

# BREA NEWS

[www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/](http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/)

Volume 18, Issue 1

January/February 2018

## BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. in one of the conference rooms in Bldg. 400 (except where noted).

All BREA members are invited to attend and participate.

### Meeting Schedule

January 9, 2018

February 13, 2018

March 13, 2018

### BREA Officers

#### President

Steve Shapiro  
[shapiro@bnl.gov](mailto:shapiro@bnl.gov)

#### Vice President

Bob Kinsey  
[bobkin@optonline.net](mailto:bobkin@optonline.net)

#### Secretary

Arnold Moodenbaugh  
[moodenba@optonline.net](mailto:moodenba@optonline.net)

#### Treasurer

Lillian Kouchinsky  
[lkouchin@yahoo.com](mailto:lkouchin@yahoo.com)

\* \* \*

#### Newsletter Editor

Mona S. Rowe  
[msrowe.hi@gmail.com](mailto:msrowe.hi@gmail.com)



Anita Cohen (left) and Kathy Tuohy in Kailua, Hawai`i. See article page 3.

## From the President

by Steve Shapiro, [shapiro@bnl.gov](mailto:shapiro@bnl.gov)

Dear BREA Members,

I thank you all for electing me to a two-year term as president of BREA. The first thing I would like to do is thank Liz Seubert for doing a superb job of leading BREA for the past two years. There were challenges, which she solved with intelligence and grace. We owe her a lot.

The other new officers you elected (or re-elected) are: Bob Kinsey as vice-president, Arnie Moodenbaugh for secretary, and newly elected Lillian Kouchinsky, who will take over my job as treasurer. Beth Lin has agreed to continue as membership chair. Mona Rowe will continue to be the editor of BREA News, interacting with us via the internet from her sunny days in Hawai`i. Since BREA is a club activity of BERA, we work closely with Christine Carter, who supervises BREA programs. Her

(continued on page 3)

## Peter Takacs Named Senior Scientist Emeritus

Emeritus status was granted to Peter Takacs of the Instrumentation Division, effective September 2, 2017, one day after he retired. The emeritus position at Brookhaven Lab was established to recognize retired scientists who have made particularly noteworthy contributions to the Laboratory's reputation as a world-class scientific institution.

Takacs arrived at the Lab's Biology Department in 1979 as a senior research associate and was soon promoted to associate physicist in the Instrumentation Division. He left the Lab in 1982 and returned less than a year later as a physicist in the Instrumentation Division. He was promoted over the years, receiving tenure in 1991, and retired on September 1, 2017.

For much of his career, Takacs directed activities for the Instrumentation Division's Optical Metrology Laboratory, which he established in 1983 for the then-budding synchrotron radiation research community. His work led to significant improvement in the quality of optical components manufactured for synchrotron light sources around the world. Virtually every mirror at the National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS) passed through his laboratory and every major synchrotron around the world now has an optical metrology laboratory modeled after Takacs's — including NSLS-II.

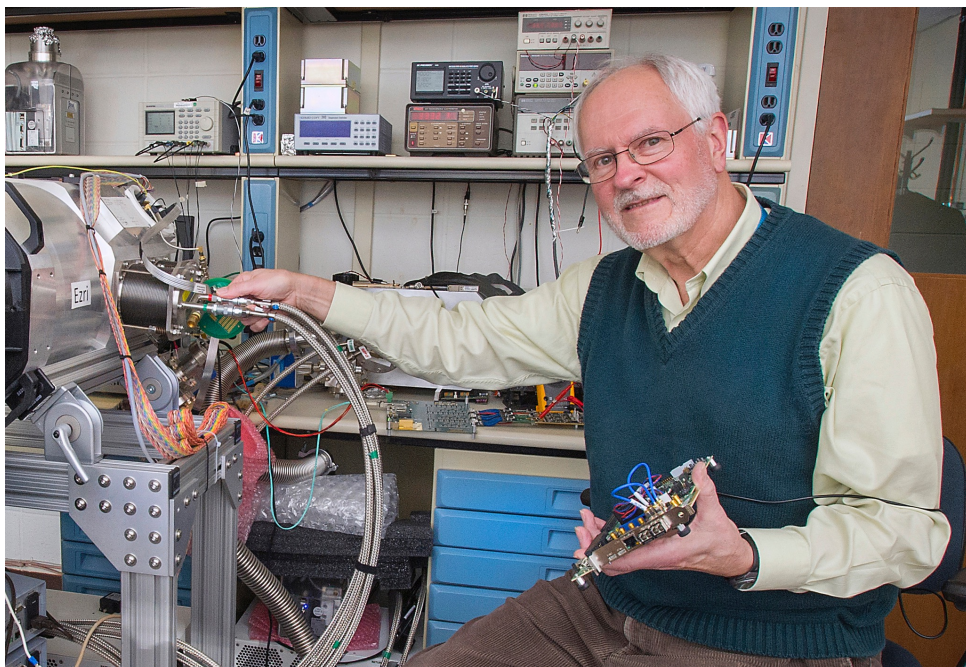
Much of this was made possible by his invention of the Long Trace Profiler, which characterizes the shape of optics. Takacs holds the patent and received an R&D 100 award for this invention, which was commercialized.

Takacs's most recent work involved advanced characterization of charge coupled devices (CCDs) for optical astronomy. He was part of a Brookhaven team leading design and development of the CCD sensor array for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, under construction in Chile.

Takacs served as the Instrumentation Division's education coordinator, and he led the effort to recreate Tennis for Two, a forerunner for modern video games that was invented in 1958 by William Higinbotham, a former head of the Instrumentation Division. He is also a founding member of the Long Island Science Center.

– Joe Gettler, [jgettler@bnl.gov](mailto:jgettler@bnl.gov)

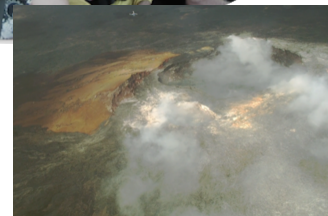
*Editor's note: Peter Takacs has been a member of BREA since 2014. He joined the retiree organization while an active employee.*



*Peter Takacs holds an electronics board for testing detectors for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope.  
Photo by Joseph Rubino*

## My Bucket List Achievement: All 50 States Visited!

Ever since 1952, when Dinah Shore first encouraged this then-young TV viewer to “See the U.S.A. In Your Chevrolet,” I ached to do just that. But when Alaska and Hawai`i became states in 1959, the dream seemed unachievable, since cruising or flying anywhere were not in my 7-year-old vocabulary. Over the years, however, I ventured beyond Long Island, by land, sea and air, visiting the entire East Coast, Texas, Ohio, California and the Southwest. In 2002, after my husband Marty Van Lith and I had both retired from BNL, we took an extended road trip to see the remainder of the southern half of the continental U.S., a venture we repeated in 2005 to see the rest of the northern half. For me, 48 states were tantalizingly close to 50. So in 2008, though Marty couldn’t go, I cruised Alaska with other family members.



*Our first stop on O`ahu was Pearl Harbor and the heartbreaking U.S.S Arizona Memorial. In the water, some of the doomed ship’s remains are still visible.*

One state to go; would it happen?

I have multiple sclerosis, and travel was getting ever harder. But I was still optimistic because my former colleague and great friend, Mona Rowe, editor of BREA News, is originally from Hawai`i, and she and her husband, former BNL scientist Michael Rowe, planned to retire in Honolulu. Even before their big move in late 2016, they had invited me to visit, so I planned a trip for November 2017 with another great friend, Kathy Tuohy, who had retired from BNL in 2016. We spent an amazing nine days in Hawaii, most of it on O`ahu. Kathy and I also flew to the Big Island of Hawai`i for a helicopter tour of its volcanic areas and waterfalls.

*On a helicopter tour of the Big Island, Kathy and I had great views of its smoldering volcanoes.*

### President’s Message (continued)

office publicizes BERA and BREA activities (those acronyms are confusing next to each other!) by posting our newsletter and other important information on the [BREA](#) web site. Since Joanne Delles has retired, Renee Warno has volunteered to serve as webmaster for BREA. We look forward to working with both Lillian and Renee!

Our goal will be to fulfill BREA’s purpose as stated in our constitution & by-laws: “...to further retiree interests and benefits....” We can’t do it alone and require assistance from all members. We encourage you to attend our monthly meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, usually located in building 400. Those who live outside of the area can phone into the meeting where you can hear what’s going on and contribute. You will receive an email notification with the agenda and call-in number before the meeting. If you have any issues or suggestions that you would like BREA to consider during the year, I encourage you to contact me via email: [shapiro@bnl.gov](mailto:shapiro@bnl.gov).

Meanwhile, on behalf of the other officers, I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2018.

– Steve Shapiro, [shapiro@bnl.gov](mailto:shapiro@bnl.gov)

What a fantastic way to cap a 65-year quest!

– Anita Cohen, [afcohen@optonline.net](mailto:afcohen@optonline.net)



*Kathy at Rainbow Falls on the Big Island.*

## Renew BREA Membership

Membership expires on Dec. 31 of every year no matter when you paid your dues (which are requested by Jan. 31 of the following year). To see if your membership has expired, find the year in the address panel below (under the postage stamp). BREA's website, [www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/bera/](http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/bera/), also lists current members; click on "Are Your Dues Paid?" The year "3000" indicates lifetime membership.

To stay on BREA's mailing list, fill out the form and mail it to me with your payment.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership type:

annual (\$10)     5 years (\$40)    Life  (\$95)

Dues cover year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK OUT TO BREA**

I want to receive BREA News by mail via the U.S. Post Office.

I want to receive BREA News by email only. Do not mail it to me via the U.S. Post Office.

Mail form and check to:

Beth Lin, BREA Membership Chair  
81 Westchester Drive  
Rocky Point, NY 11778

– Beth Lin, Membership Chair  
[hellobylin@yahoo.com](mailto:hellobylin@yahoo.com)

## In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following retirees:

- Maria Apelskog, 60, October 5, 2017.
- Paul G. Edwards, 86, October 27, 2017
- Julius Hastings, 96, March 30, 2017
- Ernest Jochen, 84, February 19, 2017
- Charles Meinhold, 83, November 3, 2017
- Andrew Seelin, 58, February 13, 2017
- Robert C. Terwilliger, 88, April 20, 2017

More information may be found at BREA's website: [www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/bera/](http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/bera/). To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, send information by email to [msrowe.hi@gmail.com](mailto:msrowe.hi@gmail.com) or by snail mail to BREA's address in the panel below.

## Make a Plan: Fitness for 2018

Register now for BERA fitness classes in 2018!

- Aqua Zumba and Aqua Fit
- Yoga for beginners and intermediates
- Pilates-2 classes for flexibility, muscle strength and tone, posture, breathing and flexibility
- Adult swimming lessons
- Pay as you go or free classes: Kardio Kickboxing on Mondays & Thursdays, Tai Chi, Reiki Healing, and more!

For details, go to the BERA webpage on fitness activities: <https://www.bnl.gov/bera/recreation/fitness.asp>

## Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

BREA c/o BERA  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Bldg. 400  
Upton, NY 11973

Phone: (631) 344-2873

E-mail: [breabnl@aol.com](mailto:breabnl@aol.com)

Web: [www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/bera/](http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/bera/)

