

VLA SITE NEWSLETTER

From the World's Premier Centimeter Wave Radio Synthesis Telescope

CONGRATULATIONS

VLA people receiving promotions:
Pat Lewis to Tech Support Supervisor
Ramon Molina to Tech Support Supvr.
Steve Aragon to Tech spec II
Walter McLain to Staff Shop Tech II
Steve Troy to Tech Spec I

Recently receiving their Class A Commercial Driver's Licenses were Samuel Guerro, Frank Dobson, Mary Ellen Sanchez, and Jeremy Martinez. James Julian and Johnny Gonzalez went from Class B to Class A, and Pat Baca, Lawrence Minitrez and Raymond Apachito received Class B licenses.

AROUND THE VLA

New faces: Raymond Chavez will be working on the Track Crew until September 26. A temporary worker will start in the Carpenter Shop in July to help with the new paint booth at the Antenna Building.

Jimmy Latasa is on leave of absence from the Track Crew because of illness. We miss Jimmy a lot and wish him well.

Jason Fejes, a student worker provided by the City of Socorro Summer Youth Employment Program, has been working in several shops and has made for himself a reputation as a fast, reliable worker with a very positive attitude. His last day is July 9. Two other students are scheduled to start July 15 to work for six weeks.

AWARD

The VLA won Honorable Mention in the 50th Anniversary Engineering

Achievement competition sponsored by the New Mexico Society of Professional Engineers. Jack Lancaster, PE, Program Manager for the VLA and now retired, applied for the award. Listed on the entry form are some familiar names: William Horne, PE, responsible for the VLA mechanical design; Dr. Sander Weinreb, electronic design; Dr. Barry Clark, computer design; Ricard Vaughan, PE, of the BWH/CVR joint venture, site design; and Forrest Wells, PE, site construction. A plaque announcing the award is to be installed in the Visitor Center.

C. James

SCIENCE NEWS

Science News, a weekly summary of the world of science, is now available at the Control Building.

VLA SITE ASSEMBLY

On Tuesday, July 22, at 2:00 p.m., there will be a presentation in the Cafeteria by Miller Goss, Dick Sramek, Phil Diamond, Tony Beasley, Judi Lowell and Peter Napier. All site personnel are urged to attend.

ASSEMBLY BUILDING NEWS

Work at the assembly building has been hectic these last three weeks. We sent one crew to work on the antenna at Hawaii to repair the rail and do other work. They have encountered bad weather and equipment failures. One day there was 1 ½ inches of ice on the

mountain. One night it was 17 degrees. Despite the high winds, rain, cold and equipment failures (problems with an air compressor we rented) the work was completed.

Hawaii is one of our more unpleasant sites to work at. Because of the altitude it is hard to breathe. Everyday tasks take on a different meaning. Just to climb an antenna with a light load requires a person to stop and rest. We can't run up the antennas like we do here. This is good experience for the work needing to be done in Chile on the MMA.

At the same time, we had another crew at Ft. Davis and then at Kitt Peak. These were regular scheduled VLBA maintenance trips. Everything went well for them. It will be good to have everybody back home. (See report by J. Thunborg on pg. 2.) Because we were so short-handed, some of our preventive maintenance and overhaul work is piling up. That and a few special projects will keep us busy for the rest of the summer.

The Painters have finished painting Antenna #7 and have started on Antenna #18. We still need work done on Antenna #11. Things are looking pretty good for them. We should be able to finish all the scheduled antennas and paint the quad legs on maybe four other antennas.

The transporters have had some modifications (#2). Some valves have been changed and others are on order. Hopefully with all the work done we can prevent the problems we had earlier this year. The Transporter Shop would like to commend the Track Crew for the work done on leveling the track. BUEN JALE PABLO!!!

In the Welding Shop things have been going as usual. Steve has been gone to Hawaii and Melcolm has taken care of things in there. Never a dull moment.

R. Molina

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

Milton Ulibarri of Tru-Kill Pest Control will be out here once a month, spraying inside and outside of most buildings and occasionally on pathways. If you are having problems with any creepy-crawlies, mice, etc., please let Alison know and she will keep Milton informed.

A. Patrick

CONCERT

There was lots of excitement here on June 5, as rock band Queensryche had a promotional concert just west of the AAB on the Gallaher Ranch. Radio stations nationwide had contests in which the prizes were trips to New Mexico and to this concert. It was all very hush-hush until the last minute, but the band came out and toured the VLA and NRAO employees were invited to the concert. There were many favorable reviews of the performance, but apparently too much sand.

P. Lindsey

AZ BEARING INSPECTION

Jim Ruff recently traveled to Rotek near Cleveland, Ohio, to inspect the azimuth bearing. He straightened out some problems and misunderstandings. The bearing is now assembled and should be inspected and shipped next week.

J. Ruff

SURPLUS TRUCKS

On Monday, June 16, Dale Webb, NRAO Tucson, called and said he had found and acquired a small semi-tractor and a 40 ft. trailer for us. Jim Rexrode and Art Pino left on Thursday, the 19th at 6:00 a.m. towing a trailer with a complete set of mounted tires for the truck. Dale had also acquired a Ford one ton four wheel drive six pac for us. On Friday, Jim and Art

changed the tires that needed changing and headed home. After replacing two tires on the trailer (one blew out while they were fueling the truck), they arrived safe and sound in Magdalena about 8:30 p.m. Many thanks to Jim, Art and Dale, but especially Jim and Art...they had no air conditioning on any of the vehicles, and the thermometer hit 108° F while they were in Tucson.

P. Lewis

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Be sure to file a report when finding damaged equipment. When making your operator maintenance inspection, walk around the vehicle and look for new dents, broken lights, or cracked glass.

C. Janes

RECYCLE UPDATE

Recycling efforts here at the VLA are going pretty well. Clifford Serna, the shuttle driver, is having to pack more and more into the shuttle to take back to the AOC, where the main bins are located. The amount of trash going into the dump has been significantly reduced, although there is still room for improvement. Any and all paper, including envelopes, old magazines, newspapers, etc., is recyclable. Cardboard boxes are also on the list. There are "recycle cans" boxes for soda cans. Many thanks to all of you who contribute to this effort. Keep up the good work!

A. Patrick

VLBA SHUTDOWN TIME

To take full advantage of the VLBA shutdown time necessary for azimuth rail repair at VLBA Mauna Kea, John Dowling and Guy Stanzione arranged for contractors to paint antennas at Hancock, North Liberty, and St. Croix during the same downtime. Painting on VLBA antennas has been bid in the past for \$50,000 and up, but John and Guy arranged for painting on all three VLBA antennas plus 3 ½ VLA antennas for a little over \$100,000. Some follow up work is necessary, especially at Hancock

and North Liberty, but the painters got the worst of it.

C. Janes

TRAVELING MACHINISTS

Pat Madigan and Walter McLain recently traveled to Charlottesville to help CDL set up a new CNC mill. The equipment will be used to make amplifiers for the MAP/NASA satellite project, among other things.

C. Janes

NEW PHONE SYSTEM

NRAO has been looking for ways to improve the telephone system here at the VLA. NM Tech ISD has been selected to replace the existing phone switch. The changeover will occur some time this fall. All extensions at the Site will convert to 7000 numbers. Our main number will be 835-7xxx instead of 772-4011. People at the AOC will be able to page at the VLA without going through our switchboard. We will have all the features here that are in use at the AOC. More information on this will be available closer to the actual installation/changeover.

A. Patrick

VLBA ANTENNA MAINTENANCE

A VLBA maintenance team consisting of Ramon Gutierrez, Glenn Mauger, John Sanchez, Steve Troy, Jon Thunborg and Pete Ulbricht recently visited the antenna at Fort Davis, Texas. After five days of maintenance, the team drove to Tucson, Arizona, to work on the Kitt Peak VLBA antenna. The team worked at Kitt Peak for seven days before returning to Socorro. The team checked the antennas for worn, corroded or damaged parts, bad bearings, cracked welds, loose bolts, poor wire connections and bad circuit cards. Along with the site technicians, the team repaired or replaced all items that required restoration. The maintenance team also performed major upgrades on the antenna HVAC systems and performed detailed tests on the Servo and electrical systems.

J. Thunborg