

# BREA NEWS

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

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## 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 14, 2020

February 11, 2020

March 10, 2020

### BREA Officers

#### President

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

#### Vice President

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

#### Secretary

Pat Flood  
[pat@leonhardt.com](mailto:pat@leonhardt.com)

#### Treasurer

Leslie G. Fishbone  
[lgfishbonenn@gmail.com](mailto:lgfishbonenn@gmail.com)

\* \* \*

#### Newsletter Editor

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



*In November 2019, Brookhaven welcomed student teams for DOE's nationwide cyber-defense competition. The local winner at BNL was a team from Northeastern University. See page 2.*

## From the President

by Arnie Moodenbaugh, [moodenba@optonline.net](mailto:moodenba@optonline.net)

To fellow BREA Members,

The candidates nominated for BREA office by the nominating committee were elected to two-year terms. Incoming officers are Treasurer Les Fishbone, Secretary Pat Flood, Vice President Lillian Kouchinsky, and me, President Arnie Moodenbaugh. Thanks to those who voted and to the nominating committee. As the new president, I would like to wish members as well as all BNL retirees a healthy and happy New Year.

We thank the outgoing officers, President Steve Shapiro, Vice President Bob Kinsey and Treasurer Lillian Kouchinsky. I am the retiring secretary. We also appreciate the efforts of BREA News Editor Mona Rowe and Membership Chair Beth Lin, both of whom will continue in their positions. BERA Supervisor Christine Carter handles all general emails to BREA membership. She also arranges for space for BREA meetings on site. BREA Webmaster Renee Warno posts BREA News, meeting minutes and other items to our website, [https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/](http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/).

The BREA bylaws state our intention to "... further retiree interests and benefits." BREA representatives have met with BNL Human Resources personnel to protect access to the Lab site for retiree spouses and to emphasize the value of the BSA retiree health benefits. We believe that BREA provides support to the BNL community and feel that BNL management values our presence.

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## BNL Co-Hosts 2019 Cyber-Defense Competition

The digitization of the U.S. power grid has made electricity generation, transmission and distribution increasingly susceptible to cyberattacks. Protecting our nation's critical energy infrastructure from hackers requires a significant investment in cybersecurity. This investment must be made not only in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) but also in trained professionals who are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to handle rapidly changing threats and vulnerabilities. Today, more than 300,000 cyber jobs are open in the United States.

The 2019 CyberForce Competition™ is the latest in a series that the Department of Energy (DOE) began in 2016 to help train the next generation of cybersecurity specialists in the energy sector. College students stationed at national labs across the country defend a simulated energy infrastructure from cyberattacks launched by cybersecurity experts while maintaining email, file sharing, and other basic services for end users. National lab and cybersecurity industry staff help the students set up their infrastructure, inject anomalies into the network infrastructure, and judge the competition.

BNL first co-hosted the competition in 2018. The Lab returned as a co-host for this year's competition, held from November 15 to 16. Seven teams came to Brookhaven: Columbia University, New York University, Northeastern University, St. John's University, the State University of New York at Albany, Suffolk County Community College (SCCC), and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The Brookhaven-hosted teams competed against each other and against teams located at nine other DOE labs: Argonne, Idaho, Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore, National Energy Technology, National Renewable Energy, Oak Ridge, Pacific Northwest and Sandia.

Teams were scored based on their ability to thwart cyberattacks, maintain usability of services, complete anomalies, share information across different infrastructures, and present a strategy for responding to a hypothetical incident.

The national winner of the competition was a team from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, which took first place locally at Brookhaven last year; the local winner was a Northeastern University team.

To read the full story and see a video, visit <https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=216840>.

– Ariana Manglaviti, [amanglaviti@bnl.gov](mailto:amanglaviti@bnl.gov)



*Sean Plankey (back middle), principal deputy assistant secretary for DOE's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, with Brookhaven Lab Office of Educational Programs Manager Kenneth White (back right), Suffolk County Information Technology Commissioner Scott Mastellon (back left), and SCCC team members (clockwise from left) Nolan Smith, Melissa Fisk, Justin Lavery, Eric Muller and Eric Greco. Not pictured: team member Austin Wolrath.*

*– photos on pages 1 and 2 by Roger Stoutenburgh*



*Left to right, Kyle Sferrazza, Matthew Kline, Simon Bruklich, Brianna Weinstein, Guevara Noubir (professor), Fiona McCrae and Anuj Modi from Northeastern University*

# Cybersecurity for Consumers

Cyber Monday 2019 was Amazon's biggest shopping day in the company's history. It's a growing trend.

## cyber adjective

Save Word

cy-ber | \ 'si-bər \

### Definition of cyber (Entry 1 of 2)

: of, relating to, or involving computers or computer networks (such as the Internet)  
// the cyber marketplace

Are you using your computer or your smartphone to shop online? It's convenient, the selection is incredible, shipping is fast, returns are a breeze. But can anything go wrong? Plenty!

In April 2019, the FBI reported that its Internet Crime Complaint Center received 351,937 complaints in 2018 – an average of more than 900 every day. The most frequently reported complaints were for non-payment/non-delivery

scams related to online shopping, extortion and personal data breaches.

The article in this newsletter about a recent cyber-defense competition (see page 2) shows how Brookhaven Lab and other Department of Energy (DOE) labs are helping to train the next generation of cybersecurity specialists. DOE is focussed on protecting our nation's critical energy infrastructure from hackers.

Says BREA member Susan Wong, "From outages to the nation's power grid due to a cyberattack, to unauthorized access while you Skype with your grandkids, to posting a comment on a friend's Facebook page, you are at risk."

Wong works in BNL's Information Technology Division, which handles cybersecurity for the Lab. (Editor's note: Wong's son is a graduate of Northeastern University, which fielded the local winning team in the cyber-defense contest described on page 2.) "Seniors are particularly vulnerable because we did not grow up in the digital age and hackers are aware of that," she added. "Fortunately, there are simple steps one can take to minimize the risk of unauthorized or unwanted use of our personal information. Don't become a target!"

Here are some simple tips for shopping online safely.

- *Use trusted websites* – If you know the site, chances are it's legitimate. Nowadays, major retailers have online stores. But beware of misspellings or websites using a different top-level domain (instead of .com you might see .net).



AARP routinely reports on scams.

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## President's Message (cont'd from page 1)

BREA has supported the Lab by volunteering to participate in Summer Sundays and at Science Bowl competitions. We have also contributed to United Way events and to activities of the Association of Students & Postdocs, a BERA-sanctioned club. A successful Brookhaven Lab benefits the nation as well as retirees.

If you've been on site recently, you've seen that BNL is updating its public face with the development of Discovery Park. The Lab entrance now includes a traffic circle outside the front gate that will incorporate an access road to Discovery Park, which will be located near the apartment area.

Going forward, we intend to maintain the current level of BREA activities and expand them if possible. We know it's difficult for members who live off Long Island to participate in many activities. But everyone can participate in meetings through a call-in number. The internet has also made communication easier. For example, our newsletter editor Mona Rowe lives in Hawaii. She welcomes ideas for articles in the newsletter.

– Arnie Moodenbaugh, [moodenba@optonline.net](mailto:moodenba@optonline.net)



## Renew BREA Membership

Membership expires on December 31 of every year no matter when you paid your dues (which are requested by January 31 of the following year). To stay on BREA's mailing list, complete the form below and mail it to me along with your payment. Include your email address so BREA can send you timely information.

If you have questions or if your contact info has changed, email me at [hellobylin@yahoo.com](mailto:hellobylin@yahoo.com).

PLEASE PRINT

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership type:

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

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

MAKE YOUR 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 (made out to BREA) 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.

John Allen Benjamin, 81, November 3, 2019  
Ottmar Casper Kistner, 89, November 25, 2019  
Edward S. Miezianka, 87, December 18, 2018  
James Powell, 86, May 27, 2019  
Seymour Rankowitz, 94, November 25, 2019  
Mary Smith (Semerjian) 97, December 6, 2019

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

## Cybersecurity for Consumers (cont'd)

- *Look for the "s"* – Never buy anything online using your credit card from a site that does not have a form of security called "secure sockets layer" (SSL). Look for "https" instead of just "http" at the beginning of the address of a webpage.
- *Don't share unnecessary personal information* – You don't need your Social Security number or your birthdate to buy something online. Give out as little personal info as possible.
- *Check your bill statements regularly* – Go online regularly to look for any fraudulent charges. Also, buy online only with a credit card. If your debit card is compromised, scammers have direct access to your bank funds.

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

## Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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