

BREA NEWS

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

Volume 13 Issue 1

January 2013

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 12, 2013 (Berkner Rm. A)

March 12, 2013

April 9, 2013

BREA Officers

President

Dave Cox
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Vice President

Ken Mohring
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Secretary

Louise Hanson
hanson.louise@gmail.com

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Steve Shapiro
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Newsletter Editors

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Retiree Marty Van Lith at the Barteau Cemetery, one of 10 abandoned cemeteries that he and his history club have restored in Brookhaven hamlet. The headstones lying flat were under repair (story on page 3).

From the President

by Dave Cox

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all retirees a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. I also want to announce that in 2013, we shall be publishing the BREA newsletter six times a year – once every two months instead of four times a year. All of us will miss the weekly mailings of the Brookhaven Bulletin, and we hope that the newsletter will in some small way help to make up for this. My sincere thanks to our editor, Mona Rowe, and also to her new assistant, Anita Cohen, for volunteering to do this.

Many members have asked if it would be possible to have access to the classified ads, which were a popular feature of the old Bulletin. For the past few weeks, our membership

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Organizational Changes at the Laboratory

Laboratory Director

Sam Aronson stepped down as Laboratory Director on December 31, 2012. The Brookhaven Science Associates Board of Directors appointed in his place Doon Gibbs as Interim Director, effective January 1, 2013, as the search for a permanent director continues.

Gibbs joined the Lab in 1983 and has served in a number of roles, including Associate Lab Director for Basic Energy Sciences and, most recently, as the Deputy Director for Science and Technology.

ALD for Nuclear & Particle Physics

Nuclear physicist Berndt Mueller has joined Brookhaven as the new Associate Laboratory Director (ALD) for Nuclear & Particle Physics, effective January 1, 2013. Mueller brings world-class experience as both a scientist and a manager of major research initiatives to this key leadership position at Brookhaven Lab.

He replaces physicist Steve Vigdor, who retired at the end of December 2012, after spending five years as ALD advancing the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider research program, guiding the Lab's participation in the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland, and further developing programs in cosmology, astrophysics, and neutrino research.

Biosciences Department Chair

David Schlyer, a senior chemist who specializes in medical imaging and radiotracer chemistry, was named Chair of the Biosciences Department, effective December 1, 2012. Schlyer had been acting chair of the department since October 2012.

Bioscience research at Brookhaven focuses on synthetic biology, radiobiology, computational biology, structural biology and the characterization of biological systems. Together with the Collider-Accelerator Department, Biosciences also operates the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory at Brookhaven, used by radiobiologists and physicists to study space radiation effects.

Instrumentation Division Head

Graham Smith, a senior physicist in the Instrumentation Division, was named Instrumentation Division Head, effective November 5. He succeeded Veljko Radeka, who returned to research within the division.

Smith has tremendous expertise in the development of gaseous neutron counters and has made

fundamental advances in designing detectors for x-rays, thermal neutrons, and charged particles.

The division develops state-of-the-art instrumentation required for experimental research programs at the Lab and elsewhere.

General Counsel

On January 1, 2013, Anne Trautman was appointed the Laboratory's General Counsel. She replaced Mike Goldman, who had a 35-year career at Brookhaven and had served in this position since 2008. The Legal Office provides legal counsel to Laboratory management and handles all legal matters.

Trautman joined the Lab in 2010 as Deputy General Counsel. She has 30 years of legal experience in industry and government.

From the President (cont'd from p. 1)

secretary, Carmen Benkovitz, has been sending a list to all BREA members with a current email address. Our thanks to Joe Gettler in the Media & Communications Office for making this possible. If you would like to be added to this list, please be sure to give Carmen your email address. And if you haven't yet renewed your membership, you can do this at the same time!

Finally, if you have been making electronic payments for medical premiums to the P&A Group in Buffalo, make sure that you have made arrangements for the new rate schedule, which came into effect on January 1, 2013. Here's P&A's website:

<https://www.padmin.com/participants/default.aspx>.

– Dave Cox, expatdave@aol.com

Retiree Benefits/Costs: Changes for 2013

Social Security CoLA: +1.7%

Medicare Part B Premiums: +5.0%

BSA Retiree Medical/Drug Coverage Premiums

- More recent retirees: +50%

- 1990s and earlier: +100%

Digging up History in Brookhaven Hamlet

When I joined BNL in 1968 as a scanner in the Physics Department, I worked the graveyard shift. But when I retired in 2003, I shifted to working in graveyards.

Before retirement, I was doing electronics for the PHENIX experiment at RHIC. But I was eager to pursue my longtime avocation: digging up and exploring the rich history of the Brookhaven hamlet area where I live with my wife, retiree Anita Cohen.

First settled by Europeans in 1678 and originally called Fire Place, Brookhaven hamlet is the second oldest settlement in the Town of Brookhaven and the oldest on the south shore. I had long scoured the area for recorded but neglected family cemeteries, many with graves predating the Revolutionary War. As I and like-minded residents uncovered these sites, we found rampant disorder and destruction. So my fellow BNL retiree John Deitz and I founded the Fire Place History Club in 2005. With help from members and other residents, the club has found and restored many long-lost headstones at the 10 cemeteries we maintain.

However, I also needed to know the stories behind the headstones that mark the resting places of farm families who populated our hamlet in the 18th and 19th centuries. Among them are 13 verifiable Revolutionary War veterans; Nathaniel Miller, Brookhaven Town Supervisor during the Civil War; and Erastus Hawkins, who, during the Klondike Gold Rush, was the chief engineer on the 1898 project to build the White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad. The more I learned, the more I've shared; John and I often give talks about Brookhaven hamlet's history. Now, I am also Historian for the Brookhaven Village Association.

Concern for the environment also demands my time. I'm an active advocate for preservation of the Carmans River. Because I'm also deeply concerned about the environmental impact of the Brookhaven Town Landfill, I serve on the Executive Board of the Brookhaven Community Coalition.

At home, I cultivate two large gardens and a backyard that beckons birds and other wildlife native to the wetlands on our border. I couldn't ask for a more rewarding retirement, or a more wonderful place to spend it in.

- Marty Van Lith, vanlith@optonline.net

Note: In his retirement, John Deitz has created a comprehensive website about the history of Brookhaven hamlet. Go to: www.brookhavensouthhaven.org

At the Barteau Cemetery in Brookhaven hamlet on Long Island, Marty Van Lith and retired BNL meteorologist Bob Brown prepare a headstone for repair.



BERA Events

Check the BERA website for upcoming events:
www.bnl.gov/bera

The NY Nets game at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn on February 22 is already sold out and BERA has a waiting list for the March 1 game. More activities are planned for 2013.

Subscribe to *Brookhaven This Week*

Citing a move toward online products, Brookhaven Lab ceased printing and distributing *The Bulletin* in November last year. Retirees are welcome to sign up for *Brookhaven This Week*, a weekly email containing news, features, events, and items of interest to the Laboratory community. To subscribe, go to:
www.bnl.gov/newsroom/thisweek

BREA is now emailing classified ads to members with email addresses. If you use email and are not receiving the ads, contact Carmen Benkovitz, sjbenk@optonline.net.

Retirees will continue to receive direct mailings from Human Resources about medical benefits.
- Mona S. Rowe, mrowe@bnl.gov

Renew Membership in BREA for 2013

The mailing label on your newsletter will show your membership status. If you see the year 2012, you need to renew your membership. Complete the form below to continue receiving 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: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check made out to BREA for \$ _____

Mail to: Carmen Benkovitz
Membership Secretary
12 Sandy Drive
Smithtown, NY 11787

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

BREA

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