

BREA NEWS

www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/

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February 2011

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

February 8, 2011

March 8, 2011

April 12, 2011

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From the President

by Eena-Mai Franz

Once again, I have a chance to wish a happy and healthy New Year to everyone!

The word healthy has to be underlined, especially in an organization of retirees. That really hit me when we lost two of our very active members, Bob Marr and Florence O'Brien, during the past year. We miss them dearly.

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since I first took office. Somehow, I have managed to get through it with the capable help of the other officers and committee chairs.

The Laboratory has been doing well, but things are changing. Luckily, nothing has changed that would affect retirees so far.

Our June luncheon was well attended once again, and Eric Forsyth's presentation on his circumnavigation of North America drew a large audience. Thank you, Eric! (You will find in this issue pictures of more leisurely cruises, such as the one Arnie Peskin took on the ship below, docked in Greece.)
(continued on page 4)



Worker Health Protection Program

Beginning January 2011, the Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP) of Queens College, City University of New York, has begun offering no-cost medical screening to former Department of Energy (DOE) Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) workers. Former BNL workers may be at an increased risk for occupational illness due to working with or near radiation, toxic substances and physical hazards. The main goal of WHPP is to detect illness at an early stage, when treatment is more likely to be effective. The program is entirely voluntary, and all personal medical information will be kept confidential. WHPP operates independently with funds received from DOE and is in part a research program.

Participants will receive examinations by expert independent occupational medicine physicians located in Suffolk County. Medical evaluations will be based on potential work exposures to ionizing radiation, asbestos, lead, cadmium, silica, lasers, noise, beryllium and other chemical and physical hazards – exposures that may lead to greater risk for developing certain conditions such as chronic lung disease, certain cancers, beryllium-related lung disease and hearing or vision loss. There is also a general wellness component of the exam to test for non-occupational related conditions.

Following their examination, participants will be provided a results letter with advice on any abnormalities and recommended follow-up care. If a potentially work-related illness is identified, the screening exam results letter may be used to support an Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) claim. Participants are eligible for repeat examinations every three years.

Medical screening is an important tool to detect illness at an early stage. Because of the nature of occupational illness, the period of time between exposures and symptoms can be many years. Through the medical screening program, opportunities to detect illness before symptoms

are apparent may be possible and treatment may be more effective. Program findings may also be useful in ensuring worker safety in the future.

Said program director and occupational medicine physician Steven Markowitz, MD, “We are proud to announce the expansion of the Worker Health Protection Program to former workers of BNL. Through this program, we hope to minimize the impact of potentially hazardous exposures that BNL employees may have faced while performing their essential work over many years.”

WHPP is a medical screening and research program that was initiated in 1996 and is operated in conjunction with partners in the local DOE communities. Currently, WHPP screens former DOE workers from nine facilities throughout the DOE complex, including sites in Oak Ridge, Paducah, Portsmouth, Mound, Fernald, and Idaho National Laboratory. Partners include local health clinics, the United Steel Workers and the Atomic Trades and Labor Council. Since 1998, WHPP has conducted over 25,000 screening examinations of DOE workers.

Former employees of Brookhaven National Laboratory, its contractors or sub-contractors (excluding building trades) who worked at BNL for over 30 days are eligible to participate in the Worker Health Protection Program.

For more information and to schedule your appointment call toll free 1-888-241-1199. The Worker Health Protection Program is described online at www.worker-health.org.

Editor's note: WHPP is separate from the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICPA). Under EEOICPA, employees, retirees, and contractors at Brookhaven Lab and other DOE sites may be compensated if diagnosed with specific types of cancers and other work-related illnesses. WHPP is a screening program. It does not provide compensation to workers. For information on EEOICPA go to: www.dol.gov/owep/energy/.

Travel Diaries

From Arnie Peskin (arniepeskin@optonline.net) . . .

Here's my traveling contingent of family and friends on the old city wall of Dubrovnik, Croatia. You may recognize Mark Israel of BNL sitting next to me. This was part of a two-week Mediterranean cruise we took in October. My wife Bonnie and I were celebrating our 45th wedding anniversary. Ronni and Mark Israel are our friends and neighbors.

The cruise itinerary included Venice, Dubrovnik, Corfu, Santorini, Naples, Rome, Florence and Barcelona. Dubrovnik, which was in the middle of a war a few years ago, has been refurbished as a cruise destination, and a worthwhile one at that.



From Eena-Mai Franz (sroosild@aol.com) . . .

Last summer, my husband Sven and I took a combination cruise/train trip from Vancouver to Alaska. We chose the last week in June and first week in July thinking that the sun would be really strong at that time, making it nice and warm. Wrong!

The cruise portion had side trips, including a long bus ride to the Yukon Territory and a close-up look at the glaciers. For the second week, we went by domed train to Denali National Park, where the scenery was magnificent with its vastness.

During the last two days in the park, Mt. McKinley even showed itself, a rather rare occurrence. I was sorry not to see bears, but we did see moose, hare, whales, sea lions, and bald eagles.

The most unusual thing I did was ride through the woods on a cart (since there was no snow) pulled by a team of nine Iditarod racing dogs. The Iditarod is very big in Alaska in the winter, so we visited several kennels where they breed and train Alaskan Huskies for the sled race.



President's note (cont'd from p. 1)

Our one disappointment for last year was that we could not follow through on the suggestion made by one of our members at the luncheon that BREA arrange a tour of the new facilities at the Lab. We had to cancel the tour due to a conflict with a function on site. We plan to reschedule the tour in late spring or early fall.

If you have ideas for other activities we could sponsor, please let us know. And, of course, we could always use your help.

Speaking of help, Community Relations Manager Jeanne D'Ascoli came to our BREA meeting in December to discuss a new community outreach program. She described a format in which community members meet on site to hear a brief presentation on some aspect of science at the Lab, followed by a conversation on the topic. Stay tuned as we explore how to involve retirees in this program.

Finally, I want to point all of you to the article on page 2 describing a medical screening program that DOE is offering to retirees.

- Eena-Mai Franz
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BERA Activities

The Brookhaven Employees Recreation Association (BERA) offers exciting and affordable trips and events.

Here is a sampling.

- Sign up for fitness classes: Aqua Aerobics, Pilates, Yoga-Pilates, and Zumba.
- Retirees swim for free. So join the Virtual Swim to Belize, January through March. Sign up with the lifeguard at the pool.
- Retirees can join the Weight Room for free. Membership is for the calendar year. Sign up by writing to Joanne Rula, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Bldg. 400A, Upton, NY 11973. (Retirees are encouraged to use the facilities during off-peak hours, which are from 11 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.)

Coming soon:

- Ski trip to Windham, NY
- NY Knicks game
- Pennsylvania flower show

For more information, go to www.bnl.gov/bera .

Note: Participation in BERA events is limited to employees, their adult children, parents of employees, and retirees.

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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