no priority at all, because an accident occurs in a split second and the team can't usually respond effectively at a later time.

Accident prevention (unlike some tasks) is not something a manager, supervisor or employee can put on a "To Do" list and which may or may not get done. Rather it is something that is part of everything a manager, supervisor or employee does, all day long.

To be most effective at protecting assets and preventing accidents, managers, supervisors and employees must not only be aware of what to do, but also how to do it. Accident prevention is most effective when it becomes automatic. It must be (or should become) a routine part of every job a manager, supervisor and employee do or, very little "prevention" will be accomplished. This is because there are numerous daily pressures, demands and deadlines to meet and if given a choice, people tend to focus on those things that are more measurable or those that directly affect them.

With so many things pulling in different directions at once, managers, supervisors and employees must decide what they want to do and what they want their team to do. To be successful at controlling accidents, managers, supervisors and employees must first define the priorities for themselves then communicate that priority to their team.

See the Site Safety Officers for additional safety training on this topic.

James B. Sullivan, NRAO Safety Officer

AUGUST SKIES

The Perseids are coming and this year conditions will be almost ideal for watching them. During the night of August 11-12 the Earth will plough into the debris trails left by comet Swift-Tuttle. This year there will be no full moon to brighten the sky and hamper observing this annual meteor shower.

Normally, the Perseids produce meteors at the rate of about 10 per hour. This year the rate could be significantly higher. The peak of the shower is due here at about 5:00 a.m. MT, so we are well placed to see higher than average numbers. The number may also increase because the gravitational effect of the giant planet Jupiter has slightly perturbed one of the old debris trails, placing it closer to the earth.

As stated above, the peak should occur in the early morning hours with good counts likely between midnight and dawn. Look into the northeastern sky between the constellations of Cassiopeia and Perseus. This is the area of the sky from which the meteors will appear to originate. The moon will be last quarter on the 7th, new on the 15th, 1st quarter on the 23rd and full on the 29th.

Jupiter is fading fast and by the end of the month will be visible for only about 40 minutes after sunset. During the early part of the month Jupiter can be used as an aid to find two other planets, Mars and Mercury. Facing due west, you may be able to pick out these planets below and to the right of Jupiter. This trick might help you find the two planets up through the 9th.

Another pairing of planets will be visible during the early morning hours as Saturn catches up to Venus. During the second half of the month, look to the ENE about an hour before sunrise and watch as Saturn slowly nears Venus in the constellation Gemini. On the morning of the 31st, the two planets will only be two degrees apart!

Jon Spargo, New Mexico Tech Astronomy Club

TRAVELING ON BUSINESS?

Apply for a Diners Club Corporate credit card! Book your airfare, lodging, rental car, and pay for meals using the card. It has the advantages of insurance coverage, vehicle damage assistance, and can be used on personal travel as well.

Contact the Business Manager for more information and an application.

Skip Lagoyda