

# BREA NEWS

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

Volume 12 Issue 2

May 2012

## From the President

by Dave Cox, [expatdave@aol.com](mailto:expatdave@aol.com)

### 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

May 8, 2012

June 12, 2012

July 10, 2012

#### BREA Officers

##### President

Dave Cox  
[expatdave@aol.com](mailto:expatdave@aol.com)

##### Vice President

Ken Mohring  
[kenwadingriver@gmail.com](mailto:kenwadingriver@gmail.com)

##### Secretary

Louise Hanson  
[hanson.louise@gmail.com](mailto:hanson.louise@gmail.com)

##### Treasurer

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

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##### Newsletter Editor

Mona S. Rowe  
[mrowe@bnl.gov](mailto:mrowe@bnl.gov)

It hardly seems possible, but the annual BREA Luncheon is only a few weeks away! Thursday, June 7 is the big day. Once again, we will be getting together at the Bellport Country Club. Our thanks to Ken Mohring and his crew of volunteers for making the necessary arrangements. All the details are provided page 2, so be sure to note the date on your calendar and return the reservation form to the BREA office as soon as possible. I am happy to report that many new retirees have signed up as members in the past few months, and we look forward to seeing some new faces at the luncheon.

This is a good time to remind you to please check that your BREA membership is up to date. Our new membership secretary, Carmen Benkovitz, has already contacted those of you whose membership expired at the end of 2011, so if you haven't already renewed, please complete the renewal form in the newsletter. As always, the expiration date is on the top right of your newsletter address label.

Last, but not least, please note that on Wednesday, June 20, BREA members will have the opportunity to tour the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. All the details are given inside the newsletter, so be sure to sign up as soon as possible if you are interested. Our thanks to Steve Shapiro for organizing what promises to be a unique experience.



*"Are we there yet?" See Vic Gutierrez's account of how he, wife Marie, and their five pets found their way to retirement living in Tucson (page 3).*

## BREA Luncheon, June 7

Don't miss our special yearly event for members and guests – the annual BREA Get-Together Luncheon. This will be our 9<sup>th</sup>!

**When:** Thursday, June 7, 2012, 12 noon to 4 p.m.  
**Where:** Bellport Country Club  
**What:** Hors d'oeuvre, followed by a four-course luncheon (starter, salad, choice of entrées, dessert, coffee or tea, with unlimited beer, wine and soda) – all for only \$40 per person!

Join us for an afternoon of good fun, good food and good company in the lovely surroundings of the Bellport Country Club – and chat with your friends and colleagues!

The luncheon is open to all BREA members and their spouses or a guest. To make reservations, please complete the bottom portion of this invitation and return it with your check in the amount of \$40 per person payable to BREA to the address below as soon as possible – **but to be received no later than June 4.** Members who have not yet renewed for 2012 and would like to attend should also complete and return the membership form included in the newsletter. For more information, please contact:

Ken Mohring  
[kenwadingriver@gmail.com](mailto:kenwadingriver@gmail.com) or (631) 929-6744

**Directions:** From LIE eastbound, take Exit 65. From LIE westbound, take Exit 66. From either direction, follow the service road to Bellport Ave and go south (Bellport Avenue becomes Station Road). From Sunrise Highway, take Exit 56 to Station Road and go south. In Bellport village, turn right on South Country Road. Bellport Country Club is on the left about 1/2 mile down the road (631-286-4227).

----- detach here and mail to BREA at the address below -----

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse/Guest Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

BREA  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Building 421  
Upton, NY 11973

*Please let us know if you have any special requests (such as assistance with transportation).*



## On the Road to Tucson

Marie and I had always talked about retiring to the Southwest, but never focused on a specific location. After I retired out of BNL and Marie retired from her job, we spent about a year getting the house ready for sale. During this time, we decided on touring the U.S. in a travel trailer, visiting various cities and potential retirement spots. We bought a Chevy Suburban and a 27-foot travel trailer. In the fall of 2003, we sold our home, loaded the trailer, grabbed the three cats and two dogs, spent a last week in Smith's Point and started our great adventure.



*Vic and Marie Gutierrez*

Our initial plan was to make a counterclockwise loop around the country, touring the northern states first as we headed toward California. Unfortunately, we started out in late November, when trailer parks in the northern states were already closed. So we went south. We typically traveled about three to four hours a day, getting into a trailer park while it was still daylight for backing the trailer into our spot. We spent December and part of January exploring Florida while also visiting family and friends.

We then headed west across the southern states, visiting some cities for specific things to see or do (AAA books came in handy here). Other cities were picked based on the description in the "Places Rated" book we had, which rates cities for retirement. If we liked the write-up, we would stay about a week there checking things out. Overall, we spent about 15 months traveling in the trailer as we went through Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and Colorado. This process helped us clarify the things we wanted in a retirement spot. As we traveled to Colorado, Utah and Nevada, we passed through Phoenix and Tucson several times. We finally realized that we liked Tucson the best, so we settled here in the spring of 2005.



It has a small town feel, with only a million people, and still has many of the large town services – doctors, hospitals, college, etc. The weather is nice most of the year, although July and August can get very hot, with temperatures in the triple digits. The low humidity, however, does make the high temps less oppressive.

We get out early to do chores while it's still comfortable and remain in the AC-cooled house during the heat of the day – noon to 3 or 4 p.m. Once the sun goes down the temperature drops by 30 F. The balance of the year is quite nice. Spring and fall are in the 70s or 80s by day and 40 to 60 by night. Winter is 60s or 70s by day and 40 to 50 by night, with an occasional drop to freezing. It's always sunny!!

- Vic Gutierrez, [vicandmarieg@netzero.net](mailto:vicandmarieg@netzero.net)

*On the couch: cats Bogey and Reggie and mixed-breed Suki. Sharing the floor: April the cat and Bronco the greyhound.*

## Plum Island Tour, June 20

BREA has arranged a visit to Plum Island Animal Disease Center on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, rain or shine. Plum Island is a U.S. Department of Agriculture facility where research is done to protect farm animals, farmers and ranchers, the nation's farm economy and export markets. The Department of Homeland Security handles safety and security.

Meet at the Plum Island ferry terminal just west of the Orient Point Ferry in time to take the 9:30 a.m. boat to Plum Island. The tour will last most of the day and return on the 2:30 or 3:30 p.m. ferry. Wear comfortable clothes. You can bring your lunch or participate in a staff BBQ on Plum Island for a fee of \$10, payable at the BBQ.

The tour is limited to 20 persons. A security clearance is required, and the visit is open to U.S. citizens only. Please e-mail Steve Shapiro ([shapiro@bnl.gov](mailto:shapiro@bnl.gov)) the following personal information:

Name	Date of birth
Citizenship	Social Security number
Country of origin	Telephone number
Place of residence	Gender

Information must be received by May 15, 2012. If you want to participate in the BBQ, please note that. Here is the facility's website:

[http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/site\\_main.htm?mocode=19-40-00-00](http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/site_main.htm?mocode=19-40-00-00)

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

## Renew BREA Membership

Have you renewed your BREA membership? Please check the mailing label on the newsletter. Your membership is paid up until the end of the year shown above your name. If you see the year 2011, you need to renew for 2012. By completing and returning the form below, you will continue to receive future editions of the BREA newsletter.

Consider five-year or lifetime memberships, which are discounted.

Membership type:

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

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip(+4): \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check made out to BREA for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

BREA  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Building 421  
Upton, NY 11973

### Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

BREA  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Bldg. 421  
Upton, NY 11973

Phone: (631) 344-2873  
E-mail: [brea@bnl.gov](mailto:brea@bnl.gov)  
Web: [www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/](http://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/)

